

Rev. Randy Mayer in Madison to Talk about Humanitarian Aid at the Border

Want to learn more about what communities and migrants are experiencing “on the border” and about how we can join others in fighting for more humane immigration justice? Come to hear Rev. Randy Mayer, pastor of The Good Shepherd UCC in Sahuarita, AZ, who will be in Madison on November 3-4 for two events. On Saturday November 3rd 3:00-4:30 pm, Rev. Mayer will present “Help at the Border” at Plymouth Congregational UCC (2401 Atwood Avenue, Madison), speaking on the real impact of our broken immigration system on border communities, and the work of church groups like The Green Valley/Sahuarita Samaritans as they provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to migrants in distress in the desert as well as court accompaniment for those detained. Come to be inspired to work in our community so that all can feel welcome. A free will offering will be gladly accepted at this event for the work of the Green Valley/Sahuarita Samaritans.

Rev. Mayer will be preaching on Sunday November 4th at 10:00 am at Lake Edge UCC (4200 Buckeye Road, Madison) at a joint worship service of Lake Edge UCC and Plymouth UCC. He will be preaching on the Church at the border, and how our faith calls us to help our immigrant neighbors. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Green Valley, Arizona, where Rev. Mayer and his congregation are located, is just 40 miles from the border. Migrants, escaping violence, high unemployment, and poverty in Mexico and Central America, cross the border, mostly by foot and ill-equipped, through the harsh desert, desperate to find work and new lives. Since 2005, Rev. Mayer’s congregation, through the efforts of their group known as the Green Valley/Sahuarita Samaritans, have offered humanitarian aid to migrants in distress, in part through desert water drops, desert searches for those needing assistance, and help for those deported across the border to Nogales, often having all their personal belongings taken from them before being sent back. As the Samaritan group notes, “Powered by hope, generally uninformed, they walk toward great hardship and often death. We are your friends and neighbors. We believe that providing aid to another human being in distress is a fundamental human value, and that there should be no more deaths in our desert. We look forward to the day when our assistance is not needed.”

More information on these events can be found at www.pcucc.org, or at www.facebook.com/PCUCC.Madison.WI/