

1 **Document 640.01**
2 **Name: Special Sundays with Offerings for 2024**
3 **Author: Conference Council on Finance and Administration**
4 **CCFA Comment: _____**
5

6 **ACTION:**
7 The Northern Illinois Conference recommends the following Special Sundays with
8 offerings for 2024:
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10
11 Special Sundays
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13 General Church Offerings 2024

14	Human Relations Day	January 14, 2024
15	UMCOR Sunday	March 17, 2024
16	Native American Ministries Sunday	April 21, 2024
17	Peace with Justice Sunday	June 2, 2024
18	World Communion Sunday	October 6, 2024
19	United Methodist Student Day	November 24, 2024

20 **(NIC Churches are encouraged to celebrate UM Student Day any Sunday in October or**
21 **November and are encouraged to connect with the NIC Board of Higher Ed to create space**
22 **and connections with campus ministries located throughout the NIC.)**
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25 Conference Offerings 2024

26	Scouting Ministries	Any Sunday in February or March*
27	Golden Cross	May 5, 2024
28	Volunteers in Mission	Any Sunday in July or August
29	Christian Education	September 8, 2024
30	Accessibility Sunday	November 3, 2024
31	HIV/AIDS Awareness	December 1, 2024
32	United Voices for Children	Every 5th Sunday
33		(January, April, July, October, December)

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35 * This fund supports Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, 4-H, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and
36 Amachi programs.

1 **Document 700.12**

2 **NAME: Standing with our Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers Communities**

3 **AUTHORS: Northern Illinois Church and Society, Elisa Gatz, chair; NIC RMN, Alka Lyall,**
4 **Luis F. Reyes, and Elisa Gatz, co-facilitators; and NIC Methodist Federation for Social**
5 **Action, Luis F. Reyes and Elisa Gatz, co-chairs.**

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7 **ACTION:**

8 The NIC reaffirms its commitment to support the rights of immigrants, refugees, and asylum
9 seekers to legal services, health, housing, education, and other necessary services to become full
10 members of our communities.

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12 We urge clergy, lay leaders, and members to continue to:

- 13 ● Support Immigration Law and Justice Network (formerly national JFON) and other
14 advocacy and support groups such as Interfaith Immigration Coalition, Illinois Coalition
15 for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and Chicago LGBT Asylum Support Program
16 (CLASP).
- 17 ● Join JFON and other advocacy groups in taking legislative action at the State level to
18 urge our elected officials to take bolder actions to increase the funds available for legal
19 resources; make drivers' licenses available on an equal basis; require medical financial
20 information be made available; and take other actions to benefit not only migrants but
21 other low-income communities.
- 22 ● Continue to call upon the Biden administration to end the new restrictions, such as the
23 Transit ban, and instead to work on ways to make pathways to citizenship easier and
24 not more restrictive.

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26 **RATIONALE:**

27 NIC has supported the JFON network and other organizations to provide services to our
28 community here in Illinois. See, www.nijfon.org. But we know those resources have been
29 stretched to the limits in the past year, and as people of faith we are a critical ally to their work
30 providing direct services and advocacy work.

31
32 Since August 30, 2022, nearly 3,700 migrants have been bused to Chicago; 425 are school-aged
33 children. (These numbers have only increased since November 2022). One bilingual
34 coordinator said "We're talking about an unfolding humanitarian crisis of children and families
35 who arrive with no shoes." The City and County have increased resources, and still need the
36 support of community and faith-based organizations.

37 [https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mayor/supp_info/office-of-new-](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mayor/supp_info/office-of-new-americans/resource-flyers-for-new-americans.html)
38 [americans/resource-flyers-for-new-americans.html](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mayor/supp_info/office-of-new-americans/resource-flyers-for-new-americans.html)

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40 On the Federal level, the Biden administration now has introduced new measures, including the
41 Transit ban, which will negatively impact the most vulnerable migrants. NIC can do more to
42 support the advocacy and humanitarian work of JFON, Interfaith Immigration Coalition, and
43 comparable organizations. It is critical to come together to ensure that resources are provided
44 for our immigrant communities and at the same time that resources not be taken away from
45 other marginalized communities, especially poor communities of color.

1 Jesus said "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35B; and "do not neglect to
2 show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing
3 it." Hebrews 13:2; "When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the
4 alien." Leviticus 19:33.