

Press Conference Statement
June 30, 2018 “Keep Families Together”
National Day of Action
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First Congregational United Church of Christ - Madison

I am speaking today from my faith perspective, to the anti-immigrant 'zero tolerance' policy put in place by the current administration. I am speaking from my Christian tradition. I especially feel the need to speak using my Christian faith tradition, since the Attorney General recently used Biblical texts (out of context), from the Christian tradition, to justify actions taken at the border. Let me say there are many sacred texts I could quote (in context) not to justify, but to SUPPORT acting in love to our neighbors, and EVERYONE is our neighbor.

But in the limited time I have the microphone, I would like to focus on another cornerstone of my faith - TRUTH! From the Older Testament, from Exodus 16 we read, “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.” From the Newer Testament, from Ephesians 6, “Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place.”

The TRUTH IS that lies have, and continue to be told, about our neighbors.

The TRUTH IS that our neighbors are fleeing from terrible situations to find asylum in THIS country!

The TRUTH IS that people who are crossing the border are families like yours and mine, who entered this country 400 years ago!

The TRUTH IS that families should remain families not separated, hoping to deter a behavior that has been justified by the administration.

The TRUTH IS that children are being snatched from the loving arms of parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents and extended family.

The TRUTH IS that skin color and ethnicity does play a role in the decisions that have, and are being made.

The TRUTH IS that children will be affected for a lifetime, potentially never being reunited with their family.

The TRUTH IS that IF there was a plan, once the Executive Order was signed, ALL families should have been reunited.

The TRUTH IS that each of us has the power to speak, a power that has been taken from many of our brothers and sisters.

The TRUTH IS that we MUST stand firm with the belt of truth buckled around our waist.

WE MUST - today, tomorrow & into the future, SPEAK TRUTH, AND DEMAND TRUTH! Thank you!