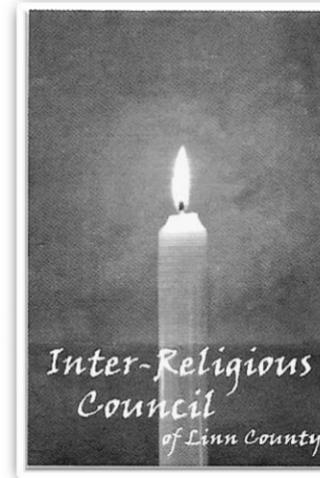


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601 Second Avenue SE, Suite 5  
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**Inter-Religious Council of Linn County**  
**Our mission:** to provide means for people of all faiths to promote understanding and respect – and to work with the community for the spiritual, moral, social, and civic welfare of Linn County.  
**Our vision:** to provide inspiration and programming in order to foster a caring community in which honesty, respect, and responsibility are celebrated.

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601 Second Avenue SE, Suite 5  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
[www.irclc.org](http://www.irclc.org)

FALL 2014



# HOLY DAYS

## September 2014

- 24-26 Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
- 25 Navaratri begins (Hindu)

## October 2014

- 3 Navaratri ends (Hindu)
- 4 Dussera (Hindu)
- 4 Yom Kippur (Jewish)
- 4 Eid-UI-Adha (Muslim)
- 9-15 Sukkot (Jewish)
- 15 Al-Hijira (Muslim)
- 20 Birth of the Bab (Baha'i)
- 23 Diwali (Hindu)

## November 2014

- 1 All Saints' Day (Christian)
- 3 Ashura (Muslim)
- 12 Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
- 23 Christ the King (Catholic)
- 26 Day of the Covenant (Baha'i)
- 28 Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha (Baha'i)
- 30 First Sunday of Advent (Christian)

## December 2014

- 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception (Catholic)
- 8 Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
- 12 Our Lady of Guadeloupe (Catholic)
- 17-24 Hanukkah (Jewish)
- 25 Christmas (Christian)
- 31 End of Year Observance (Buddhist)

### For more information on Holy Days:

See [www.interfaithcalendar.org](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org) or [www.bbc.co.uk/religion/tools/calendar/date.shtml?month&year=2014](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/tools/calendar/date.shtml?month&year=2014)

# Thanksgiving Service

**Location:** Unity Center of Cedar Rapids, 3791 Blairs Ferry Rd NE.  
**Date and time:** Monday, November 24 at 7 p.m.

**Guest Speaker:** Rev. Clint Twedt-Ball

Clint Twedt-Ball is a Methodist minister and co-founder of Matthew 25, a non-profit organization which exists to strengthen core neighborhoods on the west side of Cedar Rapids, and to provide opportunities for people to act on their values through service.

All are invited to attend this annual celebration of thanksgiving organized by the Inter-Religious Council of Linn County.

Non-perishable food items and/or cash will be accepted and donated to the Linn Community Food Bank.

Ministry of music will be provided by the Unity Interfaith Choir and the Mount Mercy University hand bell choir.

Refreshments will be served following the service.

Come and share in expressing your thanks for the blessings you have received.



## The Evolutionary Evangelist

Rev. Michael Dowd shared a new vision of faith and spirituality at Prairiewoods recently. Appearing on August 14, he presented a multifaceted message full of insight and hope. Dowd is widely recognized for his book, *Thank God for Evolution*. Known as the "Evolutionary Evangelist," he is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ (UCC). Rev. Dowd shared his belief in incorporating the insights of evolution into faith, in understanding God as reality, and in taking climate change seriously. Since he spoke for well over two hours, you will understand, Gentle Reader, this one page can give only highlights, not a complete summary of his thought. We encourage you to learn more at <http://www.MichaelDowd.org> and <http://thegreatstory.org>.

Dowd emphatically states there is no inherent conflict between science and religion, or between contemporary understandings of evolution and the Christian and Jewish scriptures. He laments that so many individuals in our nation feel a strong antagonism toward biological evolution, a public attitude which is almost unique in the world. In fact, up until very recent years, most scientists in the west felt that by understanding the world better, they gained a deeper understanding of God.

Looking at Jewish and Christian scriptures, he reviewed some basic passages and the meaning these held for their original audiences. For the first readers, faith in God included wisdom, found in those passages which we call the "wisdom literature." This early wisdom meant being in right alignment with reality. Dowd maintains that similarly, our faith today must be touch with reality – taking into account our best understanding of the nature of the world around us.

Finally, Michael shared the scientific opinion that the climate of our planet is changing. Not only that, but the overwhelming scientific consensus is that this climate change is in great part due to humanity's burning of fossil fuels. His statements here are based, not on media pundits or politicians, but on hundreds of peer reviewed articles in the science journals published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science [<http://www.aaas.org/science-journals>]. Dowd believes the impact of climate change will lead to tremendous suffering for future generations. Therefore, this is a great moral challenge of our day, and we are called to change our actions which contribute to the problem. The Evolutionary Evangelist rekindles some old-time revival fire, fervently preaching for commitment to change!

Dowd's message highlights the many understandings of God held by humanity. Witness to this diversity of understanding is evident in a contemporary searcher's response to this evolutionary message, "At last, a God I can respect." Dowd calls us all, as children of God, to respect the world in which we live. He likewise calls us to respect the impact for good we can make *if* we reduce humanity's reliance on fossil fuels.

As the ancient wisdom writers might express it, the path of wisdom is to live in right alignment with the reality of our world – including the reality of climate change. What are practical steps for living wisely within our reality? Dowd noted websites where we can take action: <http://www.CarbonTax.org>, <http://www.CitizensClimateLobby.org>, and <http://www.EnergyandEnterprise.com>. Authors referenced include John M. Greer, Bill McKibben, James Hansen, Erik M. Conway, Naomi Oreskes, and others.

We invite you to investigate and act in wisdom.  
– Pastor Michael Metz of Kenwood Park United Methodist Church  
and Jen Yukl from Cedar Rapids Zen Center



## ETHICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE NEWS

Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. on KCRG-TV, Channel 9, Cedar Rapids

Sponsored by The Inter-Religious Council of Linn County. Features a panel of local experts who explore ethical considerations on a current issue in the news. Topics known to date are:

- October 5 TBA
- October 12 Lessons from Ferguson
- October 19 Immigrant Children in Iowa
- October 26 The Militarization of the Police



If you are not able to watch these discussions when aired on Sunday mornings, you may watch them on <http://www.youtube.com/user/IRCoFLC>.



"Concepts of God" – Sunday, November 9 (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

Location: St George Orthodox Church

Father Shaheen, Rabbi Thalblum, and Imam Tawil  
will present the view of their faith tradition.

**WITHIN THE TRADITION – New Series – Thursday, November 13 – 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.**

You are invited to attend the *first program* of this new series.

**Topic: "Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran: What makes us different?"**

Presenters are William Mulcahey, Fred Shaheen and Cedric Lofdahl.

**Location: Flaherty Community Room in Basile Hall, Mt. Mercy University**

Signs will indicate parking for the event.

*The Children of Abraham mission is to engage in conversation in order to learn about our respective faiths, leading to actions that promote community well-being and tear down walls of misunderstanding and prejudice.*

**Annual Meeting of the IRCLC – Thursday, December 18 (6:00 p.m.)**

Location: Islamic Center, 2999 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SW

Dinner will be served at 6 pm, followed by a business meeting which will include the election of officers and new board members. All are invited to attend.

The cost of the meal is \$10, payable at the door.

Contact Hassan Selim ([hmhmselim@gmail.com](mailto:hmhmselim@gmail.com) or 319-440-7514) to make your reservations.

## Interfaith Community Programs

**Intersections – on the first Friday of each month (11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)**

First Presbyterian Church, 310 Fifth St. SE, Cedar Rapids

The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa sponsors this program to promote civil conversations on issues at the intersection of religion and politics. All interested persons are welcome to attend on any first Friday of the month. Lunch is \$10, payable at the door. **October 3<sup>rd</sup> will feature Sally Mason, president of the University of Iowa, speaking on "Challenges in Higher Education".**

Reservations are required; please call 319-364-6148 or e-mail [crintersections@interfaithallianceiowa.org](mailto:crintersections@interfaithallianceiowa.org).  
For more information about topic and speaker, visit <http://interfaithallianceiowa.org/events/intersections/>.

**Women in Interfaith Dialogue – "Water: All Water is Holy Water"**

**Saturday, November 22 (10:00 am to 3:00 pm) at Prairiewoods Spirituality Center**

We will approach the theme from a variety of perspectives: Native American, Celtic traditional, water and ritual, water for healing, and water and justice. Women of *all faiths* are invited.

REGISTER: Call Prairiewoods Spirituality Center at 319-395-6700 or Barbara Schlachter at 319-351-4380.

Cost for the day is \$15 (includes lunch).

**IRCLC Membership:** Your membership, as a faith community or as an individual, is important to help carry out our mission of promoting understanding and respect among persons of different faiths. Thank you for your support.