



Spirit News

July 13, 2017

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
An Open and Affirming Congregation
13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD
Phone: (301) 540-3449
Email: UCCSV@verizon.net
Website: UCCSenecaValley.org

Prayer Requests

- Pray for a friend waiting for the final lab results from a malignant lump already removed (Deborah Tomblyn).
- Prayer for low humidity and good weather (anonymous).
- Prayer for the family of Margaret Thurston who recently passed away (anonymous).
- Pray for those who are dealing with loss (John Bartkowiak).
- Gratitude for the ways each of us grows/ages: from increases in quirkiness to learning important stuff to letting go of stodgy rules that don't matter as much as relationships with those we love (anonymous).
- Pray for Ryan, my nephew with mental illness (Christii Watkins).
- Pray for Terri's dad who is retiring, as a Minister. May he continue to be blessed through his new adventures (Terri and Dee Dee Molaski).
- Our denomination and the many people who continue to experience what a *Still Speaking God* is calling us to do (anonymous).
- Prayers for sanctuary churches and those serving this community; healthcare and everyone concerned about whether or not they'll be covered (anonymous).
- Giving thanks for the life of Joseph Johnson, my father, who recently passed away (Calvin Johnson).
- Thanks for a view of mountains for as far as the eye can see and the corresponding sense of being held in the palm of God's hand and the knowing that we are not alone (anonymous).
- Prayer for Deb Anderson and Bob Fraley for continued recovery from surgery (anonymous).

- Ongoing prayer for Leonard Myers, one of our original members, now retired and moved to Delaware, has colon cancer (anonymous).
- Ongoing prayer for my son to find happiness and accomplish a fulfilling life with love, peace and spiritual heart (Luvy).
- Ongoing prayer to be with Coptic Christians in Egypt as they mourn, gather to worship and go about their lives. Bring them safety, comfort & peace. May they be able to worship as we do – without fear of being killed (anonymous).
- Ongoing prayer for my aunt Jean who was recently diagnosed with terminal bladder cancer (Terri Molaski).
- Ongoing prayer for Laurene Karimi who is battling stage 3 breast cancer with so much courage (Terri Molaski).
- Ongoing prayer for Helen who is battling cancer for the third time in her young life (Dee Dee 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 Mary Brown and her family. Mary's daughter-in-law Brittany died unexpectedly and her son Steve is grieving and the whole family needs a lot of love and prayers (Arnie, Mary's neighbor).
- 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 during my continued treatment and palliative care for cancer (Maridell Mason).

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.*

We Celebrate the Life of Margaret Martt Thurston (Age 99)

On Friday, July 7, 2017, Margaret Thurston, a member of UCCSV who lived in Asbury Village, passed away. She was the beloved wife of the late Paul A. Thurston; mother of Robert E. (Delabian), Jean M. (Cynthia), George M. (Sally) and the late William P. (Julian). Margaret is also survived by 12 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and many other loving family and friends. **A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 29, 10 A.M. at Guild Chapel, Asbury Methodist Village, Gaithersburg, MD 20877** (enter through gatehouse, 301 Odendhal Ave). Interment Gate of Heaven Cemetery, private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley, 13421 Clopper Rd, Germantown, MD 20874.

Havruta on Sunday Mornings

Havruta is from 9:00 to 9:40 on Sunday mornings in the Narthex. Do join us as we learn and enjoy and grow our faith together.

Our discussion for Sunday, July 16th is the Book of James.

This Sunday at UCCSV

In early July our denomination, the United Church of Christ, gathered for its biannual national meeting, called our General Synod, to meet together, worship together, and discuss and vote on the work of the church. This year our meeting was in Baltimore which meant that several UCCSVers were able to attend and participate as visitors and volunteers. One such volunteer was Deborah Tomblyn. This Sunday she will preach on her experiences at Synod,

and share how they relate to Psalm 46 which was the scripture for the gathering. Please join us at 9am for Havruta on the Book of James, then stay for worship at 10am to hear Deborah's story and listen to a beautiful offertory by Beth Lauriat and Laura Lineberger. Sunday School for elementary and preschoolers will be after the Children's Message portion of service continuing the unit on celebrating God's creation. Let us "Make Glad" and worship together!

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of Ushers for Sunday, July 23rd. Please sign up on the bulletin board this Sunday or email uccsv@verizon.net. In addition, there are openings for Liturgists and Ushers in August. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers!

Ladies Night Out

SAVE THE DATE

When: Monday, July 31st at 7:00 PM

Where: Mamma Lena Trotteria Napoletana
13507 Clopper Road, Germantown

Come for a fun evening of fellowship and good food.

And bring an appetite!

UCC General Synod in Baltimore

On the first weekend of July in Baltimore, MD, the UCC gathered as a national body to be the church together! In addition to worshipping and learning together, we also take action - marching together for justice, approving budgets and church officers, and passing resolutions. Now, in the UCC individual congregations make most decisions about how

to live their lives together, so the General Synod speaks TO the Church instead of FOR the Church. So it's important for us to listen and consider how we are the church, not just here in Germantown, but a part of the wider UCC all over our country.

Some special highlights of the weekend:

1. 10 UCCSVers experienced Synod either as an attendee or a volunteer or both!

2. The Rev. Traci Blackmon was overwhelmingly confirmed as our Executive Minister of Justice and Witness ministries.

3. Resolutions were passed at Synod demanding living wages for all, affirming that we are an Immigrant Welcoming Church, and supporting the need for research into gun violence. We also passed resolutions supporting adult survivors of child abuse and neglect and we pledged our support to Palestinian children in military detention.

4. The three Great Loves campaign was launched asking us to have a special focus over the next few years on three great loves: The love of neighbor, the love of creation, and the love of children so that we can work towards a just world for all, united in Christ's love.

5. The Rev. Dr. William Barber from the Moral Mondays movement spoke to us about a new movement of social justice and introduced a Poor People's campaign for 2018 saying, "We must claim the deep moral language of faith, and silence is not an option."

6. Synod goers marched for immigration reform and protested the deportation of a local man.

7. Rev. Jon Deckenback, our late Conference Minister, was honored and celebrated in many

different ways across the Synod he fought so hard to have come to our area.

8. Sunday Worship was inspiring and joyful and meaningful for over 3,000 attendees.

For more on Synod go to the UCC News page: <http://www.ucc.org/news>

To see videos of Synod visit here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6VgfHt6zEy62_c0N7VOMFpQXz8DTfiau

School Supplies Drive for Interfaith Works

Want to go shopping for school supplies to help others? Interfaith Works, an interfaith organization in Montgomery County, is holding a school supplies drive to provide over 2,000 new backpacks and new school supplies to Montgomery County students who want to start the school year ready to learn. Let's join with over 150 other faith communities to give to kids in need in our area!

We will collect the following school supplies at UCCSV through August 13th:

- 2 inch 3 ring binders
- Dividers
- Filler paper: wide ruled and college ruled (8 1/2 x 11 in)
- Two pocket folders
- Highlighters: yellow, pink and blue
- Pens: black and blue
- Markers
- Rulers
- Pencil Boxes and Pouches

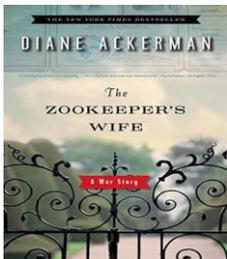
- Scissors
- Backpacks especially for middle school and high school aged students
- Small day planner/organizer for the parents
- New children's socks and underwear
- Giant gift cards
- SmartTrip cards

Calendar of Events

Men's Breakfast (9am) – July 15
 Special Council Planning Meeting (6:30pm) – July 17
 Ice Cream Sundae Social after church – July 23
 Social Action Committee Mtg. (11:15am) – July 23
 PFLAG (2:30pm) – July 23
 Ladies Night Out (7pm) – July 31

*Please note that SDA will hold Revival on July 23-26, 28 at 7pm

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

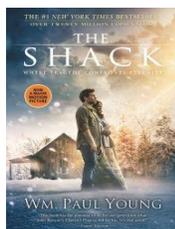


We are currently reading, *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman. It was published in 2007 & is the true story of how the keepers of the Warsaw Zoo saved hundreds of people from nazi hands.

You will need to place a hold at the library since as of 6/26 there were: 26 copies with 90 holds & 4 LG print with 22 holds.

We will meet Sunday August 13 at 11:30am in the Narthex.

Our following book is *The Shack* by William Paul Young.



We love to read, do you? You are welcome to join us for one book or for many or most. Hope to see you in August!