



# Spirit News

July 27, 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](mailto:UCCSV@verizon.net)  
Website: [UCCSenecaValley.org](http://UCCSenecaValley.org)

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for Russell Shelley's speedy recovery from an unexpected leg surgery (anonymous).
- Grateful for the blessing of summer blossoms and crepe myrtle blooms (anonymous).
- Pray for Sarann Lim (Melissa Johnson's mom) in the hospital (Calvin Johnson).
- Prayers for all youth struggling to find jobs and decide a life path. May they find direction and peace (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 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 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](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.**

## Havruta on Sunday Mornings

This Sunday's Havruta (7/30) has been cancelled. Please plan to join us the following Sunday from 9:00 to 9:40 in the Narthex. Do join us as we learn and enjoy and grow our faith together.

## This Sunday at UCCSV

How do our stories impact our mission and vision? How do our faith journeys help to push us towards the causes we hold dear and inform the service we do for others? Where can we find God at the intersection of our history and the work we feel called to do? Join us for worship this Sunday at 10am as we explore these themes. Shelly Moore will preach about how her story and faith journey has impacted her life and mission. Beth Lauriat and Jessica Lin will provide musical accompaniment for our hymns while Stu Yeany shares his musical skills with us for our Prelude, Offertory, and Postlude. Sunday School for Elementary and Preschool aged children will be with Gina Domingo to continue celebrating God's amazing creation and hearing bible stories about the earth. Enjoy a summer morning at UCCSV!

## Margaret Thurston Memorial Service

Reminder that the memorial service for Margaret Thurston 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.

## **Ladies Night Out**

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

Where: Mamma Lena Trottoria Napoletana  
13507 Clopper Road, Germantown

Come for a fun evening of fellowship and good food.

## **One Year of Ministry at UCCSV!**

Friends, on August 1st I will celebrate the one year anniversary of my pastorate here with you at UCCSV. What a joy it has been to be in ministry with you all this past year! I have learned so much about you, about the church, and about myself as I have met with so many of you, worked with you in ministry, and worshipped alongside you on Sunday mornings. I feel so incredibly blessed to be able to be your pastor and to share this journey with you. I thank you for the grace you have shown me both in forgiving me when I have made mistakes and in giving me space to try new things. There is such beauty in knowing I am allowed not only to succeed, but also to fail and that we can all learn together from both. You have welcomed me and embraced me and my family. You have laughed with me, been honest with me in your conversations, and prayed alongside me. This is a gift I deeply appreciate. You have let me in to your sacred moments, shared your fears and struggles with me, and trusted me with both your great joys and the worries that keep you up at night. I am so very grateful to be able to do this job that I love so deeply in the midst of such a wonderful congregation. The Church Council and other church lay leadership here at UCCSV are to be commended. I have such appreciation for so many of you who volunteer so many hours to

serve this community. Thank you. Thank you to all of you for being the church in such amazing ways and letting me be a part of your story.

As I start my second year with you I ask for your continued prayers, your continued grace, and our continued conversations. The learning doesn't stop just because the first year is over. I still need to hear your stories, learn from your passions and concerns, and see you in action both here at church and out in the world. My office door is open or come by my community office hours at Starbucks on Thursday afternoons or watch for new evening office hours starting the in the fall. Call me. Text me. Email me. Invite me to see your work in the world. Let's make music together and create art. Dream with me about all we could be. Serve with me as we seek to make an impact on our neighborhood. Advocate with me as we work for justice in our world. Worship with me as we connect more closely with God and each other. Learn with me about the Bible and the world around us. Laugh with me as we find joy in God's creation. Together we are UCC Seneca Valley! I can't wait to see what God has in store for us this coming year. Happy anniversary!!

## **Pastor Holly Away from July 28-August 6th**

From Friday, July 28 through Sunday, August 6th I will be away for study and retreat. One of the things you at UCCSV offer to me as your pastor is time and funding for continuing education opportunities. This time away allows me to learn, to reflect, to rest, to plan, and to renew myself for another year of ministry with you. This next week I will be spending time on Star Island in New Hampshire at a UCC retreat on spiritual leadership. It will also be a time for me to read books on ministry and theology that I think will be helpful to our work together, and will allow me time to reflect on my first year in

ministry with you and plan for the year to come. While I am away I will likely have limited access to email and possibly even to phone calls and texts. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call Deborah Tomblyn who is covering for me while I am away. I look forward to being back in the office on Monday, August 7th rested, renewed, energized, and ready for another fabulous year of ministry at UCCSV.

Holly

## **Safety for Refugees and Immigrants**

Join the Montgomery County Faith Community Advisory Council on Monday, July 31st from 5-8pm at the Islamic Education Center at 7917 Montrose Road in Rockville for an interfaith and community gathering where we will discuss how can uphold our values and keep our community safe. A panel of immigration experts and religious leaders will address the latest on the travel ban for predominantly Muslim countries and how to help residents of Montgomery County celebrate our diversity. The presentation will include an overview of the legal aspects of the an including the implications of the U.S Supreme Court rulings on the Trump administration's executive orders, and short speeches by faith leaders on how different religions can ensure Montgomery County remains a welcoming place for everyone who lives here. Questions and an open discussion will follow the presentation.



## **Pool Party for Children/Youth/Families August 12th**



On Saturday, August 12th join us for a pool party for UCCSV's children, youth, and families and anyone who wants to be an honorary child, youth, or family for the day! Meet us at the Whetstone Pool and Community Center at 19410 Brooke Grove Court, off Centerway Drive in Montgomery Village at 3:30pm for fun at the pool. After we have enjoyed our time in the water we will walk over (less than 5 minute walk) to Pastor Holly's house for pizza and more fun! Please RSVP to [HollyRJackson@gmail.com](mailto:HollyRJackson@gmail.com) so we can know how many people to expect.

## **Active Bystander Training at Open Door**

Open Door and SURJ MoCo are hosting an active bystander intervention training on July 30th at 12PM. It's a 2 hour training that goes through the theory of nonviolence and then goes through practicing de-escalation skills in response to various scenarios. The aim is to teach practical skills in response to incidents of hate and harassment in Maryland. We'll also talk a little bit about the anti-racism work that SURJ's partners do in MoCo. The RSVP form for the training is here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/cDmuDuEILBh30JRj1> and there is a facebook event as well here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/465651783796643/>

## August Communion Moved to 8/13

Due to Pastor Holly being out of town August 6th, our monthly communion observance will be moved to August 13th. Please join us both August 6th for regular worship with John Teigiser preaching and on August 13th for communion when Holly is back to preach on the story of Joseph and his amazing coat and some very jealous brothers.

## 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.

## 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

- Ladies Night Out (7pm) – July 31 (Mamma Lena Trotteria Napoletana)
- Deacons Meeting (7pm) – August 7
- Adopt-A-Road (9am) - (August 12)
- Pool Party at Holly's (4pm) – August 12
- Root Beer Float Sunday - (August 13)
- Men's Breakfast (9am) - (August 19)
- One Anothering at Joyce's (10am) – August 19
- Trustee's Meeting (6pm) – August 21
- Council Meeting (7pm) – August 21
- CE Retreat (9am) – August 26
- Blessings of Backpacks (during Worship) – August 27
- Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) – August 27
- Sunday School Teacher Training (11:30am) – August 27
- PFLAG (2:30pm) – August 27