

**Progressive Christian Discussions**  
**Mondays, 7-8:30 PM**  
**Fellowship Hall, First Congregational UCC, Menomonie**

**Immigration Reform**

**January 9, 16 & 23**

We begin our New Year with a study of immigration issues. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, we will have an introduction to the topic by way of a guest speaker who will share about his parents' immigration experience and his own life growing up in an immigrant family.

January 16<sup>th</sup> will be a discussion of other examples of immigration, including an excursion into hearing group members' own family histories.

January 23<sup>rd</sup> we will learn about the policy issues and what the opinions are of the UCC, National Council of Churches and other organizations as we ponder our own ideas and where to go from here to work for justice and welcome of immigrants.

Please see the back of this handout for suggestions of resources to read this winter. A starting article will be emailed to those on the email list for Monday nights. Contact Nita at [nitaucc@yahoo.com](mailto:nitaucc@yahoo.com) if you would like to be on this list.

**Book Study: Unexpected News: Reading the Bible with Third World Eyes**

**by Robert McAfee Brown**

**January 30, Feb 6, 13, 20,& 27**

In "Unexpected News," Robert McAfee Brown looks at ten biblical texts through a new lens. Brown's analysis is concerned with how our reading of the Bible is dependent on our experiences and worldview. Brown sets out to understand how "third world Christians," that is, Christians who live in poverty and powerlessness, interpret the Bible. Brown argues that by reading the Bible in new ways, we can learn more about other cultures as well as gain a new understanding of the biblical message.

Tom Richards will facilitate this series, choosing five scriptures for focus--TBA. Books are available in the church library and through the usual sources. Plan ahead to join us for this discussion. All are welcome to join us!

**Christian Realism & Reinhold Niebuhr**

**Why Niebuhr Matters by Charles Lemert (optional)**

**March 5, 12, 19, 26**

"Reinhold Niebuhr, as a theologian and political thinker, has never been more urgently relevant than he is today. Charles Lemert has eloquently located Niebuhr's work in its original setting while highlighting its critical importance to the international moral dilemmas we currently face. This well-crafted book is for anyone interested in the interaction of religion, politics and morality."—Harvey Cox, Harvard University (Harvey Cox). Reading the book is optional. David Cook will lead this series.

## Curious about Immigration Reform?

As Christians, we learn from our ancestors through the Bible about welcoming the stranger and practicing hospitality. Jesus' ministry focused on justice issues of the time—many of which are still prevalent today. We are compelled to learn more about how our individual actions and the policies of our state and nation impact those who immigrate legally and illegally. Immigration is part of our history in Wisconsin and the US, unless we happen to be natives.

If you are interested in gathering with others to learn more and discuss issues, please consider attending any or all of the three Progressive Christian Discussions on Mondays, January 9, 16, & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7-8:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.

There are many ways to add to our understanding of the issues related to immigration in the US. Listed below are a sampling of movies (many available through the public library or netflix), articles, books, and websites to peruse. If you just want to explore a bit or a lot on your own here are some suggested resources.

### **Article and Book**

Popular Science January 2012: Borderworld

Neighbor: Christian Encounters with "Illegal" Immigration by Ben Daniel

### **Movies**

Under the Same Moon

Entre Nos

A Better Life

The Visitor (by Thomas McCarthy)

Sin Nombre

Gran Torino

### **Web sites suggested by Ron Kind's office**

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/domestic/immigration>

<http://americasvoiceonline.org/>

<http://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/>

<http://www.nilc.org/>

<http://immigrationimpact.com/>

### **Websites from the UCC and related links**

<http://www.ucc.org/justice/public-education/immigration-and-public.html>

<http://www.ucc.org/justice/immigration/general-info/info.html>

<http://www.ucc.org/news/ucc-disciples-engage-issues.html>