

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

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October 31, 2021

Rooted In Love:

Rooted in The Table

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: Shelly Moore

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). 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

Liturgist: We join together for worship, rooting ourselves in the ritual of communion, looking to be nourished by the food that you offer us.

People: God of sustenance, give us this day our daily bread.

Liturgist: As you care for the wheat fields that turn into bread and the vineyards that labor to produce sweet wine, tend to our bodies by feeding us what we need for healthy growth.

People: God of abundance, give us this day our daily bread.

Liturgist: The rich crops that you have prepared are now ready to be harvested by our hands and our hearts.

People: Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: O Bread of heaven, come down.

Come down and fill us with your Spirit—
for your Spirit satisfies like no other.

Root us in your love by welcoming us at your table.

We hunger and thirst for you this morning
and long to be nurtured in your love and forgiveness.

So we come to this sacred time and place,
where our hungers are finally and fully satisfied
as only your bread can do.

We will wait and listen for your leading in this hour. 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: Merciful and loving God: when we are ungrateful, remind us of your grace. When we are oblivious, open our eyes. When we are harsh, gentle our spirit. When we are apathetic, show us your suffering children. When we demean ourselves, whisper that we are created in your image. When we refuse to share, remind us that all we have comes from you and is yours, not ours. When we feel alone, welcome us to your table of grace and root us in your love. When we lose all hope, show us the empty tomb. Shape us, and turn us around, that we will live with blessing and grace and light. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Beloved, through the love shown to us by Jesus, we can be sure that we are God's children now. The Spirit of Christ is among us in this gathering and the nature of Christ is revealed within us even as God roots us further and further in love. Therefore, let us live joyfully as God's people, feeding others and welcoming all in God's name.

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"

Scripture

Luke 22:7-23

Testimonies Rooted in Love

Bryan and Camila Young, Nancy Crowley

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 Response

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: The invitation to bring our tithes, pledges, and offerings is an invitation to support one another, those within this community and beyond, to become all of what we are called to be. Our tithes, pledges, and offerings—both monetary and other—enable us to give thanks to God for the resources we have been given and enable us to be resources for others. This is how we remember that we are rooted in love even as we encourage our roots to grow deeper still and our fruits to overflow. Let us give generously and watch the miracles of God unfold in our lives and our ministry together.

Offertory Prayer

People: Generous God, thank you for all the good things you continue to provide for us. Don't let us take your gifts for granted or abuse them. Instead, help us always to rely on you in faith. Use us and what you have given us for your good purposes. Amen.

Communion Invitation

Pastor: Come for the food God gives.
Here is no message, no commandment
no promise, no warning, no blessing,
though God gives those at other times.
Here there is welcome. Here there is love.

Come for food whether you are starving
or if you know you have never truly experienced hunger.
Come if eating has been a hard issue for you,
or the word "wine" hurts,
because alcohol has impacted your life
or the life of someone dear.

Come and let God meet you as food.
Come and let God welcome you and nurture you.
Come and let God teach you what it means to truly be rooted in love.

Communion Liturgy

Pastor: There are sacred stories about eating together
that remember a garden with many trees,
barley fields gleaned to feed the poor,
a starving widow with a child who offered her last meal and oil
to offer bread to a wandering prophet,
a whale who saved another prophet by swallowing him to ferry him to safety.

There are sacred stories that celebrate festivals, the end of famines,
the kindness of strangers, and even the generosity of ravens.

We remember that Jesus made a wedding brighter,
multiplied a small child's lunch,
ate with those who were not welcome at respectable tables,
while telling awkward parables that made people angry.

We remember a Passover meal when Jesus washed toes,
dipped bread in gravy with a betrayer,
shared a cup with one he knew would deny him,
and still made sure everyone was fed,
before taking a small piece of holiness,
and pouring a sip of compassion,
and naming himself as food.

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, in this pot-luck we call church, you feed us as hungry guests so we can host your
Monday to Saturday table of love. May our memories of picnics and barbecues, school
lunches and pumpkin bread, the first Jell-o after surgery and the covered dish at a home
of grief, remind us that Jesus' breath of peace hovers over the meals of every child of
God and makes this bread and cup a miracle deep as faith and ordinary as hope. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

People: God of Love, thank you for feeding us as hungry guests. May this meal sustain us so that we can offer it to others. May the welcome we found here be multiplied across creation. May we be rooted here at this table, together. Amen.

Closing Music

“Give Me Jesus”

Extinguish the Light**Benediction**

Liturgy adapted from work by The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009, © 2008 Abingdon Press (Opening Prayer), Food for All: Service Prayers for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi (Call to Worship), Rev. Beth Merrill Neel (Confession), Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson (Offering Invitation), and Maren Tirabassi (Communion Liturgy) 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>