

Interfaith Families Project



2024-2025

Annual Report



Message from the Staff & Board

Dear Members, Colleagues, Friends, and the Wider IFFP Community,

We are pleased to share this **FY 2024–25 Annual Report** as we prepare to celebrate a major milestone – **IFFP’s 30th Anniversary** – in October 2025. This past year has been a time of reflection, growth, and anticipation as we look back on where we’ve come from and envision what lies ahead.

One of the most exciting changes this year was our move to our new home at **Saint Mark Presbyterian Church**. This welcoming space has already supported our growth, deepened our sense of community, and opened up new opportunities for connection and celebration.

We were also delighted to welcome **Nick Cameron**, who completed his first full year as our Music Director. His energy, creativity, and commitment to inclusive, interfaith spiritual expression have brought fresh life to our gatherings. We are also deeply grateful to **Trish Manha**, who served as our **Transitional Community Education Director** this year with thoughtfulness and care. While Trish will continue to be part of IFFP as a community member, we are excited to welcome **Tina Brimo** as our new **Community Education Director**.

Throughout the year, we have **strengthened our interfaith model**, weaving together Jewish and Christian traditions in ways that are meaningful, inclusive, and rooted in shared values. From spirited community gatherings to thoughtful educational programming for all ages, IFFP continues to be a space where diverse beliefs and backgrounds are welcomed and honored.

Our work and mission continue to resonate, drawing growing interest from individuals and communities seeking a model like ours. We’ve deepened our connection with our sister communities in **Chicago, New Jersey, and New York**, and remain especially proud of our young people, whose voices and leadership are actively shaping IFFP’s future.

This report captures some of the pearls that defined our **2024–25 program year**. We are grateful for your support, your presence, and your passion for this unique community. We can’t wait to celebrate 30 years with you this fall and to continue building the next chapter together.

With gratitude,

The IFFP Staff and FY 2024–25 Board of Directors

About Us

What Is IFFP?



Started in 1995, The Interfaith Families Project of Greater Washington, (IFFP), is an independent community of interfaith families and others committed to sharing, learning about, and celebrating our Jewish and Christian traditions. IFFP is a place where both Jewish and Christian partners can feel like equal members of the community, celebrate, and learn about both faiths. At IFFP, we “teach not preach.”

What Do We Do?



The core value of IFFP is respect—for each other, for Judaism, and for Christianity. As a community led by both a Rabbi and a Reverend, we celebrate, explore, question, and enjoy both religious traditions. IFFP members neither reject our religious backgrounds nor seek a new religion that is a mixture of beliefs. Instead, we believe it is possible – and desirable – to honor our distinct religious traditions and to share those traditions with spouses, partners, and children.

How Do We Do It?



IFFP seeks to develop our children, ourselves, and our community through opportunities for education about Christianity and Judaism, holiday celebrations, fellowship, spiritual gatherings, community service, and exploration of interfaith identity in an environment that encourages questions and respects different answers.

How Can I Become Involved?



IFFP is a community of more than 100 families in the D.C. area, across the country, and abroad. People join IFFP as virtual or local members. If you are interested in membership, contact our Administrative Director, Miranda Hovemeyer at Miranda@iffp.org. You can also visit our website at iffp.org to learn more.

Join

During the fiscal year, IFFP brought together **105 households** from across the greater Washington, DC, area, the country, and internationally for Gatherings, Sunday School, holidays, community events, and social outings. This year, we welcomed **4 new or returning interfaith families**, including households spanning multiple IFFP generations.

New or Returning Households

The Campion/Frank Family - Rockville, MD

The Eates/Habenstreit Family - Silver Spring, MD

The Murray Family - Silver Spring, MD

The Zolkowski Family - Rockville, MD



Gather

IFFP built community, honored traditions, and deepened our interfaith identities both on-site and off-site through **weekly Gatherings**, celebrations of **Christian and Jewish holidays**, fun and adventurous **Teen Group activities**, a weekend **Women's Retreat**, and an interactive and informative multi-session **Couples Workshop**.

Some of the many highlights from these events include:

- Moving our programming to Saint Mark Presbyterian Church
- Holding 21 Gatherings, Sunday School Classes, and Continuing Ed Sessions for Interfaith Families
- Showed the film "I Will Build This World From Love" along with Saint Mark and the JCRC
- Celebrating 14 holidays together
- Coming of Age ceremony for 8 graduates from all over the United States
- Participating in the Montgomery County Interfaith 5k
- Joint Lenten Series and Maundy Thursday services with Saint Mark Presbyterian
- Bringing together 23 women across multiple generations at the Bon Secours Retreat Center for a rejuvenating and fun Women's Retreat
- Having nearly all the Sunday School students participate in the Nativity Play and/or Purim Play
- Engaging IFFP's teens in game nights, pool parties, bowling, community service, and in Gatherings and Adult Groups.



Learn

Sunday School

One of the hallmarks of IFFP is our Sunday School. Serving children ages three to 13, the curriculum's capstone experience is a two-year Coming of Age Program, where students study six foundational questions that help them form their religious identity. In addition to learning concepts from both Jewish and Christian perspectives, students also study Hebrew and engage in music instruction.

This year, 90 students attended IFFP's Sunday School, including 27 young members of our community who joined via our Distance program. Twenty-Eight IFFP parents served as teachers of the religious education curriculum, and 15 teens gained valuable experience as class interns.

Continuing Education

Each Sunday, IFFP offers programming for the adults in our community while children take part in Sunday School. Continuing Education discussions covered a wide range of topics and engaged both outside speakers and dialogue among the IFFP community.

Highlights include:

- “Interfaith Work & Interfaith Families” with Dalia El Ariny and Susan Katz Miller
- B’nei Mitzvah Family Panel - How and Why We Did It featuring Interfaith Families
- Being Catholic at IFFP with Jen Liebreich
- Music at IFFP with Nick Cameron
- Combating Climate Change with Jon Cook and Ilissa Seroka
- High Holidays 101 with Rabbi Debbie
- Processing the Election with Rev. Sam



Care

Care Team

Throughout the year, our clergy and community members have continued to show up for one another during times of grief, transition, and celebration. The Care Team met regularly to support members and their families in ways that reflect IFFP's core values of inclusion and connection. This year, they led a grief support group and introduced blue care cards during Gatherings, offering members a space to share prayer concerns and personal needs. From organizing meal trains to sending cards, making visits, and offering phone support, the team remained deeply present to the needs of our community.

Weddings & Baby Namings

This year, our Rabbi and Reverend led **29 interfaith marriage services, 7 interfaith B'nei Mitzvahs, and 5 interfaith Baby Naming ceremonies**—beautifully reflecting the heart of IFFP's mission. These milestone moments are among the hallmarks of our unique value to the wider interfaith community, offering inclusive, meaningful rituals that honor multiple traditions and celebrate the richness of interfaith family life.

Tikkun Olam & Community Service

IFFP's Tikkun Olam (TO) Groups—focused on Racial Justice, Environmental and Immigration Justice, and Refugee Assistance—played a vital role this year by contributing to Gathering reflections, leading Continuing Education discussions, and coordinating meaningful service activities. Our Community Service team organized support for four individuals and organizations in Asheville impacted by the storm and partnered with groups such as Meals on Wheels and Adventist Community Services. In addition, our teen group engaged in hands-on service by preparing and serving meals at Shepherd's Table, demonstrating IFFP's deep commitment to repairing the world through compassionate action.



IFFP By The Numbers

15 States where our member families live

15 Virtual member households

103 Households/corporations that donated to IFFP

105 Local member households

954 Followers on Facebook

1,146 Followers on Instagram



Looking Ahead

2025-2026 Theme: Step by Step

The IFFP 2025-2026 theme is “Step by Step.” Life and faith rarely follow a straight or predictable path. Our journeys—both personal and shared—are full of twists and turns, challenges and surprises. This year, we’ll pull from our religious traditions, sacred texts, and interfaith experiences to think about how we move forward, one step at a time. Whether those steps are big or small, they help us respond to today’s world with strength, purpose, and hope. We’re excited to see where this path takes us.



Thank You



📞 301-770-6337

📍 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Ste 2
Rockville, MD 20852

🌐 www.IFFP.org

✉ info@iffp.org



Interfaith Families Project
of Greater Washington