



Spirit News

April 25, 2019

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
An Open and Affirming Congregation
13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD
Phone: (301) 540-3449
Email: UCCSV@verizon.net
Website: UCCSenecaValley.org

Prayer Requests

- Pray for Josh and Amy, who recently had a car accident but are safe; prayers for everyone involved (Bethany Fuss).
- Pray for my sister Carolyn who recently passed from this life to the next. We will miss her. Also a prayer of Thanksgiving to have my family here with me (Jan Edson).
- Pray for Beatrice Price (Floyd's sister) whose neighborhood was struck by a tornado causing much damage to hers and her neighbors property. Thankfully no one was injured (Floyd).
- Joy for David's new job. Joy for healthcare coverage. Joy for the rebirth of Spring and Easter (Shelly Moore).
- Ongoing prayer for Suzanne Schmidt. She will have back surgery on May 6 and 8 at Shady Grove Hospital. Prayer and healing thoughts are welcome (Dan Davis).
- Continued prayers for my Aunt following surgery – she is improving (Renee Morales).
- Continued prayer for Wayne Tipping as he deals with heart issues (Paula-Marie Read).
- Ongoing Prayer for Stephen to find a job closer to home to shorten his long daily commute (John Bartkowiak).

Ongoing Prayer Requests: Please notify Nita at uccsv@verizon.net should you wish to change your ongoing requests. Please note that ongoing prayer requests sent anonymously will be removed in one month.



Office Closure

The church office will be closed next week.
There will be no Spirit News.
If you have an emergency, please contact Holly.

Thank you! Nita Stone, Ofc. Mgr.

Havruta

Our adult bible discussion group on Sunday mornings at 9am is called Havruta, a Jewish term meaning that we seek to wrestle with God's word by studying, analyzing, and debating the text.

For this Sunday, April 28th, our focus will be on:
Mark 4:30-32

On Sunday, May 5th, our focus will be on:
Jeremiah 16:17-20 and John 21:1-19

This Sunday at UCCSV

This Sunday kicks off a month long focus on Earth Day and honoring God's creation. For the next few weeks in worship we will be exploring how we are called, as Jesus' disciples, to be environmental stewards and why that matters so much. This Sunday we focus on the big picture, our Earth and the Cosmos in general. Lois Sumser will be our guest lay preacher and she and Jessica and Miranda Lin will be singing a special anthem. After worship you are invited on a special walk-about of our property to get to know our church's grounds. When you know something you can come to love it and when you love it, then you care for it and protect it. So

get to know our plot of land and help us learn to love it all as part of God's amazing creation!

Help our Neighbors

Kids and adults need a good breakfast to help them focus at school and at work. Germantown and Gaithersburg have some of the highest rates of food insecurity in Montgomery County. A box or two of breakfast cereal can make a big difference to a family in need. During April, please place your donations of breakfast cereal in the basket in the narthex to support the Germantown Help Food Bank.

April 28th – Get to know our local environment

In April and May Seneca Valley has several environmental activities planned. After our worship service on the 28th, please join us on a walking tour of the four corners of the church property. We also hope to pick up any litter that may be about.

Women's Retreat Deadline Coming Up!

It's almost May and that means UCCSV's Women's Retreat is just around the corner. Whether you enjoyed last year's retreat or if you've never been, this is an excellent opportunity to not only take some time for self-care and renew your faith, but also a good way to connect with a wide variety of women in our congregation. From May 17-19 we will go to Hollowood Retreat Center at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain for a weekend away to help us to "Build a Courageous Faith in a Time of Fear." **You are welcome to come for the weekend or just for the day on Saturday.** The full weekend costs \$221 and includes 2 nights lodging and 5 meals. Or Saturday only costs \$32.50 and includes lunch. We'd like to get a final count by May 1st and get a deposit

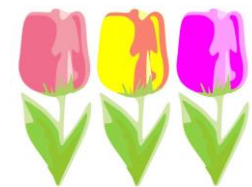
from all those who are planning on going. Please contact Pastor Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com or talk to Beth Lauriat or Susan Percy for more information.

New to UCCSV? We want to Help!

Maybe you've been coming to UCCSV for a few months or weeks now and you're interested in learning more about our church. In May (or possibly also June depending on schedules) we will have two orientation sessions to help people new to our community get to know us and help us get to connect better with them. We'll share information about our faith journeys, the UCC as a denomination, what we believe, the ministries we participate in, a brief history of UCCSV and more. At the end of these sessions if you find you would like to formally join our congregation as a member we will arrange for that to happen in worship in June. If you are happy to simply stay as a friend of the congregation and continue on a journey with us to see where that leads, that's fine too. If you would like to be a part of these sessions please email Pastor Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com so that she can coordinate the best dates and times to hold these sessions for all who want to participate. Welcome to UCCSV! We're glad you're here!

Sunday Volunteers Needed

Sign up lists for the month of June are now available for both Liturgists and Ushers. If you are available, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office this Sunday. Many thanks.



Happy Announcement!



You might have heard that Stefan Petrov and his wife, Kate, are expecting their first child, due in June. We are thrilled for this special family and want to surround them with our support and celebrate! Please save the date for June 2nd, when we will have a special fellowship time and an opportunity to share gifts, cards and best wishes with Stefan after worship. You might check out the baby registry at <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/kate-weber-petrova-june-2019-collegepark/3BDCX9S0LOPFU>.

Questions, contact Jen Fuss
jenfloryfuss@gmail.com.

Volunteers - Talk to Us

Are you a volunteer out in the community? Great... we'd like to hear about your volunteering adventures outside our church! It would be amazing to hear the stories of all the volunteer work that our UCCSV community is doing. By sharing your stories, you educate the rest of us, and maybe we might want to get involved as well. Please send us a story of the groups, organizations, efforts, etc. that you volunteer for and we will print them in the Spirit News (one story at a time). Send your stories to John Bartkowiak at jbinmd@gmail.com.

Story from Kerry Stoltzfus

The way I find my white Prius in a parking lot is by looking for the license plate frame on my car. "I love my library. Libraries are essential." My lifelong love of libraries connected me to my volunteer position as a member of the Library Advisory Committee. We are a citizen group that advises the Director of the Germantown branch. We are also instrumental in the initiation of new programs. Our current new program begins on Friday May 3, 10:30 - 12:00.

FIRST FRIDAY FOR SENIORS

The program is, From Corn to Commuters: How the Coming of the Railroad Changed the Way of Life and the Future of Montgomery County. Plan to attend and consider these words by Susan Orlean, author of The Library Book, "Building a library is an act of sheer defiance. It is a declaration that you believe in the persistence of memory."

For more information, contact Kerry at rkstoltzfus@gmail.com.

Story from Jeanne Springmann

I volunteer with the Archaeology Department of Montgomery Parks. We dig, wash, catalog, photograph, research, map, analyze, interpret, and display artifacts from park lands or from street excavation sites. In particular, one of my main tasks for the last few years has been building an artifact database so that artifacts can be counted, mapped, and analyzed more easily. We also participate in public county events such as Archaeology Day, Heritage Days, and Imagination Bethesda, in order to acquaint the public with different archaeological tasks. The latest hot topic is the Josiah Henson Park in Bethesda. It encompasses the some of the farm where Josiah Henson worked as a slave. Later he wrote a book about his life, from which Harriet Beecher Stowe gained the material for Uncle Tom's Cabin. Volunteer days at the archaeological lab on Needwood Road are Mondays and Wednesdays.

For more information, please contact Jeanne at JSpring10506@aol.com.

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

Our next book is *The Reckoning* by John Grisham. We'll meet Sunday 12 May at 11:30am in the Narthex. June's book is *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn.

Bottled Water

The bottled water in the lower bin of our refrigerator is for patients of Catherine Eaton, LCPC (rents our youth room on Wednesdays and Thursdays).

In addition, we give out bottled water to the homeless, needy or visitors who stop by our church during the day. Catherine and Nita have been supplying this water. If you need water, feel free to use. It would be most appreciative if when you use a bottle, replace a bottle, so that we keep a constant supply available (especially during the hot days of summer).

Many thanks,
Nita Stone, Ofc. Mgr.

Calendar

PFLAG (2:30pm) – April 28
Ladies Night Out (7:00pm) – April 29
CE Committee Meeting (11:30am) – May 5
Social Action Committee Mtg. – (rescheduled from April) (11:30am) – May 5
Deacons Meeting (7:00pm) – May 6
Adopt-A-Road (9:00am) – May 11
Pulp Pilgrims Book Group (11:30am) – May 12
Pizza Night at Ledos – May 14
Women's Retreat – May 17thru May 19
Men's Breakfast (9:00am) – May 18
Trustees Meeting (6:00pm) – May 20
Council Meeting (7:00pm) – May 20
One Anothering Group (10:00am) – May 25
Social Action Committee Mtg. (11:30am) – May 26
PFLAG (2:30pm) – May 26