

## AIC HISTORY

In 1999, three Abilene friends - a Jew, a Muslim, and a Priest - decided to create an organization where people of all faith traditions could gather for a meal and learn about each other. The motto selected was, "Breaking Bread Together in Peace."

Since then, AIC has brought outstanding speakers, scholars, and musicians to our community and partnered with Abilene's universities and museums for special presentations.

AIC has sponsored programs from a variety of faith traditions, including Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Baha'i, Buddhist, and Pagan, and conducted various panel discussions at the Grace Museum and all three universities.

Since 2004, AIC has sponsored a community celebration on the National Day of Prayer in May. Prayers for peace are led by participants from our own community's multiple faith traditions.

Since its founding, AIC has witnessed an increase in understanding and appreciation of other faith traditions in our community. May we continue to light candles of acceptance and welcome in this sometimes-dark world.

# ABILENE INTERFAITH COUNCIL



The Abilene Interfaith Council is a non-profit organization of individuals and congregations in the Abilene area dedicated to promoting communication, understanding, and peace among people of different faiths who live together in our community.

## 2020 - 2021

*The Years of Meeting Virtually  
with  
AIC Videos*



In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, AIC recorded several videos of local interest to substitute for our usual monthly meetings. These interviews and tours are now available online at our web site [abileneinterfaith.org](http://abileneinterfaith.org)

## 2020-2021 Video Programs

### SEPTEMBER - Temple Mizpah

Interview with Dr. Marc Orner, including a history and tour of Temple Mizpah and discussion of modern anti-Semitism.

### OCTOBER - Dyess Air Force Base

Interviews with the Chaplains who minister to the spiritual needs and diversity of faith traditions of the Airmen and their families.

### NOVEMBER - Hindu Temple

Interview and tour of the Abilene Hindu Temple. [Link available to paid members.]

### FEBRUARY - Curtis House Cultural Center

A tour and interview with Reverend Andrew Penns presenting memories and artifacts that tell the ongoing stories of Black history in Abilene.

### FEBRUARY - Swahili Church

Pastor Bikole Malunda and other Swahili speakers who practice their Christian faith in Abilene are interviewed and celebrate their Swahili language worship service.

### APRIL - McMurry Chaplain and

**Muslim Prayer Room** Reverend Marty CashBurless is interviewed about working with students of all faiths, and the Muslim Prayer Room on campus is visited.

### MAY - National Day of Prayer

This 17th annual observance of the National Day of Prayer features online prerecorded prayers by members of a variety of faith traditions instead of gathering in person.

## Other Video Links

**AIC National Day of Prayer: Past Observances** Gatherings filmed in 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019  
[abileneinterfaith.org](http://abileneinterfaith.org)

**Abilene History in Plain Sight-Virtual Drive-by Tour -- The Grace Museum** by Jay Moore  
Highlights the historic Black churches east of downtown Abilene.  
<https://www.thegracemuseum.org/generalevents/2020/3/26/abilene-history-in-plain-sight-drive-by-tour-49n7m-fyega>

**The Gate: Dawn of the Bahá'í Faith**  
Documentary on origins of this new religion that advocates the oneness of all major religions.  
<https://interfaithbroadcasting.com/events/the-gate-dawn-of-the-bahai-faith>

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## Past Special Programs

- **Dr. Arun Gandhi, Grandson of the Mahatma, on peacemaking**
- **Dr. Diana Eck, Harvard University and Harvard Divinity School, Director of the Pluralism Project, on increasing religious pluralism**
- **Maestro David Itkin, Abilene Philharmonic, on the inspiration for "Jonah," his Pulitzer-nominated symphony.**
- **Latif Bolat, Muslim musician and poet, on the healing sounds of ancient Turkish mystic Sufi music traditions,**
- **Dr. Rob Sellers, international Board Chair of the Parliament of the World's Religions, on why Interfaith matters to us and the world.**
- **Eboo Patel, author and founder of Interfaith Youth Core, on how to engage faith and philosophical diversity in the 21st Century.**