

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 8, 2020

Together for Joy: Singing “New Songs” Together

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: Suzanne Schmidt

Liturgist: Deb Anderson

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: Deb Anderson

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. For the next three weeks we are grounding ourselves in the psalms and in finding joy together. How are we finding ways to sing “new songs” together as a community and how can that help transform our lives?

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: Come, sing a new song to God!

People: Remember all the times full of wonder God has already saved us!

Liturgist: Even as we mute our microphones and watch on our screens,

People: we are finding new ways to make a joyful noise to God!

Liturgist: Look out your window, open the door, listen to the choirs outdoors,
feathered and furred!

People: Let the hills sing together for joy!

Liturgist: For God is not done doing wonders!

People: God is coming to set everything right. Sing a new song to God!

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: O Living God of past and future, we praise you for this present moment. Fill us with your joy and empower us with your Holy Spirit, that our strength may be renewed to sing a new song of your glory in a world which longs for your justice and peace. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, in whom we become your new creation. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“Enter, Rejoice, and Come In”

#576 v.1&2

***Enter, rejoice, and come in. Enter, rejoice, and come in.
Today will be a joyful day, enter, rejoice, and come in.***

***Don't be afraid of some change. Don't be afraid of some change.
Today will be a joyful day, enter, rejoice, and come in.***

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Search us, O God, and know our hearts. Test us and know our anxious thoughts. Point out anything in us that offends you and guide us on the road to life. We take a moment now to quiet our hearts and open them to you. *(A chime calls us to a moment of silence.)*

Prayer of Confession

People: Ancient of Days, we make plans and predictions, but who are we? Mere mortals who have only a glimpse of what tomorrow brings. We don't presume to understand what you know, O God, but we do know that you have been with us since the beginning, and you will see us through. You are the one who knows the hairs on our heads, who whispers our names, who knows the deep wounds we live with in our hearts. We come to you in our brokenness, in our aching, in our sighing, because you

are the Great Physician. Heal us, O God. Heal our bodies and spirits. Heal our families, neighbors, communities. Heal our cities, our nation, our world. Heal us, O God, by restoring our hope, our faith in one another. Heal us by helping us to be whole again, to let go of the practices that cause harm, and cling to ways of justice, mercy, and peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Listen to the promise of God: Those who love me, I will deliver. I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honor them and show them my saving power. God's unfailing love brings us together for joy! We are forgiven and freed.

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

Psalm 93:1-3, Psalm 139

Contemporary Reading

"The pandemic shut down choirs.
We're finding new ways to sing together."

By Tim Sharp

Sermon

Rev. Holly 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

***Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight.
Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable God to you.***

Stewardship Moment

Beth Lauriat

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: As we reflect on all that troubles our hearts, we remember the faithful whose labors have enabled our hope. They persevered through struggle. They practiced joy in the midst. They revealed the power of community and the divinity of shared labors for liberation. In gratitude for the ones who go before us, the past that enables our future, in the new songs we have learned and are learning to sing together, let us bring our gifts to God.

Offertory Prayer

People: God, we bring all we have, and all we are, and all we feel into your care. In your company, we pray for collective wisdom. That you will guide us in the service of love. And that our commitments to our neighbors - especially those most afraid, most alone, or most vulnerable to violence - will be renewed with fervor. May we sing together for joy in a way that transforms us and the world around us. Amen.

Closing Music

"This Little Light of Mine"

UCCSV Youth Choir

"Prayer of Confession" by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, rev-o-lution.org and "Offertory Invitation and Prayer" adapted from enfleshed. 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>

Stewardship Ribbon - Together for Joy!

You should have received a piece of ribbon in with your stewardship packet. We invite you to write on the ribbon, listing one or two things that have brought you joy these last months. You can drop off your ribbon with your pledge card (or by itself if you use the online pledge card) during Front Porch Hours from 4-6pm on November 12th or 19th or on Sunday November 15th. Or mail it in with your pledge card. We will put these ribbons together in one community piece to be used in worship on November 22nd. We are together in joy!!

Fire Pit Friday

One more Fire Pit Friday will be held on Friday, November 13 starting at 5:30. Bring a picnic dinner and/or smore fixins and beverage of your choosing. Also, bring a chair and/or blanket.