



# Spirit News

November 14, 2019

**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

- Prayer for Lois (hip), Bob Fraley (surgery) and Colby's Dad, Bill Harmon (hip).
- Pray for the families of my cousin Joe who passed away and another cousin's husband Ralph who both died this past week (Susan Percy).
- Ongoing Prayer for Bill Hayes. Prayers for recovery after shoulder surgery (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Ongoing Prayer for Maggie's Father who fell and had a hip fracture. He is 96 years old (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 for my niece, Lina, who lost her job 3 months ago and now is getting desperate (Luz).
- Ongoing Prayer for Dan Davis. Prayers that Dan's IV antibiotic treatment for a borne infection is successful (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Ongoing Prayer for Dawn. She is going through a lot of health issues and needs all the prayers she can get (Terri & Dee Dee).
- Ongoing Prayer for Jill and her son, Spencer. Also, Nanny (Chloe Jackson).
- Ongoing Prayer for Alexis Symanski recently diagnosed with breast cancer who is facing a radical mastectomy and hysterectomy (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Ongoing prayer for God to forgive us for destroying your forests. Help us to know and

act how important forests are to our planet and our lives (Deb Anderson).

- Ongoing prayer for Greg Hyer battling cancer. May he be surrounded with love and comfort throughout his journey. Ongoing prayer for Cherie Giambalvo's family as they grieve the loss of Cherie (Deb Anderson).
- Ongoing prayer for Dave's mom who has breast cancer and had a seizure that left her lethargic and more frail. Traveling mercies for travelers (Shelly Moore).
- Ongoing prayer for Linda Snyder, Tim Fuss's Aunt, in treatment for early stage pancreatic cancer. Prayers for her care team and that her positive outlook will be sustained.

**Ongoing Prayer Requests:** Please notify Nita at [uccsv@verizon.net](mailto: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.

## This Sunday at UCCSV

It's Music Sunday at UCC Seneca Valley and we are filled with thanksgiving for the amazing talent and musical witness that we get to share together. This Sunday we'll enjoy several choir pieces and other musical offerings as a part of a special worship service. Patrick Jackson will drum, the choir will sing, and Clarisse Lin will play the flute. Worship begins at 10am. Be a part of it! Then grab some lunch and come back

to join us from 1-4pm for a mini-retreat led by Lumunos on living through change and building resiliency. Recharge yourself for the week to come with a Sunday full of Spirit, joy, and contemplation at UCCSV!

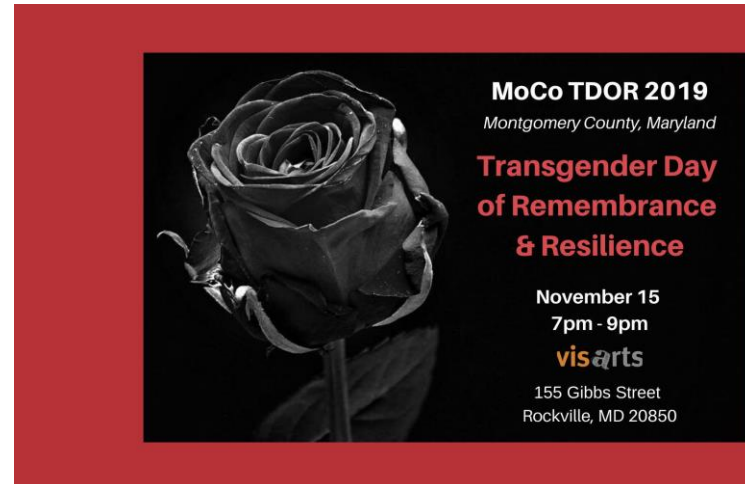
## Holiday Boutique Cancelled

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Holiday Art Boutique scheduled for this Sunday, November 17th, has been cancelled. We hope to be able to reschedule it soon.

## Transgender Day of Remembrance - November 20, 2019

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. You can read more about the Transgender Day of Remembrance at <https://www.glaad.org/tdor> and find out how you can show support for the community on this day. Additionally, the week before TDOR, people and organizations around the country participate in [Transgender Awareness Week](#) to help raise visibility for transgender people and address issues the community faces.

This year UCCSV is supporting the TDOR event sponsored by MoCo Pride on Friday, November 15 at VisArts in Rockville (see the flyer below). Also, during the Sunday, November 24th worship service, the names of the transgender individuals who lost their lives due to anti-transgender violence in the US in the past year will be read aloud as we mourn the loss of each of these beloved children of God.



## Stewardship Update

This past Sunday was Consecration Sunday and we want to share with you some preliminary totals so far:

At this moment we have received 43 financial pledges for the 2020 budget year that add up to a total of \$144,472 to fund church expenses and ministries for the year to come.

That number includes 4 brand new pledges. 32 pledges either stayed the same as last year or increased their giving. Pledges ranged from approximately \$500-\$8,000 breaking down into the following categories:

- 11 pledges under \$2,000
- 23 pledges from \$2,001-\$5,000
- 9 pledges from \$5,001-\$8,500

Last year we had 55 total pledge units that promised to provide a combined \$158,100 to fund the church's ministries in 2019. This means that we are hoping for some additional pledges to come in over the next few weeks so that our totals for 2020 at least match giving from 2019, if not exceed it.

It's important to keep in mind that last year our budget projected a small deficit and right now we anticipate ending the year a few thousand

dollars in the red. The good news is that even though we needed major repairs to our air conditioning system this past summer, we have largely managed to keep the deficit under control. However, it's possible that when the Church Council prepares the budget for 2020 they will need to look at some cost cutting measures like freezing staff salaries and cutting some budget lines in order to try to minimize the deficit for next year based on the totals we have right now for giving in the year to come.

If you have yet to pledge for 2020 but anticipate doing so, please feel free to call the office and report your pledge to our Office Manager, Nita Stone, or mail your pledge to the church office at any time. If you need to amend your pledge in any way, please let Nita know. Nita keeps a record of pledge totals and will give you a report of your progress towards your pledge goal throughout the year. Please contact her at (301) 540-3449 with any questions.

## **Thanksgiving Cards for Baskets**

This Sunday after worship we invite you to sign Thanksgiving cards for the 5 baskets we have put together for local families. We anticipate delivering those baskets the week of November 17th. Please keep these five families in your prayers as we move through the season. They are our neighbors and deeply appreciate our help and support. Thank you for being a generous community.

## **Advent Preview - In the Rich Dark of Winter: Celebrating a Cozy Advent**

Sunday, December 1st, is the first Sunday in Advent and we invite you to take a journey with us into the rich dark of the season. There's fewer hours to the day and it's cold out, but at UCCSV we're finding beauty in the shadows,

basking in the candlelight, wrapping ourselves in God's love, and finding sabbath rest in the midst of the busyness of the holiday season. As we prepare for Christmas Eve and get ready for the light of the world to break into our lives, we are wondering what gifts we can find when we slow down, listen for God, and get cozy in a beautiful sanctuary filled with beloved community. Be a part of it.

## **Needed for Advent Decorating**

As we move into a cozy Advent we need your help to decorate our sanctuary. We are looking for:

1. Cozy afghans or lap blankets
2. Battery operated candles

If you have cozy afghans or lap blankets you'd be willing to lend us for the month of December please bring them into church starting on November 24th. We will keep them in the office during the week so they will be safe and sound but will keep us warm and cozy in worship on Sunday mornings. Also if you have battery operated candles you'd be willing to lend to us during December we'd like to add a bright warm glow to our sanctuary throughout the season. Thank you for helping us keep cozy and enjoy the gifts of the rich dark of winter as we prepare for Christmas morning.

## **Pulp Pilgrims Book Group**

**The next book to discuss will be *Becoming* by Michelle Obama:** it is 426 pages or 16 CD discs (19 hours). There are 23 hardbound copies (136 holds) and 35 CD copies (29 holds).

Because it is a popular book, if you do not have a copy or have not yet read the book, I encourage you to **sign up now** with the Montgomery County library system **to hold/reserve a copy**. **The date to meet will be Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.**

In January we will discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. This is another popular book so put in your name soon to reserve a copy. We will meet January 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### Abstract:

For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. She's barefoot and wild; unfit for polite society. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark. But Kya is not what they say. Abandoned at age ten, she has survived on her own in the marsh that she calls home. A born naturalist with just one day of school, she takes life lessons from the land, learning from the false signals of fireflies the real way of this world. But while she could have lived in solitude forever, the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. Drawn to two young men from town, who are each intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new and startling world -- until the unthinkable happens. When Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya.

**Hard bound:** 145 copies with 330 current holds; **CD book- 10 discs:** 26 copies with 90 holds

## Calendar

Mens Breakfast (9am) – Nov. 16  
Music Sunday – Nov. 17  
Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) – Nov. 17  
Crossing the River Half Day Retreat (1pm) – Nov. 17  
Trustees Meeting (6pm) – Nov. 18  
Council Meeting (7pm) – Nov. 18  
One Anothering (10am) – Nov. 23  
Emma Daughters Baptism – Nov. 24  
Teacher Training (11:30am) – Nov. 24  
PFLAG (2:30pm) – Nov. 24  
Hanging of the Greens (6:30pm) – Nov. 29