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God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



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Immigration

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When the alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:33-34

In a world becoming increasingly globalized, more people are leaving their homelands to seek better lives and opportunities in new countries. Their reasons for leaving are diverse and complex: economic necessity, war, or persecution. The U.S. has long been a nation of immigrants and we have consistently been conflicted about this. We gratefully welcome immigrants and their contributions, and we exclude them, discriminate against them and, at times, inflict grave harm upon them.



As Christians, we are called to love our neighbors. The Bible is unambiguous in calling us to welcome aliens and strangers in our land, and to love them as we love ourselves. In these times, let us listen to the voice of the still-speaking God. We will learn how to respond to these new sisters and brothers residing among us.

Immigration Updates

Raids Rapid Response: Toolkit for Faith Allies

"As faith allies, we are called to be in solidarity through rapid response mobilization to stop these raids, stop these deportations and support impacted communities. In the face of President Trump's extremist anti-immigrant agenda we must respond with a prophetic and bold voice." [Download the toolkit via SanctuaryNotDeportation.org.](#)

Take action in solidarity with Refugees

Act to oppose President Trump's action to reduce refugee admissions, grind resettlement to a halt, stop resettling refugees from certain countries, and preference religious minorities. [Tell your elected officials that refugees are welcome here!](#)

Sanctuary Rising

The resurgence of the Sanctuary Movement works to provide protection in our houses of worship for those facing violence, discrimination, and deportation. We organize as people of faith and moral courage accompanying the most marginalized among us targeted by President-elect Trump's hateful rhetoric and policy proposals. We lift up the prophetic and moral witness of communities of faith against the unjust systems of power and privilege that keep our communities from living with the safety and dignity they deserve as human beings.

Now, more than ever faith communities from different traditions are coming together to take a bold and prophetic stand against President-elect Trump's harsh immigration proposals and threats to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival.

[Sign the Most Recent Pledge - We Pledge to Resist Deportations and Discrimination through Sanctuary](#)

UCC advocates put 'bodies on the line' at border wall with Mexico

The push for humane immigration reform brought veterans, clergy, activists and UCC advocates to the border wall dividing the Nogales, Arizona, and Mexico communities, as part of a joint rally calling for a new model of border justice that builds bridges and relationships instead of walls and policies that create fear and division. ([Read more.](#))

Arizona Border Justice - Bodies On The Line



115 UCC Leaders Send Letter to Congress

The United Church of Christ works to offer an extravagant welcome to all of God's children regardless of their national origin or citizenship status. Many of our congregations are working to become Immigrant Welcoming Congregations because we understand we have a moral imperative to welcome the most vulnerable in our midst. Together 115 UCC leaders sent a letter to Congress, urging all members to speak out in support of deferred action for families and pursue commonsense immigration reform; asking them to tell the Administration to stop the raids and end Operation Border Guardian; and calling on them to respect current U.S. asylum law, honor existing protections for victims of human trafficking, and expand legal assistance. *Read the letter.*

Take Action: Tell Chicago ICE: Don't deport Jose Juan, father of 5

Join Rev. Julian DeShazier and University Church in Chicago in calling on Director Wong (Chicago Field Office, ICE), Secretary Johnson (Department of Homeland Security), Director Saldaña (ICE) to use prosecutorial discretion to stop the deportation of Jose Juan Federico Moreno Anguiano and keep this family together. University Church is providing sanctuary for Mr. Moreno, a loving husband and father of five US-born children, as he fights his order of deportation.



April 2016 Update

Last month the UCC National Collaborative on Immigration held a webinar on our strategic plan to defend immigrants' rights ([Stream the recording](#)). On April 18th, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans is being heard in the Supreme Court which could benefit over 4 million undocumented people (More at [Fightforfamilies](#)). **Two UCC Pastors were arrested** for Civil Disobedience during Holy Week in efforts to stop the Raids in Los Angeles (UCC News). Recently the work of the Samaritans and Good Shepherd United Church of Christ was **highlighted by NPR** in their work to cross international borders to help migrants in the Southwest and Europe.

Blood on our hands: Stop the raids - The Hill

By Rev. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ
Over the last several months, discussions around immigration policies have devolved to extremist sound bytes, with political candidates creating a new wave of anti-immigrant rhetoric to further their own agendas. Sadly, these hateful words have manifested themselves in how the United States treats immigrants. The actions of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are endangering the lives of thousands of asylum

seekers fleeing violence, persecution, and devastating poverty in Central America. ([Read more.](#))

Immigration: Stop the Raids

At the start of the New Year the Department of Homeland Security began raiding immigrant communities in states across the country. The raids have swept up hundreds including children and families from Central America who are seeking asylum- [See UCC action alert.](#) Many [UCC congregations are working to welcome](#) these refugees and even opening their doors as part of the [Sanctuary Movement](#). If you would like to support the Sanctuary Movement or become an [Immigrant Welcoming Congregation](#) contact nandersen@cwsglobal.org.

UCC Supports Sanctuary Cases to Stop Deportations

In Tucson and Tempe Arizona United Church Congregations Good Shepherd UCC, First Congregational of Phoenix and Shadow Rock United Church of Christ have all offered letters of support to help immigrants facing deportations to stay with their families. Southside Presbyterian Church in Tucson has offered Rosa Robles Loreto Sanctuary allowing her to live at the church for protection from immigration authorities while she seeks to win deferred action to stop her deportation order. [You can stand with Rosa by signing the Groundswell petition here.](#) Earlier this summer, [Shadow Rock UCC had offered Sanctuary to Marco Tulio](#) which helped him win an order of supervision to stay with his family.

Letters of support for Rosa Robles Loreto and Southside Presbyterian Church:

- [Shadow Rock United Church of Christ in Phoenix AZ](#)
- [First Congregational United Church of Christ, Phoenix](#)
- The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ

Responding to a Humanitarian Crisis of Unaccompanied Children on the Border



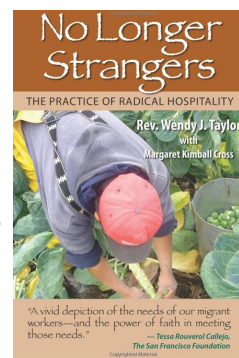
We are facing an escalating humanitarian crisis as a growing number of unaccompanied children cross the U.S. –Mexico border at an increasing and alarming rate. So far in FY 2014 alone 57,000 children have migrated to the border. It is from dire circumstances that a child chooses to migrate thousands of miles. As people of faith we have an ethical obligation to care for the most vulnerable among us. The root causes of these

changing migration patterns are extreme poverty, violence, and rising homicide rates in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, from which most of the children are arriving. [Learn more and find ways to engage.](#)

Resources

Our work on this issue is rooted in policy voted on by our UCC General Synod. You can find **General Synod Resolutions** on immigration from GS XXVIII (2013) GS XXVI (2007), GS XIII (2001), and GS XXII (1999).

Become an immigrant welcoming congregation. The Journey toward becoming an Immigrant Welcoming Congregation involves multiple study and reflection sessions. **Download** this wonderful toolkit created by our UCC Southwest Conference.



Love Has No Borders - Essays and stories of how faith leaders resisted Alabama's Anti-Immigrant Law edited by UCC Pastor Rev. Angie Wright. **Get your copy here.**

No Longer Strangers: The Practice of Radical Hospitality, a book by UCC pastor Rev. Wendy J. Taylor, explores the lonely and difficult lives of migrant farm workers in Northern California and follows one woman's compassionate response to their plight.

Behind the Wall

Video by Rev. Art Cribbs. Made possible through a grant by Neighbors in Need.

We are America Stories - stories of immigrants

Deportation 101

A Community Resource on Anti-Deportation Education and Organizing - revised May 2010 is a curriculum prepared by the Detention Watch Network, Families for Freedom, the Immigrant Defense Project of the National Lawyers Guild.

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)

Understanding the DREAM Act

The education of immigrant children is not only a smart investment; as an expression of the call to love our neighbors and ourselves, it is also a moral imperative. The issues of immigration and immigration enforcement affect the children in immigrant families and the public schools that serve those children.

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Faith and Immigration
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Unaccompanied Children
Worship Resources
Immigrant Rights Sunday

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