

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

13421 Clopper Road • Germantown MD 20874

301-540-3449 • uccsv@verizon.net

July 4, 2021

Faces of Our Faith: Queen Vashti

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: TBD

Liturgist: Deb Anderson

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: Jen Fuss

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). It's Communion Sunday so please also have with you bread or a cracker and juice or wine. 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 come together from many times and places.

People: We are gathered as one body to worship.

Liturgist: We come together from many emotional places,
bringing burdens and blessings and everything in between.

People: We come as we are and bring all that we have to worship.

Liturgist: We have come together at this specific time to answer God's call.

People: We are ready to worship and serve in such a time as this.

Liturgist: Let us worship God together. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Holy God, you have been a steady presence throughout time, from the dawn of creation through this pandemic season. You have called each generation to face the challenges of their time. You have given them blessings, so that they might bear their burdens and work for the causes of love and justice. We pray that you would be with us now, in this important time and in this virtual space. Draw us together as one community, one church, so that we might be called and blessed today. Comfort us, inspire us, and renew us, so that we are ready to serve. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"

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 always caught between burden and blessing. We want to be able to celebrate the joys of our lives, but also recognize that our privileges come with costs often born by others. Forgive us when we ignore suffering or care only for our own desires. Help us to stand up to injustice for ourselves and for all. Restore us as a whole community, so that all may celebrate your blessings. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: No matter what burdens the world places on us or what blessings it takes from us, the truth of God's abundant love remains. May that love overwhelm you today in assurance, in blessing, and in peace. Amen.

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.)
Return to screen share here.

Sung Response

"Rejoice You Pure in Heart"

Scripture

Esther 1:1-20

Art Reflection

"Queen Vashti" 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

"More Love to You O Christ"

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: There are many ways to build a more loving and equitable community. You are invited to think about how you might share from the blessings in your life toward greater thriving for all. This morning's offering will now be received.

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.

Communion Prayer

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: In joy and gratitude we praise you, O God,
Creator and Sustainer of the universe.
We give you thanks for the beauty of your creation.
All that you make is very good.

We give you thanks for our calling to be your church,
and for the challenge that you have set before us.
We are grateful for friendship and community,
for love and laughter, for art and ingenuity,
even for tears and pain of growth.

We recognize that we have not always followed your call,
We have silenced the truth of those saying #metoo, and
We have valued people for their appearance alone.
Even with the witness of Vashti, Rahab, and Mary Magdalene,
We have more healing and work to do.
We give you thanks for those who went before us in faith and courage,
saints and martyrs, evangelists and prophets.
We join with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
from every culture, land, and tongue as we say:

All: Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: In the fullness of time and in the company of Mary and Elizabeth, you came, O Wisdom, to dwell in Jesus of Nazareth. In Jesus, you brought healing and life. You proclaimed liberation and wholeness. Jesus came to break all bonds, to shatter the chains of oppression that hold us in captivity; he healed the sick, gave food to the poor, and ate with those that society rejected to show that God's table is open to all.

Through his suffering, death, and resurrection he proclaimed the victory of love over death, of life over violence and fear. O God, by your power of compassion and justice you gave birth to a new community to embody the continuing presence of Christ in the world.

When we break the bread and share the cup, we affirm that your acceptance is poured out for all. We remember Jesus, the incarnate one, whose light and ministry lives on in us.

On the night he gave himself up for love and justice, Jesus took bread. Hold your bread up now to the screen with me. Over that bread he offered thanks, and then he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Break your bread and return it to your plate now.

When the supper was over, he took the cup. Lift your cup up to the screen now with me. Jesus gave thanks for the cup, and then gave it to his disciples, saying "Drink from this, all of you; this is the new covenant, poured out for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me." You can put down your cup now and lift your blessing hands over the cup and bread as we invoke the Spirit's presence in this meal.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us your Healing Spirit through Christ, so that we may be for the world the body of Christ, healing agents in a broken world. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(At this time you are invited to serve yourself or those with you the bread saying something like, "The Body of Christ given for you" or "The Bread of Life given for you". You can dip the bread in the cup saying something like, "The Cup of Salvation shared with you" or "The Cup of Blessing shared with you." We will pause here for a few moments so everyone has a chance to receive the elements.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

People: Gracious God, you have once again shown us your love by bringing us to this meal. We go from here renewed in faith, renewed in courage, and strengthened by your presence. Amen.

Closing Music

“We’ve Come This Far By Faith”

Extinguish The Light

Benediction

Liturgy, reflections, and artwork from Faces of Our Faith worship series | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. “Invitation to Confession” adapted from a prayer by Thom Shuman. 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>

Upcoming Sunday Worship at UCCSV

July 11 – Faces of our Faith: The Daughters of Zelophehad – Standing up for Justice Together

July 18-Faces of our Faith: Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego – Courage in the Face of Fear

July 18 – Outside Evening Vespers on the church grounds at 5:30pm

July 25 – Faces of our Faith: Deborah – Creating Space for God’s Wisdom

August 1 – Faces of our Faith: Anna – Pointing to Where God Shows Up in the World

UCCSV Card Ministry July 11th 1:30-3pm

Join us in the Gathering Room at church as we make and organize greeting cards for UCCSV’s card ministry. We send out pre-made and hand-made cards to UCCSV community members for things like birthdays, get well wishes, and other celebrations. Even if you can only come one time you are welcome to join us!