



Spirit News

February 10, 2021

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
An Open and Affirming Congregation
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Website: UCCSenecaValley.org

Prayer Requests

- Jeanne Springmann (she/her): Prayer of Thanksgiving that the Ellis's can join us.
- Beth and Laura: Prayers for toby and all others recently diagnosed as Covid positive, may there be healing and peace for all.
- Ruthanne Stoltzfus: amen PTJ !!
- Fuss/Estrada Family: Prayer of healing for Tim, who broke a bone after falling on the ice this past weekend.
- Charlotte Holliday: So touching— music and photos. Thank you.
- Amie Barker: Prayer for my little hometown in the Adirondacks that is struggling with a major cover outbreak and just lost one of its beloved community members.
- Dave Schwab (he/him): Prayers for Danielle that she recovers from cancer.
- Charlotte Holliday: Prayers for youth struggling with confinement and dreams delayed.
- John Bartkowiak (he/him/his): Prayers for employment blessings for my daughter Bethany.
- John Bartkowiak (he/him/his): Prayers for a plan that works to get vaccine distribution available quickly to all that want it.
- Amie Barker: Prayers for healthcare workers who are exhausted and burned out from this last year.
- Suzanne Schmidt: Prayers for ways will be open so that Covid vaccines will be available soon and for all.
- Beth and Laura: For Alex and Genevieve. Hope for good choices for them.
- Brigid Jackson: Prayers for hospital staff and those in the hospital for any disease, from Alzheimer's, Dementia and Cancer. To those families that cannot visit due to Covid
- Deb Anderson (she/her/hers): Prayers of

thanksgiving that Isaac is healed and returning to work and for Bob that he now has a residence and work.

- Shelly Moore: Prayers for teachers and families suffering the loss of family and friends.
- Suzanne Schmidt: Prayers for those who are lonely and hopeless. May they see Christ's light in us.

This Sunday at UCCSV

We finish up our series on calling this Sunday by focusing on Mentorship. Part of living out our calling is making sure we are mentoring and providing support for the next generation of God's called that will come behind us. We must teach, through our actions and words, the next generation of our faith communities. We must model for them how to listen for a call and respond to it. But we must also learn from those we mentor and see how they are finding their own way to hear and respond to God's call. In stepping aside and supporting them as they find their own way, we learn that this is faithful work that spans generations. As you come to worship this week consider your greatest mentors in life and the people you have mentored or are mentoring right now.

The Zoom Room opens at 9:30am and worship starts at 10am and will also be livestreamed to our Facebook page and recorded for posting on our website.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84470757726?pwd=VUhkWDZacGZBUFBwYWISU3QxN3dlUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726

Passcode: 20874

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726
Passcode: 20874
Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84470757726>

Choices!

This past Sunday our worship theme focused on *choices*. These days we are faced with making *choices* related to our health such as wearing a mask, keeping a safe distance, limiting our circle of close contacts, and getting a vaccine. Our pastor's *choice* to offer meaningful worship services by zoom provides our congregation with comfort in uneasy times. Many of us make the *choice* to worship on zoom and *choose* to continue our involvement in the life of UCCSV.

And then there is the generous *choice* made by John and Anne Ellis who were long time members of UCCSV. They *chose* to contribute their stimulus check to UCCSV and Shaw Ministries. Specifically, their \$1,000 gift to our church is to be used for Social Action issues.

As co-chairs of UCCSV's Social Action Board, Dan Davis and Suzanne Schmidt sought the Ellis's permission to share the news of their gift with the congregation. They want the congregation to know how important UCCSV's commitment to inclusiveness and social action meant to them when they were members.

John accepted an assignment in Liberia for three years. When they returned they worshipped at UCCSV for a short time before they moved to Hillsboro, VA (south of Harpers Ferry).

This past Sunday, John and Anne made another happy *choice* for our congregation. They joined UCCSV for Sunday zoom worship.

Lent To Go Bag Pick Up

We are preparing Lent To Go Bags for the entire congregation. These will help you connect to worship throughout the Lenten season. The items in the bags will be used in worship and will be helpful for your own private spiritual practices during the week. We invite you to pick up these bags on Sunday, February 14th from 2-4pm or Thursday, February 18th from 4-6pm at the church. Bags will be marked specifically for each household ready for easy and quick pick up. All bags not picked up will be delivered by a volunteer from the church or mailed out to your household. If you do not desire a bag please let us know by emailing HollyRJackson@gmail.com.

Youth Chat

There will be a Youth Chat/Check-In after church this Sunday at 11:30am. All youth are invited to attend. The link is in our Weekly Summary page.

Valentine's Cards to Help Us Connect

Send Valentine's Day Greetings to those in the church who may be in need of an extra note or card full of joy this month. And if you can't get to it this week, never fear, love can be shared all of February! For our address directory or a separate list of names and addresses of the children and youth in our community along with some of our members who might be more isolated and in need of connection please email HollyRJackson@gmail.com with your request.

Ash Wednesday

Join us on Wednesday, February 17th for a joint Zoom Ash Wednesday service at 7:30pm with Trinity United Methodist Church. In preparation for this service we invite you to have with you a small bowl of soil. The link for this service will be

in the Weekly Summary page and also sent out by separate email.



Lenten Worship Series - Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Healing and Recovery

Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness— body, mind, and spirit— like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. In this Lenten “season of recovery” for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health, we will explore the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken. Beach glass offers us a multifaceted symbol of this transformative process. In your Lent to Go Bags there will be sea glass for you to use meditatively throughout this series. Each week we will focus on a different kind of health and healing as we work each week to recover and find a way forward.

February 21: Physical Health

February 28: Economic and Community Health

March 7: Mental Health

March 14: Intellectual Health and Creativity

March 21: Environmental Health

March 28 (Palm Sunday): Integrated Health

Lenten Soupers

Please plan to join us for Lenten Soupers Wednesday evenings throughout Lent. We'll begin at 6:30pm for a half hour of conversation and eating together. (If we were in person this is when we would enjoy a common simple meal of soup, salad, bread, and dessert. However, as we will come together over Zoom you can bring whatever kind of meal you want!) Then at 7pm we will watch a short video together. Afterwards we will discuss the video and its implications. We'll close between 8 and 8:15 by sharing in prayer and simple spiritual disciplines. Over the course of our five weeks together we'll explore issues of healing and health that will echo and amplify the themes we're exploring in Sunday worship. You can come to one Wednesday or all five. We'd love to break bread and learn together. More details to come!

Virtual Farkle/Yahtzee Game Night

Starting tomorrow, sign up on Sign-up Genius to play Farkle or Yahtzee. Game nights this month will be held on Tuesday, February 9 and Tuesday, February 23 from 7 - 8ish. This time around, we will try offering break our rooms for



Farkle and Yahtzee (keep your fingers crossed). If you're playing Farkle, please make sure you have 6 dice, a pencil, and a copy of the score sheet.

If you are playing Yahtzee, please have 5 dice, a pencil, and score sheet. I will send score sheets with the Zoom link next week.

Contact Beth at balauriat@aol.com if you have questions.

We Need Your Help!

Greeters and Liturgists are needed on Sunday mornings. There are several dates open to choose from. We would appreciate it if you would consider signing up at the link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-uccsv>

Happy Birthday February

Floyd Price	2/5
Kristin Smith	2/11
Sue Gove	2/12
Cathy Manning	2/12
Maggie Nyamweya	2/19
Ranjini Iyengar	2/21
Renee Morales	2/25