



Spirit News

October 25, 2018

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
An Open and Affirming Congregation
13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD
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Prayer Requests

- Pray for Lois, who had a Liver biopsy, for strength and calm (Tom Sumser).
- Thanks for 5 years cancer free (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:
Psalm 150; Acts 2:17-18; Matthew 7:24-27

This Sunday at UCCSV

It's time to Dare to Dream! This Sunday we kick off our annual stewardship campaign. But wait, don't flee like it's the NPR pledge drive because we have an amazing few weeks of worship, connection, and celebration planned! This Sunday we begin by looking back at those who dared, almost 40 years ago now, to dream of a UCC church that would be a welcoming and warm community for the people in the upcounty area. Those first dreamers listened to God's call and dreamed along with God. They gathered more and more people who dared to dream until they went from meeting in a high school to building their own church building and

growing a congregation. Those dreams live on in us today. What can we learn from where we began? How does understanding their dreams inspire us to continue to dream of all this church could be, of all that we can be as individuals? Join us on Sunday at 10am and find out.

We Are a Part of the Potomac Association

This past Saturday the Potomac Association of the United Church of Christ gathered together for their fall meeting. The Potomac Association is made of UCC churches large and small all around the DC metro area. We are one of the northernmost churches of the PA which stretches all the way south down to Richmond, east to Prince Georges County, and west out to Centreville, VA. Together the Association makes decisions about authorizing ministry, supports higher education ministries at area colleges like the University of Maryland and the University of DC, joins together to promote and pursue social justice, and works to improve Christian Education initiatives and support youth mission trips. We are not alone in the work we do! Other PA churches in the area can be our partners in ministry. The PA is a very diverse group of churches and sometimes this has been a source of conflict and division as we seek to each keep our own sense of identity and culture while also finding areas where we can partner together and pray for one another.

I co-led and organized worship at this last meeting with an eye towards healing past hurts and beginning to see our diversity as an incredible gift from God that should be celebrated. There is much work to be done in bringing our Association together, but it is important work. By our very existence we testify to the fact that we don't all have to agree or be the same in order to love one another and work for the good of all. I hope that in the months to come, especially with the help of our new Conference Minister, we can find new ways to

continue to get to know one another and truly connect with each other as fellow UCC churches. For together we can make much more of an impact on our wider community than we ever could alone. In the meantime, I ask you to pray for our fellow UCC PA churches. It is in praying for them that we will begin to see them as connected to us and it will strengthen our bonds and remind us that we are part of a much wider Body of Christ. If you want additional information about the Potomac Association (or to find names of area churches to pray for), you can find it at their website: <http://www.potomacucc.org/> or join their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/293295774423/>. Or I am happy to answer any additional questions.

- Pastor Holly

Dare to Dream - Stewardship Campaign

We're daring to dream together about all our church was and is and could be during this year's stewardship campaign. You may have gotten a letter, flier and pledge card in the mail this week asking you to dare to dream with us. Over the next three Sundays in worship we will be focusing on what makes this congregation special and how we are being called to continue to support it and help it to grow with our time, talent, and treasure. If you did not get anything in the mail, we have extras at church. Please feel free to pick up an envelope and see what all the fuss is about. This first Sunday, October 28th we will focus on our past and the dreams that created this church in the first place. Then on November 4th we will celebrate who we are today, a warm inclusive community growing in energy and excitement. And what better way to celebrate that than having a baptism! Finally on November 11th we will celebrate our future and promise to work and give to help our dreams, and God's dreams

come true. We will bring our pledges to worship and bless them by offering them to God. After worship we will celebrate with a wonderful lunch and program and time of fellowship. What are your dreams? What are God's dreams? Let's dream to dream together!

If you are not planning to be in worship on November 11th but would still like your pledge blessed as part of our community's offering and commitment to God, please feel free to bring your pledge card to church over the next two Sundays or to mail it to the church office at 13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD 20874.

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.

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.

Ladies Night Out

Join us at Mi Rancho at 7pm. The address is 19725 Germantown Road. Please RSVP at our Facebook thread or to Deborah Anderson directly so she can keep track of numbers. There will be no set group menu or prices. It will be order your own and pay for your own.

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.

Daylight Savings Time

Just a reminder that DST ends on Sunday, **November 4**, 2018, at 2:00 A.M. At this time, we "fall back" in the fall by setting clocks back one hour (i.e., gaining one hour).

Calendar

- 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