



# Spirit News

November 7, 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

- Thank God for all he/she has giving me (job, health, family and friends) (Luz).
- Prayers for the family of Nicholas Frevert who passed away very suddenly at the age of 23. Prayers for peace and care for all who were touched by his life.
- Prayer for Laurene Karini who passed away Thursday night after a 2<sup>nd</sup> battle with cancer. Please keep her husband Mo and son, Khalil, in your prayers (Terri Molaski).
- 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

We've come to the end of our stewardship series "It's a Wonderful Life" and it's time to celebrate with joy and thanksgiving. At the heart of our relationship to money is living and giving with gratitude—whether the assets we have to give are monetary, or our own capital of time and energy. As a result of aligning our money practices with the courageous vision we see for ourselves and our impact on the world, we end our series by looking for the hope that has been cultivated and the possibility that we

will transform fear to gratitude in the act of sharing. Holly will preach, Court Buchanan will give the stewardship moment, we will bless our pledges, and we will celebrate after worship with a feast. Please join us, whether you plan to pledge or not, and help us to have a truly wonder-full Sunday.



## Consecration Sunday Potluck

**Please Join Us**

**This Sunday, November 10th**

If your last name begins with A-L, bring a side dish. If your last name begins with M-Z, bring a dessert. If there are multiple last names in your family, pick one thing to bring.

## Adopt-A-Road

Join UCCSV friends and members as we make a part of Middlebrook Road beautiful. Trash grabbers, gloves, reflective vests, and trash/recycling bags provided.

**When:** Saturday, November 9

**Where:** Small fenced in parking lot of Seneca Valley High School off of Middlebrook Road (near the auditorium entrance)

**Time:** 9:00 am

**Questions/RSVP:** Jenny at [utzhjhome@gmail.com](mailto:utzhjhome@gmail.com)

Looking forward to spending a Saturday morning with everyone.



## Holiday Boutique

*Holiday shopping should be easy!!! With beautiful handcrafted art at our Holiday Boutique on Sunday, November 17, from noon to 5pm right at the church, you will be contributing to the church and getting your holiday gifts all in one - it's a win/win !!! We have a few spots left for artists who might want to be involved.*

*Please call Lois Sumser at 240-780-6279 if you would like to participate.*

## Wider Church News - The Potomac Association

This past Saturday the Potomac Association of the UCC, the regional body we are a part of, gathered for their bi-annual meeting. The theme of the morning was Deepening Covenant as we look to strengthen the ties between UCC churches in the DC Metro area. Delegates and Clergy from over 20 churches in Maryland, DC, and Virginia were present to worship together and learn about the ministries of the Potomac Association including the Committee on Ministry, justice and witness activities, ministries to local universities, youth mission trips and more. Pastor Holly led communion for the morning as part of her duties as Associate Moderator of the Potomac Association. UCCSV looks forward to continuing to deepen ties and find new ways of collaborating with fellow UCC churches in our county, our state, and throughout the DC metro area.

## Mini Retreat Registration This Sunday During Fellowship Hour

Have been looking for a quick and easy way to register for the Mini Retreat on November 17? If so, this Sunday, November 10 you can register during Fellowship Hour. Suzanne and Dan will be there to assist you. Feel free to bring a check (made payable to Lumunos) or cash money (\$40). No muss, no fuss, easy peasy!



### Crossing the River: Finding Resiliency in Times of Change

*A Half-Day Retreat for People in the Washington, D.C. Area*

Sunday, November 17, 2019

1:00-4:00 pm

UCC Seneca Valley

13421 Clopper Rd. | Germantown, MD 20874



Life is filled with transition and change. They might be positive or expected—like retirement, moving, a new job, relationship, or kids entering your life or leaving the nest. Or, the change might be forced upon us through no choice of our own—think health crisis, or a change of leadership at your place of work. We are always leading up to a change; in the middle of one; or on the tail end of some change. Change changes us, but we aren't always aware of how, or what to do with it.

While challenging, change also brings opportunity. In this 3-hour mini retreat, led by Doug Wysocky-Johnson of Lumunos, you will have an opportunity to step back from some change in your life and view it through a spiritual lens. Using sacred story, research from the world of business and social science; conversation and time for reflection, you will leave with a different way to view the changes in your life. Light refreshments provided.

Cost: \$40 (Scholarship help available. Contact [doug@lumunos.org](mailto:doug@lumunos.org))

Register Online: [www.lumunos.org/dctransitions](http://www.lumunos.org/dctransitions)

## 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

## stillspeaking DAILY DEVOTIONAL



### Rejoicing Instead of Complaining

Jennifer Brownell

November 6, 2019

*Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord. - Habakkuk 4:17-18a (NRSV)*

Not long ago, I was in a car accident on a busy freeway during rush hour. Apparently, another driver suffered a seizure while driving and crashed into several other cars before he crashed into mine and ended up stopped on the center barricade.

No one was seriously injured, so the other drivers and I stood around for a while on the hot cement of the middle lane of I-5, waiting to be cleared to continue our commute home. In that unfamiliar place, we did the familiar thing that strangers do when waiting for something to happen. We started to complain.

“For goodness sake, it’s always something, isn’t it?”

“What a way to end the day!”

“We’ll be late for dinner now.”

I have some friends who are going through life seasons that are beyond inconvenient and right into tragic. I’m learning from them that complaint

doesn’t have to be our default. These friends are teaching me that there is always reason to rejoice in the goodness of God, even when nothing seems to be going their way. Even in the middle of an accident, these friends teach me to notice gratitude for the passerby who passed around a water bottle, the unexpected beauty of the sun when you are stopped on the freeway instead of speeding down it, and the miracle that today, at least, although machinery was crumpled, no human life was lost.

#### Prayer

Holy One, help me to rejoice in you even, or especially, when I am tempted to complain. Amen.

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#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Jennifer Brownell is the Pastor of First Congregational Church of Vancouver, Washington, and the author of [\*Swim, Ride, Run, Breathe: How I Lost a Triathlon and Caught My Breath\*](#), her inspiring memoir.

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## Calendar

Adopt-A-Road (9am) – Nov. 9  
Stewardship Sunday – Nov. 10  
Deacons Meeting (7pm) – Nov. 11  
Pizza Night at Ledos – Nov. 12  
Mens Breakfast (9am) – Nov. 16  
Music Sunday – Nov. 17  
Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) – Nov. 17  
Holiday Boutique (12 noon) – 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