



Spirit News

October 18, 2018

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

- Prayers for homeless teenagers in our community. As weather turns colder, these youth are in need of support (anonymous).
- Prayers for Charlie's surgery, for clean margins, for a speedy & full recovery. Blessing to his medical team. Comfort and support for his family (anonymous).
- Prayers for Sam Tellis (recovering from surgery) and for Ross Handshoe (hospice care) (anonymous).
- Pray for clarity of thought and communication skills during an upcoming telephone interview (anonymous).
- Continued prayer for Charlotte whose daughter is moving to NH. Keep her in your care (anonymous).
- 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 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.

For this Sunday our focus will be on:
Mark 10:35-45

This Sunday at UCCSV

So often society sends us messages that what truly matters about us is our status and how we compare to other people. Are we on the top or towards the bottom? Did we go to the best schools? Do we have important job titles? Did we get good grades? And if we have those things then it is assumed that we are entitled to even more. But Jesus told us that we have gotten it all backwards. In God's upside down Realm the first, the best, the most important are actually supposed to go to the back of the line as to allow those who have not had those advantages to be heard, to be seen, and to be ministered to. How can we find a way to step back and listen to the marginalized? How can we hear victims, the poor, the oppressed, those who are struggling with illness, and others when the voices of the those already in power shout them down and belittle them? Does Jesus call us to amplify the voices of people who have been assaulted, the cries of those whose lives and communities have been destroyed, the calls for justice for those denied a place at the table? How do we live out the words of the Gospel no matter where we find ourselves on the spectrum from first to last? Join us for worship on Sunday at 10am and be a part of the conversation.

Parents Corner

It's not easy parenting children and youth in today's world but at UCCSV we hope to help give your children the spiritual tools and critical thinking to help them thrive and grow. In September the Lower School class headed back to the Old Testament to see what our Jewish ancestors have to teach us about God, ourselves, and the world around us. We began with the Creation story, then learned about Adam and Eve, Noah, Baby Moses, and the Exodus. In the coming weeks we will focus on the Ten Commandments, and then the stories of Deborah, Samuel, Esther, and Ezekiel. In addition at the end of September we had our

first all Sunday School 5th Sunday art project and the children created beautiful dream mobiles that we will use to decorate our sanctuary for our upcoming Stewardship Season.

Our Upper School has been having very interesting conversations and devoting themselves to service. In September not only did they participate with our younger class in our 5th Sunday art project, but they also considered how to serve their community during 4th Sunday Service Projects. The class brainstormed the projects they would like to tackle throughout the year and also prepared cards and pictures to deliver a dose of love and joy to Sally Duncan who usually is not able to make it church anymore. In October the Upper School Class's 4th Sunday Service Project will revolve around publicizing and preparing for Thanksgiving Basket donations for WUMCO. In addition the Upper School classroom is where we grapple with questions such as "Why does God let bad things happen?" and "Can I do something bad enough to make God stop loving me?"

Please be sure to join us on Saturday October 20th at 2pm at Sharp's at Waterford Farm for a wonderful afternoon of family fall fun!



October Food Pantry Collection

In October we will be collecting various kinds of rice to donate to the Germantown Help Food Pantry. Let's challenge ourselves to donate over 100 lbs. Bring in your bags or boxes of rice and place them in the large basket in the Narthex right across from the Sanctuary doors. Thank you for your help in feeding our hungry neighbors!

Letter from Sandy & Bill Renner

Dear Church Family:

Almost 25 years ago we joined UCCSV after moving from Chicago. Along with our two sons, we have enjoyed being members. We have shared in many joys and sorrows, grown in our faith and have always felt at home. We both love the sanctuary, the focus on justice for all and the continuing development of the congregation. We also have been excited and energized by Holly's ministry; however, it's time for a new phase in our lives, so it is with sadness and anticipation that we will be moving next week.

We have now both retired and it's time for some changes. As some of you know, we are downsizing and moving to Louisville, Kentucky to be near our son, Matt, his wife Amanda and especially our grandson Arthur. We want to be part of his life. Our other son, Mike is living in Wilmington NC but will probably move in the future. Our house is not yet built so we will be spending the winter in Deep Creek MD before moving on to Louisville in the spring.

We will each keep our cell phone numbers. Our mailing address is PO Box 297, McHenry, MD, 21541-0297. We hope to keep in touch with UCCSV. We also hope that all of you experience the blessings and faith that we have received by being part of this congregation.

With love and caring,
Sandy and Bill Renner

Labyrinth Worship Station

It's easy to forget that we have an amazing spiritual tool just out our back door. This Sunday before or after worship, or before or after Fellowship Time, spend some time using our outdoor labyrinth. Use the guides provided for ways in which you can use the labyrinth to pray, or for discernment, or to work towards peace and healing. If it is rainy outside or you cannot use the outdoor labyrinth for any reason, feel free to use the finger labyrinths provided at the station. Use the finger labyrinths in the same way you would use the walking labyrinth, just use your finger instead of your feet. Take 10 minutes (or more) and intentionally set aside time to spend with God and deepen your spiritual journey by experiencing the labyrinth.

Family Fall Fun Day Location Change!

Please mark your calendars for this Saturday, October 20, for a family fun afternoon at Sharp's Farm in Brookeville! Please note that all families interested will meet at Sharp's Farm, NOT Butler's Orchard, as previously scheduled. We will meet at 2:00 pm for some pumpkin picking fun, hayride, and more. Admission to Sharp's Farm is free. Pay only for what you choose to buy (pumpkins, gourds, baked goods, etc). **Please note that this is a "meet and enjoy" event. UCCSV will not be supervising children. All children must attend with a parent or guardian.** Looking forward to an afternoon of fall fun! Please visit <http://sharpfarm.com/> for information.

Behind the Scenes Worship Training

Sunday mornings don't just happen. They are the result of volunteers and staff coming together to produce a particular experience for the whole congregation. If you would like to help make Sunday mornings amazing at UCCSV by volunteering to be an usher or liturgist or help set up and monitor the projector, please join us for a short Behind the Scenes Worship Training this Sunday, October 21st after worship. We'll go over what's involved with these various positions and how to do the best job you can to support our community worship experience. Join us!

Orientation to UCCSV/New Members Class

If you are newer to the UCCSV Community we'd love to get to know you more and help you get to know us. It's time for an orientation! Join us after worship on Sunday, October 28 for conversation and questions. If after these two meetings you would like to become an official member of UCCSV, we will be having people join during worship one Sunday in November BUT that is totally your choice. Mostly this is to connect more with you and help you better understand our church community.

Volunteers Needed

November signup sheets are now available for Liturgists and Ushers.

If you are available, please sign up this Sunday on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Calendar

- Bingo at Roger and Ruth's (7:00pm) – October 19
- Men's Breakfast (9:00am) – October 20
- The Soul of Aging – Part 1 (9:30am) – October 20
- Sharp's Farm in Brookeville (2:00pm) – October 20
- Grubby Sunday (after worship) – October 21
- Liturgist/Behind the Scenes Training (11:30am) – October 21
- Active Bystander Training (7:00pm) – October 24
- Chancel Choir Practice (7:30pm) – October 25
- UCCSV Orientation/New Member Class (11:30am) – October 28
- Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) – October 28
- PFLAG (2:30pm) – October 28
- Ladies Night Out (7:00pm) – October 29

Fair Trade Coffee

Fair Trade coffee & chocolate will be sold this Sunday October 21st. This is a one-time change from the regular 2nd Sunday to the 3rd Sunday.