



Spirit News

October 3, 2019

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

- Prayer for the Benskin family on the death of Catherine's Mother, Kathleen Campagnoli, this week. May God hold them close in their time of grief and saying goodbye.
- Prayer for the UCC Central Atlantic Conference, the regional body of our denomination, as it gathers for its Annual Meeting in Bethesda this coming weekend, October 4-5. Prayers that the CAC will continue its work to Be The Church and make Spirit-led decisions that inspire both local churches and the National UCC setting.
- 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 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

It's World Communion Sunday and so we'll gather breads from around the world at Christ's communion table to celebrate this special ritual that connects us to God and other Christians everywhere. The choir will sing, congregational speakers including Bethany Fuss will share with us their experiences and thoughts about communion, and Clarisse Lin will provide us with this week's Prelude, Postlude and other incidental music. Come share communion with the world this Sunday without leaving Germantown!



October is Diaper Month

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

Pastor Holly Away Oct. 10-13

Pastor Holly will be in Chicago from October 10-13th at Chicago Theological Seminary's retreat for her Resiliency in Leadership fellowship. If you need emergency pastoral care during that time please contact our own Rev. Suzanne Adele Schmidt or your Deacon. Please also welcome Holly's Member in Discernment Mentee, who is on the path to ordination, Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett, who will be preaching on Sunday, October 13th in Holly's absence.

Sunday Volunteers Needed ASAP

We are in need of Liturgists and Ushers for October and November. If you are available, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office this Sunday. Many thanks for all you do!

Neighbors in Need Offering This Sunday

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

<https://www.ucc.org/nin>



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 19-20

It's finally October and the weather is cooling off so it's time to celebrate fall! We'll start on Friday the 19th at 5:30pm 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!

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

Catherine Benskin's Mom's (Kathleen Campagnoli) Funeral Arrangements

Catherine Benskin's Mother passed away earlier this week. For those interested in supporting the Benskin family through this loss here are the details of the funeral arrangements:

Monday October 7 at St Rose of Lima, 11701 Clopper Road, Gaithersburg

10am Viewing and Visiting hour

11am Mass - If you would like to sing in the choir message Catherine for music list

12pm Hospitality courtesy of St Rose Martha Ministry

Tuesday October 8 Internment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery led by Pastor Holly

10am Blessing and Internment, Lunch to follow

In lieu of flowers, donations can be directed to: Togo Mission Inc, P.O. Box 130, Gaithersburg, MD 20884

<https://interfaithfunerals.com/book-of-memories/3981714/Campagnoli-Kathleen/index.php>

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/1Xa0KUbirC5Gs78ecSL2kCHOB6RhkPAumV3jw8XmbCAw/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!

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 24th was my 70th 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 70th 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

CE Committee Meeting (11:30am) – Oct. 6
Orientation & New Members Class (11:45am) – Oct. 6 & 20
Deacons Meeting (7pm) – Oct. 7
Pizza Night at Ledos – Oct. 8
Walking Fellowship (1pm) – Oct. 13
UCCSV Fall Funfest (6:30pm) – 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

Community News You Can Use

The Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) and the Montgomery County Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (PBTSAC) are hosting the Arrive Alive: A Safe Routes to School Forum on Oct. 19 from 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at Northwood High School.

This free event will bring together parents, students and members of the community to discuss ways to ensure walking and bus routes for students in the county are safe. Sidewalks, cycling paths, bus stop locations, and parent dropoff loops are all important components of keeping kids safe as they walk and ride to school.

Attendees will have an opportunity to attend workshops on a variety of topics including:

- Building a better bus stop system
- Public transit 101 for students
- Crossing guards: which schools get one?
- How to get (better) sidewalks in your neighborhood

Representatives from MCPS, the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, Montgomery County Police Department, and the Montgomery County Planning Department will be on hand to share information and answer questions.