



Spirit News

March 31, 2021

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

- Adam DeBaugh (he, him, his): Prayers for David and Sandy, owners of Locals, a new bakery, coffee shop, and soon a farm to table restaurant in Poolesville, who lost their daughter Sydney this week. May she rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon her.
- Adam DeBaugh (he, him, his): Prayers of thanks for my second vaccine shot tomorrow.
- Deacon Joyce (she/her/s): Prayers for Cassie in foster care and gratitude for the blessing of Spring.
- Dave Schwab (he/him): Prayers for the healing of Anne's father.
- Sandy R: Prayers of healing for Daughter Amy who is in the hospital and for our neighbor Shruti who is also in the hospital.
- John B (he/him/his): Prayers of thanksgiving for the vaccine becoming more plentiful and available to more people.
- Ruthanne Stoltzfus: Thanking God for the life of cousin George, who lived 96 years! Help his widow Gladys and their children.
- Sandy R: Thanks be to God for Stephens grad.

This Sunday at UCCSV

It's Easter Sunday at UCCSV and we are celebrating! Love wins and violence and death did not get the last word. The ultimate healing has begun and we are invited to be a part of it. Join us for worship at 10am as we share music, story, and prayers on this most holy day. Be prepared to shout alleluia! If you have a ribbon wand from years past bring that with you to worship. If not, then we invite you to wave your hands, show an Easter picture you have colored or painted, or find your own way to joyfully praise God. You won't want to miss this special Easter

service. Worship with us on Zoom, join us on Facebook Live, or watch the recording on our website later.

As always the Zoom room opens at 9:30am and worship will begin at 10am. Bring a candle and bread/cracker and juice/wine as you sit down to worship.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84470757726?pwd=VUhkWDZacGZBUFBwYWISU3QxN3dlUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726

Passcode: 20874

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726

Passcode: 20874

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84470757726?pwd=VUhkWDZacGZBUFBwYWISU3QxN3dlUT09>

3-in-1 Working/Walking Fellowship Opportunity

Please join us on Sunday, April 11 between 1 and 3 for a chance (brought to you by Property Operations) to help tidy up our grounds while walking in fellowship with others; pick sticks and trash bags in hand. There will also be some tidying up of the beds in the back by the labyrinth if you prefer. The Fellowship Committee will provide drinks and some snacks and Bethany Fuss, on behalf of the Social Action Board, will be selling Equal Exchange coffee and chocolate (the kind where the farmers get a fair price for their products).

And while we're at it, let's show our neighbors we are a community of kindness and support. There

will also be two opportunities that day to donate; either food, garden flowers or a little of both. The food collected will go to Germantown Help which provides food for needy Germantown families. The flowers will be put into bouquets and given, along with cards we will sign, to neighboring Asian owned businesses to show our support and solidarity in light of the most recent attacks on the broader Asian community in this country. It's a colorful way to say, 'We see you and we value you and your place in our community'.

As always, proper COVID protocols will be used, with masks and social distancing required.

Return to Physical Building Plans

The UCCSV Council is working on plans for return to the physical church. A Task Force is being formed to look at all of the necessary details and send recommendations to the council and congregation. Things are starting to look up for many people as we are in hopefully, the last stage on the pandemic. We learned this week that we will have a mass vaccination site right here in Germantown! The Council feels it is important to carefully and prayerfully make decisions about our return to the building. While the CDC gives extensive guidance for faith communities returning to their physical spaces, the top banner on their website still cautions against any large gathering. The Task Force and Council will be considering a variety of factors:

- Survey of the congregation (coming soon)
- Phases of returning to the building
- Metrics used to determine when to move to each phase

- Guidance from the CDC and other government/professional organization
- Capacity mandates from the state and county
- Guidance from the wider church (UCC and Central Atlantic Conference)
- Sharing ideas with other local churches
- Plans to make the building a safe space (capacity of each room, cleaning protocols, ventilation, water etc.)
- Vaccination status of the country, state, county and our congregation
 - Knowing the vaccination status of members is helpful, but not required
- Outdoor events/worship
 - Gatherings like we had last year are likely
 - Outdoor worship may be a possibility but the logistics of streaming an outdoor service are challenging
- Hybrid worship
 - This will probably be the “new normal” for many churches for a long time to come
- Resources needed (technology, expertise, finances)

Please complete the survey when it is available. If you would like to be part of the Task Force for returning to the building, or have thoughts/comments to share please contact Tim Fuss at TFussRN@gmail.com.

Stay safe!

Tim Fuss
UCCSV Moderator

Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday Worship, April 1st, 7pm

Join us for an interactive service honoring the journey of Holy Week from the flipping of the tables in the Temple, to Jesus' anointing by Mary, to washing Peter's feet, and then to the Last Supper. Using music, scripture, contemporary readings, and spiritual practices we will walk with Jesus through it all. In order to get the most out of this service we invite you to have the following with you as you sit down to worship: 1. A few coins (doesn't matter which kinds but you should have 2-4 total). 2. Lotion or oil of some kind, preferably fragrant in some way. 3. A small bowl of water. 4. Bread or a cracker and juice or wine for communion.

Join Zoom Meeting for Maundy Thursday
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86476220871?pwd=MUI2N1gwVmlURXptOGtMUmRrQUI4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 864 7622 0871

Passcode: 20874

One tap mobile

Dial by your location

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Good Friday Worship, April 2nd, 7pm

We'll sit together by the cross as we consider the final day of Jesus' life from his arrest to his trial to the crucifixion to the tomb through scripture, music, and reflection. This is a tenebrae service and together as a community we will move from the light to the darkness of the tomb little by little. In order to do this we ask that you have a candle with you, either electric or flame, or if you do not have a candle that you have a light source nearby that you can put out when you are told to.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87939789137?pwd=WGRDcUg0S3owMlRCWkozUy9OejY4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 879 3978 9137

Passcode: 20874

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Easter Sunday Worship, April 4th, 10am

Christ is Risen! We'll celebrate shouting our alleluias in word and song! Resurrection is the ultimate healing and now that healing has been promised for all people. We'll have the traditional Easter music and a spirit of joy and possibility will infuse our worship. Invite your friends and family to join us from wherever they are!

As you sit down to worship, bring with you a ribbon wand or a coloring page or scarf or something else to wave and show your joy. (You can find Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday coloring pages here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17Qli1IOiZ4Ouj-Z9ZKvEyaPBw3JmHLyi?usp=sharing>) Also bring bread or a cracker and juice or wine for communion.

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100 Acts of Service to the Community in 2021

We know UCCSV makes an important contribution to our community as individuals and as a whole group, but we want to go further by documenting our acts of service and celebrating them. Let's see how quickly we can get to 100 acts of service to the community! If you have done an act of service to the community this year we want to know about it. Acts of service include more formal acts of volunteerism like tutoring or delivering food or cleaning up the neighborhood

park to helping out a neighbor with technology or other task. An act of service can be running errands for others or paying it forward in some way. How do you serve our community? How are you making a difference? If you have completed an act of service please email Marybeth Thomason who is compiling a list for us. MarybethThomason921@gmail.com.

Send along your name and your act of service. We'll celebrate your contribution and have it become part of our effort as a whole church to reach 100 acts of service by this summer!

Holy Week Worship

April 1 - Maundy Thursday, Worship at 7pm

April 2 - Good Friday, Worship at 7pm

April 4 - Easter Sunday, Worship at 10am



April

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|------------------|------|
| Mike Diskin | 4/4 |
| Jan Edson | 4/9 |
| Rachel Estrada | 4/15 |
| Heidi Harmon | 4/15 |
| Christii Watkins | 4/16 |
| Holly Jackson | 4/22 |
| Jim Van Prooyen | 4/27 |
| Joseph Johnson | 4/27 |