



Spirit News

April 29, 2020

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

- Ongoing Prayer to grant our leaders wisdom and compassion to address the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Ongoing Prayer for inspiration and motivation in Dave's job search; healing for Shelly's knee (recent fall) and family health concerns (Shelly Moore).
- Ongoing Prayer for Alexis Symanski who is home and recovering beautifully from her massive surgery. Praise God for answered prayers (Suzanne Schmidt and Dan Davis).
- Ongoing Prayer for Maggie's Dad. Continue to pray for my Dad who is recuperating well after his fall (Maggie).
- Ongoing Prayer for Dawn Oler, our dear friend, who is having surgery to remove a tumor. We pray it is benign and her recovery is easy (Terri & Dee Dee).
- Ongoing Prayer for Cheryl's grandmother who is in a coma; pray for Ben who is battling stomach cancer (Maggie).

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

Havruta Returns via Zoom

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. Contact Russell Shelley at russellshelley92@gmail.com for Zoom details.

Wednesday Bible Story Study 7:30pm starting Tonight

For those who are interested in having a little more thoughtful discussion about the Unraveled bible stories from our worship series, engaging in prayer time, and spending some time in fellowship we will be holding a one hour Zoom meeting Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30pm through May. We will be exploring stories and art that will be reflective of the scripture for the upcoming Sunday. We will also pray for our concerns and the concerns of our world. On April 29th we will begin with reading a passage from the Book of Job and looking at an art piece called "Step Into the Swell" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity. All are welcome!!

Topic: Wednesday Evening Study and Prayer
Time: Apr 29, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88630782324?pwd=NkpLT280NUVENnRXeWI1M3FXTXIHZz09>

Meeting ID: 886 3078 2324

Password: 20874

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 886 3078 2324

Password: 20874

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/k5i26Z9z>

Women's Retreat Mini-Session This Saturday

The weekend of May 1st through the 3rd was to be our Women's Retreat at Am Kolel. It was

meant to be a time together for renewal and friendship; our theme, "TELLING OUR STORIES". The focus aimed at lifting ourselves up as well as each other. There's certainly no need to go into the challenging reasons why the retreat didn't happen.

Here's the next best solution! **A Mini Retreat has been planned and YOU are invited, whether you had planned to come to the original retreat or not.** If there was ever a time for camaraderie it's certainly now.

We need to hear uplifting approaches that you've discovered in these daunting times.
We need to smile, I dare say laugh.
We need to calm our souls with some meditation.
We need to feel the warmth of tranquil music.
We need to be together.
Please join us the MINI RETREAT, Saturday, May 2nd at 10:00AM.
Topic: Women's Retreat Mini Session
Time: May 2, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89762265246?pwd=bXZ3cWU2RzNORHRTUWRIWEJkZUZVUT09>
Meeting ID: 897 6226 5246
Password: 20874

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US
Meeting ID: 897 6226 5246
Password: 20874
Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/k5i26Z9zm>

IT'S EASY TO SPOT THE STRONG WOMEN.
THEY'RE THE ONES LIFTING EACH OTHER UP!

This Sunday at UCCSV

What happens when your plans and the world around you starts to unravel? How do you cope? Where is God in the middle of it all? This week we start a new 5 week long worship series called "Unraveled: Seeking God When Our Plans Fall Apart". We'll begin by looking at a piece of scripture from the book of Job and wrestle with seeking understanding in the midst of struggles. As you come to worship this Sunday bring your candle as always, but also bring something that is precious to you. It can be a picture or an object, a figurine or a representation of something you love. Before worship take that precious object and gently wrap in something - aluminum foil, paper, or cloth so that it is completely covered. During worship we will unwrap our objects together. Journey with us as try to make sense of this season in our lives and find hope and peace together in community. The room opens at 9:30am and worship begins at 10am.

UCC Seneca Valley is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: Sunday Worship
Time: May 3, 2020 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.
Weekly:
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZlocO-ugz8sHdTKYcnKhxKeVsRAQ9N0_3XA/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGuqzwsHNGRth6HRpwAGY_CM-7wmCldgqdptybmDQtbrijzAPFwE4MmPoiv

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86576654670?pwd=bDhRS0UvdDZaNVF5Z3dhSmFkZDhOdz09>
Meeting ID: 865 7665 4670
Password: 20874

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
Meeting ID: 865 7665 4670
Password: 20874

Congregational Meeting, May 17 After Worship

Join us for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 17th immediately after worship (on Zoom of course) We will have an update on future plans for our congregation, especially around issues of any physical re-opening of our building. We'll also update you as to our financial situation and plans for changes in church leadership at this time. Our normal May/June congregational meeting is when we usually present a nominating slate for the program year to come. This year because of our situation with the pandemic we are altering that slightly. Come find out why and what we are doing instead.

Be a Zoom Worship Star!

It's your very own opportunity to be a STAR! Worship volunteers on Zoom get to star in our Sunday worship. The spotlight is on you! Sign up to agree to be a Greeter (more a supporting cast role where you welcome people into our Zoom room by name or chat before worship). Or sign up to be Liturgist and be Holly's co-star for a day! We don't mean to brag but we have some pretty good ratings lately. Be a part of the show!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-uccsv>

May Worship Series - Unraveled: Seeking God When Our Plans Fall Apart

Through the 5 Sundays in May we will go on a journey asking ourselves what happens when our plans fall apart and unravel as they have in the past few months in the midst of a pandemic. What happens when our world falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightly-knit plans unravel into loose threads? What do we become when our identity—or the path we're on—comes undone? What if all of this is not the end we fear it will be? In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with unexpected joy, love, and hope—with a new beginning we couldn't have imagined. Sometimes we need God to unravel us, for we long to be changed. This worship series explores 5 different stories of unraveled shame, identity, fear, grief, dreams, and expectations. These are stories where God meets us in the spiraling, unraveling our plans—and us—into something new.

We'll have some personal testimonies, beautiful music, storytelling, and more to help the stories come alive and let us live into the lessons God wants us to learn. Join us as God weaves us into a new creation!

May 3 - JOB 28:12-28 || Job's Lament and Loss
(*Seeking Understanding When Everything Has Fallen Apart*)

May 10 – MATTHEW 14:22-33 || Peter Sinks in the Water (*Unraveled by Uncertainty*)

May 17 - EXODUS 1:22, 2:1-10 || Moses' Mother Gives Moses Up So He Can Live (*When Our Plans for Our Children Unravel*)

May 26 – 2 SAMUEL 3:7; 21:1-14 || Rizpah Mourns Her Sons (*Public Grief That Inspires Action*)

May 31 – (Pentecost) ACTS 9:1-20 || The Conversion of Saul to Paul (*Discovering a New Path*)

Dear UCCSV Community,

For those of you who weren't able to be with us for our Zoom worship this past Sunday, here is a link to the recording. Be sure to watch Lois' sermon reflection. There's even a phone call with God!!

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tPNcFqggrlhIAc-O6Bv8BKV8OtziT6a823Me-_RfmU8w5uDdbQS09PVTjAS7JpnW?startTime=1587910153000

Peace,
Holly

WUMCO

Dear wonderful congregations:
A few churches have been putting an announcement in their weekly communications with a reminder for folks to donate food to WUMCO if they are able. Would you please include the following in this week's communications? We appreciate the support from our faith community, now more than ever! By the way, we have been seeing a big increase in the need for food and we are preparing for increased financial need in the months to come. If you have members of your community who are in need, please don't hesitate to have them call us.

If you are grocery shopping this week please consider putting a few extra things in your cart

for WUMCO's food pantry. Non-perishable food can be dropped anytime in the WUMCO box in the Pike & Valega, DDS parking lot in Poolesville. Or you can bring food to the WUMCO office weekdays between 9:00-12:00, 17550 W. Willard Rd., Poolesville.

Most needed in the WUMCO pantry this week: canned vegetables (anything except for corn and green beans), canned pasta (like spaghetti's), cooking oil, canned salmon, olives, canned tomatoes, canned soup. Thank you!

Katie Longbrake
Executive Director



301-972-8481
PO Box 247
Poolesville, MD 20837
www.wumcohelp.org

Giving to UCCSV

It is crucial for you to continue giving to the church even as we are not gathering together in person. Your church staff is still working hard and needs to be paid and we still have utility and supplies bills coming in. So if you can continue to give please do so in one of the following ways:

1. Mail your offering check to the church. We have people coming in to the church at least once a week to gather these.
2. Set up online bill pay to the church through your bank. Yes, they will still mail the church a check but at least you didn't have to write the check yourself! This is also usually a free option.
3. Use Paypal through our website. Use the general fund for your regular pledge. You can also give here to special funds we have set up. Please consider covering the processing fees

so that more of your donation goes to the church. <http://www.uccsenecavalley.org/donate>

Important Information from Pastor Holly

As always we ask you to let us know if you need help or get ill. If you end up at the hospital for any reason and you do not have your phone on you or don't want to have to tell other members of your family to call, you can always ask the hospital chaplain to get a hold of me and they will look up my number and contact me. The best thing we can do for each other during this difficult time is to be there for one another and to support each other the best we can. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything. My cell phone number is 202-247-8592.