

The background of the entire page is a photograph showing several hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture. A large, white, multi-petaled rose is visible on the left side. The image is overlaid with semi-transparent circular shapes containing text.

Interfaith Prayer Procession

Monday, August 6, 8:00 a.m.

Starting Spot: Fort Street Presbyterian
Church, 631 W. Fort St., Detroit, MI 48226

Destination: McNamara Federal Building,
477 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48226

“No stranger had to spend
the night in the street,
for my door was
always open to the traveler.”

Join us as we unite with members of
faith groups in the Detroit metropolitan
area as we pray that our government
end certain practices regarding
immigrants that we find contrary to
the teachings of our faith traditions

Prayer Procession Details

July 28, 2018

Monday, August 6, 8:00 a.m.

Starting Spot: Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort St., Detroit, MI 48226

Destination: McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48226

On August 6, 2018, at 8:00 a.m., members of faith groups from throughout the Detroit metropolitan area will participate in a Prayer Procession. The purpose of this procession is to provide an opportunity to pray that our federal government end certain practices that many in our communities find contrary to the teachings of our faith traditions. Specifically, we are asking God to inspire our leaders to: 1. Stop sending children to appear before Immigration Judges without adults or legal representation; and 2. End the practice of incarcerating asylum seekers and others in federal immigration detention who are neither dangers to the community or threats to national security.

Participants will gather at Fort St Presbyterian Church (corner of 3rd and Fort Streets in downtown Detroit). At approximately 8:10 a.m. we will begin walking west on 3rd St. At Michigan Ave. We will turn right and walk an additional block to the McNamara Federal Building at 477 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48226. During the procession, participants will be praying, singing and chanting prayers and songs from their various traditions. At the Federal Building, a representative from each faith tradition will be invited to offer a prayer on behalf of local immigrants and refugees.

Members of Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and Sikh. faith communities and related organizations are expected to attend.

Participants in the Procession will also be invited to sign the following statement, which will be shared with local political leaders, jurists, Detroit's Immigration Judges, and local representatives of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice.

"We are children of a loving God who live in and around the City of Detroit. We have come to this place from many nations and we believe God has guided our steps and blessed us to live in a free and open society where we are allowed to pray and worship without fear. Therefore, we are alarmed when immigrants and refugees in our community must live in fear. Our traditions teach us to pray and ask God to intervene when government practices are at odds with our faith. Our traditions further teach us to raise our voices and witness to our leaders when government practices fall short of our values.

We cannot remain silent when immigrants and refugees are being punished for seeking a better life in the United States. Our traditions tell us to welcome the stranger and offer assistance to persons fleeing danger. While we support efforts to keep our nation safe and secure, we decry separating immigrant children from their families and the mass incarceration of persons seeking to live here. Therefore, we urge our government to 1) take all necessary steps to insure no child ever appear in a U.S. Immigration Court without the representation of an adult family member, guardian or legal representative; and 2) stop the practice of incarcerating asylum seekers and others in federal immigration detention who are neither dangers to the community or threats to national security.

We believe such practices are inconsistent with the teachings of our faith traditions and we call upon our elected leaders, judges, and those whose jobs involve protecting our community to hear our joint witness and protect immigrants, and to enact laws and policies that are consistent with our religious and moral values."

Signed: