

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 14, 2026 : 12 PM

First Unitarian Church, Worcester, MA

"THE ASYLUM SEEKERS"

Cristina Rathbone, Author



Worcester Friends is co-sponsoring a presentation by Rev. Cristina Rathbone, author of *The Asylum Seekers: A Chronicle of Life, Death, and Community at the Border* and current executive director of Ecclesia Ministries - **Common Cathedral** in Boston.

In a phone conversation yesterday, Rev. Rathbone gave me one phrase that encapsulates what she advocates for all of us.

In the face of all the disruption of healthy community that we now face, she says that it is essential to find small, real things that we can do, person to person at ground level. Put our energy into what we can actually do, individually and collectively, with people we can touch.

This event is made possible thanks to a grant from the **Legacy Fund of New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)**, together the efforts of **First Unitarian Church** and **Worcester Friends Meeting**.

Resources:

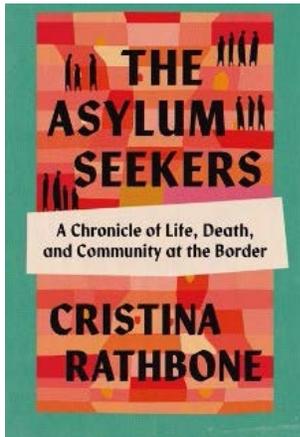
From **Episcopal Migration Ministries**: [Download the discussion guide for *The Asylum Seekers: A Chronicle of Life, Death, and Community at the Border*](#).

The Asylum Seekers offers a rare narrative account of the horror of the US-Mexico border. Borders run through author Cristina Rathbone too, whose mother was a Cuban refugee. So in 2019 she travels to Juarez, unsure what to do but determined to learn.

“Weaving intimate portraits of individuals with broader stories about the community, reporting from the border as a whole, and reflections on the meaning of faith in a place of suffering, Rathbone tells the story of Mexican asylum seekers living in a makeshift tent camp at the foot of a bridge. Life in the camp is both hectic and harrowing. Families arrive. Families leave. Families get through to the US. Families are returned from the US. Women weep, children squabble, and grown men sob over photographs of their murdered sons’ mutilated bodies.”

“Here too, however, are beauty, and empathy, and hope. Over time, a leadership team emerges. The community begins to convene daily meetings, establish systems of distribution for donations, and start classes for the kids. Serving as an unofficial chaplain, Rathbone is there through it all: listening, receiving, assisting, and most of all learning about what authentic faith looks like under conditions such as these.”

Understanding Asylum Seekers: Interview with The Rev. Cristina Rathbone About Her New Book (Mar 28, 2025)



Blessings, Mike Shell,
WINIS Correspondence Clerk
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Migrants and forced laborers wore blue triangles in the Nazi concentration camps. Using the blue triangle now says: **I STAND WITH IMMIGRANTS.**

