

NEWSLETTER

Volume 19 | Issue 10

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"Indeed, we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return." [al-Baqarah, 2:156]



Synopsis: The Uphill Journey to Allah _____ 3 Umm Habibah (RAA) ______4 Kids: The Story of Atif _____4 **News Release:** Vandalism at IONA masjid ______5

Prayer Times ___

Announcements _

NEWS RELEASE

Vandalism at IONA Masjid

THE UPHILL JOURNEY TO ALLAH

Synopsis of Friday Sermon

More on page 3

More on page 5

PRESCHOOL | SUNDAY SCHOOL Open Enrollment

More on page 2

First Friday sermon starts at 12:10 PM and the second sermon starts at 1:20 PM



Umm Habibah (RAA)

She came from one of the most powerful families of Quraysh: her father was Abū Sufyān ibn Ḥarb,...



The Uphill Journey to Allah

When we opened our eyes, we found ourselves strangers in this dunya. Our true journey began when Allah (4) ...



News Release - Vandalism at IONA

IONA strongly condemns the recent vandalism that targeted the ongoing expansion project in Warren ...

More on page 4

More on page 5



Mustapha Elturk Ameer

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Announcements

Registration is Still Open

2025 - 2026 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

The preschool program is a weekly program, Monday through Thursday **The tuition** per child is \$300 per month.

Sr. Souad Soubra, the Sunday and Summer School Principal, has designed a wonderful program for preschoolers. The curriculum includes Personal Development, Literacy Skills, Numbers and Math, and Art in addition to learning Islamic manners, dua's, Memorizing Qur'an, and Arabic. The preschool is the first step to schooling and our goal is to build confidence in the students, get them acquainted with the educational environment, teach them good manners, and help them develop the concepts of sharing and charity. Students will receive a certificate at the end of the year marking their first memorable school year.

Children ages 3 to 5 from all cultures are welcome. The preschool program is from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Monday through Thursday, and the tuition per child is \$300 with a discount for siblings. For more information, please contact Sr. Souad at 248-872-2169 or suelturk@gmail.com.

Register at https://ionamasjid.org/preschool/

The school will, in sha Allah, start on Monday, September 8, 2025 and end on Thursday, May 28, 2026. IONA is committed to helping the children with their educational needs. Let us help you develop your child right from the start.

2025 - 2026 SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are accepting students ages 5 to 17 (limited space available).

Tuition and Fees: \$450 per child per year plus \$50 non-refundable registration fee. \$675 for two siblings plus \$50 non-refundable registration fee. \$950 for three siblings plus \$50 non-refundable registration fee.

School hours are from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Subjects Taught: Qur'an, Arabic, and Islamic Studies (Hadith, Sirah, etc.)

For more information, please contact the principal, Sr. Souad, at 248-872-2169 or suelturk@gmail.com

REGISTER ONLINE at IONAMASJID.ORG/Sunday-school/





IONA's Friday Lunch

Pick up your lunch every Friday from 12 PM to 2:30 PM.

Ioin us for a freshly prepared luncheon for just \$10.00. Your purchase directly supports the Masjid. Thank you for supporting your Masjid!



jid, you can empower the

heart of our community, fostering spiritual growth, educational opportunities, and a place of solace for all. Together, let's build a stronger foundation of faith and service. Donate to the masjid today and make a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals.

Synopsis of Ameer Mustapha's Khutbah

The Uphill Journey to Allah (4)

A famous Chinese proverb says: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

When we opened our eyes, we found ourselves strangers in this dunya. Our true journey began when Allah (\clubsuit) created us in the wombs of our mothers. After some time, He decreed that the spirit $(r\bar{u}h)$ would be breathed into us. And when we enter this world, we are born upon the *fitrah* – pure monotheism, inclining naturally toward Allah (\clubsuit).

That *fitrah* is the first step toward Allah (**.**). It is the compass pointing us back to Him. Indeed, our journey began with Allah and it will end with Allah (**.**).

"Indeed, we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we will return." [al-Baqarah, 2:156]

Indeed, this journey is not an easy one. It is an uphill path, filled with obstacles, temptations, and distractions. Our $r\bar{u}h$ longs to return to its Creator, but many of us lose our way. Some forget their *fitrah*, others become consumed by the *dunya*, and many are misled by satan (*shayṭān*), who vowed to sit on our path and divert us.

Allah (**(**) has given us everything we need for this journey. Islam is the way. It is the straight path (*al-ṣirāṭ al-mustaqīm*) that leads directly to Allah (**(**). The Qur'an is the guide. The Prophet Muhammad (**(*)**) is our example. His life shows us how to live in this *dunya* without losing sight of the hereafter (*akhirah*).

Indeed, our task is not only to recognize that we are on this journey, but to take each step deliberately—with Iman, with $taqw\bar{a}$, and with sabr—until we meet Allah (\P) in a state that He is pleased with us.

Iman: What is Iman?

True Iman is to accept His commands without rejection and to strive to obey them, even when they challenge us.

Iman is testimony on the tongue, belief in the heart, and deeds with the limbs. This is how faith becomes genuine, alive, and transformative.

And so, as travelers on this journey back to Allah (**.**). it is our Iman that lights the path. Without it, we stumble in darkness. With it, we find strength to overcome trials and hope to return to Him in peace.

To follow the Qur'ān and the Sunnah of the Prophet (ﷺ) is to walk the straight road home, the ṣirāṭ al-mustaqīm.

Ibn Mas'ūd (RAA) in Musnad Ahmad narrates:

"The Prophet (**) once drew a straight line in the sand and then drew lines branching out to the right and left. He said: 'This is Allah's straight path,' Pointing to the straight line. 'And these other lines are paths; on each path there is a devil calling to it.' Then he recited, 'And, indeed, this is My straight path, so follow it; and do not follow [other] paths.'" (Ahmad)

The purpose: $taqw\bar{a}$ – becoming mindful of Allah, protecting ourselves from His displeasure, and ultimately succeeding in the Hereafter.

Taqwā: What is taqwā?

Taqwā is not only to protect the soul from sins of the body — like lying, cheating, stealing, or backbiting. It is also to protect the mind and the heart from corruption in thought.

"And do not pursue that of which you have no knowledge of." [al-Isrā', 17:36]

Unsubstantiated claims, false notions about the nature of existence, and ideologies that lead away from Allah () are just as harmful as physical sins. In fact, they can be even more dangerous, because they plant seeds of doubt, pride, or rebellion in the heart.

The soul is harmed not only by unlawful desires, but also by false beliefs that attribute ultimate power or meaning to other than Allah (.). or by ideologies that compete with Islam as the true way of life.

So true $taqw\bar{a}$ is guarding the soul on both levels — outwardly from forbidden deeds, and inwardly from harmful ideas and unsubstantiated claims that point away from Allah (\P).

Our Journey to Allah () is not a smooth descent, but an uphill climb. It is a road filled with obstacles, distractions, and trials. Unless we are cautious — protecting ourselves from the "thorns" of sins, false ideologies, and harmful desires — we may stumble, lose sight of the destination, and fail to reach the end.

This arduous journey is not one of comfort or ease. In addition to Iman and $taqw\bar{a}$, it requires sabr.

Şabr: What is *şabr*?

Ṣabr includes patience with Allah's decree, perseverance in obedience, steadfastness in trials, resilience against temptations, and fortitude in the face of hardship.

Without *ṣabr*, the uphill road becomes unbearable, and the obstacles overwhelming. But with it, every thorn becomes a lesson, every hardship a means of elevation, every delay a path to nearness with Allah (4).









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Sisters Corner

Umm Habibah—Ramlah Bint Abi Sufyan (RAA): Mother of the Believers

Umm Ḥabībah, whose real name was Ramlah bint Abī Sufyān (RAA), was one of the noble wives of the Prophet Muhammad (*). She came from one of the most powerful families of Quraysh: her father was Abū Sufyān ibn Ḥarb, the chief of Banū Umayyah, and for a long time, one of the fiercest opponents of Islam. Despite her family's initial hostility to the Prophet (*). Umm Ḥabībah's story reflects courage, faith, and perseverance.

She was born in Makkah around 589 CE. In her youth, she embraced Islam along with her husband, 'Ubaydullāh ibn Jaḥsh, making her one of the earliest Muslim women. When persecution in Makkah intensified, she and her husband joined the small group of Muslims who migrated to Abyssinia under the Christian king, the Negus (al-Najāshī).

In Abyssinia, Umm Ḥabībah (RAA) endured a great personal trial. Her husband abandoned Islam and converted to Christianity. Soon after, he passed away, leaving her alone in a foreign land, far from her family and community. Despite this hardship, she held firmly to her faith in Allah and the message of His Messenger (*).

During this difficult time, the Prophet (*) proposed marriage to her as an act of honor and protection. The proposal was conveyed to the Negus, who himself conducted the marriage ceremony on behalf of the Prophet (*) in Abyssinia. He provided a generous dowry of 400 gold dinars, and the companions present celebrated the occasion. This marriage not only gave Umm Ḥabībah (RAA) dignity and security, but it also symbolized the Prophet's care for those who sacrificed for their faith.

When she returned to Madīnah, Umm Ḥabībah (RAA) joined

the household of the Prophet (*) and became one of the revered Ummahāt al-Mu'minīn (Mothers of the Believers). She was known for her devotion to Islam, wisdom, and dignity. Despite her father's fierce opposition to the Prophet (*), she remained steadfast in her loyalty to her husband.

A famous incident highlights her firm faith: when her father, Abū Sufyān, visited her in Medina. As he went to sit on the Prophet's carpet she folded it up so that he could not sit on it. "My dear daughter," he said, "I hardly know if you think that the carpet is too good for me or that I am too good for the carpet!" She replied: "It is the Prophet's carpet and you are an unclean polytheist. I do not want you to sit on the apostle's carpet." "By God," he said, "since you left me you have gone to the bad." This response reflected both her respect for the Prophet (*) and her unwavering commitment to Islam, even above family ties.

Umm Ḥabībah (RAA) lived on after the Prophet's passing, narrating several hadīth and remaining a figure of wisdom and faith within the community. She passed away around 44 AH (664 CE) during the caliphate of her brother, Muʿāwiyah ibn Abī Sufyān, and was buried in al-Baqī' cemetery in Madinah.

Her life exemplifies steadfastness in faith despite trials – losing her husband, living far from her homeland, and being caught between loyalty to her faith and her powerful family. By choosing Allah and His Messenger (*) above all else, Umm Ḥabībah (RAA) became a model of courage, faith, and devotion for generations to come.

Lily

Kids Corner

The Kindness of Abu Bakr (RAA)

Once upon a time in the city of Makkah, there lived a man named Abu Bakr. He was a close companion and a dear friend of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Abu Bakr was known for his kindness, generosity, and compassion.

One day, Abu Bakr was walking through the busy market when he saw a poor old woman struggling to carry a heavy load of groceries. Her face was tired, and her hands trembled under the weight of the bags. Without hesitation, Abu Bakr rushed to her aid.

He greeted her with a warm smile and said, "Peace be upon you, dear sister. Let me help you with these heavy bags." Abu Bakr took some of the bags from her hands and carried them with a cheerful heart.

As they walked together, Abu Bakr learned that the old woman was a widow who lived alone. She had no family to support her, and life had become difficult for her. Abu Bakr felt a deep sense of empathy and compassion for her.

Instead of just helping her with the groceries, Abu Bakr decided to make a positive change in her life. He asked her about her needs and discovered that her house was in need of repair. The roof leaked, and the walls were crumbling.

News Release

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

IONA Condemns Vandalism at IONA Masjid, Calls for Justice and Community Solidarity

(WARREN, MI) - The Islamic Organization of North America (IONA) strongly condemns the recent vandalism that targeted the ongoing expansion project in Warren, Michigan. The attack, which occurred between late Saturday night and early Sunday morning, caused damage to the mosque building, including broken entrance door and wall damage, as well as graffiti defacing the facility

and construction equipment.





IONA leadership has reported the incident to the Warren Police Department and is cooperating fully with the ongoing investigation.

"This was not just an attack on bricks and mortar," said Imam Mustapha Elturk, Ameer of IONA. "It was an attack on our community's sense of safety and on the sanctity of a house of worship. Acts of hate and intimidation will not deter us from serving God and our neighbors with faith, peace, and compassion."

The Council on American-Islamic Relations - Michigan (CAIR-MI) has announced a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible and has urged authorities to investigate a possible hate crime motive.

IONA has been a part of the Warren community for decades and was the first mosque established in the city. Since its inception, it has faced challenges, including anti-Muslim opposition and previous threats. Yet the organization remains steadfast in its mission of service, education, and interfaith cooperation.

"We call upon our fellow residents, community leaders, and people of all faiths and backgrounds to stand with us in rejecting hatred and bigotry in all its forms," Imam Elturk added. "Our doors remain open, our prayers continue, and our commitment to building bridges of understanding is stronger than ever."

Anyone with information about the incident is urged to contact the Warren Police Department. END

An Urgent Appeal to Our Beloved Community

Dear IONA Community,

Alhamdulillah, with the grace of Allah (SWT) and your generous support, our Expansion Project is moving forward. We now kindly ask for your renewed support in one of the following ways:

- 1. If you made a pledge but haven't fulfilled it yet, please do so as soon as you can.
- 2. If you've already fulfilled your pledge and are able to give again, please consider donating. This is a Sadaqah Jāriyah a continuous charity with ongoing reward.
- 3. If this would be your first time donating, we warmly invite you to join this noble cause.
- 4. You may also use your zakat toward this project it is zakatable.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Whoever builds a mosque for Allah, Allah will build for him a house in Paradise." [Sahih al-Bukhari & Sahih Muslim]

Our goal is to complete the new 10,000 sq. ft. addition — including the lower level and two upper floors — by November. This will give our growing community more space for worship, especially a dedicated area for our sisters, and create a safe, welcoming place to grow in faith together.

Every donation counts. By giving, you help build a lasting legacy of faith, unity, and service for generations to come.

☐ Please donate today: ionamasjid.org/donate

May Allah accept from you, bless your family, and grant you the highest reward in this life and the next. Ameen.



Repentance

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New Hours

Thursday & Friday 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM Sundays

2:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Saturday by appointment

(586) 744-0638

The Uphill Journey to Allah (... Cont'd

Allah reminds: "And be patient, for indeed Allah does not let the rewards of those who do good go to waste." [Hūd, 11:115]

As difficult as it may seem, the journey also demands:

Sabr 'alā al-ṭā 'ah (صبر على الطاعة), patience and steadfastness in obeying Allah (الهاعة) is one type of sabr.

Patience in obedience means continuing to perform good even when it is difficult, when the *nafs* urges us to slacken, or when the *dunya* distracts us. It means persevering even when results are not immediate or visible.

Equally important on this journey is *şabr 'an al-ma 'siyah*.

Sabr 'an al-ma 'siyah (صبر عن المعصية), patience in avoiding sins and restraining oneself from disobedience is another form of sabr.

It is not enough to perform good deeds; we must also guard ourselves from what Allah (**4**) has forbidden, even when temptations are strong, when desires call, or when society normalizes wrongdoing. The journey also demands:

Ṣabr ʿalā al-idhā' (صبر على الإيذاء), patience in the face of harm, oppression, and injustice — is among the greatest forms of steadfastness.

Ṣabr ʿalā al-idhā' is patience not only in enduring harm but also in responding correctly — with forgiveness, steadfastness, and trust in Allah's justice. It elevates the believer and brings closeness to Allah, showing that true ṣabr is not only resisting sin or obeying Allah, but enduring the trials others may inflict upon us without losing faith or hope.

In our uphill journey toward Allah (\clubsuit). Iman, $taqw\bar{a}$ and sabr sabr is required. And for the one who lived with Iman, sabr, and $taqw\bar{a}$, their efforts is truly appreciated by Allah (\clubsuit).

So, the question is not whether we will meet Allah – it is certain. The question is how we will meet Him.

So let us strive with *taqwā*, *ṣabr*, and *istiqāmah*, protecting our hearts from distraction, enduring the trials of this life with patience, and walking firmly upon the straight path. And let our striving be for Allah (**4**) alone, so that when we finally meet Him, we hear the most beautiful words:

"O tranquil soul, return to your Lord, well-pleased and pleasing to Him. Enter among My servants. Enter My Paradise." [al-Fajr, 89:27–30] This is the ultimate homecoming — the successful end of the journey.

May Allah (**4**) grant us the strength to persevere, the wisdom to remain steadfast, and the sincerity to seek His pleasure in all our endeavors. Ameen.

The Kindness of Abu Bakr (RAA)... Cont'd

Abu Bakr, with his big heart, immediately took the responsibility to fix her house. He gathered a group of skilled workers and provided all the necessary materials. They worked tirelessly until the old woman's house was transformed into a comfortable and secure home.

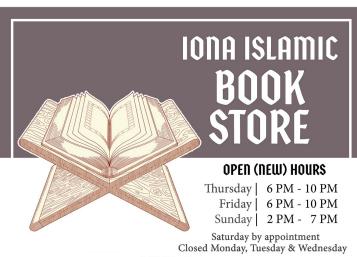
When the old woman saw the changes, tears of gratitude filled her eyes. She thanked Abu Bakr and prayed for his well-being. Abu Bakr, in his humility, attributed the kindness to the teachings of Islam and the compassionate example set by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

This story teaches us the importance of kindness, compassion, and going the extra mile to help those in need. Abu Bakr's actions reflect the true spirit of Islam and the beautiful character of the Prophet and his companions.

https://sahlahacademy.net/islamic-stories-for-kids-5-best-stories/







IONA Center

28630 Ryan Rd, Warren, MI 48092

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IONA Food Catering Service



IONA catering service perfect for private gatherings and major events like weddings and graduations. Enjoy the convenience of having our delectable dishes of a delightful selection of Pakistani,

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OCTOBER 2025

IONA Masjid - Prayer and Iqamah Timing

Date		Fajr	Iqamah	Sunrise	Zuhr	Iqamah	Asr (S)*	Asr (H)*	Iqamah	Maghrib	Iqamah	Isha	Iqamah
Wed	1	5:59	6:45	7:30	1:27	2:00	4:38	5:26	5:45	7:16	7:21	8:31	8:45
Thu	2	6:00	6:45	7:31	1:26	2:00	4:36	5:25	5:45	7:14	7:19	8:30	8:45
Fri .	3	6:01	6:45	7:32	1:26	2:00	4:35	5:23	5:45	7:12	7:17	8:28	8:45
Sat	4	6:02	6:45	7:33	1:26	2:00	4:34	5:22	5:45	7:11	7:16	8:27	8:45
Sun	5	6:03	6:45	7:34	1:26	2:00	4:33	5:20	5:45	7:09	7:14	8:25	8:45
Mon	6	6:04	6:45	7:36	1:25	2:00	4:31	5:19	5:30	7:07	7:12	8:24	8:45
Tue	7	6:05	6:45	7:37	1:25	2:00	4:30	5:17	5:30	7:06	7:11	8:22	8:45
Wed	8	6:06	6:45	7:38	1:25	2:00	4:29	5:16	5:30	7:04	7:09	8:21	8:45
Thu	9	6:08	6:45	7:39	1:24	2:00	4:27	5:14	5:30	7:02	7:07	8:19	8:45
Fri 1	10	6:09	6:45	7:40	1:24	2:00	4:26	5:13	5:30	7:00	7:05	8:18	8:45
Sat 1	11	6:10	6:45	7:41	1:24	2:00	4:25	5:11	5:30	6:59	7:04	8:16	8:45
Sun 1	12	6:11	6:45	7:42	1:24	2:00	4:24	5:10	5:30	6:57	7:02	8:15	8:30
Mon 1	13	6:12	6:45	7:44	1:23	2:00	4:22	5:08	5:30	6:56	7:01	8:13	8:30
Tue 1	14	6:13	6:45	7:45	1:23	2:00	4:21	5:07	5:30	6:54	6:59	8:12	8:30
Wed 1	15	6:14	6:45	7:46	1:23	2:00	4:20	5:05	5:30	6:52	6:57	8:10	8:30
Thu 1	16	6:15	6:45	7:47	1:23	2:00	4:19	5:04	5:15	6:51	6:56	8:09	8:30
Fri 1	17	6:16	6:45	7:48	1:23	2:00	4:17	5:02	5:15	6:49	6:54	8:08	8:30
Sat 1	18	6:17	6:45	7:50	1:22	2:00	4:16	5:01	5:15	6:47	6:52	8:06	8:30
Sun 1	19	6:19	6:45	7:51	1:22	2:00	4:15	4:59	5:15	6:46	6:51	8:05	8:30
Mon 2	20	6:20	6:45	7:52	1:22	2:00	4:14	4:58	5:15	6:44	6:49	8:04	8:30
Tue 2	21	6:21	6:45	7:53	1:22	2:00	4:13	4:56	5:15	6:43	6:48	8:02	8:30
Wed 2	22	6:22	6:45	7:54	1:22	2:00	4:11	4:55	5:15	6:41	6:46	8:01	8:30
Thu 2	23	6:23	6:45	7:56	1:22	2:00	4:10	4:54	5:15	6:40	6:45	8:00	8:15
Fri 2	24	6:24	6:45	7:57	1:21	2:00	4:09	4:52	5:15	6:38	6:43	7:58	8:15
Sat 2	25	6:25	6:45	7:58	1:21	2:00	4:08	4:51	5:15	6:37	6:42	7:57	8:15
Sun 2	26	6:27	6:45	7:59	1:21	2:00	4:07	4:50	5:00	6:35	6:40	7:56	8:15
Mon 2	27	6:28	6:45	8:01	1:21	2:00	4:06	4:48	5:00	6:34	6:39	7:55	8:15
Tue 2	28	6:29	6:45	8:02	1:21	2:00	4:04	4:47	5:00	6:33	6:38	7:53	8:15
Wed 2	29	6:30	6:45	8:03	1:21	2:00	4:03	4:46	5:00	6:31	6:36	7:52	8:15
Thu 3	30	6:31	6:45	8:04	1:21	2:00	4:02	4:44	5:00	6:30	6:35	7:51	8:15
Fri 3	31	6:32	6:45	8:06	1:21	2:00	4:01	4:43	5:00	6:29	6:34	7:50	8:15
Sat	1	6:34	6:45	8:07	1:21	2:00	4:00	4:42	5:00	6:27	6:32	7:49	8:15

* S = Shafi'i, H = Hanafi | **Athan is 10 minutes** before Iqamah except for Maghrib First Friday sermon starts at 12:10 PM and second sermon is at 1:20 PM



IONA is dedicated to transforming its members and surrounding communities into righteous, God-fearing individuals who collectively strive for the highest moral standards and continuously seek God's forgiveness to earn His pleasure. IONA members earnestly seek His mercy and grace in both this life and the hereafter. They rejuvenate their souls through internal struggle (jihad) and spiritual exercises in the worship of the Creator, the Most Glorified. Their deep faith in God Almighty empowers them with the courage to promote good, forbid evil, and engage in the struggle to establish social, political, and economic justice.

