



As people of all faiths, we pray and work for a world where all life is treated as the sacred gift that we know it is. That is why our hearts have been breaking over the horrific violence perpetrated in Israel and Gaza, and as the Israeli bombardment for Gaza enters the sixth month.

With the estimated number of Palestinians killed in Gaza being over 30,000, with more than 13,000 of those deaths being children, and with the crises of starvation and disease impacting over 2 million residents of Gaza, the suffering has reached a level that demands the attention and action of all compassionate and faithful people. Other deaths we mourn include the 1139 residents in Israel killed in the Oct. 7th attack and the over 483 Palestinians killed in the occupied West Bank in 2023.

We believe that an immediate and permanent ceasefire is the only way to stop the killing of civilians, to gain the release of the hostages and political prisoners, to allow humanitarian aid and services to be restored to Gaza, and to give Israelis and

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Palestinians the opportunity to engage in a new diplomatic process towards peace and safety that continued violence cannot achieve.

Together with the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, American Friends Service Committee, organizers, community and faith leaders, and members of faith communities from across the Bay Area, we invite you and your faith community to be part of a coordinated, multi-faith effort to put our beliefs into action for a just peace and a permanent ceasefire. Together, we are coordinating a series of prayer vigils, witnesses, walks, and public events where faith communities will raise and install “*Love Demands Permanent Ceasefire Now*” banners. If we are to remain true to our values and respect our shared humanity, we must take action now!

Our communities must raise their voices together to call for an end to this violence. Please join faith communities across the Bay Area and raise a banner to answer the call! We need as many churches, synagogues, mosques, kingdom halls, temples, sanctuaries, and places of worship, prayer, or meditation as possible to participate. The first public prayer and banner blessings on Dec 24th received wonderful [media coverage](#).

[If you are interested, please use this link to register.](#)

You will be contacted with information about how to order and receive your banner, to confirm the day and time when you will be raising it and to provide any other support you may need. Once we know when you will be raising your banner, we will share that information with other faith communities so that we can support each other by attending each other’s events.

Please post any photos, videos, or other documentation of your event on social media and share using the hashtags:

#LoveDemandsPermanentCeasefireNow

#Interfaith4CeasefireNow

#Interfaith4Palestine

You can also tag and follow @interfaith4ceasefire and @im4humanintegrity on IG

We want to be able to support each other and share our work with each other as well as share it with faith communities in Palestine and all over the world. We are looking forward to working in solidarity with you and your faith community to ensure that there is a just peace and a permanent ceasefire.

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In Love and Solidarity!

The following faith communities have already raised “Love Demands Permanent Ceasefire” Banners:

- Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists (Mar 9, 24)
- Berkeley Methodist United Church (Dec 24, 23)
- Bethel Community Presbyterian Church, San Leandro (Mar 25, 24)
- Buddhist Church of Oakland (Jan 21, 24)
- Buena Vista United Methodist Church (Jan 28)
- Congregational Church of the Peninsula, Belmont (Mar 6, 24)
- First Congregational Church of Oakland (Dec 24, 23)
- First Congregational Church of Alameda (Mar 28, 24)
- First Unitarian Church of Oakland (Dec 31, 23)
- First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco (Jan 10, 24)
- First United Methodist Church, Sacramento (Mar 1, 2024)
- Lakeshore Ave Baptist Church, Oakland (Dec 24, 23)
- Open Door UMC, Richmond (Apr 28, 24)
- Pine United Methodist Church, San Francisco (Jan 7, 24)
- Plymouth United Church of Christ, Oakland (Jan 7, 24)
- Shomeret Shalom Network (virtual)
- St. Basil Greek Orthodox
- St Columba Catholic Church, Oakland (Dec 31, 23)
- Skyline Community Church UCC, Oakland (Mar 1, 24)
- Twin Towers United Methodist Church, Alameda (Feb 25, 24)

Other faith communities that have put up other versions of a Ceasefire banner include:

- Berkeley Buddhist Temple
- Kehilla Community Synagogue, Oakland

Here is a toolkit to support faith communities in their discernment:

<https://bit.ly/CeasefireBannerToolkit>

If you want to join this interfaith call, please sign up here:

bit.ly/CeasefireBanners

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