

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

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June 21, 2020

Celebrate Pride: God Created Them

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: Terri Molaski

Liturgist: Heidi Harmon

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Guest Preacher: Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

Deacons: Deb Anderson and Asher Beckwitt

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.

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: We are the body of Christ!

People: Justice seeking, bread breaking, hymn singing, risk taking Body of Christ!

Liturgist: Baptized by one Spirit, we are members of one body.

People: Many and varied in culture, background, race, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, age, class and ability, we are all members of Christ's beautiful body.

Liturgist: None of us can say to another, "I have no need of you."

People: For only together can we find wholeness.

Liturgist: None of us can say to another, "I will not care for you."

People: For we are connected like muscle and bone. If one suffers, we all suffer. If one rejoices, we all rejoice!

Liturgist: Come in, all are welcome, come into worship! Come with your longings, your questions, and your fears. Come with your dreams of a better day, one with dignity, justice, and safety for all!

People: Thanks be to God who in Christ has made us one! Let us worship God! Alleluia!

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: God, when you called each of us into being, you delighted in your works. You gifted us with differences that illuminate the breadth of beauty, wisdom, and practices of love in your creation. In whatever ways we still struggle to accept and celebrate our own unique offerings, free us from narrow thinking that confines, constrains, or condemns your good work in us. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

#31

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.*

***Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors, and made their tiny wings.***

***All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.***

***The purple headed mountain, the river running by,
the sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky.***

***All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.***

***The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden, God make them every one.***

***All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful, our dear God made them all.***

Confession

Liturgist: We are a pilgrim people, accompanied by our God, who journeys beside us, accepting who we are; yet God also goes before us, beckoning us toward who we might become. But as we move through our days, other gods call to us, questions confound us, direction blurs, indifference lulls; we lose our way. So now we enter into silence and prayer, to discern again the nearness of God, who is our hope and guide.

(A chime calls us to a time of silence.)

People: We confess to you, steadfast God, that we wander from the path of love upon which we are meant to walk. Fears divide us, prejudice hardens us, violence destroys us. Forgive us of love that is self-satisfied, and teach us love that is self- and other-affirming. Forgive us of faith that makes us rush to judgment and give us faith that fills us with compassion. Forgive us of peace we have made with our divisions and unite us in the peace that passes understanding. We pray, with thanksgiving, in the name of Christ. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: God pours mercy and grace down upon us until we are transformed into a new creation, until we see ourselves the way God sees us, and until we can love as God loves. By God's mercy, our feet are set again upon the path of faithfulness and our hearts are set again upon the coming of God's realm.

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 –

*Lead me, guide me along the way,
for if you lead me I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with you
lead me my whole life through.*

Children's Moment

"Neither"

by Airlie Anderson

Scripture

John 1:1-5

Reflection

"God Created Them"

Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

Musical Response

"Somewhere Over the Rainbow"

Performed by John Bartkowiak

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 -

***If you believe and I believe and we together pray
the Holy Spirit will come down and set God's people free
and set God's people free, and set God's people free;
the Holy Spirit will come down and set God's people free.***

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: How are we to make God's Realm come on earth as it is in heaven? By practicing it. By envisioning it. By praying for it and turning from all that threatens its embodiment among us. One way we do this is by practicing a different kind of economy. One where our resources are not individualized, but are shared for the common good. Come, and let us bring together what we have, that no need may go unmet.

Offertory Prayer

People: God, for all that you feel in solidarity with us, we give you thanks. You weep with the heartbroken. You share in anger over cruelty and disregard for life. You delight in our simple joys and extraordinary awakenings. May your care and concern draw us more deeply into love for one another. May we be faithful companions to all who long to know they do not weep, rage, or celebrate alone. Amen.

Closing Music

“This is Me”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NU5MpzQOvww>

Benediction

Extinguish The Light

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” adapted from materials by Ann B. Day, and materials used at Dumbarton UMC, “Call to Confession, Confession, and Words of Assurance” adapted from “We Are a Pilgrim People” by Rev. Ann B. Day. “Opening Prayer” from © 2020 The United Church of Canada/L’Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>. Any copy must include this notice. “Offertory Invitation and Prayers” by enfleshed. The prayers of the people are adapted from an adaptation of a song written by Tim McGinley for the Reconciling Congregation Program. Hymns and lyrics reprinted and streamed under ONE LICENSE # 724117-A. All Rights Reserved.

The Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath is a preacher, teacher, chaplain, writer, and activist. Heidi holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Religious Studies and Psychology from William Smith College. She holds a Masters of Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School, and a certificate in Pastoral Care and Counseling in addition to her MDiv. She is a passionate advocate for all of God’s children (especially LGBTQ+ folks who have been wounded or harmed by the church). Heidi makes her home in Exeter, NH with her spouse, the Rev. Dr. Emily C. Heath and their two cats Atticus and Windsor. She currently serves as the Interim Chaplain and Director of Religious and Spiritual Life at Phillips Exeter Academy.

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

Parents of Children and Youth

Here are some great coloring and activity pages for children and youth to complete while listening to worship.

<https://italks.info/god-is-love-coloring-pages.html>

We Want Your Input

As we consider a physical return to our church building depending on health and safety conditions, we want your input. Please complete a very short survey (should take less than 5 minutes) at this link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W7T3YF7>

Open and Affirming Celebration

On Sunday, June 28th in worship we're going to celebrate being an Open and Affirming church but we need your voices to do it. We want to know why it matters to you that you attend an Open and Affirming church. How has it changed or transformed your spiritual journey? Why do you think it's important to have churches be officially welcoming and supportive of the LGBTQ+ community? We'd love it if you'd share your thoughts with us. Here's how you can be a part of the celebration.

1. Make a short video saying why you celebrate that we are ONA and send it to Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com.
2. Write up a short testimony or quote Holly can share in worship and send it to her at HollyRJackson@gmail.com.
3. Create a piece of art or take a picture celebrating your Pride and send it to Holly so she can make it part of our Zoom worship.

Please send any contributions by Thursday, June 25th so that they can be included for worship on June 28th. Don't assume everyone else will do this, we need YOUR contribution. Let's all come together as one to be a force of light and joy to our community!

Social Justice Yard Signs

Signs declaring we believe that Black Lives Matter, No Human is Illegal, Love is Love, Women's Rights are Human Rights, and other similar sentiments are available for \$20. This is a Social Action Board fund raiser. Please contact John Bartkowiak at jbinmd@gmail.com if you're interested in a sign.

Mindfulness Sessions on Mondays at 7pm

Ruel Billones will lead mindfulness sessions on Mondays from 7-8pm via Zoom. Please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d45adaf28aaf85-mindfulness>

or contact Beth Lauriat at balauriat@aol.com for more information.

PRIDE Parking Lot Pop-up Event

Come out and show your PRIDE on Sunday, June 28 starting at 4:30pm in the parking lot of the church. LGBTQ members and allies are invited to show their PRIDE by decorating the inside of their trunks, then joining others in the church parking lot to pop-up their trunks and take a walk around to view others' decorations (decorating is not required if you just want to join in the walk around). Please remember to wear masks and stay at least 6 feet away from others who are not in your household. This will be followed by a bring-your-own-picnic on the grounds for those that want to stay and socialize at a distance.

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>

Regrounding

The Property Operations Team invite you to spend some time “regrounding” yourself with a visit to the church property. Come and walk the labyrinth, sit in the prayer garden, pull weeds, separate bulbs/plants in the front beds or pick up trash along the property’s edge.

While there, please take time to add a “prayer” strand to the loom hanging in the prayer garden. You are welcome to bring your own ribbon, shoelace, string or a piece of that old shirt you turned into a mask. Or use a piece from the bag clipped to the loom. Your prayer can be silent or shouted, sung or written. Laments and joys, fears and thanksgivings are all welcome. Life is woven with all of these; woven together, stronger together.

In Person Pastoral Visits

Now that the weather is improving it is possible to do pastoral visits outside in a safe way. Pastor Holly is available to meet with you in the prayer garden (or in your yard if you can't get to the church). Visits will observe proper social distance and include masks, but are a way to connect in person. You don't even have to have a topic to discuss! This is just a way to feel a little more connected and normal again. Please email HollyRJackson@gmail.com to make an appointment.

Creating Together with Hope!

During this time of uncertainty and “unraveling”, you are invited to share in the creation of a felted collage for our sanctuary that will be a reminder to us of what gave us hope during these “pandemic” times. The more families and friends that participate, the more meaningful it will be.

Let’s “weave” together a symbol of the good things that happened the last few months and create something for the church sanctuary for when we return.

A friend has offered to help us with the actual “felting” of our images into a banner or altar cloth. She referred us to one of her suppliers for the pre felt we need for the first step. It turns out she was willing to DONATE almost all of what we need to do this.

Felt pick up will be at the church:

Today, June 21st from 3-5pm or Tuesday, June 23rd from 3-5pm

Upcoming Worship Schedule

June 28 – Open and Affirming Pride Celebration

July 5 – Trans Pride