



# Spirit News

November 15, 2018

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
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Website: [UCCSenecaValley.org](http://UCCSenecaValley.org)

## Prayer Requests

- Grateful for the life of Peggy Bowers, her kind heart. Prayers for healing Molly. Prayers for transgenders who need our advocacy (Joyce Miller).
- Pray for Wayne as he struggles with heart problems. Pray for all affected by the massacre in California. Pray for all those affected by the fires in California (anonymous).
- Honor for 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armistice Day. Peace for all world wars. Thanksgiving for all the veterans who have served our country to protect our nation and enable us to live in freedom (anonymous).
- Continued prayer for hardened hearts. The election. The Trans Community. Healing from pain and suffering (Shelly Moore).
- Continued thank you for your prayers: my brother Sam had a successful surgery, recovering well; my dad is recovering well since Malaria attack (Maggie N.).
- Continued prayers for travel mercies for inlaws; comfort and peace for survivors of violence, especially sexual violence; those suffering from physical pain (Shelly Moore).
- Continued prayer for survivors of sexual violence – courage and healing. Hearers of sexual violence will first believe and fight for the protection of survivors (Shelly Moore).
- Continued prayer for Katy Crowley – safe journey and travel (Shelly Moore).
- Continued prayers for healing of Shelly's knee. Prayers for employment for Dave Moore. Prayers for civility and reconciliation (Shelly Moore).
- Continued prayers for Liberty Millendez, friend of the Domingo Family, who is undergoing

- chemo. May God's blessings of healing and strength be with her (Gina Domingo).
- Ongoing Prayer for Wayne Miller (Heidi's boss). Pray for health and healing for Wayne as he faces health challenges (Heidi Harmon).
- Ongoing Prayer for the political situation in Kenya as they are going through ethnic violence since post election (Maggie Nyamweya).
- Ongoing Prayer for the pain and suffering of so many in our congregation, DC metro area, and those impacted around the world by disaster, catastrophe and hunger (Shelly Moore).
- Ongoing Prayer for Stephen to find a job closer to home to shorten his long daily commute (John Bartkowiak).

*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.*

## This Sunday at UCCSV

We're celebrating Thanksgiving at UCC Seneca Valley with a special worship service designed to help us quiet our souls and consider what we are thankful for as we move into this holiday week. It's so easy for us to get caught up in the anxiety and stress and constant doing that seems to go hand in hand with big holidays like Thanksgiving. We can forget why we even celebrate. Sunday's worship will give you an opportunity to help you remember. Throughout worship we'll sing songs, have several moments of silence, offer prayers, listen to poetry and scripture, and celebrate the abundance of gifts we have received from God. Given that this week is the annual Transgender

Day of Remembrance we will also lift up in prayer the names of those in the trans community who have died because of their gender identity. Before you cook the turkey and avoid conversation with that uncle you don't agree with, before you stuff yourself with pie, or give to others who might otherwise go hungry on this day, stop and reconnect with God, with yourself, and with beloved community in gratitude and with joy.

## **Transgender Day of Remembrance**

There are two separate Transgender Day of Remembrance services happening in Montgomery County this year. There is a secular service on Friday, November 16th at Vis Arts in Rockville at 155 Gibbs St. #300 from 7-9pm hosted by the MoCo Pride Center and Maryland Trans Unity. There is also a more faith based service and call to action on Sunday, November 18th at 6pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville at 100 Welsh Park Drive. We'd love to see some UCCSV representation at either of these events in support of the wider Montgomery County Transgender Community.

## **Pastor Holly on Vacation from 11/23-11/28**

Pastor Holly will be on vacation with her family from the day after Thanksgiving, Friday November 23rd, until Wednesday, November 28th. If you have an emergency pastoral care need please contact Deborah Tomblyn or your assigned Deacon for help.

## **Advent Preview - Calm and Bright**

This year is the 200th anniversary of the debut of "Silent Night, Holy Night." This hymn has become the best-loved worship moment of so many when it comes to Christmas Eve. Something mystical occurs as we light our candles and sing the hope of "all is calm, all is bright" - peace and light for the world. In what has been at times a very dark year for our world, this message of hope is desperately needed. So during Advent and Christmas this year we will celebrate this carol's message for us and highlight its call for our lives so that it can guide us all year long. Join us for the start of our Advent journey together on Sunday, December 2nd. Mark your calendars now for all our Advent and Christmas services as each one will have its own special focus and flair. On December 2nd we will also honor World AIDS day, on December 9th we will welcome new members to our UCCSV family, and on December 16th we will celebrate our annual Christmas Pageant and that's just the beginning! You won't want to miss a chance to feed your soul during the hectic holiday season by finding calm and light in worship with us this year.

## **Hanging of the Greens, November 30th 6-9pm**

Do you love decorating for Christmas? We need your help to decorate the church on Friday, November 30th from 6-9pm. We'll be putting up Christmas trees, wreaths, ornaments, and other decorations, all to jolly holiday music and in the company of friends. Please mark this special evening on your calendar and volunteer your time to make our church look its best during this holiday season.

## November Gratitude

Looking for ways to stay grateful? Struggling to be thankful when times are tough? Overflowing with gratitude and wanting to share it? Be sure to visit the November Gratitude Prayer Station at the back of the Sanctuary, pay attention to gratitude prompts on our UCCSV Facebook group page, and be sure to attend a special Thanksgiving focused worship service next Sunday, November 18th. Stay in an attitude of gratitude this month and feed your soul.

Please join us at:

21614 Slidell Rd., Boyds Md 20841 (a 10 minute drive west on 117 from the church)  
Sunday, November 18, 2018, from noon-6pm

## Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

Our November read is *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. Published September 18, 1937, this book is an enduring Southern love story told in the voice of a woman who refuses to live in sorrow, bitterness, fear, or foolish romantic dreams. Hurston's masterwork remains as relevant and affecting today as when it was first published.

We will meet Nov. 18th at 11:30am in the Narthex. Contact is Deborah Tomblyn.

NOTE: We are NOT reading *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe.

## November Gets Sticky - Peanut Butter for Germantown Help

This month we are collecting peanut butter for Germantown Help's food pantry. Peanut butter is a great source of shelf stable protein for all kinds of families. So when you go grocery shopping this month throw an extra jar of peanut butter in the cart and bring it in to church on Sunday. Help us feed needy families in our community!

## A Holiday Boutique/Fundraiser for UCCSV is Sunday, November 18 from noon to 6pm.

Please come to the Sumser/DeBaugh home to do your holiday shopping and give to our church at the same time!!!! Beautiful, handcrafted items, such as scarves, purses, jewelry, pottery, cards, paintings and more from 6 different artists (several from SV) will be on sale at amazing prices!!!! This is relaxed shopping, with food, fun, friends and beautiful, one of a kind items you will not find at the mall!!!!!! A portion of the profits will be donated to UCCSV.



## We Need Your Help

Multiple openings for Liturgists and Ushers are available for the month of December. If you are available, please sign up today on the bulletin board outside the church office. We appreciate everything you do!

## Christmas Cookie Exchange

The Domingos are glad to host the cookie exchange this year at their home located at 20310 Brook Run Place, Germantown, MD 20876 on December 9 at 12 noon.

# Thanksgiving Eve Change

In lieu of having a Thanksgiving Eve service this year, we will celebrate Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 18.

## Calendar

Mens Breakfast (9:00am) – Nov. 17

Gratitude Party at David and Shelly's (7:00pm) –  
Nov. 17

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group (11:30am) – Nov. 18

Holiday Boutique/Fundraiser for UCCSV (12noon-  
6pm) – Nov. 18

Trustees Meeting (6:00pm) – Nov. 19

Council Meeting (7:00pm) – Nov. 19

Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) – Nov.  
25

PFLAG (2:30pm) – Nov. 25

Hanging of the Greens (6:00pm) – Nov. 30

\*\* SDA Evangelist Meeting (7:00pm – 10:00pm) –  
Nov. 25, 26, 27