



Spirit News

December 23, 2020

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

- For Dustin, who is hospitalized with COVID-19 (Dusty Bertelmann).
- Prayers for Sashi and Rachel as they confront Rachel's illness (Patrick Jackson).
- Prayers for my friend who is recovering from a double mastectomy and getting ready to start chemo (Asher Beckwitt).
- Pray for Stephen's cousin Lawrence, who is in a medically induced coma in the hospital with Covid (Stephen and John).
- Prayers of thanksgiving for Molly's friends Nancy and Geoff who are expecting their first baby in May after a long period of trying to have a baby! (Molly Thomason).
- We are thankful for the new addition to our family. Our new dog Apollo! (Fuss and Estrada Family).
- Prayers of strength for our friend Dawn, who is recovering from major abdominal surgery (Terri Molaski).
- Prayers for my colleague Aaron's family as they deal with his mother's breast cancer diagnosis (Patrick Jackson).
- For Marlene, for peace and stability in her life (Sabine Cox).
- Prayers for my mom and dad (Patrick Jackson).
- We are grateful for baby Piper, who is truly a miracle (Darcy Bertelmann).
- Thanks be to God for improvement in Covid 19 symptoms for Kevin Hogan and Kim West. Prayers for Jennifer Bragg who will have a double mastectomy tomorrow (Mr. & Mrs. Claus).

Christmas Eve at UCCSV

Christmas Eve is usually one of the most beautiful and holy and joyful services of the year. How can we possibly recreate that on Zoom? Well, we can't. Not entirely. But we can create a service that has its own beauty and holiness as we gather together as best we can on this Christmas Eve like no other. Can't see your family in person? Invite them to join us on Zoom and you can still worship all together! There will be beautiful music, lessons and carols, candlelight and communion. Worship will start at 7pm, the room will open at 6:30pm. In order to get the most out of this interactive service we suggest you have with you a nativity set with at least a few moveable pieces you can add to the scene as we go through the service, an Advent Wreath if you have one or at least one candle you can light for singing with Silent Night, and bread or a cracker and juice or wine for communion. Let us find the beauty in this particular Christmas and celebrate Christ's birth together!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82774403081?pwd=K09GVUQ3MWgwTFhCNjArUnBrQzM0dz09>

Meeting ID: 827 7440 3081

Passcode: 20874

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 827 7440 3081

Passcode: 20874

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kVKSb7btd>

This Sunday at UCCSV

For the Sunday after Christmas, December 27th, you have two different options for Sunday morning worship. UCCSV will not have a live Zoom service this week. However, there are video services available from both the National UCC and from the Central Atlantic Conference of the UCC to help us continue to celebrate the season. Worship with our wider denominational siblings this Christmas!

The worship service available from the National Office of the United Church of Christ is a humorous take on a Christmas Pageant along with a service of lessons and carols. It is called "A Very UCC Christmas" and premieres Sunday December 27th at 10am at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ca6ZjFfftQY&feature=youtu.be>

For a more traditional worship service with a sermon from our departing Central Atlantic Conference Associate Minister Rev. Dr. Audrey Price, and other local CAC ministers and hymns and an anthem from the CAC Virtual Choir you can go here at any time:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-8K04Ef8zE&feature=youtu.be>

Both videos will be available on Youtube to watch after 10am on the 27th so if you can't watch them at our regular service time then feel free to check them out sometime else on that Sunday or later during the week. Our UCCSV live Zoom worship will return next Sunday, January 3rd, at 10am for our Epiphany/Star Word Celebration. Have a restful and safe Christmas and New Year's!

Congregational Check In/Happy Hour - Fridays at 7 PM

Connecting nowadays can be difficult. Do you sometimes just want to see your fellow UCCSV members and friends for a quick chat? Your wish is granted! There will be a Congregational Check In/Happy Hour every Friday at 7 PM. It will only run for **1 hour** and is a good way to say "hi" and catch up with others. Different Deacons will be hosting each Friday and it is open to all. It will be very casual with no obligations... stop by when you feel the need and stay as long or short as you want. Take care and we will see you when we see you.

-John (Chair of Deacons)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89655025431?pwd=V1k0bEQ4VTBGODJ3L2U1WHBFbzBnZz09>
Meeting ID: 896 5502 5431
Passcode: peeps
Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
Meeting ID: 896 5502 5431
Passcode: 565927
Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbPBtQKFgY>

Do You Have a Story About Your 2020 Star Word?

On Sunday, January 3rd, we will celebrate Epiphany and receive our new Star Words for 2021. (These will be mailed to you. If you want a Star Word and we don't have your mailing address, please get it to us so we can mail one to you.) If you have a story about your 2020 Star Word and you are willing to share it with the congregation please let Holly know -email HollyRJackson@gmail.com. You can share live

on Zoom, send in a video you make, share a picture, or write a short paragraph to be shared in worship. This has become a beloved tradition at UCCSV and we are excited to see how God has been moving in your life through your Star Word this past year.

Pastor Holly on Vacation December 25-January 1

Pastor Holly will be staycating at home with her family from Friday, December 25th until Friday, January 1st. If there is an emergency pastoral care need please feel free to contact her on her cell phone which is listed in the directory (or at the bottom of her emails). Please note that she will not be checking her email daily during this week so if you need to get in touch with her right away please call or text. If you email her please know that though she returns to church work on Saturday, January 2nd, she will be focused on producing the worship service for January 3rd. She plans to respond to the bulk of her emails starting the week of Monday, January 4th.

Upcoming Sundays in January

January 3rd - Epiphany/Star Word Sunday
January 10th - Living Into Our Calling: The Calling of Baptism
January 17th - Living Into Our Calling: A Calling for Justice
January 24th - Living Into Our Calling: Proclamation as a Calling
January 31st - Living Into Our Calling: When Imposter Syndrome Gets in the Way

Stewardship Update

As we close out 2020 and do the final wrap up on this year's Stewardship Campaign Together for Joy we want to celebrate with the congregation that our pledge total for 2021 is

now at \$167, 294. This is an increase of a little over \$2,000 from last year's pledge total. Given the difficulties for so many over the past year this is a total to celebrate and be thankful for. Your pledges tell us that you deeply appreciate and want to support our faith community and the wider church and community around us. Thank you! if you still have not made a financial pledge for the coming year but would like to do so please feel free to mail in your pledge at UCCSV P.O. Box 803 Germantown, MD 20874 or fill out an online pledge at <https://forms.gle/Lfx47wUMAtMXDZ48>.

Happy Birthday December

Luzmarina Granada	12/10
Claro Yu	12/13
Clarisse Lin	12/21
Miranda Lin	12/21
Noel Lin	12/26
Jen Fuss	12/29

Office Closure

The church office will be closed the week of December 28th. I will be returning on Wednesday, January 6.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday!
Nita

Reminder

Just a reminder that to receive credit for your contribution in 2020, it must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2020.

Contribution statements will be **emailed** no later than the end of January and sooner if possible. If

we have no email address for you, we will be mailing your statement.

Employees will receive W-2s and Independent Contractors will receive 1099s no later than January 31.

Thanks, Nita Stone, Ofc. Manager