St Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral was a magnificent host for our 5th World Interfaith Harmony Assembly.  As over 200 guests joined in on a snowy Sunday in Syracuse New York, we witnessed ***“Commonalities WithIN our Diversity***” in action.  As different faith communities presented together their commonalities through song, story-telling, tradition, poetry, and scripture, a common thread appeared.  We are more alike than we realized.

Our celebration started with a song written for World Harmony by Dr. Joan Hillsman “The Harmony Song” and closed with another “Love, Joy and Peace”  To look out from the pulpit at our amazing community of diversity and know that every single person seated before us is passionate about our world coming together. Love of the GOOD and Love of the NEIGHBOR was seen through the eyes and the hearts of all who attended.

Our World Interfaith harmony Committee was very intentional in our theme this year***, “Commonalities WithIN our Diversity”.***  As you read the front of our program the words we used and the way it reads has special significance. Our community of InterFaith in Syracuse New York is made of every diverse faith, culture, spiritual, gender and other. We are a community of Refugee Resettlement, of Immigrants, of all skin colors.

InterFaith Works (IFW) is a not for profit agency who **Affirms the Dignity of All and Builds Bridges of Understanding amongst every Diverse group.**

Our four programs embrace our mission and vision.

* [Ahmad and Elizabeth El-Hindi Center for Dialogue](http://www.interfaithworkscny.org/programs/center-for-dialogue/)
	+ Serves as a regional hub for constructive community engagement and dialogue-to-action programs
	+ Brings disparate groups together to foster mutual understanding and trust, and to find ways to work together for the betterment of the whole community
	+ Each year, more than 2,000 unduplicated individuals participate in programs that include the Duck Race to End Racism, Starting Small suburban-city school exchanges, and police-community relations dialogues
* [Center for New Americans](http://www.interfaithworkscny.org/programs/center-for-new-americans/)
	+ Settles 500 to 600 refugees from across the globe annually, helping them to find housing, learn English, secure employment and become citizens
	+ Provides post-settlement services to about 800 families who have been in the U.S. less than five years
	+ Since 1981, more than 8,000 refugees from all over the world have been helped in finding a safe haven in the U.S. and in living productive lives
	+ [Senior Services](http://www.interfaithworkscny.org/programs/senior-services-program/)
	+ Senior companion program provides companionship and advocacy to frail seniors living in Onondaga, Madison and Cayuga counties
	+ More than 62,000 hours of assistance to 200 seniors is provided annually to help keep them socially engaged and living independently in their own homes
	+ [Spiritual Care](http://www.interfaithworkscny.org/programs/spiritual-care-program/)
		- Provides interfaith chaplaincy services to approximately 2,000 people each month who are confined to hospitals, nursing homes and correctional facilities
		- Offers worship services, study groups, spiritual counseling and prayer for those in need of solace and spiritual support
		- Manages the “Daily Inspiration” column for the Syracuse *Post-Standard* and Syracuse.com

**Women Transcending Boundaries  (WTB)** is an egalitarian community of women from many faith and cultural traditions. Through programs, events, and social interactions, we seek to nurture mutual respect and understanding by sharing information about our diverse beliefs, customs, and practices and by working together to address our common concerns in this post-9/11 world. Our further intent is to share our personal and collective experiences with the wider community, to educate, and to serve.

WTB  started in Central New York after September 11, 2001, when women of diverse faiths realized that their common concerns and values far outweigh their differences.

We challenged our community to the Compassion Games and we are gathering together on Feb 26 for our first Compassion Games formation get-together.

Saturday Feb 7 we hosted 45 LeMoyne College students and allies to our first Compassion Game Day of Service.

InterFaith Works and Women Transcending Boundaries wil do whatever it takes for however long it takes to ensure World Interfaith Harmony with and for all.

Amazing work, incredible community.

GAME ON