

You Are Welcome Here!



**An "Open and Affirming" Congregation
of the United Church of Christ
in Germantown, MD**

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF SENECA VALLEY

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January 31, 2021

Living Into Our Calling- When Imposter Syndrome Gets in the Way

10:00am Zoom

Our Mission

UCC Seneca Valley is an open and affirming, progressive and inclusive spiritual community that is centered in the belief that we are all beloved children of God. We seek to joyfully share Christ's message of hope through creative expression, deepening connections between people, advocating for justice, and serving our community.

Worship Participants

Greeter: To Be Determined

Liturgist: Jeanne Springmann

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: Bryan Young

Director of Music Ministry: Stefan Petrov

Zoom Technical Support: Patrick Jackson

Instructions for Zoom Worship:

As you sit down to worship bring a candle with you (flame or electric). Keep your microphone on mute during worship unless told otherwise. Words in bold are meant to be said aloud at home with the Pastor or Liturgist who will say them on the Zoom call. Sing along at home to the sung responses and hymns. Use the chat box for the passing of the peace and prayer requests or other worship responses. Chat directly to individuals as appropriate. If you are having technical issues please chat message Patrick Jackson for help. The Zoom room opens at 9:30am and worship begins at 10.

Welcome & Announcements

Welcoming the Light into Worship – Light your candle at home

Prelude

Call to Worship

Liturgist: As people, as a group, as a community of faith –

People: we gather in this place.

Liturgist: To listen. To speak. To worship.

People: To pray. To be with God. To be together as one body.

Liturgist: Because we know that it is God's authority, and God's love,

People: that binds us together and builds us up.

Liturgist: We will trust in the God who created us

People: and calls us to new life.

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Speak with authority in our lives in this hour of worship, Christ.

Speak to us, and to what is in us, so that we might be whole. Speak to us, with love, with hope, and with strength, so that we might hear you, and know, deep inside, that we are your people, and that you are our God. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"Jesus, The Light of the World"

*Hark! the herald angels sing.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the newborn King,
Jesus, the light of the world.*

Refrain:

*We will walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.*

*Joyful, all you nations, rise.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Join the triumph of the skies.
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]*

*Christ, by highest heav'n adored.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]*

***Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Jesus, the light of the world. [Refrain]***

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: People of God, we desire to be refreshed, renewed and changed. Let us listen again to God's calling our names to encourage us and strengthen our resolve to be God's people in faithfulness and peace-loving justice. *(A chime calls us to a moment of quiet.)*

Prayer of Confession

People: Holy One, for the ways in which we bury your light underneath layers of busyness and denial, have mercy upon us. For the times we fail to recognize your light in the eyes of the hungry, the outcast, the stranger, have mercy upon us. For the opportunities not taken to share your light with our children and parents and neighbors and friend, have mercy upon us. Un-stop our ears, O God, that we may hear your word proclaimed this day. Open our minds and hearts to be changed. Free us from the unclean spirits of worry, fear, destruction, and pride. Teach us, Lord, that we may follow you more faithfully. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Friends, God hears our prayers and sets before us the way of Jesus. God calls us and gives us enough grace and mercy to follow the way. Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

(We will drop out of the powerpoint and unmute you. You are encouraged to wave, say Christ's peace aloud, and/or write your offering of peace to all in the chat.)

Peace Response

"Arise, Your Light Is Come"

***Arise your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.***

Welcoming New Members

Leader: To become a member of the church is to choose to join a community that is held together by faith in God and by promises to others. We are a covenant community, which means that we promise to journey together striving to offer to one another the same grace, mercy, and love that God has extended to us. When we join the United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley, we agree to accept each other just as we are, even as we work to live into all that God created us to be. We strive to care for one another and respect each other, even if we don't always agree. On our best days in this community we are loved, and we seek to love others; we are served by a variety of ministries, and joyfully seek to serve others. Membership brings us into a community in

which we have certain rights and privileges regarding its governance, and corresponding responsibilities to participate, in as much as we are able.

UCCSV is a special community and we are glad to welcome into membership in this church those who wish to join at this time.

Leader: Friends, we rejoice in the pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to our church community in this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence now in this household of faith. We are hopeful for the journey that God has for us all together.

Introductions

(New members briefly introduce themselves.)

Prayer of Blessing

Question and Reception

Leader: To those joining today, do you wish to continue on your journey of faith as members of this congregation?

New Members: We do.

Leader: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of the United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley as it serves this community and the world?

New Members: We promise with the help of God.

Leader: Will you challenge this community to be the best version of itself as we seek to do justice, love others, and promote peace? Will you allow yourself to be changed, shaped, and transformed by the Spirit's movement in and among this community?

New Members: We will, relying on God's grace.

Leader: Let us, the members of the United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley, affirm our covenantal call and mutual ministry. Do you, as a community, promise to receive the gifts of these new members and to allow yourselves to be changed, shaped, and transformed by the Spirit's movement among us all as we do justice, love others, and promote peace?

Congregation: We do and we will, relying on God's grace.

Leader: What do you promise these new community members and how will you welcome them?

People: We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share in the hopes and joys and struggles of this community. We agree to serve by your side as we seek to spread the Realm of God. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love, may we be witnesses together for justice and peace in the world, and may we join as one body of Christ to be the church in this time and place.

Leader: Let us together affirm our mutual ministry by reciting the Covenant of UCCSV:

All: Responding to the love of God shown to us through Jesus Christ, we covenant with God and one another as the United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley. We seek to hear God's will through worship, fellowship and service. We bind our lives together in trust and love as a community of faith, dedicating our time, talents, and aspiring to live according to the example and teaching of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Children's Moment

Scripture Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Mark 1:21-28

Contemporary Reading "How Can I Be Called?" Rev. Monica Beacham

Sermon

Musical Response

Community Life and Concerns

(We will drop out of the Powerpoint here. Please feel free to write your prayer concerns in the chat box.)

God is good, **all the time.**

All the time, **God is good!**

Moment of Silence

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

(You are welcome to pray using the words below, or whatever words or version of this prayer is the most meaningful to you.)

Our Creator in heaven,

hallowed be Your name.

Your realm come, Your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer Response

“Be Now My Vision”

*Be now my vision, O God of my heart;
nothing surpasses the love you impart
You my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping your presence my light.*

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: Part of our calling is to share what we have been given with others. Abundance is not created to be hoarded or hidden, but to be used to create a more just and joyful world that reflects the Kin-dom of God. Let us give what we have and what we have been gifted with back to God for use in the ministries of this church.

Offertory Prayer

People: Generous God, we offer you our gifts knowing that they are inadequate. But we also believe that you can take our gifts and transform them into more than enough. Continue to challenge us and call us to live into the best versions of ourselves and to give out of our abundance, for in doing so we will truly be answering your call to be the church in our time. Amen.

Closing Music

“Good Enough”

Lea Morris

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Extinguish The Light

Benediction

“Call to Worship” adapted from a prayer by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell. “Opening Prayer” adapted from a prayer by Richard Bott. “Prayer of Confession” adapted from a prayer by Karen Hawker and Amy Loving. “Offertory Prayer” adapted from a prayer by the Rev. Madison Shockley. Hymns and lyrics reprinted and streamed under ONE LICENSE # 724117-A. All Rights Reserved.

Fellowship Time - Those who wish to stay and chat with others will be broken into small group breakouts to allow for more sustained conversation.

New to our Congregation or have questions? Please consider leaving us your contact information at <https://forms.gle/Rjicc2jdMmzCgCFh8>

Greeters and Liturgists Needed

If you are available on Sundays, please consider signing up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-uccsv>
As always, thank you very much.

Congregational Check In/Happy Hour - Fridays at 7 PM

Connecting nowadays can be difficult. Do you sometimes just want to see your fellow UCCSV members and friends for a quick chat? Your wish is granted! There will be a Congregational Check In/Happy Hour every Friday at 7 PM. It will only run for **1 hour** and is a good way to say "hi" and catch up with others. Different Deacons will be hosting each Friday and it is open to all. It will be very casual with no obligations... stop by when you feel the need and stay as long or short as you want. Take care and we will see you when we see you.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89655025431?pwd=V1k0bEQ4VTBGODJ3L2U1WHBFbzBnZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 5502 5431

Passcode: peeps

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 896 5502 5431

Passcode: 565927

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89655025431?pwd=V1k0bEQ4VTBGODJ3L2U1WHBFbzBnZz09>

Social Action: Understanding Police Accountability

There has been much in the news lately about police accountability. As people of faith who care deeply about justice issues, it behooves us to understand upcoming Maryland legislation which addresses police accountability.

On Thursday, February 4 @ 7:00 PM, the Potomac Association Maryland Justice and Witness Team will offer a review via zoom on four Police Accountability Bills pending at the Maryland General Assembly.

The four bills are: Repeal of the Law Officers Bill of Rights; Limits on Police Use of Force; Anton's law; and eliminating police resource officers in schools. Representatives from ACLU and MAJR will provide background regarding these bills. These four bills have been identified by the Maryland Justice and Witness (J&W) team for a coordinated MD UCC

response. Pastor Holly, Dan Davis, Suzanne Schmidt, and Bethany Fuss have participated in the J&W team meetings.

All those affiliated with UCC churches in the Potomac Association are welcome to the February 4 event. Details including registration and access to this zoom event will be included in next week's Spirit News. Feel free to contact Suzanne Schmidt at revsasphd@gmail.com with questions.