



Spirit News

August 17, 2017

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
An Open and Affirming Congregation
13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD
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Prayer Requests

- Prayers of healing for victims of Charlottesville march; prayers of healing for Linda; prayers of thanksgiving for summer beauty (anonymous).
- Prayers of Thanksgiving for Xzana's brother's successful surgery and for a beautiful sunrise at Myrtle Beach for Ja'nai and family (anonymous).
- Pray for Connie Oatney (Laura's Aunt) who passed away shy of her 90th birthday. Thankful for a wonderful long life (anonymous).
- Pray for Susan, an adoptive mom friend of the Fusses. Susan's 15 year old daughter is entering a treatment facility for her special needs (anonymous).
- Prayer for Melissa Johnson and family, as they celebrate the life of her mother. Prayers for peace and comfort (anonymous).
- Prayer for Chris. A newer widow from 53 yr. marriage who is dating and hope my Dad finds a new companion (Christii's Dad).
- Prayers of Thanksgiving for the wondrous gift of fixing broken things by a UCCSV member for another (Deborah Tomblyn).
- With thanks for special occasions that bring extended family together (Susan).
- I hope to find another job because Kmart is closing Sept. 17 (Deborah Barnes).
- Prayer for my son, to find the peace inside of him, to find that person he is looking for to make him happy. To have a safe trip (Luvy).
- Ongoing Prayer for Stephen to find a job closer to home to shorten his long daily commute (John Bartkowiak).
- Ongoing prayer for Helen for strength as she continues her 3rd fight against cancer (Dee Dee Molaski).

- Ongoing prayer for Leonard Myers, one of our original members, now retired and moved to Delaware, has colon cancer (anonymous).
- Ongoing prayer for my aunt Jean who was recently diagnosed with terminal bladder cancer (Terri Molaski).
- Ongoing prayer for Laurene Karimi who is battling stage 3 breast cancer with so much courage (Terri Molaski).
- Ongoing prayer for Helen who is battling cancer for the third time in her young life (Dee Dee 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 during my continued treatment and palliative care for cancer (Maridell Mason).

*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

In times when it seems like the world around us is in crisis it is especially important to connect with something, to find a possibility of hope, and to challenge ourselves to open our minds and hearts to what God would have us hear. So while yes, it is the summer and church attendance tends to drop off in the summer, consider if this week what you most need on

Sunday morning is to be in community with others while connecting to God. This Sunday we will consider the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers and Jesus being downright discriminatory towards a Cananite woman. What can these scriptures tell us about this week's news. How do we forgive? How do the negative ideas and prejudices we have grown up with influence how we deal with others and can there be redemption when we let those prejudices rule our actions and words? Join us for worship at 10am. Holly will preach. Jessica and Clarisse Lin will share their music talents. Havruta at 9am will be discussing the Lord's Prayer. Find a moment of wholeness and retreat at UCCSV this Sunday.

Sunday School Teacher Training

Would you like to teach Sunday School this year? Do you feel called to serve the children and youth at our church? Then please join us after worship on Sunday, August 27th for a teacher training. Both Sunday School classes have brand new curriculum this year. We will introduce you to these dynamic and fun lessons and help you feel confident and positive about leading UCCSV's Sunday School classes this coming fall.

August Worship Station - Remembering Our Baptisms

Baptism is one of the few sacraments we have in the United Church of Christ. It is, we believe, God's grace made real through ordinary means. Simple water blessed and used to represent how God welcomes us into the family and makes us God's own. It is water that washes us clean, not because we are in need of scrubbing up in order to make us acceptable to God, but because God wants to remind us that we are awash in grace and love every day of our lives. So touch the water to remember

your baptism, whether you were an infant or child or adult when you received it. If you have not been baptized imagine what this sacrament might say to you and if you would like to participate in it. If you would like to be baptized, please talk to Pastor Holly. Feel free to take a post-it with a name on it to remind you of how you were renamed as part of your baptism. With water and prayer you were recognized as a beloved child, a son, a daughter, a loved one. God is proud of you. Know that by touching the water and/or taking a name and feel it in your bones.

Havruta on August 20

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. No one tells us what to think, but we pray that God is present in our discussions and gives us new insights and ideas. For Sunday we will focus our discussion on The Lord's Prayer or The Prayer of Our Savior, the prayer Jesus taught his disciples that we still say at least once a week here at UCCSV. What does this prayer mean? How does it speak to you? What can it tell us about God, Jesus, and ourselves? Join us Sunday at 9am and find out!

Volunteers Needed

Please sign up this Sunday on the bulletin board outside the church office.

We are in need of Liturgists for the **month of September**.

We are in need of Ushers for **August 27th** and month of September.

Sunday School teachers are needed for September – please contact Claro.

Many thanks!



A Word From Your ACM David K. Popham...

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Romans 12:21

It is hard to escape the news this week. Hard to find ourselves, as a society, dealing with those dark corners of our collective thinking we rather not acknowledge. By “we,” of course, I mean those with privilege and power. Those who have not had the luxury of knowing privilege or power keep telling us that these vicious attitudes of hate are nothing new, and really have never been hidden.

White men surrounded a church with torches for the purpose of intimidating and harming those worshipping God. There should be no surprise that Heather Heyer was killed by a white supremacist. Frustration, anger, self-pity flair up and people die.

I am reminded of a quote by Thomas Merton: “So God himself was put to death on the cross because he did not measure up to man’s conception of his Holiness, He was not Holy enough, he was not Holy in the right way, he was not Holy in the way they had been led to expect. Therefore he was not God at all.”

So it is that the fascism in the States, born of our rampant racism and xenophobia, sees us as not measuring up. We - inclusive, diverse,

lovers of God - do not measure up to fascism’s conception of humanity. We are not human enough, we are not human in the right way, we are not human in the way fascism defines humanness. Therefore, we are not human at all. History teaches that once we cease being human we are fodder for death.

Yet, if God is our model for being rejected, then also let God be our model for overcoming hate with love, darkness with light, fascism and white supremacists with the beloved community.

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Eclipse 2017 –Monday, August 21st



<http://time.com/4882733/total-solar-eclipse-animals-react/>

Calendar of Events

Men’s Breakfast (9am) - (August 19)
One Anothering at Joyce’s (10am) – August 19
Trustee’s Meeting (6pm) – August 21
Council Meeting (7pm) – August 21
CE Committee Retreat (9am) – August 26
Blessings of Backpacks (during Worship) – August 27
Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) – August 27
Sunday School Teacher Training (11:30am) – August 27
PFLAG (2:30pm) – August 27