

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

September 6, 2020

Virtual Vacations with God: Lakes and Rivers

10:00am 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: Suzanne Schmidt

Liturgist: Joyce Miller

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: Jen Fuss

Director of Music Ministry: Stefan Petrov

Zoom Technical Support: Patrick Jackson

Instructions for Zoom Worship:

We invite you to come to worship with a candle to light. This can be a real flame or an electric candle.

This morning we are going on a virtual vacation with God to a lake or river. As you come in to worship imagine either the still waters of a peaceful lake or hear the rushing waters of a creek or river. Imagine the wildlife in and around your lake or river. Pause and take in the peace of the water.

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. Close all non-essential programs on your computer and silence all notifications so you don't become distracted. 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: Come to the water, all you who thirst—

People: come drink deeply from the river of life.

Liturgist: Come to the water, all you who are weary—

People: come rest in the quiet pools of God's love.

Liturgist: Come to the water, all you who long for a justice—

People: come be renewed in God's ever-flowing stream.

Liturgist: For God is here among us, washing away the dust and grime of
our lives and pouring out the Spirit on all who thirst.

People: Let's worship God together.

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: We remember the rivers God created in Eden and across our planet, rivers that are the lifeblood of Earth and vital for all that lives. We remember the streams of our past, the pools and ponds where we played and the feeling of celebration as we splashed each other. We remember and rejoice. Thank you, God, for rivers, streams that flow with the water of life. Thank you, God, that even now the river of life flows within us and between us. Help us to be present to how you are flowing between us all even in this moment. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"O For a World"

*O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.*

*O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved, where truth is spoken,
children spared, equality achieved.*

***We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice
that opens us to unity
and gives our vision voice.***

Invitation to Confession

Liturgist: On this day which God has made, which God has given to us, we pause. We consider our hearts and hands, the good we have left undone, the harm we have caused, the ways we have been complicit in tearing the fabric of community. On this day which God has made, we are loved and grace awaits us. Let us begin first in silence and then in unison prayer.
(A chime calls us to a time of silence.)

Prayer of Confession

People: Merciful God, we are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: God challenges us, God encourages us. God confronts us, and God accepts us. God works wonders in our midst and gives us the eyes, the hearts, the souls to see such miracles. God forgives us, God guides us through the wilderness of the world, and God leads us home. Thanks be to God.

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 heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down***

your head upon my breast."

***I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
and there I found a resting place,
where Jesus made me glad!***

Children's Message

Scripture

Isaiah 43:1-7, Revelation 22:1-5

Contemporary Reading

"There Is a Lake Here" by Clint Smith

Reflection

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.

Sung Prayer Response -

*Breathe on me breath of God,
fill me with life anew
that I may love the way you love
and do what you would do.*

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: At this moment in our worship, we're invited to share what we have so that others will find the same welcome, and the same joy that we have known. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

Offertory Prayer

People: God of grace, we know you want justice rolling down like water. Accept these gifts from our hands, which we cast upon the waters of your love, a generous ever-flowing stream feeding the hungry and helping those in need. Accept these gifts for the work of your church. Amen.

Closing Music **"Shall We Gather At the River"**

*Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river.
Gather with the Saints at the River that flows by the throne of God.*

*As we reach the shining river, lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.
Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river.
Gather with the Saints at the River that flows by the throne of God.*

*Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.*

***Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river.
Gather with the Saints at the River that flows by the throne of God.***

Extinguish The Light

Benediction

Fellowship Time - Those who wish to stay and chat with others will be broken into small group breakouts to allow for more sustained conversation.

"Call to Worship" by Christine Longhurst, "Offertory Prayer" by Carol Penner; Hymns and lyrics reprinted and streamed under ONE LICENSE # 724117-A. All Rights Reserved.

New to our Congregation or have questions? Please consider leaving us your contact information at <https://forms.gle/Rjicc2jdMmzCgCFh8>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donations Needed for Local Elementary School Students

Our church was recently contacted by case workers with a program called Linkages to Learning at Fox Chapel Elementary School in Germantown. Linkages to Learning is a community school partnership with an integrated focus on health, social services, community engagement and leadership to support student learning, strong families, and healthy communities. The program is looking for new partners in their work and so they reached out to us. This program is working with 30 students in the school who are in need. We have been given an opportunity to make a difference in their lives!

Linkages to Learning is in need of the following for Fox Chapel students starting online learning:

Earbuds or Headphones - doesn't matter what kind

Computer Mouse- wireless would be best but anything else works too

Digital Timers

Flash Drives - 3-8 GB are fine

Small Desk Lamps

Academic Planners for Elementary School Students

These items (except for the Academic Planners) need not be new. Gently used items in good shape are very welcome. You can drop these items off for collection at the church during Pastor Holly's Front Porch Hours on Thursdays from 4-6pm or this Sunday from 1-3pm during our Fair Trade Coffee Sale/Root Beer Float Outside Social. If you would prefer to order something online you can mail it directly to Pastor Holly at 9713 Breckenridge Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20874. Just let her know that it is coming.

In-person Chat and Chew Lunch Bunch

When: 2nd and 4th Fridays in September and October

Time: 12:15-1:15

Where: Black Hills Regional Park

Picnic pavilion nearest the playground/bring your own chair if you prefer.

Social distancing protocols required.

Contact Jeannie Springmann with questions Jspring10506@aol.com.

Root Beer Float Drive-in and Fair-Trade Coffee and Chocolate

Today from 1:00-3:00

at UCC Seneca Valley parking lot

Drive in and pick up supplies for making a root beer float when you come to buy your fair-trade coffee and chocolate

OR Bring a lawn chair or picnic blanket, park and stay awhile.

(social distancing safety protocols required)

Zoom Worship Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to help lead our Zoom worship experience there are ways you can help. We still need a "Greeter" and a "Liturgist" every Sunday.

Greeters will welcome people as they come into the meeting before worship by voice or by chat and help by supplying important web links in the chat box. Liturgists will lead the service with Holly. We also welcome musical video offerings of instruments or voice that we can use during worship. In addition, we welcome pictures of our congregation during this time apart <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-uccsv>

UCCSV's "BANNER OF HOPE" is Finished!

We had 27 individuals/families participate in creating designs that represent what gave them hope during this pandemic. They were assembled by fabric artist Bev Thoms to create a beautiful two sided hanging for our church.

Come see this collective effort on our **Welcome Back Sunday Gathering Today from 1-3 pm**

Someday the banner will hang inside the church when we return, meanwhile come see the final product. Thanks to all who participated!

Social Action News

The Social Action team is spearheading UCCSV's involvement in *Reclaim the Vote*, a non-partisan project to empower under-represented voters and fight voter suppression. The goal is to complete and mail 500 postcards by September 20th to designated people in Texas who are mostly rural, often older voters of color. A 30-45 minute orientation to the campaign will be by Zoom at 7 pm September 8th and 10th - interested people need attend only one session at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6863531764?pwd=RVhMV2VWM2JBMHZsaVI5Y1ZSWjNOQT09>.

Meeting ID: 686 353 1764; Passcode: 352620

Phone +1 301-715-8592 (Germantown)

A SignUpGenius link

(<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4EADAB2BA2F85-reclaim>) will allow you to record how many postcards you will complete (20, 40, 60) and how you want to receive them. It should take ~6 minutes to complete each postcard. We will have packets of 20 postcards, stamps, labels, addresses, and instructions for anyone interested in helping. The packets can be delivered in one of 3 ways: at church today during the 1-3 pm Root Beer Float gathering, or picked up at the Schmidt-Davis house, or personally delivered to you.

Front Porch Hours

Pastor Holly will be having "Front Porch Hours" on Thursdays from 4-6pm every week. During that time she will be sitting out on the church's front porch (by the office doors). You can join her on the porch during that time for conversation, pastoral concerns, suggestions, or whatever else you might want to share with her. It's time she wants to offer to you. No appointment needed. Masks will be required and safe physical distance will be maintained. Bored or lonely? Anxious or frustrated? Wanting to chat about the news and the state of the world? Full of ideas or feeling empty? Meet her on the "Front Porch" and have a chat! (If those hours don't work and you need to talk to her you can always make an appointment by emailing her.)

Calendar

Today - Can pick up Postcards for Reclaim Our Vote Campaign at UCCSV

Tuesday, September 8 - Reclaim Your Vote
Postcard Project Orientation by Zoom at 7 pm

Thursday, September 10 - Reclaim Your Vote Postcard Project Orientation
by Zoom at 7 pm (Repeat of Tuesday)

Sunday, September 13 - Social Action Team Zoom Meeting from 4-6 pm