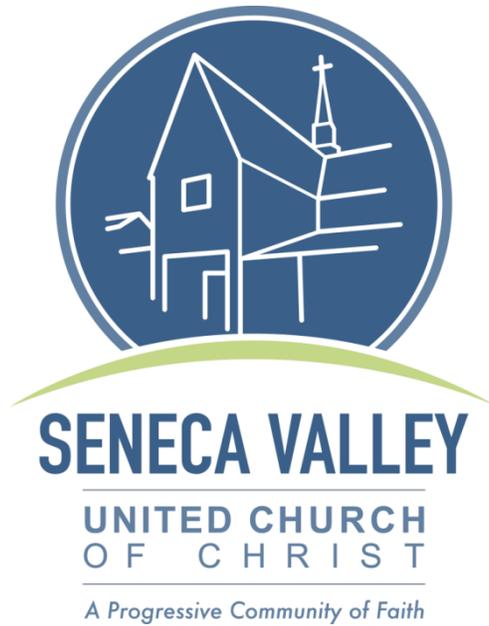


**You Are Welcome Here!**



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

# THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF SENECA VALLEY

Located: 13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD 20874  
301-540-3449 • [uccsv@verizon.net](mailto:uccsv@verizon.net)

Mail all correspondence to: P.O. Box #803, Germantown, MD 20875

October, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

**Finding Our Way Again With Courage, Curiosity, and Connection: Who do you trust? What should you believe?**

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: TBD

Liturgist: John Bartkowiak

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: John Bartkowiak

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). Also, bring a cracker or piece of bread and wine or juice with you for Communion. 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: Here in this space, we wear our hearts on our sleeves.

**People: There is no use in filters or walls. This space is an authentic space.**

Liturgist: This space is a brave space.

**People: For when it comes to God, we are always invited to bring our full selves into the room.**

Liturgist: So come into this space with your hurt and your joy, your prayers and your dreams.

**People: All of God's children are welcome here. Let us worship Holy God.**

### Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Holy God, today we will read stories of those who have known hurt— people who have carried shame, who have lived with grief and chronic illness, who have felt alone and ignored, who have seen the depths of suffering. As we listen, we will be reminded of the hurt we have carried during these fragile days— memories and regrets co-mingling in our chests. And as we listen, we will be reminded that our neighbors, our siblings in faith, also come to this space carrying burdens. So dust off our ears and stretch open the canvases of our hearts so that in our pain, we might lean into one another as we lean into you. Pull us close. We are listening. 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 come to this place with questions.**

Liturgist: We've been meaning to ask our neighbors...

**People: How are you? What has your year been like? Did you know that I have been thinking of you?**

Liturgist: We have been meaning to ask our friends...

**People: Is your mom okay? Did your sister find a job? Did you ever think we'd still be here?**

Liturgist: We've been meaning to ask those we haven't talked to in a while...

**People: Did it get easier? Did the grief subside? Were you ever able to sleep at night?**

Liturgist: We've been meaning to ask but we haven't—  
**People: Because it's hard. Because we want to say the right thing. Because we're not sure how to help.**

Liturgist: We've been meaning to ask but we haven't. We're so sorry for our silence.  
**People: Forgive us. Help us to forgive each other. Help us to reach out and love those around us. To ask them where they hurt and to be honest with where we hurt too. Help us, Healing God, to start again. Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

Liturgist: In the journey to love and care for one another, we are bound to make mistakes. Fortunately for us, we worship a God who showed us how to love, and who extends grace to us when we fail to do so for others. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: We are seen. We are heard. We are loved. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God for this endless grace. 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**

Mark 5:21-43

#### **Contemporary Reading**

"The Disinformation Age"

Karl Nova

#### **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**

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

### **Mission Moment**

Neighbors In Need

Bethany Fuss

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

### **Offertory Prayer**

**People: Generous God, this year has been hard for so many, but with this offering we declare that pain will not be the last word. We declare that grief will not be the whole of the story. We give so that you can begin to take our small offerings and use them to bind up the brokenhearted, to heal the hurt, and to reassure us of what is good and right and true. May what we give today transform us and the world around us. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Pastor: The whole world is in God's hands.  
Everything that lives and breathes.  
Everything that simply is. Everything.  
From the farthest spaces to the inmost places!  
God is with us and we are with God.  
As people of Christ, gathered at table,  
with our siblings around the world,

to remember whose we are, we praise —  
Alleluia! Thanks be to God!  
You are welcome here to this global table!

### **Communion Liturgy**

Pastor: Holy God, to your table you bid us come.

You have set the places, you have poured the wine, and there is always room,  
you say, for one more.

And so we come.

From the streets and from the alleys we come.

From the deserts and from the hills we come.

From the ravages of poverty and from the palaces of privilege we come.

Running, limping, carried, we come.

We are bloodied with our wars, we are wearied with our wounds, we carry our dead  
within us,

and we reckon with their ghosts. We hold the seeds of healing, we dream of a new  
creation,

we know the things that make for peace, and we struggle to give them wings.

And yet, to your table we come.

Hungering for your bread, we come;

thirsting for your wine, we come;

singing your song in every language,

speaking your name in every tongue,

in conflict and in communion, in discord and in desire,

we come, O God of Wisdom, we come.

On the night in which he gave himself up for love and justice Jesus sat around a table  
with his closest friends and he took a loaf of bread. I invite you now to take your bread  
in your hands and hold it up to the screen. Jesus blessed his bread, gave thanks for it,  
and then he broke it saying, "This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of  
me." I invite you to break your bread and return it to your plate.

Again, after supper Jesus took the cup and raised it up before him. I invite you to raise  
up your cup now. Jesus gave thanks the cup and blessed it and then said, "This cup is the  
new covenant poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink of it do this in remembrance of me." I invite you to put your cup  
down now and raise your hands over both the bread and cup.

God of light and love, send now upon this bread and cup your life-giving Spirit.

Blow over this table and transform this simple meal into a holy feast. May sharing this  
bread and cup transform us, as individuals and as a church. Fill us, O God of abundance,  
with your Holy Spirit that we may be one in community and one as the body of Christ all  
over the world. Amen.

### **Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

*(At this time, you are invited to serve yourself or those with you the bread saying something like, "The Body of Christ given for you" or "The Bread of Life given for you". You can dip the bread in the cup saying something like, "The Cup of Salvation shared with you" or "The Cup of Blessing shared with you." We will pause here for a few moments, so everyone has a chance to receive the elements.)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**People: We give you thanks O Lord, for all food that has arrived at our table from your generosity. Bless the people who have made it possible, from the cultivation of the earth until it arrived to us. Give bread to those who are hungry, and to those who have bread give us hunger for you. Amen**

**Closing Music**

"Lovely Needy People"

**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. Communion Liturgy adapted from work by Maren Tirabassi and Jan Richardson. 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>