

A Letter to our Neighbors

We acknowledge the fear and confusion that we have all felt in recent months due to acts of terror committed across the globe. We mourn with those who have lost loved ones, and we stand in solidarity with all those who are living in fear of such acts. We, the leaders and representatives of many faiths in Needham, abhor and denounce the perpetration of these acts, and bear witness to our highest understanding of religion – the creation of loving and cooperative relationships among all people.

In that spirit, we have been appalled by the malicious statements, bigotry and threats of violence directed toward Muslims. It is always wrong to indict an entire religion or people because of the misguided and hateful actions of some.

To our Muslim neighbors: we value you greatly as members of our community and we sincerely hope that you are spared hurtful encounters with any who feel otherwise. We stand with you against intolerance brought forward in either word or deed.

To all of our neighbors, whether you are of faith or of no faith at all, we stand with you, and are committed to accompanying you through these difficult times. We encourage you with the admonition of our traditions: “Be Not Afraid!” Instead, hold onto love and hope, and know that none of us is alone. Together we will weather this storm. Not only will we weather it, but we will overcome it with luminous actions of hope, love, and mutual respect. Peace be with you all.

The Needham Clergy Association

Rabbi Carl Perkins
Temple Aliyah

Ramin Abrishamian
Needham Baha'i Community

Daryn Bunce Stylianopoulos, Associate Pastor

Rev. Greg Mobley, Pastor
First Baptist Church

Rabbi Jay Perlman

Rabbi Todd Markley

Rabbi Michele Lenke

Cantor Marcie Jonas
Temple Beth Shalom

Rev. Gary L. Shaw, Lead Pastor
Carter Memorial UMC

Rev. Heike Werder, Associate Minister
Congregational Church of Needham, UCC

The Rev. Nicholas M. Morris-Kliment, Rector

The Rev. Lynn Campbell, Associate Rector
Christ Episcopal Church

Paul Gardner
First Church of Christ, Scientist - Needham

Cynthia Ganung, Needham Representative
Wellesley Friends Meeting (Quakers)

Rev. Jennifer Hitt, Former Pastor
Grace Lutheran Church

Dr. Abdul Cader Asmal
Islamic Council of New England

Rev. Donald Hammond, Former Pastor
The Presbyterian Church in Needham

Rev. Dr. Doug Calhoun, Co-Minister
Redeemer Community Church

Fr. Philip E. McLaugh, Pastor
St. Bartholomew Parish

Rev. David Michael, Pastor
St. Joseph Parish

Rev. Catie Scudera, Minister
First Parish Unitarian Universalist