



Spirit News

August 19, 2020

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

- Prayer for the lack of hope (Adam DeBaugh).
- Prayer for the WUMCO board as we met tomorrow afternoon by Zoom (Adam DeBaugh).
- Pray for safety for students and teachers, especially if they must learn and teach in person (John Bartkowiak).
- Prayer of thanksgiving for the life of Ella Hegyi (Diane Teigiser).
- Prayers for my friend Jon Frank and his family as they grieve the loss of their mother this week (Dave Schwab).
- Prayer for direction and doors to open for our daughter Marlene (Sabine Cox).
- Prayer for my son Noah who turned 50. Blessings on him and his family (Susan Percy).
- Grateful to have Floyd's voice back in the choir. Thankful for everyone that helped (Stephen Petrov).
- Prayers for my school that has to figure out how to open in person due to parent pressure (Sabine Cox).
- Prayers for Terri's healing and all others who are ill or in pain (Adam DeBaugh).
- Wisdom to know when to focus on the forest and when to focus on the tree (Cathy Jacobs).

This Sunday at UCCSV

We're continuing on our Virtual Vacations with God this week and "traveling" to famous places and landmarks, cities, or museums. What lessons can we learn from these places? What history do they need to teach us? How do they change us? Please send any pictures of these places you may have to Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com. Also if you have a particularly strong memory of someplace like this that you visited, or a story to tell about it, please

email that to her as well. The Zoom room opens at 9:30am and worship begins at 10am.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84470757726?pwd=VUhkWDZacGZBUFBwYWISU3QxN3dlUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726

Passcode: 20874

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726

Passcode: 20874

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcm87sP9zS>

Congregational Check-In, Sunday August 30th after Worship

Before we head into the fall program series we want to check in with the congregation and hear your feedback. Think of this like an online listening circle. We will break into small groups if we have several participants. Some questions to consider:

1. How connected do you feel to the congregation? How might we help you connect more?
2. How is online worship working for you? Do you have suggestions as to how to improve it? What is really feeding your soul right now?
3. Are there topics or issues you would like to see addressed either in worship or online small

groups this coming fall? How can we help you stay whole during this time?

4. What have you learned from these last months? In the next few months what do you hope you can keep from this time and what do you want to (or plan to) change as the pandemic continues to impact our lives?

5. Do you have questions about the church we could answer?

If you cannot attend on the 30th but would like to submit answers to these questions or give other feedback, please email HollyRJackson@gmail.com.

UCC Seneca Valley's Trivia Night

Come join the fun, Wednesday, August 26 starting at 7 on Zoom. Get your dance shoes ready for a little night music. Zoom login information will be sent next week.

Root Beer Float Drive-in

Sunday, September 6 from 1-3
Pickup fixins for making a root beer float, enjoy the chance to visit with others while social distancing, and support social action by buying some fair trade coffee and/or chocolate from Bethany.

Front Porch Hours

Pastor Holly will be having "Front Porch Hours" on Thursdays from 4-6pm every week. During that time she will be sitting out on the church's front porch (by the office doors). You can join her on the porch during that time for conversation, pastoral concerns, suggestions, or whatever else you might want to share with her. It's time she wants to offer to you. No appointment needed.

Masks will be required and safe physical distance will be maintained. Bored or lonely? Anxious or frustrated? Wanting to chat about the news and the state of the world? Full of ideas or feeling empty? Meet her on the "Front Porch" and have a chat! (If those hours don't work and you need to talk to her you can always make an appointment by emailing her.)

School Supplies Drive

Usually around this time of the year we are collecting school supplies for children in need in our area. This year, just like everything else, things are different due to Covid. Montgomery County schools will begin their school year online and continue that way through at least January. However, this does not mean children in need no longer require our support. In fact, they may need it more than ever. But instead of gathering supplies and dropping them off somewhere, we are suggesting that you take the money you might normally spend on supplies and give a direct donation. The Montgomery County Public Schools Educational Foundation has a campaign especially for this fall of 2020 called "GIVE BACKPACKS." For just \$10 you can provide a student in need with supplies for virtual learning, which could include, paper, crayons, pencils/pens, white boards, dry erase markers, and more. You can find more information at

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/community-engagement/backpacks.aspx>. There you can give your donation online, through text, or get an address to mail a check. You can even specify which schools you want your donations to go to. In case you want to support the schools directly around our church feel free to specify: Clopper Mill Elementary School, Germantown Elementary School, Ronald McNair Elementary School, Great Seneca Creek Elementary School, Northwest High School, or Seneca Valley High

School. Let's help children in our area get off to a good start in this unprecedented school year!

Zoom Worship Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to help lead our Zoom worship experience there are ways you can help. We still need a "Greeter" and a "Liturgist" every Sunday. Greeters will welcome people as they come into the meeting before worship by voice or by chat and help by supplying important web links in the chat box. Liturgists will lead the service with Holly. We also welcome musical video offerings of instruments or voice that we can use during worship. In addition, we welcome pictures of our congregation during this time apart

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

Equal Exchange

I will be selling coffee and chocolate at the church on September 6 from 1-3.

Thanks, Bethany Fuss

Message from Susan Percy

I have a neighbor who is involved as a volunteer with this ongoing program to help those trying to learn the English language. Perhaps you know someone who might be interested in helping with the program or wants help with the language. It's all on zoom at this time so anyone can join whether living near or far and its free.

Library Conversation Group

The English Conversation Clubs are available on line via libraries in the Montgomery County public library system.

Here's the deal. As of now, there are actually five different groups that meet weekly, provided

by different library locations and at different times of day. But since all sessions are virtual, any interested English learner can pick the meeting time and day that best fits his or her schedule.

Step 1 - go to the library system website:

montgomerycountymd.gov/library

Step 2 - click "my account login" (If you don't have an account, follow links to create one)

Step 3 - click on "events"

Step 4 -click on "virtual events" - which gives you a list of all upcoming virtual events sponsored by any of the libraries in the system, beginning with the day of the week and time of day on which you are looking at the list.

My neighbor Marsha facilitates the group that meets on Tuesdays from 2pm to 3:30 pm. Its heading on the list is "Germantown English Conversation Club." Put your cursor on the heading, click, and you get a Zoom link that admits you to the group. The link is only activated between 1:50 and 2:05 on Tuesdays.

Other conversation groups can be found the same way - by day of the week and time of day. There are two groups on Mondays (2pm and 7 PM), one each on Tuesday (2pm), Wednesday (11:30 am), and Thursday (10:30 am). A really motivated learner could be participating every day of the week!

It sounds like a very worthwhile program.