



Spirit News

August 8, 2019

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

- Prayers for healing for Bruce Gillette dealing with acute leukemia (Suzanne).
- Prayers of peace for Suzanne's sister and her family dealing with difficult neighbors (Dan and Suzanne).
- Prayers for friend Packy who is dealing with management of a serious kidney stone (Suzanne).
- Prayers for El Paso and Dayton families.
- Prayers of Healing for Molly over 40 surgeries and calm for her mom; prayers for Jim dealing with Parkinsons; prayers for communities in El Paso and Dayton (Joyce).
- Ongoing prayer for Greg Hyer and Cherie Giambalvo, both battling cancer. May they be surrounded with love and comfort throughout their journeys (Deb Anderson).
- Ongoing prayer for Dave's mom who has breast cancer and had a seizure that left her lethargic and more frail. Traveling mercies for travelers (Shelly Moore).
- Ongoing prayer for Susan Gotard and Andrew Broadie, "that we find Christ in our Lives."
- Ongoing prayer for Linda Snyder, Tim Fuss's Aunt, in treatment for early stage pancreatic cancer. Prayers for her care team and that her positive outlook will be sustained.

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

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, August 11, our focus will be on:
 Psalm 139:1-18, Genesis 1:20-31 and
 Ephesians 2:10 (CEB)

This Sunday at UCCSV

We will begin a new worship series this Sunday focusing on "The Body as Beloved." We know that God loves us - our spirits or our souls, but we're not always sure that God loves our bodies. If we're honest we also know that sometimes it's a struggle for us to love our bodies too. This week we will begin to consider how the body has been seen and used and often discarded throughout the church's history. We'll wrestle with how to build a positive sense of our bodies as beloved of God and why that matters in today's world. Join us for worship at 10am as Pastor Holly returns from vacation and study leave to lead us into a new way of thinking about ourselves, our church, God, and the body.

The Body as Beloved: Summer Worship Series

August 11: Bodies are Beloved: Does God love our bodies? What might that mean for our spiritual lives and what we see when we look in the mirror?

August 18: Bodies are Beloved: Why Incarnation Matters - Our faith teaches that

the Divine walked the earth in a human body. What might that mean to our faith and to us?

August 25: (Blessing of the Backpacks)

Bodies are Beloved: Using the Body in Spiritual Practice - How we can use the body in spiritual practice so that we can begin to integrate our bodies with our spiritual journey?

September 1: (Labor Day Weekend and Communion Sunday) Bodies are Beloved: Using the Body of Christ to save a

Disembodied World - We claim to be the Body of Christ together so what does that mean if we take seriously the idea that God loves not just the spirit, but also the body. How do we embody Christ to others? How might that make a difference in a world where the virtual has become as important as the physical?

School Supplies Drive for Interfaith Works

Once again this year we are collecting school supplies for needy children in our community and donating them to Interfaith Works, a faith based social service provider in Rockville. For families living on the economic edge in Montgomery County, the cost of rent, food, utilities, AND school supplies and a backpack for each child in the family is sometimes just too much. Interfaith Works' Annual School Supplies Drive will provide new backpacks and school supplies to 3,000 students who want to start the school year ready to learn. There are two ways to help:

1. You can donate online directly to Interfaith Works here:

<https://iworksmc.networkforgood.com/projects/76779-school-supplies-2019>

Please note that your online donation is for 'School Supplies' using the designation function when donating.

2. Bring in NEW school supplies to UCCSV and put them in the box in the Narthex (the living room like area leading in to our worship

space). In particular Interfaith Works has asked for donations of the following:

Backpacks for Grades K-12

Binders – 2-inch, three-ring

Filler Paper

Dividers

Scissors

Erasers

Glue Sticks and Bottles

Colored Pencils

Pencil Boxes and Pouches

Rulers

Spiral Notebooks

Two-Pocket Folders

We will accept donations of school supplies through Sunday, August 25th when we will bless them along with our annual Blessing of the Backpacks and then deliver them to Interfaith Works the next week so that they get to children before school begins on September 3rd.

Pastor Holly is Back and Wants to Chat with You!

I'm back in town after a vacation and study leave and eager to connect with the wonderful people of UCCSV. I am making time on my calendar to sit down for lunch or coffee with you at a place of your choice. I can even just go on a walk with you around a park or we can sit outside and chat. I can come to you and join you somewhere near your workplace or we can find a local spot if you are nearby church.

Below is a link to a sign up genius where you can sign up for a date. We will work out details of time and place by email after you sign up.

You can have a topic in mind or have no agenda at all. I am making time for you and want to hear any joys or needs or worries or celebrations that you want to share.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48afae28abfa7-lunch>

Adopt-A-Road

Join UCCSV friends and members as we make a part of Middlebrook Road beautiful. Trash grabbers, gloves, reflective vests, and trash/recycling bags provided.

When: Saturday, August 10th
Saturday, September 14th

Where: Small fenced in parking lot of Seneca Valley High School off of Middlebrook Road (near the auditorium entrance)

Time: 9:00 am
Questions/RSVP: Jenny at utzihome@gmail.com

Registration forms are available on the bulletin board by The Gathering Room.

Please contact Suzanne at revsasphd@gmail.com with questions.

The Soul of Aging Fall 2019 Sessions

The Soul of Aging will be offered again this fall. These sessions are for those fifty-five and older who want to explore, understand, and face the truths of growing older. Themes include beliefs about aging, forgiveness, our understanding of God, and reflecting on our own death. The Soul of Aging sessions use readings, poetry, thought-provoking questions, and working with images to assist each participant in embracing his or her own aging.

The first five 2 ½ hour sessions will take place on Saturday mornings at the Schmidt Davis Home in Germantown from September 28-October 26. The last five sessions will be offered in a retreat format from Friday, November 1-Sunday, November 3. During the retreat weekend, Friday and Saturday sessions will take place at the Sumser's home and Sunday will take place at the Schmidt Davis home. Costs include a materials fee of \$15 and a \$125 registration fee. The class which will be co-facilitated by Suzanne Schmidt and Lois Sumser is limited to 8 participants.

There will be a brief informational meeting after worship during Fellowship on September 8.



August is Pasta Sauce Month

Please support the Germantown Help food bank by donating jars of your favorite Pasta Sauce

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 25, 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!

Calendar

Adopt-A-Road (9am) - August 10
Trustees Meeting (6pm) – August 12
Council Meeting (7pm) - August 12
Pizza Night at Ledos – August 13
Mens Breakfast (9am) – August 17
Council Meeting (7pm) – August 19
One Anothering Group (10am) – August 24
Blessing of the Backpacks – August 25
Social Action Committee Meeting – (11:30am) –
August 25
PFLAG (2:30pm) – August 25