



# Spirit News

February 17, 2021

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley  
*An Open and Affirming Congregation*  
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Phone: (301) 540-3449  
Email: [UCCSV@verizon.net](mailto:UCCSV@verizon.net)  
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## Prayer Requests

- Laura and Beth: Prayers for Alex and Genevieve as they travel.
- Asher Beckwitt: Please pray for my friend going through chemo and my other friend recovering from surgery
- Julia Schucker (she/her/hers): That my Uncle Jim can have his knee surgery this week and that it goes well.
- John Bartkowiak (he/him/his): Prayers for a job that is potentially available to my daughter Bethany. That she will find favor and get this much needed job.
- Bethany & Jen: Prayers of thanksgiving for Jerry and Libby and other Homewood residents who will soon receive the COVID vaccine.
- Tiffany Turner: Prayers for Robin to feel better through her rough times.
- Suzanne&Dan: Thanks be to God for Kevin's return home after two long hospital stays for Covid.
- Singletary Family: Prayer of praise for Aunt Jessie who is cancer free!
- Bethany & Jen: Prayers of guidance for school leadership, deciding how and when students will go back to school.
- Singletary Family: Prayer for our family and the recent loss of our beloved Uncle Ron.
- Sabine Cox: Pray for vaccine distribution that nobody will be left out.
- PTJ (he/him): For Ann, recovering from COVID at home.
- Sabine Cox: Pray for Aimee who ran away and was found again.

## This Sunday at UCCSV

As we begin our Lenten Series: Holy Vessels - A Season of Healing and Recovery we will focus on the issue of physical health and healing. Our focus object for this series is beach glass.

Beach glass begins as something whole and yet discarded. As it is tumbled by the sea, it is broken and polished until it becomes a treasured "mineral gem." We do not embrace that suffering is necessary or God-given, but that suffering is a part of life. When pain comes and brokenness enters our lives, Jesus reaches out to touch and remind us of the treasure that we *all* are—worthy of new life in the midst of hopelessness. In a year when pandemic has wreaked havoc on our world, we begin by affirming our journey to physical health. Pastor Holly will preach and Shelley Moore will give a short testimony on her experience of the road to physical health and healing. If you have gotten your Lent To Go Bag please bring it with you and also a candle, flame or electric. If not, do not fear. All will be able to participate.

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/kbWdNjrlLH>

## Ash Wednesday

This Wednesday we will observe Ash Wednesday worship on Zoom together with Trinity United Methodist Church in Germantown. It has been a tradition for many years for our churches to celebrate this service as one community. Please join us! You are invited to have a small bowl of dirt with you as you come to service. I will be leading this service along with Rev. Bonnie Scott from Trinity. Because this is a joint worship this service will not be livestreamed or recorded for posting on our website.

We will not be trying to replicate the traditional ashes on your forehead or hand as we would do in a typical in-person Ash Wednesday service. If you would like to participate in a more traditional imposition of ashes, there are multiple ways you can do this at home. This is not a sacrament in our church and no special blessing is said over the ashes so you can feel free to make this ritual your own. You can use dirt to mark your own head or hand. You can also use ashes if you have them. One caution about ashes is that you should not mix them with water before putting them on your skin. Instead if you wanted to put ashes on your head or hand use oil to mix with the ash. Any cooking oil or oil approved for use on skin will do. (I usually use olive oil.) You may also want to consider a washable marker or makeup (eye shadow or a makeup pencil would work well). No matter what you do to observe Ash Wednesday remember that you are dust and stardust and to dust and stardust you will return.

Here is a prayer you may want to say on Ash Wednesday no matter how you plan to observe it:

Holy One, we remember you created us, shaped us from dust in the palm of your hand. Some day we will return to dust, return to the palm of your hand once again, held and loved forever. We lament in this moment the grittiness of life, the need for healing, the difficult and necessary process of transformation. Mark us as your own, remold us again and again as your people. Let the recognition of our own need break us open yet again for the sake of others, for the sake of the world. Amen.

Please note that Trinity will be running the Zoom room and therefore while the link below should be all you need to log in, if you are asked for a password, it is "Ashes" and not our normal passcode. Please also note the numerical passcode for phone log ins.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931990210?pwd=Zms1ZmZvN3dCTVZmYm15TC9LQnhvZz09>

Meeting ID: 693 199 0210

Passcode: Ashes

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 693 199 0210

Passcode: 707863

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdr16DLxLu>

## Men's breakfast via Zoom this Saturday 2/20 at 9 a.m.:

Neither snow nor sleet nor freezing rain shall keep us from our appointed hour. Bad Wi-Fi is another story. Please contact Noel ([noellin50@gmail.com](mailto:noellin50@gmail.com)) for login info.

## **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**

Join us starting Wednesday, February 24th, at 6:30pm for our Lenten Souper Series. Bring your dinner with you and we will gather for conversation and sharing bread together virtually from 6:30-7. Then at 7pm we will watch a TED talk together and then discuss our reactions to it. Throughout this five week series we will look at a variety of aspects of health and healing. Some will focus on individual healing and health while others will be more applicable to community healing. We will tackle issues of grief, racism,

broken relationships, inequality and more. Drop in at any time and join us!

Our first week we will tackle the issue of grief. So many of us have struggled with grief this year from losing people we love to the griefs of losing a year of our lives in isolation to the grief of losing a job. How should we deal with this grief and "move on"? Is such a thing even possible?

We will watch a TED talk by Nora McInerny:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/nora\\_mcinerny\\_we\\_dont\\_move\\_on\\_from\\_grief\\_we\\_move\\_forward\\_with\\_it/transcript?referrer=playlist-wisdom\\_for\\_living\\_with\\_death\\_and\\_loss](https://www.ted.com/talks/nora_mcinerny_we_dont_move_on_from_grief_we_move_forward_with_it/transcript?referrer=playlist-wisdom_for_living_with_death_and_loss)

This is the link for the entire Lenten Soupers Series:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84186675185?pwd=QnRqdGNEVjRsaUNsditWcEVObkNGQT09>

## **Virtual Farkle/Yahtzee Game Night**



Starting tomorrow, sign up on Sign-up Genius to play Farkle or Yahtzee. Game night will be held on 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](mailto: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>



## *Lent: 40 Days to Love Mercy*

During Lent, there will be three opportunities through the Social Action Board for UCCSV folks to demonstrate the Micah 6:8 directives to "love mercy."

These opportunities focus on food insufficiency for two local groups: Fox Chapel Elementary School and Germantown Help. Additionally, UCC's annual One Great Hour of Sharing Offering taken during Lent focuses on national and international needs.

The opportunities will occur throughout Lent and lifted up during the worship Mission Moment on three different Sundays. Donations may be made through the church website or by sending a check to the church P.O. box.

## *Love Mercy During Lent Campaign: Opportunity One Fox Chapel Elementary School (FCES)*

Our church is a faith community partner in the Linkages to Learning (L to L) Program at Fox Chapel Elementary School. This program assists students and their families by providing or connecting them to services and resources that address the social, economic, health, and emotional issues that may interfere with student success.

You may remember that in 2020 our church provided 5 Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts for 5 families which are part of the L to L Program at FCES. Food insecurity is a major issue for the families in this program. Not only is food in short supply but healthy food is an exceptionally serious issue.

Rodolfo Nogales, the Community School Coordinator for L to L at FCES is working with the University of Maryland's Extension program to offer 5 classes via zoom focused on healthy recipes for the students' mothers. Linkages is providing the food for the first and last sessions. Our church is providing the needed items for the second and fourth classes. Mother Seton Parish is providing food for the third class.

Twenty mothers have signed up for the classes which will be taught by a nutritionist who is bi-lingual. The food which we will provide for two sessions costs \$10 per person. If you wish to donate via the church website

<https://uccsenecavalley.org/donate>, you'll find a link under donations with a dropdown box for Fox Chapel Elementary School. Checks made be made out to UCCSV with FCES written in the notation section of the check. Checks may be mailed to UCCSV, PO Box 803, Germantown, MD 20875. Donations will be used to purchase the food which will be delivered directly to the

school. The Love Mercy During Lent at Fox Chapel Elementary School campaign will run from February 17-March 7. Details about the other two opportunities will be featured in future newsletters.

## Lent To Go Bags

Thank you so much to those who picked up their Lent To Go Bag at church today. Due to winter weather tomorrow we will NOT have a Lent To Go Bag pick up on Thursday, February 18th. Look for more info to come about how to get a bag if you did not pick one up already. If you live more than a half hour away from the church your bag will be mailed to you. If you are willing to be a delivery driver and drop off some bags around our area this coming weekend please email [HollyRJackson@gmail.com](mailto:HollyRJackson@gmail.com).

### 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