

# *Proclamation*

*November 15-21, 2023 AS:*  
**6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL INTERFAITH AWARENESS WEEK**

- Whereas,** the City of Fruita honors and respects all religious beliefs, cultures, creeds, and races and is recognized as an Inclusive City -- defined in the November 20, 2018 original "Inclusivity Proclamation"-- and seeks to learn from those who believe that equal spiritual opportunity and human rights belong to every citizen; and
- Whereas,** various statistical sources calculate that there are between 4,000 and 5,000 different religions in the world and that the city of Fruita and Mesa County are home to a number of such different faith paths along with individuals who do not have a religious practice; and
- Whereas,** freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) is recognized internationally as a human right, and observances like Interfaith Awareness Week seek to promote and support that right for all individuals; and
- Whereas,** the Grand Valley Interfaith Network (GVIN) has been networking together since 1977 and offers varied programs designed to bring diverse faith groups into dialogue to better practice peace, harmony, cooperation, and understanding among all people; and
- Whereas,** the annual ThanksGVIN community interfaith service on November 21, which is the capstone of Interfaith Awareness Week, demonstrates that diverse religious perspectives are committed to learning and loving; and
- Whereas,** the ongoing activities of harmony among a diversity of faiths is a vital goal for all people throughout Fruita, North America, and the world; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT PROCLAIMED,** that the City Council for the City of Fruita, on behalf of the citizens of Fruita, proclaims November 15-21, 2023 to be "**INTERFAITH AWARENESS WEEK**" in the City of Fruita. **FURTHERMORE,** the City of Fruita hereby intends to continue annually recognizing the importance of all beliefs in the community and to consider, respect, and value the uniqueness and importance of religious diversity in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Fruita this Seventh day of November 2023.

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Joel Kincaid  
Mayor of the City of Fruita

