

Mission Moment

Be the light for leaders like Orfelina

Orfelina Portillo is an agricultural technician working with families in northern Honduras. She teaches sustainable approaches to growing crops; monitors water projects; shows women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families; and leads workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

Your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing connect those who are doing ministry—leaders who are empowered to form partnerships to create programs like Project Green, where Orfelina shares her knowledge and skills to address food security, thanks to Church World Service (CWS) and the Mennonite Social Action Commission (CASM).

Orfelina has been light for communities in the Santa Bárbara region for 16 years—sharing her skills side-by-side with over 750 families. As a hands-on leader, Orfelina is often seen carrying sacks of food, delivering supplies, checking on crops and animals. Orfelina supports and encourages her communities—bringing God-colors to those seeking to improve their lives and support their families.



Orfelina proclaims, “This is what I am passionate about: teaching.

My profession is a very important part of my everyday life. My

work is my joy...I am part of the strong hand that feeds the world.”

Through your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing, Orfelina is empowered to be the light for her region. She is making a difference, transforming communities, and spreading God’s light and love.

Be the light for leaders like Orfelina. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing!

<https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2025-Mission-Moment.pdf>



“Kingdom of God” by George Walsh

Moment for Mission One Great Hour of Sharing**Musical Offering****Doxology**

Praise God, through whom all blessings flow,
 Praise God, all creatures here below,
 Praise God, above ye heavenly host.
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Giver of Good Gifts, may the gifts we give reflect
 your abundance and generosity.

Use our time, talent, and treasure to
 serve our faith community and the
 world. May each offering be a seed
 that will grow, spread, and perfume
 the atmosphere with faith, hope,
 and love. Amen



General Giving

Hymn “Christ, Be our Light”
 (verse 1: Choir, Refrain and Verses 2-4 ALL)

Benediction**Postlude**

Through the Midst: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

Cover image: “Kingdom of God” by George Walsh <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/diglib-fulldisplay.pl?SID=20250220431703739&code=act&RC=57353&Row=7>

Prelude**Announcements****Choral Introit “Shine, Jesus, Shine”**

Lord, the light of Your love is shining
 In the midst of the darkness shining;
 Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us;
 Set us free by the truth You now bring us
 Shine on me, shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine; Fill this land with the Father's glory;
 Blaze, Spirit, blaze; Set our hearts on fire.
 Flow, river, flow; Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
 Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

Responsive Welcome Statement

At St. John's United Church of Christ, we are Living
 Outwardly & Valuing Everyone!

We live and work amid God's love!

In that spirit, we extend love to all who come into our
 midst, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity,
 race, nationality, skin color, culture, differing abilities,
 age or political affiliations, to participate fully in all as-
 pects of church.

Our ministry is to bring the Good News of Christ's love to all.

We work in God's name to tear down walls and build
 community,

**to walk with each other through all of life's circum-
stances,**

to provide for those in need,

**to offer comfort to the hurting and the sick,
and to uplift the brokenhearted.****Where we fail, we ask for God's forgiveness.**

May the Holy Spirit and our siblings continue to chal-
 lenge us to do better.

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's
journey, you are welcome here!**

Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 71)

One: In the Holy One, we take refuge; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

Many: In your righteousness deliver us and hear our cries for justice and peace.

One: In the Holy One, we draw strength; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

Many: Be a rock of refuge for the vulnerable, a strong fortress to save creation, for you are our rock and fortress.

One: In the Holy One, we receive courage; let us never be put to shame. Our praise is continually of you.

Many: Rescue us, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel, for you, Holy One, are our hope and trust.

Invocation

Emmanuel, we welcome you in our midst. You amaze and inspire, challenge and convict, comfort and fortify. May we be open and receptive to your voice and presence among us. Let your words encourage us to be prophetic, passionate, and public in our ministry as we praise and honor your name. Amen.

Hymn #1 "Immortal, Invisible"

Affirmation of Faith #886

Children's Time

Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

Hymn #182 "We Have Come"

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

God Who Knows Us, we pray that you form and shape us anew. Remind us who we are and draw

us back to you. Transform us in love, correct us with compassion, and lead us with clarity into the paths of righteousness, truth, and peace. Forgive us for the ways that we reject your presence, your guidance, and your will. Redeem and restore us as your beloved creation and active citizens of your kindom. In Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, love never ends. You reflect the goodness, creative work, and imagination of God. The Holy One knows you well and calls you good. Receive the grace of God to live a life that ever transforms and renews through the power of God's abiding, constant, and tangible love.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Scripture Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-42

Sermon "Speak of Freedom"

Service of Communion

Blessing and Sharing the Elements

All are invited to participate in this Holy symbol of Communion. You are invited to eat the as a sign of your own personal faith and hold the cup to drink together as a sign of our communion faith.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Invitation to Generosity