

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 24, 2021

Finding Our Way Again With Curiosity, Courage and Connection: Where Do We Go From Here?

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: Terri Molaski

Liturgist: Suzanne A. Schmidt

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: Tim 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: If you come into this place
with the hope of growing deeper,
with the hope of connecting,
with the hope of glimpsing God,
and if all of those things take place,
and your spirit is moved,
and you swear God is near,
and you feel more than lucky for the gift of faith, and then the service
comes to an end, and it's time for you to leave,
and you ask yourself, "Where do we go from here?"
Then I would say to you, "Go out into the world to love and to share and
to learn, but come back soon, because this is the beginning.
This is only the beginning

**People: So come on in. Fill your cup here. Be present here. God is here.
Let us worship Holy God.**

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Holy God, we know that you are always speaking—
through strangers and friends,
through sunrise and sunset,
through random acts of kindness
and feelings that stir hope awake in us.
We know that you speak through dreams and prayer, through a still, small voice and
bursts of overwhelming joy. We know that you are always speaking,
but we also know that we are inclined to miss it. Settle our spirits now to hear your
word fully. We want to be part of the conversation. Gratefully 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: Holy God, we are naturals when it comes to stalling out. We reach a certain point in the relationship, in the conversation, in our faith, and then we stall. We buy property on the top of the plateau and build a house there, destined to never dig deeper or climb higher. Forgive us for giving up on the things that matter. Forgive us for confusing the plateau with the mountain top. Forgive us for taking the easy way out instead of doing the hard work of curiosity, relationship-building, vulnerability, and connection. Inspire us to see new paths for where we can go from here. With hope and honesty, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Family of faith, we are works in progress, but we are works in progress designed, created, and claimed by God. No matter what you have done or left undone this week, today is a fresh start. Hear and believe the good news of the gospel: God is with us on the mountain top, and God is with us on the plateau. We are loved, claimed, and forgiven. 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.)

Sung response to the Peace

"I've Got Peace Like a River"

Children's Message

Scripture

Ruth 1:1-22

Video Vignette

"Where Do We Go From Here?"

Rev. Aisha Brooks-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"

Stewardship Moment

Deb Anderson

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 in time, can help heal the hurt in the world. Let us give with grateful hearts.

Offertory Prayer

People: Holy One, the story of our faith is one that constantly reminds us that we cannot do this work alone. Even as we ask ourselves, "Where do we go from here?" we know that we go together towards you. In these gifts we offer we assert that when we give what we can from what we have, we trust that you will move us ever closer to that promised future of love and peace. Use these gifts to lead us to new places and new ways in which we will work to transform ourselves and the world around us. Amen.

Closing Music

"Adoramus Te"

Mozart

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>