

Brookville

Multifaith Campus

NEWS

One house, many faiths, endless opportunities for growth!

RfA
Room for All
An Open and Affirming
Campus to the
LGBTQIA+ community.

July 2023

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516-626-0414

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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.

www.brookvillemultifaithcampus.org



Dual Belonging - Part III

Last month I started a series for the summer on Brookville Church's dual affiliation with the Reformed Church in America (RCA) and the United Church of Christ (UCC). As I shared in our June issue, Brookville Church was founded in 1732 as an immigrant Dutch Reformed Church. Our roots run deep in the RCA and we continue to function under the RCA's church polity (government). Our worship services are still very reformed as well. We always start with our approach to God which includes a time of corporate confession of our collective sins, acknowledging that there are things that we all share as common themes in humanity that separate us from God. We approach God in our worship this way so we can lay those sins at the feet of the cross and not have them hinder the rest of our worship. The center of every reformed worship service is the Word of God to symbolize that the Bible and the teachings therein are central to all we do as Christians. Then we end our worship with our response to God's Word. Here we include our offerings as our way of giving back to Christ's church in response to the ways we have been blessed by God. Our order of worship has not changed since we became dually affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

What is important to note however, is that the Consistory (church board) along with the congregation have realized over time that even though we worship as a reformed church, our theology is more aligned with the United Church of Christ.

In August of 2003 I was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America, but since Brookville Church joined the UCC, I also have been granted Ordained Ministerial Standing in the UCC. This means that I have agreed to be faithful in attendance at meetings of our Association (called the Classis in the RCA) and in participation in its work.

As part of that work, I am serving a three year term as a member of the Committee on Church and Ministry, affectionately called COM. COM works with other RCA churches like ours who want to be

dually affiliated with the UCC, ministers who want to be dually ordained (like me!) and also we work with MID's - Members in Discernment who are students wanting to be ordained as ministers.

Here is where the UCC is more aligned theologically with Brookville Church. All of these students are from RCA churches but are pursuing ordination in the UCC mostly because they are LBGTQ+. Some of these ministerial candidates have waited long years to be ordained because the Reformed Church in America would not approve their ordination because of their gender identity or sexual orientation.

It has been a joy to see so many people feel called to become ministers and to assist them in seeing that calling come to fruition. Many have shared their pain of being rejected by the RCA and now feel they have found a home in the UCC. All of these candidates had to wait until their RCA home churches became dually affiliated with the UCC before their callings could become a reality.

The RCA is hurting for ministers. It seems we have more churches who are seeking a pastor than there are candidates for ministry. Some RCA churches on Long Island and surrounding areas have been vacant for years, searching for a pastor with very few having applied.

Brookville Church does not want to "jump ship" from the RCA, but we are happy to now have this new relationship with the UCC which is welcoming new ministers. Just in the one and a half years I have served on COM, I have seen close to a dozen students working toward ordination in the UCC. It is a joy to be a part of a denomination that celebrates diversity and sees the unique gifts of each individual who is applying for ordination.

Continuing to celebrate diversity,

Rev. Vicky

When most people think of holidays, they think of annual celebrations, but in Judaism there is one holiday that occurs every week - the Sabbath. Known in Hebrew as Shabbat and in Yiddish as Shabbos, this holiday is central to Jewish Life. As the great Jewish writer, Adad Ha-Am has observed: "Even more than the Jews have kept the Shabbat, the Shabbat has kept the Jews." The Sabbath has been a unifying force for Jews the world over.

There are so many "things" we associate with Shabbat. Rituals like Kiddush and Havdalah, prayers, naps, big meals with family and friends. But, perhaps one of the most significant rituals is the lighting of the Shabbat candles. Why do we signify Shabbat's entry by lighting up the lights?

Imagine yourself going into the kitchen in the darkness of the night looking for a midnight snack. The lights are off, and you cannot see anything in the room. It's so dark, you can't even find the light switch. You can't see or access that snack you desire, even though it's sitting right there. The food is ready to be eaten, but as far as you are concerned it doesn't exist, because you are steeped in darkness. What happens when you find the switch and turn on the lights? A brand-new room, midnight snack included, emerges.

Our Sages refer to the physical world as darkness. Spirituality is present in the world around us, but it can be very difficult to find. All too often we're in a dark room. On Shabbat we turn on the lights and see the spiritual dimension that has always been there.

When we light candles welcoming the Shabbat, we turn on the spiritual light of the world. When we light the Shabbat candles, we turn on the lights of our soul. We feel G-d's presence and G-d's involvement in our lives with the appearance of the Shabbat Queen.

With the lights on, we are inspired to live, to learn, to love. We spend time with our children, our families, the most important people in our lives. With the lights on, we realize that there's no such thing as "not having time for something important."



Shabbat

On Shabbat, we rejuvenate and reconnect so we can inspire others. With the lights on, we understand that while sometimes "it is what it is," we have the ability to change what it is and to make it better.

On Shabbat, we don't merely physically rest. We take a mental break from our busy and stressful workweek. Sit back, let go, and appreciate all that is around you. Shabbat is an island of tranquility in the turmoil of work, anxiety, struggle, and distress that characterizes our daily lives for the other six days of the week. Shabbat is the soul of the week, our weekly taste of a future world. On Shabbat we see the world as a reflection of G-d, a manifestation of G-d's imaginative thoughts. On Shabbat, G-d always leaves the light on for us. Shabbat Shalom!

Love and blessings,
Rabbi Scott Matous

Synagogue of the Month
Virtual Shabbat Service
Friday, July 7 at 6:30 PM

Here are links to:
[Zoom Invitation](#)
[Shabbat Service Booklet](#)
[Synagogue of the Month](#)

For more info email
www.newsynagogue-li.org

Muslims in Russia

by Syed Asad and Sultan Abdulhameed

Russia has the largest number of Muslims in Europe. According to the US Department of State Muslims in Russia numbered 14 million in 2017, or 10% of the Russian population.

Recognized under the law and by Russian political leaders as one of Russia's traditional religions, Islam is a part of Russian historical heritage, and is subsidized by the Russian government. The position of Islam as a major Russian religion, alongside Orthodox Christianity dates from the 1790's when Catherine the Great sponsored Islamic clergy and scholarship.

In the mid-7th century, many people in the Caucasus became Muslim, which later became part of Russia. The first Muslim state in the future Russian lands was Volga Bulgaria. Later most of the European and Caucasian Turkic people also became followers of Islam.

Communist rule oppressed and suppressed Islam, like other religions in the Soviet Union. Many Muslim scholars were executed, and many mosques were closed. It has been estimated that more than 83 percent of the mosques in Tatarstan were closed.

There was official conciliation toward Islam in Russia beginning in the 1990s. The number of Muslims allowed to make pilgrimages to Mecca increased sharply after the embargo of the Soviet era ended in 1991. In 1995, the newly established *Union of Muslims in Russia* began organizing a movement aimed at improving inter-ethnic understanding and ending Russians' lingering misconception of Islam. The Union formed a political party, the *Nur-All Muslim Public Movement*, which acts in close coordination with

imams to defend the political, economic, and cultural rights of Muslims. Since the 1990s, the number of Islamic publications has increased, including the Russian language newspapers *Assalam* and *Nurul Islam* which are published in Dagestan.

The city of Kazan in Tatarstan has a large Muslim population (second after Moscow) and is home to the Russian Islamic University. Education is in Russian and Tatar. In Dagestan there are a number of Islamic universities and madrassas, notable among them are: Dagestan Islamic University, Institute of Theology and International Relations, whose rector Maksud Sadikov was assassinated in June 2011.



Eid prayer in cathedral mosque in Moscow

The Kazan Kremlin, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is recognized as a major architectural achievement of Tatar Muslims. Chechen music is popular in many parts of Russia. Like any minority community, Muslims in Russia face challenges, including economic disparity, discrimination, and cultural assimilation.

However, efforts are being made to address these issues. The government, various NGOs, and civil society organizations have implemented programs to enhance socio-economic opportunities, promote cultural awareness, and ensure equal rights for all citizens. The involvement of Muslims in Russia's political and public spheres is gradually increasing, enabling their voices to be heard and facilitating their integration into society.

A survey published in 2019 by the Pew Research Center found that 76% of Russians had a favorable view of Muslims in their country, whereas 19% had an unfavorable view.

Interfaith Community of L.I. Brings the Year to a Strong Finish! By Christine Mankes

"The end of one thing is just the beginning of another."

-Laura Ingalls Wilder

At the conclusion of a year of robust programming for the Interfaith Community of Long Island two gatherings were held at our Brookville Multifaith Campus.

On June 4, 2023 we celebrated the Identity and Transition Ceremony of Olivia Antonello. After years of interfaith education through the IFC, Olivia not only participated, but helped to create her ceremony with her parents and Cantor Irene and Rev. Bill. One of the most pressing issues facing interfaith families is how to educate their children in both religious traditions. The Identity and Transition class is co-taught by a Christian instructor and a Jewish instructor. The course focuses on issues of religious identity and what it means to have an engaged spirituality in either tradition. Students learn about the history and culture of both traditions and the course culminates with a ceremony in the sanctuary on our campus.



Olivia with Cantor Irene



Our Steering Committee was instrumental in bringing back a fun tradition - the All-Campus End of Year Picnic! Fun was had by all! Our group enjoyed a picnic lunch with sandwiches, salads and treats donated by the IFC and other members of the multifaith campus. Adults and children alike enjoyed casual conversations, reconnecting with friends, and playing various yard games like croquet and corn hole. The highlight for the picnic was a visit from the famous Mr. Softee ice cream truck where all attendees could choose their favorite treat, compliments of your IFC!!!

Now that this year has ended, it's time to start writing the chapter of the next one with the foundation we have built.

The IFC Steering Committee will connect over the summer to create a year filled with education classes, social gatherings and sessions of conversation and reflection. Our **Fall Open House** is scheduled for **September 10, 2023**, so please mark your calendars!

Mark your calendars!

9/10/23

IFCLI

Open House!

How can I stay informed regarding the Interfaith Community?

EMAIL

Please check your email for updates. If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please email allison@interfaithli.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/interfaithcommunityli/>

Please check our website <https://www.interfaithli.org/home> for a full calendar



All Campus Picnic June 4, 2023



PRIDE SUNDAY

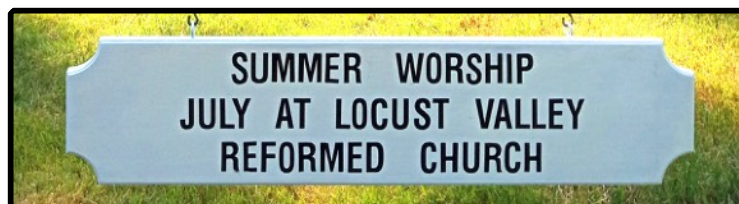
Thank you to Rev. Ann Kansfield, author of *Be the Brave One* and co-pastor of Greenpoint Reformed Church in Brooklyn with her wife, Rev. Jennifer Aull for being our guest preacher for our Pride Worship Celebration on June 18th. Her wit, authenticity and command of the scriptures was a joy to all in attendance. What a great way to kick off our first annual Pride day at Brookville Church!



Summer Church Schedule

Brookville Church will combine with the Reformed Church of Locust Valley for Sunday 10 AM worship

July: in Locust Valley, 115 Ryefield Road
August: in Brookville



Muslim Reform Movement Organization

Quran Study by Zoom every other Sunday 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. **All are welcome!**

To be invited to the meeting, please send an email to <mailto:muslimreform@hotmail.com>



Reformed Jumua prayer in person at the Brookville Multifaith Campus

Every Friday: The *Khutba* is at **1:10 PM** in English

The Prayer (*Salat*) begins at **1:30 PM**.

In the prayer, the Arabic recitation is followed by its English translation.



Hosted by: **Imam Sultan Abdulhameed**, author of "*The Quran & the Life of Excellence*"
email for details: muslimreform@hotmail.com

BRAG BOX



A beautiful plaque in honor of James Kelleher in choosing our Peace Garden as his Eagle Scout project was unveiled on Sunday, June 18th. Thank you James for making our Peace Garden so beautiful!



If you have something you would like to brag about please send your submissions to brookvillemfc@gmail.com by the 20th of the month prior. We'd love to celebrate with you!

CAMP WARWICK SUMMER 2023

Unmistakable

Matthew
5:14-16

CAMP SUNRISE

Week 1: June 25–30
Week 2: July 2–7
Week 3: July 9–14
Week 4: July 16–21
Week 5: July 23–28

VOLUNTEER!

Become a
Camp Sunrise
Volunteer

Earn volunteer hours, learn new skills, have leadership opportunities, choose 1–5 weeks, be part of a supportive and close knit team, have SO MUCH FUN!
Need to be 15+ years old

DAY CAMP

Week 1: June 26–30	Week 6: July 31– Aug. 6
Week 2: July 3–7	Week 7: Aug. 7–11
Week 3: July 10–14	Week 8: Aug. 14–18
Week 4: July 17–21	Week 9: Aug. 21–25
Week 5: July 24–28	

BECOME A STAFF MEMBER

Create meaningful relationships with campers and fellow staff, grow in leadership skills and opportunities, share your gifts and talents, and have the best summer of your life!

IN CAMP

Week 1: July 30 - Aug. 4
Entering 3rd–entering 6th grades

Week 2: Aug. 6–11
Entering 7th–entering 12th grade

Camp registration links, the volunteer application, and the staff application can be found

www.campwarwick.org

Camp Scholarships Available! Email: brookvillechurch@gmail.com to inquire

St. Paul's Reformed Church in North Babylon, an outreach ministry that houses the North Babylon Food Pantry, Emma's Table (a feeding ministry), 3 Narcotics Anonymous support groups, as well as Boy and Girl Scout troops, is in need of a new boiler. They need to have heat in order to maintain their vital outreach activities in the community. Only \$2,305 has been raised for a need of \$10,000.



Let's help them reach their goal while the weather is still warm!
To learn more, go to their [Go Fund Me page](#) and make a donation today.

The Next Chapter



This month I am writing about things that are carried in my memory and rush to be remembered at opportune times. We all encounter flash backs when something just happened in real time and it can make a recollection of something from the past. I have an advantage now, more years means more memories that can be called up from their mind held rest.

It has become interesting to find things to share from our past because Nancy and I are, for sure, senior citizens. She has been a keeper and collector of letters, pictures and many mementos and now she is going through them to decide their next fate - to continue keeping, throw away or pass on to a family member. In 1961 we were living in Alaska and Nancy was working in downtown Anchorage at the First National Bank of Anchorage. She was a banker's daughter and college graduate so it was easy to get hired for the short time until we were transferred away. Her job was receiving deposits from banking customers all over the state. You must think for a few minutes now - Alaska was huge with minimal roads and only a few banks, so remote customers made deposits in distant banks via small planes and signing with an X.

Our experience of living in Alaska has never been forgotten. It was a different place from the Lower 48 with a need and room for a lot of growing. That year the First National Bank of Anchorage was the largest bank in the state with five branches and three of them were in Anchorage. The Employees Club of the Bank was a unique part of the bank and represented most the the mixture of people in Alaska. Traveling there means flying and a winter vacation meant going south to -- Hawaii -- or California.

The Employees Club printed a season book of recent activities and the 1961 winter and spring editions were in a box Nancy opened.

The bank had CHRISTMAS EVENTS such as a candle lit in the window with an award for the person who guesses closest to when it would go out. That year it was 6 days, 4 hours 17 Minutes. That winner got \$100 which is still a lot of money over 60 years later.

For Easter people submitted colored Easter Eggs. There were 93 entries in 5 categories

- Class 1 A Song Remembered
- Class 2 Around The World In 80 Days
- Class 3 Religious
- Class 4 Delicacy & Beauty
- Class 5 Alaskan

Again the prizes were decent

5 First Prizes \$25 5 Second \$15

5 Third \$20 -- that was \$300 from the generous bank.

They ADOPTED a family for Christmas - one with ten children. They collected boxes of food and gifts and clothing and \$50. Nancy enjoyed every day she worked there.

In the spring we went to Turn Again Arm which was named by Captain James Cook in 1788 when he was looking for the fabled Northwest Passage. The waterway is known for its high tides, over 40 feet sometimes, and the highest in the United States. When the tide comes in it rushes through the Inlet and has a Tidal Bore that is often 6 feet high and moving up the channel at 5-6 miles per hour. We have seen that phenomenon several times; it is an awesome sight.

When the tides seem less exciting they can get the fishing people to stand at the waters edge as thousands of Hooligans - small fish like smelt - are caught simply by standing in the water's edge with a net. Now they are available in good fish markets during the season.

A little farther north at the eastern end of the Alaskan Peninsula is one of the many rivers that is the home to the returning salmon run. The Army had a camp of half a dozen cabins that were opened in the spring. The timing was significant because I liked to fish and also ski. When the snow was deep the ski lift was run right up to what was the last day because the men operating it had to shut down that place and fly to the Naknek River camp for the salmon fishing. The Army still has the few cabins but now there are a couple of real resorts on the Naknek for civilian fishermen. The prices are really high because the place is remote; the building material has to be delivered in the summer by small freight boats then built during the short summer, then the customers and all the provisions have to be flown in from Anchorage.

Several years later our church had a group go on a Holland American ship for an Alaskan Cruise and I had two opportunities to fish there again. While the ship spent a day at Sitka I was able to hook up with a fellow who guides fishing tourists and it was one of the best days fishing that I have ever had. The other trip was a fly-in to a popular river, but the time of day or incoming run of fish weren't in sync and I came back to the ship with one salmon for the chef to fix for our dinner.

Would I do it again? From the first day in Alaska to the last day - skiing or hunting or fishing I would say unequivocally, "Yes!" And Nancy would second that response.

~ Branch Worsham