

World Interfaith Harmony Week Report

Submitted by Jacqueline F. Fuller, Organizer

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Virtual Pub Theology: Faith, Values & Shared Humanity - World Interfaith Harmony Week Edition

Interfaith Connections at the Pub: A Virtual Gathering in Honor of World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)

What is Pub Theology?

Pub Theology is a relational, conversation-based approach to exploring faith, meaning, and shared human values in an informal, welcoming space rather than a traditional religious setting. Rooted in the long history of people gathering in public spaces to wrestle with life's biggest questions, it centers curiosity, mutual respect, and lived experience over debate or doctrine. There is no panel and no pressure to agree and it's a guided space where people from different faiths, spiritual paths, and philosophies can speak honestly, listen deeply, and discover common ground. In a time when many people feel disconnected from institutional religion, Pub Theology creates a low-barrier, community-centered model for practicing interfaith harmony through real relationships and authentic dialogue.

BACKGROUND: INTERFAITH CONNECTIONS AT THE PUB

Interfaith Connections at the Pub is a Pub Theology event that began in January 2018. It went virtual in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic to continue to facilitate interfaith dialogue and fellowship virtually. Attendees can join online from wherever they are in the world at a table or desk with their food or beverage. All perspectives are welcome to participate.

ORGANIZER

Interfaith Connections is an interfaith initiative fostering courageous, relationship-centered dialogue across traditions) through media production and community events based in the Washington, DC metro area.

VIRTUAL EVENT DATE, TIME & FORMAT

Date and Time: Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. ET

Format: Virtual (Zoom-based gathering)

Purpose & Alignment with World Interfaith Harmony Week

This virtual gathering was intentionally designed to create an accessible, welcoming space for adults to engage in meaningful dialogue across religious and philosophical differences.

By hosting the event online, we are accomplishing the following:

- Removed geographic barriers
- Increased accessibility for participants with busy professional or family schedules
- Modeled interfaith harmony in a digital civic space
- Extended the global spirit of World Interfaith Harmony Week beyond physical location

The event embodied the core principles of WIHW by encouraging dialogue rooted in respect, shared values, and relational trust.

Event Structure & Activities

The gathering followed a fellowship-based model, structured to prioritize relationship over debate:

- Opening welcome and framing of interfaith harmony principles
- Ground rules centered on curiosity, respect, and listening
- Guided discussion questions designed to explore shared values
- Participant reflections across multiple faith and philosophical traditions
- Closing reflection and invitation for continued engagement

Unlike traditional panel-based formats, this peer-led conversation model encourages mutual understanding through lived experience.

Participation & Representation

- Total participants: 6
- Faith backgrounds represented: Christian, New Thought (Centers for Spiritual Living, Unity Church), Spiritual but Not Religious, Heathen/Pagan

- Geographic diversity: Maryland, Virginia, Washington state, New Jersey

The virtual format allowed for inclusive participation and demonstrated how interfaith harmony can thrive in digital spaces.

Digital Reach & Amplification

- Promotion via Instagram, Meetup, and Facebook
- Reposted by the official World Interfaith Harmony Week Instagram account
- Cross-shared within interfaith networks

This extended the reach of the event beyond attendees and amplified the global message of harmony.

Impact & Outcomes

Participants expressed:

- Feeling heard and respected in a multi-faith setting
- Increased understanding of different religious perspectives
- Renewed commitment to ongoing interfaith dialogue
- Interest in future gatherings

The event strengthened regional interfaith networks while contributing to the global WIHW movement.

Sustainability & Future Plans

Interfaith Connections will continue to:

- Host recurring virtual gatherings
- Develop themed interfaith dialogue sessions

- Expand outreach to emerging leaders and young professionals
- Explore hybrid models to increase accessibility

The “Pub Theology” model demonstrates that interfaith harmony can be relational, welcoming, and culturally relevant, not just institutional.

Pub Theology is not just about a location, food and drinks. It is about posture. It is a courageous, hospitable space where people from different faiths, identities, and life experiences engage the questions that matter most without the pressure to perform, defend, or convert. By moving spiritual conversation into an accessible, peer-led environment, it shifts interfaith dialogue from institutional programming to lived relationships. It is harmony practiced at the human level that is expressed through listening, storytelling, curiosity, and shared presence.