



Monadnock Interfaith Project
Building An Interfaith Coalition for Community Understanding and Social Justice

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December 2024

This is the time of year that many of our faith traditions celebrate with Advent and Kwanza candles, Hanukkah menorahs, and lights for Winter Solstice celebrations.

In this eNewsletter you will find information about special holiday celebrations, MIP Annual Meeting news, and an invitation to be a listening session facilitator.

We wish you and your loved ones, hope, joy, peace, and light in this season!

MIP Annual Meeting Accomplishments Celebrated, New Guiding Councilors Welcomed!



At MIP's Annual Meeting we reviewed the past year, refreshed the MIP by-laws, and enjoyed a delicious potluck buffet. MIP welcomed three new Guiding Councilors, Alaria Clauss, Ann Carlson and Sarah Harpster.

Goals were set for the upcoming year in the following three areas:

1. MIP Sustainability - Expand institutional partnerships and individual memberships, lay leader engagement, fundraising, and board membership.
2. Systemic Change - Support the newly established Housing Development Fund. Implement a listening process and launch a new issue campaign.
3. Build Community and Understanding - Host 5+ interfaith / intercultural events to foster understanding of one another's faiths and develop relationships among people in our region.

Regular Guiding Council meetings are held the third Monday every other month via Zoom. To find out more and connect with a Guiding Councilor email: monadnockinterfaith@gmail.com

**Coming Soon in an upcoming MIP eNewsletter...
Photo highlights from 2024!**

Join with your neighbors at this meaningful event showcasing the beauty of the season!



MIP is LISTENING we need your help!

In early 2025 MIP will be hosting listening sessions in faith congregations and regional community locations.

We will listen to understand the challenges local people are facing. Our goal is to identify MIP's next social justice campaign.

Listening sessions are great opportunities for relationship building and creating a solid foundation for working together on positive change.

Like being a listener? Interested in helping?

MIP will provide training to help lead these sessions.

Listening process facilitator training dates:

- Wed Jan 22, 6:30pm on zoom
- Tuesday Jan 28, noon in person, location TBD

Click this link to [Sign up for a Listener/Facilitator Training](#).

Disaster Relief needed for Keene's

Tanglewood Cooperative Park!

July 16th Keene's Tanglewood Cooperative Park suffered a devastating storm that caused extensive tree damage. Over 900 trees were identified as damaged or dangerous in the wake of the storm.



50 homes were damaged by tree fall, 10 rendered completely unlivable. Working with a tree service, they have removed 400 trees so far - exhausting their capital reserves. With no Federal or State level assistance, critical progress has halted.

Our neighbors need our help, click this link for a secure donation website: [Tanglewood Disaster Relief](#).



Longest Night Remembrance Candlelight Vigil & Memorial

Monday, Dec 16, 5:30pm
St. James Episcopal Church
44 West Street, Keene

Join as we gather in community to honor the lives of those who have passed this year while experiencing homelessness. Remembering through poetry, song and reading the names of our neighbors who have recently died. For information visit: [Candlelight Vigil & Memorial](#).

Early Morning Volunteers Needed for Community Breakfasts!

A few good volunteers needed for the community teams that prepare and serve hot breakfast at Hundred Nights, 6-8am from Dec 2 to April 18. Contact Julie Dickson, 603-762-1358 or jdickson.jsmeltz@gmail.com



**Dinner prep & other
volunteers welcome, too!**

Dinner Prep: open dates: 22 & 29

Volunteer Roles available at Hundred Nights:

- Soup Groups: small groups of 2-3 people who will come into our kitchen and prepare soup to be regularly served for our community. We've got the ingredients, we need the cooks! Various times available; typically 1:30-4 p.m. & 7-9 p.m. daily.

- Meal Service: 1-2 people to serve Lunch and Dinner daily.
- Reception: Answering the phone, greeting guests & accessing mail. M-F; 9-5.
- Evening Intake: Greeting and assisting guests; 6:15-9:30 p.m.
- Early Bird Resource Center Support: Assist staff with kitchen and resource center needs. 7:30-9:30 a.m.
- Weekend Cleaning Help - paid position



Special events in this season of light and love...

33rd Annual Messiah Sing - *A community sing-a-long*

- Sunday, Dec 15 at 7pm, United Church of Christ in Keene, 23 Central Square

Parents' Day Out - *Free Child Care and Gift-Wrapping Service,*

- Sunday, Dec 15th, 1-3:30pm. Donations welcome for Youth Group Mission Trip, United Church of Christ in Keene, 23 Central Square

Longest Night Remembrance - *In memory of those who lost their lives while experiencing homelessness.*

- Monday, Dec 16, 5:30pm, St. James Episcopal Church, 44 West Street, Keene. Prayers, music, and memorials.

Blue Christmas - *For those experiencing grief and struggling with loss.*

- Wednesday, Dec 11, 12pm, United Church of Christ in Keene, 23 Central Square
- Thursday, Dec 19, 7pm, St. James Episcopal Church, 44 West Street, Keene. Quiet music, candles and prayers.

Community Menorah Lighting - *Music, blessings, light and joy.*

- Monday, Dec. 30, 5:30pm, Keene Family Y. Jelly donuts and cider in the lobby after the ceremony.

December Spiritual Holidays

Visit [Interfaith Calendar 2024](#).

December 8 – Bodhi Day

This Buddhist holiday remembers the day that Gautama Buddha experienced enlightenment.



December 21 – Yule

Pagans and Wiccans celebrate the winter solstice today, marking the day on which the “sun is reborn.”

December 25 – Christmas

The Christian celebration honoring and welcoming the birth of Jesus Christ.

December 26 – January 2 – Hanukkah

The Jewish celebration commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

December 26 – January 1 – Kwanzaa

Cultural celebration when African and African American families come together to share a feast, honor the ancestors, affirm the bonds between them, and light candle to highlight seven life affirming principles.

Know someone interested in interfaith efforts? Forward this email.

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In faith, hope, and love,

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