



Spirit News

April 4, 2019

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

- Pray for Maggie's father who will celebrate his 96th birthday (anonymous).
- Continued prayers for my Uncle and Aunt recovering from health issues, chemo and hospital and rehab stays (Renee Morales).
- Prayer of Thanksgiving. When I took an absence from attending, when I returned everyone at UCCSV welcomed me (anonymous).
- Prayer of healing for Allen (Joyce).
- 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).
- Ongoing prayer for David Barker, Amie's Dad. God be with David as he goes for cardioversion. Pray for a positive outcome and increased quality of life. Pray for safe travel for him and Marcia (Marsha), Amie's Mom, as the hospital is a long drive from their home. Pray they both find courage and strength in this chapter of their lives (anonymous).
- Ongoing prayer that we might be satisfied with enough and prayers for employment opportunities for David (Shelly Moore).
- 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.

This Sunday at UCCSV

All Lent long we've been thinking about and paying attention to all the ways in which God is moving in our lives, in the church, and in the world around us. This Sunday, our last before we begin the drama of Palm Sunday and Holy Week, we'll consider how God is moving us to greater things. Using the story of Mary anointing Jesus' feet out of the Gospel of John we'll explore what it means to empty ourselves before God by going out of our comfort zones and risking criticism along the way. How do we build a courageous faith that helps us to move in response to God's call? Join us at 10am for a worship experience involving prayer, song, communion, and the joy of connecting with community.

Donate Flowers and Help Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter

Donate a flowering plant to help make Easter Sunday a beautiful profusion of color and beauty. You can donate in honor of someone or some thing or you can donate in memory of lost loved ones. We suggest a donation of \$10 per plant. After Easter Sunday you are welcome to take a plant home with you or leave it at the church to be given away or planted on the grounds. (We have Easter flowers that were planted last year that are flowering next to our sidewalk right now and announcing Spring has sprung!) Donations accepted through Palm Sunday.

Holy Week

Join us for Holy Week at UCCSV and see where God is moving next:

Palm Sunday, April 14th at 10am "God Moves Towards Jerusalem"

Wave the Palms with us as we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and begin the story of Holy Week!

Maundy Thursday, April 18th at 7pm, "God Moves to Show Friendship and Love"

NOTE the new time for this worship service.

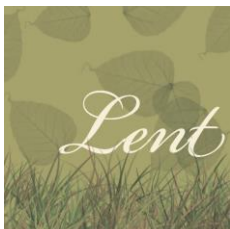
In a change of format for this service we will not have a meal but instead start with worship at 7pm. Join us for a night of fellowship and prayer as we tell the story of Jesus' last supper with hands on spiritual practices like foot washing, prayer stations, and communion in small groups.

Good Friday, April 19th, 7:30pm, "God Moves to The Cross"

This is our most solemn service of the year when we tell the story, through music and scripture, of Jesus' journey to the cross. If you truly want to appreciate the joy of Easter Sunday, you must first experience the pain and death on Good Friday. Let music, through hymns, choir pieces, and instrumental music move your soul, while silence and the darkening of the sanctuary remind us how God moved to the cross with love as the goal.

Easter Sunday, April 21st, 10am, "God Moves out of the Tomb"

This is the one service of the year you do not want to miss! God moves out of the tomb and our world was changed forever! We'll celebrate with amazing music (including a string quartet), wave ribbon wands, shout words we've avoided all Lent, and more! Join us and bring your friends and family!



Upcoming Sundays

You'll want to put these Sundays on your calendar. Worship starts at 10am including on Easter!

April 7th- Our last regular Sunday in Lent and a Communion Sunday

April 14th- Palm Sunday

April 21st- Easter Sunday

April 28th- Earth Day Sunday (kicking off a month of celebrating and caring for God's Creation)

Searching for a Nursery Caregiver

We are searching for a Nursery Caregiver at UCCSV! We are looking for someone who is available from 9:30am-11:30am on Sunday mornings. This person would play with and care for our babies and toddlers in the nursery during worship. If there are no babies and toddlers that Sunday, the Nursery Caregiver would be expected to assist the Sunday School teacher for the Lower School Class. We are offering \$45 a Sunday morning. If you know someone who might be a good candidate for this position, please have them get in contact with Pastor Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com.

Imagine, Pray, Reflect

This Lent you are invited to imagine, pray, and reflect on our weekly scriptures. Each week there will be a copy of the scripture reading along with a suggested prayer and visual for you to reflect on. Imagine, Pray, and Reflect this Lenten season.

Lenten Discussion Series

Please join us from 12 noon to 1pm for a series of Lenten Discussions continuing each Wednesday through April 10th. We will meet in the narthex and drinks will be provided.

Lenten Soupers at 6:30pm

Starting at 6:30pm join us for Lenten Soupers. We will gather together for a simple soup dinner and good conversation around the dinner table. Then we will watch a short TED talk and participate in discussion and maybe learn a spiritual discipline or two that helps us pay more attention to where God is moving in our lives and in the world.

Here is the link for the signup for the rest of the Soupers.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-lenten3>

April 10: Paying Attention to God on the Move in Nature

We know that God made our beautiful natural world, but are we paying attention to how God is still moving and creating all around us? Tonight we'll watch two shorter TED talks. One talk focuses on the hidden miracles of the natural world and the other urges us to see beauty in nature all around us and find gratitude in that beauty. How can our love for God extend to our love of nature and how is God calling on us to protect God's precious creation?

https://www.ted.com/talks/louie_schwartzberg_hidden_miracles_of_the_natural_world
https://www.ted.com/talks/louie_schwartzberg_nature_beauty_gratitude#t-219424

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.

Sunday Volunteers Needed

We have an immediate need for Usher(s) in April. Sign up lists for the month of May 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.

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.

See below for book descriptions created by Dan.

Happy reading, Deborah

The Reckoning by John Grisham (October 2018): story set in MS where a prominent veteran commits a serious crime and does not want to talk about it. Probable PTSD element. Typical legal and other twists and turns. Library has 102 book copies, 21 available, and 7 on hold; there are 20 CD copies, 6 available, and 1 hold. Sounds like a better availability than we thought last time we met.

The Alice Network by Kate Quinn (2017): sounds like an excellent story of a post-WW2 young pregnant woman who goes to Europe to find her beloved missing cousin Rose. It becomes a spy-thriller story. The library has NO electronic or CD copies, 31 book copies with 0 available and 39 holds. A very good choice but not for 1 month from now.

Calendar

CE Committee Meeting (11:30am) – April 7

Fellowship Committee Meeting (11:30am) –
April 7

Pizza Night at Ledos – April 9

Lenten Soupers (6:30pm) – April 3, 10

Lenten Devotional Group (12noon) – April 3, 10

Trustees Meeting (6:30pm) – April 15

Council Meeting (7:00pm) – April 15

Maundy Thursday Church Service (7:00pm) –
April 18

Art Committee – Decorate for Good Friday
(8:00pm) – April 18

Art Committee – Decorate for Easter (9:00pm)
– April 19

Good Friday Service (7:30pm) – April 19

Mens Breakfast (9:00am) – April 20

Easter Sunday – April 21

One Anothering (10am) – April 27

Social Action Committee Meeting (11:30am) –
April 28

PFLAG (2:30pm) – April 28

Ladies Night Out (7:00pm) – April 29

