Dear friends,

ICE has come to NC. Masked, bearing guns, and clad in military garb, they are tracking down men and women, breaking windows, chasing, tackling, zip-tying hands and carting people off in big, black vehicles. In Charlotte over the weekend, ICE arrested over 180 people. Now, we have learned they are in Wake County and have been spotted in Durham, Garner, and Wilson. Parents are keeping their kids home from school (the director of the First Presbyterian Day School, Michele Miller-Cox told me that several families kept their kids home today), businesses are closed, people are afraid.

These are our neighbors. They are our friends. They are God's people. They are being targeted because of the color of their skin. They are not hardened criminals. This is not democracy. This goes against everything Jesus stood for. You know that. We know that. Here are some things we can do to make a difference:

Here are five tangible things that you CAN do this week.

1. **Care for our kids.** Durham volunteers are building a school-based community response network to demonstrate solidarity and to care for our students and their families. **Sign up HERE to join a school-based team for drop off this Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.**
2. **Show up.** Respond to Siembra's invitation for showing up for Wake County or Durham: **https://defendandrecruit.org/raleigh/**
3. **Get trained.** Attend a training at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh tonight led by Read the Ground, a group that trains schools, churches, businesses, etc., how to respond to ICE. 6 - 8 p.m., 1801 Hillsborough Road, Raleigh.
4. **Fuel the fight.** Make a donation to the **Carolina Migrant Network** and the **Immigration Solidarity Fund at Church World Service** who are on the front lines of rapid response and long-term organizing to support our neighbors.
5. **Support services**. The stress on immigrant families and those who love them cannot be overstated. Please also consider giving to two Durham organizations providing essential health and community care: **El Futuro** and **El Centro Hispano**.
6. **Feed Durham.** Join the many FPC members and friends who help feed hundreds of Durham families weekly at Emanuel Food Pantry, our county's largest food provider. Sign up to volunteer **HERE**. Donate here emanuelfoodpantry.org.

7. **Pray**. This is what we do as people of faith. We join our action with prayers and our prayers with action.

These things will not change the world instantly, but they will absolutely help our neighbors and put us in community with others who seek to care for those in deepest need.

<u>"First They Came" by Pastor Martin Niemöller</u>

First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me

On Sunday, we heard Paul's words to the Thessalonians, and they are also words for us today: "Do not grow weary in doing what is right." Let us continue to speak out and bear the gospel of peace, hope, and love to the world through our actions.

May God be with us all.

Mindy