



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of ELGIN

240 Standish St. Elgin, IL 60123

847-742-6365 ~ www.fpce.org

At First Presbyterian Church, we believe that God calls us to welcome the stranger, love our neighbors, and seek justice for all people. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and guided by the policies of the Presbyterian Church (USA), we stand with immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers as they journey toward safety, stability, and hope.

The Bible reminds us:

- *"You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."* – Deuteronomy 10:19
- *"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."* – Matthew 25:35

As a Matthew 25 congregation, we commit to living out Christ's call by:

- Welcoming immigrants into our faith community with open arms and hearts.
- Advocating for just and compassionate immigration policies that honor the dignity of all people.
- Supporting immigrant families with tangible resources, legal aid connections, and pastoral care.
- Building Relationships that foster mutual understanding, cultural appreciation, and shared faith.

The PC(USA) affirms that all people, regardless of nationality or status, bear the image of God. Our denomination has long advocated for humane immigration policies, recognizing that migration is often a matter of survival. We stand with those seeking refuge and commit to being a place of sanctuary, love, and justice.

First Pres – Elgin stands as a place of sanctuary and justice. We will not permit ICE, Homeland Security, or bounty hunters to enter our sacred space without a judicial warrant signed by a duly elected judge within the past 30 days. We also remind our community of their rights:

- You have the right to remain silent.
- You do not have to open your door without a judicial warrant.
- You have the right to speak to an attorney.

We invite you to join us in this mission—whether through prayer, service, or advocacy—as we seek to be the hands and feet of Christ in our world today.

Should you have any questions or need further information, please don't hesitate to contact me at pastor@fpce.org or 847-742-6365.

Sincerely,
Rev. Thea Kornelius