



Spirit News

October 31, 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
Website: UCCSenecaValley.org

Prayer Requests

- 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 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

As we continue our stewardship season celebrating a "Wonder-full Life" at UCCSV we will wrestle with the questions: "Is money bad? Is there a problem with being wealthy?" In the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life" there is a deep distinction made between the Baileys (the good guys) and the Potters (the rich bad guys) of this world. Is it really that cut and dry? Maybe the question should be about how we use the money we have, no matter how much we have of it. How does love and generosity or bitterness and resentment play into how we use money? Join us for worship at 10am as we wrestle with these questions and celebrate the wonder all around us. Milan Yu will play an offertory on the piano, Pastor Holly will preach, and there will be a Youth sponsored Thanksgiving Basket "Market" in the Gathering Room after worship. Spend your Sunday morning with us!



Daylight Savings Time THIS WEEKEND

Don't forget to set your clocks BACK this Saturday night before you go to bed so that you will be

on time for worship on Sunday or you'll be at church extra early!

Thanksgiving Basket Market THIS SUNDAY

It has long been our tradition at UCCSV to fill Thanksgiving Baskets with all the fixings for families in need. This year we have connected with Clopper Mill Elementary School, one of our local schools, to get the names of five families that could use a little help this holiday season. We will be working with these families for both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

After worship this Sunday and next Sunday our Youth will be "selling" the contents of these baskets so that you can donate to the cause and place the items you "buy" in the baskets. Please bring cash, check, or you can pay by paypal. Items to "purchase" include:

Canned Green Beans \$1 (5)
Canned Corn \$1 (5)
Canned Peas and Carrots \$2 (5)
Gravy \$2 (5)
Stuffing \$3 (5)
Macaroni and Cheese \$3 (5)
Rice \$2 (5)
Beans \$2 (5)
Canned Pumpkin \$2 (5)
Applesauce \$2 (5)
Cranberry Sauce \$2 (5)

We will also need straight donations for perishable items like turkey (or other main dishes), bread, potatoes, fruit, etc. We'd like to collect at least \$30 per family in order to purchase Giant gift cards so they can purchase

these items at their discretion. If you will not be in church this Sunday or next but would still like to donate, please go to the donate page on our website (www.uccsenecavalley.org/donate) and be sure to note that your donation is for Thanksgiving baskets. Let's be generous and give these local families a truly wonderful Thanksgiving!

Fellowship Opportunity – This Sunday, November 3 @ 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, November 3, 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.

Teacher Training Postponed to November 24th

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Teacher Training originally scheduled for this Sunday will be postponed until after worship on Sunday, November 24th. In the meantime if teachers have concerns or questions or feedback about Sunday School or the Nursery please contact Pastor Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com.

It's a Wonder-Full Life Worship and Stewardship Series

Our yearly stewardship campaign began on Sunday, October 20th and runs through Consecration Sunday, November 10th. You

should be getting a letter and pledge card in the mail this week that explains more about our campaign (if you do not get something in the mail please let us know so we can send you a copy). This year we are focusing not just on what we can or should give to UCCSV in terms of time, talent, and money, but we are also looking at our overall relationship with money and how that effects our spiritual life. Part of our reflection on this will be focusing on the classic movie, "It's a Wonderful Life." We really do have a wonder-filled life here at UCCSV. We change lives. We support one another in times of joy and sorrow. We work to make a difference in the community around us. We care for God's amazing creation. Over the next month we'll celebrate our church and consider how we can support and live out our faith using the abundance God has blessed us with. Let's celebrate a wonderful life of ministry together!



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 utzihome@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.

Calendar


- CE Committee Meeting (11:30am) – Nov. 3
- Strategic Task Force Meeting (7pm) – Nov. 7
- 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

Mini Retreat Registration This Sunday and Next 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 3 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)

Register Online: 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 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