

“The Big Table” is a new partnership between St. Andrew and the Center for Worker Justice of Eastern Iowa. The program brings together people who love to cook, but need a place to practice their techniques, and those who like to sample food from around the world. The first Big Table dinners are March 15 and March 22, both Fridays, at St. Andrew at 6:00 pm.

As we gather around the table, there will be plenty of opportunity to meet new friends and hear their stories. This is a time for diners and cooks to interact and get to know each other.

Marcela Hurtado, vice-president of the Center for Worker Justice, explains, “With this pilot project the Center wants to continue with its mission to empower members of different communities. Through the kitchen, we will show the diversity of our cultures. Part of the goal is to develop enough skills so that one day they can start their own business. Thanks for your support. ”

Rafael Morataya, executive director of the center, will join us at both worship services this Sunday, March 10. Between services, he will lead an Adult Education program talking about the center and goals for The Big Table.

Attendance for each meal is limited to 100 diners, and registration is required. The menu for March 15 features Sudanese food (Kamil chicken wings, shawarma, kabsa, falafel, eggplant salad, baklava, and more) and Hispanic food (pozole; Mexican tamales with chicken, veggies, and cheese; Guatemalan-style chicken in mole; quesadillas with potato and pork rind; Tres Leches and Mocha cakes; and more). Diners are encouraged to linger awhile and get to know the cooks and their families—plan to make an evening of it!

The meal is free but donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of food. A sign-up sheet will be in the atrium this Sunday, or you can email Heather at hwoodin@saintandrew-ic.org. Remember, attendance is limited to 100 diners per meal, so sign up soon!