

**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 28, 2021

Second Sunday in Lent

Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Healing and Recovery –  
Economic and Community 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: Tim Fuss

Liturgist: Laura Lineberger

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: Deb Anderson

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 broken apart and separated from each other.

**People: We don't know how to join back together.**

Liturgist: We seek to understand the truth of our disconnectedness.

**People: So that God may offer healing and restoration.**

Liturgist: Today is one step on that journey toward community wholeness.

**People: We are all God's people, ready for worship.**

#### Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Loving God, whose touch can heal the broken places of life, help us to find some measure of healing this day. God of peace, whose spirit of peace can quiet our spirits of confusion and despair, reassure us that you are here with us. Forgiving God, whose call to repentance promises grace upon grace, renew and redeem us in this hour of worship. You who heal the sick and liberate the imprisoned, who bring justice in the midst of oppression and strength in the midst of weakness, pour out your spirit of power upon us today. 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: God of All, you created us for each other. You set in us a yearning for companionship and an empathy that binds us together, protecting each other and delighting in one another. Yet too often we have broken down our relationships instead of building them up. We have been set against one another with the lie of**

scarcity. We have built systems and economies that widen the gap of resources rather than safeguarding equitable practices. Too many, and growing numbers, are suffering hardship, food insecurity, joblessness. We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away, sometimes even from the need in our own community. Help us, Healer. Show us our empathy. Forgive our complacency. Move us one step at a time toward greater care for one another. 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. God's abundance, acceptance, and redemption is meant for all people. No matter what. We are capable of sharing our light and not running out of "enough." Christ's hospitality that broke through false boundaries points the way. For you, for me, for all. Take a deep breath in to let this truth fill you: You are enough and you have enough. 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: 5-13

### **Contemporary Reading**

Quote from Coretta Scott King

### **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.***

### **Testimony**

Adam DeBaugh

### **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, in giving of our treasure we acknowledge that we are part of an economic system that is often broken and unhealthy. We know that we truly have enough for everyone on earth to thrive but that we must share out of our abundance in order to ensure all are cared for. The act of giving is a way to begin to heal our own issues with money and to declare that we as a community are seeking a better way forward. Use these gifts to do your work in the world. Amen.

### Closing Music

"Give Me Jesus"

Arr. Moses Hogan

Performed by Nakia Verner and Stefan Petrov

### Extinguish The Light

### Benediction

*"Call to Worship" by Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth. "Opening Prayer" adapted from a prayer by Peter K. Perry. Other Liturgy is adapted from **Holy Vessels Lent Series** from worshipdesignstudio.com. Used by permission. **Holy Vessels** Words: Marcia McFee; Music: Chuck Bell © 2021 Chuck Bell Music. Used by permission. 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 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.

### **Join us for Lenten Soupers, Wednesday, March 3rd**

We start with dinner together at 6:30pm. Feel free to bring your meal and join us for conversation over our virtual dinner table. Then at 7pm we'll watch a TED Talk together and then discuss it. This week's talk will help broaden our understanding of community and economic health by focusing us on how gentrification wounds communities and how we can work towards healing those wounds.

Here is a link to the TED Talk we will watch:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/liz\\_ogbu\\_what\\_if\\_gentrification\\_was\\_about\\_healing\\_communities\\_instead\\_of\\_displacing\\_them](https://www.ted.com/talks/liz_ogbu_what_if_gentrification_was_about_healing_communities_instead_of_displacing_them)

Here is the Zoom link to join us:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84186675185?pwd=QnRqdGNEVjRsaUNsditWcEVObkNGQT09>



### **Doing Justice**

When we advocate for just laws or lift our voices in matters of policies which are unjust, we are following the Micah 6:8 directive to “Do justice.” The Potomac Association’s Justice and Witness Network has been encouraging members of UCC congregations in our association to become involved in advocating for bills related to justice at all levels of government. For example, there are bills related to police reform currently being reviewed in the Maryland General Assembly. If you would like to learn more about the bills being considered at the federal or state level and would like to be notified when writing to your representative or senator about these bills would be helpful in bringing about justice, you may indicate your interest in one of two ways by March 8:

1. Sign-up by filling out this short Google Form  
<https://forms.gle/ockRsSF3tpt4zut67>
2. Email Dan Davis at [daniel.davis18920@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.davis18920@gmail.com)

Once you indicate your desire to learn more about how you might lend your voice for justice, you will receive periodic emails about bills and actions you might take. Your first email will be a summary of the current bills related to police reform at the state level. When the call goes out to contact your officials, you will receive an email with a sample letter which may be adapted for your signature. Of course, the choice to respond is optional. At UCCSV, this effort is being shepherded by our Social Action Board and emails will be sent from either Dan Davis or Suzanne Schmidt who serve as our Social Action Board co-chairs.

### **Love Mercy During Lent Campaign: Opportunity One** **Fox Chapel Elementary School (FCES)**

Our church is a faith community partner in the Linkages to Learning (L to L) Program at Fox Chapel Elementary School. This program assists students and their families by providing or connecting them to services and resources that address the social, economic, health, and emotional issues that may interfere with student success. You may remember that in 2020 our church provided 5 Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts for 5 families which are part of the L to L Program at FCES. Food insecurity is a major issue for the families in this program. Not only is food in short supply but healthy food is an exceptionally serious issue. Rodolfo Nogales, the Community School Coordinator for L to L at FCES is working with the University of

Maryland's Extension program to offer 5 classes via zoom focused on healthy recipes for the students' mothers. Linkages is providing the food for the first and last sessions. Our church is providing the needed items for the second and fourth classes. Mother Seton Parish is providing food for the third class. Twenty mothers have signed up for the classes which will be taught by a nutritionist who is bi-lingual. The food which we will provide for two sessions costs \$10 per person. If you wish to donate via the church website <https://uccsenecavalley.org/donate>, you'll find a link under donations with a dropdown box for Fox Chapel Elementary School. Checks may be made out to UCCSV with FCES written in the notation section of the check. Checks may be mailed to UCCSV, PO Box 803, Germantown, MD 20875. Donations will be used to purchase the food which will be delivered directly to the school. The Love Mercy During Lent at Fox Chapel Elementary School campaign will run from February 17-March 7. Details about the other two opportunities will be featured in future newsletters.

### **1st Ever UCCSV Secret Shamrock Happening**

During the month of March, the Fellowship Committee is sponsoring this fun way to connect with someone from our church and remind them that they are held in care and love by this church community. The idea is similar to Secret Pals or Secret Santas, without a big gift at the end. It can be done through email (you'll have to get creative, maybe ask a friend to help), the regular mail, and/or drive-by drop offs. So, whether you live close by or far away, all are invited to participate. A separate flyer with specific information and how to sign up should have arrived in your inbox last Thursday. Be on the lookout!