



# Spirit News

February 7, 2019

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD  
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Email: [UCCSV@verizon.net](mailto:UCCSV@verizon.net)  
Website: [UCCSenecaValley.org](http://UCCSenecaValley.org)

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for Adam who is in the hospital. Pray for doctors to determine cause of symptoms and complete healing (anonymous).
- Prayers of thanksgiving for God's mercy and grace. We give thanks that little Maddox was able to be released from the hospital. We also pray for the Mack family as we celebrate the life of Lloyd Mack this Friday (anonymous).
- Pray for Adam DeBaugh for his continued healing and recovery (Suzanne Schmidt & Dan Davis).
- Pray for Helen's sister, Alice, who is having cancer surgery this week (anonymous).
- 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](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:  
Book of Job

## This Sunday at UCCSV

"Give us this day our daily bread." - In teaching us to pray this line, Jesus offers us assurance that asking God to act in the world is not a waste of breath. An important part of prayer is petition, naming our needs. We are called to be mindful not only of what we need but also of the needs of others and our own gratitude towards God who provides for us. It's also a reminder that we actually only need today's bread, and we are not supposed to be hoarding it for years to come. Join us for worship at 10am as we continue our series on prayer and explore why praying for our daily bread can help to transform how we live.

## Prayer 101: How Should I Pray and Does it Matter?

As part of our ongoing worship series on prayer you are welcome to join us Wednesday, February 13th at 7pm, for a discussion and workshop on prayer. Bring your questions, your doubts, your experiences, and a willingness to connect with God as we explore they why, what, when, and how of prayer.

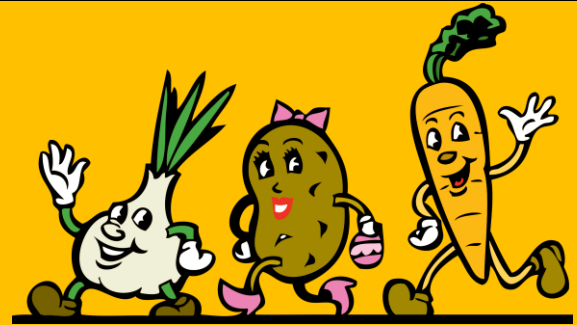
## Prayer at the Pub

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](mailto: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!

## Ledo Pizza Night February 12

The second Tuesday of each month will be UCC Seneca Valley night at Ledo Pizza on Wisteria Drive in Germantown. Ledo will give UCCSV a portion of its sales (between 10%-20% depending on the amount spent) from both eat in and carry out all day. You must present a

flyer (available at church or at Ledos Tuesday evening starting at 5:30pm) to have your sale counted towards our total. Join us for an inexpensive, kid-friendly, evening out and help us raise some funds for UCCSV!



## Calling all Chili Masters!!

Sunday, February 10th is the Annual UCCSV Chili Cookoff! We are in need of at least 8-10 chefs who would like to show off their amazing chili recipes. We will also need volunteers to bring salad, corn bread, Fritos, sour cream, cheese and desserts. If you are interested please email Terri Molaski with what you would like to bring. Then this Sunday, we will be going around during Fellowship to see how we can get you involved in this family favorite event. See any member of the Fellowship committee for questions. Thank you!!! 🌶️🌶️🌶️

## 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 [revsasphd@gmail.com](mailto:revsasphd@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

## 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.

## One Anothering Group

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](mailto:bdmi.af@comcast.net). The link to the signup genius for One Anothering is as follows.

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

## A Message from our new Conference Minister:

Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
Isaiah 43:18-19a (New Revised Standard Version)

Greetings Central Atlantic Conference!

Today is February 1, 2019, and it is my first day as your Conference Minister. I look forward to meeting you, knowing you, and serving together with you. On this day, the above passage from Isaiah, known I suspect to many of you, comes well to mind. God has, God is, and God always will be, in the business of doing something new. This day is no exception.

Yet a part of me struggles with Isaiah's prophecy for I think there is also value in remembering the 'former things' of history and tradition. This day also begins Black

History Month, and I have learned from the history of my physical and spiritual ancestors over the years that it is impossible to know where God is calling us to go without understanding how far God has brought us. I believe in the words, paraphrased from philosopher and novelist George Santayana that "those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it."

As a result, I have never interpreted Isaiah's passage to mean, as the saying goes 'to throw out the baby with the bath water.' It important to always look back and remember the ways God has blessed us, and there always needs to be spiritual space to perceive the new thing God is doing. For me this was the point of Isaiah's prophecy to God's people then, and still speaks to us as God's people today. Whether you are in the hustle and bustle of much of NJ, or amidst the natural wonder of the Shenandoah and Catocin Mountains and valleys, or near the banks of the Potomac River or the shores of the Chesapeake and (or) Delaware Bays, I look forward to perceiving, exploring, and living into with you new things God will doing in our midst as the United Church of Christ in the Central Atlantic Conference.

Blessings and Shalom,

Freeman

Rev. Freeman L.  
Palmer  
Conference Minister  
[fpalmer@cacuccorg](mailto:fpalmer@cacuccorg)







### **Calendar**

Paella Party – Deb. A and Bob F. Hosts  
(5:30pm) – Feb. 9  
Chili Cookoff – Feb. 10  
Pizza Night at Ledos – Feb. 12  
Prayer 101: The Why and How of Prayer (7pm)  
– Feb. 13  
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