

# FAITHFUL RESISTANCE

---

A PUBLIC WITNESS  
FOR IMMIGRANT JUSTICE

**February 25, 2026**  
**Washington, D.C.**



**An Opening Worship and Call for Brave Witness  
to People of Faith**

Capitol Hill United Methodist Church  
Ebenezer United Methodist Church  
Taskforce on Immigration of the United Methodist Church and Allies



# Gathering

*Instrumental or vocal music that reflects the diversity of the community – several different songs that invite people to come together.*

Welcome and Purpose – **Rev. Stephanie Vader – Capitol Hill UMC**

**Bishop Minerva Carcaño – Chair, United Methodist Immigration Task Force**

Liturgist Leadership:

**Rev. Dr. Giovanni Arroyo, General Secretary  
The Commission on Religion and Race  
The United Methodist Church**

Beloved community, we gather today as people of faith and conscience, united by a shared commitment to justice, dignity, and compassion.

We come to lift our voices for immigrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and all who are impacted by unjust systems.

We gather to affirm the sacred worth of every person and to call for due process, fairness, and humane treatment for all.

We gather because our communities across this nation have been occupied by military presence and violent enforcement.

We gather because our neighbors have been profiled and targeted

We gather because our children live in fear and our schools have become targets

We gather because our cities are overwhelmed with violent retribution of an administration that penalizes them for daring to declare themselves a sanctuary.

We gather because faithful witnesses and those who follow a call to protest and protect the most vulnerable are being brutalized and even killed.

We gather because we must. We gather because our shared humanity compels us to.

May the God, Our Creator grant us wisdom and courage for the living of these days.

**We gather in the name of Love!**

---

**Invocation – CONAM (Committee on Native American Ministries of Northeast UMC)**

**Gathering Song:**

***God of Grace and God of Glory (Hallelujah! God is With Us).***

***Fosdick/Muñoz***

*God of grace and God of glory*

*On your people, pour your power*

*Crown thy ancient church's story*

*Bring her bud to glorious flower*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage*

*For the facing of the this hour (2x)*

***Hallelujah! God is with us!***

***Hallelujah! We are not alone***

***With God's spirit we are strong and  
courageous***

***God of grace and glory we are yours***

*Lo! the host of evil round us  
Scorn thy Christ, assail His ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us,  
Free our hearts to work and praise  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
For the living of these days (2x)*

*Save us from weak resignation  
To the evils we deplore  
Let the gift of thy salvation  
Be our glory evermore  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
Serving thee whom we adore (2x)*

## Confession and Lament

### **A Prayer of Lament for Complicity, Silence, and the Dead: The Naming**

**Bishop Connie Mitchell Shelton – North Carolina Conference UMC  
Bishop Cynthia Moore Koikoi – Eastern Penn/Greater NJ Conference UMC**

Holy and Merciful God,  
God of the oppressed and the forgotten,  
we come before you with heavy hearts  
and trembling spirits.

We lament the lives lost  
while under the power of the state,  
the names spoken too softly,  
the deaths explained away,  
the stories buried beneath bureaucracy and fear.

We cry out for those who died  
in detention cells,  
on concrete floors,  
behind locked doors,  
far from family,  
far from safety,  
far from justice.

(Here we begin to name those names and after every name the congregation responds:  
**God, have mercy.**)

We confess our complicity.  
We confess our silence.

We confess the ways we have looked away  
when systems crushed your beloved ones.  
We confess the comfort that kept us quiet,  
the fear that kept us passive,  
the privilege that kept us protected.

Forgive us, O God.

Forgive us for the times  
we trusted order over compassion,  
policy over people,  
power over love.  
Forgive us for failing to speak  
when your children were treated as disposable.

We lament a system that wounds in your name,  
that claims security while sowing terror,  
that enforces borders with violence  
and calls it justice.

Sung Response:

Everyone, oh everyone, oh every one of these people are ours  
Just as we are theirs.  
We belong to them, and they belong to us.

How long will families be separated?  
How long will racialized bodies be targeted?  
How long will death come  
where refuge should have been found?

We place before you the lives lost—  
known and unknown,  
documented and undocumented,  
those whose last breaths were taken  
while the world kept moving.

Receive them into your eternal care.  
Hold them where no cage exists,  
where no uniform instills fear,  
where every tear is wiped away.

And God, do not let our lament end in words alone.  
Break our hearts open

until repentance becomes action,  
until mourning becomes resistance,  
until silence gives way to courage.

We offer this lament  
in grief, in repentance, and in hope,  
trusting that you hear the cries of your people  
and that death will not have the final word.

Trusting that Hope, Peace, Joy and Love will not fail.

**Amen.**

## The Proclamation

2 Timothy 1: 3-7 NRSVUE

**Ms. Sandy Ovalle, Board Member  
Latino Christian National Network**

Preparation Music – Let Your Love Shine

(Mark Miller)

---

**Words of Courage and Power**

**Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling  
Baltimore Washington and Peninsula Delaware Conferences  
The United Methodist Church**

---

## Our Response

**Silent Reflection**

**Call to Collective Action**

- **State Violence, Use of Force**  
Rev. Julio Hernandez  
Congregational Action Network
- **Racialized Harm, Racial Profiling and White Supremacy**  
Rev. Dr. Myrtle Bowen, Presiding Elder Emeritus –  
Philadelphia & Baltimore Annual Conference  
Mid Atlantic Episcopal District A.M.E. Zion Church
- **Asylum, Due Process and Human Rights**  
Rev. Stephanie Vader, Senior Pastor  
Capitol Hill United Methodist Church

Baltimore Washington Conference

- **Institutional failures, Lack of accountability that leads to death of immigrants.**

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie

General Secretary/President of the National Council of Churches

- **Family and Community Destruction – Family Detention**

Bishop Hector Burgos Nuñez

Upper New York and Susquehanna Conferences of the United Methodist Church

- **Democratic and Moral Framework**

Rev. Bích Thy (Betty) Nguyễn

Superintendent of Advocacy and Community Engagement

Pastor of Justice and Community Impact, Broomfield UMC

After each call to action:

**Leader:**

In the name of Love,

**People:**

This is our cry and our prayer.

---

## **An Interfaith Affirmation of Faith for Immigrant Rights**

**Bishop Sue Harpert Johnson**  
**Virginia Annual Conference UMC**

**Bishop Tom Berlin**  
**Florida Annual Conference UMC**

We gather as people of many faiths and sacred traditions—  
Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Indigenous, and others—  
united by a shared conviction:  
that every human being carries inherent dignity.

We affirm that the Holy—known by many names and beyond all names—  
creates humanity as one family.  
No border, wall, or law can erase the sacred worth bestowed upon each life.

We remember that our sacred stories are stories of migration:  
of Abraham and Sarah journeying toward promise,  
of the Exodus from bondage into freedom,  
of the Prophet Muhammad's Hijra in search of safety,

Of Jesus, a child carried across borders for safety,  
a brown-skinned teacher with no place to lay his head, who said,  
"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Of seekers crossing rivers and deserts in pursuit of refuge,  
of ancestors who traveled unwillingly and yet carried spirit within them.  
Our traditions teach that to welcome the stranger is to welcome the Divine.

We believe that the spirit to seek life and freedom moves in every language,  
and speaks in every accent, reminding us that we all have:

The right to safety.

The right to family unity.

The right to meaningful work.

The right to seek refuge from violence and despair.

The right to live without fear.

We affirm that every human being  
is made in the image of God.

Not in the image of a passport.

Not in the image of a visa.

Not in the image of a wall.

We reject the lie that some lives are illegal.

We reject policies rooted in fear, racism, and exploitation.

We reject systems that profit from detention, separation, and despair.

We proclaim that immigrant rights are human rights.

That families belong together.

That children deserve safety.

That workers deserve dignity.

That asylum seekers deserve protection.

That every community deserves to flourish without fear.

ALL:

**Therefore, we commit ourselves to welcome the stranger,**

**to accompany the vulnerable,**

**to advocate for just laws,**

**and to stand in sacred solidarity**

**until justice rolls down like waters**

**and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

## Sending Forth to Action

**Song of Sending Forth**

**Marching in the Light of God**

We are marching in the light of God (4x)

We are marching, we are marching, Oh

We are marching in the light of God  
Caminamos en la luz de Dios (4x)  
Caminamos, vamos caminando, oh  
Caminamos en la luz de Dios

**Benediction –**

**Bishop Lanette Plambeck  
Dakotas – Minnesota Conference Area UMC**

**Leader:**

Go forth in peace, grounded in love,  
bold in truth, and ready to act.

**People:**

**We go to seek justice and walk together.**

---

Grateful to all who participated today!

Faithful Resistance Worship Team:

Rev. Dr. Lydia E. Muñoz, Worship Design & Liturgy  
El Plan for Hispanic/Latine Ministry UMC

Dr. Julian Wamble, Vocals, Maryland, Baltimore-Washington Conference

Calvin Sellers, Bass, New Haven Connecticut

Marcus Johnson, Drums, New Haven Connecticut

John Fluker, Piano, Los Angeles California

YoungKwan Jun, Keyboard, New Jersey Annual Conference

Rev. Sooah Na, Vocals, New Jersey Annual Conference

Rev. Lan Davis Wilson, Vocals, Virginia Annual Conference

Many thanks to the leadership of Capital Hill UMC and Ebenezer UMC for their hospitality.

Thank you to United Methodist Communications and The Baltimore Washington  
Conference for their technical support.

## **Migrant Ministries at Capitol Hill United Methodist Church**

The migrant ministries of CHUMC are a partnership with the Mutual Aid Immigrant Solidarity Network (MSMA), dozens of other faith communities, neighbors and various immigrant organizations. CHUMC started our migrant ministries in 2022 when we opened our building in 2022 to migrants being bused to DC from Texas and Arizona.

We have provided services to over 10,000 migrants to date. The services we provide include a welcoming place of respite, food, clothing, shoes, hygiene items and basic medicine. From January – June of 2023 we were the official city of DC Migrant Welcome Center and we hosted over 5,000 migrants in our building during those six months.

We remain the home of the Free Immigrant Tienda (Free Store) which provides items to migrants. We provide clothing, shoes, hygiene items, basic medicine and friendship to an average of 75 migrants every week. In 2026 because of the growing challenges facing migrants in DC from ICE, MSMA and CHUMC started packing and delivering grocery bags from the CHUMC Fellowship Hall to between 50-70 migrant families each week.

Your giving today will make a difference in our ability to continue providing services to our beloved migrant neighbors. Thank you.

**Below is the QR code for giving to Capitol Hill UMC Migrant Ministries. Please make sure you select migrant ministries from the drop-down menu.**

