



National Day of Prayer: Plans starting to form for bigger event in 2025

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'You might want to think about Jesus.' But in an interfaith context, it's not about trying to promote your particular faith tradition. It's about just acknowledging that we have all these different beliefs that are part of our community. And we all have common concerns – and we should be able to come together and talk about those common concerns without having it to be the proselytizing moment or the evangelistic moment.

"We all care about homelessness. We all care about poverty. We all care about child welfare. We all care about government. We all care about all this stuff. There should be ways for us to sit together and talk and speak with a common voice about those things."

"For the National Day of Prayer, one of the biggest things in the center of it is that we live in the United States of America. The First Amendment guarantees us freedom of religion and worship; and there's not a state religion. We can all do this, for all of our separate traditions, and be protected in doing that. That's what I want us to focus on for the National Day of Prayer part."

"We had five different blessings here. None of them were saying you had to accept the blessing as your blessing. It was that tradition offering their blessing. I would like us to do a public display of that next year, somehow, for the National Day of Prayer."

Thursday's participants are expected to meet again to plan a public interfaith event to celebrate National Day of Prayer in 2025. Initial suggestions included hosting a gathering outdoors, and moving it to the nighttime so as to accommodate more people – students, in particular.

A sign inside the agency's community room noted, "The National Day of Prayer occurs on the first Thursday in May. Celebrated

Group photo courtesy of Community Missions Communications Manager Sarina Deacon.



The Rev. Stewart Lindsay offers a prayer Thursday at Community Missions.

annually since 1952, it offers an opportunity for people of all faiths to join in prayer for our shared concerns."


Joshua Maloni contributed to this report.

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