

# TEXAS IMPACT

people of faith working for justice

Dear {{FirstName or 'Friend'}},

Mother's Day was established by women, as a day for women to promote peace. It's ironic that the leaked [Roe](#) decision shone a particularly glaring light on a particularly complicated aspect of motherhood just in time for the Mother's Day weekend...but in fact, issues of mothers and families are pervading the public discourse at every level just now.

In her Mother's Day Proclamation, Julia Ward Howe declared, "[We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies.](#)" Texans "of this day" might well be considering what the message of Mother's Day means for us. Our lawmakers, judicial system, and agencies are far from irrelevant, but many of the decisions they are making are not serving "[the great and general interests of peace.](#)"

For example, this week, Texas' governor suggested our state should [deny education to undocumented migrant children](#), which would be a reversal of [well-settled law](#). Also this week, Texas' attorney general announced his office is [investigating the Texas Bar Foundation](#) for "knowingly giving donations to entities that encourage, participate in, and fund illegal immigration at the Texas-Mexico border." These are just the latest instances of Texas leaders using their power to attack migrant families and those who seek to serve them.

Texas Impact staff members spent some time this week meeting with asylum seekers in our [Courts & Ports](#) program. [Bobby and Isa's blog posts](#) provide insights into their experiences. On Weekly Witness, Scott interviews ELCA [Bishop Sue Briner](#) about her experience assisting migrants whom Texas bused to Washington, D.C. (including one man who actually was supposed to go to Houston, it turns out). It's hard to square the violent rhetoric of "invasion" with the stories of mothers—and fathers—who have sacrificed everything they had to move their children to safety. Josh reminds us that [voting always is the way](#). Americans square political rhetoric with their values and experiences, and explains how overcoming gerrymandering is a vital and achievable goal.

Mother's Day evokes complex emotions, and it's not a happy day for everyone. I hope whatever your Mother's Day brings, that you experience peace—because peace is supposed to be the point.

Love,



Bee Moorhead  
Texas Impact Executive Director

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[Register for Courts & Ports](#)

### **Courts & Ports is back!**

Courts & Ports is a 2-day immersion experience designed to build understanding of the many challenges facing migrants and public servants at the Texas-Mexico border. Through interactions with policy experts; law enforcement officials; volunteers; and asylum seekers, participants gain perspective on the unique constellation of policy, logistical, and humanitarian issues in play.

We're excited to announce that Ixchel Salazar has joined our team to lead weekly Courts & Ports trips. Ixchel's mom is a leader in the cross-border nonprofit community working with migrants—Ixchel's first-hand experience working alongside her mom gives her unique perspective and energy. We're glad to welcome her to the team!

Texas Impact Presents

# WEEKLY WITNESS

with Scott Atnip

faith,  
politics,  
& Texas

AND GUEST  
BISHOP SUE BRINER  
SOUTH WESTERN  
TEXAS SYNOD

NEW  
EPISODE  
MAY 4, 2022



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**Listen to  
Weekly Witness**

On this week's episode we speak with Bishop Sue Briner of the Southwestern Texas Synod. Bishop Briner recently met with migrant families in Washington, D.C., after they were bused from the Texas border to the nation's capital as part of Gov Abbott's border security protest. Later in the show Scott talks with Texas Impact staffers Bobby Watson and Isa Peterson, who just spent a couple of days at the Texas/Mexico border with our Courts and Ports program.

On this week's Watch List, Josh talks about racial disparities in voter turnout. Our Weekly Word comes from our good friend Reverend Dan DeLeon, Senior Pastor at Friends Congregational Church in College Station.

Search for "Texas Impact Weekly Witness" in your favorite podcast source, on the Weekly Witness [webpage](#), or via [YouTube](#).

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### **No One is Coming to Save Us But Us**

The current prospect of state legislatures being places where the 14th Amendment principle of equal protection under the law is held sacrosanct feels daunting. However, America has been here before, and though the road is long, there is hope. The U.S. Supreme Court that upheld the New Deal and ushered in modern civil liberties through the 14th Amendment only happened because of the work voters began in state legislatures during [the Progressive Era](#). For that to be a reality again, we must address racial disparities in voter turnout. We must recommit now before the legal barriers get any worse.

[Read Josh's take](#)



### **Texas Impact Goes to Immigration Court**

Clearly there has been a lot going on with the US-Mexico border lately. Court cases over the federal government's policies abound, Sec. of Homeland Security Mayorkas has been talking about the Biden administration's plan for the end of Title 42 for what feels like months now, and border crossings are expected to triple in the coming weeks. In response to the expected surge, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has been releasing several directives and strategies including changes to [asylum regulations](#), giving [directive on prosecutorial discretion](#) and initiating a [6 pillar plan](#). On our recent trip to the border, Texas Impact staff were able to witness the effect of some of these changes first-hand.

[Read Bobby's analysis](#)



## Immigration is Personal; the Motivations for Leaving Aren't

Each story of a migrant leaving their home country for another, regardless of the reason, is always incredibly personal and an individual experience. However, as I discovered last week, just because it's personal doesn't mean it's unique.

There's no crazy situation or movie-like scenario; just normal individuals seeking safety and security. These people's stories become so commonplace that the shock factor is the mere fact that their dark and disturbing stories have lost their individuality—and they shouldn't have.

[Read Isa's post](#)

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Help Texas Impact represent mainstream faith values in the Texas Legislature and equip Texans of faith to engage in the legislative process. Join Texas Impact or renew your membership today!

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