

The [JMU Interfaith Coalition](#) stands with groups around the country and the world in calling for solidarity and an end to divisive fear-mongering. This coming weekend will be very special: both Judaism and Islam will celebrate holy days even as the U.S. observes the 9th anniversary of the Sept 11 attacks. As the JMU Interfaith Coalition soberly wishes our brothers and sisters shana tova and Eid karim, we want to share and endorse the inspirational and healing statements and actions below:

---

INTERFAITH YOUTH CORE ([ifyc.org](#))

The arc of American history has bent toward freedom and inclusion for all, but this arc isn't inevitable. It must be advanced by visionary leaders who stand up and speak out. At IFYC, we believe that together we can realize the dream of America: a place where people from different backgrounds live together in equal dignity and mutual loyalty.

**In America, we don't discriminate against people of any religion.**

**In America, we will not be divided by faith.**

**In America, everyone has a place.**

**In America, we are *better together*.**

---

COUNCIL FOR A PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS ([parliamentofreligions.org](#))

Across the interreligious movement, there is deep distress about the intentions of some to identify the Muslim tradition, and the Muslim community, as the villains, rather than a few radical individuals. Unfortunately, too many in the United States know little about the true aims of Islam, nor do they know that Islam is fundamentally a religion of peace and human solidarity and that the majority of Muslims around the world are peace-loving citizens who unequivocally condemn terrorism in the name of religion...

Trustees of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions call upon people of faith, spirit and goodwill from all traditions to use the solemn occasion of this 9/11 anniversary to reaffirm our commitment to building a better world for our children and grandchildren, and to affirm our solidarity with the Muslim community in this country and around the world. In this spirit, we offer this Call for Solidarity:

**On this 9/11 weekend, we invite all persons and communities of faith, spirit and goodwill everywhere to lift up their prayers, voices and thoughts to spark a new attitude and sense of urgency, and to enkindle a different flame:**

- a spark that will ignite in us again the impetus to bring comfort to those who lost loved ones on that terror-filled day, and in the violent conflicts and wars that followed from it;
- a spark that will ignite in us again to stand calmly and firmly against the forces of violence, distrust, hostility and cruelty;
- a spark that will ignite in us again to stand with those who find themselves on the margins of our society – the homeless and those losing their homes, the documented and undocumented immigrant, the unemployed and financially insecure;
- a spark that will ignite in us again the commitment to seek healing and reconciliation at home and abroad, in the cause of justice and peace.

---

*HAPPENING LOCALLY:*

A PEACEFUL PROTEST on the JMU Commons, this Saturday, Sept 11, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm organized by 'a few JMU students.' Here is their statement:

"September 11th is a hard day for many Americans, but it's important not to get caught up in rhetoric and religious hatred. Terry Jones and his church, the Dove World Outreach in Gainesville, Florida, plan a ceremony to burn the Qur'an this Saturday. Not only is this day one of remembrance, this year it is also the day that marks the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. His actions are not only hateful, but are the antithesis of what America stands for and the image we want to present to the world. America is composed of many faiths including over 5 million Muslims (U.S. News and World report 2008.) Freedom of Religion is just as important as freedom of speech and we cannot stand silent and allow one ignorant congregation to incite hatred or mis-represent most of the American population's true feelings. As a sign of good will I ask you to join us this Saturday for a peaceful gathering on the quad. Not for speeches or rhetoric, just for Americans of all faiths and creeds to come together and meet, play frisbee, talk, etc. Anything to acknowledge that we are against hate and for understanding."

---

INTERFAITH EID DINNER (celebrating end of Ramadan) next Monday, September 13 at Transitions in Warren Hall from 7-9, \$5 admission. Proceeds to Pakistani flood victims thru Helping Hands Foundation and to JMU Muslim Student Association. Delicious Middle Eastern food, prizes/games, Arabic calligraphy, a renowned speaker, organized by MSA.

---

DIVIDED WE FALL documentary film, this Friday, Sept 10 · 7pm - 9pm, Transitions, Warren Hall  
Nearly 9 years after 9/11, Americans are still suffering from the repercussions – but some, in ways we may have never thought. Organized by JMU International Student Association – join ISA for a viewing of a powerful documentary about a journey made across America in attempts to discover and give voice to the unpublicized hate crimes across the country.

---

The INTERFAITH INITIATIVE FOR PEACE & JUSTICE IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE monthly meeting will include a presentation on and discussion of the Park 51 Islamic Center and surrounding issues from 4 to 6 pm, Sunday, Sept 12, Fairfield Center, downtown Harrisonburg. All welcome.

---

#### *HAPPENING NATIONALLY:*

---

MEETING WITH U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL: A broad coalition of national faith leaders and advocacy groups from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Arab, Sikh and South Asian communities—led by Muslim Advocates, the Interfaith Alliance ([interfaithalliance.org](http://interfaithalliance.org)), the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty, and the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism—meets Wed afternoon with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder to discuss steps the Department of Justice and the Attorney General can take against rising anti-Muslim hate and acts of violence and intimidation against American Muslims and those perceived to be Muslim.

---

INTERFAITH NEWS CONFERENCE: On Tuesday over 30 Christian, Jewish, Muslim and other religious leaders organized by Islamic Society of North America ([www.isna.net](http://www.isna.net)) issued a joint declaration, spoke to reporters, answered questions about attitudes toward Muslims in the U.S. and discussed the country's reaction to a proposed Islamic Cultural Center in Manhattan: [click here to view](#)

---

ONLINE TOOLKIT produced and released by Council on American-Islamic Relations ([cair.org](http://cair.org)) - designed to help Muslim communities organize proactive local educational and outreach initiatives tied to events such as a "National Day of Unity and Healing"

---

If we look closely, there are many signs of hope amid the frightening rhetoric and actions. You can get involved just by

- educating yourself,
- reaching out to know people from other religious traditions,
- JOINING the Interfaith Coalition!!

With hope in our hearts,  
JMU Interfaith Coalition Steering Committee  
Lorie Merrow  
Sallie King  
Thomas Lavenir  
Abdelrahman Rabie  
Shari Scofield  
Frank Viscomi  
Saadia Khan  
Adib Amini  
Eddie Rozinski

[www.jmu.edu/interfaith](http://www.jmu.edu/interfaith)