



# Spirit News

November 18, 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 for Sue, who is recovering from a mild case of Covid (John Bartkowiak).
- Prayers for Bob Lambie, who is struggling with back pain (John Bartkowiak).
- For my friend Linda that has lost both of her parents within 5 weeks of each other. Prayers for her Peace (Beth and Laura).
- Prayers of safety for families who are still going to gather for Thanksgiving (John Bartkowiak).
- Prayers for Nancy Crowley who has a hip replacement on Wednesday (John Bartkowiak).
- Prayers for grieving over the old Seneca Valley High School building being taken down, as it was the first meeting place of UCCSV & many members attended there over the years (Fuss Family).
- Prayers for my friend with breast cancer and my friend who is recovering from hip surgery (Asher Beckwitt).
- Prayers for our grand baby that will be born in the next few weeks (Sabine Cox).

## This Sunday at UCCSV

It's Consecration Sunday and we're celebrating what it means to be a community of faith grounded in joy. This Thanksgiving week we're considering how gratitude can feed our joy and help balance our lives and what giving has to do with that. We're looking to the year to come and imagining all the ways in which we could live out the call to be a church that joyfully shares the good news of God's love. That task is made more complicated by the struggles from this past year. For many of us Thanksgiving will look much different than it usually does. Are there ways we can still be together for joy with God,

our family and friends, and our church? What is God calling us to do and be and give right now?

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>

## 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 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.

## Consecration Lunch after Worship

On Sunday you are invited to join us for an online Consecration Sunday lunch. Usually this is a feast in our Gathering Room but this year we will bring our own lunches and join together on Zoom. We will gather for lunch, fellowship, and fun starting at 11:45am but feel free to come on as works for you. We'll hear from the Stewardship Committee about our pledge totals for 2021 and we'll celebrate being together for joy.

Topic: Consecration Lunch

Time: Nov 22, 2020 11:45 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85932180061?pwd=cKJTbzRmQU1iMS9tUzUvcGE5MzJnZz09>

Meeting ID: 859 3218 0061

Passcode: 20874

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 859 3218 0061

Passcode: 20874

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/u/k0lsbxEl>

## Please get your pledge card in this week

This Sunday during worship we will bless our pledge cards and close our stewardship campaign for the year. If you plan on pledging financially to the church for 2021 and have not already sent in your pledge please consider getting your pledge card in as soon as possible.

There are three ways to do so:

1. Mail in your card to UCC Seneca Valley, PO Box 803 Germantown, MD 20875
2. Drop off your pledge card in person at my final Front Porch hours of the year tomorrow, Thursday, November 19th from 4-6pm
3. Fill out an online pledge card here: <https://forms.gle/k5rBTtbeYEL9GyZi7>

We hope to announce our pledge totals at our Consecration lunch (and in next week's Spirit News). Let's celebrate the generosity of our church as we are together for joy!

## Thanksgiving Baskets Fully Funded!

We thank you for your generous donations for the Thanksgiving food baskets for 5 families from Fox Chapel Elementary School. The baskets are now fully funded and will be dropped off to Fox Chapel next Monday just in time for Thanksgiving. Stay tuned for requests for Christmas gifts that we will gather next month.

## 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 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.

## **Front Porch Hours – Last Chance**

Pastor Holly will be having the last Front Porch Hour for the winter this Thursday from 4-6pm. 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 of 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.)

## **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.

## **Men's breakfast via Zoom this Saturday 11/21 at 9 a.m.**

Solve the world's problems from the comfort of your own home. Please contact Noel ([noellin50@gmail.com](mailto:noellin50@gmail.com)) for login info.

## **Time to write postcards again! This time for the GA Senate Runoff Race!**



500 postcards have been ordered for UCCSV! This campaign is organized through Get Out The Vote (GOTV) which is non-partisan. Already folks affiliated with UCCSV have volunteered to write 340 postcards. Such a great response in less than three days!

If you want to volunteer, please email Dan @ [daniel.davis18920@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.davis18920@gmail.com) or Suzanne @ [revsasphd@gmail.com](mailto:revsasphd@gmail.com) and let them know how many cards you would like to complete and mail.

Instructions, cards, stamps, address lists will be available soon and can be picked up at Dan and Suzanne's house. Home delivery is also possible. Cards must be mailed between December 1-7.

If you are interested in phone banking through Get Out The Vote, the link below will take you to the GOTV website:

[Visit the Reclaim Our Vote Phonebank Central](#)

## **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 19<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 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 29th. So please plan to get your copy of the devotional before then.

## Congregational Check In/Happy Hour - Fridays at 7 PM

Cancelled this Friday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>.

Please join us for the Transgender Day of Remembrance Service.

## Thanksgiving Happy Hour

A Thanksgiving Happy Hour will be held virtually starting at 5:30 Thanksgiving Day. Bring a beverage if you'd like, a Thanksgiving memory (photos welcome), and something your heart is grateful for to be included in a community Thanksgiving prayer. Zoom link to be included in next week's Spirit News.

## Food Insecurity During The Holidays

Many of our area residents have struggled with food insecurity during the Covid pandemic and that struggle continues during the holidays. Donations of food items to Germantown Help are a blessing to those in need and the need is even greater around Thanksgiving and Christmas. You may help by donating food or monetary donations.

Website: <https://germantownhelp.org/>

Please email [infoatownhelp@gmail.com](mailto:infoatownhelp@gmail.com) if you have any questions about donating money, food, or diapers to our programs. We will arrange a drop-off or pick-up time. They will also pick up donations from individual's homes.

Tax-deductible donations may be made by mailing a check to:

Germantown HELP  
P.O. Box 608  
Germantown, MD 20875

Also, through a "Donate Now" button on their website (PayPal, Credit Cards, etc.)

## **November Birthdays**

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

## **Upcoming Sundays at UCCSV**

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>