**2023 Newsletter Article for Faith Community Newsletters:
October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and a great opportunity to learn more about domestic violence and how WE can help. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, about 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner. On a typical day, local domestic violence hotlines receive over 20,000 calls, approximately 14 calls every minute.

Domestic violence is a pattern of control, which can be physical, emotional, financial, sexual or spiritual. We’d like to think it doesn’t happen in our congregation, but the truth is that domestic violence happens in every congregation.

As a faith community, there is a lot we can do to break the silence and raise awareness, including:

* **Participate in #PurpleThursday!** Wear purple on **Thursday, October 19** to show your support for survivors and for ending violence. Share your support with others via word-of-mouth and social media,
* **Learn more** about the intersection of domestic abuse and faith [**HERE**](https://a82d07d9-81fc-4a06-aee8-464d0da71159.filesusr.com/ugd/991f52_35392f4c3e624092ae107a4e69a5605b.pdf),
* **Connect** with NAME OF SERVICE PROVIDER HERE, our local service provider to learn about their DVAM programming (possible link here).

Please, talk to your friends and others in our congregation about your ideas. For more information, contact local service provider name, our local domestic violence services agency at service provider number. For more information, please visit service provider website.

*If you are in immediate danger, call 911.  If you or someone you know may be experiencing domestic violence, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at (800) 799-SAFE (7233). For resources about faith and domestic violence, visit* [*https://www.interfaithpartners.org/our-resources*](https://www.interfaithpartners.org/our-resources)*.*

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