



Spirit News

March 14, 2019

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
An Open and Affirming Congregation
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Prayer Requests

- Pray for Richard Ward III who transitioned to glory this week and his church family, MCC of the Blue Ridge, Roanoke. May he rest in peace (Adam).
- Thank God for the doctors who saved my brother. He had a heart attack. Please keep praying for the kids (students) I work with (Luz).
- Celebrating the birth of Avery Elizabeth Harmon to Andrew and Katrina (Heidi and Colby's 3rd Granddaughter).
- Pray for Hillary, Maria's friend who was diagnosed with colon cancer (Maria and Ethan Daughters).
- Ongoing prayer for David Barker, Amie's Dad. God be with David as he goes for cardioversion. Pray for a positive outcome and increased quality of life. Pray for safe travel for him and Marcia (Marsha), Amie's Mom, as the hospital is a long drive from their home. Pray they both find courage and strength in this chapter of their lives (anonymous).
- Ongoing prayer that we might be satisfied with enough and prayers for employment opportunities for David (Shelly Moore).
- Continued prayers for my Aunt following surgery – she is improving (Renee Morales).
- Continued prayer for Wayne Tipping as he deals with heart issues (Paula-Marie Read).
- Ongoing Prayer for Stephen to find a job closer to home to shorten his long daily commute (John Bartkowiak).

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.

This Sunday at UCCSV

We're spending Lent practicing how to pay attention and see where God is moving in the world and in our lives. This Sunday we learn that nothing can get in the way of God's love for God moves past all obstacles. In this week's scriptures Jesus won't let Herod's threats or the people's opposition keep him from fulfilling his loving purpose. Do we set our course as resolutely as Jesus? Do we make a commitment to set our faces towards Jerusalem and meet with our calling? Even if it hard or requires sacrifice? What keeps us moving when we would rather give up? Join us for worship at 10am as we explore these questions and more.

Parents Corner

In Sunday School our younger children are continuing to learn stories from the New Testament while our older children wrestle with the idea of sin.

The Lower School Class (K-6th grade) this month is hearing stories about Jesus feeding the 5000, the disciples encountering a familiar stranger on the Road to Emmaus, hearing about how Saul became Paul, and will work with Upper School Class at the end of the month on a joint art project that will be a part of our sanctuary decorations for Easter.

The Upper School Class (7-12th grades) will be spending the season of Lent considering the topic of sin with such questions as "Is sin real?", "Is sin the devil's fault?" and "Is sin my problem?" While this is a difficult topic, especially in a theologically diverse

congregation, exploring these questions gives our youth the tools and the space to decide their own answers to these questions. We would rather face hard questions and consider helping the kids to find their own answers, then avoid them and leave them without a way to figure out what they believe. At the end of the month this class will help assist the Lower School Class in the joint art project for the 5th Sunday of the month.

Searching for a Nursery Caregiver

We are searching for a Nursery Caregiver at UCCSV! We are looking for someone who is available from 9:30am-11:30am on Sunday mornings. This person would play with and care for our babies and toddlers in the nursery during worship. If there are no babies and toddlers that Sunday, the Nursery Caregiver would be expected to assist the Sunday School teacher for the Lower School Class. We are offering \$45 a Sunday morning. If you know someone who might be a good candidate for this position, please have them get in contact with Pastor Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com.

Imagine, Pray, Reflect

This Lent you are invited to imagine, pray, and reflect on our weekly scriptures. Each week there will be a copy of the scripture reading along with a suggested prayer and visual for you to reflect on. Imagine, Pray, and Reflect this Lenten season.

Lenten Discussion Series

Please join us from 12 noon to 1pm for a series of Lenten Discussions continuing each Wednesday through April 10th. We will meet in the narthex and drinks will be provided.

Lenten Soupers at 6:30pm

Starting at 6:30pm join us for Lenten Soupers. We will gather together for a simple soup dinner and good conversation around the dinner table. Then we will watch a short TED talk and participate in discussion and maybe learn a spiritual discipline or two that helps us pay more attention to where God is moving in our lives and in the world.

Here is the link for the signup for the rest of the Soupers.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-lenten3>

March 20: Paying Attention to God on the Move in Ideas about Disabilities

Tonight we'll hear two TED talks - one by a young Autistic woman and another by a mom to a child with a serious disability. What can they teach us about how God is working in the lives of all people, including the disabled? What can they tell us about inclusion and how to find value in different ways of understanding the world around us?

https://www.ted.com/talks/rosie_king_how_autism_freed_me_to_be_myself

https://www.ted.com/talks/heather_lanier_good_and_bad_are_incomplete_stories_we_tell_ourselves

March 27: Paying Attention to God on the Move in Our Lives as We Age

Each one of us ages every single day that goes by. But does that mean our lives are over once we hit a certain age? What is the secret to staying young or to embracing the age you are, no matter the number? How is God moving in our lives even as we get older and how can we listen to our calling and minister to the world regardless of our age?

https://www.ted.com/talks/isabel_allende_how_to_live_passionately_no_matter_your_age

https://www.ted.com/talks/dan_gilbert_you_are_always_changing

April 3: Paying Attention to God on the Move in our Neighborhoods

Theaster Gates, a potter by training and a social activist by calling, wanted to do something about the sorry state of his neighborhood on the south side of Chicago. So he did, transforming abandoned buildings to create community hubs that connect and inspire those who still live there (and draw in those who don't). In this passionate talk, Gates describes his efforts to build a "miniature Versailles" in Chicago, and he shares his fervent belief that culture can be a catalyst for social transformation in any city, anywhere. How might God be calling on us to use creativity to bring new life to Germantown and the Upcounty area?

https://www.ted.com/talks/theaster_gates_how_to_revive_a_neighborhood_with_imagination_beauty_and_art

April 10: Paying Attention to God on the Move in Nature

We know that God made our beautiful natural world, but are we paying attention to how God is still moving and creating all around us? Tonight we'll watch two shorter TED talks. One talk focuses on the hidden miracles of the natural world and the other urges us to see beauty in nature all around us and find gratitude in that beauty. How can our love for God extend to our love of nature and how is God calling on us to protect God's precious creation?

https://www.ted.com/talks/louie_schwartzberg_hidden_miracles_of_the_natural_world
https://www.ted.com/talks/louie_schwartzberg_nature_beauty_gratitude#t-219424

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

Our March book is *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver. We will meet March 24 at 11:30.

Beginning Needle Felting Class Easter Egg-stravaganza!

During the Soul of Aging sessions, the topic of creativity was raised. It was decided that members of the group wanted to gather informally from time to time for opportunities to create with others from UCCSV.

Some in the group were especially interested in learning the art of felting. Lois Sumser and Suzanne Schmidt spent an afternoon with Laurie Soherr, felting teacher who has agreed to guide members of UCCSV on how to felt Easter Eggs such as the ones below.

Sunday, March 31, 1-3:30 pm
21614 Slidell Road, Boyds, MD 20841
(Lois Sumser's Home)
Cost: \$20 (One time offer)

You will be given supplies to create an egg, guidance in use of tools, and instructions on how to create a three-dimensional needle felted egg. Using various techniques, you will then decorate your egg in your own unique style. Introductions to the felting needle, roving, rolling, poking, and sculpting will be covered. Plus you'll spend the afternoon with happy people!

Class is limited to 8.

RSVP to Lois by March 16 by calling/texting 240 780-6279

To view Laurie's portfolio, please visit:
<http://raisingthebarsoap.weebly.com/>

Volunteers Needed

We have an immediate need for a Usher(s) for March 24th. In addition, we need Liturgists and Ushers for the month of April. If you are available, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office this Sunday. Many thanks.

Lent in a Bag

Families with children under 18 are welcome to take home a "Lent in a Bag," a bag of hands on Lenten activities along with a creative weekly Lenten devotional families can color and discuss together. Get your purple Lent in a Bag this Sunday at church!

Spring for Fruit: Germantown Help Pantry Collection

As we welcome the start of spring this month we celebrate the sweet warm weather by sharing food with our hungry neighbors. In March we will be collecting canned or plastic tubs of fruit for the Germantown Help Food Pantry. Please place your donations in the basket in the Narthex by the coat closet. As always you are welcome to give whatever food you wish, we just designate a monthly target food to generate interest and excitement in our donations.

March Calendar

Choir Practice (7:30pm) – March 14, 21, 28
Mens Breakfast (9:00am) – March 16
Womens Retreat Meeting (11:30am) – March 17
Trustees Meeting (6:30pm) – March 18
Council Meeting (7:00pm) – March 18
Lenten Soupers (6:30pm) – March 20, 27
Lenten Devotional Group (12noon) – March 20, 27
One Anothering (10am) – March 23
Social Action Committee (11:30am) – March 24
Pulp Pilgrims Book Group (11:30am) – March 24
PFLAG (2:30pm) – March 24
Needle Felting Class (1-3:30pm at Lois Sumser's Home) – March 31