

WELCOMING REFUGEES THRU WORSHIP, EDUCATION, & ACTION!

#RefugeesWelcome



Welcome Weekend

Join faith communities around the to show your support for refugees! [REGISTER](#) to participate, see our full “Welcome Weekend Resources” of worship and background materials, and exciting ways your community is needed NOW to advocate to support refugees [here](#).



Read the full poem
“Home,” by
Somali poet
Warsan Shire [here](#).

Daniet Etter/New York Times/Redux /eyevine

**no one leaves home unless
home is the mouth of a shark
you only run for the border
when you see the whole city running as well**

REFLECT: As many of us prepare to gather soon around holiday tables, we are thankful for blessings of family, friends, food...and home. May we remember and pray for all refugees who flee across borders to escape horrendous violence in their home countries. Can we, from our secure homes, begin to imagine how they feel? “Like a bird that is far from its nest, is one who is far from his home,” is a melancholy refrain from Proverbs 27:8 that reverberates across the centuries.

We have been bombarded by the faces of desperate parents and children on TV and in the news, can we open our arms wider to offer love and welcome to refugees? Can we greet them with Paul’s words to the Ephesians in 2:19: “You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but ...fellow citizens with...members of the household of God”? On this Welcome Weekend—and all weekends ahead—may we seek to imagine ourselves in their shoes, their desperation mingled with hope. And, may we be resolved to take action on their behalf.

One lectionary text for Nov. 15 is the story of Hannah’s cry to have her agony seen and heard. Like millions of the world’s current refugees, she was calling out to receive attention, care, and healing responses for her broken heart in 1 Samuel 1:4-20.

The scriptures tell us that Hannah said, “I am a woman deeply troubled....Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time” (1 Sam. 1:15-16).

[SEE WELCOME WEEKEND RESOURCES HERE FOR
WORSHIP HELPS, ACTION DETAILS, &
SOCIAL MEDIA SUGGESTIONS!](#)

PRAY: As people of faith, we are called to be a space of love and safe refuge for all people. Let us work together with refugees and immigrants from many different lands to welcome them in. We re-commit ourselves to be a welcoming congregation, lifting up immigrants and refugees in our midst and preparing ourselves to advocate with them by our side. Amen. (See additional prayers in the link above.)

SHARE SYRIAN REFUGEE STORIES!:

Since the Syrian conflict began over four years ago, only 1,854 Syrian refugees (of the total 4+ million) have yet been resettled into the U.S. (NY Times, 10/21/15)



Where are they going? How are they doing?

*Two families from Homs in Syria tell their stories of coming to Jersey City, N.J. *Syrian refugees talk about their new lives in Toledo, Ohio *Long-term Syrian populations in West Michigan share their visions for advocacy and assistance in support of new Syrian refugees, and *Lancaster, PA. shows how volunteers near and far partner to serve as “Welcome Teams” for Syrian refugees. See all stories in the Welcome Weekend Resources.

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Share if you support welcoming communities!

ACT NOW TO SUPPORT REFUGEES!:

(& tell us at:
<http://bit.ly/WelcomeWeekendReg>
what you’re doing!)

1) SUPPORT ADDITIONAL REFUGEE NUMBERS AND BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES, BY CALLING YOUR LEGISLATORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, and signing on to advocacy letters! Go to interfaithimmigration.org for the alert by Nov. 5th or call 1-866-940-2439 to hear instructions and be connected to your member of congress’ office!

2) PLAN A MEAL with local refugees during the holidays—and INVITE your local Congressional representative and staff! (Note: Legislators will be in their HOME DISTRICTS ON RECESS, from NOVEMBER 20-29.

3) SPREAD THE WORD THAT YOU’RE READY TO WELCOME REFUGEES by using Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to post pictures of your welcome events, or of your faith group ready to help refugees. Post your picture and locate welcome signs at americawelcomes.us, and use #RefugeesWelcome in your posts.