



# Spirit News

May 17, 2018

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)  
Website: [UCCSenecaValley.org](http://UCCSenecaValley.org)

## Prayer Requests

- Ongoing prayers for employment opportunities for Dave and Shelly (Shelly Moore).
- Prayer for my daughter Alice and the baby she carries (Leah Flory).
- Prayer of thanks that Dan and Anna Harmon found a place to live in Alexandria. They will move in on June 4. Colby and Heidi can't wait to have grandkids nearby (anonymous).
- Continued prayers for our son, Morris to find a job that will sustain his family and utilize his skills (Aaron and Sabine Cox).
- Continued prayers for Liberty Millendez, friend of the Domingo Family, who is undergoing chemo. May God's blessings of healing and strength be with her (Gina Domingo).
- Continued prayers for strength and courage for Michelle Cohen as she battles multiple myeloma. Please Lord, give her as much time on this earth as possible so she can spend it with her young daughter (Terri Molaski).
- Continuing prayers for Ed and his family as Ed receives Hospice care (Heidi Harmon).
- Ongoing Prayer for my mother, Margaret P. Hall "for illness and God's will," sister's Patti and Brinda Hall – caretakers (Jim Hall)
- 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 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  
Acts 2:1-21

## This Sunday at UCCSV

The Holy Spirit is moving at UCC Seneca Valley! It's Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday, time to celebrate! Be sure to join us this Sunday for a powerful service as 6 of our youth share their faith testimonies and we as a church confirm them and welcome them into full membership in the church. We will also bless and celebrate ALL the youth who participated in our confirmation class this week. There will be sound effects, visuals, great music, wonderful stories of God working in the world, and MORE. You don't want to miss this very special event in our church's life. Encounter the Spirit in worship this Sunday and find your fire for the rest of the week!

## Holly Not In The Office Next Week

One of the perks of my job is the ability to experience various continuing education and enrichment activities that help me to be a better pastor. Next week (Tuesday through Friday) I will not be at the office at church because I will be attending the Festival of Homiletics in Downtown DC. The Festival is a yearly celebration of preaching and brings some of the most powerful and well known preachers in the mainstream and progressive traditions together to think about how to preach more effectively to a changing world. This year's focus is "Preaching and Politics" and features speakers such as Otis Moss III from Trinity UCC in Chicago, Walter Bruggemann, Diana Butler Bass, Jacqui Lewis, Richard Rohr, Elizabeth Warren, and more. I look forward to picking up some preaching tips and promise to give you all a report on all the powerful sermons and lectures I anticipate hearing at the Festival. I will still be available by email or text (and home at night) but I may not respond until later in the day unless it is an emergency. To learn more about the Festival go to <http://www.festivalofhomiletics.com/>

- Pastor Holly

## Summer Camp Nights

Several of you offered to volunteer to help run a UCCSV arts and music themed camp this coming summer. However, given the late date we'd rather do something small (and do it well) to work a "dry run" and then carefully plan for a full week of camp next summer. At this time we are looking to schedule two Wednesday evenings during the summer to run a camp/workshop for 4-12 year olds from both inside and outside the church. Holly will be sending out possible dates to volunteers to help coordinate and we will announce specific dates as soon as we have them. So be on the look

out for some great arts and music themed nights this summer and plan to come out and bring your friends and family!



## May is Tuna Month

You can tune a piano but you can't tun-a fish! In all seriousness, each month we collect specific food items for Germantown Help's food panty. In April we collected 42 jars of

peanut butter for the hungry in our town. Now in May we are collecting canned tuna. Help us to stock the shelves with good food for those in need in our area.

## Calling All Book Lovers

The Gaithersburg Book Festival is a wonderful event held on the grounds of Gaithersburg City Hall, May 19, 10:00 - 6:00. Free! There will be about 100 authors presenting including award winning novelist Alice McDermott. There is a children's village, live music, book signings and sales, and food trucks. This will be my 9th year to volunteer and you can catch me at the Mystery Tent.



- Kerry Stoltzfus



## Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting is scheduled for June 3rd.

Committee chairs and others who write reports, please send those to our Office Manager at [uccsv@verizon.net](mailto:uccsv@verizon.net) as soon as possible.

## Grubby Sunday

Wear your grubbies to church!

When: Immediately following the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>

Everyone is invited to participate.

## Pride Sunday at UCCSV

On Sunday, June 10th we will celebrate LGBTQ+ pride at UCCSV. This is also the weekend of DC Pride Fest. It would be incredibly powerful on this day to hear stories from UCCSV community members and friends who are LGBTQ+ about why pride is so important to them and what it means to be part of a church that is Open and Affirming where they are encouraged to continue to grow in their faith journey throughout their life. If you would be willing to share a 3-5 minute testimonial on Pride Sunday, please let Holly know or email her at [HollyRJackson@gmail.com](mailto:HollyRJackson@gmail.com). This is not a sermon. It is simply you telling your story of how being able to be out and safe at church has affected your faith journey and/or somehow changed your life. We want to hear your story and offer it up to the God who loves you exactly as you are!

## Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

We are reading *The Stranger in the Woods* by Michael Finkel. There are 29 copies in the library system but only 1 copy in the Germantown branch so you'll need to place a hold to begin the transfer process. You will find this book in the biography section.

We will meet Sunday, June 10th at 11:30am in the Youth Room.

Deborah

## Dan and Suzanne are back!

Dan Davis and Suzanne Schmidt are delighted to be returning to UCCSV. Dan is retired from the FDA but still does some consulting (when he is not playing golf or tennis). Suzanne retired from local church ministry on January 7, 2018 but not from serving the wider church. She recently was named the Dean of Communities of Practice for the Central Atlantic Conference which she will do on a part-time basis. They plan to do some serious traveling but will be in worship when they are in town.

## Volunteers Needed

We are in need of a Liturgist for June 24th and Ushers for June 17<sup>th</sup> and 24th. Your help filling these important roles here at UCCSV is greatly appreciated. Please consider signing up on the bulletin board outside the church office. Choir practice ends June 7<sup>th</sup>. Choir members are urged to sign up for the summer months. Many thanks to everyone!!!

### Calendar of Events

Men's Breakfast (9am) – May 19  
Pentecost and Confirmation – May 20  
Trustees Meeting (6:30pm) – May 21  
Council Meeting (7pm) – May 21  
Lord's Table at St. Martins (1pm) – May 22  
Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) –  
May 27  
PFLAG (2:30pm) – May 27

### Coming June 3<sup>rd</sup>

Children's Sunday  
Annual Congregational Meeting (immediately  
after church service)  
Grubby Sunday (immediately after Meeting)