



Spirit News

May 20, 2020

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
An Open and Affirming Congregation
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Phone: (301) 540-3449
Email: UCCSV@verizon.net
Website: UCCSenecaValley.org

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for my son, Nick, who is dealing with some difficult personal issues. Grant him the strength to make some tough decisions and remind him how very much he is loved (Terri Molaski).
- Please pray for my brother's twins who still in the NICU (Asher).
- Prayers for Daughter Amy for peace and calm (Suzanne).
- For Walter and Susan Todenhoft as they grieve the death of their 31 year old son that died of a heroin overdose (Laura).
- Prayers for Les Fraley who is struggling with Thyroid failure (Bob Fraley).
- Gratefulness for Madelyn's graduation and for Isaac's 2 year sober anniversary. So very proud of them both! (Deb and Madelyn).
- Pray for the places that are opening up businesses and public life, that they do so in a way that prioritizes health and safety (Patrick).
- Pray for my friend Jim. His mom was killed in an auto accident last Sunday (John).
- Prayers for all mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters. as well as to grandparents and godparents (Russell).
- Pray for my grandson Jack celebrating his 14th birthday at a safe distance (Jeanne).
- Healing Prayers for all who are fighting Covid may our prayers give them strength (Lora Cheek).
- Prayers for the unemployed (Russell).
- 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 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

Sometimes unraveling shows us things we rather not notice but need to pay attention to. Injustice may be laid bare. Grief may be amplified. How do we grieve in the wake of unthinkable injustice and loss? This Sunday we'll explore the story of Rizpah, one of the secondary wives of King Saul, and how she reacts to the unjust murders of her sons, Rizpah shows us an honest, unapologetic grief and persistent strength in honoring the innocent lives of those taken from her. In the midst of a pandemic which has hit lower income people and people of color especially hard, and has laid bare undeniable cracks in our social fabric, what can we learn from Rizpah and how do we react to the injustice all around us? Join us for worship on Zoom at 10am (the room opens at 9:30am) and let's wrestle with these questions together.

For worship this Sunday we invite you to have a candle with you to welcome Christ's light into your home worship space and connect us all regardless of distance. We also invite you to create a protest sign that you would see at a march. If you were to protest the injustices of this moment, if you were to cry out with a loud voice until the powers that be listened, what would you say? We'll show our signs during worship as we learn to lift our voices together for God's peace and justice.

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

Topic: Sunday Worship

Time: May 24, 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

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,86576654670#,,1#,20874# US
(Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 865 7665 4670

Password: 20874

Sign In Sheet

We have created a "Sign In" google document that will help collect information from new visitors and people who want to get on our mailing list (or members who want to update or change their address info on file). However, this is not the equivalent of our "red pads" during worship. If you are a regular member or have worshiped with us before and have left us your information, you do not need to fill out this form every Sunday. At in-person worship we use the red pads as a general means of gauging attendance and ask everyone to let us know you are with us by filling out your name. However, with Zoom worship we have a Deacon who is gathering that information so we do not need you to do anything additional. This form is only for people leaving their one time info or who need to contact us for something. If there is someone you know who would like to be on our Zoom mailing list or get our Spirit News, or if they need something like a pastoral visit or want more info on the church, or would like to leave us a note, this is the form for them.

<https://forms.gle/bcg9H3MFntgAiK7WA>

In Person Pastoral Visits

Now that the weather is improving it is possible to do pastoral visits outside in a safe way. Pastor Holly is available to meet with you in the prayer garden (or in your yard if you can't get to the church). Visits will observe proper social distance and include masks, but are a way to connect in person. You don't even have to have a topic to discuss! This is just a way to feel a little more connected and normal again. Please email HollyRJackson@gmail.com to make an appointment.

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 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*)

Creating Together with Hope!

During this time of uncertainty and “unraveling”, you are invited to share in the creation of a felted collage for our sanctuary that will be a reminder to us of what gave us hope during these “pandemic” times. The more families and friends that participate, the more meaningful it will be.



Let's “weave” together a symbol of the good things that happened the last few months and create something for the church sanctuary for when we return.

A friend has offered to help us with the actual “felting” of our images into a banner or altar cloth. She referred us to one of her suppliers for the pre felt we need for the first step. It turns out she was willing to DONATE almost all of what we need to do this.

On Sunday, June 7 between 3-5 pm or Sunday, June 14 from 3-5 pm you can drive by to pick up your supplies.



Your job right NOW is to think of what you might want to create to reflect what has held hope for you and what colors you will use. You'll need one background color and contrasting colors for your design or you can cut out a shape. Decide if you want to do one as a family or individually.

When you come to church, you will be given the colors you want to work with placed in a plastic

bag with instructions. Beth & I will have gloves on to handle your fabric.



If you can't make these dates/times please call Susan at 301-972-7564 and arrange for another time.

Hope you'll join us! Susan Pearcy & Beth Lauriat



Zoom Pet Parade

Do you have a favorite stuffed animal or pet you'd like to show off to the church?

Mark your calendar and get your best beast ready for the 1st ever UCC Seneca Valley Zoom Pet Parade. Coming Saturday, May 30 at 2:00. If they like wearing costumes, feel free. If they can do a trick, plan on sharing it. More information will be coming next week.

Regrounding

The Property Operations Team invite you to spend some time “regrounding” yourself with a visit to the church property. Come and walk the labyrinth, sit in the prayer garden, pull weeds, separate bulbs/plants in the front beds or pick up trash along the property's edge.

While there, please take time to add a “prayer” strand to the loom hanging in the prayer garden. You are welcome to bring your own ribbon, shoelace, string or a piece of that old shirt you turned into a mask. Or use a piece from the bag

clipped to the loom. Your prayer can be silent or shouted, sung or written.



Laments and joys, fears and thanksgivings are all welcome.

Life is woven with all of these; woven together, stronger together.

Dear UCC Community,

On Sunday there was a widespread Zoom outage which meant that our usually way of worshiping, via the link I send out each week, was not working. People could get on but not see or hear others, there were lots of technical issues, and basically it was a mess. After about 40 minutes of diagnosing the issue and looking for alternatives, we ended up getting on via Patrick's (my husband) Zoom account through his University. Apparently their servers were stable in a way that our church account's was not.

Many people hung in there through various attempts to log on and several emails trying to give you updates. Others for various reasons were not able to, which I totally understand. Several churches I know who use Zoom as a worship platform were not able to worship at all on Sunday. Once we were able to get on we did record the service (which then went very smoothly). Because the video was recorded on Patrick's account we could not just leave it there

and send out the link as we usually do. Instead I have uploaded it to our church's public facebook page. **You can find it here:** <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchOfChristOfSenecaValley>. **You do not need a facebook account to access a public facebook page** so don't worry about that. **You may need to scroll down some to get to the post.**

If you missed the service I would really encourage you to watch it, if only to hear the Rev. Lucy Brady tell the story of our morning's scriptures and/or to hear our virtual choir sing a new opening hymn.

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>

Sunday Volunteers Still Needed

Even though we are worshiping online Sunday volunteers are still needed. I am looking for greeters whose job will be to come on the Zoom

call at 9:30am when the "building opens" and greet everyone as they come in verbally and by chat. I also need liturgists who will help me to lead the worship so I am not the only face and voice people are experiencing on Sunday mornings. You must be comfortable with Zoom in order to do these jobs. Please email me at HollyRJackson@gmail.com to volunteer.