

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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February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent

Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Healing and Recovery -Physical Health

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: To Be Determined

Liturgist: Tim Fuss

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: Asher Beckwitt

Director of Music Ministry: Stefan Petrov

Zoom Technical Support: Patrick Jackson

Instructions for Zoom Worship:

As you sit down to worship bring your Lent To Go Bag (if you have one) and a candle (flame or electric). 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: We are God's Holy Vessels.

People: We are created from the dust of God's creation.

Liturgist: We are shaped and formed along life's path.

People: God offers us healing for the sharpest fractures.

Liturgist: We begin with acknowledging that, even broken, we are God's treasured ones.

People: We are God's beloved and we are ready for this Lenten journey.

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: God of Healing, we are hoping for inspiration, holiness, and invitation from your Word today. Inspire us with a new path forward in our life together. Help us to move faithfully from one step to the next with grace for ourselves and others. Remind us that you have chosen us no matter what. Amen.

Threshold Song

"Holy Vessels"

Chuck Bell

***Vessels, holy and whole
Broken, needing the One
Open, body and soul
Healer, come.***

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Lent developed into a season of intense inward reflection and confession centuries after the life of Jesus. Yet, as we will see, Jesus encouraged people to open up about their lives – to speak truth – no matter how broken. The Latin origins of the word "confess" is to "study and acknowledge." This is the beginning of compassion for ourselves and others. It is the beginning of healing. This will be a season of studying how we can be a healing presence in our community. We begin with a moment of silence to pause and reflect. *(A chime calls us to a moment of silence.)*

Prayer of Confession

People: Creator God, we are bodies fashioned by your hand in your own image, shapes and colors of diverse and immense beauty. Yet too often we have ignored the sacred nature of our physical lives. These Holy Vessels you have fashioned are tired and suffering, ravaged by months of disrupted rhythms and ailment. Our fragility has come into full view and we are frightened. We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away, sometimes even from our own needs. Help us, Healer God.

Show us our strength. Forgive our inertia. Inspire us to move one step at a time toward greater care. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: God's love and grace surround you this Lenten season and always. You are a precious and holy vessel right now, broken and yet made whole. Christ's love is a treasure given freely. Take a deep breath in and accept this truth... and breathe out with the relief of assurance.

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.)

Hymn

"I Want Jesus to Go With Me"

*I want Jesus to go with me;
I want Jesus to go with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
O I want Jesus to go with me.*

*In my trials, O comfort me;
in my trials, O comfort me;
When my heart is almost breaking,
O I want Jesus to comfort me.*

*When I'm in trouble, O stay with me;
When I'm in trouble, O stay with me;
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
O I want Jesus to stay with me.*

Children's Moment

Scripture

Matthew 8:1-4; 16-17

Contemporary Reading

Quote from Rumi

Sermon

Musical Response and Ritual Action

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

"I Love My God, Who Heard My Cry"

***I love my God, who heard my cry
and chased my every grief away.
O let my heart no more despair
while I have breath to pray.***

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: During this season of Lent we are practicing healing for ourselves and for our community. We give now to the ministries of this church so that our gifts might be used towards that healing. We give to remember how God has healed us. We give because sharing what we have helps to heal us and those around us. This morning's offering will now be received.

Offertory Prayer

People: Holy God, we are aware that we cannot find healing and wholeness by ourselves. We need to work together with each other and with the power of your Spirit. Bless this offering as our intent to work and to bless, smoothing over the rough edges of pain and injustice in this world. Amen.

Closing Music

"Sacred the Body"

Performed by Steve Johnson

Extinguish The Light

Benediction

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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>

Greeters and Liturgists Needed

If you are available on Sundays, please consider signing up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-uccsv>
As always, thank you very much.

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 **1 hour** 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.

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>

Virtual Farkle/Yahtzee Game Night

Sign up on Sign-up Genius to play Farkle or Yahtzee. Game nights this month will be held on Tuesday, February 23 from 7 - 8ish. This time around, we will try offering break our rooms for Farkle and Yahtzee (keep your fingers crossed). If you're playing Farkle, please make sure you have 6 dice, a pencil, and a copy of the score sheet. If you are playing Yahtzee, please have 5 dice, a pencil, and score sheet. I will send score sheets

with the Zoom link next week. Contact Beth at balauriat@aol.com if you have questions.

Lenten Soupers

Please plan to join us for Lenten Soupers Wednesday evenings throughout Lent. We'll begin at 6:30pm for a half hour of conversation and eating together. (If we were in person this is when we would enjoy a common simple meal of soup, salad, bread, and dessert. However, as we will come together over Zoom you can bring whatever kind of meal you want!) Then at 7pm we will watch a short video together. Afterwards we will discuss the video and its implications. We'll close between 8 and 8:15 by sharing in prayer and simple spiritual disciplines. Over the course of our five weeks together we'll explore issues of healing and health that will echo and amplify the themes we're exploring in Sunday worship. You can come to one Wednesday or all five. We'd love to break bread and learn together. More details to come!