



# Spirit News

March 15, 2018

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

- Prayer for Katy for continued grace and healing (anonymous).
- Prayer for my son to continue with his treatment and help him control his anxieties and to help him not to feel lonely (anonymous).
- Ongoing Prayer for Wayne Miller (Heidi's boss). Pray for health and healing for Wayne as he faces health challenges (Heidi Harmon).
- Ongoing Prayer for the political situation in Kenya as they are going through ethnic violence since post election (Maggie Nyamweya).
- Ongoing Prayer for the pain and suffering of so many in our congregation, DC metro area, and those impacted around the world by disaster, catastrophe and hunger (Shelly Moore).
- Ongoing Prayer for Stephen to find a job closer to home to shorten his long daily commute (John Bartkowiak).
- Ongoing prayer for Laurene Karimi who is battling stage 3 breast cancer with so much courage (Terri 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 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

Our adult bible discussion group on Sunday mornings at 9am is called Havruta, a Jewish term meaning that we seek to wrestle with God's word by studying, analyzing, and debating the text.

For this Sunday our focus will be on Psalm 51:1-13 and Romans 12:2-12

## This Sunday at UCCSV

Some days it's hard enough just to put one foot in front of the other and try to get through your to do list. But Jesus calls us to a different way of life, one of continuing transformation and resurrection. God has given us gifts and tools to make this way of life possible, but that doesn't mean it's easy. How do we quiet the noise and find time in our schedules to listen to what Jesus tells us about transformation? How can we work on renewal and the best use of our gifts in community? Join us for worship this Sunday at 10am and let's wrestle with these questions together. Holly will preach and both the choir and the youth choir will share special music with us. There will be Confirmation class after worship.

## Final Lenten Soup-er Wednesday March 28th

Next Wednesday will be final Lenten Soup-er of the season. Join us at 6:30pm for a simple soup supper and stay to watch a sermon by Rev. Dr. William Barber, President of Repairers

of the Breach and one of the principal leaders of the Poor People's Campaign and the head of the Moral Monday Movement. After we watch the sermon we will discuss Dr. Barber's statements on "Standing in the Tradition of Moral Dissent" and consider how we might be a part of standing up against poverty in this time. Even if you have not been to a Soup-er all season, you are most welcome to join us at our final gathering.

## Community Office Hours Suspended (For Now)

It's been clear to me for several weeks now that my present time and place for Community Office Hours is not a good fit for congregational needs or community engagement. I truly believe that failure is good because it teaches us things if we are wise enough to listen. So with that mind I am suspending my Community Office Hours for now until I can return to afternoon hours at Starbucks sometime in June. In the meantime after Easter I will be announcing "Lunch or Coffee with the Pastor" in which I will have a signup sheet and you will sign up for a time and date when I will come to you at wherever is most convenient for you. And always, always know that I am available by appointment whenever necessary, either in the church office or your home. Simply email me at [HollyRJackson@gmail.com](mailto:HollyRJackson@gmail.com) to make an appointment or call the church office or my cell phone (found in the directory).

### Art Exhibit

Aaron Cox is part of an art exhibit at Busboys and Poets on 14th street. The art exhibit lasts until June 23rd and Aaron has 3 paintings there, "The Weeping Jesus," "The Dialogue" and "Save the Children."

## D.C. exhibit features visually impaired artists from across the region

by Mike Carter-Conneen/ABC7  
Wednesday, March 14th 2018



Five artists from across the D.C. region were celebrated at opening night for a temporary exhibition in Northwest Washington. They all have different styles, but what they have in common – what makes their work unique – is that all of these artists are blind or visually impaired.

Living with glaucoma, 73-year old Aaron Cox has 60 percent vision in his left eye and just 10 percent in the right.

Using a lot of tape and with assistance from his muse and fellow artist – his wife, Sabine – he paints bright, bold designs.

"Most of it is geometrical," Cox said. "The fine lines, et cetera, et cetera, I have to allow her to help me with that. But all of the work you see is from my hand."

A symphony musician, Cox traveled the world playing the French horn. But about 15 years ago, as his glaucoma progressed and his vision degenerated, he struggled to read sheet music. He later made the difficult decision to set down his instrument and quickly picked up another. "I embraced art," he said.

Cox was one of the local artists, selected by Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, showcased in the exhibition "Beyond Sight" at Busboys and Poets on 14th Street NW.

"I am immensely proud," Sabine Cox said. "His loss of vision has helped him to see things differently."

All of the artists have different techniques and styles. Pamela Murray has 10 percent peripheral vision in one eye; she loves painting florals.

"I'm overwhelmed," Murray said. "I have so many emotions going on inside of me because this is truly all I've ever asked for. I just wanted people to see my work."

The exhibition also features an interactive installation allowing the blind and visually impaired to experience art through touch. Busboys will display the art through June. Meanwhile, Cox is focused on his next masterpiece.

## March for Our Lives - March 24th

On Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, the students and survivors from Parkland High School, and other student groups from around the country, will be leading the nation in a protest against gun violence. The kids and families of March For Our Lives will take to the streets of Washington DC to demand that their lives and safety become a priority and that we end gun violence and mass shootings in our schools today. Details about the March are still being worked out. However, the UCC would like to establish a faith presence at the march and coordinate and connect churches that are marching. If you would like to be a part of UCCSV's march contingent, please let Holly know. There may also be students and families looking for a

place to stay for the march. If you would be willing to house marchers for a night or two so that people from around the country can participate in this important moment in history, please let Pastor Holly know that so that we can share that information with our UCC coordination team as well. Email [HollyRJackson@gmail.com](mailto:HollyRJackson@gmail.com).

### Devotional Group

Join the Wednesday Devotion Group each Wednesday during Lent for social time, devotion and prayer from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., bring a brown bag lunch, drink provided.

### Wednesday for WUMCO!

On Wednesday, March 21, all who dine at Bassett's Restaurant, 19950 Fisher Ave., Poolesville, will also be contributing to helping those in need in Poolesville, Boyds, Barnesville, Beallsville, and Dickerson. Bassett's will give 10% of their income that day – lunch and dinner, dine in or carry out – to WUMCO Help. Please mark your calendars and join WUMCO supporters in celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year at Bassett's on March 21<sup>st</sup>.



#### Easter Flowers

*This is the last week to order your Easter flowers. If you would like to dedicate in memory of a loved one or to honor someone special, feel free to print out the order form attached to this email and bring with you this Sunday. Order forms can be placed in the offering plate.*

## Rice is So Nice, Can you Share it Twice?



UCC of Seneca Valley is trying to gather 100 pounds of rice for the Germantown Help food bank in the month of March. Rice is a nutritious staple for many families, but for some in our community it is hard to put on the table. If you can, please help by donating two or more bags or boxes of rice in March. The rate of food insecurity in Germantown is among the highest in Montgomery County. Thanks for supporting this ongoing social action effort.



## Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

Our next book is 'A Piece of the World' by Christina Baker Kline. It is an historical fiction of the life story of Christina Olson, the subject of Andrew Wyeth's painting "Christina's World." This book describes the simple life she led on a remote Maine farm, her complicated relationship with her family & with Andrew Wyeth & the illness that overwhelmed her.

We will meet April 8th at 11:30am in the Narthex.

The book is in the Montgomery County Public Library though you may need to place a hold on it.

## The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness Book Discussion

The United States has the highest rate of incarceration in the world - higher than Russia, China and Iran. Over 2.3 million men in America are in prison - about half for drug crimes. Thirty years ago, before the "War on Drugs" was implemented, there were only 300,000 people in the American prison system. Seventy percent of all men imprisoned are African-American or Hispanic. An African-American male is sentenced an average of a 20 to 50 times longer prison term than a white male convicted of the same drug crime. These convictions remain on their records permanently, limiting their voting rights and their ability to find employment.

Pastor Holly will lead a discussion of the book and this important social justice issue on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Calendar of Events

- Men's Breakfast (9am) – March 17
- Confirmation Class (11:30am) – March 18
- Fellowship Meeting (11:30am) – March 18
- Trustees Meeting (6:00pm) – March 19
- Church Council Meeting (7pm) – March 19
- Lent Devotional (12:30pm) – March 21
- Lenten Soup-ers (6:30pm) – March 21
- Social Action Com. Mtg. (11:30am) - March 25
- PFLAG (2:30pm) – March 25
- Lord's Table at St. Martins (1:00pm) – March 27
- Maundy Thursday Service (6:30pm) – March 29
- Good Friday Service (7:30pm) – March 30