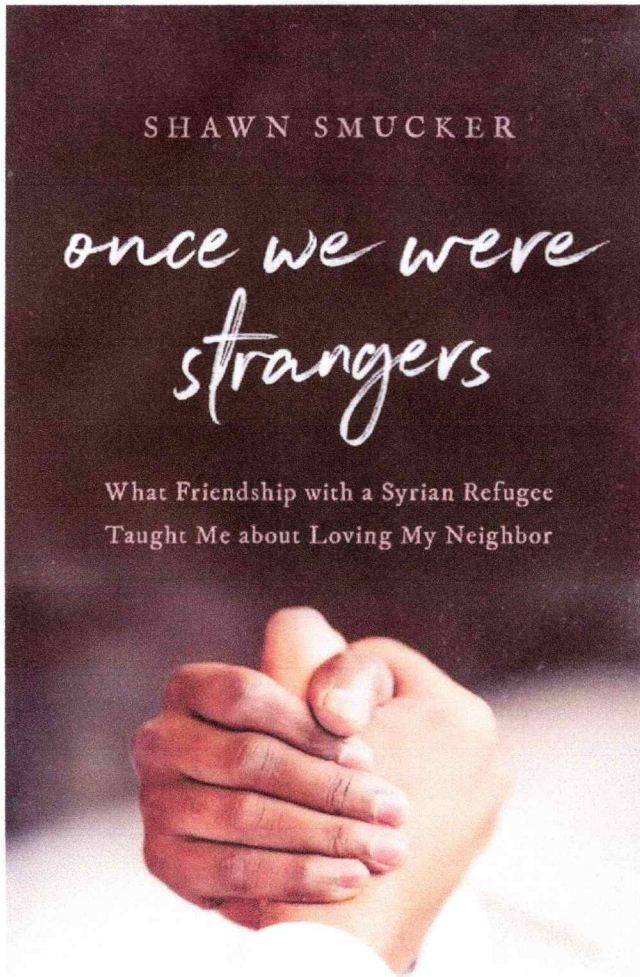


Circle of Sisters Book Club

Once We Were Strangers

by Shawn Smucker



In 2012, Mohammad fled his Syrian village along with his wife and four sons, escaping to Jordan through the wilderness. Four years later he sat across from Shawn Smucker in a small conference room in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Though neither of them knew it, Mohammad had arrived in Shawn's life just in time.

This is the story of a friendship. It is the story of a middle-aged writer struggling to make a living and a Syrian refugee struggling to create a life for his family in a strange and sometimes hostile land. It's the story of two fathers hoping for the best, two hearts seeking compassion, two lives changed forever. It's the story of our moment in history and the opportunities it

gives us to show love and hospitality to the sojourner in our midst.

Anyone who has felt torn between the desire for security and the desire to offer sanctuary to those fleeing war and violence will find Shawn Smucker a careful and loving guide on the road to mercy and unity.

Please join us for the discussion on this book!

Wednesday, January 11, 2024

6:30 p.m. at Terri Lloyd's home (4833 Hilyard Ave.)

Contact Deb Scaravilli (541-884-6905; vicdebscaravilli@gmail.com) for more information.