



# Sofa Spirituality:

*Interfaith Dialogue as a Window, Mirror, and Sliding Glass Door*

Westminster Seminars

April 2023

- Welcome
- Our story
- What is Sofa Spirituality?
- Interview: “The Story We Tell Every Year is Reborn Every Year”
- Dialogue



CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES  
OF SOUTHWEST  
PENNSYLVANIA

Inspired by the vision “that they may all be one,” we convene diverse Christians across the 10 counties of Southwest Pennsylvania for collegiality, collaboration, communication, and connectedness, representing the church in civic, community, and interfaith spaces.



## CENTER FOR LOVING KINDNESS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

We strengthen the fabric of community by amplifying the long held values of 'love your neighbor as yourself' and 'do not stand idle while your neighbor bleeds' while redefining neighbor from a geographic term to a moral concept.

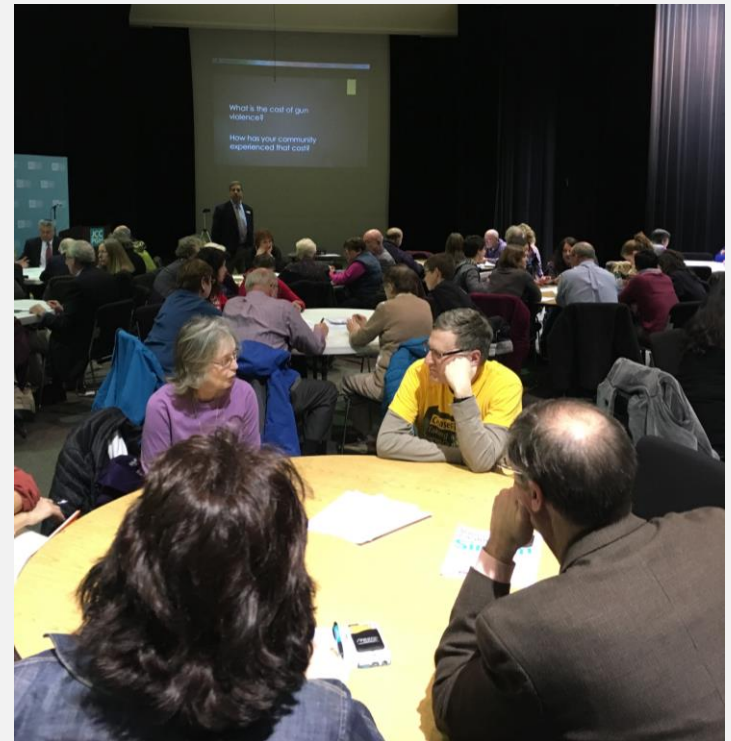


**JCCPGH Center for  
Loving Kindness**

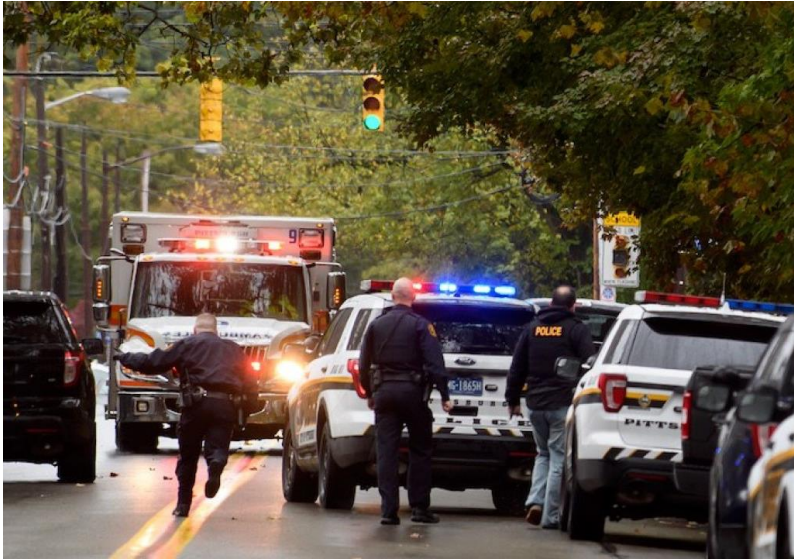
# CHARLOTTESVILLE, AUGUST 2017



# HOPEFUL CONVERSATIONS







OCTOBER 27, 2018



WE HAVE TO TALK





**MARCH 2020**

# AN UNEXPECTED INVITATION



March 18, 2020

*What are we good at? Let's build off that.*

- convening spiritual leaders
- building intentionally diverse spaces
- drawing on the sacred resources of faith traditions
- naming shared values across traditions

# SOFA SPIRITUALITY IS BORN!



*Inviting Diverse People of Faith into Learning  
and Dialogue—from Our Own Living Rooms*

SOFA SPIRITUALITY

*INTERFAITH DIALOGUE  
FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY*



Watch an interview



Engage in dialogue



Discover shared values





# WINDOW AND MIRROR AND SLIDING GLASS DOOR



# HOUSEKEEPING AND GROUND RULES

We abide by this covenant of expectations:

**Be kind.**  
**Listen with curiosity.**  
**Engage without judgment.**  
**Speak with honesty.**  
**Share the floor.**



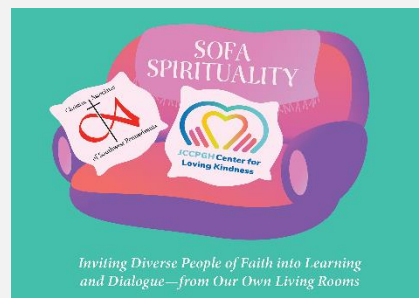
# INTRODUCTIONS

Please share the following information about yourself:

- Agree to follow the covenant
- Name
- Pronouns
- Faith tradition/spiritual influences
- Geography
- Circumstances



What did the COVID-19 chapter of your story teach you about your faith?

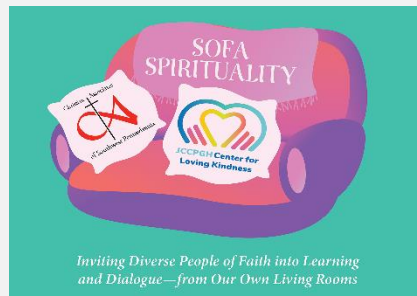




1) What stories does your faith community tell every year? Do these stories feel new each time you tell them?

2) What stories that you love to tell remind you of the person who told them to you?

3) What chapter in your spiritual story are you writing right now? Who is writing it with you?



*THANK YOU FOR JOINING US ON  
THE SOFA!*

