



Spirit News

December 7, 2017

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
An Open and Affirming Congregation
13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD
Phone: (301) 540-3449
Email: UCCSV@verizon.net
Website: UCCSenecaValley.org

Prayer Requests

- Prayer for Barbara Fraley as she undergoes exploratory heart catheterization for ongoing, yet unexplained issues – ease her fears (Bob Fraley).
- Ongoing Prayer for the Riley and Gorman family as they face their first Christmas without their beloved Kristen (anonymous).
- 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 for Laurene Karimi who is battling stage 3 breast cancer with so much courage (Terri Molaski).
- Ongoing prayer for Phyllis Anderson and family. Phyllis is declining with dementia. Surround her and her daughters who are caregiving. Please grant them patience and peace (Deb Anderson).
- Ongoing Prayer for Patti and Gary Dennison who are suffering through severe illness and very difficult times (Andrea Dennison).
- Ongoing Prayer for Michelle Cohen – Has multiple myeloma (Terri Molaski).
- Ongoing Prayer during my continued treatment and palliative care for cancer (Maridell Mason).

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 our focus will be on
Luke 1: 26-56**

This Sunday at UCCSV

Last Sunday we began the season of Advent with feathers, visiting angels, and a reminder to not be afraid and to spread #morehope. This week we continue to proclaim that there are angels among us by exploring the story of Mary and her visit from the angel Gabriel. How will we experience and spread #morepeace? How will we work to not be afraid? Part of pushing back on our fear is knowing that we are not alone, that we do this work in community. We will celebrate that community by receiving new members into the life of our church. Holly will preach. The choir will sing "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus." In Sunday School the elementary class will focus on continuing to learn the stories of Advent leading up to Christmas while the Middle School class will discuss why there are so many versions of the bible. After worship we will have practice for the Christmas Pageant and the Annual Christmas

Cookie Exchange and Brunch will be held at Sandy Renner's house. Be a part of the magic that leads us to Christmas by coming to worship this Sunday at 10am.

Peace, Holly



Cookie Exchange and Brunch

The annual cookie exchange and brunch is this Sunday, December 10 after church at Sandy Renner's house. (The address and directions are on the bulletin board near the sign-up sheet.) If you want to participate in the exchange, please bring 5 dozen cookies and a container for taking cookies home. If you haven't signed up, please email Sandy that you are coming. sandragenner@verizon.net.

Confirmation Class: Make A Difference For UCCSV's Youth

We kicked off this year's confirmation class with 10 youth! We can't wait to see how this class evolves and what they learn and in turn teach us about God and community. Now it's time for you to become part of this amazing process. Sign up using the sign up genius to help provide lunch for our confirmands and teachers. Sign up to help lead a class (lessons and materials provided). Be sure to ask the confirmands what their experience has been so far and be sure to share with them a story of your faith journey. This is a church wide effort as these youth are all our children. Make a difference and get involved today!

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-ways>



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the Sanctuary for Christmas, please fill out the form in the back of Sunday's bulletin and place in the offering plate.

Deadline is this Sunday, December 10th.

Cost of each plant will be \$10.00.

One Anothering

One-Anothering will meet on Saturday, December 30, 10-11:30 am at Jeanne Springmann's house. We meet to share what's going on in our lives, study the scripture for the following Sunday, and eat a little too.





Starry Night, Noisy Night Rehearsal

On December 17th in worship UCCSV's children, youth and adults will be presenting a very special Christmas Pageant! In order to tell God's story as best we can we will be rehearsing three more times. We will come together after worship on December 3rd and December 10th and we will also have an additional rehearsal on Sunday, December 10th in the evening from 5:30-6:30pm. If you want to participate, please join us for rehearsals!



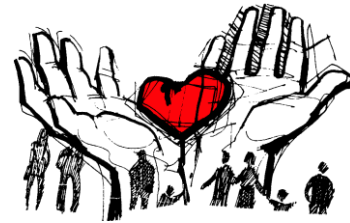
Bringing a Little Extra Christmas Joy to our Neighbors

Can you help gather the fixings for Christmas dinner for five families in the upper Montgomery County area? Over the next few Sundays we will be accepting donations of the items listed below to help make a few holiday dinners a bit more festive.

- Boxes of Stuffing Mix
- Jars of Turkey Gravy
- Cans of Green Beans
- Cans of Corn
- Cans of Cranberry Sauce
- Cans of Yams

- Potatoes
- Dinner Rolls
- Pies
- Apple Cider
- Cash donations to pay for five turkeys, which have already been purchased.

We also hope we can add a little something under the tree for the same five families. Please look for sign-up sheets at the church to provide a Christmas gift (of about \$25) that will be delivered with the Christmas Dinner Baskets.



Staff Christmas Love Offering

We appreciate our church staff 365 days a year, but Christmas is a great time to show that appreciation in a tangible way. If you would like to voluntarily contribute toward a gift card for Pastor Holly Jackson, Director of Music Ministry Stefan Petrov, Office Manager Nita Stone and Custodian Anna Gavidia, please do so no later than Sunday, December 17th by one of the following means:

1. Put a check in the offering plate with the memo line marked "Staff Love Offering."
2. Put cash into an envelope marked "Staff Love Offering" and place it in the offering plate.
3. Hand your cash donation to one of the Deacons.

The total amount of donations will be divided among the best staff a church ever had! Let's show our appreciation for the tireless and loving dedication they demonstrate for our congregation all year long!

Calendar of Events

**Cookie Exchange & Brunch
at Sandy & Bill's (11:30am) – December 10**

Pizza Night at Ledos – December 12

Men's Breakfast (9:00am) – December 16

Christmas Pageant (10:00am) – December 17

**Confirmation Class (11:30am) –
December 17**

**Fellowship Committee Meeting (11:30am) –
December 17**

Trustee's Meeting (6:00pm) – December 18

Council Meeting (7:00pm) – December 18

**Christmas Fund Offering (10:00am) –
December 24**

**Social Action Committee Meeting (11:30am) –
December 24**

PFLAG (2:30pm) – December 24

**Christmas Eve Night Service (7:30pm) –
December 24**

**Lord's Table at St. Martins (1:00pm) –
December 26**