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**February 24, 2020**

***Isiah 58:1-9***

***This, rather, is the fasting that I wish:  
releasing those bound unjustly,  
untying the thongs of the yoke;  
Setting free the oppressed,  
breaking every yoke;  
Sharing your bread with the hungry,  
sheltering the oppressed and the homeless;  
Clothing the naked when you see them,  
and not turning your back on your own.***

**February**

**Black History Month**

Feb. 26 Ash Wednesday

Feb. 29 Leap Year

**March**

March 3 Super Tuesday be sure to vote

March 3 World Wild Life Day

March 8 International Women’s Day

March 8 Day light Saving Time begins

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**TAKING ACTION**

**Be a voice for the voiceless  
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***Take Action on Federal funds for Public Charge Rule***

Three years ago, our goal was to lessen the impact of the Public Charge rule and our letters to the Department of Homeland Security made a big difference. **As people of faith, we believe everyone has dignity and it is immoral to prioritize the wealthy over working families.** This regulation will lead to family separation and harm our communities. To get a better understanding of how this will affect refugee resettlement see the  [one-pager](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001s6M0RTVL8QBmzVkQUwkybRAO7cPuollIqI4iG8Rq747RdolMjvOFqnpJ2WysGQqXlZdcSCd5w-V_k5f8c9eHGgh11ol0XW8i0drz8P8UflHq5wmZh_F2Tp7fEQWha4WccP8V1VSMGiXY2saIiSvsXDIcKJ85N906a-uOmaqAXuwP69gMJR4C0-K5a1ac4K8kOdPHJf51zMZoRWUOHaoN2wKR356jQjUZyaRcvKA_ugxwe9mdnZIBHvYR4HdjYTVDWI_QhofkSHprKYss41IQQKo89KxZ_g4cddOBhNX9zsw7SXLtbuubXg==&c=-mCrsPeTGMI-r9GsbP0jox2cYPOrScgJVqTdXgscS9t94UoKukiNFQ==&ch=rWfaWS2S4BmD9bZ8tyRiUGhI8bBRwt4O-t1__2qATDkj3h4mX61r9A==) available on our new Immigrants' Eligibility for Benefits [resource page](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001s6M0RTVL8QBmzVkQUwkybRAO7cPuollIqI4iG8Rq747RdolMjvOFqmrQ5D07Y_lp0_EZSQtCp4x23imczoRqAtfNQoGqE8O-2Oz8owCbmSrEqgNjhOEZfx9dZfgtQTgfKOTrfClZAgUsN7b3Z7o9MbmbLcXx7DIUhxp4UVSO7tJvhw--j85i5hQJGSryCD57y2Pt9lrvsF6Fhej-jd_QTPDcfH0NyAe9tCrrGFueRsA3kHrsbXqXh4t6JpmFDnZtzdy3eXJwbM9k2ZOKWBo0Lw0ppcJBefIyE9MbJ81gmPlhftv_DrImfQ==&c=-mCrsPeTGMI-r9GsbP0jox2cYPOrScgJVqTdXgscS9t94UoKukiNFQ==&ch=rWfaWS2S4BmD9bZ8tyRiUGhI8bBRwt4O-t1__2qATDkj3h4mX61r9A==).

[**Ask your Representative to support H.R. 3222, the No Federal Funds for Public Charge Act.**](http://cqrcengage.com/networklobby/app/thru?ep=AAAAC2Flc0NpcGhlcjAxoHcwDkl1yObQAa4WtBZEh0HM7yDfk20HrFBFGu4V84yUNvrqv33R9p6BbTUHgdVQbWZMl0PqsA6SRo31TKmj6wCcKnYOHX9zBD5Mo406NkXG7EexmOA-npYxArN7KS-eJlV0P4okZCyuiEQXcJkylupNb7EHuIRqBm8kCMh0j8Y&lp=0)**This legislation will prevent federal funds from being used to implement public charge.**

[**Email your Representative and ask them to support the No Federal Funds for Public Charge Act.**](http://cqrcengage.com/networklobby/app/thru?ep=AAAAC2Flc0NpcGhlcjAxxkzzL_i_OyrENmgoGQkhFOk6HjPhlnhVsPMIAZnqEGcO79s6nGQB0qVnujsERnz-Iducuxc5H9AAzxm2-_cn6BiwPo31mhe2bYCiXskWswQ89bhL_qH_nDeH1Q23I90h9KHqQ3zxYnCwvB9T3oIeTi4NUTyRpWUrr8mm2EDxsTc&lp=0)Congress must know that people of faith and good will are called to be a beacons of hope for those fleeing violence or seeking a better future.

***Support Gun Safety***

The National Bureau for Gun Safety (NBGS)'s mission would be to lead and coordinate a multidisciplinary, multifaceted campaign to reduce gun deaths based on proven public-health practice. NBGS would also: Be run by experts in public health, medicine, engineering, communications and law enforcement;

* Be transparent and nonpartisan;
* Take the lead in setting the nation's research agenda and developing, testing and implementing safety technologies;
* Set out legislative priorities for saving lives;
* Oversee campaigns to encourage behaviors likely to reduce gun injuries and;
* Direct priorities for enforcing gun laws, in concert with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

The U.S. saw the highest number of mass killings on record in 2019. We must be allowed to understand why and how we can prevent this! Sign the petition: Congress must establish the NBGS and reduce gun deaths in the U.S. Participating

You can you join me and take action? Click [HERE](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/sign-the-petition-to-congress-create-a-national-bureau-for-gun-safety?source=email&).

***Dietary Guidelines for Americans***   
Right now, the average US diet is hastening climate change and degrading our air, soil, and water at an alarming rate. However, **eating more sustainably can help us protect our natural resources and public health for generations to come.**  
  
The Dietary Guidelines for Americans is the nation's leading set of nutrition recommendations, issued every five years by the government and a committee of health and nutrition experts. They are the basis for nutrition programs that serve millions of adults, children, seniors, and veterans every day, and provide current science-based nutrition information to health practitioners, policymakers, and the public.  
  
In addition to preventing chronic disease, these guidelines must also prioritize the long-term health and sustainability of our food supply. The guidelines are now open for public comment but the window is rapidly closing. This is one of the last opportunities we have to ensure the sustainable diets have a place at the table in the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines.  
  
[**Tell the dietary guidelines scientific committee to review the research on sustainable diets in its recommendations to the federal government.**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/15260302/160879119/-617844544?contactdata=bqAtRuN%2BP%2FqfmkfLtNGY5blLXWiExeiOhqexwtwb19GZcOE1I6OrffDthX3C77nRh0xIE4ToOpnRECzJ5SZGfOPI1qwLpNokcaaA4Kdm8CvEofF1S72r2ABjbHrLFC8WLTLBuGjLYP%2B5GEa3J0KSU07GtPECTQvLrE7iTbpbt4q663w2ammqBQOHdLY63KQRScbMTAvhXiYlqEFVs9Bw56o0nzdj2txpBNOoycwPk0I%3D&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9VQ1MvVUNTLzEvNTgwOTciLA0KICAiRGlzdHJpYnV0aW9uVW5pcXVlSWQiOiAiN2MyOTQ2MTEtZDI1NC1lYTExLWE5NGMtMDAxNTVkMDM5ZTc0IiwNCiAgIkVtYWlsQWRkcmVzcyI6ICJkc21pdGhAY3NqbGEub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=QOyj3eeZ0Tda_xyIRm6EZDqdIRrP9ooJ0DVaVxdNG48=&emci=9b0b7c1b-2654-ea11-a94c-00155d039e74&emdi=7c294611-d254-ea11-a94c-00155d039e74&ceid=536451)  
  
[Take Action](https://click.everyaction.com/k/15260303/160879120/-617844544?contactdata=bqAtRuN%2BP%2FqfmkfLtNGY5blLXWiExeiOhqexwtwb19GZcOE1I6OrffDthX3C77nRh0xIE4ToOpnRECzJ5SZGfOPI1qwLpNokcaaA4Kdm8CvEofF1S72r2ABjbHrLFC8WLTLBuGjLYP%2B5GEa3J0KSU07GtPECTQvLrE7iTbpbt4q663w2ammqBQOHdLY63KQRScbMTAvhXiYlqEFVs9Bw56o0nzdj2txpBNOoycwPk0I%3D&nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9VQ1MvVUNTLzEvNTgwOTciLA0KICAiRGlzdHJpYnV0aW9uVW5pcXVlSWQiOiAiN2MyOTQ2MTEtZDI1NC1lYTExLWE5NGMtMDAxNTVkMDM5ZTc0IiwNCiAgIkVtYWlsQWRkcmVzcyI6ICJkc21pdGhAY3NqbGEub3JnIg0KfQ%3D%3D&hmac=QOyj3eeZ0Tda_xyIRm6EZDqdIRrP9ooJ0DVaVxdNG48=&emci=9b0b7c1b-2654-ea11-a94c-00155d039e74&emdi=7c294611-d254-ea11-a94c-00155d039e74&ceid=536451)

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**INFORMATION/RESOURCES**

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***'Get in Line:' What It Takes to Legally Immigrate to the United States***

Millions of people using legal channels seeking visas, permanent residency or citizenship in the United States face bureaucratic red tape, a pile of forms to fill and often must wait decades for an answer. An immigrant who applies for a green card today can expect to “wait in line” for 50 years. Read more:

<https://www.npr.org/2020/01/24/799378739/get-in-line-what-it-takes-to-legally-immigrate-to-the-united-states>

***What a Nun Can Teach a Scientist about Ecology***

To save the achoque -- an exotic (and adorable) salamander found in a lake in northern Mexico -- scientists teamed up with an unexpected research partner: a group of nuns called the Sisters of the Immaculate Health. In this delightful talk, science journalist Victoria Gill shares the story of how this unusual collaboration saved the achoque from extinction -- and demonstrates how local and indigenous people could hold the secret to saving our planet's weird, wonderful and most threatened species.

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| [Watch now »](https://ted.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=07487d1456302a286cf9c4ccc&id=d65485822a&e=21df47c728) |

[**Afghan Women’s Views on Extremism and Peacemaking**](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=43db006127844c6a2c15ae16d451e40e1a496783172b19cea73e9857313f6d196734196ffc03f5c4f8c654eb4ec9f398dd62e81da5de5a22)   
Based on extensive interviews throughout Afghanistan, this Peaceworks report attempts to better understand the changing public role of Afghan women today and their contributions to peacebuilding and ending violence.

[**U.S. Negotiator Says U.S.-Taliban Deal is a “Massive Opportunity”**](http://click.newsletters.usip.org/?qs=43db006127844c6a87a78c78faa0ef5aeffa4890e7a84bd8bd939cccb39712dcc3c7c9eb4611b620fafb63a8ea7682ee667258e08a912cd7)  
U.S. Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Molly Phee gave the U.S. negotiating team’s first official statement on the U.S.-Taliban deal this week at USIP, saying, “We believe we have established the conditions that can transform the trajectory of the conflict.”

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***Words to Ponder***

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"A difficult person is someone who presents issues or acts in ways that are beyond our current skill level to meet open-heartedly: the difficulty is in us and not about the other person."

—Inbal Kashtan, Miki Kashtan

"For me, forgiveness and compassion are always linked: how do we hold people accountable for wrongdoing and yet at the same time remain in touch with their humanity enough to believe in their capacity to be transformed?"

—bell hooks

"When the enemy is seen as human, everything changes. That reconciling method of dialogue—where mutual respect overcomes fear, and thus war—is again regarded as heretical in our dominant political theology."

—James W. Douglass, JFK and the Unspeakable