

Newsletter | Ed. 36

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Interfaith Circle

This bi-weekly newsletter is promoted by the Dean of Students Office at VT, in support of the [Interfaith Program](#).

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Latest news

In this section, you will find the latest news about the Interfaith Initiative at Virginia Tech.

Photo: IFYC

[Launching the project Interfaith Cooperation & Civil Rights | We are Each Other's](#)

In partnership with the Interfaith Advisory Council and Synergy: Interfaith Collective at Virginia Tech, we launch the project Interfaith Cooperation & Civil Rights. Based on the IFYC's We are Each Other's curriculum (click to see video), Phase 1 will start soon. See the flyer at the last section and join us!



IFYC invites you to take part in the We are Each Other's campaign to address and support interfaith leaders responding to the current national crisis.

The Covid-19 pandemic, alongside the massive protests sparked by the murder of George Floyd, reveals the breakdown of American democracy. Instead of pushing us further apart, this historic time holds the potential to unite Americans in common purpose.

We are Each Other's empowers people to engage in acts of interfaith cooperation, and actions, and service with their communities. Find out more about the We are Each Other's [campaign](#) and [resources](#).

[Watch the video](#)

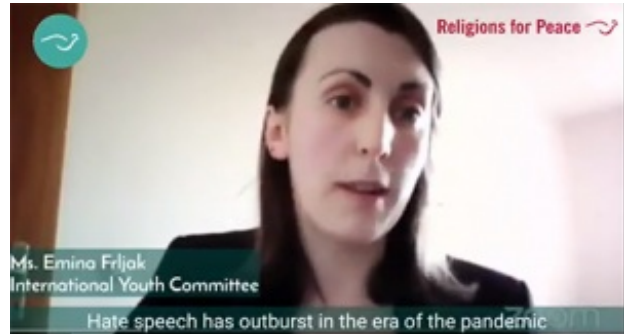
Why interfaith?

Here we share articles about the importance of investing in interfaith dialogue and cooperation in contemporary society.

Credit: Religions for Peace

[A multi-religious approach is needed to address hate speech | Religions for Peace](#)

“Only through dialogue with the so-called ‘other’ can we address the deeply rooted, global disease of ‘Hate Speech’. Emina Frljak of Religions for Peace’s Interfaith Youth Committee says that a multi-religious, multi-stakeholder approach is crucial.



[Watch the video](#)

Learning about diverse traditions

Appreciative knowledge is an important part in the interfaith triangle. In this section, we share information to expand our religious, spiritual, and secular literacy, featuring different traditions/worldviews every week.

[“Fratelli Tutti”: Pope Francis on fraternity and social friendship](#)

“A journey of peace is possible between religions. Its point of departure must be God’s way of seeing things (...) And God’s love is the same for everyone, regardless of religion”. Pope Francis’ Third Encyclical “Fratelli Tutti” put emphasis on interfaith dialogue, friendship, and collaboration.

And God’s love is the same for everyone, regardless of religion.
Even if they are atheists, his love is the same.
When the last day comes, and there is sufficient light
to see things as they really are,
we are going to find ourselves quite surprised ...
We believers are challenged to return to our sources,
in order to concentrate on what is essential:
worship of God and love for our neighbor,
lest some of our teachings, taken out of context,
end up feeding forms of contempt, hatred,
xenophobia or negation of others.
- Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, nos. 281-282

[Read the Encyclical](#)

Diverse ways to live and to find meaning in life

Here, we share stories about how people find different ways to find meaning and purpose in their lives. Here, we share stories about how people find different ways to find meaning and purpose in their lives.

Honoring Indigenous people

In “And So We Walked”, Cherokee actor, writer, and activist DeLanna Studi recounts her incredible 900-mile trek along the Trail of Tears, tracing the path of her ancestors. Learn more about her powerful one-woman show this evening in a [Moss Art Center’s event](#). Watch the short video with an excerpt.



[Watch the video](#)

Engage with the Interfaith Initiative at VT

Participate in interfaith dialogue and cooperation at Virginia Tech. All are welcome, as the interfaith circle includes all religious, non-religious, spiritual, and secular identities.

[STARTING SOON! Interfaith Cooperation & Civil Rights sessions](#)

Join us for a 4-session series on Interfaith Cooperation & Civil Rights, based on IFYC curriculum. Open for students, faculty, staff & community members of diverse worldviews. Thursdays Oct 22 & 29, Nov 5 & 12 – 5 pm. Click to [RSVP](#).

RSVP at dos.vt.edu/weareeachothers

[NEXT WEEK: Fall Interfaith Bag Dialogues for faculty, staff, and community](#)

Participate in a constructive dialogue about diverse traditions. Join us every other Thursday, 12-1 pm, Sep 10 to Dec 3. Click to [sign up](#) and attend the sessions, in which faculty, staff and community are welcome to present activities about their worldviews.

SIGN UP AT [DOS.VT.EDU/BROWNBAG](https://dos.vt.edu/brownbag)

[NEXT WEEK: Fall Interfaith Dialogues for Students](#)

Dialogues with students from diverse traditions will happen over Zoom: every other Wednesday 5:30 to 7 pm, from September 9 to December 2. Click to [sign up](#) and attend the sessions, in which students are also invited to facilitate dialogues about their tradition.

SIGN UP AT [DOS.VT.EDU/DIALOGUE](https://dos.vt.edu/dialogue)

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