



Spirit News

March 22, 2018

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

- 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 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
Mark 11:1-11

This Sunday at UCCSV

It's Palm Sunday and we're getting ready for a parade and a protest all in one! Join us for worship at 10am as we celebrate Palm Sunday complete with palm fronds, music, and drama. Be there as we consider how this parade and protest from Jesus' time connects to life in our world today including some reflections on and from the March for Our Lives in Washington DC. As we begin our walk through Holy Week, come and reflect on what this Lent has meant to you and let us join as one in shouting "Hosanna!" to God. There is no Sunday School for PreK-6 class this Sunday but children are welcome to stay with us in worship.

March for Our Lives

The movement to stop Gun Violence in the U.S. gaining momentum. You have the opportunity to join this growing movement and raise your voice on March 24 at [March For Our Lives](http://MarchForOurLives.org) in Washington DC.

Several members and friends of UCCSV are planning to be a part of this historic march

including at least 6 of our youth. For those interested in joining our contingent we will be meeting at the turnstiles and main booth INSIDE the Shady Grove metro station at 9am on Saturday. From there we will travel by metro to the UCC hospitality center. The UCC Washington DC Office and the Capital Area Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are providing hospitality prior to the march at the [United Methodist Building](#) near Capital Hill anytime between 9:00-11:30am. Breakfast and snacks to go will be provided. And, there will be a sign-making station and pre-printed signs for you to carry. All are welcome!

For more information on the UCC at March for Our Lives visit this website: http://www.ucc.org/ucc_at_march_for_our_lives

The official march program begins at noon and will take place on Pennsylvania Avenue, between 3rd and 12th street NW. It is an easy (downhill) walk from the United Methodist Building and a short ride to the accessibility drop-off point at the intersection of 7th Street and Maryland Street, SW. See you Saturday March 24 at March For Our Lives.

Maundy Thursday

Join us at 6:30pm for a special service celebrating Jesus' Last Supper. We will enjoy a simple dinner together and then hear the story of that night the disciples were gathered in the Upper Room. Having heard the story we will then experience it with foot washing and hand washing and other prayer stations before we share communion together.

Good Friday, 7:30pm

In one of our most solemn services of the year we will remember Jesus' trial and crucifixion through story and song. This is our beloved and powerful Tenebrae service. The word "tenebrae" comes from the Latin meaning

"darkness." The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian Good Friday service that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of holy week through Jesus' burial. This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God. The service concludes in darkness. The worshipers then leave in silence to ponder the impact of Christ's death and await the coming Resurrection. To truly experience Holy Week and feel the overwhelming joy of Easter, make time to sit in the silence and grief at our Good Friday service.

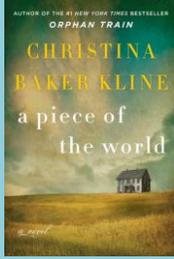
Art Exhibit

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."

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.

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

Calendar of Events

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

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.