

THE DISH

The Community Meals Newsletter--
connecting community to issues big & small



WHEN PEOPLE FLEE: ENTERING INTO THE STORIES OF OUR NEIGHBORS

Small acts & making space to listen

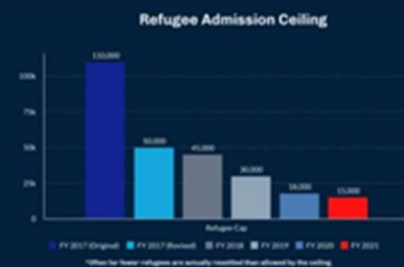
There are many reasons that people have to leave their homes. We all have our stories. If you hang around long enough with immigrants from our community, you will hear many interesting and challenging stories about leaving home countries in search of safety, shelter, and hope.

In the face of a developing war in Ukraine, many of us here in the United States may feel powerless to do anything to help. What about the Ethiopians in the Tigray region? And, we may have felt similarly during the collapse of the government in Afghanistan. If we go further back in the history of conflict, we may remember the longstanding conflict and genocide of people in Syria. And then of course, there is cartel violence and corruption in some parts of Latin America.

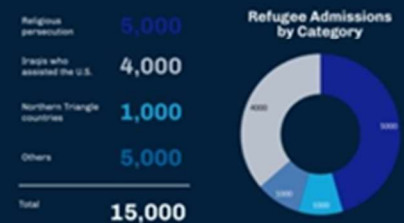
These countries are beautiful places that many people call home. They are places that people are often heartbroken to leave. Here at College Park United Methodist & through our Community Meals Program we have the privilege of hearing stories, of being part of the lives of those who have faced these difficulties and creating a response--providing food, wellness classes, an after-school program. We know you already support these families with your Community Meals--what else might you be called to do?

Fiscal Year 2021 Refugee Ceiling

FY2021's refugee ceiling marks a historic low for our nation's resettlement program.



Admission numbers historically were broken down by geographic regions. Last year and this year, they were based on categories that are very restrictive.



There were 26 million refugees in the world at the end of 2019.



16,000 refugees represents the U.S. taking in just .06% of the refugees in the world.



POINT OF VIEW: VOLUNTEER RENEE NOSKO



Since last fall, I have been working with the elementary after-school and the food distribution programs at College Park United Methodist Church. As an undergraduate student who recently transferred to the University of Maryland, these programs provide me with the opportunity to become more involved in my local community. Not only do the kids keep me on my toes, providing a great distraction from the hustle and bustle of schoolwork, but I have found great companionship (and food!) in the kitchen. I am fortunate to have been surrounded by such warm and welcoming individuals during this time of transition in my life, and I look forward to our programs expanding in the future!

MYSTERIOUS MOLE

