

**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

[uccofsenecavalley@gmail.com](mailto:uccofsenecavalley@gmail.com)

(301) 200-2213

Mail all correspondence to: P.O. Box #803, Germantown, MD 20875

July 3, 2022

**Camp Seneca Valley:**

**The Bible as a Map**

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:	Terri Molaski
Liturgist:	Shelly Moore
Usher(s):	Julia Schucker
In-Person Deacon:	John Bartkowiak
Zoom Deacon:	TBD
Pastor:	Rev. Holly R. Jackson
Director of Arts & Music:	Dr. Jesse Leong
Zoom Technical Support:	Colby Harmon

## **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

#### **\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist: We have come here to journey together.

**People: We walk together and promise to help one another as we go.** (*Walk in place.*)

Liturgist: Even when the path heads uphill,

**People: We climb towards the truth and follow the way of justice.** (*Climbing a steep mountain.*)

Liturgist: We watch for signs that God is still speaking and beckoning us on.

**People: The Spirit lights the fire where we warm our hands and hearts.** (*Warm hands by fire.*)

Liturgist: Though there are fierce currents around us on the river of life,

**People: We pray God carries us through and helps us to trouble the waters as we experience both safe harbors and choppy seas.** (*Paddling a canoe*)

Liturgist: We have come here to journey together.

**People: Let us go with God and prepare ourselves to experience the Holy.** (*Raise hands up to the sky.*)

#### **\*Opening Prayer**

Liturgist: God of the Journey, during this next month we'll follow a path together to learn about how we can trust you, grow in our faith, and be a community together. We will have adventures together. Sometimes the trail may seem challenging, or we might not be sure where we are going. But always we ask you to accompany us as we go so that none of us ever have to journey alone. Help us to have open hearts to all that you want to teach us. Give us the strength to take one step at a time to get to our destination. Provide us with a map so we will know where we are going and how to get there. Let your ancient scriptures help guide us on our way. We are ready for a great adventure as we head out on the trail. Help us to listen, learn, explore, and grow. Amen.

#### **\*Opening Hymn**

"I Want to Be Ready"

#616 v.1-4

#### **Invitation to Confession**

Liturgist: We all want to stay on the path of light and truth and hope, but sometimes we get lost. Our time of confession helps us to admit our struggles and find our way back to the route towards love and justice. We begin as the chime calls us to a moment of silence. (*A chime calls us to a moment of silence.*)

#### **Prayer of Confession**

**People: God of Hope, all too often we trip and fall or get waylaid on the journey you put before us. Forgive us for going it alone and for ignoring the map you have given us in scripture. We confess that we stumble when the ground beneath us gets muddy. Too often we decide to go off on our own and stop paying attention to where you are leading us on the trail. We**

leave others behind when we should be accompanying them. We get overwhelmed when the journey seems never-ending. Help us to reclaim the route that leads towards transformation and redemption and find our way back to you. Amen.

### **Words of Assurance**

Liturgist: Fellow travelers, do not be afraid! God has promised to provide us with the way, the truth, and the light. Our grace is assured. We are a forgiven people, set free so that we can forgive others and join them on the journey to wholeness. Let's travel together towards peace.

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

#### **\*Sung Response**

"I've Got Peace Like a River"

#478, v. 1 & 2

*I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in my soul.*

*I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul*

#### **Scripture**

Psalms 119:105, Proverbs 3:1-6, 13-17

#### **Contemporary Reading**

Summer Journey Skit

#### **Sermon**

"Exploring the Bible Together"

Rev. Holly R. Jackson

#### **Hymn**

"Wakantanka Taku Nitawa"

#3

(Many and Great, O God, Are Your works)

### **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.

**Prayer Response**

"I Love to Tell the Story"

#522

*I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus' radiant glory,  
of Jesus' endless love.  
I love to tell the story  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else can do.*

*I love to tell the story;  
and when I am in glory  
I'll tell the old, old story  
of Jesus' endless love.*

**Mission Moment**

**Get Out the Vote: Postcard Campaign**  
(Dan Davis & Suzanne-Adele Schmidt)

**Offertory Invitation**

Liturgist: Out of gratitude for all God has given us - maps, trails, traveling companions, and the ability to make our way through this journey of life - we offer back a small portion of our abundance in service to God's Realm. We invite you to share your gifts as works best for you - in person in the offering plates at the doors as you leave here today, or online or by text or through the mail. All gifts are precious in God's sight and useful for God's purposes.

**Offertory Prayer**

**People:** Holy God, bless these gifts that they may help make the journey of life an easier one for those in need, a more joyful one for those who travel together in hope, and a more faithful and justice filled one for your church. Multiply these offerings so that they help illuminate the path ahead towards love and justice. Amen.

**Communion Invitation**

Pastor: Come travelers in life  
to every table where you are welcome.

Come dusty or dressed up, hungry or full.  
Come lonely or in company, awkward or at ease.  
Come to receive what is given,  
to offer your peace and kindness,  
to say the words that are in your heart.

Come to this table as host and guest,  
even as Christ is Guest and Host,  
for Communion is your gift  
to give and to receive,  
a piece of bread and peace of heart,  
the full cup of compassion,  
and strength for any new road.

### **Communion Prayer**

Pastor: We remember some old instructions  
as if they were meant for us.

Jesus told his disciples to carry no purse,  
for they (and we) are rich enough.  
Jesus told them to leave the suitcases.  
for they (and we) have holy roller bags.  
Jesus told them no sandals necessary  
in a community that washes feet.

Jesus told them to offer peace,  
and to speak so anyone who hears  
knows they listen to God.

We remember that Jesus calls us  
harvest-gatherers and lambs,  
and we remember the Passover Supper  
with lamb and bitter herbs,  
bread from grain and fruit of the vine,  
and then gave them to us all  
to remember Love  
on every road and every homecoming.

*(People online are invited to mimic my actions as I consecrate the elements.)*

We remember that on the night in which he gave himself up for love and justice,  
he sat at supper with his disciples. While they were eating, he took a piece of  
bread. Jesus said a blessing broke it, and gave it to them with the words, 'This is  
my body. Given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Later, he took a cup of wine, blessed it and gave thanks for it. Jesus said, 'This  
cup is God's forgiveness poured out for you and for all people. Drink from it, all of  
you, to remember me'.

In sanctuaries and living rooms, we rest our hands lightly upon these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God's blessing upon them, upon us and upon all those who are in our prayers this morning.

God, send your Spirit, upon every piece of every loaf so it is the Bread of Heaven and pour your Love into every cup so it is the Cup of Blessing. Strengthened, may we become both travelers and welcomers on your holy way, healed and healers, comforted and comforters, rich in hope and givers of hope, in the name of Jesus whose table this always is to serve and be served. Amen

### **Communion Music & Sharing the Bread and Cup**

*(Those in the pews are invited to come forward and get the communion elements and then return to your seats. We will bring the elements to those who cannot come forward for any reason. Please wait to consume the elements until all are once again seated. Those at home can ready themselves until we all eat the bread and drink the juice/wine together.)*

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**People:** For the wind at our backs, for the tables of strangers and friends, for the peace of being welcomed and the joy of welcoming others, we give you thanks. For the Body of Christ, come to us in plate and cup and lived by us in our journeys onward, we give you thanks and praise and promise. Amen.

### **\*Closing Music**

"My Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

#610 v. 1, 2, 4

### **\*Extinguish the Light**

### **\*Benediction**

### **Postlude**

### **\*Stand in Body or Spirit**

*Camp Themed Liturgy written by Holly Jackson based on prayers and activities from "Journey Together: Twelve Intergenerational Summer Events" from Sparkhouse. Communion Liturgy and Prayers by Maren Tirabassi. 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: Worship Support \(signupgenius.com\)](http://UCCofSenecaValley.org/WorshipSupport)

**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 \(uccsenecavalley.org\)](http://UCCofSenecaValley.org/Donate)

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