



Spirit News

February 3, 2021

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

- John Bartkowiak (he/him/his): Prayers for a friend undergoing some biopsies.
- Debby Gensch: Prayers for Henni, Barbara and David. Prayers for Gigi and Marcia who cares for her.
- Deacon Bryan (he/him/his): Biological dad has three more weeks of radiation. Having a rough time.
- Deb Anderson (she/her/hers): Prayers for Madelyn and all those having to travel today! Please bring her home safely!
- Dan and Suzanne: We lift up those who are seeking employment, especially Erica. We give thanks that Kevin is now in rehab after hospitalizations for Covid.
- Sabine Cox: Prayers for my school who are trying to reopen in person without making sure teachers are vaccinated. it causes a lot of conflict.
- Holly: Prayers of thanksgiving for all our new members!

This Sunday at UCCSV

God calls us to greater purpose in life but the choices we make as to how to answer that call matter. The choices we make on how to treat our fellow humans matter. The choices we make on how to live out our call or how we choose to respond to God matter. Sometimes the choices we make have long lasting consequences that we cannot foresee. But ultimately calling is about the choices we make to hear the call and respond. Join us in worship this Sunday as we consider our choices and our callings. We'll also celebrate communion this Sunday so bring your bread/cracker and juice or wine with you as you come to worship along with your candle.

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?pwd=VUhkWDZacGZBUFBwYWISU3QxN3dlUT09>

Welcome to our Newest Members

This past Sunday we welcomed new members into our community of faith! Please welcome:

Lissa Bales

Julia Schucker

Loriane Kentner and her son Nicholas

Robin Ruppalt and Tiffany Turner and their sons,
Ryan and Riley Turner

We are so thrilled to have them as a part of our community! Please be sure to extend a special welcome to them over the next few weeks.

Looking Back on 2020 and Forward to 2021

At this Congregational Meeting this past weekend I highlighted just some of what we were able to accomplish to not only survive but thrive in this past year:

Worshipping online on Zoom since March
All major holidays online
Virtual Choir providing beautiful musical accompaniment
FB livestream (2-3 live viewings) and Recordings on Website (avg. 15 views)
Avg. 50 logins and 72 people in live attendance on Zoom
Many visitors and family and friends from around the world joined us
Guest speakers and preachers on a variety of topics

Online Game Nights and Special Events
In person events like Bon Fires, Pride Pop-Up, Ice Cream Social, Car Parades
Havruta and other Christian Education/Spiritual Formation Events online
Podcasts of Children's Stories
Special deliveries of resources for children and youth (Easter, Summer, Advent)

Medical Debt Buyback
Black Lives Matter Protests and Justice Signs for our Homes
Get out the Vote Efforts (1,000 postcards, Signs promoting voting for home and church)
Gifts of food and other items to Germantown Help and Fox Chapel ES families
Continued selling of Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate

Upgraded our nursery by purchasing a new changing table for infants and toddlers
Moved to P.O. Box for better mail security

Security cameras installed around the church building along with remote doorbell system
Grounds upkeep continued and trees taken down as needed
Benches installed in prayer garden

What's Next in 2021? I have set a vision for the church for the coming year focused around a time to recover and heal from the traumas we have all experienced recently, both from the Covid 19 pandemic and also from the pandemic of racism and the ongoing economic issues for so many.

Our scripture for this year:

I will restore your health, and I will heal your wounds, declares the Lord- Jeremiah 30: 17a
Based on our mission statement my goals for 2021 include:

Include All - Create the possibility for a hybrid Zoom/In-Person worship experience for when we return to the building

Deepen Connection - Strengthen and expand small group ministry and promote more individual person to person connection throughout the year.

Express Yourself - Use art as a way to heal our individual and collective trauma from the last year.

Advocate for Justice - Focus Social Action Committee efforts on racism and local poverty

Serve Community - Encourage the Church to do at least 100 acts of individual and community service for our neighbors

- Pastor Holly

Send Valentine's Day Greetings this Month

As part of our effort to deepen our community this month we are encouraging our church to send Valentine's greetings to each other and our neighbors. Our children, so used to getting

Valentines in school, need your love. In addition, our seniors who are more isolated would also love some extra special greetings. If you know people inside or outside the church who need a reminder that love wins and please share a card or other extra special greeting with them this month!

Ash Wednesday Service

We will be celebrating Ash Wednesday in a joint worship service with Trinity United Methodist Church. More information to come soon!

County Community Food Access Survey

Attached to this newsletter is the Food Council's short 8-question COVID-19 Community Food Access survey seeking input from residents to guide Montgomery County food security initiatives in 2021.

Your feedback on how the County can best serve our communities and improve food access during and after the COVID-19 pandemic is essential to informing program implementation, policy development, and future funding priorities. Please complete the survey before Wednesday, March 17th, 2021. Thank you. Your cooperation is appreciated,

Yasmine A. Eleazar
on behalf of the Executive Committee of the
Faith Community Advisory Council

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>



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.



Justice & Witness Action Network - Maryland Launches Campaign on Police Accountability & COVID-19 Relief

As you may recall, UCCSV supported the Faith & Democracy 2020 campaign by writing over 1,000 postcards for Getting Out the Vote for the Presidential and GA Senate runoff campaign.

As a follow-up to the Faith & Democracy 2020 campaign, Maryland local churches, clergy, and justice leaders of the Justice & Witness Action Network are launching a legislative campaign to address issues of Police Accountability and COVID-19 Relief in the Maryland General Assembly's 2021 Legislative Session.

You are invited to learn more about this campaign and the Maryland branch of the Justice & Witness Action Network.

When: Thursday February 4th

Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Where: Zoom

Register in advance by clicking the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqO6hpjkiH9ORavHSvX4TyyKPJKMavkAp>

After registering you will receive a confirmation email with sign-in information.

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