



Sample Introductions to Partner Videos

For Guest at Your Table 2020-21 Worship Services

Adela Ramírez

When we hear about migration from Central America to the United States, the story often begins with the injustices people face upon arriving to the border, or the dangers and difficulties of the journey itself. We less often hear of the conditions that lead people to migrate in the first place – and even less often about what happens when people are deported or forced to return to the country they left.

Today I have the pleasure of introducing you to this week’s “Guest,” Adela Ramírez from UUSC’s partner organization Asociación Pop No’j (*pronounced Pope-No*). Pop No’j works to address root causes of migration in Guatemala and support people who are deported from Mexico or the United States to Guatemala. Providing psychosocial support and help reintegrating, Pop No’j focuses their work on supporting children, youth, women, and Indigenous Mayan people who have been forced to return to Guatemala.

Here is a clip of Adela sharing about her work with Pop No’j, including descriptions of the conditions that force people to flee and the difficulties of being forced to return to Guatemala.

Video link: https://youtu.be/PZq3l_HvJ5A

Video length: 2 minutes and 31 seconds

Mark Stege

According to research, climate change will leave many homes in the Marshall Islands uninhabitable by 2050. This week, our “Guest” is Marshallese climate researcher and UUSC partner Mark Stege (*pronounced STAY-ghee*), who works together with communities in the Marshall Islands to collect data on flood risks and groundwater quality. By involving communities in data collection and decision-making, Mark helps increase Indigenous leadership in climate change research, ensure self-determination for communities, and prolong the habitability of peoples’ homes through adaptation and resource conservation.

Here is a clip of Mark speaking about the importance of increased involvement of impacted communities in climate change research and adaptation planning.

Video link: <https://vimeo.com/461069000/ea370767d>

Video length: 1 minute and 50 seconds

Chief Shirell Parfait-Dardar

Today I have the privilege of introducing you to this week's "Guest," Chief Shirell Parfait-Dardar, leader of the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Tribe. Through a partnership with the Lowlander Center, a volunteer-run ecological justice organization in southern Louisiana, UUSC works with Chief Shirell to advocate for the Tribe's rights against the ravages of climate change, exacerbated by oil and gas activity and lack of Federal Recognition. Last January, UUSC and Lowlander Center supported Chief Shirell as she joined with four other Indigenous communities in Louisiana and Alaska to submit a formal complaint to the United Nations about the U.S. government's failure to adequately address the climate crisis devastating their homelands.

Here is a clip of Chief Shirell sharing about her home and how drastically her Tribe's lands have changed since her childhood.

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbphUxHHIDY&t=5s>

Total video length: 3 minutes and 18 seconds

Suggested shortened clip for worship: start video at 1:59 and end at 3:18

Suja Karimuddin

Violence against the Rohingya ethnic and religious minority of Burma escalated in 2017 with "clearance operations" by the Burmese military, but the building blocks of genocide were put in place many years before. Starting as early as the 1980s, the Rohingya were gradually stripped of their right to education, healthcare, citizenship, and more. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have been forced to flee their homes since.

UUSC's partner Suja Karimuddin – this week's "guest" – is one of the many Rohingya people forced to leave Burma out of fear for their lives. After fleeing Burma at the age of only 17, Suja gained firsthand experience with the difficulty of accessing basic services and building a life as a refugee in a new country. Once he gained more stable footing himself, he co-founded an organization called Elom Empowerment to support Rohingya and other refugees in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Since then, Elom Empowerment has been providing educational opportunities, vocational trainings, and a community center where refugees can practice their cultural traditions.

Here is a clip of Suja explaining the reason he fled Burma as well as some of the services Elom Empowerment provides.

Video link: <https://vimeo.com/461025769/2128caa56e>

Video length: 1 minute and 40 seconds