

Letters to the editor

Share love with Islamic faith this Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day causes us to pause and honor love. This year, we think about love from a different perspective as we travel together to our local mosque in Calvert County, the Islamic Society of Southern Maryland.

Over the past 15 years, and especially over this last year, hate speech against Muslims abound has abounded, and in some cases, this rhetoric has taught us mostly everything we know about Islam. Even the good among us, it seems, harbor questions, misinformation, prejudice, perhaps even fear of Muslims.

So, on a holiday that otherwise can be kind of corny, we have serious questions about respect, mutuality, acceptance and love.

Join us, then, this Sunday, Feb. 14. We'll share a meal with our Muslim neighbors, and share in prayer, dialogue and questions and answers.

We depart All Saints Episcopal Church at noon from the parish hall and return at 4 p.m. We will eat lunch at the mosque. Women and girls, please bring a fun scarf for head-covering. Youth and adults are welcome. Feel free to invite others.

Adults, we need drivers and chaperones for our faithful youth who are leading the way on this pilgrimage to exchange with other faiths. They have a partner youth group in Jordan, and they visited a much larger mosque in Baltimore last month. Our youth will be comparing and contrasting that experience to Sunday's visit at our local mosque.

Email Pastor Jenn at revjenn@broadviewmaryland.org or Father Ken at phelpsjrko@gmail.com with questions, to RSVP and to let us know how many you can drive.

The Revs. Ken Phelps and Jennifer Wilder, Sunderland

The writers are the respective rector of All Saints Episcopal Church and Broadview Church.