



Spirit News

August 3, 2017

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

- We celebrate the life of Sarann Lim, mother of Melissa Johnson, who passed this past week. We hold in prayer Melissa, Calvin, Joseph & the entire family in your love, grace, & strength (Deborah Tombllyn).
- Adam, Tom and Lois and the stressful situation at home with our renters, that they leave quickly and with no more drama (Adam DeBaugh).
- Prayer for the Thompson family. Tim's cousin's family had a major fire in their home. Prayers for Carolyn, Brian and Finn and thanksgiving for their safety and all the support they have received (Tim Fuss).
- Prayer for a quick and successful recovery for our old friend and previous member, Anne Kimmell. She had major back surgery last week (anonymous).
- 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.

Havruta on Sunday Mornings

Please plan to join us this Sunday from 9:00 to 9:40 in the Narthex. Do join us as we learn and enjoy and grow our faith together.

UCCSV Provides Site to Train Young Music Tutors and Future Composers

For three evenings in late July, UCCSV was the site of the Tacy Foundation's training for its innovative **Piano Pals** and **Composer's Circle** programs.

The Piano Pals program, entering its 6th year in Montgomery County Public Schools, serves economically disadvantaged elementary school children at Title One schools and now expanding to Housing Opportunity Commission after school programs. This program matches youth mentors with young children interested in learning music. More than 50 students received training at UCCSV to mentor underprivileged children for Piano Pals!

Composers Circle, which was led by recent high school graduate and UCCSV member George Benskin IV, is focused on inspiring children to develop creativity, critical thinking, and confidence through music composition sessions. Composers' Circle is in its 2nd year.

More information about the work of the Tacy Foundation can be found at www.tacyfoundation.org.

One Year of Ministry at UCCSV!

Friends, on August 1st I will celebrate the one year anniversary of my pastorate here with you at UCCSV. What a joy it has been to be in ministry with you all this past year! I have learned so much about you, about the church, and about myself as I have met with so many of you, worked with you in ministry, and worshipped alongside you on Sunday mornings. I feel so incredibly blessed to be able to be your pastor and to share this journey with you. I thank you for the grace you have shown me both in forgiving me when I have made mistakes and in giving me space to try new things. There is such beauty in knowing I am allowed not only to succeed, but also to fail and that we can all learn together from both. You have welcomed me and embraced me and my family. You have laughed with me, been honest with me in your conversations, and prayed alongside me. This is a gift I deeply appreciate. You have let me in to your sacred moments, shared your fears and struggles with me, and trusted me with both your great joys and the worries that keep you up at night. I am so very grateful to be able to do this job that I love so deeply in the midst of such a wonderful congregation. The Church Council and other church lay leadership here at UCCSV are to be commended. I have such appreciation for so many of you who volunteer so many hours to serve this community. Thank you. Thank you to all of you for being the church in such

amazing ways and letting me be a part of your story.

As I start my second year with you I ask for your continued prayers, your continued grace, and our continued conversations. The learning doesn't stop just because the first year is over. I still need to hear your stories, learn from your passions and concerns, and see you in action both here at church and out in the world. My office door is open or come by my community office hours at Starbucks on Thursday afternoons or watch for new evening office hours starting the in the fall. Call me. Text me. Email me. Invite me to see your work in the world. Let's make music together and create art. Dream with me about all we could be. Serve with me as we seek to make an impact on our neighborhood. Advocate with me as we work for justice in our world. Worship with me as we connect more closely with God and each other. Learn with me about the Bible and the world around us. Laugh with me as we find joy in God's creation. Together we are UCC Seneca Valley! I can't wait to see what God has in store for us this coming year. Happy anniversary!!

Pastor Holly Away from July 28-August 6th

From Friday, July 28 through Sunday, August 6th I will be away for study and retreat. One of the things you at UCCSV offer to me as your pastor is time and funding for continuing education opportunities. This time away allows me to learn, to reflect, to rest, to plan, and to renew myself for another year of ministry with you. This next week I will be spending time on Star Island in New Hampshire at a UCC retreat on spiritual leadership. It will also be a time for me to read books on ministry and theology that I think will be helpful to our work together, and will allow me time to reflect on my first year in ministry with you and plan for the year to come. While I am away I will likely have limited access

to email and possibly even to phone calls and texts. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call Deborah Tomblyn who is covering for me while I am away. I look forward to being back in the office on Monday, August 7th rested, renewed, energized, and ready for another fabulous year of ministry at UCCSV.

Holly

Pool Party for Children/Youth/Families

August 12th



On Saturday, August 12th join us for a pool party for UCCSV's children, youth, and families and anyone who wants to be an honorary

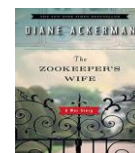
child, youth, or family for the day! Meet us at the Whetstone Pool and Community Center at 19410 Brooke Grove Court, off Centerway Drive in Montgomery Village at 3:30pm for fun at the pool. After we have enjoyed our time in the water we will walk over (less than 5 minute walk) to Pastor Holly's house at 9713 Breckenridge Place for pizza and more fun! Please RSVP to HollyRJackson@gmail.com so we can know how many people to expect.

August Communion Moved to 8/13

Due to Pastor Holly being out of town August 6th, our monthly communion observance will be moved to August 13th. Please join us both August 6th for regular worship with John Teigiser preaching and on August 13th for communion when Holly is back to preach on the story of Joseph and his amazing coat and some very jealous brothers.

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

We are currently reading, *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman. It was published in 2007 & is the true story of how the keepers of the Warsaw Zoo saved hundreds of people from nazi hands.



You will need to place a hold at the library since as of 6/26 there were: 26 copies with 90 holds & 4 LG print with 22 holds.

We will meet Sunday, August 13 at 11:30am in the Narthex.

School Supplies Drive for Interfaith Works

Want to go shopping for school supplies to help others? Interfaith Works, an interfaith organization in Montgomery County, is holding a school supplies drive to provide over 2,000 new backpacks and new school supplies to Montgomery County students who want to start the school year ready to learn. Let's join with over 150 other faith communities to give to kids in need in our area! We will collect the following school supplies at UCCSV through August 13th:

- 2 inch 3 ring binders
- Dividers
- Filler paper: wide ruled and college ruled (8 1/2 x 11 in)
- Two pocket folders
- Highlighters: yellow, pink and blue
- Pens: black and blue
- Markers
- Rulers
- Pencil Boxes and Pouches
- Scissors
- Backpacks especially for middle school and high school aged students
- Small day planner/organizer for the parents

- New children's socks and underwear
- Giant gift cards
- SmartTrip cards

Volunteers Needed

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

We are in need of Liturgists for August 20th and month of September.

We are in need of Ushers for August 13th, 27th and month of September.

Many thanks!

Calendar of Events

Deacons Meeting (7pm) – August 7
Pool Party at Holly's (4pm) – August 12
Root Beer Float Sunday - (August 13)
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 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