



Spirit News

May 6, 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

- Ongoing Prayer to grant our leaders wisdom and compassion to address the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Ongoing Prayer for inspiration and motivation in Dave's job search; healing for Shelly's knee (recent fall) and family health concerns (Shelly Moore).
- Ongoing Prayer for Alexis Symanski who is home and recovering beautifully from her massive surgery. Praise God for answered prayers (Suzanne Schmidt and Dan Davis).
- Ongoing Prayer for Maggie's Dad. Continue to pray for my Dad who is recuperating well after his fall (Maggie).
- Ongoing Prayer for Dawn Oler, our dear friend, who is having surgery to remove a tumor. We pray it is benign and her recovery is easy (Terri & Dee Dee).
- Ongoing Prayer for Cheryl's grandmother who is in a coma; pray for Ben who is battling stomach cancer (Maggie).

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.

Havruta via Zoom

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. Contact Russell Shelley at russellshelley92@gmail.com for Zoom details.

This Sunday at UCCSV

Possibly one of the hardest things over the past few months has been the constant uncertainty. What is happening? When will it end? We have no clear timelines, no concrete plans we can rely on. The biggest constant in our lives right now is uncertainty. It's hard to have faith in such a time. To consider how we respond to this unraveled of our lives we will consider the story of Peter trying to walk on the water with Jesus. He too was unraveled by uncertainty and it threatened to drown him. What can we learn from this encounter and how can it transform our present lives? Join us for Zoom worship and find out. Bring a candle. We also invite you to cut a cross out from construction paper or out of cardboard to have with you for worship. In addition, if you have masks around the house that you have been using when you go out, we'll spend a few moments blessing them this week. Join us and invite a friend! The room opens at 9:30am and worship begins at 10am.

Topic: Sunday Worship

Time: May 10, 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

Wednesday Evening Bible Story and Art Study and Prayer

Join Holly tonight for a one hour Zoom call tonight from 7:30- 8:30pm looking at our scripture for Sunday, considering art reflective of that story, and lifting up prayers in the midst of our uncertainty.

Topic: Wednesday Evening Study and Prayer
Time: May 6, 2020 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88630782324?pwd=NkplLT280NUVENnRXeWl1M3FXTXlHZZ09>

Meeting ID: 886 3078 2324

Password: 20874

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 886 3078 2324

Password: 20874

Sunday, May 10th, is Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10 you are invited to bring a photo of your mother or someone who has mothered you to the greeting time before church. During the time before worship, you may want to lift up the name of your mother or someone who has been like a mother to you. During fellowship, those who wish to may share a story about a lesson taught to you by your mother/the person who was like a mother to you.

Congregational Meeting, May 17 After Worship

Join us for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 17th immediately after worship (on Zoom of course) We will have an update on future plans for our congregation, especially around issues of any physical re-opening of our building. We'll also update you as to our financial situation and plans

for changes in church leadership at this time. Our normal May/June congregational meeting is when we usually present a nominating slate for the program year to come. This year because of our situation with the pandemic we are altering that slightly. Come find out why and what we are doing instead.

Be a Zoom Worship Star!

It's your very own opportunity to be a STAR! Worship volunteers on Zoom get to star in our Sunday worship. The spotlight is on you! Sign up to agree to be a Greeter (more a supporting cast role where you welcome people into our Zoom room by name or chat before worship). Or sign up to be Liturgist and be Holly's co-star for a day! We don't mean to brag but we have some pretty good ratings lately. Be a part of the show!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-uccsv>

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 10 – MATTHEW 14:22-33 || Peter Sinks in the Water (*Unraveled by Uncertainty*)

May 17 - EXODUS 1:22, 2:1-10 || Moses' Mother Gives Moses Up So He Can Live (*When Our Plans for Our Children Unravel*)

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*)



Month of May

Deborah Tombyn
Sue Percy
Shelby Singletary
David Moore
Beth Lauriat
Gina Domingo

Dear UCCSV Community,

If you weren't able to make it to join us for worship Sunday and are still interested in checking it out, here's a link to the recording. I apologize because I forgot to turn on the recording until we were already into the Opening Prayer. However, the vast majority of the service was recorded including a very special opening hymn which was the debut of UCCSV's virtual choir. Many thanks for all who participated and to Stefan who put it all together! If you are sitting down to watch this be prepared to participate in communion and have your bread and juice/wine ready.

Topic: Sunday Worship

Start Time: May 3, 2020 09:34 AM

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/u8xLIZb19F1Ib4XBx3_7Y58ZAL-iT6a80HJMrPEIxE3HWYzwuNlVlgcF-I8Sdck



UCCSV Raises over \$6,000. Matching Funds Can Cancel Over \$1,200,000 in Med. Debt

In March and April, Seneca Valley joined a dozen other United Church of Christ congregations in the area to gather donations to help buy back and forgive the medical debt of individuals and families in DC and the surrounding counties.

Our congregation has given over \$3,000, which the church matched with funds administered by the Social Action Board. An additional match has boosted this to over \$12,000. Since medical debt

portfolios may be purchased for a fraction of their original value, these gifts will be able to cancel medical debt of over \$1 million.

We are working with the nonprofit organization, RIP Medical Debt, which locates, buys, and forgives medical debt of individuals in the community who are below twice the federal poverty line, have debts greater than their assets, or have debts greater than 5% of their annual income. Prior to purchase by RIP Medical Debt, these bills have passed through several collection agencies and have been pursued for months or years. RIP offers to purchase these accounts at their present industry market value of pennies on the dollar.

Then the debt is simply forgiven. Debt relief recipients are sent a letter informing them that their medical debt has been bought by the United Church of Christ and erased with no strings attached. They owe nothing on the debt and face no tax penalty.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, 79,000,000 Americans were choosing between paying their medical bills and basic needs like food and shelter. In the midst of the Covid-19 outbreak, medical bills are surely hitting many more people even harder, especially those who have lost their income. Thank you so much for your gifts. They will make such a difference to those who need it most.

WUMCO

Thank you for your congregation's ongoing support of WUMCO families. WUMCO has been able to respond to double our "normal" amount of food requests in March and April because of the ongoing support of the community. Please continue to add a few things to your shopping cart while you are grocery shopping. Non-perishable food can be dropped 24/7 in the WUMCO box in

the Pike & Valega, DDS parking lot. Or you can bring food to the WUMCO office weekdays between 9:00-12:00. We also are preparing for increased financial need in our community. If you would like to contribute financially you can do that online at www.wumcohelp.org or mail a check to P.O. Box 247, Poolesville, MD 20837. WUMCO's mission of care could not happen without the support of our community, thank you!

Katie Longbrake
Executive Director



301-972-8481
PO Box 247
Poolesville, MD 20837
www.wumcohelp.org

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>

Important Information from Pastor Holly

As always we ask you to let us know if you need help or get ill. If you end up at the hospital for any reason and you do not have your phone on you or don't want to have to tell other members of your family to call, you can always ask the hospital chaplain to get a hold of me and they will look up my number and contact me. The best thing we can do for each other during this difficult time is to be there for one another and to support each other the best we can. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need anything. My cell phone number is 202-247-8592.