



All Saints' Memorial Church

674 Westminister St., Providence, RI

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

***E-Messenger May 15, 2025***

*Come and worship*

*Rejoice in fellowship*

*Love and serve the Lord!*

*"As Christians, we must be guided not by political vagaries, but by the sure and certain knowledge that the kingdom of God is revealed to us in the struggles of those on the margins. " Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe*



Dear All Saints' Family,

I pass along a letter from Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe on the status of Episcopal

Migration Ministries and below that, a response to Presiding Bishop Rowe from the Archbishop of South Africa, Thabo Makgoba:

May 12, 2025

Dear People of God in The Episcopal Church:

I am writing today with some significant news about Episcopal Migration Ministries, the organization that leads The Episcopal Church's refugee resettlement ministry.

Since January, the previously bipartisan U.S. Refugee Admissions Program in which we participate has essentially shut down. Virtually no new refugees have arrived, hundreds of staff in resettlement agencies around the country have been laid off, and funding for resettling refugees who have already arrived has been uncertain. Then, just over two weeks ago, the federal government informed Episcopal Migration Ministries that under the terms of our federal grant, we are expected to resettle white Afrikaners from South Africa whom the U.S. government has classified as refugees.

In light of our church's steadfast commitment to racial justice and reconciliation and our historic ties with the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, we are not able to take this step. Accordingly, we have determined that, by the end of the federal fiscal year, we will conclude our refugee resettlement grant agreements with the U.S. federal government.

I want to be very clear about why we made this decision—and what we believe lies ahead for Episcopal Migration Ministries' vital work.

It has been painful to watch one group of refugees, selected in a highly unusual manner, receive preferential treatment over many others who have been waiting in refugee camps or dangerous conditions for years. I am saddened and ashamed that many of the refugees who are being denied entrance to the United States are brave people who worked alongside our military in Iraq and Afghanistan and now face danger at home because of their service to our country. I also grieve that victims of

religious persecution, including Christians, have not been granted refuge in recent months.

As Christians, we must be guided not by political vagaries, but by the sure and certain knowledge that the kingdom of God is revealed to us in the struggles of those on the margins. Jesus tells us to care for the poor and vulnerable as we would care for him, and we must follow that command. Right now, what that means is ending our participation in the federal government's refugee resettlement program and investing our resources in serving migrants in other ways.

For nearly 40 years, Episcopal Migration Ministries has put hands and feet to our church's commitment to seek and serve Christ in migrants and refugees. We have served nearly 110,000 refugees during this time, many of whom are now American citizens and beloved members of our communities, workplaces, and neighborhoods. Over the years, EMM has resettled individuals from Ukraine, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Myanmar. We have supported vulnerable populations from across the globe, regardless of nationality.

Since March, a dedicated team of Episcopal Migration Ministries employees has fulfilled our commitment to serve people who arrived just before or in the first days of the new administration. Now that we are ending our involvement in federally funded refugee resettlement, we have asked the administration to work toward a mutual agreement that will allow us to wind down all federally funded services by the end of the federal fiscal year in September. We are working with the affected staff members to provide extensive outplacement services and severance packages.

I have said before that no change in political fortunes alters our commitment to stand with the world's most vulnerable people, and I want to reaffirm that promise. While our public-private partnership as a refugee resettlement agency is no longer viable, we are hard at work on a churchwide plan to support migrants and refugees through:

- **Diocesan partnerships:** We have vibrant ministries around the church serving migrants of all kinds. Episcopalians support newcomers through education, direct service, and advocacy. Our dioceses also work to address the root

causes of migration. We pledge to redouble our efforts to support these ministries and the migrants among us.

- **Global connections:** We will invest in our ministries that support forced migrants throughout the countries and territories of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. This includes our powerful ministry in Europe, where the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe has served more than 140,000 refugees in the last two years, primarily from North Africa, Ukraine, and Central Asia. We will continue to work with our dioceses and Anglican partners throughout Central America to help those seeking safety.
- **Continued support for refugees:** While new refugee arrivals and funding have been curtailed by the current administration, thousands of refugees welcomed by Episcopal Migration Ministries in previous years still need support. We will invite Episcopalians to connect with resettled refugees and explore how to continue services we have long provided—language services, continuing education, support with childcare, and job training. If refugee resettlement begins again with the support of private sponsors, we will explore those new possibilities.
- **Fundraising:** It is important to understand the scale of federal grant money from which we are stepping away. In most recent years, Episcopal Migration Ministries received more than \$50 million annually in federal funds. This is not a loss that can be bridged with donor funds or proceeds from investments. However, we will raise funds for new and expanded migration ministries across the church and for our partners in this ministry. You can contribute to this new work by [making a donation on the Episcopal Migration Ministries website](#).

In the coming weeks, Episcopal Migration Ministries will share more news about how to be involved. In the meantime, please pray for vetted refugees who have not been granted permission to come to this country, for the staff who will be affected by the end of these federal grants, and for everyone who grieves the end of our federal

refugee resettlement work.

May our faith in the Risen Christ, who draws all people to himself, sustain and guide us through the tumult of these times.

The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe  
Presiding Bishop  
The Episcopal Church

**Response from Archbishop Thabo Makgoba**

Dear Presiding Bishop Sean,

I write to thank you for your call on Sunday, and to assure you of our gratitude for the stand you have taken in support of ACSA and South Africa in regard to the group of South Africans being resettled by your Administration.

What the Administration refers to as anti-white racial discrimination is nothing of the kind. Our government implements affirmative action on the lines of that in the United States, designed not to discriminate against whites but to overcome the historic disadvantages black South Africans have suffered.

By every measure of economic and social privilege, white South Africans as a whole remain the beneficiaries of apartheid. Measured by the Gini coefficient, which measures income disparity, we are the most unequal society in the world, with the majority of the poor black, and the majority of the wealthy white.

While U.S. supporters of the South African group will no doubt highlight individual cases of suffering some members might have undergone, and criticise TEC for its action, we cannot agree that South Africans who have lost the privileges they enjoyed under apartheid should qualify for refugee status ahead of people fleeing war and persecution from countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and Afghanistan.

Blessings,

All are welcome to join our Service on Sunday at 9:30. If you would like to participate by zoom, the link is [here](#).

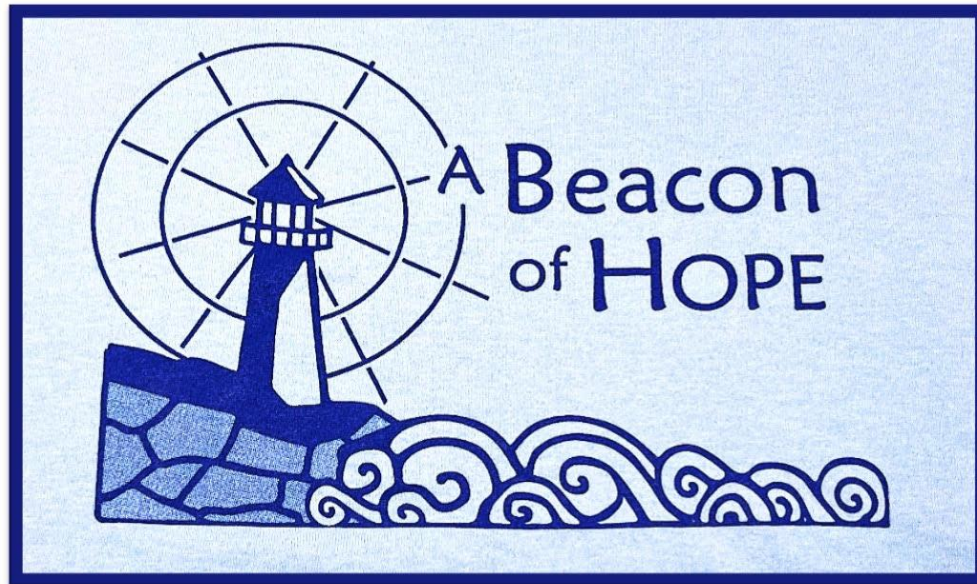
You will find the Sunday service program [here](#).

Peace and Blessings,  
Julie

Bread of life, bread of Heaven.  
Give us this day, our daily bread.  
Feed those, who are hungry.

*~ Bread for the World*

*Outreach Ministry*



**Outreach Meeting this Sunday, May 18th** following the Service. All are welcome to join.

**Monthly Food Collection:** We collect food monthly and distribute the donated food to Better Lives RI and Crossroads Family Center. This month we ask for donations of cold cereal though any canned or packaged food items are welcome. Please leave donated food items on the cart near Rose Hall. Thank you for your generosity!

*Healing Gardens*



**Worship Ministry May 18, 2025**

**First Reading:** Acts 11:1-18 Susan Goodnough

**Psalm 148**

**Second Reading:** Revelation 21:1-6 Nnenna Amaechina

**Gospel:** John 13:31-35

**Prayers:** Eric Hirsch

**Acolytes:** Dan Mechnig, Kodii Amaechina, Devine Kpeh

**Altar Guild:** Felicia and Patricia

### **Upcoming**

**May 15:** Vestry Retreat, 4:00-7:30

**May 25:** Blessing of graduates

**June 8:** Day of Pentecost, wear red!

### ***Prayers***

We pray for our fellow parishioners Derek, Victor, Gloria, Mary, and Lady Johnnet. We pray for Naida Thomas, Lusaynie Sirleaf, John Flinton, James, Elizabeth Pacek, Karen, John Dunning, Togba Treah, Sharita, Muriel, Emile, Patty, Kathy, Antonio, Deborah Keyes, Au'Tumn Odufunade, Michael, Jessica, Dabbah, Miatta, Bendu, and Amer.

We pray for friends and loved ones departed especially Sara Wilson. May they rejoice in the fullness of God's presence and glory.

O God our heavenly Father whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go. Preserve all those who travel this week. Surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to her journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen*.

We pray for those who work for peace in the armed forces especially Hannah Makuch.

We pray for all who celebrate birthdays next week especially Erin Moniz.

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**Websites:**

[All Saints' Memorial Church](#)

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Bob Wells

**Junior Warden**

Chip Smith

**Treasurer**

Becky Silliman

**Clerk**

Barbara Badio

**Finance Chair**

Dan Mechnig

**Members**

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Musa Goll

Ryan Mott

Eric Hirsch

Valerie Priddy Jones

Kardi Draper

