



# Spirit News

August 26, 2020

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

- Prayers for the folks experiencing wild fires in Colorado and California (Heidi Harmon).
- Prayers for my friend Phil who is having heart surgery in early September (David Schwab).
- Prayers for the closing of the detention centers (Ruthanne Stoltzfus).
- Prayers for my mom and family (Luz).
- Pray for Luz as she begins to teach a new online ESOL curriculum and for her students (John Bartkowiak).
- Prayers for my friend Dawn, who is battling multiple health issues (Terri Molaski).
- Please pray for Sita, an old college friend of Aaron from SF, she is in her 70's and lives in Mendocino county in CA and is threatened by the fires there (Sabina Cox).
- Prayers of healing for my sister, Candice Hayes. Prayers of protection for my niece, Heidi Prentice and her family who were evacuated from their home. Although they have returned, the smoke is terribly thick and things are very uncertain (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Pray for friend Maura who was just diagnosed with cancer and had extensive surgery this week (Susan Pearcy).

## This Sunday at UCCSV

Many times our travels include going to special events such as weddings, family reunions, graduations, baptisms or other celebrations. Maybe you were planning on attending one of these kinds of events this summer but it was canceled or happened virtually. There's grief around this reality and also the attempt to find joy in new ways to celebrate. This week our virtual vacations with God will focus on these kinds of special events and all their joy and

possible complications. We'll join Jesus as he attends a wedding and see what unfolds. Please send pictures of these kinds of events you have attended to [HollyRJackson@gmail.com](mailto:HollyRJackson@gmail.com) so they can be included in the Prelude and meditative music. 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>

## UCC Seneca Valley's Trivia Night – Tonight!

Come join the fun, tonight starting at 7 on Zoom. Get your dance shoes ready for a little night music. It's music madness theme. Broadway, movie themes, artists and dancing. Fun for all ages! Zoom info coming soon.

## 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](mailto:HollyRJackson@gmail.com).

## **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>