



# Spirit News

January 23, 2020

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD  
Phone: (301) 540-3449  
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## Prayer Requests

- Pray for John's granddaughter, Lilliana, who has rotavirus. Pray she recovers quickly (John B.).
- Pray for Luz. Please help me to thank God for my new job. Pray for people of Puerto Rico.
- Pray for Friends Karen and Louise and Nephew Kyle – all recovering from knee surgery (Renee Morales).
- Ongoing Prayer for Alexis Symanski. Recovering from a radical mastectomy on 1.17.20. Alexis is a member of the Schmidt family (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Ongoing Prayer for Mama Carmen Billones. She has liver cancer and it has metastasized into her pancreas. Dr. Ruel and Billy need your prayers for her comfort and wellbeing to heal (Billy Van Orman).
- Ongoing Prayer for Bill Hayes. Prayers for recovery after shoulder surgery (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Ongoing Prayer for Maggie's Dad. Continue to pray for my Dad who is recuperating well after his fall (Maggie).
- Ongoing Prayer for Dawn Oler, our dear friend, who is having surgery to remove a tumor. We pray it is benign and her recovery is easy (Terri & Dee Dee).
- Ongoing Prayer for Cheryl's grandmother who is in a coma; pray for Ben who is battling stomach cancer (Maggie).

**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 will be removed after one month. Feel free to resubmit your ongoing prayer requests.**

## 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.

## This Sunday at UCCSV

In the last few weeks we've discussed being clear about our mission and grounding that mission in the foundation of our core values, both as individuals and as a church community. This Sunday we will wrap up this worship series by looking at our vision for the future. Knowing who we are and why we do what we do is important, but the next question must be, "Well now what?" What is God's vision for us for the coming year, or years, ahead? What are the dreams we have for our future and how can we get there? What processes can we use to help determine our path forward and do our best to ensure that path is a successful one? Join us for worship at 10am as we seek to craft a vision for our church and for our lives that inspires us, excites us, and moves us forward together in faith. Immediately after worship we will hold our Congregational Meeting to discuss this coming year's budget and vote on our new mission statement. Don't just go to church this Sunday, be the church and help us move boldly into our future together!

# WUMCO

WUMCO Help Inc. volunteers provide rides for our aged and home bound neighbors to medical appointments and is in great need of more drivers! Drivers sign up for rides at their convenience, and can run errands, etc while WUMCO's clients are at their appointments. If you are interested please call WUMCO's transportation coordinator at 301-972-8481, ext. 4 or email [wumco2@gmail.com](mailto:wumco2@gmail.com). Thanks!

Katie Longbrake  
Executive Director



301-972-8481  
PO Box 247  
Poolesville, MD 20837  
[www.wumcohelp.org](http://www.wumcohelp.org)

## Proposed New Mission Statement for UCCSV

You will be asked to vote on the new mission statement at the Congregational Meeting this Sunday 26th immediately after worship.

### MISSION STATEMENT

UCCSV is a progressive and inclusive spiritual community that centers itself in the belief that we are all beloved children of God. We seek to joyfully share Christ's message of hope through creative expression, deepening connections between people, advocating for justice, and serving our community.

### VALUES

We are a welcoming church that is open, affirming, and inclusive. A place where everyone can belong.

We are spiritually courageous and take risks to support the progressive ideals and values that come from our understanding of Jesus' teachings.

We value children and youth and the gifts they bring to the community.

We are innovative and open minded because we believe that God is still speaking and we continue to respond.

We actively care for, support and serve our community.

We believe in spiritual growth and transformation through education and reflection.

We joyfully and creatively express God's love through art and music.

We celebrate diversity as a reflection of God's family.

We actively pursue and advocate for social justice to promote equality and world peace.

We are active stewards of the environment to preserve God's creation.

We practice generous hospitality by sharing food together and feeding others.

### TAG LINES

**Include** all, **express** yourself, **connect** with others, **advocate** for justice, **serve** community. Include, express, connect, advocate, serve. Come as God made you, believing as you do, and loving all.

## Teachers Needed and Sunday School Curriculum Changes

There are some exciting new curriculum changes in the works for UCCSV's Sunday School for children and youth. We need already background checked teachers to sign up for a Sunday. If you have not had a background check but are interested in teaching, email Holly at [HollyRJackson@gmail.com](mailto:HollyRJackson@gmail.com) to start the process. We also need volunteers to assist Uriah in the Nursery in case we have a surplus of babies and toddlers on any given Sunday. Sign up here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Xa0KUbirC5Gs78ecsl2kCHOB6RhkPAumV3jw8XmbCAw/edit?usp=sharing>

**The Upper School Class (Grades 6-12)** has been working with new curriculum written by our own Molly Thomason. This is a curriculum that Molly continues to develop based on feedback from the youth about how they best learn and the topics they want to discuss to help they grow spiritually. Each month there is a set of two new lessons based on a bible passage and question. The first week the youth explore and discuss the passage and question and the second week they delve more deeply into the topic with more hands on ways of learning and spiritual practices. This month's lesson is about "What is Required of You" and focuses on the passage from Micah 6:8. On the 4th Sunday of the month the youth do a service project. This month they will be updating the children's worship bags.

**The Lower School Class (Grades K-5th)** starts a new curriculum this coming Sunday. We are moving to a "rotation model" style curriculum. Each month the children will study a particular bible passage. Each week within the month different lessons will do a hands on style workshop around that passage. There will be

art workshops, drama workshops, games workshops, science workshops, and music workshops depending on the week. For instance this month the class will be working on the parable of the man who built his house on a rock from the gospel of Matthew. Each week they will read the passage in a different way and this week there will be a music workshop exploring the story, next week will be games, and then on the 26th science. These lessons will be much more involved and hands on for the children (and fun for the teachers to teach) while also giving them a feeling of continuity even if they miss a Sunday or two a month.

## Going Deeper Spiritually in 2020

Pastor Holly is looking to create a small group of people, no more than 8-10, who are interested in taking a new journey together in the new year. This group would meet monthly and focus on a particular spiritual discipline. It might be a particular way of reading the bible or a way of praying or a way of interacting with people or a social justice task. During the meeting we would explore the discipline and talk about what it might mean to live out this practice in daily life. We would then commit to doing this practice for the next month relying on each other's support throughout the process. At the end of the month we would discuss our experiences and then explore a new discipline for the month to come. As this is trial group members would be asked to commit to meet once a month for 6 months and our meetings would be planned at a time and place best for the participants. The main idea is to create better connections between people and to allow people to explore all kinds of spiritual disciplines in a supportive atmosphere. Are you interested in learning more? Contact Holly at [HollyRJackson@gmail.com](mailto:HollyRJackson@gmail.com) for more

information or to commit to being a part of this new trial group.

## Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 26th After Worship

All members of UCCSV are requested to join us after worship this Sunday for an important congregational meeting to discuss the budget for 2020 and also the proposed new mission statement for our congregation. All are welcome to attend this meeting, which will start directly after worship in our sanctuary. Members of the congregation will then be invited to vote on these crucial issues. Help shape the future of YOUR church by being a part of this process!

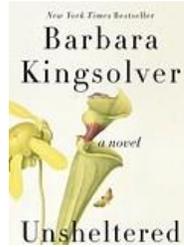
## Playground Team Meeting

Join us on January 29<sup>th</sup> for the initial Playground Meeting in the Gathering Room at 7pm.



## Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

Save the Date: Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>



Unsheltered

The book for February will be *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver. It covers two stories in Vineland, NJ set about 140 years apart but definitely connected. The library has several hard copies and CD copies. Heidi Harmon will lead the discussion of the book.

## Women's Retreat!

Yes, the good news is we have a reservation for a Women's Retreat at Am Kolel for May 1-3 weekend! Please mark your calendars and watch for additional info closer to the date. We had a retreat at this site several years ago and decided to return to this comfortable, nearby location this year. The price will be dependent on our numbers but will be less costly than last year as we will do our own cooking (yay, we already have volunteers). Hope you can set time aside for this special time together with other women in our church family. Check with Pam Van Prooyen or Susan Percy with questions.

## Lenten Devotional

*Deliver Us* is a Lenten Devotional from the Still Speaking Writers Group, authors of the online Daily Devotional. This collection of prayers for each day of Lent will help guide your deliverance from the trials of daily life during this season of sacrifice and reflection. Cost is typically under \$5. Last day to sign up is Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>. Signup sheet is on the bulletin board nearest the gathering room.

## Calendar

- One Anothering Group (10:00am) – Jan. 25
- Congregational Meeting – Jan. 26
- PFLAG (2:30pm) – Jan. 26
- Trustees Meeting (6pm) – Jan. 27
- Council Meeting (7pm) – Jan. 27
- Playground Team Meeting (7pm) – Jan. 29
- CE Committee Meeting (11:30am) – Feb. 2
- Chili Cook-Off (11:30am) – Feb. 9
- Deacons Meeting (5pm) – Feb. 9
- Pizza Night at Ledos – Feb. 11
- Mens Breakfast (9am) – Feb. 15
- Social Action Committee Mtg. (11:30am) – Feb. 16
- Church Council Meeting (7pm) – Feb. 17
- Social Action Event (7pm) – Feb. 19
- One Anothering Group (10am) – Feb. 22
- Pulp Pilgrims Books Group (11:15am) – Feb. 23
- Ash Wednesday Service (more details to follow) – Feb. 26