



# Spirit News

August 23, 2018

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

- Prayers for Dan Davis. Dan will be having back surgery on August 27. Prayers for his medical team and his recovery (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Prayers of Thanksgiving for my daughter, Bethany, getting the educational assistant job she interviewed for (John Bartkowiak).
- Prayers for Adam who fell and is in pain. He hurt his leg and broke his toe (anonymous).
- We give thanks for new life, new babies. Thank you for the joy, awe & thanksgiving they bring us (anonymous).
- Continued prayers for healing of Shelly's knee. Prayers for employment for Dave Moore. Prayers for civility and reconciliation (Shelly Moore).
- Continued prayers for Liberty Millendez, friend of the Domingo Family, who is undergoing chemo. May God's blessings of healing and strength be with her (Gina Domingo).
- 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 Requests:** Please notify Nita at [uccsv@verizon.net](mailto: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.*

## Office Closures & Newsletter

The church office will be closed on Friday, August 24 and August 31.

Our next Spirit News will be September 6.

## 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:  
Genesis 28:10-17 and Mark 6:30-32

## This Sunday at UCCSV

Summer is winding down and we're getting ready for a new program and school year. We begin that at UCCSV by Blessing our Backpacks (and other work materials). Be sure to bring them with you to church! One of the first questions our kids get asked when they return to school is "What did you do this summer and what did you learn from it?" In that Spirit Pastor Holly will share with us what she learned from her trip to Star Island a few weeks ago and as a bonus Chloe Jackson will also share her experiences of the UCC Star Island Youth Program. Hint: It's all about finding thin places where we can connect with God. Also, the summer choir will sing an anthem for us

and our youth will work on cleaning out and updating our children's worship tote bags. Round out your summer by joining us for worship and connection this Sunday!

## **Pool Party This Saturday, 2-5pm**

A reminder and a small change about this weekend's family pool party. The pool party is especially targeted towards children, youth, young adults, and young families, but as always at church all are welcome. However, as we have a limited number of guest passes I ask that you RSVP to [HollyRJackson@gmail.com](mailto:HollyRJackson@gmail.com) as soon as possible so I can plan for you to be able to get in. The party begins on Saturday, August 25th at 2pm at the Whetstone Community Center at 19140 Brooke Grove Ct, Montgomery Village, MD. A small change is that we will stay at the pool until 5pm and NOT be walking over to my house afterwards for pizza. Instead I will bring some snacks and ask that if you are coming you also bring a snack to share. Please bring your own drinks as well. We look forward to enjoying this last bit of summer together!

## **Blessings of the Backpacks**

It's almost that time of year again. School starts again and we head back to work after summer vacations. Let's take God with us as we go. Join us on Sunday, August 26, during worship for our Blessing of the Backpacks. Have your children bring in their backpacks to be blessed during Children's Time. If you are an adult (with or without children) bring in your laptop, briefcase, art tools, etc. to be blessed. Let us begin a new season with God's blessing and presence!

## **Teacher Training This Sunday!**

If you would like to make a commitment to teach and nurture UCCSV's children and youth

this year please come join us after worship this Sunday for a teacher training session. Lunch will be provided! We will review our curriculum and plans for this year, share best practices in the classroom, hear some about teaching students with disabilities, and go over basic information for anyone new to teaching at our church. This year we are asking teachers to make a commitment to our children by agreeing to teach at least once every 6-8 weeks depending on need and availability. We are looking to form a core team of teachers who the kids can connect with and get to know over the school year. Once again we will have both a "Lower School" class for PreK-6th grade and an "Upper School" class for 7-12th graders. The curriculum is fun and engaging, the kids are eager to learn, and you don't have to be a bible expert to be a great teacher. You just have to have a love of learning and a desire to make a difference in the lives of our children and youth.

## **If You Have an Announcement Before Worship**

In an effort to streamline the announcement time before worship on Sundays we are continuing to tweak our policy on announcements so as to honor our time, focus on the holiness of our gathering, and still keep people informed of important church-wide information. **If you have an announcement that you would like to make sure gets included on a Sunday morning you MUST see and speak to Pastor Holly FIRST.** She will determine if the announcement is necessary for that Sunday and if it makes sense for it to simply be a part of the regular list of her announcements or if a representative from the congregation should give the announcement instead. There will no longer be announcements from the floor that were not already okayed with Pastor Holly before worship. Thank you for your patience and help

in continuing to find the best practices that work for the start of our worship time together.

## Facebook Policy Reminder

Did you know that UCCSV has two distinct pages on Facebook? We have an official facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchOfChristOfSenecaValley>. This is similar to our website as the public face of our church. General church information is posted there and things of interest to both community members and potential visitors. We also have a group page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/426523820718594/>, with 90 members and friends of our congregation. This is a public page as well, but it is more for internal questions and concerns. On the group page any member can share prayer requests, articles, things of interest to the wider community, suggestions or requests for recommendations, etc. If you are not a part of the UCCSV group you may request to become a part of the group and we will add you in.

Also, a reminder that I am on facebook as Holly R. Jackson and am happy to be "friends" with members. However, you must do the friend requesting. This way you get to decide whether you want me to be able to see your facebook page and vice versa. I do not have a public facebook page, only a personal one so my personal views shared on my facebook page do not reflect the church or any official entity. On my personal page I do post things about my family, spirituality, and politics. A warning that I am more explicitly political on my page than I often am in church and I also do not police language the way I would at a church function. Because of that I also will not friend anyone in the church under 18 years old.

## Interfaith Women's Shelter Meals 2018

Interfaith Women's Shelter Meals 2018 - Share the food love!! Our congregation is signed up to provide meals for approximately 30-35 shelter guests at the Wilkins Avenue women's shelter in Rockville beginning with dinner on Sunday, September 9th and ending with lunch on Thursday, September 13th. Many hands make light work! Please sign up by clicking the website below, or signing up on sheet on the board, or email Katy Crowley ([cek0891@gmail.com](mailto:cek0891@gmail.com)) or Joyce Miller ([millej243@gmail.com](mailto:millej243@gmail.com))

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094FACAB28A7FC1-interfaith/>



**Fruit for the Food Bank**

Fruit can be an important part of preparing nutritious family meals and is great for packing into school lunches. During August, please place your donations of *Non-perishable* fruit in the basket in the narthex to support the Germantown Help Food Bank.

## MoCo Rise for Climate - Rally on September 9th

A broad coalition of Montgomery County environmental activists, faith leaders and civic organizations will join together for a **rally at Rockville Town Center on September 9th (1:30-4pm)** calling on local officials to take bold action on climate change.

MoCo Rise for Climate (R4C) will feature U.S. Congressman Jamie Raskin, Democratic County Executive Candidate Marc Elrich, and climate scientist and political activist Danielle a Luttenberg Meitiv. Also on the podium are Montgomery County native Sebastian Medina-Tayac, a member of the Piscataway Indian Nation and 2017 high school field director for the People's Climate March, and Destiny Watford, awarded the 2015 Goldman Environmental Prize for work to block an incinerator project in Baltimore County.

Live music by local artists, a family friendly Kids' Area, and representatives from environmental, business and civic groups will work to build awareness and advocacy for action on climate change, and the serious impacts facing Montgomery County and the region.

We'd love to have a strong UCCSV presence at this event as we continue to live in to our mission as a church to protect the environment. Please mark your calendars and prepare to join in the work of protecting God's creation together with our Montgomery County neighbors.

## **Pulp Pilgrims Book Group**

We are currently reading, *A River in Darkness: One Man's Escape from North Korea*, a memoir by Masaji Ishikawa.

Half-Korean, half-Japanese, Ishikawa's family moved from Japan to North Korea when he was thirteen years old and unwittingly became members of the lowest social caste. His father (Korean) was lured to North Korea after the Korean War by promises of abundant work, education for his children, and a higher station in life. Ishikawa candidly recounts his tumultuous childhood and the thirty-six brutal years he spent living under a crushing, totalitarian regime; barely escaping North Korea

with his life; and, the challenges of repatriating to Japan.

There are 10 copies of the book in print with 21 holds and 7 copies of sound recordings with 4 available within the Montgomery County Library System.

Several book group members also have copies they are willing to lend. If you need a copy, send an email to the book group (see above 'to' list). Do the same if you have a book to lend.

We hope you will join us, Sunday 16 September 2018, at 11:30am in the Narthex. Contact is Deborah Tomblyn, [deortombly@aol.com](mailto:deortombly@aol.com).

\*\*Our October *Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou. You will need to place a hold on this book.

## **Parties, Parties, Parties**

WHAT: Join other members and friends of UCCSV at a Kick-Off Party and Talent Show to bring in the party season.

WHY: The purpose of the Kick-Off Party and Talent Show is to introduce the numerous small-group parties that will be held throughout the year, give you the opportunity to sign up for them, and to show off some of the talent of our congregational members. The small-group parties are also a fund raiser for the church. Donations will be accepted and proceeds will go to items on the church's Wish List.

WHEN: **Friday, September 28, 2018** in the Gathering Room. Come at 6:30 pm for dessert, coffee, party introductions, and signups. Then at about 7:15 pm, move to the Sanctuary for the Talent Show.

WHO: You are needed to attend, to sign up for the small-group parties throughout the year, and to show-off your talent or applaud others.

Does anyone do magic? Who is a good joke teller?

If you have a particular talent you would like to show-off, contact Joyce Miller. These events will be organized by Carol Brandt, Joyce Miller, and Jeanne Springmann.

## **Seneca Valley Generosity Shows in School Supply Drive**



UCC of Seneca Valley can be proud of its contribution to Interfaith Works' drive to provide 3,000 backpacks – packed with school supplies – to Montgomery

County students needing a bit of help at the start of the school year. Shown above is just a small portion of the 35 three-ring binders, 10,000 sheets of binder paper, 20 two-pocket folders, 43 twelve-inch rulers, 56 pairs of school scissors, 10 boxes of colored pencils and crayons, 32 pencil cases and pouches, 84 pens, 588 pencils, and a dozen pencil sharpeners, which were collected by the congregation.

### **CALENDAR**

Blessing of the Backpacks – August 26  
Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) – August 26  
Sunday School Teacher Training (11:15am) – August 26  
PFLAG (2:30pm) – August 26