



# Spirit News

April 21, 2021

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley  
*An Open and Affirming Congregation*  
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## Prayer Requests

- For the family and friends of Ann Lowrey who are grieving her loss. That God may hold them in their grief.

## Beloved Church Member Ann Lowrey

Ann Lorey's son Doug let us know that Ann died this past Sunday morning at around 6am from non-COVID related pneumonia. While we knew Ann had not been in good health lately, we had all hoped she would be able to come home and remain on hospice care for a time. Sadly, that was not to be. We do not have information on further arrangements right now. We will relate those as soon as we have them.

However, if you would like to send a sympathy card to her son Doug and his family his address is below:

Doug Lowrey  
17514 Charity Lane  
Germantown, MD 20874

You can also send a card to Ann's sister, Hope, who sometimes came to visit us at UCCSV:

Hope & Jack Pribram  
1225 Clifden Green  
Charlottesville, VA 22901

If you send a card to Doug or Hope please make sure to indicate that you are from UCCSV just so they will know who it is from.

## This Sunday at UCCSV

It seems like the world is running non-stop this week. So much news to process. So much hope and grief to hold at one time. In such fraught moments it is important to gather together as a community and consider how God is moving us to even more love and justice. In these moments we can find strength and promise in worship while we also challenge ourselves to continue to grow and transform. Celebrating Earth Day and considering what it means to seek and address climate justice can begin to move us in the right direction. Join us for worship on Sunday as we lift up God's creation as sacred. Lois Sumser will preach and we'll have special music as well.

The Zoom room opens at 9:30am and worship begins at 10am. Please bring a candle (electric or flame) with you to worship. This worship service will be live streamed to our Facebook page and recorded for posting on our website.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84470757726?pwd=VUhkWDZacGZBUFBwYWISU3QxN3dlUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726

Passcode: 20874

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726

Passcode: 20874

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84470757726?pwd=VUhkWDZacGZBUFBwYWISU3QxN3dlUT09>

## In Person Regathering Survey

If you have not already filled out our In Person Regathering Survey please consider taking 5 minutes and doing so now. We want to hear from our community including those who have been here a long time and those who are new as well as seeking feedback from those who are local and those who are not. Your Church Council is working on policies and procedures for in person events at church, as well as looking to plan for a hybrid in person and online worship experience for those who would like to continue joining us virtually either because they live far away or because they don't feel comfortable yet being in person at church or simply because sometimes it's easier to log on than make your way to the building for a wide variety of reasons You can find the survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYNFLMG>

*love* **do** JUSTICE  
*MERCY* AND  
*walk* HUMBLY  
WITH YOUR GOD.  
MICAH 6:8

## *Lent: 40 Days to Love Mercy*

During Lent, there were three opportunities through the Social Action Board for UCCSV folks to demonstrate the Micah 6:8 directive to “love mercy.” These opportunities focused on food insufficiency for two local groups: Fox Chapel Elementary School and Germantown Help. Additionally, UCC’s annual One Great Hour of Sharing Offering taken during Lent focused on national and international needs. Our congregation responded graciously to each opportunity! We definitely showed the love in the following ways:

## *Fox Chapel Elementary School Linkages to Learning: Nutritional Cooking Classes*

\$643 dollars were donated and \$143 of this amount was spent on supplies for the classes. The \$500 which remains will be used for a future project with Linkages to Learning. The congregation will be kept in the loop as future endeavors are identified.

## *One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)*

\$849 were donated to OGHS. This is remarkable! These monies will be sent to the national setting of the UCC. In turn, they will parcel our money to address both national and international needs.

## *Germantown Help*

Our congregation helped by donating \$100 toward Easter groceries and 5 of our flock delivered groceries on Easter Saturday to 25 families whom Germantown Help identified as having no transportation to pick up groceries.

## *BUT wait, there's more!!*

On Sunday, April 25 you can bring food donations for Germantown Help when you come to participate in the 3-in-1 Working/Walking Fellowship Opportunity!

## **Do Justice- Micah 6:8 Update on Justice and Police Accountability Legislation**

Members of the UCCSV Social Action Board have participated in the Potomac Association (PA) Justice and Witness Action Network which focused on MD legislative changes relating to police actions and accountability. The five

priority bills were: 1) Repeal and replacing the Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights (LEOBR) with real civilian oversight, 2) Reforming transparency into police misconduct investigations, 3) Limiting the use of force by law enforcement officers, 4) Removing School Resource Officers (police) from our children's schools, and 5) Requiring implicit bias training for police officers and public defenders. Fortunately, many positive changes will become Maryland laws. Here is a link to a summary statement of the bills and their outcomes: [end of the 2021 MD General Assembly Session update.](#)

## 3-in-1 Working/Walking Fellowship Opportunity

Please join us on Sunday, April 25 between 1 and 3 for a chance (brought to you by Property Operations) to help tidy up our grounds while walking in fellowship with others; pick sticks and trash bags in hand. There will also be some tidying up of the beds in the back by the labyrinth if you prefer. The Fellowship Committee will provide drinks and some snacks and Bethany Fuss, on behalf of the Social Action Board, will be selling Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate (the kind where the farmers get a fair price for their products).

And while we're at it, let's show our neighbors we are a community of kindness and support. There will also be two opportunities that day to donate; either food, garden flowers or a little of both. The food collected will go to Germantown Help which provides food for needy Germantown families. The flowers will be put into bouquets and given, along with cards we will sign, to neighboring Asian owned businesses to show our support and solidarity in light of the most recent attacks on the broader Asian community in this country. It's a colorful way to say, "We see you and we value you and your place in our community".

As always, proper COVID protocols will be used, with masks and social distancing required.

## Practicing Resurrection

A Women's Retreat Via Zoom

**Saturday, May 1st**  
**11AM-2PM (ET)-Note Time Change**  
**Facilitated by Marjory Bankson**

**What It's About:** As we begin to emerge from COVID and move into spring, this is a wonderful time to share time with others, reflect on our recent experience and think about what we intend to focus on, and be grateful for, in the days ahead. We'll talk about three key topics:

- **Relate:** We'll ask each of you to bring an object that symbolizes your life over the past year.
- **Report:** In small 'breakout' groups, we'll have time to share our lives and learnings.
- **Renew:** We'll talk about how our connections to Faith@Work and Lumunos can be a source of renewal.
- (Note: some UCCSV folks attended a Lumunos retreat at our church in November of 2019.)

Registration is \$30. We do not believe cost should be a barrier. Please email [dan@lumunos.org](mailto:dan@lumunos.org) for scholarship information. Click on the link below to register online.

[Register Now!](#)

## "Bearing Witness" - a Black Lives Matter Tribute and Community Art Share

On Sunday May 2nd, from 1pm until 8pm, the community Art Share will be an event at the church, where everybody, young and old, has the opportunity to make an artistic contribution to our experiences with racism and exclusion, re-affirming that black and brown peoples lives matter.

Art is many things. It can be a drawing, painting or sculpture, but it can also be a poem, a photograph or a story. It can be a song or a dance. The intention is to share our church communities' contributions, to begin and continue a dialog among us, as well as the wider communities around us.

We want to especially encourage the young people to contribute and share, as well as younger children and their parents, who may be able to relate to the topic.

In sharing our experiences, emotions and perspectives with art, we are attempting to create a community and be a haven for all of us to express ourselves artistically. While some pieces may be more professionally rendered than others, the message and importance of each piece is the focus and will be appreciated. This could be the beginning of an annual occurrence.

Attached is a link to the flyer with a opportunity to sign up as a volunteer or contributor:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqGC5SDbNEOxMSXQrAPVHNph5i\\_PyVlnAgf7r0ZlgN6B04Cw/viewform?gxids=7628](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqGC5SDbNEOxMSXQrAPVHNph5i_PyVlnAgf7r0ZlgN6B04Cw/viewform?gxids=7628)

Please contact Sabine Cox  
([sabineecox@gmail.com](mailto:sabineecox@gmail.com)) if any questions.

## Upcoming Sunday Worship at UCCSV

April 25 - Earth Day Celebration: Lois Sumser preaching

May 2- Practicing Resurrection: What's Perfect Love Got to Do with It? (Communion Sunday)

May 9 - Practicing Resurrection: Why Bodily Resurrection Matters

May 16 - Practicing Resurrection: New Life Rooted in Justice

May 23 - Pentecost Sunday - Practicing Resurrection: The Resurrection of the Church

May 30 - Central Atlantic Conference Worship



### April

Mike Diskin	4/4
Jan Edson	4/9
Rachel Estrada	4/15
Heidi Harmon	4/15
Christii Watkins	4/16
Holly Jackson	4/22
Jim Van Prooyen	4/27
Joseph Johnson	4/27