



You are here



One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING

"I was...naked and you gave me something to wear."

Matthew 25:36

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**





Greetings

One Great Hour of Sharing enables the United Church of Christ to reach people and communities affected by disaster, displacement or poverty.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we provide assistance to families and communities around the world, helping them to become stronger, healthier and better equipped to address hardships and catastrophes.

Each year One Great Hour of Sharing produces its Annual Mission Report to highlight the work of the offering. This report gives us an opportunity to share how funds were used during the year, and recognize the people impacted by generous giving to the offering. None of this work would be possible without your support.

The 2017 theme for the offering is “*You are here*” which could easily be the response to a question provoked by tragedy, fear or suffering: “Where are you, God?” Psalm 145:18 echoes the refrain throughout scripture that God is nearby. As soon as a person calls on God, God is here.

You are here shows the church uniting to respond to the many critical needs present in our world today. Our support is given through partner organizations responding to health, education and agricultural development needs, refugee initiatives, and both international and domestic disaster response.

When we give, as the United Church of Christ—individuals, groups and congregations—it means that the church can stand strong, in the midst of need whether it is nearby or far away. When God’s love abides in us, we are moved to respond with our own material goods to the needs of other members of God’s family.

Thank you for your support, whether you are a new supporter, or long-time supporter, every gift matters. Every gift allows us to say, “*You are here.*”



Monica Returns to Timor

In the four years Tom and I were away from Lospalos, Timor, because our mission assignment ended, life continued for us and for the people. In our return to mission work, I found the staff still in place carrying on their duties at the Imanuel Clinic. They were checking for malaria and tuberculosis and seeing patients every day.

Patient numbers were about half of what they were in 2012, when we left, and the prenatal care and nutrition programs had ceased. There were only a couple tuberculosis patients being treated now compared to 27 in 2012. On top of this, the funder of the clinic was planning to reduce the support unless the work changed from providing direct patient care to a community health promotion model. So our mobile clinic care outreach program began.

We took the mobile clinic to a remote village where only 9 of the 24 local families use a toilet, while the others still do their daily business in the nearby trees. This is commonplace in Timor, right along with diarrhea and intestinal worms. The help we will give to this community is to provide new toilets. Our hope is to have a lasting impact by helping in the sanitation department.

The clinic staff are getting to know the families here. This staff member measures the arm circumference of a child in Sorolua to check for malnutrition as part of the initial public health survey we did.

We want to demonstrate that our clinical work is not simply doling out vitamins or antibiotics, but spending substantial time teaching patients about nutrition, from breastfed babies to adults with anemia. We are teaching patients daily how to decrease the spread of infections through hand hygiene. Imagine your doctor telling you to wash your hands often when your child has diarrhea or a runny nose, when you don't have running water in your house.

One Great Hour of Sharing supported the work of Monica during her initial term in Timor as a missionary. Monica and Tom Liddle now are self-funded Global Ministries missionaries in Timor.

—Written by Monica Liddle



Our hope is to have a lasting impact by helping in the sanitation department.





A Note on Resiliency of the War-Affected Amidst Violence

Last July, the Ecumenical Institute in Jaffna organized a two-day program with hundreds of people from the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. Through panel discussions and papers presented for discussion, participants described their situation and the problems they face for survival after the war.

The war-torn population in the North and East of Sri Lanka, has shown considerable resiliency amidst the violence and devastation. In some parts of the Vanni, almost every family has lost someone to the war, with others maimed and handicapped.

Issues of disappearances and war-related political prisoners remain crucial. Many other issues facing farmers, fisher folk, the landless and homeless, preoccupy them even as they yearn for both solutions to their everyday concerns and of the political situation.

Amidst such suffering, the survival and resiliency of the community has depended on a variety of local social institutions—cooperatives, schools, community centers and religious institutions. The ability for communities to work together and to function democratically has been critical for their resiliency.

Women show great resiliency as they carry much of the social burden including providing for their families and dependents with increasing difficulties due to an economic crisis. The resiliency of the women, and society more broadly, results from social investments in community organizations and the education of women prior to the war. Panelists predict that for continued resiliency, new initiatives will be needed to support community organizations and the empowerment of women.

—Submitted by Deenabandhu Manchala, executive,
Global Ministries Southern Asia Office



Our support will help to provide the needed resources to help people rebuild their lives today and during the days and weeks to come.

HIV/AIDS

Swaziland has the world's highest HIV prevalence rate at 26% among people aged 15-49 years old, and a high estimated HIV incidence rate of 3%, meaning that of every 100 HIV negative persons in Swaziland, 3 will become infected with HIV every year. The sources of infection among children aged 14 years and younger include mother to child transmission, sexual abuse, or children engaging in sexual activities at an early age. Of infants born to HIV positive mothers, 21.5% are HIV positive.

Various studies show that it is not poverty per se that drives the epidemic, but rather income inequality which is high in Swaziland. Other contributing factors include cultural norms. From a cultural perspective, men have a large degree of control over women. Values and norms uphold men's privileges and have tended to constrain women's autonomy. Sexual violence and gender based violence are serious human rights and public health issues which affect women and girls of all ages.

HIV and AIDS have made children "primary care givers" as they care for their dying parents and are exposed to contracting the virus themselves. As a result, these children are often battling malnourishment and stunted growth. After the death of parents, a child's chance of attending school is halved. Bleak futures are created when communities are cut down by high incidences of AIDS: the next generation is left without education or skills; children suffer intense emotional stress from watching their parents die and also the stigma associated with HIV and AIDS; and they are more at risk of being abused, exploited or discriminated against. In addition, orphans sometimes lose property they inherit from parents to uncles, aunts and grandparents. This is a great advocacy issue.

In response to the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in Swaziland, the Kukhany'Okusha Zion Church Youth Department has an annual conference to educate their constituents on HIV/AIDS. They form accountability clubs, and create messaging that will promote awareness. Ms. Siphwe Hlophe, co-founder of Swaziland for Positive Living, and a presenter at the conference, discussed the urgency for communities to work together in fighting HIV/AIDS. The largest target group for HIV/AIDS prevention is the faith community because the church is filled with youth. Studies show young people are the hardest hit by the pandemic. Hlophe provided basic information on HIV to help youth understand how it is transmitted. She strongly recommended HIV testing for young people 12 years and up.

The day ended with each church regional youth council agreeing to establish teen clubs that will provide opportunities to discuss topics related to HIV, such as family planning, sexually transmitted diseases and gender roles. They also

agreed to pursue steps for sensitizing community leadership on children's rights.

One of the stated goals of the conference was to contribute to the reduction of HIV prevalence through prevention care and advocacy and integrating these in all sectors.

In the Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic, the Rev. Michael Schuenemeyer, United Church of Christ executive for health and wholeness advocacy, reports that "We are at a crucial point. If we do not double our efforts to eliminate HIV/AIDS, the disease could return in full force knocking out any progress that has been made in the fight against HIV/AIDS." According to UNAIDS, 36.7 million people were living with HIV in 2016, up 3 million from the year prior. Tens of millions of people have died from HIV since the epidemic began in 1981.



Currently, there is an accelerated movement to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030, called Fast-Track. Its goal is to have 90% of the people living with HIV to know their status, 90% of the people who know their status to receive treatment, and 90% of those on treatment to have a suppressed viral load so their immune system remains strong and the likelihood of their infection being passed on is greatly reduced by 2020. By 2030, the goal is to have those same categories reach 95-95-95, up from 90. The goal also calls for 500,000 and 200,000 fewer infections (by 2020 and 2030 respectively) and Zero Discrimination.

Find out more at ucc.org/ucan.

—Submitted by Marco Cable, executive, Global Ministries Africa Office and Michael Scheunemeyer, UCC executive, Health and Wholeness Advocacy



Sharing Life

Globally & Locally



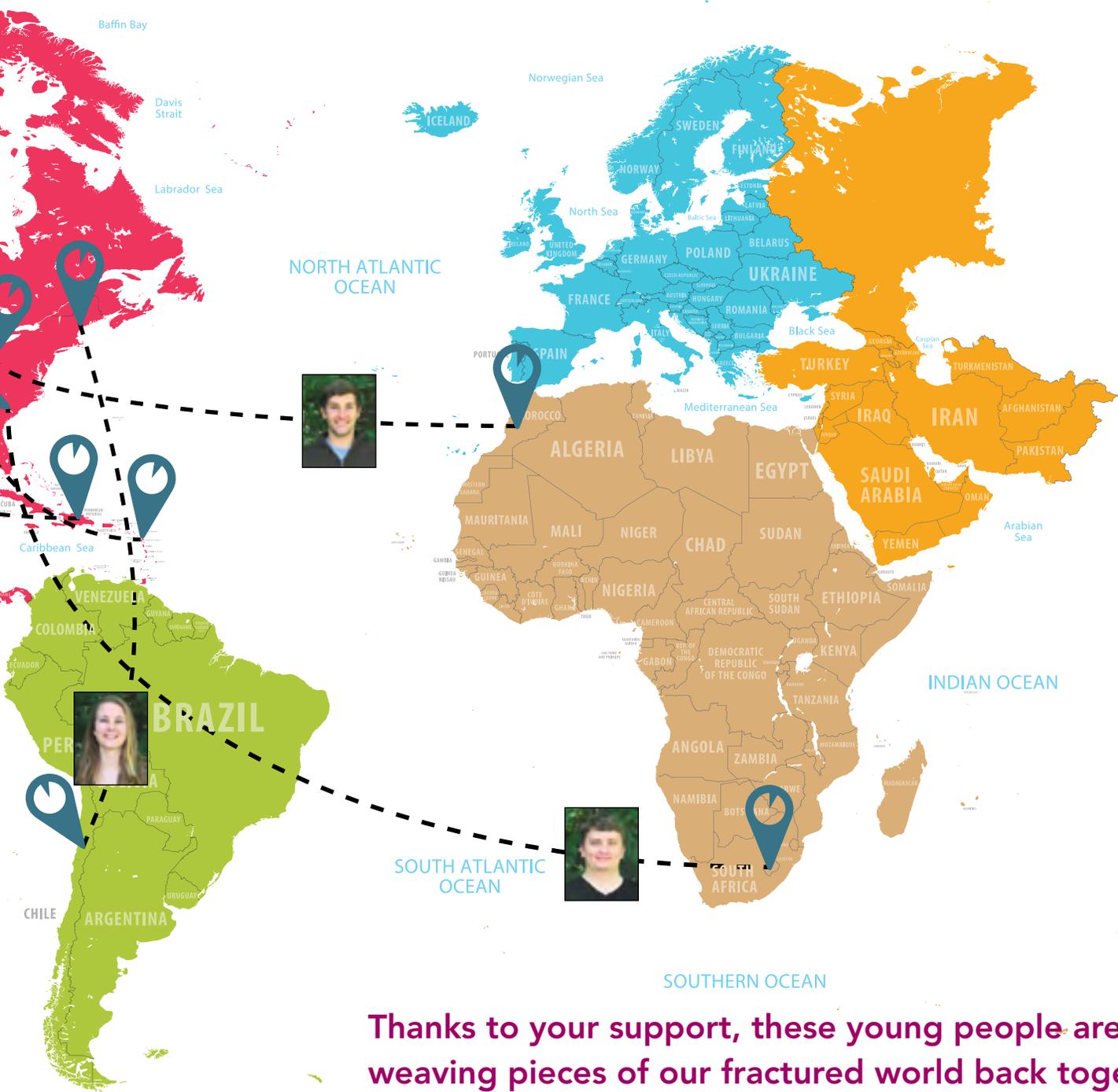
Thanks to your gifts to OGHS, young people complete their service with Global Ministries with assignments to similar service placements with partner organizations in the U.S.; helping them better understand the global connections with the local church.

When Lauren Kabat returned from her year of service at the Shalom Center in Chile, she had a chance to continue her service at Star Island in New Hampshire—a UCC-related environmental education center. She was able to make the connections of working with creation care by forest management and protection in Chile to composting and sustainable gardening in New England.

When Andrew Cooper completed his assignment in Lesotho, supporting the technical needs of the church, he began working with the church in South Carolina by

helping communities reconstruct after flooding. He moved from training young seminarians how to use computers in their ministry to helping delegations use plaster and paint as a sign of hope.

When Tyler Reeve returned from his time in Morocco supporting a church full of young immigrants from across Africa who worshipped together, he moved into a placement with the Community Refugee and Immigration Service in Columbus, Ohio. There he is witnessing how the church far and near, ministers to the stranger.



Thanks to your support, these young people are weaving pieces of our fractured world back together.

When Henry Brewer-Calvert completed his term with Caminante in the Dominican Republic working with street children and their families, he served for a summer with Humane Borders in Arizona, providing water in the desert. From facilitating educational programming and recreational activities that support and empower youth in the Dominican Republic to providing direct support for migrants fleeing violence and poverty, Henry added capacity to these organizations to save lives.

When Bethany Guy returned from Global Mission Intern

service in Guadeloupe, she had experience as a chaplain for women prisoners in that Caribbean Island. Bethany then served with the Night Ministry in Chicago with homeless youth before becoming part of Global Ministries home-based staff. Her multiple experiences reinforce her holistic approach to mission.

—Submitted by Catherine Nichols, executive, Global Ministries Mission Personnel Office and Mary Schaller Blaufuss, team leader, UCC Global Sharing of Resources

Educating Children, Refugees and Internally Displaced People

My name is Karolos Samuel Labib, from Beni Ahmed, Morocco. My family moved to Elminya, Egypt because in Morocco, we lived with in constant fear of threats of violence. I like school very much. I enjoy playing with the other children and learning, but I stopped going to school because I did not have any good clothes to wear, only one outfit. My mother was angry at me because she said being ashamed of having the right clothes was nothing compared to not having any hope of getting an education.

One day, the school master selected me to receive a school uniform. I was very happy, and excited. I told my mother about it. She was happy too. I began to go to school unashamed of my appearance. I play much more than before, and I am not absent anymore.

Many children like Karolos want to go to school but are faced with obstacles that they as children can't overcome alone. Karolos is just one of many children supported by the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Service (CEOSS) whose goal as an Egyptian development organization headquartered in Cairo, Egypt, is dedicated to social and cultural development, individual well-being, social justice and inter-cultural harmony.

In East Jerusalem a group of Palestinian women experiencing long-term displacement fight for their children to attend school. Dr. Mira Rizeq, General Secretary, YWCA of Palestine, and the Rev. Loren McGrail, a missionary from Global Ministries, tell the story of these women.

“A local school had been surrounded by an [Israeli] settler community. They cut the school off from the community by building a major highway, making it unsafe for the children to cross in order to go to school.” The women in the community—mothers and grandmothers—did not allow this to exclude their children from school. Instead, they organized a campaign to buy a school bus so that the children could reach school safely.

One Great Hour of Sharing supports the education of women and children. We help prepare them to become future leaders of their communities.

—Submitted by Peter Makari, executive,
Global Ministries Middle East and Europe Office
and Phyllis Richards, program associate,
UCC Global Sharing of Resources



Increased Numbers and Intensity of Disasters

Disasters in 2016 affected hundreds of thousands—not least in Haiti where, in October, Hurricane Matthew forced 150,000 people from their homes into shelters.

Matthew crossed Cuba and attacked several U.S. states before concluding its destruction in North Carolina.

“Words can’t capture the anguish people are going through,” said Gail McAfee of Shiloh UCC in Fayetteville, N.C.

Thousands in North Carolina and Florida will have unmet needs that the voluntary sector, including UCC Disaster Ministries, will be called to help meet—people like James E. Jones of Lumberton, N.C., a former Tuskegee Airman, “someone who had always helped others,” McAfee said.

“He had been on his own property until it was all washed away,” she said. “The lives of Mr. Jones and his wife Ernestine should be celebrated, not devastated.”

UCC Disaster Ministries helps survivors recover. In 2016, it supported emergency food and shelter in situations including Haiti and Cuba post-Matthew, Ecuador post-earthquake and Fiji and the Philippines following typhoons.

It also provided grants to U.S. congregations helping their communities, including St. Peter’s Evangelical UCC in Ferguson, Mo., following floods and Woodside UCC in Flint, Mich., addressing the tainted water crisis.

But its specialty is long-term recovery—helping people whose personal and governmental resources weren’t enough to restore them to clean, safe homes.

In the U.S., it helps organize long-term recovery groups and deploys casework and construction volunteers.

In South Carolina in 2016, the disaster ministries of the UCC, Brethren and Disciples joined to field work teams to

help people recover from heavy rainfall in October 2015.

Internationally in 2016, UCC Disaster Ministries sent the last of more than \$1 million for vocational training and

“What do we do now?!”



That cry rings out from disaster survivors worldwide.

storm-resistant houses in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. It continued to fund livelihoods recovery and earthquake-resistant houses in Nepal, following 2015 earthquakes, and it helped get recovery started in Ecuador following April 2016 earthquakes with microloans for families in Sua for purchase of chickens and business equipment.

—Submitted by Carol Fouke-Mpoyo, writer,
UCC Disaster Ministries and Zach Wolgemuth, executive,
UCC Disaster Ministries

As disasters in the United States and worldwide follow each other in rapid succession, UCC Disaster Ministries is determined not to allow struggling survivors to be forgotten.



OGHS Top 100 Churches, United Church of Christ

(Based on 2015 per capita giving, and a minimum of \$2,000 total dollars.)

California, Nevada Northern

First Congregational UCC
Berkeley, CA
Foothills Congregational UCC
Los Altos, CA
Skyland Community UCC
Los Gatos, CA
Ladera Community Church
Portola Valley, CA
Community UCC
Sebastopol, CA
First Congregational Church UCC
Sonoma, CA

California, Nevada Southern

Pilgrim UCC
Carlsbad, CA
Claremont UCC
Claremont, CA
Irvine United Congregational
Irvine, CA
First Congregational UCC
Long Beach, CA
Redlands UCC
Redlands, CA
Mission Hills UCC
San Diego, CA

Central Atlantic Conference

New Ark Church UCC
Newark, DE
Cleveland Park Congregational
Washington, DC
First Congregational UCC
Washington, DC
Westmoreland Congregational
Bethesda, MD
Evangelical Reformed Church
Frederick, MD
Greenbelt Community Church
Greenbelt, MD
Christ Congregational UCC
Silver Spring, MD
First Congregational Church UCC
River Edge, NJ
Little River UCC
Ammandale, VA
Rock Spring Congregational UCC
Arlington, VA
United Christian Parish
Reston, VA
Emmaus UCC
Vienna, VA

Central Pacific Conference

First Congregational UCC
Ashland, OR
First Congregational UCC
Corvallis, OR

Connecticut Conference

Second Congregational Church
Greenwich, CT
First Congregational Church
Old Lyme, CT
Union Memorial UCC
Stamford, CT
First Church in Windsor, UCC
Windsor, CT

Hawaii Conference

Church of the Holy Cross UCC
Hilo, HI
Keawalai Congregational Church
Makena, HI

Illinois Conference

Congregational UCC
Arlington Heights, IL
First Congregational UCC
Crystal Lake, IL
First Congregational UCC
Geneseo, IL
Ivanhoe Congregational UCC
Mundelein, IL
First Congregational Church UCC
West Chicago, IL

Indiana-Kentucky Conference

Saint Peter's UCC
Carmel, IN
Salem UCC (Magley)
Decatur, IN
Peace UCC
Fort Wayne, IN
First Congregational UCC
Indianapolis, IN
Saint John's UCC
Vincennes, IN
Saint Andrew UCC
Louisville, KY

Iowa Conference

First Congregational UCC
DeWitt, IA
UCC Congregational
Grinnell, IA
Congregational UCC
Iowa City, IA
Union Memorial Church
Milford, IA

Kansas-Oklahoma Conference

Colonial UCC
Prairie Village, KS

Massachusetts Conference

First Congregational UCC
Holliston, MA
Trinitarian Congregational UCC
Northfield, MA
Congregational UCC
Norwell, MA

Michigan Conference

Congregational UCC
Clare, MI
Plymouth UCC
Grand Rapids, MI

Minnesota Conference

Union Congregational UCC
Saint Louis Park, MN
Macalester Plymouth UCC
Saint Paul, MN

Missouri Mid-South Conference

Zion-Saint Paul UCC
Hermann, MO
Kirkwood UCC
Kirkwood, MO

New Hampshire Conference

Church of Christ At Dartmouth
Hanover, NH
Congregational Church of Laconia
Laconia, NH

New York Conference

Mountain Rise UCC
Fairport, NY

Ohio Conference

David's UCC
Kettering, OH
First Congregational UCC
Marietta, OH
The First Church in Oberlin UCC
Oberlin, OH
Plymouth Church UCC
Shaker Heights, OH

Pacific Northwest Conference

First Congregational UCC
Bellingham, WA
Shalom UCC, Richland
Richland, WA
United Church in University Place
University Place, WA
Northshore UCC
Woodinville, WA

Penn Central Conference

Trinity UCC
East Petersburg, PA
Hamilton Park UCC
Lancaster, PA
United Church of Christ
Myerstown, PA

Penn Northeast Conference

Trinity Great Swamp UCC
Spinnerstown, PA

Pennsylvania Southeast

Heidelberg UCC
Schwenksville, PA
Trinity Christian UCC
Skippack, PA
UCC at Valley Forge
Wayne, PA

Rocky Mountain Conference

First United Church of Arvada
UCC
Arvada, CO
Lakewood United Church of
Christ
Lakewood, CO

Southeast Conference

Central Congregational UCC
Atlanta, GA
First United Church UCC
Belvidere, TN
Church of the Savior UCC
Knoxville, TN
Pleasant Hill Community Church
Pleasant Hill, TN

Southern Conference

First Congregational UCC
Concord, NC
Community UCC
Raleigh, NC
Congregational Church UCC
Tryon, NC

Southwest Conference

The Good Shepherd UCC
Sahuarita, AZ
Sierra Vista Community UCC
Sierra Vista, AZ
Casas Adobes Congregational
UCC
Tucson, AZ
Church of the Painted Hills UCC
Tucson, AZ
Church of the Good Shepherd
Albuquerque, NM

Vermont Conference

Second Congregational UCC
Bennington, VT
Community Church UCC
Guilford, VT
Bethany UCC
Randolph, VT
Congregational Church UCC
South Hero, VT

Wisconsin Conference

First Congregational UCC
Baraboo, WI
First Congregational UCC
Eau Claire, WI
United Church of Christ
Mc Farland, WI
Plymouth UCC
Milwaukee, WI
Congregational UCC
Neenah, WI
First Congregational UCC
Oconomowoc, WI
Congregational UCC
Whitewater, WI

Connect with us...

There are many ways to engage in mission through One Great Hour of Sharing. You can: become a disaster volunteer, make a financial contribution, connect through Social Media, or become an OGHS Ambassador and use your voice to promote the offering. However you'd like to get involved visit ucc.org/oghs for more information.

Watch the Latest One Great Hour of Sharing Videos

These 1–5 minute features define One Great Hour of Sharing and the mission that's made possible through the United Church of Christ. Videos can be fun and educational. They are easy to share with friends, groups, during worship, or on your Social Media page.

Make a Gift to the OGHS Offering!

Financial donations make a difference in the lives of people today through a generous gift to the OGHS offering. Donations support a variety of actions all geared toward improving life for people and communities, in the US and internationally. Be part of a movement to change the world.

Make a Legacy Gift to the OGHS Endowment Fund

Download a copy of the brochure or make a gift to continue our legacy of being where we are needed most. Visit our website at ucc.org/oghs_endowment.

Stretch Your Gift by Completing the Matching Gifts Process with Your Employer

Did you know that many employers contribute to their employee and board members' favorite charities? Matching gift programs are a great way to double or triple the impact of your personal donation. Find out if you work for a matching gift company today. Visit our website for a quick check at ucc.org/matching-gifts.

Connect with us through Social Media

One Great Hour of Sharing has its own Facebook page. We make regular posts, sharing the mission of the United Church of Christ through the OGHS offering. If you haven't yet, please like and follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

facebook.com/onegreathourofsharingucc?ref=hl

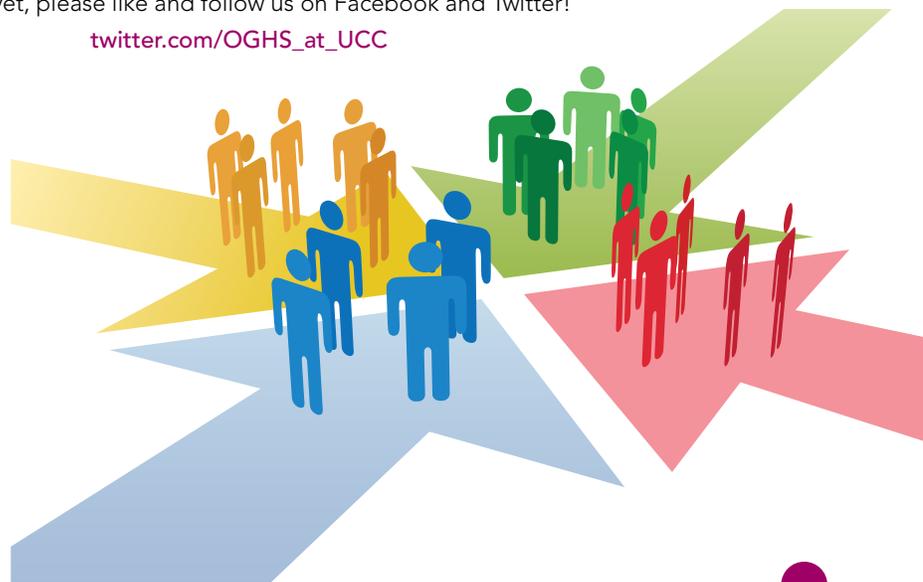
twitter.com/OGHS_at_UCC

Become an OGHS Ambassador

Learn about the mission made possible by gifts to the offering, then share the story with others in your congregation and neighboring churches. Sign-up today by sending an email to oghs@ucc.org.

Travel with OGHS

Each year OGHS hosts an educational mission trip to help interested members of our local churches see first-hand how OGHS makes a difference in our world. Visit our website, and join us on our next trip at ucc.org/oghs.





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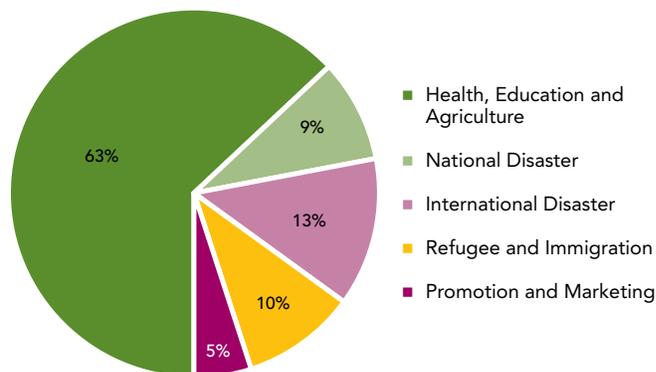
Don Westra
Micro-Enterprise Planning/Management
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In 2016, the United Church of Christ received over \$2.2 million for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Every dollar was used to help people and communities living in critical situations worldwide.

Additional designated contributions for particular natural disasters or refugee emergencies enabled even deeper responses in these areas. The One Great Hour Endowment Fund provides opportunities for legacy giving to support long-term relationships and special projects.

Thank you for your support!

OGHS All-Church Offering



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