Dear Friends,

Please join us at 5:30 pm on Monday, January 13 for a Community Potluck with Lucio Perez and members of his family at First Church Amherst. As always, the food will be varied and delicious and of course, all your favorite new and old friends will be there. These monthly community potlucks are very important to our sanctuary work together!

At this gathering Patricia Hynes, Director of the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice, will do a presentation with visuals on climate refugees from Central America to the US/Mexican border: victims of violence, poverty and climate crisis, these refugees from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras undergo hardships and uncertainty as they seek safety in the north. These three countries are located in the Central American Dry Corridor, a region especially vulnerable to climate change, and drought and floods, deforestation and sea level rise are driving poor people from their homes. For more information on Pat’s work see <https://traprock.org/the-pen-is-mightier-than>-the-sword/

After this quite serious presentation Henry Lappen, a professional juggler, will entertain us with his juggling act to lighten the mood.

***FOOD****: Please bring food to share that does not require heating up at church and plan to participate in clean up! Many hands make for light work!*

***DIRECTIONS****: The Potluck will be held in the DINING Room of the First Church on the church’s lower level. First Church Amherst is located at 165 Main St. Please enter from the back parking lot on Spring St. through the door for Not Bread Alone and bring food to the dining room. Park in the lot behind the church or across Spring St. in the Amherst College lot.*

***Thanks so much and we hope to see you on Monday, January 13 at 5:30 pm at First Church Amherst!***

***FOR MORE INFO ABOUT POTLUCK, CONTACT****:*

* -  *Joan Epstein, JCA, Lucio Potluck Committee joanepstein@aol.com or*
* -  *Karen Levine, JCA, Lucio Potluck Committee klevine08@gmail.com*
* -  *Annique Boomsma, JCA, Lucio Potluck Committee, anjeff@caremail.every1.net*
* This evening is hosted by First Church Amherst, the Lucio Potluck Committee, and the Pioneer Valley Workers Center."
* ***PLEASE SHARE THIS EVENT WITH YOUR COMMUNITIES!***

**ADDITIONAL INFO TO SUPPORT LUCIO AND FAMILY**:

***ACCOMPANIMENT****: sign up for a 4 hour daytime shift or a 12 hour overnight shift to accompany Lucio so that he is never alone. A short training is required. For more information on how to sign up for this and for upcoming training dates, contact Lydia Vernon Jones at lvernonjones@gmail.com*

***RIDES****: provide rides for Lucio’s wife and 4 kids to and from their home in Springfield to visit Lucio at First Church Amherst, and for PVWC immigrant members to ICE check-ins and court dates. More Rideshare and Court Accompaniment volunteers are needed! Training required. For more information contact Rick Last at**sisrideshare@protonmail.com*

***UPCOMING TRAININGS:***

***Wednesday, January 22****:*

*Rideshare training 6.30pm-7.45pm*

*Court Accompaniment training 7.30pm-8.45pm*

***Saturday, January 25:***

*Rideshare training 10.30am-11.45am*

*Court accompaniment training 11.30am-12.45pm*

***Trainings will take place in Northampton***

***Pioneer Valley Workers Center***

***20 Hampton Ave. Suite 200.***

***Contact Rick or simply SIGN UP HERE: http://bit.ly/PVWCsolidaritytraining***

***SPANISH CLASSES****with Lucio: sign up at https://pvworkerscenter.org/spanish-classes/, or email pvwcspanishclasses@gmail.com*

***FINANCIAL SUPPORT****:
Donations can be made to support Lucio and his family via the Immigrant Sanctuary Fund:
Donations can be made online at http://tinyurl.com/ImSanctuaryFund.*

*Checks can be made out to “First Church Amherst, UCC” with “Immigrant Sanctuary Fund” in the memo line, and mailed to 165 Main St., Amherst, MA 01002. These donations are tax deductible.*

***Dean’s Beans****special FCC blend coffee will be for sale at $12 at the potluck; proceeds go to First Congregational Church.*

***TO SUPPORT IRIDA****, who is in Sanctuary at the Unitarian Church in Northampton, you can order her* ***pierogies*** *at:*[*http://bit.ly/IridaPierogiesPVWC*](http://bit.ly/IridaPierogiesPVWC) *before the potluck, and your order can be picked up and paid for at the potluck.  Questions??* *please email* *iridajohnson@yahoo.com*