World Interfaith Harmony Week in the Mid-Ohio Valley, USA

Mid-Ohio Valley Interfaith sponsored World Interfaith Harmony Week activities for the first time this year (2018). We were made aware of the observance as we conducted research for a course on *Interfaith Dialogue: Finding Common Ground – Judaism, Christianity and Islam,* that was offered in the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Marietta College in the fall of 2017.

Mid-Ohio Valley Interfaith (MOV Interfaith) is a new group that was formed to arrange for a visit to our area by the Interfaith Amigos: Rabbi Ted Falcon, Pastor Don MacKenzie, and Imam Jamal Rahman. We initiated several interfaith initiatives prior to their weekend visit in November 2017 and are building on their visit to further educate our community about the world’s religions. Promoting the observance of World Interfaith Harmony Week is one of those efforts.

On Feb. 3 we showed the documentary *He Named Me Malala* to an audience of about 50 people at the planetarium on the Marietta College campus. The following day, the same film was shown at the Glenwood Retirement Center in Marietta, OH. Both showings were followed by a lively discussion, which members of our Central Committee facilitated.

On Feb. 11 an interfaith service was conducted at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta. This service was well attended and several guest leaders shared reflections from their faith traditions.

We were pleased with our initial involvement in the World Interfaith Harmony Week and are planning a more extensive observance for 2019. A planning committee is beginning now to meet so that there is plenty of time to make arrangements for programs that will involve school children as well as adults.