



# Spirit News

November 11, 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](mailto:UCCSV@verizon.net)  
Website: [UCCSenecaValley.org](http://UCCSenecaValley.org)

## Prayer Requests

- Prayers of deep peace for the family of Eric who is now in hospice (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Please pray for my friend with breast cancer (Asher Beckwitt).
- Prayers of joy and for healing in our country (Joyce Miller).
- Prayers for my sister's sister-in-law, Sue, who lives in an assisted-living-facility in Upstate NY where there has been a Covid outbreak (John Bartkowiak).
- Prayer of healing for Jodi Hyer, Isaac Anderson's Mother-in-law who is in hospital with severe kidney infection (Deb Anderson).
- Prayers for those who are not celebrating the election results. May we reach out to them with compassion and may their hearts be open to working together for a better country (and world) for all (John Bartkowiak).
- Prayers of healing for my close friends Evan, Cliff and Stuart (Dan Davis).
- Prayers for the choir to continue to find inspiration and strength in these difficult times and to find strength and dedication to continue their wonderful contributions to our service (Stephen Petrov).

## This Sunday at UCCSV

As we continue our stewardship series Together For Joy we will consider what it means to believe in and practice a theology based in joy and rejoicing. Is it right to be joyful in the midst of so much pain happening around us? When we are working for justice or helping those who are in trouble, does it seem like joy fades in the face of oppression, violence, and greed? How can we hold on to joy and what might joy have to do with

our salvation? Pastor Holly will preach, we will enjoy videos from past choir performances, and Ruel Billones will be giving his stewardship testimony. Please join us!

As always the Zoom room opens at 9:30am and worship will begin at 10am. You are invited to bring a candle with you (flame or electric) as you sit down to worship.

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 (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726

Passcode: 20874

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcm87sP9zS>

## Fire Pit Friday

One more Fire Pit Friday will be held on Friday, November 13 starting at 5:30.

Bring a picnic dinner and/or smore fixins and beverage of your choosing. Also, bring a chair and/or blanket.

## Advent to Go Bags

Advent to Go Bags are being prepared for each family in our congregation with children under the age of 18. Each bag will contain a book to help your family find wonderful ways to celebrate this holiday season as well as some items to make that celebration easier and fun. These bags will be available to pick up this coming

Sunday, November 15th at church from 2-4pm when you drop off your pledge card, or next Thursday at my Front Porch Hours from 4-6pm, Thursday, November 19th. If you cannot pick up your bag for whatever reason it will either be mailed to you or dropped off at your house.

## **Pastor Holly's Stories to Live By Podcast**

Pastor Holly is creating a series of short podcasts where she reads biblical stories and other stories of love and justice for you to listen to on your own time and at your own pace. New stories will come out each week.

You can find these new podcasts here:

<https://anchor.fm/holly-jackson5/>

These stories are primarily created with children and youth in mind as a way to try to make more Christian Education opportunities available for our families that didn't involve a screen. However, the stories of "Holy Troublemakers" might be particularly interesting to people of all ages who maybe just need 10 minutes of listening to a great story. I also have reflection questions at the end of each story to consider and discuss.

This week's stories include a younger children's version of Psalm 150, the creation story from The Family Story Bible, and a story for older children and youth (and adults) about Alice Paul who was a Quaker suffragette.

## **Our Youth in Action!**

On the Sunday before Election Day, some of the youth members of the Social Action Board, Clarisse and Miranda Lin, participated in a virtual phone bank marathon in order to encourage people of color to vote in several battleground states. They made calls to Florida, Texas, North

Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Miranda and Clarisse report: "It was a very invaluable experience because we were able to help people to have the determination to vote and make their voices heard in this crucial election."

After a brief training, Miranda and Clarisse were able to easily call people or leave voicemails with information about the different methods for voting in their listeners' home states. As youth who cannot vote yet, they were thrilled to do this because by taking a small chunk of time to call people, they knew they were still making a difference and helping people to know that their voices count. They look forward to doing this again for another significant election, the upcoming runoff Senate elections in Georgia.

Thank you Miranda and Clarisse for being an inspiration!

The Social Action Board

## **Transgender Day of Remembrance Service, November 20th, 7pm**

Please join us for a Transgender Day of Remembrance Service on Zoom on Friday, November 20th at 7pm. This is a day to remember the Trans people lost to violence each year and also to honor the Trans community and strengthen them with our prayers and love. Guest speakers will include Karen Kendra Holmes, a Trans speaker and activist, and Elizabeth Graham, a member of Westmoreland UCC who writes and speaks about the intersection of the Trans community with autism and neurodiversity. We will not be publishing the link to this service publicly but will email the link to our Zoom email list and also offer it to anyone who asks for it directly. All are welcome.

## Heartbeat Opera

This December Heartbeat Opera, an independent opera company, releases a visual album called *Breathing Free*, loosely based on Beethoven's opera *Fidelio*.

The production features an all black professional cast, as well as singers and volunteers from six prison choirs. It will be streamed on six nights in December followed by live panel discussions on mass incarceration, prison choirs, justice and equity.

For anyone interested, here is the website with the complete information on this production.

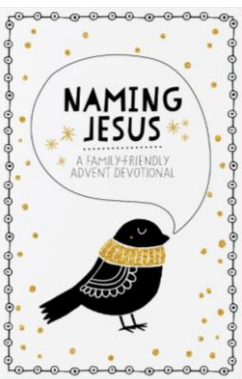
<https://mailchi.mp/alebaco/heartbeat-opera-announces-breathing-free?e=d239a092f9>

Contact Sabine Cox at [sabineecox@gmail.com](mailto:sabineecox@gmail.com) for more information.

## Preparing for Advent

Advent is the time when we prepare to once again welcome Christ into our homes and hearts. One way in which we can do this is through spending time reflecting during the waiting period of Advent.

Each UCCV household is invited to use the Naming Jesus Advent Devotional as part of their Advent preparation.



There are a variety of ways in which you can get a copy of the devotional.

1. Pick one up at the church on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm or Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm.

2. Request an electronic copy by emailing the office at [uccsv@verizon.net](mailto:uccsv@verizon.net)

3. Request a paper copy be mailed to you by contacting the church office at 301-540-3449.

Advent begins Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. So please plan to get your copy of the devotional before then.

## 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/89655025431>

## Upcoming Sundays at UCCSV

November 15 - Together for Joy: Finding joy in service and justice

November 22 - Consecration Sunday - Together for Joy: Finding joy in thanksgiving and generosity

November 29 - 1st Sunday in Advent - I Believe in the Sun Even When I Can't See it: Finding Hope for Tomorrow in the Midst of Struggle

## Please Help! Zoom Worship Volunteer Opportunities – Updated Signup Genius

Please help us update our signup genius through the end of the year. If you would like to help lead our Zoom worship experience there are ways you can help. We still need a “Greeter” and a “Liturgist” every Sunday. Greeters will welcome people as they come into the meeting before worship by voice or by chat and help by supplying important web links in the chat box. Liturgists will lead the service with Holly. We also welcome musical video offerings of instruments or voice that we can use during worship. In addition, we welcome pictures of our congregation during this time apart

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

## Front Porch Hours

Pastor Holly will be having "Front Porch Hours" on Thursdays from 4-6pm every week. During that time she will be sitting out on the church's front porch (by the office doors). You can join her on the porch during that time for conversation, pastoral concerns, suggestions, or whatever else you might want to share with her. It's time she wants to offer to you. No appointment needed. Masks will be required and safe physical distance will be maintained. Bored or lonely?

Anxious or frustrated? Wanting to chat about the news and the state of the world? Full or ideas or feeling empty? Meet her on the "Front Porch" and have a chat! (If those hours don't work and you need to talk to her you can always make an appointment by emailing her.)

## November Birthdays

Alice Chu	11/3
Sabine Cox	11/9
Jeanne Springmann	11/20
Dan Davis	11/23
Denise Kingsbury	11/29