



# Takoma Park Presbyterian Church

310 Tulip Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD 20912  
301-270-5550

May 26, 2022

Dear Friends in Jiñocuao,

We have received the news of Valentín de Jesús Ponce Sánchez' death with the deepest sadness. On behalf of the congregation of Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, let me express our sorrow and condolences for your loss, which is also ours. At the same time, we wish to celebrate his life and powerful witness to the love of Jesus Christ. It is Christ's grace that binds us together, and the promise of resurrection that we receive through him that brings us hope in the face of death.

As a relative newcomer to the Takoma Park community, I was not privileged to know Valentín. However, let me assure you that his presence and impact on the life of our congregation remain strong. I have been inspired by the stories shared of his efforts to strengthen your community in the face of war and injustice, along with his tireless passion for teaching and living the Word of God.

In fact, one reason I was drawn to serve in Takoma Park is related to our congregation's long friendship with all of you. When I was a teenager, my own father visited Nicaragua during the Sandinista revolution as a delegate with Witness for Peace. When he returned, his testimony of the faith and hope he experienced there was an important lesson for me about God's compassionate presence in the midst of struggle and suffering. In the not too distant future, I hope to make the journey to Jiñocuao myself with others from TPPC.

So even as we mourn Valentín's passing from this life, we rejoice that he remains enfolded in the arms of God, and a shining light for all of us through the great cloud of witnesses. Valentín de Jesús Ponce Sánchez, child of God, *presente!*

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mark Harper

On behalf of Takoma Park Presbyterian Church