



Spirit News

August 31, 2017

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

- Prayers of Thanksgiving for the birth of my great-niece, Brooklyn Rose (Deborah Tomblyn).
- Prayers for peace for Donovan's family after death of father; prayers for a good transition for Julie in living arrangements (Joyce Miller).
- Pray for Dee Dee as she recovers from neck surgery (Terri Molaski).
- Pray for my Brother-in-law, Scott Dexter, who was just diagnosed with cancer (Terri Molaski).
- Pray for Arunjana Das, PhD, student defending her prospectus (anonymous).
- Prayers for all folks in South Texas (anonymous).
- 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 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

As the summer winds down we are preparing ourselves for a busy season to come by spending time on God's holy ground. This Sunday's worship will focus on contemplation, art, and taking a deep breath before the fall schedule hits. Instead of a sermon we will experience worship stations that will invite us to reflect, to pray, to rest, to make art, and even to sit outside for a moment in God's creation. If this summer has been a busy one for you, or if you simply need a moment of rest and blessing from this week's news, please join us for worship at 10am. Kristin Smith and Beth Lauriat will provide music and we will celebrate communion together. Sunday School for preschool and elementary school aged children will begin at the start of worship with Ms. Michelle and then the children will join us for communion.

Minister's March for Justice

This past Monday I went into DC to meet other faith leaders at the MLK Memorial for the Minister's March for Justice. We heard several inspirational speakers from a variety of faith traditions. We sang together, prayed together, and then we marched together. Over 3,000 faith leaders from around the country (including

many UCC ministers) marched from the MLK Memorial to the Department of Justice to say that injustice is a moral cause dear to God's heart and that issues of voting rights, healthcare, white supremacy, immigration, income inequality, criminal justice reform, and more need to be addressed not only by our government, but also by our houses of worship. It was by far the largest group of clergy of many different religions that I have ever seen. I was proud to be a part of the crowd calling for God's justice and focused on love and peace. In the months to come I hope to continue to find ways that we can join with other faith communities in our area to bring education and reform so that our society more closely mirrors the Kingdom of God with justice, love, and peace for ALL.

- Pastor Holly

Community Office Hours Change

Starting next week, on August 31st and from now on, my hours will change slightly from 3:30-5:30pm to 4:30-6:30pm due to family transportation issues. **This means that you are welcome to stop by and see me at the Starbucks in the Kingsview Shopping Center, across Clopper Road from the church, every Thursday starting today, August 31st from 4:30-6:30pm.** Some people have asked me, "Does anyone ever stop by?" The answer is a resounding YES! In fact, it is very rare when someone from church *doesn't* stop by on a Thursday afternoon. This is *your* chance to drop in and talk to me, about *anything* that is on your mind, and not have to worry that you are interrupting my work. **For those two hours, meeting with people IS my work.**

For those who have been asking for evening hours I will also, starting in September, add one set of evening hours a month. **I will be having dinner at the Panera on Century Blvd. (near**

the Germantown Regal movie theater) from 6:30-8:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month. You are welcome to join me on Wednesday September 27th for dinner or dessert/coffee and tell me how your day/week/month is going or ask any questions or share your thoughts.

Feed Your Body and Soul: Soup, Salad, and Spirit

For many at UCCSV Lenten Soupers are a valued way to have dinner with friends and feed our souls and minds with discussions and activities. We have decided to try to extend that experience throughout the year with once a month dinners on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Much like Lenten Soupers there will be a sign up sheet to sign up to bring food to share or to help out with set up or clean up. We will eat together from 6:30pm to 7:30pm and then have a time of discussion or participate in an activity together from 7:30 to 8:30pm. Come for part of the evening or for the whole experience. Have dinner with us. Bring a friend. Feed your body and your soul! Families are welcome. **Our first Soup, Salad, and Spirit will be on Wednesday, September 13th.**

Volunteers Needed!

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

We are in need of Liturgists for 9/10 and 9/24. In addition, we are in need of Ushers for the **month of September** (we prefer to have 2 Ushers each Week). Signup sheets for October is on the bulletin board as well. Many thanks for all your help!

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. 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 this Sunday we will focus our discussion on Exodus 3:1-15.

Microwave

Oh my! Our church microwave has bit the dust. UCCSV is looking for a kitchen angel who can provide us with 1 new mid to large microwave.

Out of concern that we could end up with a dozen or so microwaves, please email or call Nita Stone at uccsv@verizon.net to arrange.

Grubby Sunday

We'll hold a "Grubby Sunday" after worship on Sunday, Sept 17.

Come to church dressed in your working clothes and we'll attack projects both inside and outdoors. There will be something to do for every ability level, and we'll even have pizza for lunch!

Doing the work ourselves relieves us of the cost of hiring from outside. Plus, many hands make light – and fun – work!

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

We are currently reading 'The Shack' by William P. Young. "In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant 'The Shack' wrestles with the timeless question, 'Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?'. The answers will astound you and perhaps transform you as it did [the main character]." (From the library abstract.)

There are 35 copies in the library and the books are scattered among the branches so placing a

hold is probably necessary. There are also electronic formats.

We will meet on Sunday September 24 at 11:30am in the Narthex. Bring your coffee and join us. Contact: Deborah Tomblyn.

Women's Retreat!

You've been asking, "When will there be a Women's Retreat?"

And now the wheels are turning!

A committee is looking into a 2 night retreat for Winter/early Spring.

There will be details to follow as soon as the venue and dates are confirmed.

Right now, just enjoy the anticipation of refreshing your spirit and sharing wonderful fellowship with your sisters.

Stand with Immigrant Youth!

Right now, the [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals](#) (DACA) program is under an immediate, existential threat. Ten states have threatened to sue President Trump if he does not terminate the DACA program by September 5th.



Terminating DACA would mean turning our nation's back on immigrant youth who are valued members of our communities. The

consequences of repealing DACA would be severe and profound, as it would put the nearly 800,000 dreamers at immediate risk of deportation.

DACA has allowed young people to pursue their dreams, live without fear of deportation in the country they call home, and invest in their future and in the future of our nation. Ending DACA would be morally reprehensible, denying hundreds of thousands of young people the chance to pursue their dreams.

Our immigrant neighbors deserve dignity, welcome, and the opportunity to flourish. As an immigrant welcoming denomination, we are called to speak out now. Tell Congress to protect dreamers by urging the administration to keep the DACA program intact.

If you are unable to press the Take Action Button below and/or do not have internet access, please contact Pastor Holly for assistance.



Helping After Harvey

The news coming out of Texas and Louisiana is deeply disturbing. The flooding is unbelievable and heartbreaking to watch. You may be wondering how you can help. There are a few main ways that we suggest making a difference for Harvey victims:

1. Pray for the Victims
2. Give to the UCC Emergency Fund. All donations will go to Harvey Relief: <https://transactions.ucc.org/CampaignForm/UCChrist/Hurricane+Harvey+relief>
3. Assemble Clean Up Buckets. We will be collecting money and supplies at church over the next few Sundays. Please donate the following items:

BUCKET CONTENTS AS SPECIFIED BY CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If bucket has been used, clean well but do not use if it has held chemicals of any kind.)
- Four scouring pads
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Easy Wipes)
- One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs non surgical latex gloves
- One pair work gloves, cotton with leather palm or all leather
- 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

All cleaning items must be new – all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

4. Volunteer. Follow the link to find out how you can volunteer to help disaster victims. http://www.ucc.org/disaster_disaster-volunteers

Calendar of Events

Adopt-A-Road (9:00am) – September 9

Welcome Sunday – September 10

Deacon's Meeting – September 11

Soup, Salad and Spirit (6:30pm) –
September 13

Men's Breakfast (9am) – September 16

One Anothering at Deb's (10:00am) –
September 16

Fellowship Committee Meeting (11:15am) –
September 17

Grubby Sunday – September 17

Trustees Meeting (6:00pm) – September 18

Council Meeting (7:00pm) – September 18

Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) –
September 24

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group (11:30am) –
September 24

PFLAG (2:30pm) – September 24

Evening Hours with Holly at Panera Bread
(6:30pm – 8:30pm) – September 27

Congregational Speed Dating "Get to Know Me"
(7:00pm) – September 29