



# Spirit News

October 10, 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

- Pray for Lilliana, who has a fungal ear infection (Grandpa John B.).
- Prayers of Thanksgiving for the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Metropolitan Community Churches (Adam DeBaugh).
- Pray for the protection of LGBT people as the Supreme Court hears cases regarding discrimination against them (John B.).
- 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 Molly's Cousins, April and Chris Winslow who are adopting a baby boy, Baby Byron, who was born 10 weeks early and is doing well in the NICU in Tampa, FL. Prayers for health and growth for baby and strength for the new parents (Molly Thomason).
- 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 and Cherie Giambalvo, both battling cancer. May they be surrounded with love and comfort throughout their journeys (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.

## Friday Fall Fun Fest

Please join UCCSV Council Members as they host a "Friday Fall Fun Fest" at UCCSV from 6pm - 9:00pm on October 18th. We're having grilled burgers and hotdogs with s'mores for dessert. Please join us around the fire pits for an evening of family fun! What to bring? A chair to sit in, a side dish to share and any adult beverage you prefer. Apple cider will be provided.



## October is Diaper Month

Please support the Germantown Help by donating diapers. Sizes 4, 5, 6 are especially needed.

## Fellowship Opportunity - Sunday, October 13 @ 1:00

If you're someone who doesn't enjoy the mass gathering for fellowship after worship, but would like to get to know a few folks better in a smaller setting or if you're someone who just enjoys walking whenever you get the chance, join us on Sunday, October 13, for some Walking Fellowship. We will meet in the church parking lot at 1:00 (time to go home, change, and grab a bit of lunch) and carpool together over to Black Hills Regional Park for a leisurely walk in the woods; talking encouraged, but not required. The plan is to spend about an hour and half there and then head back to church. No sign up required, just join us at 1:00.

## Fall Fun Weekend at UCCSV, October 18-20

It's finally October and the weather is cooling off so it's time to celebrate fall! We'll start on **Friday the 18th at 6:00pm with a Fall Friday Fire Pit Fun Night** including a cookout, games, a firepit, and s'mores. Come hang out around the fire with us! Hot dogs, hamburgers, and s'mores will be provided. Bring a side dish or salad or fruit and a drink to share. Then on **Sunday, October 20th** after worship, join us for a **Community Pumpkin Carving/Painting session**. Bring a pumpkin from home and any carving tools you might have to share. Together

we'll carve out funny and scary designs on big pumpkins and/or paint small pumpkins for those who would rather stay away from the knives. Prizes will be awarded for the best designs! Celebrate God's amazing fall season with your UCCSV community!

## Sunday School Teachers and Volunteers Needed

As another program year for our Christian Education and Spiritual Formation begins, we are looking for teachers willing to journey alongside UCCSV's children and youth as they learn about what it means to follow Jesus and be a community based in love. We are beginning to grow the number of families with children and youth at our church but this means our programs need to expand so that we can make room for our new friends. You are invited to volunteer to teach either the Lower School K-5 class or the Upper School 6-12th grade class. You are also invited to volunteer to help our Nursery Caregiver, Uriah, in the Nursery if there are more than 4 infants and toddlers/preschoolers in the nursery with her. If we find we can fill a preschool class of 3-5 year olds we will be starting that class as well. But we need YOUR help. **Please sign up online here (topics are included so that you can choose which classes you want to teach)**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Xa0KUbir c5Gs78ecsL2kCHOB6RhkPAumV3jw8XmbCAw/edit?usp=sharing> OR sign up at church on the bulletin board next to the church office. You don't need to be a biblical scholar to be a teacher. You just have to be willing to let God equip you to do the work of loving and leading our kids!


## Mini Retreat Coming to UCCSV

For several years, I have served as a board member of an organization known as Lumunos (formerly Faith at Work). Suzanne also has served on their board and worked as their Deputy Director while she was in seminary. We both have found this organization to be meaningful in our lives and have enjoyed their


approach to small groups and interacting in a “sacred space.”

The Executive Director of Lumunos, Doug Wysockey-Johnson, has been leading mini retreats around the country on the topic of Crossing the River: Finding Resiliency in Times of Change. When Doug offered to lead a mini retreat at UCCSV, I jumped at the chance. I encourage you to participate in this event taking place on **Sunday, November 17 from 1-4 pm** in the Gathering Room. Instructions for registering can be found in the announcement below. Scholarship funds are available. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Dan Davis- [daniel.davis18920@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.davis18920@gmail.com)



**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 Wysockey-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)

## Where's the Playground, Suzie?

There's an old song by Glen Campbell entitled "Where's the Playground, Suzie?" It seems like an appropriate title for the focus of this message. September 24<sup>th</sup> was my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Having reached this milestone, I can honestly say I have all I need. Rather than receive birthday gifts, it occurred to me to inquire about needs the church might have.

Pastor Holly suggested that the church could use a playground. Because Dan and I love the church, children, and the future of both, we loved the idea.

Dan and I have made a significant gift in honor of my 70<sup>th</sup> which will serve as seed money for the playground. We also invited family and friends to make a donation to the fund. Several have already done so. If the idea of funding the playground appeals to you, feel free to make a donation too.

Having a playground on our church property sends an important message to the children of our congregation, those of the Seventh Day Adventist congregation, and the local community.

It will be great fun to answer the question "Where's the Playground, Suzie?" with "Right here at UCCSV!"

You'll find a donation button on the church's website at <http://www.uccsenecavalley.org/donate> or you may drop a check in the offering plate marked playground fund.

With a grateful heart, Suzanne Adele Schmidt

## Calendar

Walking Fellowship (1pm) – Oct. 13  
UCCSV Fall Funfest (6:00pm) – Oct. 18  
Men's Breakfast (9am) – Oct. 19  
Bring Your Pumpkin (After Worship) - Oct. 20  
Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) – Oct. 20  
Council Meeting (7:00 pm) – Oct. 21  
Social Action Video Discussion (7pm) – Oct. 23  
One Anothering Group (10am) – Oct. 26  
PFLAG (2:30pm) – Oct. 27