



# Spirit News

February 1, 2018

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
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## Prayer Requests

- Pray for Dan Demers. Praying for Chris for the passing of his partner and our friend Dan Demers (Leo and Russell).
- Pray for Christopher. I travel for a week to help brother more and hopefully take steps to address his inner demons (Christii).
- Prayer of Thanksgiving! Nephew decided to go the doctor for mental illness. Only God produced this result (Christii).
- Pray for Lindstrom family in the traumatic death of their father (Ruthanne).
- Pray for Daniele and her family as they go through this tough time of losing her sister unexpectedly (Dee Dee Molaski).
- Ongoing Prayer for Wayne Miller (Heidi's boss). Pray for health and healing for Wayne as he faces health challenges (Heidi Harmon).
- Ongoing Prayer for Women's Retreat and its participants (Shelly Moore).
- 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 care-

giving. 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 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.

For this Sunday our focus will be on Isaiah 40:21-31 and Mark 1:29-31

## Pasta Month at the Food Bank

The rate of food insecurity in Germantown is among the highest in Montgomery County.

That's just one reason why the UCC of Seneca Valley has supported the Germantown Help food bank for years. If you haven't made a donation before, it's easy. Just bring healthy, non-perishable food items to church and drop them off in the basket in the narthex next to the coat closet. This month we hope to gather as many boxes or bags of pasta as possible. Thanks for your support!



## **This Sunday at UCCSV - Soup-erbowl and Jersey Sunday!**

It's Soup-erbowl Sunday and that means you get to wear your favorite sports jersey! Wear your favorite t-shirt or sports jersey to church and bring along a can of soup to donate to Germantown help.

Have you ever prayed for God to take away an illness and been despondent when it didn't happen (or found it was complicated when it did happen)? What does it mean to talk about Jesus as a healer? Do we think God can take away our illnesses and if not, why do we pray for God to heal us? We'll wrestle with these questions and more in worship on Sunday. Holly will preach. The choir will sing "There is a Balm in Gilead." Together we'll find space for prayer and healing and community. After worship the Confirmation class will meet, the Christian Education committee will have their monthly meeting, and the Women's Retreat Planning Committee will be meeting to wrap up planning for next month's retreat. Prepare yourself for the week ahead and soothe your soul by coming to church on Sunday!

## **Ash Wednesday Worship at 7pm on February 14**

Join us for a special joint worship service with Trinity United Methodist Church and Open Door MCC on Wednesday February 14th at 7pm. On Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, we are asked to face without flinching the unyielding realities of human experience—that we are creatures made from the stuff of earth, beautiful and good in God's sight; but that we are not God—we are mortals, and we shall one day die; that none of us comes to the end of our lives without having broken God's heart and our own hearts. But the good news of the Gospel is that we don't have to face this truth alone and that as sure as God's heart breaks, God heart also heals and in the process heals our own. This is a powerful worship experience that will stay with you and sustain you throughout the long season of Lent.

## **Facebook and Social Media**

Are you on Facebook? Are you a member of UCCSV's group page? Are you connected to our public Facebook page? We share a lot of information on both pages. We share prayers and devotionals that keep our community connected and make you think. We announce events and tell you what is happening at church. We post photos that celebrate who we are and how we feel called to work in the world. If you are on Facebook but are not interacting with our church pages, you are missing out!

Facebook recently announced that it will be changing the things you see in your newsfeed to show you more posts from your friends and family and less from pages by businesses or organizations. If you would like to continue to see what is on the church's pages, please set your notifications to alert you when we have a new post and/or regularly interact (comment, like share) with the posts you do see so that Facebook will be sure to show you more of

them. Interaction with any post makes it more visible to everyone.

Also a reminder that I am on Facebook and am happy to be your friend but only if you request it. I will not friend request you in order to give you the power to control your feed and whether your pastor sees what you post or vice versa. Just FYI, on my personal page I may be more political and I post lots of pictures of my family goings on. But I am happy to have you be a part of that if YOU want to. So request away, or don't, and I won't be offended at all.

Finally, if you are a Social Media person and would like to help contribute to our FB feed or help us expand our media reach to other platforms like Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, and more, please let me know. I would LOVE some help! - Pastor Holly



## CHILI COOKOFF 2/11/18

The annual Chili Cookoff is just over a week away!! We are still looking for chefs to volunteer to make a batch of their special recipe chili. Please be sure to get your name on the signup sheets on the bulletin board to bring chili or a side dish. Let's give the judges some spicy competition!!!

## Lent Devotional - Lovers and Fools

Every Advent and Lent the UCC Still Speaking Writers group puts out a special devotional to help you get more out of the church season and help you go deeper on your spiritual journey. This year's Lent devotional is entitled *Lovers and Fools* (a nod to the fact that Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day this year and Easter Sunday is also April Fool's Day). The church will be ordering a number of these devotionals for distribution to those who would like them. Please sign up on the bulletin board at church and we will reserve one for you. Do not email the office please. We will just be going off the sign up on the board. (Yes, this is a cheap way to make sure you come to church on Sunday. If you are too sick to come to church and it is an emergency then email Holly to get on the list.) This year instead of asking you to pay for each devotional we are ordering a number of copies and you can get them first come first served as you sign up on the board. We ask that in return you put an extra \$5 donation in the offering plate on Sunday but you do not need to label it at all. If you do not have the funds, the book is yours to enjoy regardless. If you would like to order a book to be delivered right to your home, please feel free to order one for yourself at the link below. Shipping is free!

<https://www.uccresources.com/products/2018-lent-devotional-the-stillspeaking-writers-group?variant=1580696240143>.



## Free Concert Opportunity!

Come and enjoy an afternoon of music at UCCSV with Kristin Smith and Ginnie Lum on Sunday, 2/11/18, at 2:00 pm! Kristin and Ginnie will share their music as they prepare for an upcoming concert in Pennsylvania at Kristin's parents' church. Flute and piano repertoire of a variety of genres will be performed to warm you up on a winter afternoon! Invite friends, family, and guests to join us!

## Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group is currently reading *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* written by Trevor Noah and published in 2016. Save the date: February 18 at 11:30am in the Narthex.

## Women's Retreat

Am Kolel Retreat Center, Bealsville, MD  
March 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>

Ladies mark your calendars! The Committee for the Women's Retreat has been working hard planning a weekend of renewal and fellowship. This year's theme will be, "OWNING OUR GIFTS."

The cost of the retreat is \$100.00 which will include lodging, all food and materials for the weekend.

Registration forms are available and accepted with payment. Because there is a limited amount of space we encourage sign-up as soon as possible. Scholarship funds are available if needed; please see Pastor Holly. We are working on "Annex" plans if we find that there is a resounding interest; we don't want anyone left out.

Please see Pam Van Prooyen regarding registration.

## Calendar of Events

CE Committee Meeting (11:30am) – February 4  
Confirmation Class (11:30am) – February 4  
Deacons Meeting (7pm) – February 5  
Chili Cook-Off (11:30am) – February 11  
Free Concert (2pm) – February 11  
Pizza Night at Ledo's – February 13  
Ash Wednesday Service (7pm) – February 14  
Men's Breakfast (9am) – February 17  
Pulp Pilgrims Book Group (11:30am) – February 18  
Church Council Meeting (6pm) – February 19  
Lenten Soup-ers (6:30pm) – February 21  
Social Action Committee Meeting (11:30am)  
- February 25  
Confirmation Class (11:30am) – February 25  
PFLAG (2:30pm) – February 25  
Lenten Soup-ers (6:30pm) – February 28