ITINERARY

4TH ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO THE SOUTHERN BORDER

During our eight-day pilgrimage, we will learn about the history and culture of the Southwest border region while confronting the humanitarian tragedies of immigration. We'll eat great food, cross the border, and encounter endless acts of compassion. As we gather stories to share when we return home, we will discover how this experience has reshaped us in powerful ways.

Below is a schedule for our time:

TUESDAY, 1/12/27:

- Fly from city of origin (CLE, CMH, CVG, DTW) to Tucson.
- Gather, pick up rental vans and groceries, then make our way to our Airbnbs (three houses within .4 miles of one another). Settle into homes

WEDNESDAY, 1/13/27

Travel with Randy Mayer, pastor of Good Shepherd UCC in Sahuarita, Arizona, to visit La Casa de la Misericordia, a migrant shelter in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico

THURSDAY, 1/14/27

Our three-day Common Ground on the Border (CGOB) experience begins with a field trip. You can choose from nine trips that include:

- accompanying Samaritans as they deliver food and water along migrant trails
- participating in an authentic culinary adventure in a picturesque desert setting while enjoying traditional family recipes and hearing stories of cultural tradition as well as community resilience and spirit.
- joining the Pima County Medical Examiner to learn methods for investigating and identifying migrant remains

FRIDAY, 1/15/27

CGOB continues, offering the history of the Arizona-Sonora Borderlands, a presentation by ABC News veteran John Quinones, classes and workshops, then ends with an evening of Native American music

SATURDAY, 1/16/27

Our CGOB time concludes with more classes and workshops, a chance to meet with humanitarian groups at a Border Fair and a presentation by a desert environmentalist working to stop construction of the border wall. The event will end with music by a trio who will perform classical Latin American music

SUNDAY, 1/17/27

Those who choose the short trip will depart for the airport immediately following worship at Southside Presbyterian Church

Those who remain will spend time with a church staff member who will share stories of their incredible work with the migrant community

- Following brunch, you may choose to spend a restful afternoon at the Airbnb or visit the Tucson Museum of Art featuring Latin American and Native American artists

MONDAY, 1/18/27

We'll spend the day at the immersive Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum that includes botanical gardens, a zoo, an aquarium, and exhibits featuring diverse desert habitats

TUESDAY, 1/19/27

Our final full day will be spent with Frontera de Cristo in Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Prieta, Mexico. We will spend time at the coffee cooperative, Café Justo, have lunch at a migrant shelter, visit a drug rehab center, and share dinner with a retired border agent. The day will highlight our participation in the powerful Healing Our Borders prayer vigil.

WEDNESDAY, 1/20/27

Our final full day will be spent with Frontera de Cristo in Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Prieta, Mexico. We will spend time at the coffee cooperative, Café Justo, have lunch at a migrant shelter, visit a drug rehab center, and share dinner with a retired border agent. The day will highlight our participation in the powerful Healing Our Borders prayer vigil.

READY TO COMMIT? REGISTER

Sponsored by the Global Ministries/MIRA Network of the Heartland Conference UCC