



Spirit News

May 9, 2019

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
An Open and Affirming Congregation
13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD
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Website: UCCSenecaValley.org

Prayer Requests

- Prayers for families torn apart by addiction. May wounds heal, sobriety be sustained and new life and sanity be restored.
- Pray for Gove Family. Prayers of comfort in the loss of Mike's mom, Mary.
- Blessings for Deborah Tomblyn as she leaves UCCSV.
- Pray for Lucy Bready. Hip replacement surgery on 5/15. Prayers for her medical team and for a smooth recovery.
- Pray for Issac Fraley. Thanks be to God – Isaac has been sentenced to 7 months in a pre-release work program and is apprenticed to a Master Electrician.
- Ongoing prayer for Suzanne Schmidt. Prayers for Suzanne and her surgery team, and for a positive outcome, as she has back surgery at Shady Grove Hospital (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 12, our focus will be on:
Psalm 8 and Isaiah 42:5-9

This Sunday at UCCSV

As we continue our focus on the environment and caring for God's Creation this Sunday we welcome Philip Jakobsberg, the Maryland Program Director for Climate XChange. Phil will ask us if we are sleep walking toward a cliff when it comes to climate change and help us think through ways to wake up and make this issue more of a priority. We'll also honor Mother's Day and step lightly with the myriad of emotions this day may bring for people. Please join us for worship this Sunday at 10am and help us to learn how to better care for our Mother Earth.

Upcoming Sundays at UCCSV

May 19th - Gerry Fuss Preaching (UCCSV Women's Retreat)
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)

Help Needed

Hello UCCSV Family! I am looking for a generous volunteer to take over Fellowship on Sunday, May 26th. It can be one person or a small village...like Laura Lineberger says, "many hands make light work." I am moving that weekend and can't be in church but am happy to write up instructions for setup, making coffee and cleanup. Please notify me by email at tlmolaski@gmail.com if you are willing to take on the task. I thank you all in advance!!

Terri

Guest Speaker this Sunday

Please join us on Sunday, May 12th when Phillip Jakobsberg will present "Are We Sleep Walking Toward a Cliff?" during our worship service. The talk will be about the urgency of changing the way we think about the environment, perhaps relative to our other priorities, with a particular emphasis on our climate emergency. Phil has worked on several issues affecting the environment, with a particular focus on global warming. He is the Maryland Program Director for Climate XChange (climate-xchange.org).

Adopt-A-Road

Join UCCSV friends and members as we make a part of Middlebrook Road beautiful. Trash grabbers, gloves, reflective vests, and trash/recycling bags provided.

When: Saturday, May 11

Where: Small fenced in parking lot of Seneca Valley High School off of Middlebrook Road (near the auditorium entrance)

Time: 10:00 am

Questions/RSVP: Jenny at utzihome@gmail.com

Looking forward to spending a Saturday morning with everyone.

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

Our book is *The Reckoning* by John Grisham. We'll meet Sunday 12 May at 11:30am in the Narthex. June's book is *The Alice Network* by Kate Quinn.

See below for book descriptions created by Dan.

Happy reading, Deborah

The Reckoning by John Grisham (October 2018): story set in MS where a prominent veteran commits a serious crime and does not want to talk about it. Probable PTSD element. Typical legal and other twists and turns. Library has 102 book copies, 21 available, and 7 on hold; there are 20 CD copies, 6 available, and 1 hold. Sounds like a better availability than we thought last time we met.



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.

Wider Church News - Potomac Association Spring Meeting

Last weekend the Potomac Association (PA), our regional body of the UCC, met at the United Christian Parish in Reston, Va. At the meeting the Association considered and voted on changes to the PA By-laws and Constitution. We also heard from our new Conference Minister, Freeman Palmer, and voted on a new slate of board members and committee participants for the upcoming year. It was clear the Spirit was moving as several positions that had remained unfilled, like Treasurer and several committee members, suddenly had volunteers ready and eager to be a part of the work of the wider church.

The Potomac Association's board is made up of Moderator, Associate Moderator, Treasurer, Associate Treasurer, Scribe, an At-Large Member and the Committee Chairs of the four standing PA committees - Committee on Ministry (which deals with the fitness and health of clergy and churches in the region), Spiritual Formation (Christian Education), Justice and Witness (work on social action and justice causes), and Higher Education (oversees outreach to local college campuses and funds campus ministries). Wider church participation is a very important aspect of a church's ministry. We aren't alone in God's work and when we work with other like minded congregations, we can multiply our impact.

UCCSV should be pleased to know that we are a church working to make an impact in our neighborhood and our region by engaging with, and volunteering for, the Potomac Association. Christie Holland has been a part of the Committee on Ministry since 2016. And at this meeting Pastor Holly stepped up to be Associate Moderator for a two year term while Court Buchanan volunteered to be Associate Treasurer. We're excited to see where the Spirit

takes our Association and our church in the year to come!

New to UCCSV? We want to Help!

Maybe you've been coming to UCCSV for a few months or weeks now and you're interested in learning more about our church. In May (or possibly also June depending on schedules) we will have two orientation sessions to help people new to our community get to know us and help us get to connect better with them. We'll share information about our faith journeys, the UCC as a denomination, what we believe, the ministries we participate in, a brief history of UCCSV and more. At the end of these sessions if you find you would like to formally join our congregation as a member we will arrange for that to happen in worship in June. If you are happy to simply stay as a friend of the congregation and continue on a journey with us to see where that leads, that's fine too. If you would like to be a part of these sessions please email Pastor Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com so that she can coordinate the best dates and times to hold these sessions for all who want to participate. Welcome to UCCSV! We're glad you're here!

Ledo Pizza Night May 14

The second Tuesday of each month will be UCC Seneca Valley night at Ledo Pizza on Wisteria Drive in Germantown. Ledo will give UCCSV a portion of its sales (between 10%-20% depending on the amount spent) from both eat in and carry out all day. You must present a flyer (available at church or at Ledos Tuesday evening starting at 5:30pm) to have your sale counted towards our total. Join us for an inexpensive, kid-friendly, evening out and help us raise some funds for UCCSV!

How is God Calling You?

Have you been feeling a call to a certain ministry or service area at church? Has God tugged on your heart or equipped you with gifts you could use as a church leader? In June our congregation will meet to elect a new slate of church leaders. This will include all the chairs of committees and a few at large positions to the Council. If you have been feeling a call to leadership, or even just a feeling like you would like to get more involved at church, this is a wonderful time to connect. Our Nominating Committee will be meeting over the next month to fill all open positions. If you are interested in earning more please contact Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com. Watch for more information to come.

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.

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.



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.

Calendar

Adopt-A-Road (9:00am) – May 11
Pulp Pilgrims Book Group (11:30am) – May 12
Pizza Night at Ledos – May 14
Women's Retreat – May 17 thru May 19
Men's Breakfast (9:00am) – May 18
Trustees Meeting (6:00pm) – May 20
Council Meeting (7:00pm) – May 20
One Anothering Group (10:00am) – May 25
Social Action Committee Mtg. (11:30am) – May 26
PFLAG (2:30pm) – May 26