

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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July 18, 2021

Faces of Our Faith:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego – Courageous Faith

10:00 am 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: John Bartkowiak

Liturgist: Terri Molaski

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). 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: Today, we bring our fears.

People: God brings courage.

Liturgist: Today, we bring our pain.

People: God brings healing.

Liturgist: Today, we bring our despair.

People: God brings hope.

Liturgist: Let us worship the God of courage, healing, and hope.

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Holy God, we approach the faces of our faith today looking for you. Help us to find you in stories both old and new. Help us to release things from our ancient stories and from our own stories that we don't need any more. Help us to hear new lessons in stories we might not be as familiar with. Give us wisdom and courage as we draw near to you. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"God's Eye is on the Sparrow"

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: Now, in the silence of our confession, when we struggle to control our lives, may we, once again, empty ourselves of our pride and fears, to be filled with your hope. Now, in these moments, when we find it so hard to let go of our worries and doubts, may we, once again, open our hands to hold your faith. Now, on this day which is only and always your gift to us, may we, once again, find grace and follow the example of our ancestors in faith by living into your kin-dom. *(A chime calls us to a moment of silence.)*

Prayer of Confession

People: Holy God, we are often tempted by power. We are tempted to think power can save us. We can be intimidated into obedience and silence by great shows of strength. Forgive us when we turn from you. Give us courage and inspiration to hold on to you through the greatest tests of our strength. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: God stays with us through every challenge, renewing our faith and courage. In God's extravagant love, we are forgiven and renewed. Be at peace.

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

"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

Children's Message

Scripture

Daniel 3

Art Reflection

"The Fire Inside"

By Hannah Garrity

Sermon

Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Musical Response

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

"Shall We Gather at the River"

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: It takes courage to trust that we have enough to share. We often feel like we don't have enough time, enough money, enough anything. How can we ground ourselves in God, so that we can be bold and courageous in what we share with God's people? Let's reflect on that courage as we receive this morning's offering.

Offertory Prayer

People: Gracious God, thank you for the ways you lift us up and offer us your blessings. We share of those blessings now in hopes that others would know your solidarity and hope. Transform these gifts into further abundance for the people of God. Amen.

Closing Music

"Be The Light"

Extinguish The Light

Benediction

"Invitation to Confession" adapted from work by Thom Shuman. "Liturgy, reflections, and artwork from Faces of Our Faith worship series | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. 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 ASAP

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

Outdoor Evening Vespers Cancelled

The outdoor Evening Vespers service planned for today has been cancelled. For a variety of reasons we were not able to get this extra worship service pulled together this month. Since these additional services require lots of extra work on the part of staff and lay leadership sometimes they are simply unworkable. We hope to have an in person evening vespers service on Sunday, August 15th at 5:30pm. Due to the heat we anticipate holding that service indoors in our Gathering Room. However, because we will be indoors masks will be required.