



Spirit News

January 27, 2021

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

- Prayers for Kevin who is still in the hospital recovering from Covid. We give thanks to God for Chloe (Suzanne and Dan).
- Prayers for Chloe and all who are ill with the Covid 19 virus (Adam DeBaugh).
- Chloe's recovery (Suzanne and Dan).
- Prayers for Danielle and her recovery from cancer (David Schwab).
- Isaac who has pneumonia and he and Katie cleaning up after a flooded basement (Deb).
- Prayers for Sashi and Rachel, dealing with her illness (PTJ).
- My colleague Aaron's mom, confronting breast cancer (PTJ).
- Prayers for the new administration as they embark on their important mission (Stephen).
- Prayers for our neighbor, Marge, who was rushed to the ER yesterday (Terri Molaski).
- Prayers for all with January birthdays, including Dee and Caryn (Cindy and Jen).
- Asher's friend (Ruthanne Stoltzfus).

This Sunday at UCCSV

Have you ever struggled with "Imposter Syndrome?" Whatever we are called to, we may feel as if we do not have what we need to fully live into our calling. We may feel like an imposter. God promised to raise up prophets but also promised death for false prophets while Jesus teaches with authority even though he technically has no authority at all. Can we find ourselves somewhere along that spectrum? Where does our authority come from? How can we listen to the voice of the Still Speaking God and use it to guide our actions and words? Join us for worship as we wrestle with this aspect of

living into our calling. We will also welcome new members into our congregation this Sunday!

Please send any pictures you might have of graduations, promotions, or significant work milestones you might have for inclusion in our Prelude to HollyRJackson@gmail.com by Friday evening.

When you come to worship please bring a candle with you. 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>

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>

Climbing the Mountain to a Vaccine

On my path to ordination I often referred to the last phases of the process as being in the death zone at the top of Mount Everest. The last ten feet of climbing a mountain are the most dangerous because you are tired from what you have already climbed, the end is in sight, and yet the climb is at its most difficult point. Partway up the slopes it is easy to remember to have three points of contact, to check handholds and foot placement, and all the other things the climber needs to do. But when you get to that final phase and you can see your goal, it is easy to forget all of that and want to rush to the summit, or to think it's too far away and be tempted to give up climbing altogether. All of the focus required for climbing takes its toll on the spirit. Physical and mental exhaustion are real. Seeing the goal within reach brings with it an urge to rush to the apex or to give in to our exhaustion. But both rushing or sitting down and giving up are beyond dangerous.

This metaphor seems apt for where we are in relation to the pandemic. The promise of a vaccine makes us feel as if the mountain top is just ahead of us. Finally after months of numbers trending up, they seem to be slowly decreasing. The desire to reopen is growing. And we are tired of remembering to wash our hands, keep our distance, avoid other people, wear our mask, and all the other pieces. It has drained our spirits.

But we must not hastily scramble up these last steps to the mountaintop only to risk falling or worse. And we cannot simply give up climbing. The next months of the pandemic may be some of the hardest we have experienced but we can help each other get to the top. We will be monitoring vaccination percentages and infection rates. We will be continuing to worship or meet in

other ways on Zoom. We ask you to continue to practice all those things we know to keep us safe: wearing masks, washing hands, maintaining distance, and getting vaccinated when it is available. With the new variants of the disease starting to circulate these ways of protecting ourselves and others are especially important. Consider double masking when going to spend time indoors with other people at a store or shop. And reach out to those you know are lonely or alone. If you are in need of help or contact, please contact me. I know we can make it to the other side of this pandemic if we work together.

Remember, the goal is not to get to the zenith the fastest. The goal is to get all of us there safely. If you are looking for more information about how to get the vaccine or where you might fall in the vaccine schedule please visit:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine/>

or

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine>

Peace,
Holly

Save the Date - UCCSV Congregational Meeting January 31st

Our next Congregational Meeting will be after worship on Sunday, January 31st. We will get an update on finances and general church operations and also approve the budget for 2021. Be a part of guiding this community into the coming year. Join us for this important part of the life of a congregational church.

Upcoming Sundays in January

January 31st - Living Into Our Calling: When Imposter Syndrome Gets in the Way

Social Action: Understanding Police Accountability

There has been much in the news lately about police accountability. As people of faith who care deeply about justice issues, it behooves us to understand upcoming Maryland legislation which addresses police accountability.

On Thursday, February 4 @ 7:00 PM, the Potomac Association Maryland Justice and Witness Team will offer a review via zoom on four Police Accountability Bills pending at the Maryland General Assembly.

The four bills are: Repeal of the Law Officers Bill of Rights; Limits on Police Use of Force; Anton's law; and eliminating police resource officers in schools. Representatives from ACLU and MAJR will provide background regarding these bills. These four bills have been identified by the Maryland Justice and Witness (J&W) team for a coordinated MD UCC response. Pastor Holly, Dan Davis, Suzanne Schmidt, and Bethany Fuss have participated in the J&W team meetings.

All those affiliated with UCC churches in the Potomac Association are welcome to the February 4 event. Details including registration and access to this zoom event will be included in next week's Spirit News. Feel free to contact Suzanne Schmidt at revsasphd@gmail.com with questions.



Happy Birthday January

Jessica Lin - 1/3
Dick Bertelmann - 1/6
Micah Thomason - 1/16
Ethan Daughters - 1/22
Helen Hanes - 1/25
Molly Thomason - 1/28