memorial in honor of the 11 people killed and the seven more who were injured in the mass shooting that occurred at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh was held on Oct. 29 at the Tifereth Israel Community Synagogue in Des Moines.

"After the tragedy in Pittsburgh, it was important to stand up and say we can still be loving neighbors, care for each other, support each other in religious freedom," said Rev. Susan Sickelka, a Christian minister who attended the event in solidarity of the Jewish community.

"Of course, Christians and Jews and Muslims have a lot of things in common, and so it was important for us to come support a grieving community," Sickelka added.

The vigil's attendants were those from the Jewish community and from various different faiths. Because so many people attended, the synagogue ran out of space inside. People then circled around the building to show their support, with some joining hands.

"I think what was really important about the vigil was the non-Jewish community wanted to be able to show their support for us and I think it was good that we had all different people doing that," said Tifereth Rabbi Emily Barton.

According to Barton, the vigil was similar to a memorial service or a funeral. Interspersed between the songs, psalms and other elements of a Jewish memorial service, they also had speakers from the non-Jewish community.

"We had a lot of Jews from the community and a lot of non-Jews, very much more than we anticipated. It was very beautiful and people spoke really wonderfully. I thought," Barton said. "We tried to really represent the whole spectrum of religious beliefs and practices and ideologies in the room and that's basically what it was."

Rabbi David Kaufman, rabbi at the Temple B’nai Jeshurun, was the person who had the main idea of the vigil, according to Barton. Together, they worked alongside Connie Ryan, executive director of Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines to make the vigil possible.

"Don’t let fear get in the way of living," said Rabbi David Kaufman, rabbi at the Temple Beth Shalom, in Des Moines. "I am the person that had the main idea of the vigil, according to Barton. Together, we worked alongside Connie Ryan, executive director of Interfaith Alliance of Iowa, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines to make the vigil possible."

At a time of heightened concern for safety, Barton offers advice.

"Don’t let your fear get in the way of living your life, but also make sure that you are vigilant about," Barton said. "You know, looking after yourself and your surroundings and that’s not just for Jewish people. I think that’s for everybody."