

**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 25, 2021

Faces of Our Faith:

Deborah, the Wisdom to Create Space

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: Laura Lineberger

Liturgist: John Bartkowiak

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 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:** As we come together for worship let us create the time and space we need to sit with God and hear the whispers of the Spirit.

**People:** **Let us sit together under Deborah's palm tree and make space to listen.**

**Liturgist:** Let us hear the stories of our ancestors in faith who listened to the still speaking voice of God and responded. Let us consider how we fit into their story even as we write our own.

**People:** **In times of struggle and in times of peace God is present with us. In this hour we will pay attention to God tugging on hearts and calling us to a different way of life. Let us trust that through this process we can sift through the chaos of this world and align ourselves with the movement of God.**

#### Opening Prayer

**Liturgist:** God of our Ancestors, sometimes the stories in the Bible confuse us. The scriptures tell of wars and peace and oppression and violence and we are not sure how to make sense of it all. Today help us to listen to Deborah's story and find reassurance in your steadfast presence with her. Help us to remember her example of sitting and waiting for your wisdom and listening for your word. Show us how to create the space we need to connect with you. Give us the strength to stand firm in our calling to justice and love while also being open to your wisdom and the voice of the Spirit calling us to continue to walk in the way of Jesus. 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 and gracious God, at times we feel so frail and fragile, getting blown about by the latest crisis, by bad news, by our own short tempers and failings. You call us to hold fast to what is good, but so often we flounder, unable to find that solid thing that will center us again. Help us, we pray. Help us to see you as our center, and

**to cling to the good that you create in the world. Help us to set aside all our jealousies and prejudices, all of our betrayals and lies, all that adds to the world's hurt. Help us to grow even more into Christ's likeness, that we will bear his love and truth to the world. We pray in his name. Amen.**

#### **Words of Assurance**

Liturgist: Over and over again the Bible reminds us that God forgives. God offers mercy to all, the deserving and undeserving. Know that you are forgiven, offered renewal, and loved beyond measure.

#### **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**

Judges 4:1-10, 12-16

#### **Art Reflection**

"In Tune" By Lauren Wright Pittman

#### **Testimony**

Carol Lambie

#### **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: Our ancestors in faith taught us that when we give of ourselves- of our time, of our energy, of our gifts, of our treasure - amazing things are possible. In their honor and keeping in mind all that they taught us, we pause now to give back to God and to this community that nurtures and sustains us. We give to help transform lives and to do justice in the hope that someday those who come after us will remember our faithful actions and seek to do the same.

#### **Offertory Prayer**

**People:** Generous God, you are our creator, our judge, and our savior. You trust us with much asking that we use what we have been given to the benefit of all creation and to your glory. Take these gifts now, gifts given in gratitude for the many faces of our faith that have led us to this time and place. Use them to continue to build your church and your Realm in the name of love and for the good of all. Amen.

#### **Closing Music**

“Ubi Caritas” Performed by Clarisse and Miranda Lin

#### **Extinguish The Light**

#### **Benediction**

*“Invitation to Confession” adapted from work by Thom Shuman. “Prayer of Confession” written by Beth Merrill Neel. 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>

### **Pantry Project Update**

Hi everyone, we wanted to give you a quick update on the youth service project. First, we are thrilled that we have received the grant of \$750 from the Potomac Association and a generous gift of \$200. This will go towards buying the supplies to start the pantry, such as the storage shed, racks, and an initial stock of various items such as diapers, feminine hygiene products, etc. The youth will meet towards the end of July to discuss next steps, which include buying the supplies, setting up the pantry, and publicizing it in the community. We hope to get the pantry set up by late August. If you are interested in helping us with setting up/supervising the project, we would welcome your participation and feedback. We're so grateful for your support so far and please stay tuned!

Thank you so much! Have a wonderful rest of your week!

Sincerely,  
Clarisse