



Spirit News

May 23, 2019

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

- Please God, help me to leave the worries from work at work or at least throw them on my way home.
- Give thanks for the families of sparrows in our birdhouse and wrens in our gourd birdhouse (Libby Fuss).
- The blessings of my three beautiful grandnieces, and their parents and grandparents (Mary Murphy).
- Ongoing prayer for Suzanne Schmidt. Many thanks to everyone for your prayers, cards, food, and support since Suzanne's back surgery. She continues to be stronger and better each day (Dan Davis).
- Ongoing prayer for the healing of Fran both body and spirit (Paula-Marie).
- Ongoing prayer for Douglas who has been having serious headaches for the last 3 weeks (Maggie)
- Ongoing prayers for my Aunt following surgery – she is improving (Renee Morales).
- Ongoing prayers for Wayne Tipping as he deals with heart issues (Paula-Marie Read).

Ongoing Prayer Requests: Please notify Nita at 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, May 26, our focus will be on:
Revelation 21:10, 22:1-5 and John 14:23-29

Office Message

The church office will be closed tomorrow, May 24th for Memorial weekend.

This Sunday at UCCSV – Holy Humor Sunday

Did you hear about the Pentecostal preacher that married the Amish woman? He drove her buggy!

There are many different ways of talking about the good news of what God has done for us in Christ Jesus. This Sunday we will observe Holy Humor Sunday, a celebration inspired by what some early church writers said about the resurrection: they said it was like a big joke played on the devil. When Jesus rose from the dead, they said, God got the last laugh. So this Sunday we will laugh, we will joke, we will dance, we will experience joy. Join us at 10am for fun worship experience. We know it's a holiday weekend but we promise that the sermon will be short, and so will the Pastor!

UCC Seneca Valley Needs YOU!!

On June 9th we will celebrate this past year in ministry together and we will look forward to the year to come by electing a new group of church leaders and volunteers. We need YOU to be a part of that celebration! Our church is only as good, or as effective, or as vibrant as we ALL make it. There is no one named "Someone Else" who is going to do all the work and we don't want to burn out the amazing volunteers that already work so hard doing the big and

little tasks that make church happen. So please, we ask everyone to look over the following list of open leadership and committee positions and if you feel God tugging you to step up and take on an amazing opportunity to serve, email Pastor Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com.

Open Leadership Positions:

Chair of Property Operations Committee - Lead the team that helps to keep our building and property in working order and looking good. Be a contact for and help to oversee building renters. Serve on the Trustees and Church Council (meets once a month).

Chair of Christian Education - Lead the team committed to the spiritual growth and education of our congregation. Help to oversee Sunday School, Youth Activities, Family Events, Adult Education and more. Serve on the Church Council (meets once a month).

Other Essential Volunteer Positions We Need Filled:

Deacon - Focus on worship, pastoral care, and welcoming visitors. Deacons help make sure worship goes smoothly and helps to imagine all that worship could be. They also help to care for members of the congregation as needed with check-ins, phone calls, cards, or helping to coordinate meals.

Christian Education Committee Member- Be on the team committed to the spiritual growth and education of our congregation. Help to oversee Sunday School, Youth Activities, Family Events, Adult Education and more.

Fellowship Committee Member - Provide and coordinate for hospitality for the congregation. Mostly this involves fellowship time after worship on Sunday in the Gathering Room either providing food or assisting congregation

members who have signed up to provide food. But, this committee also helps coordinate any all church events that might require food or refreshments.

Property Operations Committee Member - Be a part of the team that helps keep our building and property in working order and looking good.

Social Action Committee Member - Be a part of the team that looks to do ministry outside our church walls (Germantown Help, Interfaith Works, UMAN) and seeks to advocate for justice in our wider community.

Stewardship Committee Member - Have fundraising ideas or want to make sure our congregation has healthy giving habits? Be a part of the team that designs, coordinates, and carries out our yearly stewardship campaign for donations of time, talent, and treasure.

Tellers - Know how to count money? We need you! Tellers work in pairs after church on Sunday mornings in order to count and document the morning's offerings.

All of these positions have varying commitments in terms of time and energy. But just imagine the kind of church we could be if all of us decided to volunteer at least 1-2 hours a week, or 4-8 hours a month at church or doing ministry work of one kind or another. That's only 1% of your time each week or month, but it would result in amazing returns. Consider where God may be calling you and commit to helping UCCSV make a difference!



Pastor Holly Named a Resilience in Leadership Program Fellow!

I excited to share with you that I have recently been named Resilience in Leadership Program Fellow with the Chicago Theological Seminary. This is a program for early career clergy, ministers, lay leaders, and seminary students who are from and/or serving economically disadvantaged and marginalized communities in the USA. The [Resilience in Leadership Initiative](#) at Chicago Theological Seminary is a 2 year long Fellowship Program designed to facilitate a full ecology of support for faith leaders. Program Fellows are matched into regionally-based peer groups lead by contextually grounded and seasoned mentors. In addition to facilitating professional relationships through these cohort communities, all Resilience in Leadership Program Fellows will also be resourced with customized skill-building workshops and opportunities for respite and self-care. Program Fellows and mentors from across the country will also take part in the program's annual three day gathering in Chicago in October 2019 and again at another meeting in Chicago in 2020. All fees and costs associated with the program are covered by a grant. This is an amazing opportunity for me to continue with my training and to build needed skills and bring that knowledge and any new ideas I encounter back to UCCSV. I look forward to sharing with you as I continue on this journey!

Pictures from the Last Year

On Sunday, June 9th, we will celebrate this past year in ministry at UCCSV. We need your pictures and videos to help highlight all the friendships, service, fun, and spiritual growth we have experienced in 2018-2019! If you have pictures or videos that you have not already shared with Holly or on our facebook page,

please look through your phone or computer and send them to HollyRJackson@gmail.com or share them on our group fb page. Also, think back to some of your favorite memories or experiences this year - whether it was in worship, at a party, doing a service project, being with church friends, etc. - and tell us about it. In a sentence or paragraph let us know how being a part of this community in the past year has been meaningful or transformative for you. Then on June 9th join us for a celebratory Pentecost worship service where we lift up what it means to be the church together at UCCSV.

Thanks from Party Committee

The party committee thanks all the hosts that have held parties, and created wonderful opportunities to meet and grow together as a church community. So far we have had smores by the fire pit with Laura Lineberger and Beth Lauriat, played Bingo with Ruth Bulgar, wined and dined with Shelly Moore, ate tantalizing mixture of Paella with Deb Anderson, Bob Fraley, sang and danced karaoke at Gina and Ron Domingo and learned game rules at Jeanne Springmann's, heard Scottish tea stories with delicious teas and had sweet delights made by Deborah Tomblyn! Who did it best... beer vs wine pairing with tapas with Christi Watkins followed by bird watching with the expertise of Bethany Fuss. Eight Ladies in a row eating delectable morsels and sharing laughter at a ladies luncheon served graciously by Bethany Fuss and Rachel Estrada and hosted by the ever gracious Suzanne Schmidt. Good conversation, choice of wines and delicious dessert samplings at Russell Shelley and Leo Saligan. Still to come Whisky tasting with expert Patrick Jackson, fun craft party making beautiful wreaths with Terri Molaski and ending with a provocative movie party with Suzanne Schmidt!

Thankful as well for the kickoff party participants, who gave of their time and unique

talents: Milan Yu, Suzanne Schmidt, George Benskin, John Teigiser, Leo Saligan, Patrick Jackson, Sabine and Aaron Cox and Holly Jackson. Our wonderful Masters of Ceremonies were Dick Bertlemann and Laura Lineberger.

We are truly grateful for the generosity of all these participants and appreciate all the efforts on behalf of this fundraiser to assist with toys for the children and the women's retreat. We have raised over \$1,000.00. Thank you!!

- Carol Brandt, Jeanne Springmann and Joyce Miller (party committee members).

Upcoming Sundays at UCCSV

May 26th - Holy Humor Sunday - Come laugh with God!

June 2nd - Children and Youth Sunday

June 9th - Pentecost and Celebrating the year in ministry at UCCSV (Congregational Meeting Sunday)



Germantown Help Food Bank

Please support the Germantown Help food bank by donating 1 lb. or 2 lbs. bags of rice during the month of May.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual congregational meeting is scheduled for June 9th.

Committee chairs and others who write reports, please send those to our Office Manager at uccsv@verizon.net as soon as possible. Deadline for reports is May 31.



Happy Announcement!

You might have heard that Stefan Petrov and his wife, Kate, are expecting their first child, due in June. We are thrilled for this special family and want to surround them with our support and celebrate! Please save the date for June 2nd, when we will have a special fellowship time and an opportunity to share gifts, cards and best wishes with Stefan after worship. You might check out the baby registry at <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/kate-weber-petrova-june-2019-collegepark/3BDCX9S0LOPFU>.

Questions, contact Jen Fuss
jenfloryfuss@gmail.com.

Volunteers - Talk to Us

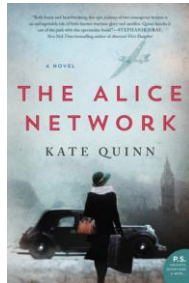
Are you a volunteer out in the community? Great... we'd like to hear about your volunteering adventures outside our church! It would be amazing to hear the stories of all the volunteer work that our UCCSV community is doing. By sharing your stories, you educate the rest of us, and maybe we might want to get involved as well. Please send us a story of the groups, organizations, efforts, etc. that you volunteer for and we will print them in the Spirit News (one story at a time). Send your stories to John Bartkowiak at jbinmd@gmail.com.

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

June's Book. Date to follow.

The Alice Network by **Kate Quinn (2017)** sounds like an excellent story of a post-WW2 young pregnant woman who goes to Europe to find her beloved missing cousin Rose. It becomes a spy-thriller story.

The library has NO electronic or CD copies, 31 book copies with 0 available and 39 holds.



Calendar

One Anothering Group (10:00am) – May 25
Social Action Committee Mtg. (11:30am) – May 26
PFLAG (2:30pm) – May 26