



WALKtheTALK

SGFMC Action for Justice News

This is a limited compilation of **CURRENT** opportunities for action. **Additional suggestions are welcomed at:** marynpaul@comcast.net We will make every effort to share them as quickly as possible.

"Thus says the Lord GOD: Cry out full-throated and unsparingly, lift up your voice like a trumpet blast." -Isaiah 58: 1

Week of January 25, 2026

PEACEMAKERS:

- **Monthly Prayer Vigil to End Gun Violence – **Saturday, January 31st, following the 5PM Mass – in the North transept of ST. EDMUND CHURCH, 188 S. Oak Park ****
- ** Monthly TAIZE Prayers for Peace – **Friday, Feb. 6th -7:30PM at Ascension Church, 808 S. East Ave****



Oppose the Federal Concealed Carry Mandate (H.R. 38 and S.65)

"States have long had the power to decide who is too dangerous to carry a concealed weapon in public and where concealed firearms cannot be carried..."

*H.R. 38 and S. 65 would create a federal mandate that would **override our state gun laws** by forcing every state to recognize every other state's concealed carry standards—including those with weak or no standards at all. This legislation would **make it easier for people with dangerous histories—like those convicted of violent crimes, domestic abusers, and stalkers—to carry a concealed and loaded gun in public in states that wouldn't otherwise let them."***

https://act.everytown.org/sign/CCM-25?akid=317176.5417268.50RFMg&rd=1&refcode=emne_

**JAN
25** - 282 DAYS UNTIL THE MID-TERM ELECTIONS

 **STAND WITH MINNESOTA**

Mutual Aid & Material Purchasing
Crowdfunding Campaigns
Organizations

<https://www.standwithminnesota.com/>

TAKE ACTION: (NOTE: **Although the House passed a DHS appropriations bill on January 22, 2026, to fund agencies through Sept. 30, **it must pass the Senate to avoid a partial government shutdown before the January 30 deadline. **The Senate will vote on the DHS appropriations bill next week -- and it cannot pass without Democratic votes.****)**



Contact: Your two senators DURBIN & DUCKWORTH

Script: "Hello, I'm _____ from [ZIP], and I object to Congress using taxpayer dollars to fund violence, discrimination, and unconstitutional actions. I urge you to take immediate action..."

- **Conduct a full investigation into ICE's use of force and civil rights violations**
- **Block any funding for ICE until accountability and oversight are enforced**
- **Honor current refugees' documentation and provide a path to residency**
- **Support legislation, including the Bivens Act (H.R. 6091/S. 3187), that would allow people to hold federal agents accountable in court.**



Advocate for refugees seeking permanent residency

Refugees admitted to the U.S. undergo rigorous background checks. However, the administration ordered the review and potential re-interview of refugees already admitted under the previous administration. The administration's Operation PARRIS continues to arrest and detain resettled refugees in Minnesota at an unprecedented and escalating rate. These re-vetting efforts subject refugee communities to trauma, uncertainty, and fear of forced return to the very situations they waited years to escape.

Sign Global Refuge's letter urging Congress to keep refugee status intact and ensure refugees can reach permanency here: <https://globalrefugee.quorum.us/campaign/uscismemo/>

the Neighborhood



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are recruiting volunteers to serve as Advocates - trained companions who walk alongside families as they navigate services and pursue their goals. This unique role provides meaningful one-on-one support and connection. To learn more, we invite you to attend our **next Bridge Breakfast on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 8:30 AM in the Tutoring Center at Maguire Hall.** <https://theneighborhoodbridge.org/volunteer>

FOOD. CLOTHING, SHELTER:



COMMUNITY FRIDGE PROJECT - LOCATIONS:

Boulevard Presbyterian Church 607 Harvard; Oak Park

Edwin Gale House, 124 N. Kenilworth, Oak Park

Grace Episcopal (located in the back of the Grace parking lot on the West side of the building.)

A House in Austin; 533 N Pine Avenue, Chicago

Food donations are always welcome – NO open packages, NO fresh meat (no lettuce, salad greens, or tender veggies when temps are below freezing – THANKS!)

OR - monetary gifts can be sent to [this link](#). Please denote Community Fridge Project on the memo line! <https://www.communityofcongregations.org/give/>



FOREST PARK COMMUNITY FRIDGE - 7640 Jackson Blvd (Howard Mohr Community Center) <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=779820051658017&set=pcb.779820098324679>

-Please no open or expired items

-Make sure home packed items are dated and list any allergens

-Please separate larger donations into smaller containers for cleanliness and ease of distribution

-Please avoid glass containers

MORE INFO?? fpfridge@gmail.com MONETARY DONATIONS: <https://gofund.me/ae01524c>



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY! First MONDAY of Every Month Join the women of Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles to help provide a ***continental breakfast*** for our clients on the **first**

Monday of each month. (This is a great service opportunity for teens and families and can be shared between households.)

* Choice of muffins, doughnuts, instant oatmeal, or cereal for **40 people**, plus fruit (no apples, please)

* 2 Gallons of milk, and juice or bottled water for **40 people**

Sign up for the monthly dates online SignUpGenius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944AAAE2EA2FA7-58142351-stgiles#/> (Next open opportunity to volunteer is available in **April, 2026**)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- **Dinner Providers** - Prepare hot dinner meal for 40 to be dropped off by 7:00 PM. Dinner providers can also volunteer for evening hosting if they want to stay and serve.
- **Breakfast Providers** - Donate breakfast supplies for 40 (cereal, fruit, juice, yogurt, etc.).
- **Lunch Providers** - Donate bagged lunches for 40 (sandwiches, chips, fruit, cookies, etc.) for guests to take with them when leaving the shelter the next day.
- **Evening Hosting** - 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM (shift can be split) - Interact with guests, set up, and clean up.
- **Morning Hosting** - 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM - Assist with breakfast and clean-up.

Both **INDIVIDUAL** and **GROUP** volunteers are welcome and much needed.

Volunteers can sign up for one day, a few days, or ideally for an ongoing monthly commitment.

Interested in volunteering or learning more? Contact **Cherrell Jackson** at cjackson@housingforwar or via phone at (708) 338-1724 ext. 201



Centro San Bernardino is OPEN – (St. Bernadine School) 815 Elgin Ave., Forest Park

Volunteers in the “free stores” are offering clothing, coats, boots, and bedding as well as a breakfast space and a children’s playroom. Donations are accepted on Monday mornings from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Saint Bernardine School, 815 Elgin Ave, Forest Park. Please, only seasonal (winter) clothing, boots, coats, and bedding.

To donate online through GiveCentral use the link: <https://www.givecentral.org/customizable-online-giving/444/event/36149>

OR send donations to Saint Catherine-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles Parish, 1025 Columbian, Oak Park, IL 60302. Include a note that the donation is for the “*Migrant Ministry*”.



HUNGER “Volunteers are critical to every aspect of our operation, providing over 2,000 hours of collective time every month...We offer volunteer shifts that run the gamut, including data entry, repacking, serving Pantry guests, and unloading delivery trucks. We hope to provide a volunteer opportunity for everyone, at every ability level.”

COMPLETE THE NEW VOLUNTEER FORM HERE: <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/volunteer>

Drop-Off hours at the Food Pantry: 848 Lake St., Oak Park, IL) 9am-4pm Monday-Tuesday & Thursday-Friday. <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/donatefood>

DONATE HERE: <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/donate>

CREATION CARE:



Protect millions of acres of pristine National Forest habitat.

Postcard to: Secretary Brooke L. Rollins

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1400 Independence Ave., S.W.

Washington, DC 20250

Script: Hello, I’m _____ from [STATE] and concerned for the future of nearly 50 million acres of National Forest currently protected from logging and road building by the Roadless Rule. Rescinding this rule would endanger

cherished recreational areas, threaten [critical drinking water sources](#), increase the [risk of wildfire](#), and endanger [irreplaceable habitat](#) for countless species. I urge you to protect our natural heritage by reversing plans to repeal the Roadless Rule.

Creation Care Corner

Laudate Deum and the Need for Systemic Change

Pope Francis urged the world to take action to reduce the impact of climate change in his Apostolic Exhortation *Laudate Deum*. A key concern of Francis then, which is now shared by Pope Leo XIV, is that climate change is especially harmful to the poor and future generations.

As individuals we can take actions like flying and driving less, eating less meat, adjusting the thermostat, etc... and we should. But Francis noted that much of the problem is systemic. That is to say carbon pollution is baked into existing systems of electricity generation, transportation, agriculture and building construction. So, in addition to taking personal action, we must find ways to engage our government officials and encourage them to address those systemic contributors to the climate issue. We can do this by writing our congressional representatives and senators and by joining or supporting groups that do so.

As Christians we should meditate on the questions: What am I doing for Jesus? What ought I do for Jesus? Consequently, if the discipleship of Jesus Christ includes care for creation and concern for human suffering, including suffering from the results of climate change, we ought to ask: What am I doing to care for creation? What ought I do to care for creation?

VOTE!!

General Primary Election: March 17, 2026

February 5, 2026: First day to vote early or by mail.

February 17, 2026: Last day for regular (paper) voter registration.

February 18, 2026: First day of grace period for in-person voter registration and voting at election authority and early voting sites; continues through Election Day.

March 1, 2026: Last day for online voter registration. Grace period registration is still available at election authority and early voting sites.

March 12, 2026: Last day for election authority to receive vote by mail applications.

March 17, 2026: Primary Election Day! Polls are open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm.

>>TEENS: If you will turn 18 on or before the date of the General Election (Nov. 3, 2026) REGISTER NOW! << Illinois Online Voter Application: <https://ova.elections.il.gov/>

*****FYI*****

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

- New USPS rules may disrupt vote-by-mail processes in the 2026 election, Illinois county clerks warned.
- The rules change the postmarking and transportation processes, potentially disenfranchising voters who follow previous guidelines.
- County clerks recommend that voters mail their ballots **no later than a week before Election Day**.

FULL ARTICLE HERE:

<https://capitolnewsillinois.com/news/recent-postal-service-changes-could-disrupt-mail-in-voting-county-clerks-warn/>

...more...



REGISTER:

https://www.raceconsciousdialogues.org/register?mc_cid=266bfa95ec&mc_eid=a3bbbebe66

UPCOMING ⚡ 6 spots left

Spring 2026 - COMMUNITY - Whiteness & Anti-Racism - Sunday Afternoons (for those who identify as white)

[Register](#)

Sun, Mar 1, 2026, 2:00 PM CST – Sun, Mar 22, 2026, 5:00 PM CDT
 Kinfolk CoLab, 405 S. Euclid Avenue, Oak Park, IL [Map](#)
 [Add to calendar](#) ▾

Dates Breakdown

Sun, Mar 1, 2026, 2:00 – 5:00 PM CST	Session 1: Whiteness & Socialization
Sun, Mar 8, 2026, 2:00 – 5:00 PM CDT	Session 2: Identity, Privilege & Power
Sun, Mar 15, 2026, 2:00 – 5:00 PM CDT	Session 3: Solidarity & Racism Interruption
Sun, Mar 22, 2026, 2:00 – 5:00 PM CDT	Session 4: Systemic Oppression & Moving Forward

Walk the Talk *"Lights in the Darkness"*

Now more than ever, we need to search for, and lift up, those people, businesses, groups, and organizations whose work is a light of **hope** in the darkness. Here's ours for this week – **send yours** to marynpaul@comcast.net



POWDERHORN PARK, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 1/23/26

REMEMBER THEIR NAMES...

The seven Democrats who sided with Republicans in funding DHS/ICE were Reps. [Henry Cuellar](#) (Texas), [Jared Golden](#) (Maine), Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (Wash.), [Laura Gillen](#) (N.Y.), [Don Davis](#) (N.C.), [Tom Suozzi](#) (N.Y.) and [Vicente Gonzalez](#) (Texas).