



Spirit News

June 17, 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

- 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

It's Pride month and we're celebrating with the LGBTQ+ community! This Sunday we begin a three week celebration in worship by welcoming author and activist Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath. Last year for Pride Heidi visited our church as a guest preacher and she loved our community so much that she is thrilled to be back with us, even if it's just a virtual visit. Heidi will be talking to us about pronouns and why they matter. We do hope you will join us. Show your Pride, as a member of the LGBTQ+ community or as a committed ally, and let's bask in the rainbow of God's beautiful creation!

Bring your candle. The room opens at 9:30am and worship begins at 10am.

Time: Jun 21, 2020 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86576654670?pwd=bDhRS0UvdDZaNVF5Z3dhSmFkZDhOdz09>

Meeting ID: 865 7665 4670

Password: 20874

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 865 7665 4670

Password: 20874

Juneteenth Freedom Day Witness to Germantown

On THIS FRIDAY, June 19th at 4pm we will hold an hour long program/protest at the church to commemorate Juneteenth, a celebration of the freedom given slaves from the Emancipation Proclamation, and in solidarity with and support of the Black community. The UCC is asking churches all over the area and the country to come together on this day at this time so that we are a witness for justice. We will have a short program with prayers, readings, and reading aloud the names of those recently lost to injustice. Then we will stand along the Clopper Road fence line with signs as a witness to our wider community. During this gathering we will be masked and practice social distancing and have hand sanitizer available. We will have signs available or you can make your own.

Unfortunately our bathrooms will not be accessible in order to prevent anyone from being in the building together. We will do this in as safe a manner as is possible. We only encourage people to come out who feel safe with these precautions. If you do not feel safe to come out but want to show your solidarity, feel free to write us notes of support and we will share those with our community. Attached to this newsletter are a pastoral letter from our Central Atlantic Conference Minister Rev. Freeman Palmer, and also communication and calls to action from our

CAC Justice and Witness Ministry Network.
Those who are able are welcome to come join us at 4pm on Friday as we witness to Germantown that black lives matter to God.

Zoom Men's Breakfast

Zoom men's breakfast this Saturday at 9 am. If anyone doesn't get an email invite by Friday email Russell at russellshelley92@gmail.com.

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

Open and Affirming Celebration

On Sunday, June 28th in worship we're going to celebrate being an Open and Affirming church but we need your voices to do it. We want to know why it matters to you that you attend an Open and Affirming church How has it changed or transformed your spiritual journey? Why do

you think it's important to have churches be officially welcoming and supportive of the LGBTQ+ community? We'd love it if you'd share your thoughts with us. Here's how you can be a part of the celebration.

1. Make a short video saying why you celebrate that we are ONA and send it to Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com.
2. Write up a short testimony or quote Holly can share in worship and send it to her at HollyRJackson@gmail.com.
3. Create a piece of art or take a picture celebrating your Pride and send it to Holly so she can make it part of our Zoom worship.

Please send any contributions by Thursday, June 25th so that they can be included for worship on June 28th. Don't assume everyone else will do this, we need YOUR contribution. Let's all come together as one to be a force of light and joy to our community!

Survey about Reopening our Building

While a task force is working out a plan for how to safely reopen our building, including what that means for our renters and in person worship, we want your input. Please complete this 10 question survey by Sunday, June 28th. It will take you no more than 5 minutes but will be so helpful to the UCCSV leadership. Give us your input!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W7T3YF7>

Upcoming Worship Themes:

June 21 - Pride Month - Guest Preacher Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath
June 28 - Pride Month - Why ONA Churches matter
July 5 - Pride Month - Transgender Pride