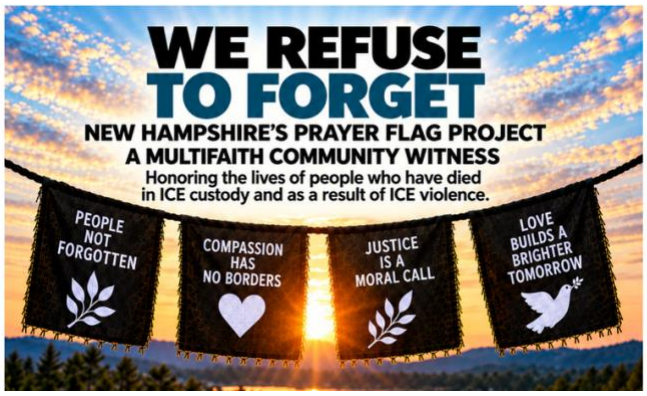

During the month of November, our Racial Justice and Widening Our Welcome teams are inviting the congregation to participate in constructing and displaying prayer flags in memory of the more than 100 people who have died in connection with immigration enforcement activity since 2018 (the first year of mandated reporting).

Why are we doing this? Our faith calls us to see the humanity of the stranger and the suffering of our neighbors. The display is intended to be a quiet, yet powerful, prayerful act of remembrance and a visible expression of compassion and lament. Each flag will carry the name of one person to remind us that:

Every life has sacred worth.
Every death deserves to be named and mourned.
No person should be reduced to a legal category.

We are not doing this alone. The project was conceived by two NH UCC pastors, the Rev. Mark Koyama and the Rev. Traceymay Kalvaitis, and is part of a broader faith community effort led by the Granite State Organizing Project. Churches around the state will be participating.

Why November? This is the month where we remember those we've lost (All Saints/Souls) and offer up prayers of thanksgiving in celebration of ancestorial immigrants, while also recognizing the biblical proclamation that we're all "strangers in a strange land" at heart.

Construction of the prayer flags will take place on **Sunday, November 1,** in the Community Room after worship. The flags will be displayed in the sanctuary on Sunday November 8, 15 and 22 (as approved by Church Council). We sincerely hope you can join us in this important project. For those interested, a GSOP sponsored flag-making workshop will be held on **Sunday, October 18 at 2:00 p.m.,** at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Milford.