

Brookville

Multifaith Campus

NEWS

One house, many faiths, endless opportunities for growth!



An Open and Affirming
Campus to the
LGBTQIA+ community.

December
2025

2 Brookville Road, Glen Head, NY 11545
516-626-0414

Facebook: [Brookville-Church-Multifaith-Campus](https://www.facebook.com/Brookville-Church-Multifaith-Campus)
Email: Brookvillemfc@gmail.com

Brookville Church

BrookvilleChurch.org brookvillechurch@gmail.com



Rev. Vicky L. Eastland, Pastor
vickyleastland@gmail.com



Carol Goglia, Minister of Music
cgoglia@aol.com

The New Synagogue of Long Island

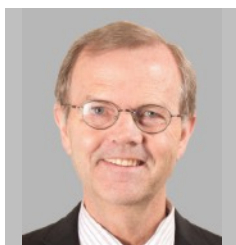
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newsynagogue.li@gmail.com



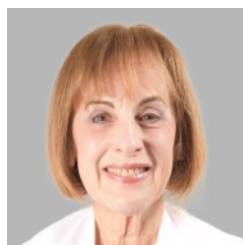
Rabbi Irene Failenbogen
irenetunes@aol.com

The Interfaith Community of Long Island

ifcoflongisland@gmail.com Interfaithli.org



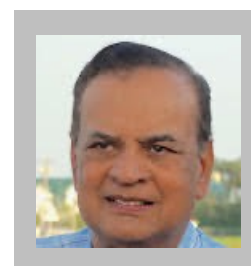
Rev. William McBride &
Rabbi Irene Failenbogen
Directors of Education
irenetunes@aol.com



Rev. Enid Kessler
Spiritual Advisor
interfaith4you@gmail.com

Muslim Reform Movement Organization.

MRMO.org
muslimreform@hotmail.com



Dr. Syed Asad, Co-Founder
mmsglobalfoundation.org/

Vision Statement

Through learning opportunities, essential partnerships, and occasional shared worship, our campus welcomes all who want to learn, question and grow, while making a positive and lasting impact in the community and world.

Mission

To build a multifaith community of people from different faiths who connect to one another by embracing similarities while celebrating differences.

Find a Place to Belong

We invite you to discover a spiritual community made up of different religious groups. Each group maintains its own religious identity but fosters an open environment for learning, celebrating and honoring each distinct religion.

The Meaning of Advent

The word “advent” comes from the Latin word that means “coming.” Advent is a season of waiting, expecting, and hoping. Beginning four Sundays prior to Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve, Advent helps us prepare for the coming, or “advent” of the birth of baby Jesus on Christmas.

For hundreds of years, Christians have used an Advent wreath to inspire their hopes for the coming of Jesus. By lighting one candle each week of Advent, we help ourselves get ready for the birth of Jesus.

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

The circle reminds us of God’s unending love and the eternal life God makes possible.

The most common Advent candle tradition, however, involves four candles. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents the players in the Christmas story as well as the main themes of the season. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple and the third candle is rose-colored. A fifth white candle is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Eve to celebrate Jesus’ birth.

The first candle symbolizes the Prophet’s hope. The prophets were women and men who lived long ago and professed the hope of a coming Messiah whose name would be Emmanuel - God with us.

The second candle represents the Bethlehem candle of peace. Jesus was born in an ordinary little town, in a stable full of animals. May the simple birth of our Lord Jesus bring peace to places of unrest in our lives and in our world.

“For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

The third candle symbolizes the Shepherd’s candle of joy. To the shepherd’s great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too.

The fourth candle represents the Angel’s candle of love because we know that Jesus’ love overcame the darkness of this world.

The fifth candle represents light and purity and is called “The Christ candle.” It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Eve.

The Advent Wreath is a symbol of God’s faithful love as we remember what led up to Jesus’ birth.

Blessed Advent,

~Rev. Vicky



Brookville Church
2 Brookville Rd. Glen Head, NY 11545
brookvillechurch@gmail.com
516-626-0414

Warmly invites you to

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Celebration**

**Wednesday, December 24
at 6 PM**

The service will be hybrid - you may attend in person or request a zoom link at brookvillechurch@gmail.com



The Interfaith Community of Long Island Gathers for Celebration and Learning

The Interfaith Community of Long Island came together at the Brookville Multifaith Campus recently, for a warm and spirited gathering that blended

education, celebration, and thoughtful dialogue as members prepare for the upcoming holiday season.

Children participated in interfaith religious classes focusing on themes of gratitude and giving thanks. Through shared stories and open discussion, young participants explored how different faith traditions express appreciation and the importance of practicing kindness in their daily lives.

A highlight of the event was a sentimental presentation honoring Rabbi Irene for her recent

achievement. In recognition of her contributions, two trees were planted in Israel in her honor, symbolizing growth, life, and lasting impact. She was also presented with flowers and a monetary gift as a heartfelt gesture of appreciation from the community.

Adults in attendance engaged in lively conversations about the approaching holiday season, including plans for an interfaith celebration that will bring together our Christian and Jewish traditions.

There was also enthusiastic discussion about the possibility of staging a theatrical youth performance, adding creativity and joy to the upcoming festivities.

With plans underway and spirits high, the Interfaith Community of Long Island is gearing up for a holiday season filled with joy, connection, and creativity.

Between the celebrations, the learning, and the laughter, everyone left the gathering feeling energized for what's ahead.

If this was any hint of what's to come, the holiday season is going to be something truly special — and we couldn't be more excited.

~Christine Markes

How can I stay informed?

EMAIL

Please check your email for updates. If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please email ifcoflongisland@gmail.com

New members are always welcome!

Registration for membership and classes is still open. Please send us an email at

ifcoflongisland@gmail.com

or message us on our

Instagram or Facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/ifcli/>

[@interfaithcommunityli](https://www.instagram.com/interfaithcommunityli)

Classes are scheduled for

11:00 AM on Sundays:

Dec. 7

Dec. 21 (party)

Jan. 11

Jan. 25

Feb. 8

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 7 (picnic)



Muslim Reform Movement Organization

Virtual Quran Study every other Sunday, 2:30 - 4:30 PM

All are welcome!

For Zoom link, please email muslimreform@hotmail.com

www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org

Christmas From an Islamic Perspective: Honoring a Shared Legacy



Dr. Syed Asad

As the holiday season brings people together across cultures and faith traditions, Christmas becomes a time not only for celebration, family, and reflection but also for interfaith understanding. On multifaith campuses—where people of

different backgrounds live, study, and grow together—this season offers an opportunity to explore the deep spiritual connections shared among the world's major religions. One of these connections is the profound reverence Muslims hold for Jesus—known as Isa (peace be upon him) in Islam.

While Muslims do not celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday, they regard Jesus as one of the most important and honored figures in their faith. His story, his message, and his moral example occupy a central place in the Islamic tradition, offering common ground for dialogue, respect, and shared values between Muslims and Christians.

Jesus in the Qur'an: A Prophet of Honor and Miracles

The Qur'an speaks about Jesus more than one hundred times across 15 different chapters. It refers to him with titles of deep respect:

- Isa ibn Maryam – Jesus, son of Mary
- Al-Masih – the Messiah
- Kalimatullah – “a Word from God”
- Ruhun minhu – a Spirit from God

Muslims believe that Jesus was born miraculously to the Virgin Mary (Maryam), without a human father, as a sign of God's power and mercy. His birth story is narrated in the Qur'an with great detail, beauty, and reverence—particularly in Chapters 3 and 19, which many Muslims recite during moments of reflection on God's signs.

Just as in Christian tradition, Jesus in Islam is a bringer of miracles. By God's permission, he healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, and even brought the dead to life. These miracles are understood as divine affirmations of his prophethood and compassion.

Maryam: A Shared Symbol of Purity and Devotion

An important part of the Islamic view of Christmas lies in the profound reverence Islam has for Mary, the mother of Jesus. Maryam is considered one of the greatest women ever created, a model of purity, devotion, and spiritual strength. She is the only woman mentioned by name in the Qur'an, and an entire chapter—Surah Maryam—is named after her.

For Muslims, the story of Jesus's birth is inseparable from Mary's courage and unwavering faith, qualities that inspire admiration and spiritual reflection across both traditions.

What Muslims Believe About Jesus

Islam teaches that Jesus was one of the greatest messengers sent by God to guide humanity. He preached the worship of the One God (Allah), called people to righteousness, and reminded them of their spiritual responsibilities.

However, Islamic theology differs from Christian belief in a few key ways:

- In Islam, only God is divine. Jesus is a beloved prophet and Messiah, but not part of a Trinity.
- The Qur'an teaches that God saved him and raised him, though interpretations vary.
- His second coming is a central part of Islamic eschatology, emphasizing justice, peace, and truth.

Though these theological differences are significant, they do not diminish the respect Muslims have for Jesus or the values he represented—compassion, justice, mercy, spirituality, and sacrifice.

Christmas Through an Islamic Lens

For Muslims, Christmas is not a religious observance, but it is often appreciated culturally as a time that encourages the values

continued...



Christmas From an Islamic Perspective: Honoring a Shared Legacy, continued

Islam cherishes:

- Family and togetherness
- Charity and giving
- Generosity of spirit
- Reflection on the life of a noble prophet
- Community and goodwill

On multifaith campuses, Christmas becomes an opportunity to highlight common moral teachings shared by Jesus and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon them both)—teachings such as loving one's neighbor, caring for the vulnerable, and standing for justice.

Many Muslims participate in non-religious aspects of the holiday—such as volunteering, exchanging small gifts, or attending community gatherings—not as religious practices, but as gestures of friendship, social harmony, and mutual respect.

A Season for Building Bridges

In today's world, where misunderstanding and division can arise easily, learning about each other's faith traditions becomes an act of building peace. Christmas offers Muslims and Christians alike an opportunity to celebrate shared values and the common spiritual heritage they both revere.

Jesus, in both traditions, stands as a symbol of:

- Hope in times of hardship
- Humility in leadership
- Compassion toward the poor and the suffering
- Faith in God's wisdom and mercy
- Love as a transformative force in society

These are universal principles, cherished by all who seek goodness, guidance, and meaning.

A Shared Light

From an Islamic perspective, Christmas invites reflection on the remarkable life and message of Jesus—a prophet of God, born miraculously, who called people to love, faith, and righteousness. While Muslims do not celebrate the holiday as a religious festival, they honor Jesus as one of the greatest figures in human spiritual history.

On a multifaith campus, this season becomes a time to appreciate our interconnected stories, deepen understanding, and celebrate the rich diversity of beliefs that shape our communities.

May this festive period inspire us all—Muslims, Christians, Jews, Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and other people of every background—to embody the values that Jesus himself lived: mercy, humility, kindness, and service to others.

~Syed N Asad, MD

MMSglobalfoundation.org

SYNAGOGUE OF THE MONTH SHABBAT SERVICE 5786

The New Synagogue of Long Island The Synagogue for Spiritual Judaism
Rabbi Irene Failenbogen

Synagogue of the Month Virtual Shabbat Service at 7:00 PM

Please join us on Friday, December 5, 2025

We have no membership dues or fees. All are welcome.

Please support The New Synagogue of Long Island as generously as you can. Your contributions are the lifeblood of The New Synagogue. Please help us keep alive our inspiring teachings of Spiritual Judaism.

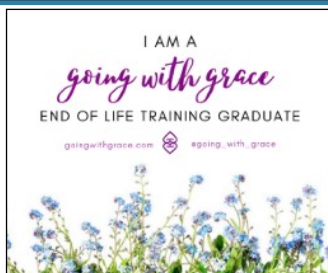
Click to access:

[Zoom Shabbat Service](#)
[Shabbat Service Booklet](#)

To make an online donation,
please [click here](#)
To print the form and mail it to us,
please [click here](#)

BRAG BOX

Congratulations to Alexis Monserrate, who successfully completed the online Going With Grace End-of-Life Training course.



She did this while simultaneously serving—unofficially but wholeheartedly—as a “Death Doula” for her close friend Nohemy, who passed away from cancer on October 14th.

She said: “It felt like fate: we met on October 22nd of last year, not knowing that our paths would intertwine so deeply as I finally registered for the death-doula training (It had been on my radar for years) and she entered her final chapter.”



Nohemy Cruz

“It was an honor to be able to accompany her through the challenges, transitions, and emotional realities of the dying process. Her personal lessons in strength, vulnerability, and trust were invaluable and will stick with me forever. Being part of her journey was one of the most profound and deeply meaningful experiences of my life.” ~Alexis E. Monserrate

Congratulations to David Hees who raised over \$300 for Special Olympics at a recent Polar Plunge.



Venmo

@Brookville-Church
(7478)



Givebutter

<https://givebutter.com/Sh1iYB>



Death Cafe'

Join us at
11:30 AM
Sundays

Dec. 21
Jan. 18

It's a space where people can come together to talk openly about death and dying, without judgement or any agenda.

What is Death Cafe'?



Brookville Multifaith Campus
2 Brookville Rd. Glen Head, NY 11545
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Additional dates listed at:
<https://www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org/calendar>



BLUE CHRISTMAS

Join us for a
contemplative service
of healing and hope
on the longest night

December 21st, 4 pm

Held at:
**Reformed Church
of Locust Valley**
115 Ryefield Dr. Locust Valley

Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration

We gathered on November 23rd for our 12th Annual Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration as a hopeful and grateful campus community. Together, we honored the Thanksgiving holiday celebrated by people of all faith traditions. We are deeply appreciative of everyone who attended and contributed to the service and to the time of dessert fellowship that followed.



Multifaith Thanksgiving Fellowship Time...



All-Campus Food Drive, as shared by Lorrie Latzen at the Multifaith Thanksgiving Celebration:

I was asked to share a little information about our Food Drive that is still going on but first I would like to thank the wonderful and dedicated planning committee led by Carol Goglia, who put this into motion! Thank you, Carol, Gerry O'Brien, Lisa Denison, Peter Fegan and Bob Latzen.

I am honored to be here today as I stand with each and every one of you. On behalf of the committee and The North Shore Soup Kitchen, thank you to everyone for their generosity in this food drive. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

The North Shore Soup Kitchen, which is in Glen Cove, has been Feeding the hungry with Dignity and Respect for 37 years. Their main purpose is providing hot meals three days a week. They distribute clothing and bags of groceries. They collect new toys for children for holidays, in addition to helping children attend summer camp. They help with medical prescriptions and supply metro cards or taxis.

Their dedicated and caring volunteers are extraordinary and never seem to get tired. Like so many food pantries across the country who got caught with empty shelves, so did this soup kitchen. The call came through that they could not wait until our drive was over and needed to get the food as quickly as it could be dropped off. Thanks to all of you, we have been answering the call!

This food crisis is far from over and we would like to continue collecting as long as possible. We will also be kicking off our toy drive, which we started last year for The Soup Kitchen.



Thank you also to the Brookville Police Department and the Ferdowsi School for participating in the food drive.

I will leave you with this
The world is a challenging place right now and there is so much need. However, and whenever you feel it in your hearts to give, we are grateful.

Today, as we stand together in unity, grace and acceptance

Remember, we are the message to the world.



Dear Brookville Multifaith Family,

As we continue our community outreach we will once again be asking for your help with donations of gifts for the children from the North Shore Soup Kitchen.

We are looking for any age-appropriate gifts for children from ages 1-12. Gifts should be unwrapped (no board games, please). In addition, the Soup Kitchen supplies cookies and hot chocolate for the guests as they "shop" for gifts for their children.

If it's in your hearts to help with gifts or money, please bring your gifts to the Fellowship Hall on or before Sunday, December 14th! We will have some boxes set up for your dropoff.

As always, thank you on behalf of the children who will benefit from your generosity.



The Last Chapter



Six years ago, we bought a retirement home in New Jersey and started moving our things in our Dodge Grand Am minivan. It took ten trips over three months. The best part was being able

to move what we wanted and give away the rest. As we moved, Covid-19 was also arriving and putting stress on our family. The pandemic was most seriously affecting older people like Nancy and me so we were told to forget about going back to Long Island. If we wanted to go any place they would provide the transportation for any trip over an hour long.

Our plan was, like many retirees, to leave the old home and set up a new one to start a new life. One important new life part was to find a satisfying church in the new town. A Reformed Church in America is only 1 & 1/2 miles away and I was able to attend it, but the pastor was not there that Sunday. The next weekend we were here, Covid-19 had caused all of the area churches to stop services and close their doors. Very soon after that Brookville began Zoom Services and we joined worshipping via Zoom with satisfaction. As the pandemic continued we found Zoom with our old church was better than no church and we became regular attendees - soon forgetting about finding a new church.

This summer I was curious about a couple of churches in Toms River and visited them with surprising good impressions. The Presbyterian and RCA churches both pleased me, making strong memories of what was missing in Zoom. Not seeing any of our old friends, not meeting any of the new members, not hearing well the music sung or the comments made in the front of the church. Too much of the church fellowship was not an effective part of Zoom. Going over to the Fellowship Hall was not part of our Sunday--having Communion Service at home was barely an acceptable substitute. Turing off the TV because Zoom was also turned off was no longer a good feeling.

The past few weeks I realized our five years of Zoom attendance have become unsatisfactory.

It wasn't what we expected as part of retirement. We are not likely to be back on Long Island often, if at all. Therefore, in order to have a realistic religious life, we are going to go visiting as we intended in 2021 and find a church home in New Jersey just as most retirees have done for years.

Years ago we had made arrangements to be buried at West Point and there is nothing on Long Island to make us change those plans. I am not planning to continue writing monthly messages; it would be nice to read some books, which I have not done for a long time.

Our memories of Brookville are firmly settled in our minds. We don't expect anywhere we find a church to have a stronger attachment as a physical place. As a place of worship I have found almost all churches exude Holiness and God's presence - which is no longer in a Zoom.

I am pleased to see the new members, only some of whom I know, are stepping into leadership positions and accepting the challenges that come with responsibility. God bless you all.

~Branch Worsham. BEAT NAVY!

Branch & Nancy, thank you for your many faithful years with us and for the countless ways you have blessed our congregation through your friendship, your gifts, and your spiritual leadership. You will be deeply missed.

