

**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

301-540-3449 • [uccsv@verizon.net](mailto:uccsv@verizon.net)

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

September 5, 2021

## **Faces of Our Faith: Philemon**

10:00 a.m. 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: Jeanne Springmann

Liturgist: Rev. Suzanne Adele Schmidt

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: John Bartkowiak

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:** We come here with our histories, the weight of our relationships, and our place within the world around us heavy on our hearts.

**People:** **We come here with hope for the future, full of joy for those we love, and with our community ties holding us up.**

**Liturgist:** In this hour of worship we look for comfort and challenge.

**People:** **Let our understanding of ourselves and the world bend ever more closer to God's kin-dom.**

### Opening Prayer

**Liturgist:** God of Transformation, our world is ever changing and we want to move that change in the direction of love and justice. We sometimes struggle with the ancient stories of our scriptures because they uphold systems or ideas that we have since rejected. But if we're honest with ourselves we can hear echoes these ancient stories in our own current day reality. Help us to learn from these ancestors in faith about how to move the needle ever closer to the day all of creation is treated as your beloved. Amen.

**Opening Hymn**                    "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

### Invitation to Confession

**Liturgist:** We come before God in confession because our stories are often filled with moments we regret, times we wish we could have lived differently, and choices we struggle with. But it's not just us as individuals. We are a part of a system that thrives on injustice, promotes inequality, and cheapens the value of God's beloved creation. We pause now to acknowledge our mistakes and failures and ask for God's grace.

*(A chime calls us to a moment of silence.)*

### Prayer of Confession

**People:** Gracious God, as a society we confess that the church has often worked to uphold slavery or oppression in ways that pervert your will. The scriptures that you hope will help bring us closer to you have been used instead by some to oppress others, both in ancient times up until today. We admit that it's hard to look beyond the structures and systems we have grown up in. Help us to do better. To work to dismantle all that keeps us from being true equals in your eyes. Keep pushing us to do justice in your name. Amen.

### **Words of Assurance**

Liturgist: Even if you have fallen away from God, the Holy One comes close to you, offers you healing and forgiveness, and helps you to get back on your feet. God's grace is yours. Find peace in its freedom.

### **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.)

### **Scripture**

Philemon 1

### **Art Reflection**

"My Very Heart"

By Sarah Are

### **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**

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus"

### **Offertory Invitation**

Liturgist: The stories of our ancestors in faith sometimes makes us laugh, or cry, or call us to action. But every story also speaks of the faithfulness of God – of God’s abundance, God’s love, and God’s provision. Trusting in that provision and in response to that faithfulness, we offer our gifts as a testament to the story of our own spiritual journeys.

### **Offertory Prayer**

**People: Holy One, you have shown us small glimpses of the beautiful world you want to build where all live in peace, justice, and love. Use these gifts to build a system where we truly can live as siblings in faith together. Bless our offerings so that, no matter their size, they make an everlasting impact on all of creation. Amen.**

### **Communion Liturgy**

Pastor: God of Love, we give you thanks for our calling, for the good work of Kin-dom building that you have set before us. We are grateful for friendship and community, for the faces of faith you put into each of our lives, for love and laughter, for art and ingenuity, even for tears and pain of growth.

We give you thanks with those who went before us, with saints and martyrs, evangelists and prophets. With all who stand before you in earth and heaven, from every culture, land and tongue, we praise you.

We thank you because in Jesus you brought healing and life. You proclaimed liberation and wholeness. You proved love wins, even over death. 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.

On the night in which he gave himself up for love and justice Jesus sat around a table with his closest friends and he took a loaf of bread. I invite you now to take your bread in your hands and hold it up to the screen. Jesus blessed his bread, gave thanks for it, and then he broke it saying, “This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” I invite you to break your bread and return it to your plate.

Again after supper Jesus took the cup and raised it up before him. I invite you to raise up your cup now. Jesus gave thanks the cup and blessed it and then said, “This cup is the new covenant poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink of it do this in remembrance of me.” I invite you to put your cup down now and raise your hands over both the bread and cup.

God of light and love, send now upon this bread and cup your life-giving Spirit. Blow over this table and transform this simple meal into a holy feast. May sharing this bread and cup transform us, as individuals and as a church. Fill us, O God of abundance,

with your Holy Spirit that we may be one in community and one as the body of Christ. 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:** O Jesus, our beloved, we give you thanks for inviting us to your table and sharing your feast. May we know that we have been fed with love and grace, and may we follow you out in the world, faces of faith to each other and ambassadors of your hope and peace to all of creation. Amen.

### **Closing Music**

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

S. Temple

### **Extinguish the Light**

### **Benediction**

*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? 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

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-uccsv>