



Spirit News

February 8, 2018

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

- Prayer of celebration for Miranda making it to the Maryland Jr. Allstate Chorus (Miranda Lin).
- 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 caregiving. 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 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
2 Kings 2:1-12 and Mark 9:2-9

This Sunday at UCCSV

In the weeks after Epiphany we have practiced what it means to shine with God's light. But now Epiphany is coming to an end. Before we head into the more contemplated season of Lent we have one last Sunday to celebrate God's light through the story of Jesus on the mountaintop shining brightly before the disciples. The choir will sing a special piece with a solo performance by Leo Saligan. We will also have a guest preacher, Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett. Dr. Baskett-Tippett is not only seminary educated but also has extensive experience in serving the community. She is also making her way through the UCC ordination process and is continuing to broaden her preaching horizons by speaking the word for us this week. Please come out and support her as she seeks to follow God's call on her life. Spend some time on the mountain top with us and God this Sunday. Don't forget to stay after worship for the UCCSV's annual Chili Cookoff!

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.

Listening During Lent

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th, and continues until Easter Sunday on April 1st. Lent is a season in which we search for obstacles that impede us from fully experiencing a deeper relationship with the sacred. And this Lent we will be focusing on how to listen.

“Look, I’ll pour out my spirit on you. I’ll reveal my words to you.” - Wisdom (from Proverbs)

Have you ever misplaced your phone—which is on vibrate of course—and then asked someone to call it? We get really still and really quiet. Our ears perk up in all directions in order to be ready to hear that little buzz. It is a quieting down and high alert all at the same time. This Lent we will quiet things down and heighten our attention to the “still, small voice” of God and our own True Self. Listening through prayer as well as meditation on holy texts is an ancient

Lenten practice. Come and rest, come and listen.

Lenten Soup-ers on Wednesdays start February 21st

On Wednesdays during Lent we pause to come together for a simple supper and good conversation. This year, as we continue our theme of "Listen" we will seek the wisdom of a wide diversity of speakers. Every Wednesday we will watch and listen to a short talk by various writers, leaders, and theologians like Dr. William Barber, Brene Brown, Pope Francis, and Glennon Doyle Melton. We will then discuss the talks we have watched and try to listen for their wisdom for our lives. There will be links available the week before to their talks on YouTube so you can watch it beforehand if you would like. You can come to one single session or all 5. Come, recharge, watch, and listen with us.

Free Concert Opportunity!

Come and enjoy an afternoon of music at UCCSV with Kristin Smith and Ginnie Lum this 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.

Memorial Garden

We would like to invite members of the congregation to visit the Memorial Garden on the church grounds. A committee (Susan Percy, Deborah Tomblyn, Diane Teigiser, and Joyce Miller) will be there to share our vision and answer questions. We have been meeting during the past months accepting bids and now share a vision for the area. Since some of the congregation may not be aware of this garden we would like for you to see the sacred space and talk with the committee. So bring your cup of coffee up to the Memorial Garden, just up the walkway outside the Fellowship Hall door after church on Feb. 11 (inclement weather date, Feb. 18). Many past members have had their ashes buried at this site and there's a Memorial Stone with their names inscribed. Come see and hear of our plans for improvement of this sacred site.

Women's Retreat

Am Kolel Retreat Center, Bealsville, MD
March 2nd through 4th

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.



It's a Souper Time to Help

Can you help us stock the shelves with some warm comfort food during this cold month of February?

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 cans or boxes of instant soup as possible. Thanks for your support!

Calendar of Events

- 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