



Spirit News

July 1, 2020

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

- Praise God for Dan's smooth recovery. Prayers for others who are recovering from surgery (Suzanne Schmidt).
- In memory of the 40+ members of MCC New Orleans who were murdered in an arson fire years ago this week (Adam DeBaugh).
- Pray for Bob and Carol's son Bob, who is entering hospice and in the care of his son (their grandson) Chris (John Bartkowiak).
- All feeling oppressed may they feel supported and loved (Joyce Miller).
- Ongoing Prayer to grant our leaders wisdom and compassion to address the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ongoing Prayer Requests: Please notify Nita at uccsv@verizon.net should you wish to change your ongoing requests. Please note that ongoing prayer requests will be removed after one month. Feel free to resubmit your ongoing prayer requests.

This Sunday at UCCSV

We're wrapping up our Pride worship series with a focus on Trans issues. We'll welcome Lee Blinder, the Executive Director & Founder of Trans Healthcare MD, to our worship to give the reflection. There will be special music and we'll also celebrate communion together so please bring a bread or cracker and juice or wine along with your candle as you settle into your zoom worship space. Join us and be a part of community while celebrating gender expression and identity in all its fullness. The zoom room opens at 9:30am and worship begins at 10am.

Topic: Sunday Worship

Time: Jul 5, 2020 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84470757726?pwd=VUhkWDZacGZBUFBwYWISU3QxN3dlUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726

Password: 20874

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726

Password: 20874

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcm87sP9zS>

New P.O. Box

We now have a PO box for mailing all your pledges and contributions. As soon as possible, please start mailing your checks to this new address.

The address is

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
PO Box 803
Germantown, MD **20875**

Note that the zip is now different even though it is the 20874 Post Office. It would be helpful if everyone would spell out the complete church name and not use UCCSV. Maybe this would help the Post Office in directing the mail to the correct address. Any questions, please contact Russell Shelley, Treasurer (russellshelley92@gmail.com).

Please note that all other correspondence can still be mailed to our Clopper Road address.

The Lord's Prayer UCCSV Edition

The Lord's Prayer, also known as the prayer of our Savior or the "Our Father/Mother/God," has been a central part of Christian worship for centuries. Since it is derived from Jesus' instructions to the disciplines when they asked him how they should pray, it is a powerful piece of witness when said out loud. But the exact wording of this key prayer has always been somewhat contested; different translations of the text use different words, for example "trespasses" versus "debts" versus "sins" but the important thing is the spirit of the prayer, and not the exact wording, and that's why we in this community say the prayer together the way that we do: people use the words that are most meaningful for them, and we wait for one another.

This is a lot more difficult to do over Zoom, as I am sure that you have noticed! In person we can make adjustments a little more easily, so we all stay roughly together in the prayer even as some of us say, for example, "lead us not into temptation" while others say "lead us not into the time of trial." But when we each pray the prayer in our own way at the same time, it makes a very powerful statement about the core values of diversity and inclusion in our community: different versions are both welcomed and celebrated.

What I would like to do is to produce a virtual version of our intentionally diverse common prayer practice. As Stefan has done with our "virtual choir" performances, I plan to layer different audio and video clips on top of one another in order to recreate the melodious cacophony we get when we pray this prayer together in person. But I can't do this without your help. I need you — yes, YOU — to record yourself saying this prayer in your own way, and send me the resulting audio or video (I can use

either). You can record on your computer, or on your phone in "landscape" orientation (turn it on its side). Best to do this inside or in a relatively quiet place outside, so that the audio quality is good. If you would like I can even meet you on Zoom and talk you through the recording process live.

If you are able to be part of this project, please get in touch with me at onyxdr@mac.com and I will give you further instructions about how to get your audio or video to me. Then I'll put them all together and produce something we can use in future worship services. I'd like to get the audio and video clips by Friday July 18th.

-Patrick Jackson

Building Reopening/Regathering Update

UCCSV Leadership has been working to create guidelines for any reopening and regathering at our building or on our church grounds based on science, public health indicators, and for the safety of all. For now, worship remains online and the Deacons will be considering outside worship/prayer gathering opportunities that will be in addition to online Sunday morning services for later in the summer. More information and guidance on this will be coming soon.

In the meantime our building renters, the Seventh Day Adventist church of Germantown, will now be holding outdoor worship services on our church grounds on Saturdays. Please know that our church leadership has been in contact with their church and together we have put into place various guidelines and policies that will help to keep both our congregations safe.

Help For UCCSV Congregation

Dear UCCSV Congregation,

The Lin Family is available to help you in a variety of ways, including shopping, deliveries to or from you, and other errands and chores.

If anyone needs help, please do not hesitate to contact Clarisse or Miranda via email:

clarisselin222@gmail.com and

mirandalin333@gmail.com

Thank you!

Mindfulness - Calm Your Heart and Mind

Mindfulness sessions lead by Ruel Billones will be held on Mondays from 7-8 via Zoom. Below is the Zoom log-in information. The same login will be used for each session. Please check out the Signup Genius email or contact Beth Lauriat at balauriat@aol.com for more information.

Topic: Mindfulness

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84478622520?pwd=cUdmWXptYmRmK0h6UmE0WWd5Nkl3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 844 7862 2520

Password: 533492

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84478622520#,,1#,533492# US

(Germantown)

+13126266799,,84478622520#,,1#,533492# US

(Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 844 7862 2520

Password: 533492

Find your local

number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kw7K7XJcM>

Social Justice Yard Signs

Signs declaring we believe that Black Lives Matter, No Human is Illegal, Love is Love, Women's Rights are Human Rights, and other similar sentiments are available for \$20. This is a Social Action Board fundraiser. Please contact John Bartkowiak at jbinmd@gmail.com if you're interested in a sign.

Zoom Worship Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to help lead our Zoom worship experience there are ways you can help. We still need a "Greeter" and a "Liturgist" every Sunday. Greeters will welcome people as they come into the meeting before worship by voice or by chat and help by supplying important web links in the chat box. Liturgists will lead the service with Holly. We also welcome musical video offerings of instruments or voice that we can use during worship. In addition, we welcome pictures of our congregation during this time apart

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-uccsv>



Recordings of Zoom Worship Services

If ever you miss a Zoom worship service and you want to go back and watch a recording for that week, you can always find our past services on our website here:

https://www.uccsenecavalley.org/watch_us_online

This is also a great place to send neighbors, friends and family who may want to check us out but might be nervous about joining us on Zoom for the first time. It's a great way to see what Sunday mornings online are like and they can fast forward through anything they don't want to watch! ;-)

UCCSV Poetry Group

The UCCSV poetry group has been reading poems of black poets, and we thought some of you might be interested in these voices from the black community especially in the wake of George Floyd's murder. I have provided the links below that you can click on to read these powerful poems.

Power by Audre Lorde

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/53918/power-56d233adafef3>

On Blueness by Joshua Bennett

<https://rhymings.com/joshua-bennett/on-blueness/>

Still I Rise by Maya Angelou

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46446/still-i-rise>

If anyone is interested in joining our group, email Russell at russellshelley92@gmail.com