

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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November 1, 2020

A Blessing for the Election and All Saint's Day

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: Jeanne Springmann

Liturgist: Laura Lineberger

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: Bryan Young

Director of Music Ministry: Stefan Petrov

Zoom Technical Support: Patrick Jackson

Instructions for Zoom Worship:

We invite you to come to worship with a candle to light. This can be a real flame or an electric candle. As it is a communion Sunday please bring bread or a cracker and wine or juice with you as you sit down to worship. This morning we will spend time blessing our election, encouraging voting, and honoring our ancestors. We will also have a special time of memory for Sally Duncan, one of the matriarchs of our congregation that passed into God's arms this past February.

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. Close all non-essential programs on your computer and silence all notifications so you don't become distracted. 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: Jesus, our Teacher, this is what you want us to learn
People: Not the world's wisdom, but God's.
Liturgist: Awaken us to our need of you in our lives
People: And pour the Holy Spirit out on us.
Liturgist: Move us with sorrow for the sorrow of the world
People: And make us strong through our tears.
Liturgist: Give us the humility to admit our failures
People: And help us to learn from them.
Liturgist: Make us hungry for justice
People: And give us food that lasts.
Liturgist: Help us to see others through your eyes
People: And show us ourselves with love.
Liturgist: Inspire us with tales of the saints and our ancestors in faith
People: And help us to walk in their footsteps and appreciate their contributions.
Liturgist: Show us how to practice what we preach.
People: And see God in everyone. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Loving God, we come this morning seeking to abide in your presence. Open our minds to your spirit of wisdom, that we may know how to live as your people. Open our hearts to your spirit of truth, that we may love all your people with a love that speaks of justice, kindness, and radical grace. Amen.

Opening Hymn "For the Healing of the Nations" #576 v.1&2

*For the healing of the nations, God we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing of all the things that earth affords;
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.*

*Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.*

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: God pours blessings upon us, even as we choose to go our own way. God is present and seeks to bring healing and wholeness to all. Therefore, you are invited to confess all that would separate you from God or one another. Let us pray. *(A chime calls us to a moment of silence.)*

Prayer of Confession

People: Holy God, sometimes our resentment and despair deteriorate into vengeful anger at those whom we believe deserve your punishment. We distance ourselves from those who disagree with us. Help us to build bridges instead of walls, especially in this election week. Transform that anger into the energy to share the stories of your love and justice throughout the generations. Help us carry that prophetic voice all the way to the voting booth. Thank you for calling us to share your generous love—may we meet your call, without fear. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: We are all connected in community like the threads of a beautiful quilt, but so often we feel like we are unraveling. God has knit us back together again, stitched us together, and we are stronger than before. When the world tears us apart, God brings us together again, through forgiveness, reconciliation, and love. 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.)

Peace Response #526

"We are Marching in the Light of God"

*We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching, ooh
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching, ooh,
we are marching in the light of God.*

*We are dancing in the light of God
We are dancing in the light of God
We are dancing in the light of God
We are dancing in the light of God
We are dancing, we are dancing, ooh
we are dancing in the light of God.
We are dancing, we are dancing, ooh,
we are dancing in the light of God.*

Scripture

Philippians 4:1-13, Matthew 5:1-12

Contemporary Reading

“Yale Divinity School Convocation”

by Emily Townes

Sermon

Rev. Holly Jackson

Musical Response

Honoring Sally Duncan

Blessing for the Election

UCCSV Social Action Committee

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

“Not my Brother, Nor my Sister” #519 v. 1 & 4

***Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me O God,
standing in the need of prayer;***

***Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me O God,
standing in the need of prayer;***

It's me, it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.

It's me, it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.

*Not the stranger, nor my neighbor, but it's me O God,
standing in the need of prayer;
Not the stranger, nor my neighbor, but it's me O God,
standing in the need of prayer;
It's me, it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.
It's me, it's me, O God, standing in the need of prayer.*

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: We do not what will happen this week or in the weeks to come. But we do know that when we come together to give back to God, to fund the work of our church, and to work towards a better tomorrow we practice hope, we experience abundance, and our meager offerings are multiplied into overwhelming blessings. Let us give now to that end.

Offertory Prayer

People: O God, you bless us in so many areas of our lives—in places we often fail to recognize as blessing. Help us have eyes to see and hearts to understand the depth of your love and blessing. Today, we give out of that blessedness, dedicating ourselves to lives of justice and love, giving all that we are and all that we have to bring about your beloved community, here and now. Amen.

Communion Invitation

Leader: Come to the table as all saints come,
as God's people always do,
with love hope and questions –
bricks without straw? fiery furnace?
no-wine? five-loaves?
who's going to wash the Passover feet?
Come to the table with your mourning –
old or new or delayed –
and your celebration of memories,
and your imagination of possibilities
for times yet to come,
because here you are welcome,
in a weeping, laughing communion of saints,
in a weeping, laughing communion ... of us.

Communion Prayer

There is a sacred story that goes way back,
older than ancestors, older than anything here,
to wind blowing over waters.
God's love was in a garden,
and a flood-drenched rainbow.
God's love was in a desert tent,

barley fields for gleaning,
a slingshot,
a mythically big fish
and a new-thingled way in the wilderness.
There is a sacred story that goes back
to a mother in a barn,
a foster father and skyfully distanced angels.
We love stories, especially this one
of the baby named Jesus, loved
by a cow, three magi, and many shepherds,
who grew up, healed people,
told awkward parables,
and made people angry.
At Passover he broke unleavened bread.
and poured wine and himself –
for saints who slept when he needed friends.
But the Shelter-in-every-place of Love
gave that time full of death
a hope of waking to Resurrection
and an Emmaus of self-understanding.
And so now we come,
clothed in our own sad times,
and our cloud of witnesses to hope –
all the saints we have known,
the saints we will know, and the saints we are.

On the night on which Jesus was betrayed, he sat at supper with his disciples.
While they were eating, he took a piece of bread.
I invite you now to raise your bread at home up with both hands.
Jesus said a blessing broke it, and gave it to them with the words,
'This is my body. Given for you. Do this to remember me.'
I invite you to break your bread and return it to your plate.

Later, he took a cup of wine, and gave thanks for it.
Raise your cup up now before you.
Jesus said, 'This cup is God's forgiveness poured out for you and for all people.
Drink from it, all of you, to remember me'.
I invite you to put your cup down as we bless these elements.

Bless us and bless these gifts.
May the Spirit rest upon this time and these tables,
surrounded tenderly by our memories of saints
as on sacred times and tables long ago.

so that this loaf may be broken love,
and this cup a well of blessing.

Sharing the Elements

(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: Spirit of Christ, stay with us where we stay, as familiar as our daily plates and cups. Go with us where we go, safe and full of love as the mask across our lips. May we, your eager and sometimes awkward saints, carry in us a Communion from which all can share – comfort for loss, courage for speaking, compassion for healing. We give you thanks for both the shelter and the road. Amen.

Closing Music

"God Has Seen Us Through"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzokhS9KHFU>

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Some prayers adapted from www.ministrymatters.com. Prayer for Election Day

Source: <https://allsaints-pas.org/prayers-for-election-day/> Rev. Shannon Kelly, Missioner for Young Adult and Campus Ministries. Hymns and lyrics reprinted and streamed under ONE LICENSE # 724117-A. All Rights Reserved.

Extinguish The Light

Benediction

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>

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 45 minutes 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.-John (Chair of Deacons)

UCC Seneca Valley is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Congregational Check In/Happy Hour

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>

Ballot Box Drop Off Locations

- 1. Germantown Recreation Center**, 18905 Kingsview Road (off Clopper Rd), Germantown, 20874
- 2. Activity Center at Bohrer Park**, 506 South Frederick Avenue (Rt 355), Gaithersburg, 20877
- 3. Watkins Mill High School**, 10301 Apple Ridge Road, Gaithersburg, 20879
- 4. 18753 N Frederick Ave (Rt 355 near Toyota Service Center)**, Gaithersburg 20879
- 5. Clarksburg High School**, 22500 Wims Road, Clarksburg, 20871
- 6. Community Recreation Center**, 13850 Travilah Road, Rockville, 20850 or 11315 Falls Road, Potomac, 20854
- 7. Poolesville High School**, West Willard Road, Poolesville, 20837

Simply place your completed ballot in the return envelope, sign the oath on the envelope, seal the return envelope and take it to a drop off box in the county. Ballot drop off boxes will be delivered at different times. The drop boxes will be available through Tuesday, November 3rd. Your ballot must be dropped off by 8 pm on Tuesday, November 3rd.

Please make sure your oath is signed on the return envelope or the ballot will not count. Ballot drop off boxes are monitored and secured by trusted election officials.

Ballots are retrieved from the boxes at least twice daily by election officials. The drop off boxes are not property of the United States Postal Service. If you have any questions, please contact your local election office. This list may be updated to include new drop box locations as they become available. For location up dates, go to elections.maryland.gov/2020. *This list is subject to change.*

Social Action Committee
Voting Task Force