

## Closing Affirmation and Promise

One: Every person deserves a life free from violence, coercion, and fear.

**Many: We affirm the dignity and worth of every person.**

One: Those who experience abuse deserve to be heard and supported.

**Many: We will listen without blame and respond with compassion.**

One: Safety grows where boundaries are respected and help is within reach.

**Many: We will respect each person's choices and help connect our neighbors with support.**

One: Violence thrives when harm is excused and responsibility is avoided.

**Many: We will challenge words and actions that excuse abuse. We will uphold accountability.**

One: Our witness continues beyond this gathering.

**Many: We promise to carry this commitment into our homes, our relationships, and our community.**

One: For those who are afraid, for those who are healing, and for generations still to come —

**All: We will work together for a safer tomorrow.**

## Sending Forth

*Information about community resources and support services is available on the back table for anyone who would like to learn more or take materials for themselves or someone you care about.*

# Sayville Congregational United Church of Christ

— welcomes you to —

# A Witness for a Safer Tomorrow

Recognition of the National Day of Witness  
for Domestic Violence Awareness.



OCTOBER 15, 2026  
7:00PM

SAYVILLE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
131 Middle Rd. Sayville, New York  
[www.sayvilleucc.org](http://www.sayvilleucc.org)

## **A Community Witness for a Safer Tomorrow**

*In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month,  
we gather to bear witness against domestic violence,  
relationship violence, and human trafficking.*

### **Words of Welcome and Opening Litany**

Rev. Kate Kelly

One: We gather because every life is precious,  
and every person—every body—deserves safety,  
protection, and freedom from harm.

**Many: We will build a community where every person's  
dignity is honored, boundaries are respected, and every  
person can find safety and peace.**

One: We honor those who have survived abuse,  
coercion, exploitation, and violence.

**Many: We receive their stories with respect.**

**We honor their choices and their courage.**

One: We remember those whose lives have been taken  
and those who carry the grief of their absence.

**Many: We will remember them. Their lives call us to action.**

**We will work for a safer tomorrow and hold our  
elected leaders accountable for protecting  
our lives and the safety of our families.**

One: A safer tomorrow begins  
with what we are willing to do today.

**All: We will listen with compassion,  
speak with courage, and act with care.**

**Our commitment begins now.**

## **Keynote Speaker**

Ms. Clia Miller-Finn

The Emly Finn Foundation

## **Musical Reflection**

Dr. Ed Adams, Director and Accompanist

Ms. Amelia Mandato and

Ms. Stephanie Christine Schwartz, Vocalists

## **Community Voices**

Ms. Bevin Llanes, ECLI-VIBES

*At this time, we invite participants who wish to speak to come  
forward to share a personal reflection, offer information  
about community resources,  
or respond to this evening's witness.*

**To honor the privacy of everyone gathered, please  
refrain from photographing or recording this evening's  
witness, and do not share images, recordings, or  
personal stories from this gathering online.**

*Thank you for helping us create a space of safety,  
dignity, and trust.*