



FARMINGTON VALLEY AMERICAN MUSLIM CENTER, INC.

Serve God. Build Community.

35 Harris Road, Avon, CT 06001 | Web: <http://www.fvamc.org> | E-mail: info@fvamc.org | 501 C (3) Tax Exempt # 46-1780347

Dear Farmington Valley Community,

The year 2020 has been unlike any other year. A pandemic that has caused much worry and stress. A year filled with anxiety and hardship. Yet, as Allah states, “with every hardship is ease.” At times however, this ease may be difficult to discover. Things only seem to get worse, not better. I’m sure the thought has crossed your mind, as it has mine, “what is the ease in this pandemic?” Like most things, God manifests His answer in front of you, though you may not always notice. What is the ease in this pandemic? Ease is briefly reuniting with an acquaintance after the Friday Khutba and hearing how they have been holding up. Ease is in seeing the joy in our children's faces when they log in virtually for FVAMC Academy and FVAMC Ijaza. Ease is hearing them recite the words of God. Ease is also in our moments of pain; the requests for prayers for our loved ones who are sick or have passed. Ease is in making dua for them. Ease is in saying Ameen. “Indeed, with every hardship is ease.”

Our *shared community* has been the enabler of ease this year and will be for the year to come. As the recently appointed Religious Director for the FVAMC, it is my sincere dedication to grow and shepherd our shared community. Already, we have incorporated our programs virtually, and have added more classes/reminders as a pathway for us to be closer to God and one another. FVAMC Academy continues to provide educational service to students which is unmatched in the state. Our Ijaza program flourishes as students continue their journey beyond the 30th Juz and learn more about our God and his noble Messenger ﷺ in our Aqida course. These programs will only become more robust and streamlined in the year to come.

It is my honor and privilege to serve the wonderful Farmington Valley community. Though 2021 may bring its own set of unique challenges, I know that our community can preserve and be an ease for people. I end with a prayer within our tradition, May Allah keep us all together and may He keep us all safe:

تحصنت بذي العزة

“We seek protection with the Glorious.

واعتصمت برب الملكوت

We seek Protection with the Lord of the unseen in the heavens.

وتوكلت على الحي الذي لا يموت

We place our reliance on the Living who never dies.

اللهم اصرف عنا هذا الوباء وقتنا شر الداء ونجنا من الطعن والطاعون والبلاء بلطفك يا لطيف إنك على كل شيء قدير

O God, push sickness away from us with your gentleness, O Gentle One, for You are powerful over all things.”

Regards,

Imam Safwan