

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 21, 2021

Rooted In Love:
Rooted in Thanksgiving
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: Jeanne Springmann
Liturgist: John Bartkowiak
Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson
Deacon: Camila Young
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). For Communion Sunday please have bread or a cracker and juice or wine with you as you sit down to worship. 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

Leader: This is a time for giving thanks; a time to be mindful of the good that encircles us.

People: **Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

Leader: Friends and family encourage and care, and this community shows us God's loving ways.

People: **Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

Leader: We find a home in God's creation and the earth gives us good food to make us grow.

People: **Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

Leader: The seasons change. Sunshine comes and goes, yet your loving care for us is eternal.

People: **Thank you, God, for all you have given us!**

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Generous God, today we sing a song of thanksgiving rooted in gratitude. We pause in the midst of the busyness of life to look within and offer our thanks for a day that has dawned anew; and for the breath that gives us life. We rejoice that we have voice and head and heart so that we can love one another, love you, and love all your people. We celebrate the abundance in our lives, and that we can share it with the world. In jubilation and grace, we offer all that we are and all we have to work for the transformation of the world into a Realm of justice and peace. Bless us in this hour of worship. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Opening Hymn

“In the Bulb There is a Flower”

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: The prayer of confession allows us to claim that we are works in progress, and there is beauty in that. We are seeds planted, rooted in love and sprouting towards the sun, until the drought comes, or the clouds gather, and we cannot figure out how to grow fruit. But the good news is that you don't have to be perfect here. You don't have to have it all figured out here. You just have to want to grow and flourish and honestly admit to all that gets in the way of doing that. In the silence of this moment let us hold on to that truth.

(A chime calls us to a moment of silence.)

Prayer of Confession

People: Gracious Creator, you have given us so much, but too often we take those gifts for granted, or as something to which we are entitled. You call us to live in caring community, but too often we place our wants and needs first, with those of others a distant second. You call us to share your gifts with the world around us, but we are worried that there may not be enough, and our worrying gets in the way of our sharing. For all the times when we mistreat and misuse your gifts, and for all the times we assume that we get what we have by ourselves, forgive us and lead us back to the path of wisdom. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Friends, know that forgiveness is available in abundance, “pressed down, shaken together, running over” (Luke 6:38). It will never run out. Receive forgiveness, be free from the fears that affect your giving and your living, forgive yourself and others as you have been forgiven this day. Feel yourself rooted in love and flourish.

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

“This Is the Day”

Children’s Time

Scripture

Psalm 126

Sermon

Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Grounding Ourselves in Thanksgiving

Pastor: If you are grateful to God for this new day, and want to say thanks, clap your hands.
If you are grateful to God for a kindness given or received this week, and want to say thanks, say it aloud.
If you are grateful to God for this community, and want to say thanks, wave your hands in praise.
If you are grateful to God for the ways Zoom has allowed us to continue our worship and gather together as a community, make a square with your hands.
If you are grateful to God for a prayer heard and want to say thanks, raise your right hand in the air.
If you are grateful to God for the gift of amazing grace, and want to say thanks, shout it out aloud.
If you are grateful today for the blessings in your life, take a moment now during the musical meditation and write something in

the chat, or write it down on a piece of paper only you see. But note your gratitude. What are you grateful for today? What roots you in thanksgiving and keeps you there?

Musical Meditation

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 Sung Response

Call to Pledge and Offer Gifts

Pastor: Over the last several weeks, we've been asking you to prayerfully discern what God's hopes are for your 2022 giving, to ask God to make you part of this church's great outpouring of generosity rooted in love. If you have already pledged to give a certain amount to this church for the coming year, thank you. Your pledge helps us to plan for the ministry we can do together. If you have yet to pledge but you still want to, that's okay just mail in your pledge card or fill out an online pledge card. If you don't plan on pledging for whatever reason, or if you're new to us and not ready to pledge, that's okay too. We are all on different journeys when it comes to giving. Our only hope is that you continue on the journey with us. But all of us, no matter what we have or what we give, can all offer our blessings on the pledges that have been made and, on the gifts, offered here today.

Prayer of Dedication

People: O Holy One who dwells in our midst, you abide in each heart and root yourself in our communities. Yet always you push us out of our comfortable places, calling us into the ever-wider world of human diversity. You challenge us to recognize in others your beloved face. We offer these pledges of gifts to you as an act of love. Take and multiply them. Show us how to create a world where the stranger is welcomed, greeted as Cherished-of-God. Help us to work to deepen our connections with you and with each other as we work together in ministry. Encourage us to use art to heal, to express, to advocate, and to create a space of beauty and care. Push us to advocate for justice and to begin to deconstruct the systems that oppress and destroy. Inspire us to serve our community in new ways with these gifts we offer to you. Make each gift promised and given be multiplied so that together they do the most good possible to your glory. Amen.

Closing Music

We Give Thanks"

Performed by The Many

(We Give Thanks - Words by Lenora Rand, Music by Hannah Rand © Plural Guild Music 2020, Used with permission.)

Extinguish the Light

Benediction

"Call to Worship" by the Iroquois-Matilda Pastoral Charge, "Opening Prayer" adapted from a prayer by Rev. Karla Miller, "Confession" adapted from a prayer by Rev. Gord. Pledge "Prayer of Dedication" adapted from work by the Rev. Susan A. Blain. 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>