

Women Exploring the Common Threads of Our Faith Traditions *A Panel Discussion*

Moderator



Liz Piatt, Ph.D.
Associate Dean
She/Her/Hers

Dr. Liz Piatt is the Associate Dean of University College at Kent State University and earned her PhD in Sociology. Her research interests center around the ways in which race shapes lived experience. While much of this work examines race disparities in physical and mental health, she also has publications about the impact of race and class on the student experience in higher education. Dr. Liz is a certified lay minister in the United Methodist Church and a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. Dr. Liz is also an avid knitter and has a knitting podcast on YouTube, *The Black Knitter*, which she uses to talk about faith, race and racism in the making community.

Panelists

Chaplain Patty serves as Director of Chaplaincy for Stellar Network. Her decade of experience in Chaplaincy includes serving through Muslim Life at the University of Pennsylvania and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Her chaplaincy follows 15 years of work in interfaith peace building and faith-based non-profit work in the Washington, DC area, which included working with: The Islamic Society of North America, Islamic Relief, the International Institute of Islamic Thought, United States Institute of Peace, Pillars of Peace, International Interfaith Peace Corp, American University and George Mason University. Patricia received her BA in International Relations from the Ohio State University, MA in Islamic Studies from the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences, A Graduate Fellowship in Non-Profit Management and Governance from Indiana University, additional graduate studies at George Mason University's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Hartford Seminary's Islamic Chaplaincy program and currently is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry in Islamic Leadership from Bayan Graduate School.



Wafaa Saeed

Wafaa Saeed holds a Master's degree in Educational Administration and Leadership from Cleveland State University and a diploma in Islamic Studies from Qalam Seminary. A lifelong educator and student of Islamic studies, she has taught in Islamic schools serving diverse communities and is committed to fostering learning, understanding, and meaningful engagement.

She served as Assistant Outreach Coordinator at the Islamic Center of Cleveland. She is passionate about building bridges across communities through education, service, and respectful dialogue, and believes that interfaith engagement offers opportunities to cultivate mutual understanding, compassion, and preservation of humanity.



Patricia Anton
"Chaplain Patty"

Martha E. Banks, Ph.D., is a retired clinical and research neuropsychologist and a former professor at The College of Wooster and Kent State University. She is a graduate of Brown University and the University of Rhode Island. Dr. Banks' primary research is on traumatic brain injuries sustained by victims of intimate partner violence. Her scholarly activities include over 300 presentations, and 150 professional publications on women, trauma, disabilities, and health care. As a United Methodist Certified Lay Speaker, Dr. Banks preaches, teaches, conducts research, advocates for social justice, and is an international legislator.



The Rev. Sandy Selby,
D.Min., MBA

Dr. Sandy Selby was an on-call chaplain at Akron Children's Hospital and Cleveland Clinic Akron General for twenty years, and served as Bridge Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in 2024 and 2025. An active volunteer in the community, Sandy has served with Akron Community Foundation, Summit County Social Services Advisory Board, Victim Assistance Program, Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and Child Guidance and Family Solutions. She is a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Fairlawn.

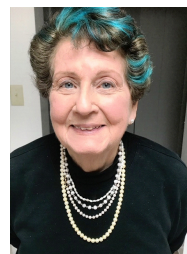


Martha E. Banks, Ph.D.

Cantor Kathy joined Temple Israel Akron in July, 2015. She had served as a guest cantor for various congregations in the Cleveland area since 2000. She studied with Cantor Misha Pisman of Park Synagogue Anshe Emeth Beth Tefilio and with Kiva Shtull for training in Nusach, Torah Trope, and sacred music. Cantor Kathy grew up in Beachwood, graduated from Hathaway Brown School in Shaker Heights, and earned a bachelor's degree in romance languages from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She studied piano for 8 years at the Cleveland Institute of Music and is self-taught on guitar. She currently studies vocal instruction with Tim Culver, Associate Professor of Voice at Kent State University. In addition to her ongoing pulpit responsibilities, Cantor Kathy oversees the B'nai Mitzvah program, the High Holy Day Choir, and the Wee Sing music program for tots. She also teaches music in Temple Israel's Religious School. Cantor Kathy and her husband Scott, an attorney, reside in Solon, Ohio. Their three adult children, Brett, Noah & Halle, can often be heard singing and playing guitar with Cantor Kathy for Shabbat services.



Cantor Kathy Fromson



Eileen Schonfeld

Eileen Schonfeld has led a life of service that has followed her from New York to Ohio. She retired from a career as an elementary school teacher in New York and Akron, Ohio, has had a vocation as a nurse, and has served as a chaplain at Akron General Hospital. Eileen is currently involved as an Interfaith Educator, a volunteer at Stewart's Caring Place, and is an active member and volunteer at Temple Israel. She serves on the W.I.S.H. planning committee and is a dedicated member of the organization. Behind the scenes, Eileen is a devoted friend and helper within the apartment building in which she lives, always rising to the occasion in a neighbor's time of need and is known to them as a person they can always count on to be there.