



Spirit News

November 21, 2019

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
An Open and Affirming Congregation
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Prayer Requests

- Thanks for the gifts of leadership of Doug Johnson and those who attended retreat (Suzanne).
- Prayer for all our friends and relatives recovering from broken hips. Please pray for quick healing and restored mobility.
- 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 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 Thanksgiving Sunday and we're celebrating the abundant gifts we have been given in many different ways. We'll celebrate new life with the baptism of Emma Daughters. Pastor Holly will preach an interactive sermon on gratitude. The choir will sing "I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry," a favorite when we celebrate a baptism. We will give thanks for the lives of our Trans siblings when we pray for all those who

lost their lives to violence this past year in honor of the Transgender Day of Remembrance and Resilience. After worship we invite Sunday School teachers or those who are considering teaching to join us for a teacher training at 11:45am. Come join us this Sunday for worship at 10am and give thanks!

Sunday School Teacher Training

All current and prospective Sunday School teachers are invited to join us for a teacher training at 11:45am after worship on Sunday. We will be discussing the new curriculum for both Upper and Lower School classes, going over some information on keeping our children safe, reviewing class management and best practices, and soliciting your feedback for how to improve our program and empower our teachers and volunteers. Join us!

Hanging of the Greens

On Friday, November 29th, at 6:30pm help us to get our building ready for Christmas. It's time to hang the greens, put up the Christmas trees, and prepare the rest of the decorations.

Everyone is welcome to join in the holiday fun. String some lights while we listen to Christmas music and join in fellowship and fun!

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.

Christmas Snowflakes

The ornament star tributes that we made last year went over quite well with our congregation. So we will be utilizing these tributes again this year to honor and remember our loved ones. As a symbol of winter's beautiful miracles, and a reflection of this year's Advent theme, *In The Rich Dark of Winter*, we will have snowflake ornaments available for honoring our loved one(s). The snowflakes will have the name of your loved one on it, and will be hung in the tribute tree in the sanctuary beginning December 15 through Epiphany. Please see attached order form to this email.

Blue Christmas Tea and Service

Join us for our annual Blue Christmas Tea and Service on Wednesday, December 4th at 7 PM in the Church Narthex. The Blue Christmas Tea is a special tradition of UCCSV. The holidays can be a difficult time for those who may be lonely, in mourning, feeling alienated and cast apart from family celebrations or experiencing depression and sadness. At our past teas, we have welcomed participants to share about a person who has died, a special pet who has been lost, or a significant ending that affects them during the Advent and Christmas season. Some participants simply come and welcome some quiet and time for reflection and contemplative prayer. We want to set this time aside to be present for those in our community who may be struggling this year and provide a safe place of rest, comfort and healing. Together we welcome the presence of Christ as the Comforter. Light refreshments will be served.



**TIME TO GET YOUR
COOKIE MAKING ON
FOR THE COOKIE
EXCHANGE and
POTLUCK
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
@ 5 pm at The
Domingo's**

You bring 5 dozen, you go home with 5 dozen
different kinds
Potluck sign-up posted on the
fellowship board.

*You don't have to bring cookies to join
the potluck*

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 15th**.

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 12th.

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



Sunday Worship

December 15, 2019 @ 10 am

Every year, churches fret over the Christmas pageant. They wonder who will show up for practice, when will the kids have time to practice, will Johnny remember his lines, and so on.

It is unlikely that the first Christmas was well organized or that everything went smoothly. In fact, things were probably pretty chaotic. Here was poor Mary who had not intended to have the Son of God born so many miles away from home, let alone in a manger. And on that night long ago, the shepherds did not plan to follow a star.

So this year, we are going to try a little something different with our pageant. Yes, we are having one! But there will be no practice. It will be an impromptu pageant. It will be unrehearsed and might get a little chaotic. But maybe, just maybe, it will reflect the first Christmas a little more closely. And the best part is that everyone will have a chance to participate in the story of remembering the birth of the One who is our Savior.

Calendar

- 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
- CE Committee Meeting (11:30am) – Today, Dec. 1
- Deacon's Meeting (7pm) – Dec. 2
- Blue Christmas Tea (7pm) – Dec. 4
- Christmas Cookie Exchange – Dec. 8
- Pizza Night at Ledo's – Dec. 10
- Christmas Pageant – Dec. 15
- Social Action Com. Mtg. (11:15am) – Dec. 15
- Pulp Pilgrims Book Group (11:30am) – Dec. 15
- Council Meeting (7pm) – Dec. 16
- Mens Breakfast (9am) – Dec. 21
- PFLAG (2:30pm) – Dec. 22
- Christmas Eve Service (7:30pm) – Dec. 24
- One Anothering Group (10am) – Dec. 28