

# 2023 USAME Purpose

## Listen and learn

- Hear the stories of Native Americans in the region
- Understand the challenges for migrants and those who help them
- Experience life in the border region

## Build relationships

- Prayer and reflection with PWs from across the country
- Worship
- Visit mission partners

## Faithfully serve

- Share stories
- Advocate
- Connect with organizations working on the border

To Walk in Another's Shoes...Without Judgement...  
Seeing their Experience through "Jesus Eyes"

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## Reading Recommendations:

### **Infinite Country: A Novel by Patricia Engel**

Touches on separated families, discrimination, immigration raids, impact on children.

### **The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez: A Border Story by Aaron Bobrow-Strain**

Biography of a woman born in Agua Prieta, Mexico, and raised in Douglas, AZ.

### **Solito – a Memoir by Javier Zamora.**

Memoir of young man who came to the United States unaccompanied from El Salvador.

### **The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong by Karen Gonzalez**

Story of a family's migration from Guatemala to the U.S. with stories of refugees in Scripture.

*A new opportunity is available to support the Frontera de Cristo Children's Enrichment Ministry through the DPPC Amazon Wish List.*

Improving education for children and helping families stay in their own country, which most want to, is something we can all support. Dodie Weiland, as part of the PW USA Mission Experience recently visited our Missionary Partner, Mark Adams, Coordinator of Frontera de Cristo in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico and discovered a real need for educational, recreational, and food supplies at the Children's Enrichment Ministry centers.

<https://www.desertpalmschurch.org/missions>

## 2023 USAME Mission Partners

### **Selena Keesecker**

Make checks to: Guadalupe Presbyterian Church  
(for Detention Ministry or Revolving Bond Fund)  
513 W Latina Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85041

For more information call Selena  
(773) 726-4235

[Selena.keesecker@yahoo.com](mailto:Selena.keesecker@yahoo.com)

### **Rekha Nair – Immigration Attorney**

PLAN, P.O. Box 33364, Phoenix, AZ 85067  
(602) 341-3457

[Rekha@planphx.org](mailto:Rekha@planphx.org)

[www.planphx.org](http://www.planphx.org)

### **Mimi Phillips**

Centro de Esperanza, Sonoyta, MX  
([www.sheltersforhope.com](http://www.sheltersforhope.com))

420 La Mina Ave, Ajo, AZ 85321  
(520) 993-0420

[MimiP2@gmail.com](mailto:MimiP2@gmail.com)

### **Lutheran Social Services**

([www.LSS-SW.org](http://www.LSS-SW.org))

Refugee Resettlement

Braden Biggs, Community Engagement

Coordinator (Braden is the central communication  
person for them all)

(480)396-3795 x1122

2502 E University #125, Phoenix, AZ 85034

Very active in Migrant & Asylee work. Small church struggling to do a big project in the Revolving Bond Fund that provides financial support to migrants and asylees unable to afford bonds to be freed from detention without support. The Detention Ministry project visits detainees, provides emotional, spiritual and physical support in various ways.

Phoenix Legal Action Network (PLAN) advances the rights of Arizona Immigrants through legal support, community building and workings toward changing the immigration narrative through storytelling and truth. They provide resources and information so everyone can be their own advocates as well.

Great example of newer Refugee Resource Center located in Sonoyta, Sonora, MX, US church volunteers have realized a dream to renovate an old motel to serve as a temporary home to migrants awaiting hearings in the US. Key projects include providing access to the CBP One mobile app for appointments, building a children's library, and fundraising through craft projects immigrants create while waiting. Receive hand painted dove for each \$25 donation

Lutheran Social Services is active all over the nation, but we heard from the SW division specifically about their Refugee and Immigration Services. While LSS does much more that helps the elderly, families, and people in need, this division provides case management, housing, transportation, employment support and education for refugees legally admitted to the US but in need of settlement assistance.

**University Presbyterian Church**

**Volunteers:**

**Holly Herman**

Refugee Coordinator

139 E Alameda, Tempe, AZ 85282

(480)570-0450

**Volunteer: Catherine May**

Chair: Mission, Social Justice, and Peacemaking committee

Frontera de Cristo interim coordinator

139 E Alameda, Tempe, AZ 85282

(602)363-4119

**Toward Right Relationship w/Native Peoples**

[Friendspeaceteams.org/trr](http://Friendspeaceteams.org/trr)

1001 Park Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63104-3720

Joan Fenton – ([rjfenton5@gmail.com](mailto:rjfenton5@gmail.com)) is the Presenter for the SW.

**Central Presbyterian Church**

Rev. Martha Sadongei

37 East Indian School Road

Phoenix, AZ 85012

[mdsadongei@aol.com](mailto:mdsadongei@aol.com)

**Gina Enos –**

University Presbyterian Church here in Phoenix is a great example of what a church can do when they focus their attention and resources.

Holly explained how UPC transformed their campus to house a refugee family, solicits donations to meet their needs, and prepares and distributes hygiene kits for Migrant Resource Centers. We donated materials and assembled about 400 kits during USAME.

Catherine helped prepare USAME participants for what to expect in our visit to Frontera de Cristo as she and her husband served there in 2023. She is an excellent resource for ideas on how churches can support Mark Adams and Frontera de Cristo, which DPPC also supports.

Roots of Injustice – Seeds of Change is available as an impactful 2-hour seminar to churches in our Synod. This is a rare opportunity to learn facts about our past and put yourself in the shoes of one impactful Native American experience. The recommended donation is \$400 where funds go to this program for advancing a Right Relationship with our Native Peoples.

Important Native American pastor who graciously invited USAMR to meet, worship and break bread with their congregation. They are a bright light of hope serving a mostly Native American congregation in a needy community in Phoenix.

Gina provided all the food for our Flat Bread Taco lunch. Gina is the PWP and PW Synod Native American Representative.

Casa Alitas (visited at 1150 W Drexel Rd  
Tucson, AZ 85706)

[www.casaalitas.org](http://www.casaalitas.org)

Donate button sends you to Catholic Community Services website where **you must specify “Casa Alitas Program” CCS Development Dept., 140 W. Speedway, Ste 230, Tucson, AZ 85705**

### **Southside Presbyterian Church**

Rev. Alison Harrington

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 27640

Tucson, AZ 85726-7640

No online donations except to Southside Worker Center.

Frontera de Cristo

Mark Adams & Miriam Maldonado Escobar

PC (USA) Mission Co-workers since 1998

P.O Box 1112

Douglas, AZ and Aqua Prieta, MX

[www.fronterodecristo.org](http://www.fronterodecristo.org)

[www.desertpalmschurch.org/missions](http://www.desertpalmschurch.org/missions)

Migrant Welcome Center that offers shelter, necessities and travel assistance to asylum seeking families. Volumes can vary greatly depending on how many migrants come in to the center daily.

“A community of faith, hope, love and witness to the borderlands. When a church is being its most faithful to scripture it is always standing on the side of the oppressed and the persecuted.”

Beginning of the sanctuary movement

[www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org](http://www.sanctuarynotdeportation.org)

Frontera de Cristo is an established World Mission Partner for Presbyterian Churches. Donations to your church Missions accounts can be designated for their organization or specific projects such as Just Coffee, the Children’s Enrichment Ministry, the Migrant Resource Center or other mission partners found on their website. The Desert Palms Presbyterian Church Missions page also features an “Amazon Wish List” link for meeting the needs of children in the Aqua Prieta area (Children’s Enrichment Ministry, a 2021 PW Birthday Offering recipient).

## To Walk Far, Walk Together

By Charlotte Johnstone

And shall we here at Forbearance, as Christians, constrict our faith to small causes? To our so-called peace of mind, our comfort, our safety, our sometimes too-easy answers for complex questions? God calls us to grow beyond our personal borders, to indulge ourselves in larger pursuits. Our faith cannot be so little or defensive, for Jesus does not ask us to be a small people, but to be a people who strive with courage and wisdom to be the voices of healing in a time of great change and enormous need.

Charlotte Johnstone is a member of Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She wrote many “Dispatches from Forbearance Presbyterian Church” for Horizons, the magazine for Presbyterian Women.