

World Interfaith Harmony Week at Nazareth College

The Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies & Dialogue

Building Pluralism Within the Next Generation

Every religion demands that we alleviate suffering. Every religion dreams of a better world. Yet, each religion offers different means to attain these goals. Nazareth College's Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies & Dialogue believes that individuals can learn from each other, understand each other, and work together in a respectful way for the common good.

The Hickey Center, based in Rochester, NY, includes individuals who are diverse in religion, faith, ethnicity, race, gender, and education. The common denominator is a desire to develop skills to clarify and improve individual and community-wide communications on matters of religion, faith, and spirituality; to understand individual and communal faiths; to establish methodology proper to our goals; and to develop the capacity for living in a pluralistic world. We seek to understand and develop research tools, knowledge, and skills to benefit our common humanity.

This semester, we've had the pleasure of organizing events for our campus' first participation in the United Nations 8th World Interfaith Harmony Week. Throughout this week, The Hickey Center had a table set up outside the Forum where students, faculty, and staff could sign a pledge to coexist peacefully with their neighbors. During the weekend, we took a group of students from various backgrounds to volunteer at a food giveaway at Rochester's Barakah Muslim Charity. On the Tuesday during the week, we held a screening of the film, "Talking Through Walls." The following Thursday, there was a closing celebration to reflect on religious insights made throughout the week.

The attached YouTube video dives further into our World Interfaith Harmony Week and the work that is being done at Nazareth College's Hickey Center for Interfaith Studies & Dialogue. It will act as our formal report instead of a written submission. Thank you for your dedication toward interfaith harmony by creating this week of peace, unity, and understanding.