

# **MIGRATION FILM SERIES: SEARCHING FOR REFUGE ACROSS CLOSED BORDERS**

**Plymouth Congregational UCC Church, Fireside Room,  
916 W. Prospect Rd. Fort Collins, CO  
Every Other Sunday, April and May, 4- 5:45 PM**

**The Immigration Ministry Team of Plymouth Congregational UCC Church is sponsoring a documentary film series on international migration. The format for each session will be to see the film followed by a discussion of the ideas introduced in the film or films.**

## **Sunday, April 3, 4 pm**

**Topic: Seeking Asylum in the United States**

**Facilitator: Betsy Bedient**

**Video: "Well-Founded Fear" (2000) (120 minutes)**

A documentary by Sharon Robertson and Michael Camini which explores the proceedings behind the U.S. political asylum application process. To be granted asylum, applicants must demonstrate a "well-founded fear" **that their lives would be endangered were they to be deported.** The film views the applicants telling their stories and the asylum officers struggling to determine their credibility.

## **Sunday, April 17, 4 pm**

**Topic: Crossing the Southern Border**

**Facilitator, Arpi Miller**

**Video: "La Bestia" (2011) (77 minutes)**

This film by Pedro Ultras chronicles the perilous journey of Central American migrants through Mexico to the US border, riding on the tops of freight trains called "The Beast." Who are they? Why are they willing to risk their lives and endure countless hardships on 'the train of death?' What happens to them? Their heartbreaking stories expose the tragic reality of people courageously fleeing their home countries in search of a better life.

## **Sunday, May 1, 4 pm**

**Topic: Immigration Detention in the United States:**

**Facilitators: Arpi Miller and Sarah Jackson from Casa La Paz**

**Video: "The Least of These" (2008) (62 minutes)**

Each year, our immigration detention system locks up hundreds of thousands of immigrants, exposing the detainees to inhumane conditions of confinement at a huge cost to American taxpayers. This week we will hear from guest speaker Sarah Jackson about Casa La Paz, the detention hospitality program she started in Colorado for former detainees and family members of those immigrants currently held in the Aurora, Colorado, detention center. We will also screen the film "The Least of These," an hour-long documentary that focuses on one of the most controversial aspects of our current immigration system -- family detention. The film takes viewers on a virtual journey as immigration lawyers and immigrant advocates attempt to shut down the Don Hutto detention center in Texas which housed women and children, many of whom were fleeing to the U.S. to seek asylum.

## **Sunday, May 15, 4 pm**

**Topic: Middle East Migrants and Refugees**

**Facilitator: Alan McLarty**

**Videos: "We Walk Together" (2015) (17 minutes)**

**"Ground Zero Syria: Za'atari Refugee Camp (2015) (12 minutes)**

**"Without a Home" (2015) (50 minutes)**

There three films show the human side of the refugee and migrant crisis. "We Walk Together: A Syrian Family to the Heart of Europe" follows a Syrian family and others walking to Europe. "Ground Zero Syria: Za'atari Refugee Camp" shows conditions in the UNHCR's Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan, near the Syrian border. "Without a Home" looks at organizations delivering aid to refugees in Europe.