



# Spirit News

August 5, 2020

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD  
Phone: (301) 540-3449  
Email: [UCCSV@verizon.net](mailto:UCCSV@verizon.net)  
Website: [UCCSenecaValley.org](http://UCCSenecaValley.org)

## Prayer Requests

- For the children in the Detention Centers.... may they be released in a carefully planned manner.
- Pray for safety for my soon to be traveling daughter, Bethany (John Bartkowiak).
- I pray that my knee had a little blip and will be fine (Dan Davis).
- Pray for all those who desperately need jobs (John Bartkowiak).
- Prayers for Cody and Katie, friends who are getting married in Ohio this week (Jen Fuss).
- For Cindy's final leg of her earthly journey (Cathy Jacobs).
- For my students' new journey ahead (Cathy Jacobs).
- Ongoing Prayer to grant our leaders wisdom and compassion to address the Covid-19 pandemic.

**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 will be removed after one month. Feel free to resubmit your ongoing prayer requests.

## This Sunday at UCCSV

Sometimes when we go away on vacation we choose to go visit a local church and see what worship is like in a different place. This week our Virtual Vacations with God series continues only the twist is that you get a chance to choose to visit a different church just like you might if you were on vacation. Or choose to visit one of your past churches from an old neighborhood. Alternatively you can take a Sunday off of formal church and find Sabbath rest however you would like.

Below are some suggestions of famous UCC churches from around the country and a few local UCC churches as well:

Trinity UCC (Chicago) livestream at 7:30am, 11am, 6:30pm  
<https://www.trinitychicago.org/>

Cathedral of Hope (Dallas) 11am  
<https://cathedralofhope.com/videos/>

Old South Church (Boston) 10am  
<https://livestream.com/oldsouth>

First Congregational UCC (Downtown DC) 10:30am  
<https://www.firstuccdc.org/worship-with-us-this-sunday-5/>

Faith UCC (Downtown DC) 11am  
<https://www.facebook.com/FaithUCCDC>

We look forward to seeing you back at our church for live zoom worship (or watch us on facebook live) next Sunday, August 16th, at 10am.

- Holly

## Pastor Holly Away

Holly will be away on vacation and study leave for two weeks starting Monday, July 27th through Sunday, August 9th. She will return to UCCSV on Monday, August 10th. If you email her during that time she will get back to you during the week of the 9th. If you have a pastoral emergency during the time she is away you are invited to contact your Deacon (if you don't know

who your assigned Deacon is please contact John Bartkowiak, (The Chair of Deacons) or Rev. Bonnie Scott, (Pastor of Trinity UMC, one of our partner churches) who is providing emergency pastoral care coverage, at 301-540-4300 or [revbonnie@trinity-germantown.org](mailto:revbonnie@trinity-germantown.org).

## Upcoming Sunday Worship Themes– Virtual Vacations with God

8/9/20 – Visiting Different Churches

8/16/20 – The Forest

8/23/20 – Cities/Museums/Famous Landmarks

8/30/20 – Traveling for Events (Weddings, Celebrations, Family reunions, etc.)

9/6/20 – The Lake

## Deacon List Update - Your Help Needed!

As many of you know at UCCSV we assign all members, and many regular visitors and friends, an individual Deacon. This Deacon will be able to contact you and keep you abreast of any major issues at church. In addition during this pandemic the Deacons have been instrumental in keeping our community connected and cared for. You can share pastoral concerns with your Deacon and also ask them any questions you might have about church. In order to make contact between you and your Deacon as easy as possible we ask that you answer a few simple questions. All your answers will be kept in confidence. **We especially need this feedback from people new to our congregation or if your contact information has recently changed.** If you are not sure who your Deacon is that's a good indication that we need you to fill out this form! Please fill out the form below at your earliest convenience so that we can update our Deacon Lists as soon as possible.

<https://forms.gle/xfqf2DgmWqEK5x8G8>

## 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>

## Important Message from Treasurer

Dear Church Family,

As some of you already know, we have had more than several checks go missing in the last three months. At first, I thought that they had just been lost in the mail. It wasn't until June that several members began reporting that not only had the checks not shown up on their statement from church, but the checks had been cashed. Going through our records and deposits it was apparent that some of the missing checks had been fraudulently cashed. When we discovered this Nita sent out a new giving statement for everyone to check their records. At this point, close to \$3000 worth of checks have been stolen and cashed.

If you have had a check or checks cashed there are several things you can do.

1. I have made a complaint to the Post Office Inspector. However, the

representative I talked to asked that each member that has had checks stolen and cashed to call and make a complaint as well. Please be sure to tell them that your check was written to United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley at 13421 Clopper Rd, Germantown, MD 20874. The number is 877.876.2455

2. It would probably be good to call the police as well. I tried to make a police report, but they were not very helpful. The person I spoke to said that each person who had a stolen and cashed check needed to make the report not the church. The number is 301.279.8000.
3. You need to file a claim with your bank in order to receive a refund. I know this is time consuming and I apologize for this. The banks do have a legal obligation to refund fraudulently cashed checks, but you do have to file a claim. Please note when we deposit checks they are indorsed on the back with a stamp. Also our checks are deposited to a processed by Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union.
4. Mail all offerings and contributions to United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley PO Box 803, Germantown, MD **20875**

Please email me at [russellshelley92@gmail.com](mailto:russellshelley92@gmail.com) if you have other questions.

Russell Shelley, Treasurer

## New P.O. Box

We now have a PO box for mailing all your pledges and contributions. As soon as possible, please start mailing your checks to this new address.

The address is  
United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley  
PO Box 803  
Germantown, MD **20875**

**Note that the zip is now different even though it is the 20874 Post Office.** It would be helpful if everyone would spell out the complete church name and not use UCCSV. Maybe this would help the Post Office in directing the mail to the correct address. Any questions, please contact Russell Shelley, Treasurer ([russellshelley92@gmail.com](mailto:russellshelley92@gmail.com)).

## Mindfulness - Calm Your Heart and Mind

Mindfulness sessions lead by Ruel Billones will be held on Mondays from 7-8 via Zoom. Below is the Zoom log-in information. The same login will be used for each session. Please check out the Signup Genius email or contact Beth Lauriat at [balauriat@aol.com](mailto:balauriat@aol.com) for more information.

Topic: Mindfulness

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84478622520?pwd=cUdmWXptYmRmK0h6UmE0WWd5Nkl3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 844 7862 2520

Password: 533492

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84478622520#,,1#,533492# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,84478622520#,,1#,533492# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 844 7862 2520

Password: 533492

Find your local

number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kw7K7XJcM>

## **Recordings of Zoom Worship Services**

If ever you miss a Zoom worship service and you want to go back and watch a recording for that week, you can always find our past services on our website here:

[https://www.uccsenecavalley.org/watch\\_us\\_online](https://www.uccsenecavalley.org/watch_us_online)

This is also a great place to send neighbors, friends and family who may want to check us out but might be nervous about joining us on Zoom for the first time. It's a great way to see what Sunday mornings online are like and they can fast forward through anything they don't want to watch! ;-)