



# Spirit News

August 9, 2018

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

- Prayers of Thanksgiving for being close to grandchildren. Grandchildren are a blessing (anonymous).
- Pray for family of Gail Johnson. Gail passed away of ovarian cancer. Prayers for family and friends. She was a former classmate of mine (Tim Fuss).
- Pray for the Landino family. Jen's sister Alice gave birth to Jessie Landino. Thanksgiving for health of mother & baby and prayers for entire family (Tim Fuss).
- Thanks to those UCCSV members who helped out at Habitat for Humanity (anonymous).
- Pray for the family and friends of Colby's Cousin, Olive Clayton, who passed away with her family nearby (anonymous).
- Continued prayers for healing of Shelly's knee. Prayers for employment for Dave Moore. Prayers for civility and reconciliation (Shelly Moore).
- Continued prayers for Liberty Millendez, friend of the Domingo Family, who is undergoing chemo. May God's blessings of healing and strength be with her (Gina Domingo).
- Ongoing Prayer for Wayne Miller (Heidi's boss). Pray for health and healing for Wayne as he faces health challenges (Heidi Harmon).
- Ongoing Prayer for the political situation in Kenya as they are going through ethnic violence since post election (Maggie Nyamweya).
- Ongoing Prayer for the pain and suffering of so many in our congregation, DC metro area, and those impacted around the world by disaster, catastrophe and hunger (Shelly Moore).

- Ongoing Prayer for Stephen to find a job closer to home to shorten his long daily commute (John Bartkowiak).

*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 sent anonymously will be removed in one month.*

## Office Closures & Newsletter

The church office will be closed on Fridays in August.

Our next Spirit News will be August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## 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 our focus will be on:  
Leviticus 19:33-34 and 24:22  
Deuteronomy 10:17-19  
Matthew 25:34-40

## This Sunday at UCCSV

If you have paid any attention to the news this summer you know immigration has continued to be a hot button issue, especially given the separation of families and children at the border. But what does our faith tell us about this topic? How would God have us act towards the immigrants in our midst? What would Jesus say about the undocumented and those seeking

asylum? How do you discuss this with people who say the only issue is the rule of law? Join us for worship on Sunday at 10am as we explore this important issue for our time. Pastor Holly will preach and John Bartkowiak will sing a special anthem. Feed your soul, join with others in community, and let's wrestle with how best to help build God's borderless realm in a world where walls are everywhere.

## **My Time on Star Island**

Last week I spent some time in renewal and contemplation at Star Island, a UCC/UU retreat center on a small island off the coast of New Hampshire. The focus of the week was eco-justice and the environment. As Star Island has worked hard at environmental sustainability, this was a perfect place to explore why that matters. I spent some time not only thinking about God and the environment, but also about how we are all interconnected. How the aspects of creation we regularly experience - water, earth, wind, fire, animals - deeply affect us even as our actions deeply affect them. This is clear not only in our daily experience but also throughout our scriptures. We are a part of God's creation, not separate from it. We were created as relational beings, made in the image of our relational God, and what happens to some of creation, will affect us all eventually. On island I was also introduced to some important resources about eco-justice that I hope to share with you in the coming months.

But my week on Star was more than just a program on the environment. It was a reminder of thin places. Those places where God seems more present and where it seems possible to connect more deeply with yourself and with other people. On August 26th I will share more with you in worship about Star and all my experiences there. I hope you will join me.

- Pastor Holly

## **Update on Conference Minister Search**

It's been awhile since I updated you on our ongoing search for a new Conference Minister for the Central Atlantic Conference of the UCC. The Search Committee I am a part of has been working hard, meeting regularly online. We are presently interviewing candidates by video chat and plan to conduct in person interviews in the early fall with a hope to have a new Conference Minister in place for the New Year. Please continue to pray for our committee as we do our work and that God's will for our Conference be realized. If you have any questions please feel free to ask.

- Pastor Holly

## **Volunteers Needed**

We are in need of Ushers for August 19 and several Sundays in September. Liturgists for September are needed as well.

## **Pulp Pilgrims Book Group**

Join us this Sunday in our reading & discussion of the book, *The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey.

Author Robert Goolrick remarks thus, "[I]t is a remarkable accomplishment - a combination of the most delicate, ethereal, fairytale magic and the harsh realities of homesteading in the Alaskan wilderness....And it will stir you up and stay with you for a long, long time."

We will meet Sunday August 12, 2018 at 11:30am after Worship.



## Interfaith Women's Shelter Meals 2018

Interfaith Women's Shelter Meals 2018 - Share the food love!! Our congregation is signed up to provide meals for approximately 30-35 shelter guests at the Wilkins Avenue women's shelter in Rockville beginning with dinner on Sunday, September 9th and ending with lunch on Thursday, September 13th. Many hands make light work! Please sign up by clicking the website below, or signing up on sheet on the board, or email Katy Crowley ([cek0891@gmail.com](mailto:cek0891@gmail.com)) or Joyce Miller ([millej243@gmail.com](mailto:millej243@gmail.com))

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094FACAB28A7FC1-interfaith/>



**Fruit for the Food Bank**

Fruit can be an important part of preparing nutritious family meals and is great for packing into school lunches. During August, please place your donations of *Non-perishable* fruit in the basket in the narthex to support the Germantown Help Food Bank.

## Ledo Pizza Night August 14

The second Tuesday of each month will be UCC Seneca Valley night at Ledo Pizza on Wisteria Drive in Germantown. Ledo will give UCCSV a portion of its sales (between 10%-20% depending on the amount spent) from both eat in and carry out all day. You must present a flyer (available at church or at Ledos Tuesday evening starting at 5:30pm) to have your sale

counted towards our total. Join us for an inexpensive, kid-friendly, evening out and help us raise some funds for UCCSV!

## 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 26, 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!

## Sunday School Teacher Training

*Would you like to teach Sunday School this year? Do you feel called to serve the children and youth at our church? Then please join us after worship this Sunday, August 26th for a teacher training. We will introduce you to these dynamic and fun lessons and help you feel confident and positive about leading UCCSV's Sunday School classes this coming fall.*

## MoCo Rise for Climate - Rally on September 9th

A broad coalition of Montgomery County environmental activists, faith leaders and civic organizations will join together for a **rally at Rockville Town Center on September 9th (1:30-4pm)** calling on local officials to take bold action on climate change.

MoCo Rise for Climate (R4C) will feature U.S. Congressman Jamie Raskin, Democratic County Executive Candidate Marc Elrich, and climate scientist and political activist Danielle a Luttenberg Meitiv. Also on the podium are

Montgomery County native Sebastian Medina-Tayac, a member of the Piscataway Indian Nation and 2017 high school field director for the People's Climate March, and Destiny Watford, awarded the 2015 Goldman Environmental Prize for work to block an incinerator project in Baltimore County.

Live music by local artists, a family friendly Kids' Area, and representatives from environmental, business and civic groups will work to build awareness and advocacy for action on climate change, and the serious impacts facing Montgomery County and the region.

We'd love to have a strong UCCSV presence at this event as we continue to live in to our mission as a church to protect the environment. Please mark your calendars and prepare to join in the work of protecting God's creation together with our Montgomery County neighbors.

## **CALENDAR**

CE Committee Meeting (11:15am) – August 12  
Pulp Pilgrim's Book Group (11:30am) – August 12  
Pizza Night at Ledo's – August 14  
Deacon's Meeting (7:00 pm) – August 6  
Men's Breakfast (9:00am) – August 18  
Trustees' Meeting (6:00pm) – August 20  
Council Meeting (7:00pm) – August 20  
Blessing of the Backpacks – August 26  
Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) –  
August 26  
Sunday School Teacher Training (11:15am) –  
August 26  
PFLAG (2:30pm) – August 26