



# Spirit News

January 4, 2018

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

- Pray for healing for my great niece, Booklyn. At 4 mos. she has a respiratory virus and is quite sick (Deborah Tomblyn).
- We thank God for seeing us through 2017 and ask for his mercy and blessings as we begin 2018 (anonymous).
- 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](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.*

## Pray for Helen

This past week Helen Hanes was admitted to Shady Grove Hospital for a minor burn and issues with her electrolytes and sodium levels. I visited her Wednesday afternoon and she was in good spirits. It was expected that Helen would remain in the hospital until Thursday or Friday of this week and then be released to a rehab facility (possibly on site at Shady Grove) for an additional week or two. She is expected to recover and be back to her normal self soon. Helen was glad to have visitors and requested your prayers. I might suggest calling first before visiting in case she has been moved to the rehab already. I will keep the congregation updated with information as I have it.

- Pastor Holly

## 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 Isaiah 60:1-9 and Matthew 2:1-12

## This Sunday at UCCSV

We'll pivot from focusing our Advent season focus on angels and feathers to celebrating Epiphany this week and ending out the Christmas season by starting a new tradition at UCCSV - Star Gifts. Often when we come to

church we are asked to give. This Sunday you will also receive. A star gift is simply a star-shaped piece of paper with a word printed on it. Every person who comes to church this Sunday will receive a star gift and will be asked to reflect on that word for the coming year. You are invited to ponder what significance this word might have in your lives, and how God might be speaking to you through this simple message. Holly will preach about Star Gifts. The choir will sing one last anthem for the Christmas season. Come celebrate communion with us too. The preschool through elementary Sunday School will start off worship in the classroom learning about The Magi before joining the rest of the congregation for communion. After worship it's time to un-hang the greens and put away the Christmas decorations and the Confirmation class will help with this task for a short time before heading to lunch and class. Start your new year off right by getting a gift from God and spending time at a place where you belong.

## Thank You from the Staff!!

A huge thank you from your UCCSV staff for our very generous Christmas gifts that came out of the Staff Love Offering in December! All four of us - Holly, Stefan, Nita, and Anna Gavidia, are so appreciative of the love and care you show us. This is such a generous community and we feel privileged to be a part of it.

## Community Office Hours Change

For the new year there is a change in Holly's Community Office Hours to try to allow for more congregational participation. You are welcome to join Holly for lunch and conversation (perhaps even about this week's sermon, or for any topic you prefer) on Fridays from 12pm-1:30pm at the Panera Bread on Century Blvd in Germantown.

## January Worship Station - Shine Brightly

*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your God in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)*

So much of the imagery of the Christmas and Epiphany season in the church focuses on light. But how can we truly be lights to the world? What quality or qualities would you like to shine before others this year? In what way do you desire to shine to those around you? Write that quality or qualities on a stained glass film, peel the backing, and adhere it to the glass of the candleholder.

## Game Night!

Save the Date! Friday, January 19th is Game Night at UCCSV. Last year over 30 of us had a great time playing games together of all different kinds. So please come join us and bring a friend! We'll play from 7-9pm. We'll have snacks and drinks and some games. Bring a few of your favorite games along too!

## Confirmation Class

We kicked off this year's confirmation class with 10 youth! We can't wait to see how this class evolves and what they learn and in turn teach us about God and community. Now it's time for you to become part of this amazing process. **Please sign up on the "Coming Attractions" bulletin board to help provide lunch for our confirmands and teachers.**

Be sure to ask the confirmands what their experience has been so far and be sure to share with them a story of your faith journey.

This is a church wide effort as these youth are all our children. Make a difference and get involved today!

## Annual Budget Meeting

This year's Annual Budget Congregational Meeting will be held after service on Sunday, January 21, 2018.

## Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be in our community on Friday, February 2, 2018 at United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley. Ultrasound screenings to identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease include; **Carotid Artery** (plaque buildup-a leading cause of stroke), **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm** (an enlargement or weak area in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body), **Peripheral Arterial Disease** (hardening of the arteries in the legs), a **Heart Rhythm Screening** (an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation-irregular heartbeat) and an **Osteoporosis Risk Assessment** for men and women. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early.

Register online TODAY at [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle) and receive your "Community Circle" discount and your Preferred Appointment!

## Volunteers are Needed

We need your help! Havruta leaders, Liturgists and Ushers are needed for January and February. Please consider signing up this weekend on the bulletin board outside the church office.

## Calendar of Events

Confirmation Classes (11:30am) – Jan. 7 & 21  
CE Committee Meeting (11:30am) – Jan. 7  
Un-hanging of the Greens (after worship) – Jan. 7  
Deacon's Meeting (7:00pm) – Jan. 8  
Pizza Night at Ledos – Jan. 9  
Trustee's Meeting (6:00pm) – Jan. 15  
Council Meeting – Jan. 15  
Family Game Night (6:30pm) – Jan. 19  
Men's Breakfast (9:00am) – Jan. 20  
Annual Budget Congregational Meeting (11:30am) – Jan. 21  
Lord's Table at St. Martins (1:00pm) – Jan. 23  
Social Action Committee Mtg. (11:15am) – Jan. 28  
Sunday School Teacher Training (11:30am) – Jan. 28  
PFLAG (2:30pm) – Jan. 28