

City of Grand Junction, State of Colorado

Proclamation

Whereas, the City of Grand Junction honors and respects all religious beliefs, cultures, creeds, and races — striving to foster an environment where all people can practice their faith or non-religious conviction with dignity, safety, and freedom; and

Whereas, rooted in a foundational commitment to the First Amendment and the sanctity of conscience, we uphold that the right to worship, believe, and live according to one's conscience is an inalienable human right, ensuring that our government remains neutral and allowing a multitude of faiths and secular traditions to flourish without fear of state imposition or exclusion; and

Whereas, the vibrancy and strength of our community are directly tied to the ability of our neighbors — whether they are Muslim, Latter-day Saint, Jewish, Christian, Unitarian Universalist, secular humanist, atheist, or of any other conviction — to live their truth openly and safely, recognizing that when any belief group is targeted, the foundational freedom of every citizen is weakened; and

Whereas, freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) is recognized internationally as a human right, and observances like Interfaith Awareness Week call upon us not merely to tolerate differences, but to maintain an active, graceful commitment to defend the dignity of those whose beliefs differ from our own, rejecting any policy, rhetoric, or action that seeks to marginalize or exclude; and

Whereas, the Grand Valley Interfaith Network (GVIN) has been networking together since 1977, offering varied programs designed to bring diverse faith groups into dialogue to practice peace, harmony, cooperation, and understanding, standing in solidarity with those experiencing vulnerability; and

Whereas, the annual ThanksGVIN community interfaith service on November 17, which is the capstone of Interfaith Awareness Week, demonstrates that diverse perspectives are committed to working collaboratively to put hope into action and advance a society where the inherent worth of every person is honored.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laurel Lutz, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Grand Junction, do hereby proclaim November 11 - 17, 2026 as

"Interfaith Awareness Week"

in the City of Grand Junction. FURTHERMORE, the City of Grand Junction hereby reaffirms its dedication to protecting religious liberty and conscience for all, not just for some, ensuring that our community remains a welcoming home where mutual respect and freedom thrive.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official Seal of the City of Grand Junction this 17th day of November 2026.

Laurel Lutz

Mayor