

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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May 8, 2022

Fourth Sunday in Easter:

Jesus the Shepherd

10:00 a.m.

In-Person & Livestreamed through Zoom

Our Mission

UCC of 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

Online Greeter:	TBD
Liturgist:	John Bartkowiak
Usher(s):	TBD
In-Person Deacon:	Tim Fuss
Zoom Deacon:	Bryan Young
Pastor:	Rev. Holly R. Jackson
Music Support:	Beth Lauriat
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. Use the chat box for the passing of the peace and prayer requests or other worship responses. Chat directly to individuals as appropriate.

Welcome & Announcements

Welcoming the Light into Worship – Light your candle at home

Prelude

(*Stand in Body or Spirit)

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: In the darkest valley,

People: at the banquet table;

Liturgist: in the hard work of life,

People: at the moments of ease;

Liturgist: in our day-to-day reality,

People: at times set aside—

Liturgist: like this time, now—

People: for worship, for listening, for paying attention;

Liturgist: with every step we take:

People: goodness and mercy follow us; our cups overflow. Come, let us worship.

***Opening Prayer**

Liturgist: We seek and find you in Creation, O God, in the world you have made and the people you have called. Your vulnerable, powerful Lamb is our shepherd and guide, leading us to share the shelter of your abundant life. Let us recognize you here in the beauty of this morning and in its challenge; may the Risen One, your Shepherd-Lamb, lead us to act for your justice and peace: so that all may drink from your springs of the waters of life, and find their tears of sorrow and pain wiped away. In the name of the Risen One we pray: Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

“I Woke Up This Morning”

#85

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: We seek to know who Jesus was and follow in his footsteps. Part of that journey requires us to be honest with ourselves and before God about the times when we have wandered away from the path Jesus sets before us. We seek God’s grace for the moments when we have, as individuals and as a society, failed to live as Jesus taught us. We pause now to quiet our hearts in silence and then to ask for forgiveness and find hope in God’s embrace.

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

Prayer of Confession

People: Lord, we would follow you wherever you might lead. Lord, we want to follow you. Forgive us when we stumble and when we stray. Forgive us when we are distracted and lose our way. Be the one to whom we turn, whose hand we hold, the Shepherd who leads us safely into the fold. Jesus, we seek to follow you wherever you might lead. Forgive us when we ignore your voice and do not heed your call. Good Shepherd, help us to follow you. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Jesus told us of a shepherd that loved their sheep so much that they would not give up on them, even if it was just one that had wandered away. Jesus is our shepherd. He will not forsake us or give up on us. He offers forgiveness and grace, love and care at every step of our journey. Know that you are redeemed and beloved. Now and forever.

***Passing of the Peace**

***Sung Response**

"Halleluja"

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halleluja, halleluja!

Message for All Ages

Scripture

John 10:22-30

Contemporary Reading

"God's Name"

by Roddy Hamilton

Sermon

Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Hymn

"Savior like a Shepherd Lead Us"

#252

Community Life and Concerns

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.**

***Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.***

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: We invite you at this time to share God’s abundance—in person in the offering plates at the doors or online or in any way that you feel called to do so. We come with our own special gifts. We come as a gifted congregation, marked by abundance. We make our offering for our community of faith and for the wider world.

Offertory Prayer

People: God of love, you abide with us; You provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your care, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion. Amen.

***Closing Music**

“God Be With You”

#81 v. 1-3

Extinguish the Light**Benediction****Postlude****(*Stand in Body or Spirit)**

Call to Worship by Joanna Harader. Prayer of Confession adapted from a prayer by John Birch. Offering Prayer by Mary Petrina Boyd. Hymns and lyrics reprinted and streamed under ONE LICENSE # 724117-A. All Rights Reserved.

Fellowship Time - Each week after worship we will share in snacks, coffee/tea, and conversation in the Gathering Room or on the side portico (weather permitting) immediately after worship.

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
[UCC of Seneca Valley: UCCSV Worship Support \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)

Donating to UCCSV is Easy!

Please consider donating to UCC of Seneca Valley to support the vital ministries for the greater Germantown community and the wider UCC church!

- **Online via PayPal:**

[United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley - Donate \(uccsenecavalley.org\)](https://uccsenecavalley.org)

- **Text “Give” to 301-720-1980** (first time givers will need to input credit card information).