



Spirit News

February 14, 2019

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 of thanks and joy at the marvelous recuperation of my sister Allice from cancer surgery (Helen).
- Pray for thanksgiving that my Aunt is home from rehab and continuing to improve; traveling mercy during my work day on the snow and ice (Renee Morales).
- Pray for the family of Lloyd Mack Jr. who are learning to live without him. As the eulogist said, "he's changed his address." Prayers of thanksgiving for the continued recovery of Maddox and Bill Young. Both have life threatening illnesses (anonymous)
- Be with all who are suffering and in pain; those struggling to eat, those who have lost loved ones – keep them near, feed their hearts, minds and bellies (anonymous).
- Pray for friends whose son had a relapse and is hospitalized once again (anonymous).
- Pray for Jaila because she is in the hospital and has breathing problems (Rachel).
- Pray for Heather to have the strength during this difficult time (Terri & Dee Dee Molaski).
- Ongoing prayer that we might be satisfied with enough and prayers for employment opportunities for David (Shelly Moore).
- Ongoing prayer request for Shane Earl, a childhood friend of Amie Barker. Shane is fighting a recurrence of lymphoma and has lost his health insurance. He has a 13 year old son. Pray for healing and the resources to make it through this challenging time (anonymous).
- Continued prayers for my Aunt following surgery – she is improving (Renee Morales).
- Continued prayer for Wayne Tipping as he deals with heart issues (Paula-Marie Read).

- Ongoing Prayer for Stephen to find a job closer to home to shorten his long daily commute (John Bartkowiak).

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:
 Book of Job

Office Closure

Please note that the church office will be closed tomorrow, Feb. 15th.

This Sunday at UCCSV

Forgiveness is our focus this Sunday. Every week in the Lord's Prayer we pray that God forgives us as we forgive others but what is God forgiving us for - sins, debts, trespasses? What do those words mean and which one is the right one? What happens if we don't forgive? Why does forgiveness matter? Join us for worship at 10am as we wrestle with the concept of forgiveness and consider how even forgiveness can be a justice issue. The choir will sing "There is a Balm in Gilead." We'll pray yet another alternate version of the Lord's Prayer and in prayer time we'll explore different ways to forgive and be forgiven. Feed your soul this week and come to church!

Prayer at the Pub

Interested in a less structured discussion and exploration of prayer over dinner with friends? Join us for prayer at the pub! Don't worry, we'll say grace but we won't be openly praying in public. We'll meet for dinner and discussion on Sunday, February 24th at 6:30pm at the Dogfish Head Grille in Gaithersburg (800 West Diamond Avenue). Please RSVP to Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com so that we can reserve a seat at the table for you!

February Prayer Station - Praying with a Map

Praying with a map reminds us that there is a whole community, nation, and world around us that we could be lifting up in prayer. There are three different panels at this prayer station. The first panel includes a map of the Upper Montgomery County Area. Consider your neighborhood, your neighbors, and the concerns of those who live right next door to us. Write down on a post-it a prayer concern or a prayer you have for our area such as a prayer for a local school or a community concern, prayers for the homeless we see at so many local intersections or immigrants in our community, and even prayers for issues around gangs, development or local businesses that might impact our neighbors, etc. In the second panel consider our state and our nation. What challenges do we have that we need to lift up to God? What can we be thankful for? What are the justice issues we need to keep before us as we do our ministry? Write them down on a post it note. Finally, as you move to the final panel consider the prayers we need to lift up for our world. What prayers do we have for creation itself? Write up a prayer for our neighbors around the world, and include issues such as war, famine, violence, and tyranny. But also include prayers of thanks for places you may have visited in your travels that have impacted your heart and soul. Praying with a map can

help remind us that we belong to an intricate network of humanity and creation itself. We have much to be thankful for, but also much to cry out to God about and ask for help with. Let us be in prayer together.

Got Veggies? Share them with Germantown Help!

This month we are collecting canned vegetables for Germantown Help's food pantry in order to feed the hungry in our area. (As always all kinds of food are welcome, but having a focus food helps us to remember to give and challenges us to see how much we can collect.) We suggest that you look for low sodium or no salt added options in addition to regular canned vegetables. You can also pick up some canned veggies that might add some flavor to an otherwise bland meal. Canned chilies or diced tomatoes with seasonings might be a great pick as would low sodium canned veggie soups. Go buy some veggies and share them with someone who needs them this month!

One Anothering

One Anothering Group, a monthly spiritual and support gathering, will now be held on the forth Saturday of each month from 10 to 11:30 am. The location of the gathering will be rotated among those who attend on a voluntary basis. A signup genius link is provided below to signup for attending, hosting and bringing food to share. If the forth Saturday happens to be a Holiday weekend, the Group will meet on the third Saturday that month. If you would like to receive email signups for attending the group or have any questions about it, please contact Deb Anderson at bdmi.af@comcast.net. The link to the signup genius for One Anothering is as follows.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805054BA8AD2-oneanothering>

This month's group will be held Feb. 23 with Jeanne Springmann as host.

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

We are reading *Daring to Drive* by Manal al-Sharif, a young woman in Saudi Arabia. There are copies in the library system in multiple formats. Date: Feb. 24.

The Soul of Aging

Suzanne Schmidt and Lois Sumser will be co-facilitating the second offering of *The Soul of Aging* beginning on March 2. This 10-session program is for those 60 or older who want to explore, understand, and face the truths of growing older. Themes include beliefs about aging, forgiveness, our understanding of God, and reflecting on our own death. The *Soul of Aging* sessions use readings, poetry, thought-provoking questions, and working with images to assist each participant in embracing his or her own aging.

The first five sessions will take place on each Saturday in March (beginning on March 2). These sessions will be held at the Schmidt Davis Home in Germantown from 9:30-noon. The last five sessions will take place in a retreat format at The Sumser Home in Boyds the weekend of April 5-7. Costs include a materials fee of \$15 and a \$125 registration fee. The class is limited to 8 participants.

There will be a brief informational meeting after worship during Fellowship on February 17. Registration forms will be available that day and on the bulletin board by the Gathering Room. Registration forms are due February 24. Please contact Suzanne at revasphd@gmail.com with questions.

Tea Party

Hello Tea Lovers,
We have a unanimously decided date for our tea party:

March 2nd, 2-4pm
at
Jeanne Springmann's

I look forward to having tea with each of you. I will contact you closer to the date with Jeanne's address and parking information. Carpooling is best.

Peace & Grace to you,
Deborah



Spring Love Luncheon

The Valentine Luncheon scheduled for Saturday, February 9 has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 27 from noon-2:00 pm at The Schmidt Davis Home. Attendees will want to fluff up their spring hats for the Spring Love Luncheon. Details to follow closer to the festivities.

Softball Season

From: "kmeuer@juno.com" <kmeuer@juno.com>

Date: February 10, 2019 at 4:49:44 PM EST

Subject: GCSL 2019 Season

Coaches/Church contacts,

It is that time of year when we need to start preparing for the coming softball season. The league kick-off meeting will be on Thursday March 7th at 7:30pm at Grace United Methodist Church

(detailed location info at bottom of email). The room location will be determined that night, but I will have signs directing you to the correct room.

For this meeting I need you to do the following:

1. Respond to this e-mail to let me know if your team is interested in participating this year and if someone is coming. If you don't have enough people for a complete team but there are people at your church that would like to play some softball let me know who they are or just pass along my contact information to them and have them get in touch with me. We had some teams that needed players last year so they could be added to a team and have an opportunity to play and meet some new people.

2. Send at least one representative from your team.

3. Bring along team contact information for the coach and alternate contact.

At this meeting we will discuss the results from last season, look at the projected league for the coming season, discuss the schedule for the coming season and the fields we will be using, and discuss rules that people had questions about or wanted to have changed. If you have anything that you would like to discuss during the meeting let me know and I will add it to my agenda for the meeting.

If you know of other churches that want to join the league either give them my information for them to contact me, or give me their information and I can contact them. I should be able to add teams up to the point that the schedule is created.

If you have questions at any point before the meeting or at any point during the season let me know.

Thank You
Kevin Meuer
Grace United Methodist Church
119 N. Frederick Ave
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
(corner of 355 and Walker Ave)

Conflict Transformation and Restorative Justice Between Ex-Combatants, Victims, and Communities



CAFEPAZ works for peace in Colombia, trains leaders in peacebuilding, and studies the role of churches in human rights defense.

This project is the result of work with communities of victims as well as with ex-combatants of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) as they reintegrate into civilian life. This project's goal is to contribute to the peace process that is currently ongoing in Colombia as a result of the peace accord signed between the FARC and the Colombian Government on November 24, 2016. The project seeks to contribute to the reintegration process of ex-combatants into communities that include victims of the armed conflict. This project will provide a series of six workshops in conflict transformation and restorative justice to ex-combatants and community members (including victims) in each community.

The first conflict transformation workshops in Icononzo and Tolima were a great success. A total of 16 participants attended, equally represented by former FARC combatants and community leaders. They were engaged actively in the whole workshop and the two most common responses at the end of the day were that they wanted to bring more people to the next workshop or that they wanted Cafepaz to offer these workshops again in surrounding communities.



During these workshops, Cafepaz used a “talking circle” (circle process) as a way of ensuring everyone’s equal participation in a context where Cafepaz knew that some of the civilian participants felt like the FARC members were not respectful

of their participation in community decision. Cafepaz chose a cross necklace made out of a bullet from a former FARC combatant the “talking piece.” This was used in the hopes that both the FARC members and civilians could see a symbol of the transforming tools of war into a symbol of peace. This seemed to work well.

Longer-term goals will be addressed more fully and will only be able to be evaluated after Cafepaz continues further into the workshops. Cafepaz is progressing to move from the general conflict transformation and into the more personal restorative justice portion. Cafepaz plans on continuing to use the circle process as they “go deeper” into restorative justice as the workshops progress. They have asked members to bring symbols that represent them to the next workshop and will add a more symbolic centerpiece comprised of their symbols to the circle.

For more information:

<https://www.globalministries.org/cafepaz>

Beauty and the Beast Jr.

March 10th 2pm

Come see our own Chloe Jackson star as Belle in her school's production of Beauty and the Beast Junior on Sunday, March 10th at 2pm at the Maryland Theater in Hagerstown, MD.

Tickets are \$17 each and can be purchased through the box office at 301-790-2000. This way you avoid the extra fees. You are also invited to bring canned food donations. This

show is done every year as part of a month of learning and service at her school around food and hunger and all proceeds from the show will go to the Maryland Food Bank. You can purchase tickets on Ticketmaster here but beware of extra fees:

https://www1.ticketmaster.com/friends-meeting-school-presents-beauty-and-the-beast-jr/event/15005637E5205F4B?dma_id=409

Calendar

Mens Breakfast (9am) – Feb. 16
Soul of Aging Informational Mtg. (after worship)
– Feb. 17
Trustees Meeting (6pm) – Feb. 18
Council Meeting (7pm) – Feb. 18
One Anothering (10:00am) – Feb. 23
Social Action Committee Meeting (11:30am) –
Feb. 24
Pulp Pilgrims Book Group (11:30am) – Feb. 24
PFLAG (2:30pm) – Feb. 24
Prayer at the Pub (6:30pm) – Feb. 24
Social Action Event (7pm) – Feb. 27