



# Spirit News

January 31, 2019

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

- Pray for Maddox Bailey (friend and family). Maddox is in ICU battling an autoimmune disease that is infecting his brain. Maddox is in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and loves soccer. Prayers of Thanksgiving for Parfait & Alexis Nyseya (newlyweds); for Jay Tellis graduating from Tulane; and Sam Tellis on acceptance to UVA and Tulane (Xzana Tellis).
- Pray for the Costle family. Let us pray for the family of Doug Costle. Doug passed away last week (anonymous).
- Prayer of Thanksgiving for the end of the shutdown. May the next 3 weeks in Washington be more productive than the last 5 weeks (anonymous).
- Pray for Ethan Daughters. Happy to have a great first year of life. Looking forward to new adventures for the next year (anonymous).
- Pray for everyone affected by the government shutdown (Chloe Jackson).
- Pray for Adam as he sees his doctor to get results from chest xray & CT Scan for his shortness of breath and elevated hear rate (anonymous).
- Pray for Kathy Vadala (UCCSV Substitute Music Minister) and her family as they grieve the passing of her husband/father. Peace to Chris Vadala (Laura Lineberger).
- 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

Jesus' ministry offered tangible, visible signs or right relationship and pointed us towards God's will for a "little heaven on earth." This Sunday in worship we'll ask what it means to pray "thy kingdom come" on how our work bringing right relationship and justice and abundance and love and grace in the world can be a prayer of action every day. What would it look like if earth were a little more like God's Realm? Also we'll practice praying the news and consider why such prayers matter. Finally we'll join in communion together so that we can experience a small glimpse of God's Realm as we all gather around Christ's table. Worship begins at 10am. Come be a part of community and connect with God this week!

## Parent's Corner

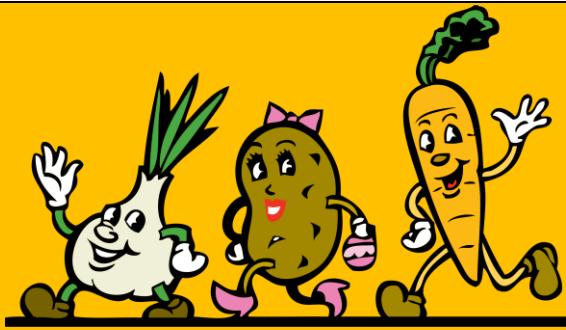
It's a New Year in the UCCSV Sunday School classrooms and we are focusing on new areas of the bible and spiritual practices. In the Lower School Classroom we are continuing with our curriculum "Holy Moly," which combines storytelling, a video, art, and other ways of learning to help younger kids explore and understand scripture. Over the next few months we are exploring the New Testament. In January the class learned about John the Baptist and the Calling of the Disciples. This coming Sunday they will learn about Jesus teaching the disciples how to pray. In the Sundays to come they will explore the stories about Jesus calming the storm and walking on water.

In our Upper School Classroom we have started a new curriculum called, "Think. Believe. Do." that has a four lesson focus on prayer. The class has already discussed if prayer is important and in the next weeks will be exploring if there is a right way to pray. The Upper Class also had a 4th Sunday Service Project day where they discussed how they could be of service to both our church and to the wider community. In church you may see them interviewing members of our congregation to help spotlight people and make it easier for us to get to know each other better. They also plan to collect books for children who are hospitalized later this Spring.

Finally, several families joined us for our Bowling Outing at Bowl America this past Sunday. It was great fun for youth, kids, and adults alike! Look for additional opportunities to gather together as UCCSV's families in the months to come.

## 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 Ledo's 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!!! 🌶️🌶️🌶️

## 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

## Valentine's Luncheon

Dear Lovely Ladies,

May I begin by apologizing for needing to change the date of the Valentine's Luncheon?

Sometimes life surprises us and recently life at The Schmidt Davis Home has been full of surprises! Dan and I just completed having all the water pipes in our house replaced. This has involved moving all of our furniture on all three floors and covering everything with plastic so that large holes could be cut in our ceilings and walls. Following this lovely event comes replacing the drywall and painting followed by vacuuming and vacuuming and uncovering and moving everything back. Needless to say, unless you want to help clean-up on February 9, our luncheon needs to be rescheduled.

We figure we will complete the clean-up by the beginning of March at which time we hope to be hosting the second offering of The Soul of Aging at our house on Saturdays. So April looks like the next best time to host a luncheon. How does Saturday, April 27 (the weekend after Easter) from noon through 2 pm work for you? We'll call it The Spring Love Luncheon.

Would you please let me know by February 1 if you can join us on Saturday, April 27?

Thanks for understanding!

Suzanne

## A Service Opportunity from one of our Ministry Partners, Western Upper Montgomery County Help (WUMCO)

### Backpack Bites Program

#### *Overview:*

The Free and Reduced Meals (FARMs) program at Montgomery County schools provides free or reduced cost breakfast and lunch to children from low income families. This insures that those children have at least two meals a day. At the beginning of January, a program was started at Poolesville Elementary School to provide supplemental food over the weekend to FARMs families with elementary age children. The program, Backpack Bites, is a collaboration between local churches and WUMCO Help. Backpack Bites provides a bag of food that contains enough food for (at least) one nutritious meal and snacks. The bag is sent home on Friday of each week in a child's backpack. We currently have 12 families enrolled in the program. With over 30 FARMs families at the school, we hope to enroll more in the future. As with any new program, it may take a little while for it to catch on. We will also be expanding to Monocacy Elementary School in Barnesville in the future.

#### *How to Help:*

There are three ways to support this program:

1. Help pack food bags. Once a month, we meet to pack the bags for the next four weeks. The whole process takes about one hour from set up through clean up. It is a fun, easy process. All packing events are being held at Poolesville Presbyterian Church (in the little yellow building behind the sanctuary). SSL hours are available for these packing

events. The schedule for the remaining packing days this school year:

Saturday, February 23, 9:00 AM  
 Sunday, March 24, 1:00 PM  
 Saturday, April 27, 9:00 AM  
 Saturday, May 25, 9:00 AM

2. Help deliver bags to school on Friday morning. This entails picking up bags from Poolesville Presbyterian Church at a pre-arranged time and delivering them to the school on Friday morning no later than 10:00 AM. (8:00 AM works well to avoid buses and drop off lines.) You would also retrieve bags that have been returned to the school and deliver them to Catherine Beliveau (WUMCO Help Executive Director) for re-use.
3. Donate food items. A specific list is given below. These items may be set aside for the Backpack Bites program and delivered to Poolesville Presbyterian or they may be sent with your regular food donation to WUMCO. Any items that the program is short on when it is time to pack will be taken from WUMCO inventory.

### Backpack Bites Items

Instant Oatmeal packets - <b>Plain</b>
Canned Vegetables
Single serving Fruit cups
Treats (granola bars/Cheese crackers/low sugar snacks – no chips or candy, please)
8 oz shelf stable 2% Milk * <b>High need item</b>
Rice ( <b>1-pound bag</b> )
Pasta ( <b>1-pound box</b> )
Mac & Cheese boxes
Peanut Butter
Dry Beans ( <b>1-pound bag</b> )
Canned Tuna

Please talk to Adam DeBaugh if you are interested in participating in this program.  
[Adam@ChiRhoPress.com](mailto:Adam@ChiRhoPress.com) or 240/855-5273.

## Save the Date!

Women's Retreat  
 May 17, 18, 19  
 Hallowood Retreat Center



## Calendar

CE Committee Meeting (11:30am) – Feb. 3  
 Deacons Meeting (7pm) – Feb. 4  
 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  
 Trustees Meeting (6pm) – Feb. 18  
 Council Meeting (7pm) – Feb. 18  
 One Anothering (10:00am) – Feb. 23  
 Social Action Committee Meeting (11:30am) –  
 Feb. 24  
 PFLAG (2:30pm) – Feb. 24  
 Prayer at the Pub (6:30pm) – Feb. 24  
 Social Action Event (7pm) – Feb. 27