



Spirit News

May 27, 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
Website: UCCSenecaValley.org

Prayer Requests

- Morningstar Family grieving parents of Matthew and Cassie (Joyce Miller).
- Prayers so all those suffering and dying from COVID (Debby).
- My nieces in the NICU (Asher).
- Pray for Lizzy Graham who is in Suburban Hospital and has had a blood transfusion (John Bartkowiak).
- Please pray for my niece Manuela who is dealing with depression. Pray also for my cousin Monica, dealing with cancer (Luz).
- For Sister Cecilia recovering from complicated surgery at 80+ (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Pray for my 16-year-old cat that finally crossed the rainbow bridge this last week (Camila Young).
- Prayers for my sister Phyllis Anderson as she lives her final days in this world. Prayers for her children who can not be at her side (Madelyn Anderson Fraley).
- Thank you for our soldiers and ones who fought for our freedom this weekend! (Sergio).
- 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

We're arrived at Pentecost Sunday and the final week of our series Unraveled with more questions than answers, but maybe that's just where we need to be. This Sunday we'll explore the story of Saul's transformation to Paul and

imagine, on this birthday of the church, whether we are being called to transform as well. In a flash in the middle of the road, God unravels Saul's identity as a persecutor of Christ-followers and invites him to blindly stumble onto a new path. His conversion requires Ananias, a disciple vulnerable to Paul's threats, to place his hands on Saul's eyes so that he might see the world anew as Paul the Apostle. This new path for Paul later leads him to endure prison, persecution, travel, and trial. However, it also comes with new life, community, belonging, and hope. Sometimes God calls us into uncharted territory, and maybe our unraveling is simply a holy, fresh start. Can we see our way to a new start for us and for our church even in the midst of a pandemic? Where is the Spirit moving in the midst of it all?

As always we invite you to being a candle with you for worship, and this week we also invite you to wear red for Pentecost. In addition, you won't want to miss a testimony from Susan Percy and a song from Leo Saligan. Join us for worship at 10am (room opens at 9:30am) and be a part of community!

Topic: Sunday Worship

Time: May 31, 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

Tonight's Bible and Art Study and Prayer Time Cancelled

The last in our weekly Bible and Art Study sessions have been cancelled for tonight. However you are welcome to consider the study materials for this session on your own time. They are attached to this newsletter.

MCPS Pride Town Hall Tonight at 6pm

MCPS and its Community Partners are fully aware of the challenges facing LGBTQIA stakeholders during this Pandemic; it is a major priority to communicate/engage with students/staff/families/community about the available supports and activities that are offered. So they are offering a Town Hall tonight, Wednesday May 27th at 6pm. For more information go to:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publicinfo/community/school-year-2019-2020/LGBTQIA-SaveTheDate2020-RSVP.html?fbclid=IwAR3NE4RTvvegS1KKQ4yduX4rxhCpEGkT5vHMcE-kYk6DoSql29J-VJB-C3I>

Important Zoom Update!

Dear Valued Customer,

As you may know, Zoom 5.0 is live! Please update to version Zoom 5.0 **now** or before May 30th.

When:

Beginning May 30th, 2020, Zoom will be enabling **GCM encryption** across the entire Zoom platform, providing increased protection for meeting data.

What:

Please **update** to Zoom 5.0. After May 30, 2020, all Zoom clients on older versions will receive a forced update when trying to join meetings as GCM encryption will be fully enabled across the Zoom platform.

[Update Now](#)

How:

Please refer **here** for more information on updating your endpoints.

Zoom admins, visit **our 5.0 IT administrator page** for more detailed instructions.

For more information on our latest enhancements, we highly encourage you to read and subscribe to our **Release Notes** and **Blog**.

Best,
Team Zoom

Upcoming Worship Themes:

June 7 - Children and Youth Sunday (with Communion)

June 14 - UCC Conference Ministers lead worship

June 21 - Pride Month - Why ONA Churches matter

June 28 - Pride Month - Guest Preacher Rev. Heidi Carrington Heath

July 5 - Pride Month - Transgender Pride

Where Do You See the Spirit Moving?

As it is Pentecost Sunday we are looking for images of where you see the Spirit on the move. During Pentecost we traditionally think of this as fire or flames (which is why we wear red). But we can also see the Spirit in waves or wind, in

people or in nature. If you have a picture you'd like included in this week's Worship to celebrate the movement of the Spirit please send it to HollyRJackson@gmail.com or post it on our UCCSV facebook group.

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.

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

P.S. Bethany Fuss will also be present during the delivery times to offer Emergency Assistance coffee and chocolate for you to purchase!

Zoom Pet Parade

Come join the fun on Saturday, May 30 at 2:00 for the first ever UCC Seneca Valley Pet Parade (Zoom link below). If you have a favorite stuffed animal or pet, plan to bring them with you and share them with other folks from the church. It would be great if you could tell the group your pet's name and an interesting fact of two about them. Feel free to write down the information on paper if you'd feel more comfortable reading it. If your animal likes to be in costume, feel free to dress them up. If they can do a trick, we'd love for you to have them do it for us.

Also, please take a picture of you and your best beast either before or after the event and send it with your pet's name to Laura at ljleuph@aol.com. She will create a collage for the UCCSV Facebook page so everyone can see our animal friends.

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

Topic: First Ever UCC Seneca Valley Virtual Pet Parade
Time: May 30, 2020 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5538474770?pwd=b3BiSW15amhYVjhSNTJ2bVNiSmEwdz09>

Meeting ID: 553 847 4770

Password: 20874

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,5538474770#,,1#,20874# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,5538474770#,,1#,20874# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 553 847 4770

Password: 20874

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcjslJy28K>

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.

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.

Thank You

Thank you for all the cards celebrating Bob's 90th birthday. It was such a nice surprise to find them in the mail each day, and made it a special birthday. We are so pleased to be part of this wonderful congregation.

-Bob and Carol Lambie