



Spirit News

December 12, 2019

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

- Pray for Lois Sumser. Pray for continued healing and strength after her accident.
- This is a prayer of great gratitude for all of the nurturing this past month. This church family really know how to care for others! (Lois).
- Pray for Freda Smith, MCC Pioneer, who passed into glory. May she rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon her.
- Pray for Deborah Barnes. I got a job at Weis.
- Prayer for Shirley, Mike Watkin's Mom. Thanks for prayers as Shirley continues to improve.
- Prayer for Chris, Christii Watkin's Brother. That he feels God's light while in midst of 4 month dark depression.
- Ongoing Prayer for Bill Hayes. Prayers for recovery after shoulder surgery (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Ongoing Prayer for Maggie's Dad. Continue to pray for my Dad who is recuperating well after his fall (Maggie).
- Ongoing Prayer for Dawn Oler, our dear friend, who is having surgery to remove a tumor. We pray it is benign and her recovery is easy (Terri & Dee Dee).
- Ongoing Prayer for Cheryl's grandmother who is in a coma; pray for Ben who is battling stomach cancer (Maggie).
- Ongoing Prayer for my niece, Lina, who lost her job 3 months ago and now is getting desperate (Luz).
- Ongoing Prayer for Dan Davis. Prayers that Dan's IV antibiotic treatment for a borne infection is successful (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Ongoing Prayer for Dawn. She is going through a lot of health issues and needs all the prayers she can get (Terri & Dee Dee).

- Ongoing Prayer for Jill and her son, Spencer. Also, Nanny (Chloe Jackson).
- Ongoing Prayer for Alexis Symanski recently diagnosed with breast cancer who is facing a radical mastectomy and hysterectomy (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Ongoing prayer for God to forgive us for destroying your forests. Help us to know and act how important forests are to our planet and our lives (Deb Anderson).
- Ongoing prayer for Greg Hyer battling cancer. May he be surrounded with love and comfort throughout his journey. Ongoing prayer for Cherie Giambalvo's family as they grieve the loss of Cherie (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 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.

This Sunday at UCCSV

It's time for a Christmas Pageant. But this isn't any old Christmas Pageant, it's one anyone can participate in, no practice or experience necessary. Join us for worship at 10am on Sunday and be a part of the story. Decide whether you want to be an angel or a tree, a shepherd, or a wise one, or just sit in the congregation and be a part of the Heavenly Host. Our youth will narrate and provide some music and there will be Christmas hymns that we all love to sing. Things might be a little hectic and chaotic but then it just better reflects the first Christmas story! Come be a part of the fun with us and join in our Impromptu Christmas Pageant!

Christmas Baskets for Local Families

Thank you all so much for purchasing the food for our three Christmas Baskets for local families in need. We also collected monetary donations for Giant gift cards for the families for perishable items and main dishes. This week we will continue to collect monetary donations for gift cards for all the children and possibly even the adults depending on your level of generosity. Let's make this a Christmas they will never forget!

Looking for Readers and Advent Wreath Lighters

If you are in town on December 22th and Christmas Eve December 24th we have opportunities for you! If you have ever wanted to light the Advent Wreath and have not done it in the past few years but will be in town on December 22nd or Christmas Eve, email Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com. Also if you are willing to be a reader on Christmas Eve for our

lessons and carols service please let Holly know!

Do You Have a Story About Last Year's Star Word?

It's a new year and so a new chance to get a word from the Spirit in 2020. On January 5th we will get a new Star Word for the year, but we want to know if you have any stories about your word from 2019. Do you still have your 2019 word somewhere? Did it figure into your life somehow? Would you like to share your story with the congregation either through your own testimony or with a story Holly could incorporate into the sermon? Would you like to preach on your Star Word? Let Holly know at HollyRJackson@gmail.com

Coming Up in Worship in December and Beyond

December 29th - A Service of Poems and Hymns for Christmas and the New Year
January 5th - Epiphany Celebration - Get your Star Word for 2020
January 12th - Introducing a New UCCSV Mission Statement

Volunteers Needed ASAP!

We are in need of Liturgists and Ushers for January. If you are available, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office. Many thanks for all you do!

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

The next book to discuss will be *Becoming* by Michelle Obama: it is 426 pages or 16 CD discs (19 hours). There are copies in the local library system. The date to meet will be this

Sunday, December 15th around 12:30-45 after the fellowship time.

In January we will discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. This is another popular book so put in your name soon to reserve a copy. We are set for January 12th.

Abstract:

For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. She's barefoot and wild; unfit for polite society. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark. But Kya is not what they say. Abandoned at age ten, she has survived on her own in the marsh that she calls home. A born naturalist with just one day of school, she takes life lessons from the land, learning from the false signals of fireflies the real way of this world. But while she could have lived in solitude forever, the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. Drawn to two young men from town, who are each intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new and startling world -- until the unthinkable happens.

When Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya. -- adapted from publisher info.

Subject term: Abandoned children -- Fiction.

Geographic Term: North Carolina -- Fiction.

A Cozy Christmas Eve, 7:30pm Worship

Please join us (and bring your friends and family) for a joyous and beautiful Intergenerational Christmas Eve Worship Service at 7:30pm on Tuesday, December 24th. Children are welcome and so are the young at heart of all ages. We'll sing your favorite Christmas songs while listening to scripture and poetry that tell us the familiar and yet amazing Christmas story. Together we'll create a mash up manger scene at the front of the sanctuary. Using candles and glow sticks we'll create a cozy space where darkness and light both find their place. There will be wonderful special music from our choir, several brass instruments, and more! You won't want to miss this once a year unique service at UCCSV.

Office Closure

The church office will be closed December 25th thru January 1st. There will be no Spirit News during the holidays.

Calendar

Christmas Pageant – Dec. 15
Social Action Com. Mtg. (11:15am) – Dec. 15
Pulp Pilgrims Book Group (11:30am) – Dec. 15
Council Meeting (7pm) – Dec. 16
Mens Breakfast (9am) – Dec. 21
PFLAG (2:30pm) – Dec. 22
Christmas Eve Service (7:30pm) – Dec. 24
One Anothering Group (10am) – Dec. 28