



Spirit News

January 3, 2018

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
An Open and Affirming Congregation
13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD
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Website: UCCSenecaValley.org

Prayer Requests

- Prayer for Ruth Bader Ginsberg. May her surgery be successful and her recovery quick and complete (anonymous).
- Prayers for the family and friends of the woman killed this week at Ridgecrest and Middlebrook (anonymous).
- Prayer for family of Mark VanderMeer who passed away recently after a brave battle with early Alzheimers (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 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

It's Epiphany Sunday and so there is a shining light and gifts and stars and a meaningful end to our Christmas season celebrations! Join us as we celebrate the first Sunday of 2019 by receiving a new "star word" for the year. We started this tradition at UCCSV last year. The premise is this: the magi followed the star to find baby Jesus, bringing their gifts. We are also seeking Jesus, trusting God can/does use many signs (or stars) to guide us closer to the Divine presence. People will be invited to take a star when they come up for communion. On each of the stars is a word. We invite people to trust the word that selects them. Some words seem easy. Some will require living in to. Some will be gifts we receive. Some will require us to shift our way of thinking or acting. Let the Spirit bless you with a word of intention and hope and challenge for the year to come. (If you cannot be in worship this Sunday you can also choose a word throughout the month of January or email Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com and she will draw a word for you.) Find your light this Sunday and be a part of worship at 10am!

Be A Fellowship Host

Calling all bakers and yummy food makers! As you know, it has been the tradition for the Fellowship committee to host the coffee hour every Sunday after church for our congregation and visitors. While the 7 lovely ladies that make up the committee enjoy putting out a little spread every week, we would also like to give others the opportunity to serve our church by opening up Fellowship hosting to the entire congregation. We are asking members and

friends to sign up to bring goodies for coffee hour. There have already been a few people who have shown interest and we are hoping for many more. This is an easy way to get involved with the church without a huge time commitment. And we'll make sure you have plenty of support! There will always be a Fellowship committee member available on a Sunday to help with set up and clean up and answer any questions you might have. The sign-up sheet will be the bulletin board outside the church office starting Sunday, January 6th. If you have any questions, please see Terri Molaski.

January Worship Station - Take a Look In the Mirror

Come visit our worship station in the back of the sanctuary this month and take a look in the mirror. There are 5 mirrors at this station, each one asking you to look at yourself in a different way. As we begin this new year, how do you see yourself? How does God see you? Take a look in the mirror and find out.

Learn How to Make a Necklace

If you are interested in a small get-together to learn to make a necklace from single or unused earrings on January 6, please ask Ruth Bulger or Lois Sumser for details. Cost for the class is \$15.

Ledo Pizza Night January 8th

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!

January is Tuna Month

Your donations of tuna can help feed a family in need. Please help support the Germantown Help food bank by donating cans or non-perishable packages of tuna, other fish, or meats during January.

Thank you for Your Generosity!

Thank you so much from the staff at UCCSV for our wonderfully generous Christmas gifts. We all deeply appreciate the ability to serve this congregation and we are truly grateful for the support and acknowledgment you offer to us. Thank you!!

Stars

After Sunday's worship, those members who helped craft the sparkle stars are welcome to take their stars home. They are encouraged to do at the end of the service. "Unclaimed stars" will be available in the Gathering Room for others who might want to take a little sparkle home with them.

Memorial and Honor Stars

This Christmas season we used star ornaments to memorialize or honor people who we wanted to specifically remember at this special time of year. If you purchased a star in memory or honor of someone special we invite you to take that star off the tree at the front of the Sanctuary and take it home with you. If you want to leave your star ornament, it will become a part of the church's Christmas decorations. If you will not be in church on Sunday, we will leave the remaining stars in a box in the Narthex throughout the month of January for pick up. In February we will put the remaining stars away with the rest of the church's decorations for use next year.

Upcoming Sundays in January at UCCSV

The New Year is about to begin and what better way to celebrate it and get help keeping your resolutions than to spend time encountering God in community at church!

Sunday, January 6th - If you missed getting a Star Word last year you won't want to miss this Epiphany celebration at UCCSV. Get your Star Word for the year, sing some of your favorite Epiphany hymns, and enjoy the last of our holiday decorations. Don't know what a Star Word is, then be sure to come this Sunday and find out! Have a great story to share about your Star Word from last year? Be ready to share it. And then help us to take down all our Christmas decorations after worship.

Sunday, January 13th - What is it about water and baptism? Join us for a celebration of Jesus' baptism and a renewal of our own baptisms.

Sunday, January 20th - On this Martin Luther King Jr. weekend we will focus on Dr. King's message of justice and liberation and celebrate other African American church heroes and heroines.

Sunday, January 27th - This Sunday we begin a new series about prayer - Does prayer matter? Does it really change anything? How should we pray? We'll delve into the revolutionary message of the Lord's Prayer and see how this prayer so many of us say by rote truly calls for a radical rethinking of our world and of our lives.

Church Records

Has your address, email or phone number changed? Do we have your birthdate? If any of your information has changed or you are not sure what information we have, please fill out the information in our red book Registration Form. Since the form doesn't ask for your birthdate, please handwrite it in next to your name.

Calendar

CE Committee Meeting (11:30am) – Jan. 6
Deacons Meeting (7:00pm) – Jan. 7
Pizza Night at Ledos – Jan. 8
Chancel Choir Practice (7:30pm) – Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31
Congregational Speed Dating “Get to Know Me” (7:00pm) – Jan. 11
Adopt-A-Road (9:00am) – Jan. 12
Trustees’ and Council Meeting (6:00pm) – Jan. 14
Men’s Breakfast (9:00am) – Jan. 19
Tea Party Hosted by Deborah Tomblyn (3:00pm) – Jan. 19
Congregational Meeting – Jan. 20
Bowling Children & Youth – Jan. 26
Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) – Jan. 27
PFLAG (2:30pm) – Jan. 27
Ladies Night Out (6:00pm) – Jan. 28