



# Spirit News

May 13, 2020

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](mailto:UCCSV@verizon.net)  
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## Prayer Requests

- Prayers of peace for mothers who are dealing with deep grief, especially for Kathryn WyJo (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Please pray for my nieces in the NICU (Asher).
- We are grateful that we are joined today by our friend, Fred Fix from Newport News (Russell Shelley).
- Prayers of Thanksgiving for Holly's Reflection, Leo's Testimony, Floyd's Song, Children sharing and Choir! (Joyce Miller).
- Prayer of Thanksgiving for the recovery of my niece Ada and her husband Armin from COVID-19 (Ron Domingo).
- Special prayer of gratitude for wonderful and surprising gestures of love from and with many strong women in our lives (Jen Fuss).
- Pray for my friend Karen and her family. Her Mom died yesterday from Covid (John Bartkowiak).
- Prayers of healing and calm for Carolyn's family who died of covid Friday (Joyce Miller).
- Prayers for Luz (John Bartkowiak).
- A prayer of thanksgiving that Alan Esh, a 15-month old baby who had major surgery this week, came through and is doing well. Continued prayers for his healing (Diane Teigiser).
- Prayers for standing up against racist terrorists that attack innocent people. Pray that we all see the worth and value in EVERY single person and that we respect each other forevermore (Laura Lineberger).
- For those on whom the burdens of this pandemic falls disproportionately — persons of color, the poor, those with compromised immune systems (Patrick Jackson).

- Prayers for the family of Dorothy Piel, who died of COVID last week (Diane Teigiser).
- Prayers for all suffering from COVID 19 and for residents of Skilled Nursing Facilities (Debby).
- Prayers for the college students graduating this week into an even more uncertain future than what they'd anticipated (Patrick Jackson).
- Pray for the first responders to give them strength to continue what they do (Frederick Fix).
- Prayers for Les Fraley, Bob Fraley's father who is struggling with extreme fatigue and weakness (Deb and Madelyn).
- Prayers for all ministers and their tech support who need to find new ways to worship (John Bartkowiak).
- Prayers for all of us... especially those who must still go to jobs where they can be vulnerable (John Bartkowiak).
- Prayers for WUMCO Client Tracey in Poolesville who is in ICU with the Covid-19 virus (Adam DeBaugh).
- For those who lack basic necessities during these times (Patrick Jackson).
- Please pray for Alan Esh, a baby who is undergoing major surgery this week (Diane Teigiser).
- Prayers for my mother's cousin, Nancy Germond, who suffered a fall and is in ICU with a brain bleed (Jen Fuss).
- Prayer for Scott struggling with treatment for oral cancer. Help him find and hold hope (Laura Lineberger).
- Please pray for my brother and sister-in-laws twins who remain in the NICU (Asher).
- Maya Rak. 9 yr old cousin battling a rare cancer (Deborah Tomblyn).
- Prayers for me, since I submitted my full dissertation yesterday - continue to give me

strength to see it all through to the end (Camila Young).

- Prayers for those in leadership positions. Give them courage and ground them in compassionate wisdom (Patrick Jackson).
- For those whose jobs are being cut as their employers run out of resources to keep paying wages (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Ongoing Prayer to grant our leaders wisdom and compassion to address the Covid-19 pandemic.

**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 will be removed after one month. Feel free to resubmit your ongoing prayer requests.

## **This Sunday at UCCSV**

For those of us who are parents or grandparents or aunts or uncles, for those of us who love children or teach children or care for children in some way, it is heartbreaking when our plans for our children unravel. We can feel desperate to try to make it all right for them. In the midst of this pandemic when school schedules have been interrupted and we're not sure what the future holds for the kids we love and care for, it is a struggle to find hope. This Sunday we'll consider the story of Moses and his mother, who, fearing his slaughter by the military, puts him in a boat on the river hoping for a miracle. A biblical storyteller, Lucy Brady, will join us for our zoom worship and tell the story from the women's perspective. We'll have new music and other surprises. Come join us!

For worship this Sunday please bring a candle and a picture of yourself as a child. (Have one for each worship participant, even the ones who are still children - get pictures of them as babies.)

Topic: Sunday Worship

Time: May 17, 2020 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86576654670?pwd=bDhRS0UvdDZaNVF5Z3dhSmFkZDhOdz09>

Meeting ID: 865 7665 4670

Password: 20874

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 865 7665 4670

Password: 20874

## **Wednesday Evening Bible Story and Art Study and Prayer**

You are invited to join in tonight starting at 7:30pm as we explore the story of Moses' mother putting him in the basket on the river in order to try to save him from certain death. We'll explore the question of what we do when our plans for our children unravel and consider how justice issues in our own time connect with this ancient story. Finally we'll consider an art piece related to this story and have a time of prayer for our community.

UCC Seneca Valley is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Wednesday Evening Study and Prayer

Time: May 13, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88630782324?pwd=NkpLT280NUVENnRXeWl1M3FXTXlHZZ09>

Meeting ID: 886 3078 2324

Password: 20874

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 886 3078 2324

Password: 20874

## **Congregational Meeting, May 17 After Worship**

Join us for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 17th immediately after worship (on Zoom of course) We will have an update on future plans for our congregation, especially around issues of any physical re-opening of our building. We'll also update you as to our financial situation and plans for changes in church leadership at this time. Our normal May/June congregational meeting is when we usually present a nominating slate for the program year to come. This year because of our situation with the pandemic we are altering that slightly. Come find out why and what we are doing instead.

## **May Worship Series - Unraveled: Seeking God When Our Plans Fall Apart**

Through Sundays in May we will go on a journey asking ourselves what happens when our plans fall apart and unravel as they have in the past few months in the midst of a pandemic. What happens when our world falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightly-knit plans unravel into loose threads? What do we become when our identity—or the path we're on—comes undone? What if all of this is not the end we fear it will be? In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with unexpected joy, love, and hope—with a new beginning we couldn't have imagined. Sometimes we need God to unravel us, for we long to be changed. This worship series explores 5 different stories of unraveled shame, identity, fear, grief, dreams, and expectations. These are stories where God meets us in the spiraling, unraveling our plans—and us—into something new.

We'll have some personal testimonies, beautiful music, storytelling, and more to help the stories come alive and let us live into the lessons God wants us to learn. Join us as God weaves us into a new creation!

May 17 - EXODUS 1:22, 2:1-10 || Moses' Mother Gives Moses Up So He Can Live (*When Our Plans for Our Children Unravel*)

May 26 – 2 SAMUEL 3:7; 21:1-14 || Rizpah Mourns Her Sons (*Public Grief That Inspires Action*)

May 31 – (Pentecost) ACTS 9:1-20 || The Conversion of Saul to Paul (*Discovering a New Path*)



### **Month of May**

Deborah Tombyn  
Sue Pearcy  
Shelby Singletary  
David Moore  
Beth Lauriat  
Gina Domingo

## **Dear UCCSV Community,**

Sunday's worship was a bit glitchier than most Sundays so I have not just one link to share with you but three! Zoom cut out on us around the prayer time but then quickly reloaded us all (I think, anyway) and so it wasn't pretty at times but we got it done! I think God was displaying a bit of humor with us since my sermon was all about how we were walking out on water by worshipping together online. Clearly we had a moment of sinking down, but the good part is that's when Jesus catches us, pulls us back out

of the water and helps us to try again. So onward we go!

Part 1

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/vNx0cO\\_zqF xJY9by52GCR4skONXqgeaa80HMD\\_fdZxUx2Vf GZkEr9SISopDFm4jxJ?startTime=1589119318000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/vNx0cO_zqF xJY9by52GCR4skONXqgeaa80HMD_fdZxUx2Vf GZkEr9SISopDFm4jxJ?startTime=1589119318000)

Part 2

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/vNx0cO\\_zqF xJY9by52GCR4skONXqgeaa80HMD\\_fdZxUx2Vf GZkEr9SISopDFm4jxJ?startTime=1589122136000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/vNx0cO_zqF xJY9by52GCR4skONXqgeaa80HMD_fdZxUx2Vf GZkEr9SISopDFm4jxJ?startTime=1589122136000)

Part 3

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/vNx0cO\\_zqF xJY9by52GCR4skONXqgeaa80HMD\\_fdZxUx2Vf GZkEr9SISopDFm4jxJ?startTime=1589122645000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/vNx0cO_zqF xJY9by52GCR4skONXqgeaa80HMD_fdZxUx2Vf GZkEr9SISopDFm4jxJ?startTime=1589122645000)

## Blessing for Face Masks

By Rev. Elsa Cook

O God, bless these face masks.

May the fabric that protects each nose and mouth  
be as strong as the fabric that knits together the human family.

May the strings not bind our ears as we struggle to listen to the fears of your people.

May we feel every bit of sweaty discomfort as a reminder of our shared humanity and may that connection give us more courage to wear these masks upon our faces.

O God, bless these masks as surely as you bless your people. Amen.

## WUMCO

Thank you for your congregation's ongoing support of WUMCO families. WUMCO has been able to respond to double our "normal" amount of food requests in March and April because of the ongoing support of the community. Please continue to add a few things to your shopping cart while you are grocery shopping. Non-perishable food can be dropped 24/7 in the WUMCO box in the [Pike & Valega, DDS](#) parking lot. Or you can bring food to the WUMCO office weekdays between 9:00-12:00. We also are preparing for increased financial need in our community. If you would like to contribute financially you can do that online at [www.wumcohelp.org](http://www.wumcohelp.org) or mail a check to P.O. Box 247, Poolesville, MD 20837. WUMCO's mission of care could not happen without the support of our community, thank you!

Katie Longbrake  
Executive Director



[www.wumcohelp.org](http://www.wumcohelp.org)



## UCCSV Raises over \$6,000. Matching Funds Can Cancel Over \$1,200,000 in Med. Debt

In March and April, Seneca Valley joined a dozen other United Church of Christ congregations in the area to gather donations to

help buy back and forgive the medical debt of individuals and families in DC and the surrounding counties.

Our congregation has given over \$3,000, which the church matched with funds administered by the Social Action Board. An additional match has boosted this to over \$12,000. Since medical debt portfolios may be purchased for a fraction of their original value, these gifts will be able to cancel medical debt of over \$1 million.

We are working with the nonprofit organization, RIP Medical Debt, which locates, buys, and forgives medical debt of individuals in the community who are below twice the federal poverty line, have debts greater than their assets, or have debts greater than 5% of their annual income. Prior to purchase by RIP Medical Debt, these bills have passed through several collection agencies and have been pursued for months or years. RIP offers to purchase these accounts at their present industry market value of pennies on the dollar.

Then the debt is simply forgiven. Debt relief recipients are sent a letter informing them that their medical debt has been bought by the United Church of Christ and erased with no strings attached. They owe nothing on the debt and face no tax penalty.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, 79,000,000 Americans were choosing between paying their medical bills and basic needs like food and shelter. In the midst of the Covid-19 outbreak, medical bills are surely hitting many more people even harder, especially those who have lost their income. Thank you so much for your gifts. They will make such a difference to those who need it most.

## **Giving to UCCSV**

It is crucial for you to continue giving to the church even as we are not gathering together in person. Your church staff is still working hard and needs to be paid and we still have utility and supplies bills coming in. So if you can continue to give please do so in one of the following ways:

1. Mail your offering check to the church. We have people coming in to the church at least once a week to gather these.
2. Set up online bill pay to the church through your bank. Yes, they will still mail the church a check but at least you didn't have to write the check yourself! This is also usually a free option.
3. Use Paypal through our website. Use the general fund for your regular pledge. You can also give here to special funds we have set up. Please consider covering the processing fees so that more of your donation goes to the church.  
<http://www.uccsenecavalley.org/donate>

## **Important Information from Pastor Holly**

As always we ask you to let us know if you need help or get ill. If you end up at the hospital for any reason and you do not have your phone on you or don't want to have to tell other members of your family to call, you can always ask the hospital chaplain to get a hold of me and they will look up my number and contact me. The best thing we can do for each other during this difficult time is to be there for one another and to support each other the best we can. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything. My cell phone number is 202-247-8592.