



# Spirit News

December 5, 2019

**United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley**  
**An Open and Affirming Congregation**  
 13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD  
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## Prayer Requests

- Pray for members and friends who are caring and concerned for elderly parents.
- Pray for Linda Snyder, having major surgery. Prayers for her family and gratitude for Linda's faith and positive attitude.
- Ongoing Prayer for Bill Hayes. Prayers for recovery after shoulder surgery (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Ongoing Prayer for Maggie's Father who fell and had a hip fracture. He is 96 years old (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](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.

## 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 the Second Sunday of Advent and we're focused on peace. Peace requires letting go and finding perspective. Right sizing ourselves and our struggles in the midst of the whole story of time. Peace means grounding ourselves in justice. The fate of the world doesn't rest on us alone. But finding our own peace contributes to the peace of the world. And coming to a sense of peace about the circumstances of our lives may change more than we know. In the rich dark of winter we can

find peace by embracing the dark and our place in it. Spend some cozy sabbath time in worship this week starting at 10am. We'll also welcome 5 new members into our community and celebrate the light they share with us and that we can share with them.

## Member Bios

### Bob and Carol Lambie

Bob and Carol Lambie met in high school and married later, when Bob was in the Army during the Korean War. Lived in Ohio, where Bob was a printer for the Cleveland Press newspaper. Carol worked at Far West Mental Health Center, doing therapy, aftercare, and grant writing, and later for Delaware Juvenile Court where she initiated a State of Ohio pilot program for high risk youths and their families. In 1991 they sold their house and started out to see the country, living in their RV for ten years and then building a small house in southern Arizona. They started a repertory theatre group in Arizona, active for many years with Bob doing lights and sets and Carol directing and writing. They have also specialized in producing plays and events in churches, using amateur actors. Bob and Carol moved here to be close to their daughter and family.

### Dave Schwab

Dave Schwab works as an English teacher at Tuscorora High School in Frederick County, Maryland. He and his wife Tina married and moved to the area a year and a half ago. Dave has two children, Anna, 21, and Matthew 18.

Dave enjoys hiking, reading, travel, and time with this family. He grew up in Towson and has spent the past fifteen years in Frederick, until the move to Darnestown. He appreciates the openness and welcoming environment provided

by UCCSV and looks forward to participating in the life of the church.

### Camila and Bryan Young

Camila Espina Young works as a social research scientist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Originally from Puerto Rico, she dabbled in investigative journalism before starting graduate school in the contiguous U.S. She is currently a Mass Communications Ph.D. candidate at the University of Georgia. Her dissertation focuses on disaster communication in social media. She's almost done, she promises.

Bryan Michael Young works as an electrical apprentice. This last fall, he began the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) program. Born and raised in Snellville, Georgia, Bryan has always had a passion for service and leadership, which underscored his commitment to become an Eagle Scout as a teenager. To his credit, he also had a flair for theater. He worked as a commercial beekeeper throughout many states in the Eastern coast.

## Christmas Food Basket "Market" This Sunday

This Sunday after worship we will be sponsoring another Food Basket "Market" to provide food to three local families in need. We will also be collecting monetary donations for gift cards as well as collecting cash and gift cards for the families for Christmas presents. Gifts cards from Target, Walmart, Amazon or similar stores are welcome. Consider re-gifting a card you have received if you don't plan on using it. You are welcome to pay with cash or gift cards or use Paypal (Community Assistance Fund).

## Volunteers Needed ASAP!

We are in need of Ushers for December 22, 24 and 29. Our bulletins will be printed in advance for the end of the year and it would be nice to include the names of our Ushers.

## Christmas Snowflakes

The ornament star tributes that we made last year went over quite well with our congregation. So we will be utilizing these tributes again this year to honor and remember our loved ones. As a symbol of winter's beautiful miracles, and a reflection of this year's Advent theme, *In The Rich Dark of Winter*, we will have snowflake ornaments available for honoring our loved one(s). The snowflakes will have the name of your loved one on it, and will be hung in the tribute tree in the sanctuary beginning December 15 through Epiphany.

**This Sunday is the last day to order.**



**TIME TO GET YOUR COOKIE  
MAKING ON FOR THE COOKIE  
EXCHANGE and POTLUCK  
THIS  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 @  
11:45 am at The Domingo's.**

You bring 5 dozen, you go home with 5 dozen  
different kinds

Potluck sign-up posted on the  
fellowship board.

\*You don't have to bring cookies to join  
the potluck\*

## 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 Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** 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 12<sup>th</sup>.

### 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.



## **Sunday Worship**

**December 15, 2019 @ 10 am**

Every year, churches fret over the Christmas pageant. They wonder who will show up for practice, when will the kids have time to practice, will Johnny remember his lines, and so on.

It is unlikely that the first Christmas was well organized or that everything went smoothly. In fact, things were probably pretty chaotic. Here was poor Mary who had not intended to have the Son of God born so many miles away from home, let alone in a manger. And on that night long ago, the shepherds did not plan to follow a star.

So this year, we are going to try a little something different with our pageant. Yes, we are having one! But there will be no practice. It will be an impromptu pageant. It will be unrehearsed and might get a little chaotic. But maybe, just maybe, it will reflect the first Christmas a little more closely. And the best part is that everyone will have a chance to participate in the story of remembering the birth of the One who is our Savior.

## **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 25<sup>th</sup> thru January 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be no Spirit News during the holidays.

## **Calendar**

- Christmas Cookie Exchange (11:45am) – Dec. 8
- Pizza Night at Ledo's – Dec. 10
- 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

