

**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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October 10, 2021

## **Finding Our Way Again With Curiosity, Courage and Connection: What Do You Need?**

10:00 a.m. 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: John Bartkowiak

Liturgist: Shelly Moore

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: Jen Fuss

Director of Music Ministry: Stefan Petrov

Zoom Technical Support: Patrick Jackson

### **Instructions for Zoom Worship:**

As you sit down to worship we encourage you to bring a candle (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 send a 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: This is the place for connection and growth, for community and hope. In this place we can ask questions like, “Where are you from?” and, “What do you need?” And reach out to one another saying: “I’ve been thinking of you,” and, “I’ve been meaning to ask. . .” Because the world needs more places where we can ask each other questions that matter and where we can answer one another honestly and with love.

**People: This is the place for such questions because all belong here. All are welcome here. All hurt and joy, needs and prayers, dreams and love, are welcome here. God is near. Let us worship Holy God.**

#### Opening Prayer

Liturgist: God of all time and all seasons, come to us quickly.  
Come to us with loud praise and joy,  
or appear to us in a still, small voice.  
Come to us through friends,  
or come to us through strangers.  
Come to us in words and music and art in this hour of worship.  
Come to us quickly if you can.  
We are seeking you.  
We are always seeking you.  
With grateful hearts cracked open by love, we pray. Amen.

#### Opening Hymn

“What A Covenant”

#### Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: If we were to call the prayer of confession by another name, we might call it a moment for truth telling—A moment to pause, to reflect, to be honest about the places we want to grow and the way we need God’s help. Family of faith, there is power in honesty. So let us pray, first with a moment of silence, because we worship a loving and gracious God. *(A chime calls us to a moment of silence.)*

#### Prayer of Confession

**People: Gracious God, when it comes to our relationships we so desperately long to say the right thing, to do the right thing, to find the right solution when someone has a problem that sometimes we overstep the line.**

**Forgive us for assuming the place you fill.  
Forgive us for imagining that we, in all our humanity,  
could possibly fix all the hurt in this world.  
Instead, give us the grace and the strength to stand by our loved ones in their  
moments of need to witness their hurt without trying to fix it.  
You are God. We are not. Teach us how to be a friend.  
Teach us how to ask, “What do you need?”  
Teach us how to point to you.  
Gratefully we pray. Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

Liturgist: Beloved of God, no matter how many times we have spoken without listening, assumed without knowing, offered without asking, or rushed without waiting—we are forgiven. God knows our desires and our intent. God knows when we try and miss the mark, and God surrounds us in grace. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: Every day is a new day for love. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are invited into relationship. Thanks be to God for growth and grace that know no end. Amen.

### **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.)

### **Sung response to the Peace**

“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

### **Children’s Message**

#### **Scripture**

Job 2:11-13

#### **Video Vignette**

“What Do You Need?”

Rev. Remington Johnson

#### **Sermon**

Rev. Holly R. Jackson

### **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**

**"Come Let Us Join With Faithful Souls"**

## **Offertory Invitation**

Liturgist: Each week in our worship service you are invited to give to the mission and ministry of this church. When you give, you are not only supporting this congregation, but you are offering care to the broader community—leaning in, asking the hard questions, choosing connection, choosing generosity. It is these small acts of care, connection, and love that with time can help heal the hurt in the world. Let us give with grateful hearts.

## **Offertory Prayer**

**People: Holy One, in giving this offering we declare that you are worthy of our gifts and that in giving to you we are giving back to this church community and we are also giving to strangers whom we have never met. In worship, when we give to the offering, we are declaring that all of creation deserves love and care, which is a radical notion in this hurting world. So today, as a way to practice being in relationship and drawing closer to one another, we offer you these gifts. Use them in service of the mission and ministry of this church and your wider Realm. Amen.**

## **Closing Music**

**"We Cannot Own The Sunlit Sky"**

## **Extinguish the Light**

## **Benediction**

*Liturgy adapted from work by Rev. Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org as part of the "I've Been Meaning to Ask" worship series. 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? Have questions?**

Please consider leaving us your contact information at

<https://forms.gle/Rjicc2jdMmzCgCFh8>

**Greeters and Liturgists are needed always!**

If you are available on Sundays, please consider signing up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-uccsv>