



# Spirit News

January 6, 2021

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

- Blessings and peace to my coworker, Sarah, who lost her father and uncle to COVID within the last few months (David Schwab).
- Prayers for Bill who is struggling with medical issues. Bring him peace and healing (Heidi Harmon).
- Prayers for healing for my friend Jennifer's husband William who had a heart attack yesterday and is recovering in the hospital (John Bartkowiak).
- Prayers for my colleague Aaron's mother, dealing with breast cancer (Patrick Jackson).
- Thanksgiving for the hope offered by a vaccine. Especially grateful for the staff at Inova Health, doing an amazing job with vaccine rollout (Fuss Family).
- Praying that our national leaders may follow the light of truth on January 6th. Grant them courage (Dan and Suzanne).
- Prayers for my colleague Sashi's girlfriend Rachel, dealing with a brain tumor (Patrick Jackson).
- Prayers for my mom and dad, that they might know some peace (Patrick Jackson).
- Prayers for our friend, Natalie, who is pregnant and just diagnosed with COVID (Terri Molaski).

## This Sunday at UCCSV

This week we start a new series at UCCSV about living into our callings from God. Many people think a calling is only for pastors or ordained ministers. But in fact people are called by God all the time. Sometimes this ends up being a vacation or a career, sometimes this is a calling to care for one's family, sometimes it's about volunteer work, and sometimes it's just a

calling to live our entire lives a certain way regardless of our work or home life. Callings can change throughout our lives as well. And callings aren't just for individuals. They can be for families, for organizations or whole communities. Churches can be called to specific work or ministries. During this next month we will explore the whys and hows of callings; calls to justice, calls to proclaim truth or hope, calls that feel overwhelming, calls that require us to make specific life choices, and calls to mentor or to be mentored by others. This Sunday we begin with exploring baptism. It is at Jesus' baptism that God announces that Jesus is seen for who he is, loved for who he is, and equipped to respond to his calling. Can the same thing happen for us? What about those who aren't baptized? What about infant baptisms that we don't remember? Is God really calling us right now and how would we know? Join us as we explore these questions and more.

If you have pictures of your baptism or the baptism of a family member or friend you would like to share, please email them to [HollyRJackson@gmail.com](mailto:HollyRJackson@gmail.com) by Friday to be included in this week's worship videos.

When you come to worship please bring with you a candle and a small bowl of water. (If you haven't been baptized, don't worry, we're not going to baptise you remotely or have you do anything you aren't comfortable with.) 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/kbWdNjrILH>

## 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.



## Learn How to Play Farkle

Farkle is a dice game that is easily played virtually. It's not hard to learn and dice will be provided through drive-by delivery. Zoom instruction will happen on Tuesday, January 12 from 7-8. There will then be a chance to test your skills on Tuesday, January 26 with a virtual Farkle Game Night. If you already know how to play, you're invited to join in the Farkle fun on the 26th too.

Please check your email for a Sign-up Genius invite or contact Beth at [balauiat@aol.com](mailto:balauiat@aol.com).

## Star Word for 2021

If you did not receive a Star Word in the mail or it was somehow lost or you need another word for whatever reason please email

[HollyRJakon@gmail.com](mailto:HollyRJakon@gmail.com) to request a word and have it mailed to you.

## Lent Worship Team Meeting

Anyone interested in helping to plan and organize worship for Lent (which starts February 17th) is invited to join the Lent Worship Team Meeting on Wednesday, January 20th at 7pm. At that meeting we will go through the theme for Lent, organize Lent activities and practices, and move through planning for several Sundays. There will be a second follow up planning meeting to work on Holy Week specifically. We need your creativity, your logistic planning, your ideas, and your feedback to continue to create meaningful worship experiences for our congregation. Please join us! You don't need to be a church member, or a member of any committee to be a part of this group

January 20th at 7pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83305030659?pwd=anhOYXJRek8zUINtWHQvS3dpdGJ2QT09>

## Orientation to UCCSV

New to our congregation? Want to know more about who we are? We will have two orientation sessions in January (times to be announced soon) for those who might like to go deeper in relationship with our community. At the end of the sessions those who are interested in formally joining the congregation will be able to do so in worship on Sunday, January 31st. Watch for more information on dates and times!

## **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 10th - Living Into Our Calling: The Calling of Baptism

January 17th - Living Into Our Calling: A Calling for Justice

January 24th - Living Into Our Calling: Proclamation as a Calling

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



## **Happy Birthday January**

Jessica Lin - 1/3

Dick Bertelmann 1/6

Ethan Daughters 1/22

Helen Hanes 1/25