



# Spirit News

June 24, 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](mailto:UCCSV@verizon.net)  
Website: [UCCSenecaValley.org](http://UCCSenecaValley.org)

## Prayer Requests

- Please pray for my mother who is battling malaria (Maggie).
- Prayer for Nancy Crowley and Dan Davis -- both facing procedures (Laura Lineberger).
- Prayers for Adam who is not feeling well (John Bartkowiak).
- For those battling illness both COVID and non-COVID (Heidi Heath).
- Pray for my brother in law who had cataract surgery. That All goes well (Luzma).
- Prayers for Dan Davis partial knee replacement. May the Spirit surround his medical team (Suzanne Schmidt).
- For the teachers and academic leaders struggling to find the best way forward for the Fall (Patrick Jackson).
- For the 15 transgender or nonconforming individuals that have already died in 2020 (Russell).
- We pray for our sons, Morris and Brian (Sabine Cox).
- Darrick Householder is a friend of the Harmon family and was a high school classmate of Daniel. Darrick passed peacefully on 19 June after a lengthy battle with Cancer. We would like to keep his parents and his sister in our thoughts during this difficult time.
- 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](mailto: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

As our Pride worship series rolls on this week we will celebrate being an official Open and Affirming (ONA) church. This Sunday is also National UCC ONA Sunday so we're sharing this celebration with other UCC Open and Affirming churches around the country! We'll have testimonies of why being open and affirming to LGBTQ+ people matters to our community, meaningful music, and a time for us to share affirmations. As you come to church on Sunday morning consider who you think needs welcome and encouragement in our community and in the wider world. During worship there will be a time when you, through chat or personal testimony, will be able to share that encouragement. Maybe you will want to affirm that transgender people are welcome and worthy of holy love, or that youth questioning their sexuality or gender are respected for their choices, or that immigrants belong here, or that those over 60 or with underlying conditions matter and deserve our care, or simply that Black lives matter.

Bring a candle and your affirmations. The Zoom room opens at 9:30am and worship begins at 10am. We'd love to see you online this weekend! UCC Seneca Valley is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Sunday Worship

Time: Jun 28, 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  
Find your local number:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/keDbQ5TKc9>

## **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 begin holding outdoor worship services on our church grounds on Saturdays beginning this week. 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](mailto:clarisselin222@gmail.com) and [mirandalin333@gmail.com](mailto:mirandalin333@gmail.com)

Thank you!

## **PRIDE Event Join UCC Seneca Valley's first ever Parking Lot Pop-up**

**PRIDE** event (thank you Rachel for this idea) to be held on Sunday, June 28 starting at 4:30 in the parking lot of the church. LGBTQ+ members and allies are invited to show their PRIDE by decorating the inside of their trunks, then joining others in the church parking lot to pop-up their trunks and take a walk around to view others' decorations (decorating is not required if you just want to join in the walk around). This will be followed by a bring-your-own-picnic on the grounds for those that want to stay and socialize at a distance.

Please remember to wear masks and stay at least 6 feet away from others who are not in your household.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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>

## **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](mailto: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>

## **Ladies Night Zoom In**

This month is a Ladies Night Out month. Instead of meeting at a restaurant, we will meet on Zoom, **Tuesday, June 30** (so we don't interfere with the Mindfulness Session on Monday) at **6:30**. Everyone is encouraged to order something from Mama Lena's for dinner and eat while we meet. The Zoom login information will be sent Tuesday morning. NO sign up necessary.

## **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](mailto: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](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-56d233adaf3>

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

## **Upcoming Worship Themes:**

June 28 - Pride Month - Why ONA Churches matter

July 5 - Pride Month - Transgender Pride