

Be Bold Immigration Group Report

May 17, 2020

This Be Bold! Group has undertaken projects to keep the issues common to refugees and immigrants in the forefront of the church's and congregation's minds, and to be of concrete assistance to immigrants and refugees in the Chicago area. Toward those ends, we have done the following between March and June:

- We identified and have reached out to a number of groups who serve immigrants and refugees and are finding ways to collaborate with them as we develop programs and projects.
- One of our first steps was to set up Spanish classes to help those interested to be able to converse with Spanish-speaking immigrants and refugees in their own language. While in-person classes have been postponed due to covid-19, a number of Pilgrims are taking free on-line lessons.
- In February, we hosted a showing of "Undocumented," an intensely moving documentary about immigrants and refugees moving through Mexico with the aim of reaching in the U.S. About 25 people attended, including some from the larger community.
- As a result of outreach to San Lucas UCC, in late April we organized a food and clothing drive to support homeless immigrants and refugees in Pilsen. We delivered four carloads of food, water, clothing and bedding, as well as around \$200 to a group that had been living under a bridge.
- During April and May, we have been working with Pastor Colin to prepare for Refugee and Immigrant Sunday on June 14. We have lined up special music, a mission moment featuring Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants, and other opportunities to reflect on how Pilgrim can engage more fully with and on behalf of refugees and immigrants.
- During the June 16 service, we will be launching an all-church book read for the summer. Our featured books is [Dear America: Notes from an Undocumented Citizen](#) by Jose Antonio Vargas. Hard copies of this engaging, easy read are available from Sally Olson at sarahlolson208@gmail.com and the Oak Park Library has ebook copies, as well. The Be Bold! Group will convene a discussion of the book in the early fall.

