



Spirit News

March 3, 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

- Laura (she, hers): Pray that Bob finds his way.
- Adam DeBaugh (he, him, his): Prayers for Open Door MCC.
- Julia Schucker (she/her/hers): For Jim as he continues to heal from knee surgery.
- Russell Shelley: Greetings and prayers to our friend Aboy from the Philippines for joining us today.
- Laura (she, hers): Pray that MD finds a better way to roll out the vaccine.
- Timothy Fuss: Prayers for comfort and healing for Jen's mom, who has had a hard few weeks.
- Debby Gensch: Praying that all will be able to get vaccinated. Prayers for Gigi.
- Beth (she/her): Prayers for healing for Deborah B who was diagnosed with covid.
- Joyce Miller: Prayers for children who are hungry everywhere.
- Timothy Fuss: Prayers of healing for Apollo's paw & continued healing for Tim's leg.
- Maggie: Pray for Richard who is recovering from surgery. Pray for Leah and Rosemary for the loss of their beloved mother.
- Regina Domingo: Please pray for Deborah Barnes who had COVID. May she recover fast and may she feel love while in isolation.
- Sabine Cox: Prayers for our oldest son and his family as they come back from France to NYC tomorrow.
- Dan and Suzanne: Prayers for The Young Family as they grow in love.
- Jeanne Forrest: For safety for our leaders and peace for all.
- Ruthanne Stoltzfus: Grateful for the safe delivery of baby Justin and the birth of my Great nephew baby Hugo.
- Jeanne (she/er): Prayers for Carol as she

recovers from a fall on the ice and a broken ankle.

- Jeanne Forrest: For Jules father who will undergo surgery on Tuesday.

This Sunday at UCCSV

We continue our series Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Healing and Recovery this Sunday with a focus on mental health. Those who collect beach glass often become "archeologists"—seeking out any markings or clues as to the story of the original piece. It often takes much time to bring out the truth behind it. This week we acknowledge the power of truth-telling as a healing property. There are stories that have shaped our lives, leaving us without the ability to see who we truly are in the eyes of God and leaving us without the ability to speak the depth of our stories of struggle. We focus on the importance of recovery of mental health, reclaiming our sense of who we are and being able to proclaim new redemptive stories of divine worth. Rev. Suzanne Adele Schmidt will be our guest preacher this week and Deborah Tomblyn will share a testimony about her own journey with mental health issues. We will also share communion together.

If you have your Lent To Go Bag please bring it with you and also a candle, flame or electric. If not, do not fear. All will be able to participate. We also invite you to have bread or a cracker and juice or wine for participating in the ritual of Communion. The Zoom Room opens at 9:30am and worship starts at 10am and will also be livestreamed to our facebook page and recorded for posting on our website.

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 D.C)

Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726

Passcode: 20874

Find your local number:

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

Lenten Worship Series - Holy Vessels: A Lenten Season of Healing and Recovery

Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness— body, mind, and spirit—like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. In this Lenten “season of recovery” for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health, we will explore the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken. Beach glass offers us a multifaceted symbol of this transformative process. In your Lent to Go Bags there will be sea glass for you to use meditatively throughout this series. Each week we will focus on a different kind of health and healing as we work each week to recover and find a way forward.

March 7: Mental Health

March 14: Intellectual Health and Creativity

March 21: Environmental Health

March 28 (Palm Sunday): Integrated Health

Lenten Soupers

Tonight's Lenten Souper

Join us tonight for a Lenten Souper focused on how architecture and listening to community can help to heal economic and cultural wounds, especially in urban and suburban areas. We will eat together starting at 6:30pm (you don't have to eat, you are welcome to just come for conversation) and then starting at 7pm we will watch a TED talk by Liz Ogbu, an architect who works on spatial justice. Then we will discuss our impressions of the video, the lessons we can learn from it, and consider how we can be healing agents in our communities.

The link to the TED talk:

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

The link to join us on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84186675185?pwd=QnRqdGNEVjRsaUNsditWcEVObkNGQT09>

do JUSTICE
love MERCY *AND*
walk HUMBLY
WITH YOUR GOD.
MICAH 6:8

Doing Justice

When we advocate for just laws or lift our voices in matters of policies which are unjust, we are following the Micah 6:8 directive to “Do justice.”

The Potomac Association’s Justice and Witness Network has been encouraging members of UCC congregations in our association to become involved in advocating for bills related to justice at all levels of government. For example, there are bills related to police reform currently being reviewed in the Maryland General Assembly.

If you would like to learn more about the bills being considered at the federal or state level and would like to be notified when writing to your representative or senator about these bills would be helpful in bringing about justice, you may indicate your interest in one of two ways by March 8:

1. Sign-up by filling out this short Google Form <https://forms.gle/ockRsSF3tpt4zut67>
2. Email Dan Davis at daniel.davis18920@gmail.com

Once you indicate your desire to learn more about how you might lend your voice for justice, you will receive periodic emails about bills and actions you might take. Your first email will be a summary of the current bills related to police reform at the state level. When the call goes out to contact your officials, you will receive an email with a sample letter which may be adapted for your signature. Of course, the choice to respond is optional.

At UCCSV, this effort is being shepherded by our Social Action Board and emails will be sent from either Dan Davis or Suzanne Schmidt who serve as our Social Action Board co-chairs.

Love Mercy During Lent Campaign: Opportunity One Fox Chapel Elementary School (FCES)

Our church is a faith community partner in the Linkages to Learning (L to L) Program at Fox Chapel Elementary School. This program assists students and their families by providing or connecting them to services and resources that address the social, economic, health, and emotional issues that may interfere with student success.

You may remember that in 2020 our church provided 5 Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts for 5 families which are part of the L to L Program at FCES. Food insecurity is a major issue for the families in this program. Not only is food in short supply but healthy food is an exceptionally serious issue.

Rodolfo Nogales, the Community School Coordinator for L to L at FCES is working with the University of Maryland's Extension program to offer 5 classes via zoom focused on healthy recipes for the students' mothers. Linkages is providing the food for the first and last sessions. Our church is providing the needed items for the second and fourth classes. Mother Seton Parish is providing food for the third class.

Twenty mothers have signed up for the classes which will be taught by a nutritionist who is bi-lingual. The food which we will provide for two sessions costs \$10 per person. If you wish to donate via the church website <https://uccsenecavalley.org/donate>, you'll find a link under donations with a dropdown box for Fox Chapel Elementary School. Checks may be made out to UCCSV with FCES written in the notation section of the check. Checks may be mailed to UCCSV, PO Box 803, Germantown, MD 20875. Donations will be used to purchase the food which will be delivered directly to the school. The Love Mercy During Lent at Fox Chapel Elementary School campaign will run from February 17-March 7. Details about the other two opportunities will be featured in future newsletters.

Virtual Farkle Game Nights

Farkle fun will continue in March, so mark your calendars. We will play Wednesday, March 10 and Tuesday, March 23 from 7-8ish. An email with the Zoom link will be sent to all the Monday before,



so you don't need to sign up. If you would like to learn how to play Farkle, contact Beth at balauriat@aol.com

1st Ever UCCSV Secret Shamrock Happening

During the month of March, the Fellowship Committee is sponsoring this fun way to connect with someone from our church and remind them that they are held in care and love by this church community. The idea is similar to Secret Pals or Secret Santas, without a big gift at the end. It can be done through email (you'll have to get creative, maybe ask a friend to help), the regular mail, and/or drive-by drop offs. So, whether you live close by or far away, all are invited to participate. A separate flyer with specific information on how to sign up is attached.

One Great Hour of Sharing



The United Church of Christ as a whole values donating money towards the wellbeing of vulnerable populations worldwide. Every year, churches across the nation celebrate our connection by contributing to One Great Hour of Sharing. This special offering provides support for education, health, refugee, agriculture, and emergency relief efforts both in the United States and across the world. If we were in person, we would collect spare change during Lent to donate to this special offering. This year, March

14 is the offering date for One Great Hour of Sharing. During this difficult time, supporting one another is one of the most powerful things. If you are able, please consider donating to this initiative to support communities beyond ours. For more information, visit <https://www.ucc.org/oghs/> or find them on Facebook at One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC). Online donations on the UCCSV website are easy. Just visit <https://www.uccsenecavalley.org/donate> and put the amount of your donation next to the "One Great Hour of Sharing" line.

Checks may be mailed to UCCSV, PO Box 803, Germantown, MD 20875.

We Need Your Help!

Greeters and Liturgists are needed on Sunday mornings. There are several dates open to choose from. We would appreciate it if you would consider signing up at the link below.

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

Happy Birthday MARCH

Quinn Jackson	3/2
Michelle Singletary	3/4
Tom Frazier	3/5
Madelyn Anderson	3/7
Bethany Fuss	3/9
Paula-Marie Read	3/9
Jean Bertelmann	3/10
Tucker Singletary	3/25
Jako Domingo	3/29