

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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July 26, 2020

Virtual Vacations with God: Visiting Family and/or Friends

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: TBD

Liturgist: Sabine Cox

Pastor: Rev. Holly R. Jackson

Deacon: Joyce Miller

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. We're on a virtual vacation with God today to visit family and/or friends so bring something – an object, picture or piece of clothing - that reminds you of fond memories of a vacation or a day out spent with loved ones.

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 gather as God's beloved children –

People: However glad we are, however out of sorts we are.

Liturgist: We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community –

People: So this becomes a place where all are welcome. Let's do the work to make this a church where all feel included and connected and where justice is lived out.

Liturgist We have come to give thanks, to pray and sing, to be with family, friends, and strangers. For one hour we are connected to each other and to the divine. No matter where we have been or where we are going, in this hour let us be present. Let us learn and love and be challenged and be changed.

People: Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

Liturgist: Holy One, as we gather here in the safe harbor of this community we thank you for fellowship, for family, and for friends. In this hour we ask that you strengthen us, restore us, and inspire us with your love. Fill us with your peace so that as we journey onwards we would pour out that love and grace to others. May our souls catch the wind of your Spirit so that we would take the good news of your Realm of hope and justice to all the earth. Amen.

Opening Hymn

"Blessed Be the Tie That Binds"

*Blessed be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.*

*Before our God we come
and pour our ardent prayers;*

Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

***We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.***

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.)

People: Holy God, hear our prayer. There is pain and there is sorrow, there are broken relationships and broken hearts. Sometimes we are the cause of those things. We have caused pain. We have broken the relationship. Sometimes we are simply a part of them – we are the ones who suffer, we are the ones who are broken. So we ask for your forgiveness, and we ask for your healing. Beyond that, we ask that you would help us turn from our former selves to the persons you have created us to be, full of mercy and grace and love. Through Christ, who is our example, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Liturgist: Rest and renew yourself in that knowledge that God hears our confessions and sends us peace. God knows our brokenness and sends us healing. God feels our exhaustion and sends us the Spirit to hold us up. You are forgiven and given a chance to begin again. 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 –

*When peace, like a river, upholds me each day,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”
It is well with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

Children’s Message

Scripture

Mark 3:31-35, Ruth 1:7-18

Contemporary Reading

Quote from Elizabeth Gilbert

Reflection

Rev. Holly 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 -

*In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise
in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus,
you may have all this world, give me Jesus.*

Offertory Invitation

Liturgist: Nothing we have is ours and yet everything that is God has given to us. We are called to be good neighbors, to share what we have in order so all might have enough. We are called to be a community, to give to further the work we do together as a church and to imagine new ways we can use what we have been given for the good of all. Let us give now and bless our offerings before God.

Offertory Prayer

People: O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom, we know that all we have received is from your hand. You call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to always use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. Amen.

Closing Music

“Build the World”

By Tracy Howe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MiJl8u5ux8>

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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 Prayer of Confession" adapted from prayers by Beth Merrill Neel. 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>

Upcoming Sunday Worship Themes– Virtual Vacations with God

8/2/20 – The Camino de Santiago (Places We'd Love to Go but Probably Won't) Led by Rev. Suzanne Adele Schmidt

8/9/20 – Visiting Different Churches

8/16/20 – The Forest

8/23/20 - Cities/Museums/Famous Landmarks

8/30/20 – Traveling for Events (Weddings, Family reunions, etc.)

9/6/20 – The Lake

Pastor Holly Away from July 27th - August 9th

Holly will be away on vacation and study leave for two weeks starting Monday, July 27th through Sunday, August 9th. She will return to UCCSV on Monday, August 10th. If you email her during that time she will get back to you during the week of the 9th. If you have a pastoral emergency during the time she is away you are invited to contact your Deacon (if you don't know who your assigned Deacon is please contact John Bartkowiak, The Chair of Deacons) or Rev. Bonnie Scott, (Pastor of Trinity UMC, one of our partner churches) who is providing emergency pastoral care coverage, at 301-540-4300 or revbonnie@trinity-germantown.org.

Contribution Statements

Nita will be sending out contribution statements for those who have given money to the church in 2020. Please go over these carefully and make sure that all checks you have written to the church are included. We have had several checks that were mailed to us go missing from our mailbox and some have even been cashed. This is why we have moved our mail to our P.O Box now. If any check you mailed to the church is missing from your

contribution statement please let Nita know. It will help if you give her the date, amount, and check number.

Thanks, Russell - Church Treasurer

Deacon List Update - Your Help Needed!

As many of you know at UCCSV we assign all members, and many regular visitors and friends, an individual Deacon. This Deacon will be able to contact you and keep you abreast of any major issues at church. In addition, during this pandemic the Deacons have been instrumental in keeping our community connected and cared for. You can share pastoral concerns with your Deacon and also ask them any questions you might have about church. In order to make contact between you and your Deacon as easy as possible we ask that you answer a few simple questions. All your answers will be kept in confidence. We especially need this feedback from people new to our congregation or if your contact information has recently changed. If you are not sure who your Deacon is that's a good indication that we need you to fill out this form! Please fill out the form below at your earliest convenience so that we can update our Deacon Lists as soon as possible. <https://forms.gle/xfgf2DgmWqEK5x8G8>

Equal Exchange Coffee and Chocolate for Sale at Church

Bethany Fuss will be selling Equal Exchange coffee & chocolate outside the church TODAY, July 26 from 4-6 pm.

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.

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>

Recordings of Zoom Worship Services

If ever you miss a Zoom worship service and you want to go back and watch a recording for that week, you can always find our past services on our website here: https://www.uccsenecavalley.org/watch_us_online

This is also a great place to send neighbors, friends and family who may want to check us out but might be nervous about joining us on Zoom for the first time. It's a great way to see what Sunday mornings online are like and they can fast forward through anything they don't want to watch! ;-)