

**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 28, 2020

Celebrate Pride: Open and Affirming

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: Dee Dee Molaski

Liturgist: Terri Molaski

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacons: Ruth Bulger

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. During the service you will be invited to share an affirmation or word of encouragement for the LGBTQ+ community and also to any group or demographic that may feel marginalized or have been historically ignored or rejected by the church.

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 come today, representing all the majesty of creation

**People: Diverse and beautiful, blessed and beloved, all made in the image of the Creator of all things.**

Liturgist: We come today, called to this time and this place by an infinite God

**People: Who hears our cries and responds with love and mercy.**

One: We come today however you have made us; Transgender, Nonbinary, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Intersex, Gay, Queer, Straight, Ally and more.

**People: We come today, knowing you will listen and answer our needs.**

Liturgist: We come today, to deliver our joined prayers of hope.

**People: We come today, a people mourning still our losses, still recovering from the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic and the pandemic of institutionalized racism that has plagued our world for too many centuries.**

Liturgist: We come today, knowing you care for us

**People: We come today, knowing that even when others reject us, your arms are open to offer comfort. We come.**

#### Opening Prayer

Liturgist: God, your child Jesus taught us to welcome each other, but welcome often seems too little in this world. Welcome, without affirmation, becomes an empty promise, devoid of the lesson that to truly welcome each other means to see the face of God in each other.

We commit to affirm all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, Welcoming them and Affirming them as God's beloved creations.

You taught us that whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will see a prophet's reward; That whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous.

We know that until we are all free, none of us can be free, and we commit

to co-creating that world of welcome and affirmation until all people can access that promise. Amen.

**Opening Hymn                    “In the Midst of New Dimensions”**

***In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways.  
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?***

***God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,  
now and ever, now and ever more.***

***As we stand a world divided by our own self seeking schemes,  
Grant that we, your global village might envision wider dreams***

***God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,  
We your people, ours the journey now and ever,  
now and ever, now and ever more.***

**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: Creating God, you knit our bodies together. Bodies created in love and meant to be loved. Beloved masterpieces of a proud Creator. And yet, we have upheld these lies:**

**That some bodies are deficient.**

**That some bodies are illegal.**

**That some bodies are superior to others.**

**That some bodies, and some people, are fundamentally flawed.**

**That only some bodies are natural and normal and good.**

**We have borne these lies from our thoughts, passed them on to our**

children, sputtered them from our mouths, and spat them at our neighbors. We have turned them in upon ourselves and out against one another. Like poison, they consume us, so that the truth that we are your beloved children is lost. Forgive us, O God, for believing these lies, for internalizing them, and for upholding systems which reinforce them. Forgive us for forgetting this truth: that our bodies were created in love and that we are your beloved children. 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**

"Love is Love"  
by Michael Genhart and Ken Min

### **Scripture**

Matthew 10:40-42

### **Reflection**

Being an Open and Affirming Church

### **Reciting our Open and Affirming Covenant**

People: We welcome everyone seeking God's presence to our service of worship and into the full life and leadership of the church. Whatever your background might be – your race, your nationality, your age, your physical

or mental ability, your gender identity or expression, your sexual orientation – whoever you are and wherever you come from, we welcome you into our community of faith. As an Open and Affirming congregation, the United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley welcomes people of all sexual orientations and all gender identities and expressions.

#### **Musical Response**

“Come As You Are” by The Many

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLQsfto8LyE&pbjreload=101>

#### **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: It is a gift to be able to give something away. We are called to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. With God's help may our hopes come true for the better world we dream of as we work together in love.

### **Offertory Prayer**

**People: Holy One, we are all one human family. In your love you created us. Through your grace you reach out to us. You are great enough to hold us all in your arms at the same time. Help us to open our hearts to the world that you love. Teach us to weave our lives together. We yield to Spirit, offering what we have to the greater good. In this way, each day, we begin again in love. Amen.**

### **Closing Music**

**"God Loves Me Too" by Brian Falduto**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owQumXK5kHw&pbjreload=101>

### **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 and Opening Prayer" and "Offering Invitation and Prayer" from resources by the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, "Call to Confession and Words of Assurance" adapted from "We Are a Pilgrim People" by Rev. Ann B. Day. "Confession" adapted from work by Jess Cook, Copyright More Light Presbyterians, 2018, 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>

### **Parents of Children and Youth**

Here are some great coloring and activity pages for children and youth to complete while listening to worship. The Word Search PDF is at the end of the bulletin.

<https://allarewelcomehere.us/blogs/news-events/coloring-sheet>

<https://everydayloveart.com/product/words-resist/>

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:HollyRJackson@gmail.com) to make an appointment.

### **Next Week’s Worship:**

July 5 – Trans Pride

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Open and Affirming Church

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| Open    | Affirming | God   | Love    |
| Welcome | Belong    | Jesus | Friend  |
| Gender  | Pride     | Joy   | Rainbow |
| Hope    | Different | Come  | Join    |

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To Make FREE Word Search Sheets Visit: ([www.teach-nology.com](http://www.teach-nology.com))