



Spirit News

May 26, 2021

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
An Open and Affirming Congregation
13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD

Prayer Requests

- Suzanne Schmidt: Prayers for Baby Justin as he recovers from a fever. And Little Vega who is also recovering from a fever. Prayers for Kate who is having hip replacement surgery tomorrow.
 - Timothy Fuss: Prayers of Thanksgiving for graduates; may God be with them as they venture out into this new world.
 - Maggie: Let us thank God for a wonderful wedding last weekend between Charlotte and Antony. May God guide them to a start of a strong foundation of their marriage.
 - Heidi H (she/her/hers): Prayers for God to guide us to use technology to it's fullest to bring His word to people where they are in life.
 - PTJ (he/him): prayers for Lori, searching for a job.
 - Colby (He/Him) Heidi (She/Her): Praise for the wonder of cicadas.
 - Dan (he, him): Prayers for daughter Amy, neighbor Shruti who is home finally, friends Evan, Tom and everyone who is in need for whatever reason.
 - Debra Anderson (she/her/hers): Prayers of thanksgiving for medical procedures like Mohs. prayers for good recovery for Deb from this procedure last week.
- Stefan Petrov: Thanks for all members of UCCSV Choir that continue to devote time and talent to enhance and bring joy to our services.

Sarah (Sally) Duncan

On Saturday, June 5, 2021 at 3:00 p.m., there will be a celebration of the life of Sarah (Sally) Duncan. She has touched many lives in special ways and we are finally able to gather together in her honor. The service and will be held at Evangelical Reformed Church UCC, 15 W. Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701

You can also stream the service at:

<https://boxcast.tv/view/memorial-service-740124>.

This Sunday at UCCSV

It's Trinity Sunday and we're celebrating with a worship service organized and recorded by leaders in the Central Atlantic Conference of the UCC. We will still be gathering together on Zoom as usual but we will watch pieces of this service together with time for our own sharing of the peace and prayers. One of the true gifts of the church in this age is the ability to easily worship with people beyond our own congregation and hear the voices and worship styles of others in our denomination. So join us as we worship together on this holiday weekend.

The Zoom room opens at 9:30am and worship begins at 10am. Please bring a candle (electric or flame) with you to worship. This worship service will be live streamed 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 DC)
Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726
Passcode: 20874
Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbWdNjrILH>

Congregational Check In/Happy Hour - Fridays at 7 PM

Connecting nowadays can be difficult. Do you sometimes just want to see your fellow UCCSV members and friends for a quick chat? Your wish is granted! There will be a Congregational Check In/Happy Hour every Friday at 7 PM. It will only run for 45 minutes and is a good way to say "hi" and catch up with others. Different Deacons will be hosting each Friday and it is open to all. It will be very casual with no obligations... stop by when you feel the need and stay as long or short as you want. Take care and we will see you when we see you.

-John (Chair of Deacons)

UCC Seneca Valley is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: Congregational Check In/Happy Hour

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89655025431?pwd=V1k0bEQ4VTBGODJ3L2U1WHBFbzBnZz09>
Meeting ID: 896 5502 5431
Passcode: peeps

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
Meeting ID: 896 5502 5431
Passcode: 565927
Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbPBtQKFgY>

Do You Have a Graduate in Your Family?

We're looking to celebrate the graduates in our congregation and in our extended families. If you know of someone who is graduating (or has already graduated) this Spring please let us know their names, their connection to you if they are not a regular part of our congregation, and what they are graduating from. In addition if they are going on to more schooling or have definite plans upon graduation that we can celebrate please share that with us as well. We will pray for them in worship on June 6th and June 13th depending on when we get the information and we may do some in person celebrating of our congregation's graduates as well. More on that to come. Please email graduate information to HollyRJackson@gmail.com.

May is Mental Health Month

From time to time, the Social Action Board likes to share resources with the congregation. Especially during the last year, mental health issues have been an ongoing source of concern. The list attached to your email was featured in the newsletter of the Faith Community Advisory Group of Montgomery County.

Congregational Meeting, Sunday, June 6th After Worship

On Sunday, June 6th after worship we will be having our bi-annual Congregational Meeting on Zoom. At this meeting we will elect and install a new slate of church leaders (more on that to come), review our church's journey these last months including a brief financial update, and hear a presentation on our recent church survey responses and how they impact our future including what that means for hybrid worship that

includes both online and in-person worship on Sunday mornings. Please plan to join us for this very important meeting. If you have any questions please contact Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com.

A Card Ministry for UCCSV



Calling all creative types, and the rest of you. Please help us make cards for the Card Ministry on June 13, 1:30-3:30. We will be meeting in the Gathering

Room at the church. Susan Percy will show us a fingerprint design technique. Use that or design your own card. We will have plenty of supplies but feel free to bring your own craft materials too. It is an exciting new ministry for our church. Contact Jeanne Springmann if you have questions.

Serving at UCCSV for 2021-22

As part of our June 6th congregational meeting we will be voting on and installing new leadership for our congregation. Most of our leadership is staying on both because we have had an abbreviated leadership year and because we're trying to provide a sense of stability to the congregation as we continue through this difficult time. However, there are open positions and all our committees would gladly welcome anyone who wished to serve the ministries of our church and share your gifts with us.

In particular we are looking for a Treasurer to take over for Russell Shelly (who has worked tirelessly in this position for many years and deserves a break). Russell will happily train a willing volunteer. We also will need a new Chair for our Fellowship Committee and we continue to need a Chair of the Christian Education

Committee (a position that's been vacant for two years now). Below are also descriptions of some of our other Boards and Committees for you to determine whether they might be a good fit for your gifts. Please let us know if you are willing to serve. Although being in church leadership is work, we also laugh together, get to know one another, lead the church through all manner of situations, and continue the mission of our congregation. Your voice and presence is needed to help this church become all God wants it to be and helps us to be a light to our community.

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee helps organize and carry out the fall stewardship campaign every year. We come up with themes and ideas, organize reaching out to church members, coordinate with worship during the campaign, and help celebrate Consecration Sunday as we complete a successful pledge campaign. We help people understand why and how their time, talent, and money makes a difference at UCCSV and enable them to continue giving as they are called.

Christian Education Committee

The Christian Education Committee plans for the spiritual formation of all ages at UCCSV. From Sunday School to Youth Group to Adult Education and more, we seek to help the congregation learn about God and our faith and connect with each other. Our Mission statement: UCCSV is a teaching church, providing an environment in which persons of all ages grow in faith, transformed to live and teach as disciples of Jesus the Christ. We value faith development and Christian education as a life-long transformational process. Come join us and help grow our ministry to families, youth and adults as we learn together.

Social Action Board

This committee focuses on both loving mercy (projects which involve serving others such as Fox Chapel Elementary School partnership and Germantown Help) and doing justice (projects such as Getting Out the Vote and education/actions related to anti-racism). We meet once a month (currently by zoom) and in between there is some assignments (writing newsletter articles, crafting Mission Moments messages). We currently have nine members on our board ranging from 15 to 78 years old. If you feel called to living out Micah 6:8 (loving mercy and doing justice), please contact Dan Davis or Suzanne Schmidt who serve as co-chairs of this board.

Property Ops

Serving the Property Operations Committee over the last 10 years or so has been my primary area of expertise. It is rather astounding all that Property Operations has accomplished over the decades, and we are sure to be making some changes into our future - especially Post Pandemic - as we embrace a full return to worship in our building.

This committee manages a myriad of important tasks and obligations. We manage all of the utilities and building service contracts, and we also manage a fruitful and collegial relationship with the Seventh-day Adventist Church that rents our building every Saturday, along with others that rent our space for community events. Grubby Sundays are a time when our congregations unite to deep clean all areas, inside and outside.

As we prepare to re-enter our church building, the church council is expecting to fully upgrade our technology in the sanctuary to create a more vibrant worship atmosphere both in-house and online. There will be many tasks to consider and manage and we can use all the help we can get!

Please consider joining the Property Operations committee. Reestablishing human connections with all of you and with new members of our community is a very exciting time. If you want to learn more about Prop Ops at UCCSV, please reach out to me directly and I'll be happy talk with you.
- Laura Lineberger, Chair

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee is recruiting additional team players to participate in planning and executing various "fellowshipping" activities that help members and friends connect both in-person and online. Occasional activities like virtual Trivia Nights, Farkle Games and pet parade, as well as in person events like Fire Pit Fridays, Pop-up Pride, Chili Cook-off and multi-committee drive-by gatherings are examples of the kinds of things this committee facilitates. Also, as we move in the direction of returning to our church building and developing a model of in-person and online worship, there will be a need for in-person and online fellowship following Sunday morning services. Whether you will be worshipping with us only online or plan to participate both online and in person, you are invited to join the Fellowship team. Your heart, hands and ideas are welcome here. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Beth at balauriat@aol.com.

Upcoming Worship at UCCSV

June 6th - Children and Youth Sunday (and Congregational Meeting)
June 13 - Pride Sunday and Outdoor Vespers at 5:30pm
June 20 - Rev. Suzanne Adele Schmidt preaching
June 27 - Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath preaching



May

Deborah Tomblyn	5/1
Sue Percy	5/6
Shelby Singletary	5/10
Bob Lambie	5/11
David Moore	5/13
Beth Lauriat	5/21
Gina Domingo	5/28