



Spirit News

April 5, 2018

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

- Happy 95th birthday to Maggie's dad. We thank God for his blessings (Maggie).
- Ongoing Prayer for all the youth in our schools. May they be safe. May all those fighting for gun law change be protected and guided by you Oh Lord (Deb Anderson).
- Ongoing Prayer for Wayne Miller (Heidi's boss). Pray for health and healing for Wayne as he faces health challenges (Heidi Harmon).
- Ongoing Prayer for the political situation in Kenya as they are going through ethnic violence since post election (Maggie Nyamweya).
- Ongoing Prayer for the pain and suffering of so many in our congregation, DC metro area, and those impacted around the world by disaster, catastrophe and hunger (Shelly Moore).
- Ongoing Prayer for Stephen to find a job closer to home to shorten his long daily commute (John Bartkowiak).
- Ongoing prayer for Laurene Karimi who is battling stage 3 breast cancer with so much courage (Terri Molaski).
- Ongoing prayer for Phyllis Anderson and family. Phyllis is declining with dementia. Surround her and her daughters who are caregiving. Please grant them patience and peace (Deb Anderson).
- Ongoing Prayer for Patti and Gary Dennison who are suffering through severe illness and very difficult times (Andrea Dennison).
- Ongoing Prayer for Michelle Cohen – Has multiple myeloma (Terri Molaski).

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.

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 our focus will be on
John 20:19-31

This Sunday at UCCSV

Do you worry that you don't have enough faith? Not sure what you believe about God? Is doubt a regular feature of your experience of church? Well take heart! You are not alone, even when it comes to the scripture. Each year on the Sunday after Easter we tell doubters that they belong too by immersing ourselves in the story of Thomas, or as you may know him better "Doubting Thomas." Join us for worship at 10am this Sunday as we explore the part doubt plays in our faith life and why it's perfectly normal to struggle with concepts and assertions we cannot prove. In Sunday School for children and youth we will be participating in a service project to benefit local volunteers. After worship we will celebrate all the ministries and various ways we serve the church and the local community in our annual Ministry Recruitment Fair. Find out where your gifts, God's calling, and the world's needs meet through volunteer opportunities here at UCCSV. Refresh your heart, mind, and soul by coming to church this Sunday!

Recruitment Sunday

Ever wonder how things get done at UCCSV? How people get on a committee? What does the church council do anyway? And why do we have a clerk? Well, your prayers have been answered.

Come to Recruitment Sunday, this Sunday, April 8th after church and all will be revealed. Each committee will have a display showing what they do AND a special treat for you to eat. They'll be some pictures from the past and lots of information about the work of the various committees and boards. Please consider joining a committee. This church exists because people volunteer. We need many hands to help.

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

Our next book is 'A Piece of the World' by Christina Baker Kline. It is an historical fiction of the life story of Christina Olson, the subject of Andrew Wyeth's painting "Christina's World." This book describes the simple life she led on a remote Maine farm, her complicated relationship with her family & with Andrew Wyeth & the illness that overwhelmed her.

We will meet April 8th at 11:30am in the Narthex.

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness Book Discussion

The United States has the highest rate of incarceration in the world - higher than Russia, China and Iran. Over 2.3 million men in America are in prison - about half for drug crimes. Thirty years ago, before the "War on

Drugs" was implemented, there were only 300,000 people in the American prison system. Seventy percent of all men imprisoned are African-American or Hispanic. An African-American male is sentenced an average of a 20 to 50 times longer prison term than a white male convicted of the same drug crime. These convictions remain on their records permanently, limiting their voting rights and their ability to find employment.

Pastor Holly will lead a discussion of the book and this important social justice issue on April 18th and 25th.



Ledo Pizza Night April 10

The second Tuesday of each month will be UCC Seneca Valley night at Ledo Pizza on Wisteria Drive in Germantown. Ledo will give UCCSV a portion of its sales (between 10%-20% depending on the amount spent) from both eat in and carry out all day. You must present a flyer (available at church or at Ledos Tuesday evening starting at 5:30pm) to have your sale counted towards our total. Join us for an inexpensive, kid-friendly, evening out and help us raise some funds for UCCSV!

Book Event

Message from Carolyn Roberts: A book event to be held at Evangelical Reformed UCC (15 W Church Street in Frederick) on Monday, 9 April, at 1pm. The event features long-time friend and published author, Michelle Carter. Her bio is below, and the basic information is attached.

Micki is an engaging writer and speaker, and her long experience with Russia and the Soviet Union makes her observations and experiences especially topical.

Michelle A. Carter, the author of *From Under the Russian Snow* (Bedazzled Ink Publishers, September 2017), has been traveling in and writing about the former Soviet Union for 30 years.

The memoir focuses on 1995, the year she served as the U.S. Information Agency Journalist-in-Residence in Russia and midwived the birth of newly independent newspapers across the 11 time zones of Russia. She resigned her position as managing editor of a California daily newspaper, *The San Mateo Times*, to accept the USIA appointment. A graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, she had been with *The Times* since 1967.

In 1993, she co-authored *Children of Chernobyl: Raising Hope From the Ashes* (Augsburg Press, Minneapolis, 1993). The book grew out of Michelle's work as founder and chairman of the Children of Chernobyl Project of Northern California, which delivered drugs and medical supplies to hospitals treating children suffering from the effects of the 1986 nuclear accident at Chernobyl.

Aaron Cox Interview

Some of Aaron's pictures are hanging at Busboys and Poets on 14th street in an exhibit with the Lighthouse for the Blind. Aaron was interviewed on ABC news and here is a link to the interview.

<http://wjla.com/news/local/dc-exhibit-features-visually-impaired-artists-from-across-the-region>

Calendar of Events

Recruitment Sunday (11:00am) – April 8
Pulp Pilgrims Book Group (11:30am) – April 8
Deacons Meeting (7:00pm) – April 9
Pizza Night at Ledo's – April 10
Relay for Life Paint Night Fundraiser (7:00pm) – April 13
Rain Garden Cleanup (11:30am) – April 15
Confirmation Class (11:15am) – April 15
Trustees' Meeting (6:00pm) – April 16
Council Meeting (7:00pm) – April 16
The New Jim Crow Book Discussion (7:00pm) – April 18
Men's Breakfast (9:00am) – April 21
Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) – April 22
Earth Day Group Pix (11:30am) – April 22
PFLAG (2:30pm) – April 22
Confirmation Class (11:30am) – April 22
Lord's Table at St. Martins (1:00pm) – April 24
The New Jim Crow Book Discussion (7:00pm) – April 25
Ladies Night Out (7:00pm) – April 30