



# 2022

**HARC**  
Hagerstown Area Religious Council  
we can do more TOGETHER

## IMPACT REPORT

*Our year in review*



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Serving more students than ever before

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Black Professionals Network to launch

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Breaking our own record!



*HARC's mission is to embody mercy, justice and love as diverse faith partners in Washington County, Maryland.*

### **On the cover**

#### ***Clockwise from top left:***

Hikers pause for a photo under the  
“We finished!” banner at the  
10th annual HARC Hike  
for Hunger & Hope.

Volunteers load pallets of food onto a  
truck for delivery as part of Micah's  
Backpack, a program that provides  
nutritious food on weekends to  
food-insecure school children in  
Washington County.

The expansive dessert buffet at the  
Islamic Society of Western Maryland  
mosque as part of HARC's first-annual  
Interfaith Progressive Dinner held  
on September 11.

In the Memory Garden of Zion  
Reformed United Church of Christ,  
participants at the first stop of the  
Interfaith Progressive Dinner  
light candles while singing  
“Let There Be Peace on Earth.”

Bishop Curtis Hayden of Second  
Christian Church gives the benediction  
at the close of the  
Good Friday Unity Walk  
in Hagerstown's  
beautiful City Park.

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## *Message from the presidents*

# 2022: A year of transitions

**I**n 2022, Washington County Council of Churches/HARC celebrated 75 years of service in this community. Reflecting on the history of our work together as a faith community collaboration, it is remarkable how our Creator has pulled us together through the years and through many changes to support one another and serve in ways that truly make an impact. This history is rich and important; yet changing times, evolving needs, and new leadership call us to serve in new ways, remaining sensitive to how the Spirit is working among us.



Rev. Christopher Serufusa

2022 was a year of transitions. Rev. Elizabeth Jackson left Hagerstown after serving two and a half years as president. Bishop Tim Harrast became president of HARC in July, bringing a new vision of learning about different faith traditions as we gather each month, as well as building teams around each of our four Belief Statements. Tim served as president for only four months before being called to Florida at the end of October for a new job.



Rabbi Mark Perman

We — Rev. Christopher Serufusa and Rabbi Mark Perman — jointly led HARC for the remainder of the year. We continue to lead into 2023. HARC's new president will be Rev. Serufusa, and the new vice president will be Rabbi Mark.

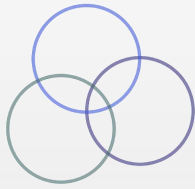
Through the transitions and celebrations, HARC and our member congregations moved forward with great energy! Our work included strengthening and growing Micah's Backpack, and once again holding a Good Friday Unity Walk and an Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service *in person*. We responded to the war in Ukraine and the tragic shooting in Smithsburg with prayer vigils and interfaith support. And we took a deeper dive into learning about other faiths through Rabbi Mark's Interfaith Roundtable radio show.

Building on groundwork laid in 2021, HARC's Racial Justice Team partnered to launch a new Equity in Education Scholarship, awarding scholarships to four African-American women pursuing degrees in education.

An inspiring and challenging board retreat in July led to further fleshing out of our four Belief Statements and the goals and action steps that flow from them. In September, many of our members participated in prioritizing those goals. You can see the results in this report.

We thank God for the work HARC has done in the community. We thank God for the volunteers and partners who work with HARC. Many thanks to Kathy Powderly for her tireless efforts to keep us together through transitions. Blessings to you in the New Year!

*Rev. Christopher Serufusa Rabbi Mark Perman*



## **WE BELIEVE**

*in the power of faith  
communities working together.*

**We strive to listen when God  
is speaking, and act boldly  
together to make a difference  
in our community.**

**We build collaborations  
across boundaries of  
religious differences,  
as well as with community  
organizations, to do the work  
we are called to do.**

**Everything we do as the**

## **Hagerstown Area Religious Council**

**falls under this belief.**

The pages of this report are filled with evidence of the  
*power of faith communities working together.*

Much of this work also fits under other categories, so here  
we include primarily the building of interfaith and  
interdenominational relationships, which leads to more  
tangible efforts that fall under our other three Belief Statements.

## **The Interfaith Team**

The Interfaith Team, formerly Interfaith Coalition of  
Washington County, continued to solidify as a part of  
HARC in 2022. The team identified ways to educate the  
public on the world's faith traditions, focusing on two  
events: the **Interfaith Progressive Dinner** and HARC's  
annual **Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service**, while  
also including other peripheral projects.

## **Interfaith Progressive Dinner**

The first-annual Interfaith  
Progressive Dinner was held on  
Sunday, September 11, 2022,  
with approximately 85 people  
attending. Four courses were  
served, each at a different house  
of worship. Faith leaders at each  
location shared the history and  
tradition of their faith and  
presented a short program, from  
honoring those fallen on 9/11 to



At the third stop of the Interfaith Progressive Dinner, the crowd enjoyed a  
delicious entrée buffet at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

moving toward a world of peace. The participating houses of worship were Zion Reformed United Church of Christ (appetizers), Congregation B'nai Abraham (soup and salad), The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (entrée), and the Islamic Society of Western Maryland (desserts).

## Thanksgiving Service

Our annual Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service was held on Sunday, November 20, 2022, attended by approximately 100 people. Held at St. Ann Roman Catholic Church, leaders from various faith traditions including Baha'i, Jewish and Christian participated. A free-will offering included non-perishable food and monetary donations collected for local food pantries.

## Coming up in 2023

The **Interfaith Book Club** will resume in January via Zoom. The selection for January is *The Book of Joy* by H.H. the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, with Douglas Abrams.

The team is also planning for the **International Season for Peace and Non-Violence** in early 2023. This season begins with the anniversary of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi on January 30, ending on the anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4. The HARC website, [www.harccoalition.org](http://www.harccoalition.org), has many resources on the Season for Non-violence that can be used in houses of worship, communities, schools, and by individuals.

An **Interfaith Retreat: "Sensing the Divine,"** is scheduled for Saturday, March 4, 2023, at Shepherd's Spring Camp & Retreat Center. We'll explore the idea that the Divine is everywhere present; we only need to open our eyes and ears, and learn to use our spiritual senses to get in touch with our own inner mystic.

### Interfaith Planning Team:

Rev. Sandy Boyer, Coordinator  
Paula Myers, Secretary  
Rev. Ed Poling  
Rev. Katie Penick  
Rae Smith  
Jean Simmons  
Rabbi Mark Perman  
Kathy Powderly

### Interested in learning more?

Please visit:

[www.harccoalition.org/interfaith/](http://www.harccoalition.org/interfaith/)

Or contact

**Rev. Sandy Boyer**, Coordinator

[sandy.boyer@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.boyer@gmail.com)

Or call the HARC office at

**301-842-4272**

*Additional team members wanted!*



Rev. Christopher Serufusa made welcoming remarks at the Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service.



## Good Friday Unity Walk

On April 15, about 100 people participated in HARC's Good Friday Unity Walk in Hagerstown's beautiful City Park, bringing together Christians of all backgrounds to unite in remembrance on this Holy day.



### INTERFAITH PRAYER

Peace does not happen  
because we wish it.

Holiness, guide our  
every action.

If we must shriek our  
message, give us  
the voice of music.

If we must perform an intervention, give  
us words of temperance and acceptance.

If we must intervene with immediacy, give  
us ears that listen and silences  
that quickly hear.

Holiness, we pray for healing words.  
Put your words into our voice  
and bring them forth, we pray. Amen

— Rev. Valerie T. Wills



**Interfaith prayers** from various faith traditions, like the one above, were emailed weekly by Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Valerie T. Wills. Select prayers were posted on HARC's Facebook page and included in the News Flash.

### Calendar of holy days

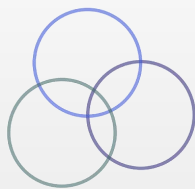
Ed Poling once again provided a **calendar of weekly holy days and activities** of different faiths publicized in the News Flash and on HARC's website.

### The Interfaith Roundtable

In September 2022, Rabbi Mark Perman launched a radio show and podcast, which airs on WARK Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. The Interfaith Roundtable explores various religious traditions and helps

us understand the differences and similarities between faiths. Rabbi Mark interviewed many area faith leaders for shows in 2022 and continues to seek a variety of faith perspectives for the show. Check out past shows via podcast at [listenhagerstown.com/interfaith-roundtable/](https://listenhagerstown.com/interfaith-roundtable/). To learn more, consider sharing your voice on the show, or to sponsor a show, contact Rabbi Mark at [rabbimarkcba@gmail.com](mailto:rabbimarkcba@gmail.com).





## WE BELIEVE

*in nurturing the unlimited potential of every child.*

**We focus our collaborative efforts on building supports around and creating opportunities for children and families.**

## Micah's Backpack

Since schools returned to in-person learning, the Micah's Backpack program began to grow again and ran smoothly for the 2021-22 school year. We are grateful to all the sponsoring churches and organizations that have continued to do the week-to-week work of feeding children in this program despite the challenges of bouncing back from the pandemic.

We are also grateful to the school liaisons, who face so many extra challenges in their jobs, yet still make it a priority to identify children who are food-insecure and make sure they receive their bags of food each week.



### Survey results for the 2021-22 school year include:

- 63% of parents** said this extra food helps them pay other bills.
- 62% of parents** indicated that their child has been sick less since receiving the bags and **68%** said their children are absent less.
- 53% of school staff** noticed improvement in behavior of students during the school day.
- 65% of school staff** agreed that students are more engaged in learning during the school day and **52%** indicated that student grades have improved.
- 95% of school staff** indicated that this program cultivates a more positive relationship between students and coordinators/school staff.

### So far, this 2022-23 school year...

has gotten off to a smooth start, but we are seeing the number of children who need extra food climb significantly. School liaisons say this is due to special pandemic programs ending, as well as higher prices for basic needs such as food, housing, and transportation.

### Updates for this school year include:

- 49 sponsoring churches and organizations are currently serving more than 1,100 students in 37 schools with weekly food.
- Four schools were added in 2022; **we are now serving 80% of schools in Washington County.**
- HARC increased our effort to connect houses of worship and schools for other needs of children.



**Current sponsors are stretched to their limits. Additional sponsors are needed!**



**We asked children:**

***“What do you  
like about  
Micah’s  
Backpack?”***

“I like everything.”  
“It helps when we  
are low on food.”  
“[I can] feed  
me and my brother  
on the weekends.”  
“That I have  
food now.”



***Thank you to the following sponsoring churches and organizations, who did the bulk of the day-to-day work of providing food for children through Micah’s Backpack in 2022:***

Bethel United Methodist Church  
Brownsville Church of the Brethren  
Concordia Lutheran Church  
Crossroads Church  
Emmanuel United Methodist Church  
Evangel Baptist Church  
First Christian Church  
Grace United Methodist Church  
Hagerstown Church of the Brethren  
Hagerstown Church of the Nazarene  
Haven Lutheran Church  
Hilltop Fellowship Church  
Hollowell Brethren in Christ  
Interfaith Service Coalition (supported  
by Hancock area churches)  
John Wesley United Methodist Church  
Marsha Green & Family  
Maugansville Bible Brethren Church  
Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church  
Otterbein United Methodist Church  
Paramount Brethren in Christ  
Presbyterian Church of Hagerstown  
Redeeming Grace Church  
Rehoboth United Methodist Church  
Ringgold Church  
Salem Lutheran Church  
Shiloh United Methodist Church  
Smithsburg Valley Church

South Washington County Food Pantry  
(supported by churches in South  
Washington County)  
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church  
St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church  
St. Ann Catholic Church  
St. James School  
St. John’s Episcopal Church  
St. John’s Lutheran Church  
St. Joseph Catholic Church  
& America’s Hauling for Hope  
St. Maria Goretti High School  
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church  
St. Mark’s Lutheran Church  
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church,  
Funkstown  
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church,  
Smithsburg  
The Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter-day Saints  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Hagerstown  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Smithsburg  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
Valley Grace Brethren Church  
Williamsport United Methodist  
Church  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Zion Reformed  
United Church of Christ

thank you!

**“Students who  
participate [in Micah’s  
Backpack] look  
forward to their bags  
each week. I’ve had  
parents tell me how  
much they appreciate  
the extra food. Please  
continue this program  
and thank you from  
school staff, students,  
and parents.”**

— School Liaison



# Filling the gaps

In 2021, we asked organization that work with children what the faith community can do to help fill the gaps for children and families. Two of the priorities, they said, were to offer programs for families such as Learning Parties and Parent Cafes, and to offer ACEs/trauma education to the community because *these programs make a difference*. We listened and rebooted these effective programs.

## Understanding ACEs, Building Resilience

Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs (a.k.a. childhood trauma) are common, present likely the greatest health crises of our time, and the effects manifest in many ways throughout the community. There is a clear and scientifically proven cause and effect relationship between ACEs and many health and social problems, including mental illness, suicide, substance abuse, heart disease, lung disease, obesity, to name a few.

A child who suffers from ACEs and doesn't have a strong relationship with a healthy adult can actually sustain changes to their brain that affect regulation of logic, impulse control, and decision making. These changes can lead to lifelong difficulties.

But there is hope for prevention and healing. And our faith communities are uniquely equipped to help. In 2022, we offered the following to help build awareness, understanding, and provide practical tools for healing and building resilience:

- Training for staff, mentors and parents of Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Workshop for teen and young adult parents at the Washington County Family Center
- "ACEs & Resilience" workshop for faith leaders at HARC's March 8 meeting
- Offered a "Triumph Over Trauma" 7-week curriculum designed for congregations to offer healing practices for adults.

If you'd like HARC to present a workshop for your congregation or organization, please contact the office at 301-842-4272 or email [director@harccoalition.org](mailto:director@harccoalition.org).

ACEs information and resources are also available on the HARC website under the "Resources" tab.

**[www.harccoalition.org](http://www.harccoalition.org)**

## Learning Parties & Parent Cafés

In October 2022, HARC partnered with St. John's Episcopal Church and the Judy Center to offer a four-week Learning Party series for nine families.

A volunteer reads to children during a Learning Party held in October 2022.

**[www.harccoalition.org](http://www.harccoalition.org) / 9**



Learning Parties are fun, interactive programs for families and their 3-to-4-year-old children, with hands-on activities and tips that promote young children's development of school readiness skills. This series focused on building social and emotional skills. Volunteers from several different congregations helped to make it happen.

In November, a handful of volunteers attended an Introduction to Parent Cafés to learn what this parent-supportive program is all about. Parent Cafés provide a safe and supportive forum for parents to talk about their every day experiences and learn new parenting and coping skills from one another. Another training for "table hosts" will follow in 2023.



Information parents said was

**MOST USEFUL**

to them:

- "The calm-down techniques"
- "How to support them emotionally and self-control"
- "Modeling emotions with my child"
- "Tips for dealing with challenging behaviors"

**Can you help?**

We are always in need of houses of worship to host Learning Parties and/or Parent Cafés, and volunteers to help make them happen.



Parents participate in a Parent Café and learn interactive ways to enhance their children's learning.



Children listen as a volunteer reads to them during a Learning Party at St. John's Episcopal Church in October.





## WE BELIEVE

*all people have equal value  
and are loved by God.*

**We seek justice for those  
who are not treated equally  
or given equal value  
by our broken world.**

**We strive to lift up  
the unique gifts and  
abilities of people  
and empower them to be  
who they were made to be.**

## Interfaith Prayer Vigil held in support of the Ukrainian people

On Sunday, March 6, the faith community and the community at large came together in Hagerstown's Public Square to pray for peace and safety in Ukraine and to stand in solidarity with her people.

This one-hour program included words of support from leaders of different faiths and backgrounds, prayers, song, silence, and a personal story from Volodymyr Grinchenko, a local Ukrainian-American chaplain with Hospice of Washington County. Grinchenko offered practical ways that we can help, which were shared via social media.



A young boy brought his hand-made Ukrainian flag to the Prayer Vigil.



Local Ukrainian-American Volodymyr Grinchenko (at far right), chaplain for Hospice of Washington County, speaks to the crowd gathered at the Prayer Vigil in support of Ukraine.

# The Racial Justice Team

HARC's Racial Justice Team was formed in May 2021, and continues its work on a variety of endeavors to seek equity, opportunities, and to bring to the forefront the gifts of people of color in Washington County.

This team's goals include developing a **Washington County Black Professionals Network** (WCBPN), for the purpose of connection, support, safety, belonging, and economic prosperity.

The mission of the WCBPN is to provide professional networking opportunities and to attract and retain under-represented professionals in the community by establishing connections for Blacks of the African diaspora in Hagerstown and surrounding areas.

The vision of the WCBPN is to:

- Foster an inclusive community among black professionals.
- Create opportunities for Black-owned businesses that will lead to economic growth.
- Work collaboratively within the WCBPN to improve the perception of Washington County to attract and retain more Black professionals to the area.
- Provide networking opportunities for Black-owned businesses to support one another and yield greater profitability.
- Develop opportunities to educate the community regarding entrepreneurship and financial empowerment.
- Leverage the power of the Network to create opportunities that enhance the lived experience of members of the African-American community.

## WASHINGTON COUNTY BLACK PROFESSIONALS NETWORK

The kick-off event for the WCBPN is scheduled for February 2023. This event will be an opportunity for Black professionals in the Washington County area to attend an information session, to network, and to join the WCBPN. For more information, visit [www.harccoalition.org/black-professionals-network/](http://www.harccoalition.org/black-professionals-network/)

## More educators from underrepresented groups

Another goal of the Racial Justice Team is to advocate for more educators in Washington County who are from underrepresented ethnic groups and to support retention efforts.

Through the WCBPN, educators who are from underrepresented ethnic groups have an opportunity to network with other professionals of color in our community.



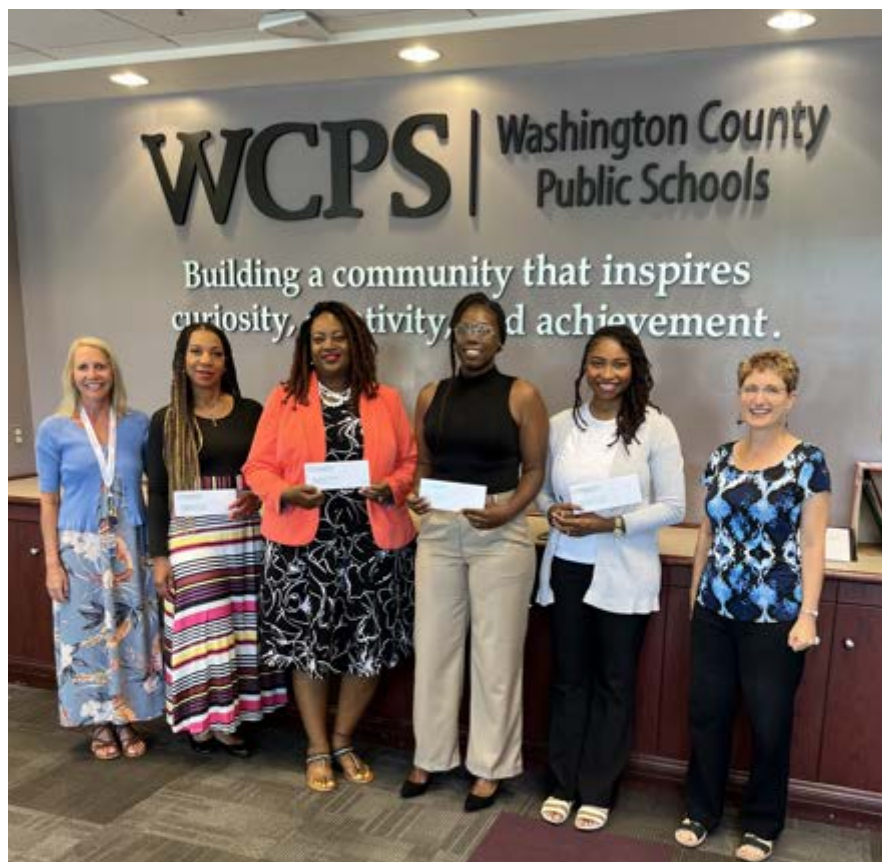


Through this connection, we hope to increase retention of Washington County teachers of color.

The **Equity in Education Scholarship** was launched in 2022 with \$16,500 in scholarships awarded to four African American women to pursue degrees in education. This effort is a partnership of HARC, Washington County Public Schools, The Education Foundation of Washington County, and Rise Up Hagerstown.

This scholarship program:

- Removes financial barriers for racially minoritized people to pursue degrees in education,
- Increases the number of diverse educators in our public schools,
- Supports retention of diverse educators through mentoring and resources,
- Ultimately helps children, especially children of color, do better in school.



Recipients of the Equity in Education Scholarship 2022: second from left, Chanda Thompson, Lyvon Campbell, Gabrielle Desir-Pierre, and Delphine Kahl. At far left is Sheila Evers of the Education Foundation of WCPS; at far right is Kathy Powderly, Executive Director of HARC.

Our 2023 goal is to provide up to seven scholarships, while continuing to mentor/support our 2022 recipients. Financial support of this program is critical. Your gift of \$250, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500 or ANY amount will make a big difference in the lives of future educators and the hundreds of children they will serve. Donations can be made through the Community Foundation of Washington County at [cfwcmd.org](http://cfwcmd.org), or through HARC at [www.harccoalition.org/donate](http://www.harccoalition.org/donate).

## Advocate for transportation

The Racial Justice team reached out to Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) administration to advocate for transportation for students to special school programs. Students from the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts, for example, would be provided transportation from their home high schools to their home school bus stops in the afternoon. Progress is underway on this effort.

## Educate on systemic racial injustice

Educating people of faith and the community at large on systemic racial injustice is an important goal of the Racial Justice team. A six-week diversity training program was held at Otterbein United Methodist Church in 2022. In 2023, half-day training opportunities will be scheduled in the Spring.



## WE BELIEVE

*in equipping one another to  
create stronger houses of worship.*

**We build relationships  
among clergy and  
people of faith,  
and support and encourage  
one another. We provide  
information, resources,  
and connections to  
enhance the work of  
congregations, ministries,  
and community organizations.**

## Monthly meetings...

### Connect, learn, share

One of the ways we **equip one another** is by presenting informational programs at our monthly meetings. These programs are relevant to faith leaders, houses of worship, and our other member organizations.

Programs are geared to faith leaders and members, but anyone is welcome to attend. Below are program topics from 2022:

**JANUARY** Annual Meeting and Celebration of HARC/WCCC's 75 years of service to the community. We met on Zoom, had a presentation of our history, welcomed Hagerstown Mayor Emily Keller for a proclamation from the city, welcomed new clergy, did a little business, and had a time of sharing of what HARC means to us.

### FEBRUARY

**Interfaith Coalition 20th Anniversary Celebration**, held on Zoom. Interfaith Coalition founders Rev. Don Stevenson and Ron Bowers and long-time member Rev. Ed Poling reminisced about the beginnings of this interfaith branch of HARC to create dialogue and understanding among faith groups over the years. Rev. Sandy Boyer led a discussion on the future of our interfaith work.



Find recording on HARC's



channel

**MARCH** Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Healing, and Building Resilience, held at Grace United Methodist Church. David Washington of the Washington County Health Department offered a "Triumph Over Trauma" curriculum opportunity.



**APRIL Dealing with the Lingering Effects of the Pandemic on Congregations and Faith Leaders**, program offered by Rev. Ron Shank, Director of Pastoral Care at Brook Lane Health Services, held at Zion Reformed United Church of Christ. This program included practical tips for self-care and dealing with pandemic effects in our congregations, as well as a better understanding of what youth in our community are experiencing and their mental health challenges.

**MAY Honoring Volunteers and Donor and Baha'i Faith Facts**, held at Benevola United Methodist Church's outdoor pavilion. We gave a long overdue thank you to Mike Johnston and the God's Grace Fund for a 2019 matching gift that enabled HARC to grow to where it is today. We honored dedicated volunteers Ed Poling, Charlotte Trout, and Kelly Conrad, and thanked Rev. Elizabeth Jackson for her leadership as president during the pandemic and a time of organizational change. Baha'i representative Paula Myers also shared about the Baha'i faith.

**JUNE Salvation Army of Hagerstown program and tour**, held at the Salvation Army and presented by Captain Jimmy Taylor. We also said farewell to Rev. Elizabeth Jackson and wished her well in her new chaplaincy at York Hospital and voted in Bishop Tim Harrast as the new president of HARC.

**JULY Annual Board Retreat** was held at St. Ann Catholic Church, with most members of the Board of Directors and a few other volunteers and clergy participating. We fleshed out the work of our four belief statements, setting goals and priorities to be worked on by individual teams.



*HARC's general membership does not meet in July or August.*

**SEPTEMBER Our Work Together**, held at Emmanuel United Methodist Church. We had representation from many of our member houses of worship at this meeting, with all giving input and further prioritization to our work, goals, and ideas to better serve our houses of worship and community. We also learned about the Methodist faith tradition.

**OCTOBER Dinner & program at the mosque**, held at the Islamic Society of Western Maryland. A panel of faith leaders shared their successes with service and outreach and with engaging children and youth. The presentations were followed by Q&A discussion, then a delicious dinner and fellowship. We also learned about the Muslim faith tradition and witnessed prayer time.

**NOVEMBER** News from Reach and Community Action Council, held at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Jeanne Asbury gave an update on Reach programs and some valuable resources to help people in need, and asked for the faith community's help with funding to meet the needs of people in crisis. Elizabeth Howe shared about the new Circles program through CAC and the many opportunities for people of faith to be involved and help people out of poverty. We also learned about the Lutheran faith tradition and some history of Trinity Lutheran Church.

**DECEMBER** The Season for Nonviolence, held at Congregation B'nai Abraham.

Rev. Sandy Boyer shared information, resources, and practices for this season, held from January 30 through April 4 each year. We also learned about the reformed Jewish faith tradition.



Find recording on HARC's



## Faith representatives speak at the mosque in October



From left, Pastor Bruno Lourenco of Highland View Church, Seventh-day Adventist (connected with Highland View Academy); Erin Forsythe, President of the Young Single Adult Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Cindy Brown of Otterbein United Methodist; Father Todd Young, St. John's Episcopal Church; Imam Momin Shahzad of the Islamic Society of Western Maryland.

# More opportunities for fellowship & support

**Mondays at 9 a.m.**

**at**

**Safron Bakery Café**

**287 Eastern Blvd. North**

**Hagerstown**

## **HARC Weekly Bible Study**

A time to dig into scripture with other pastors. Typically follows the Lectionary, so it also can help you prepare your sermons a week ahead if you follow the Lectionary cycle. If interested, contact Father Todd Young at [rector@stjohnshagerstown.org](mailto:rector@stjohnshagerstown.org) or just show up.

*HARC would like to offer more opportunities for fellowship and FUN!*

*If you're willing to start a group activity around YOUR hobby or interest, please contact the HARC office.*

**Wednesdays**

**7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**at**

**TGI Fridays**

**17840 Garland Groh Blvd.**

**Hagerstown**

## **HARC Trivia Team**

A great opportunity to laugh and be yourself outside the bounds of your congregation. This is NOT “Bible trivia,” it’s regular trivia and only our team is faith-based. If interested, contact Kathy Powderly at [director@harccoalition.org](mailto:director@harccoalition.org) or 301-842-4272.

## Resources, resources, and more resources

**Food & Clothing:** HARC continues to maintain a list of Washington County food, clothing, and personal care resources.

**Vacation Bible School & Summer Activities for Children:** HARC once again compiled a list of free or low-cost summer activities for children.

**Crisis needs agency information and referrals:** HARC maintains a list of organizations in Washington County that provide assistance to people in crisis situations, along with the type of help each offers. We continue to be a hub where faith leaders can seek resources and information to help people with various needs. Additionally, HARC partners with local organizations to assist with gaps in service as we are able.

**HARC also helped with resources and connections** for organizations and houses of worship helping refugee families to resettle in our area. We’re grateful to all who’ve helped to “welcome the stranger.”

**[www.harccoalition.org/resources](http://www.harccoalition.org/resources):** Children and family resources, clergy services, congregational vitality resources, faith-based counseling services, housing and shelter resources, racial justice resources, information and resources on adverse childhood experiences and building resilience, and more.



# HARC Hike for Hunger & Hope

On June 4, 2022, around 85 people came out to hike 4K, 10K, or half-marathon distances on the C&O Canal Towpath to support HARC and Micah's Backpack. It was a beautiful day with great fellowship, exploration of nature, and great food.

Another 22 people participated in the "Virtual Hike," walking on their own or with the Prime Time for Women hikers group.

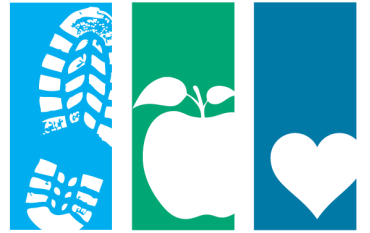
One week later, 10 hardy individuals hiked 23 miles on the Appalachian Trail for our Challenge Hike, raising funds to support HARC and Micah's Backpack. The Challenge Hike took a good 10 hours of dedicated hiking on rocky ground, with periods of rain that did not dampen anyone's spirits. All were motivated by the camaraderie, the cause, and the accomplishment!

Everyone who participated or sponsored a participant helped to make this year's event our most successful ever with more than **\$25,600 in proceeds** – *thank you!*

## Thanks to our amazing HARC Hike Event Planning Team:

Hike Leader Ed Poling, Beth Johnston, Sue Wert, Ed Maloy, Kelly Conrad, Kathleen Wood, Butch Eigenbrode of Antietam Radio Association, and Kathy Powderly. Thanks also to the many volunteers who helped on event days.

**Thank you to our business and faith community sponsors!** *The sponsors are listed under Donations at the end of this report.*



**HARC  
HIKE**  
*for Hunger & Hope*



Mark your calendar for our  
2023 HARC Hike!

◆ Main hike: Saturday, June 10  
at Shepherd's Spring  
Camp & Retreat Center and  
the C&O Canal Towpath.

◆ Challenge hike:  
Saturday, May 20 on the southern  
half of the Appalachian Trail  
in Maryland.

**MORE HIKE PHOTOS >>>**

**Thank you to our TOP  
fundraising individuals  
and teams!**

Patricia O'Brien  
Ed Poling  
Joni Bitner  
Steve Johnson  
Ed Maloy  
Kathleen Smith-Jones  
Walk This Way  
Walking Wonder Women  
Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren



All distances of the main Hike conclude at the Celebration Pavilion where hikers enjoy a catered lunch. This is a fun event for the whole family!



Challenge Hike participants hike for 20-plus miles on the Appalachian Trail in Maryland.



Participants in the main Hike pause at one of the many Hospitality Stops along the way to enjoy snacks and to refill their water bottles.



# HARC welcomes new Board members

HARC is grateful for the many gifts and talents these new members bring (or have brought) to our board of directors. We look forward to working with them to foster the important work of our faith coalition.



**Mark Perman**

**Rabbi, Congregation B'nai Abraham**

Rabbi Mark Perman and his wife, Elizabeth, arrived in Hagerstown in January 2022 so he could become the spiritual leader of Congregation B'nai Abraham. Prior to moving to Los Angeles to be with Elizabeth in December 2020, Rabbi Mark had served as rabbi/cantor at B'er Chayim Congregation in Cumberland for four years.

Previously, Rabbi Mark had also served congregations in Texas, Connecticut, Georgia, and New Jersey. He has worked as a hospital, hospice, and prison chaplain.

Rabbi Mark is excited to be on the board at HARC, since helping to build interfaith cooperation and connectedness has been a priority for him since graduating from Hebrew Union College-JIR in New York with ordination as a cantor in 1997. He is also a 1986 graduate of New York University.

Rabbi Mark and Elizabeth enjoy sharing their home with their poodle, Chloe and cat, Apollo. When not working, Mark enjoys playing tennis, hiking, and hosting his weekly podcast and radio show called "The Interfaith Roundtable."



**Les McIntosh**

**Pastor, Impact Ministries**

Les L. McIntosh Sr. is the Lead Pastor of Impact Ministries in Hagerstown, Md. He is a native of Youngstown, Ohio, husband to beautiful wife Danita McIntosh and the father of five children, Kayla, Leslie Jr., Sydnee, Adriana and Darian, and grandfather to Zola.

Pastor Mac is an anointed prolific Bible preacher and teacher. His passion for Christ began in childhood and includes service to the Kingdom as a deacon, elder, dean of Christian education, Sunday school teacher, men's leader, evangelist, choir member and musician. He received his Elders License under the pastorate of Bishop David L. Herron of Warren, Ohio. Pastor Mac has a strong passion for ministry and a heart to serve leaders. He is also a successful business entrepreneur who founded and ran Les Energy LLC for 12 years until following God's call to focus fully on ministry.

"I'm excited to be part of HARC, whose work I admire," said Pastor Mac, "as well as excited to make an impact with those committed to making change."





**Kelly Z. Conrad**

**PR & Marketing Volunteer for HARC; Writer, Novelist**

Kelly began her 20-year career in the communications field as graphic artist, design editor, and copy editor at the former Herald-Mail Company, followed by positions as managing editor of several corporate in-house magazines. She also earned a master's degree in mental health counseling and worked as a therapist for several years.

Kelly retired in 2016 and now uses her writing, editing, and communications skills as a volunteer for HARC, as well as for Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness (PAILA) of Washington County. Kelly is an award-winning novelist in the historical fiction genre, with two published novels — *Shaman* and its sequel, *The Passage* — and an anthology of personal essays titled *7 p.m. (and other essays)*. She is passionate about making sure marginalized voices are heard. “I love everything HARC stands for,” Kelly says. “Contributing feeds me on many levels.” She lives in Hagerstown with her husband, Marcus.



**Tim Harrast**

**Bishop, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**

Bishop Tim Harrast lived in Hagerstown for 18 years with his wife, Mariana, and their five children. They enjoyed watching their children perform on the soccer field for South High, at Barbara Ingram School for the Arts vocal concerts, and at Tech High engineering. Bishop Tim has a master's degree in science from Johns Hopkins University and works as a scientist in the Biotech industry. Tim joined the HARC

Board in April 2022, jumped in with both feet as president in July, and served with great vision and energy until his job relocated him and his family to Florida in November. While here, he was “committed to strengthening HARC to build on the great work so many have done.”

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## **Board member Richard Willson honored by Community Foundation**



As part of its 23rd Annual People's Choice Awards, the Community Foundation of Washington County MD, Inc., has awarded Richard Willson the Volunteer Award. This prestigious award honors individuals from the community who give generously of their time and talents to make Washington County a better place to live.

Richard is a former employee of the Hagerstown Housing Authority, and is known for his lifelong volunteerism, particularly with Hagerstown Area Religious Council (HARC), Reach, the League of Women Voters, and many more. HARC Executive Director Kathy Powderly says, “If he can help, he will. He's really been a blessing. His contributions have impacted so many thousands of people in this community.”

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*Thank you to these amazing volunteers, who give many hours of their time and talents to ensure HARC can offer quality resources and programs to the community.*

*~ This report designed by Kelly Z Conrad ~*



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