

# LIPC Newsletter

*London Interfaith Peace Camp Initiatives*

*In This Issue: Celebrating Holy Days*

**Chanukah with the Frank Family**

**Preparing for Christmas in the Christian Community**

**Why is Jerusalem important to Muslims?**

## Contact Information

p. 519-963-1477

f. 519-963-1476

e. [peacecamp@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:peacecamp@kings.uwo.ca)

a. 266 Epworth Ave. London, Ontario, N6A 2M3

fb: London Interfaith Peace Camp

i: [lipc.kings](https://www.lipc.kings.ca)



## It's Time to Prepare and Celebrate!

In each of our faith traditions, there are many times throughout the year to embrace our prayer life in different ways. In this edition, read more about the celebration of Chanukah for our Jewish brothers and sisters. Learn about the time of preparation for Christian in the season of Advent and the importance of the Holy land for the Islamic community. From our LIPC family to yours, we wish you many blessings at this time. Take care of yourselves and remember that we are thinking of you.

# Chanukah with the Frank Family



My family enjoys celebrating Chanukah together and with family and friends each year. There are several traditions related to Chanukah, such as lighting the menorah (specifically called the Chanukiah), eating gelt (chocolate coins), and making latkes (fried potato pancakes). My family owns three menorahs so we don't fight over who gets to light them each year because we all enjoy it. After lighting the candles, which increase in number every night, we sing three blessings on the first night, and two blessings each following night. My dad loves to make latkes and sometimes we get to share them with our family and friends at Chanukah parties. This year we will be part of a food exchange for Chanukah with some of our friends and we can meet virtually for dinner once we have delivered the food. My family also gives gifts every year, which we do on the first night.

*Written by Joel and Nevia Frank, Families of LIPC*

**Looking for some Festive Jewish Music?** Take a look at *Jacob Spike Kraus* and his song "Lights in the Window" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7L-wjMgdQg>

Or, listen to *Erran Baron Cohen* and his album "Songs in the Key of Hanukkah" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VK9YCb68Hzw>

# Preparing for Christmas in the Christian Community



I have the great pleasure of ministering to the people of Kintore and Brooksdale United Churches. Rural southwestern Ontario is a beautiful place to worship and for many of us, the coming weeks are the highlight of the year. Advent is a season of anticipation and joy as we await the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ at Christmas. Though our communities are not densely populated, we come out in full force for the many seasonal gatherings that have marked this church season for decades. Traditionally, the communities have gathered for delicious Christmas dinners, for beautiful carol services and for our annual “Lighting of the Lights”. At White Gift Sunday, each year, we enjoy all the trimmings of a traditional Christmas feast and a visit from Santa while bringing unwrapped gifts to share with those who may have struggled in the year. As you can imagine, the current pandemic has changed all of that tremendously. Our two congregations have returned to virtual services with the Advent season and will not be gathering in person for Christmas.



In communities that have so strongly focused on gathering and that have been in many ways the social centres of our small villages, 2020 is a year to completely rewrite what we are when we can't be together in person. The loss of the physical, we feel deeply. However, it has been eye-opening to see that when old traditions are put on hold, what has remained is our communities' deep desire to be charitable and missional at this time. For us, that has meant finding other ways to give. Advent this year, is a time of supporting the Woodstock Salvation Army's food bank and Operation Sharing, an organization that helps those in need in the community. The congregations have embraced this and have shared mostly online. As we look forward to gathering again in 2021, our focus on giving is sure to remain and remind us that above all, this season is about love.

*Written by Pastor Douglas Peck*

# Why is Jerusalem Important to Muslims?



## DID YOU KNOW....

In the Holy Qur'an God the Almighty revealed this verse, "Glory be to Him Who made His servant go by night from Masjidul Haram to Masjidul Aqsa, whose surroundings We have blessed, that We might show him some of Our signs. He alone hears all and observes all."(Qur'an 17:1)

Masjidul Haram is the location of the Ka'aba (black cube) which Muslims face during prayer and it is central to the pilgrimage to Mecca called the Hajj. Masjidul Aqsa is a location in Jerusalem where Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), prayed during a night journey. During this ascension, Prophet Muhammad led a prayer with many other Prophets following including Jesus, Noah, and Abraham. The travel from Mecca to Jerusalem in one night is a miraculous one referenced in the Qur'an. As Muslims, we believe we can also ascend spiritually through our daily prayer if we are truly sincere in our prayers.

*Written by Shahin Pardhan*