



Spirit News

September 12, 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

- Prayer for Jill Peterson and her family on the death of her son, Spenser (Chloe Jackson).
- Prayer for new grandchild of Deborah Barnes named Messiah, born 6lbs. 15 ozs., 20 inches long (Deborah Barnes).
- Pray for Dan Davis. Prayers for positive results for my MRI and culture results to rule out an infection in my back (Dan Davis).
- Give thanks for successful heart surgery for my brother-in-law and pray for continued healing (Susan Percy).
- 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

When we feel at our lowest about life, our individual life or the life of our communities, nation or world, we can feel alone and see life as a wasteland—or little broken pieces—with little to offer. In our Jeremiah journey this week, God looks at the state of affairs and despairs . . . and yet . . . though God is clearly frustrated, God doesn't give up. And the Gospel continues that message. Though you may be lost, though despair seems all around, God still calls us "God's People" and seeks us out, never giving up on finding us. Join us this Sunday for worship at 10am as we are honest about our brokenness but also as we celebrate the God who never abandons us. Pastor Holly will preach, the choir will sing "Stand By Me" and after worship is over those who are willing will join together for Grubby Sunday to clean and improve our church building and grounds. We can't wait to see you!

September is Pasta Month

Please support the Germantown Help food bank by donating your favorite Pasta.

Grubby Sunday September 15!



It's time to deep clean our church building and spruce up our grounds! Wear your Grubby Clothes to worship and then join the fun in

making our sacred space sparkle! Members from the Seventh Day Adventist Church will join UCCSV to make for fast work! If you can bring cleaning supplies or gardening tools, please be sure your name is on any item you wish to have returned.

Property Ops is grateful to the Fellowship Committee for providing cheese pizza for all of the helpers!

Recent Sermons

If you'd like to read some of Holly's recent sermons, the Bodies are Beloved Series and some other recent sermons are now online at our website at:

http://www.uccsenecavalley.org/recent_sermons

As a reminder Holly is striving to make paper copies of her sermons available on Sunday mornings for those who would like to follow along visually. Look for them on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. We'd also love to start making audio or video recordings of sermons. If you have any expertise or even a willingness to explore technical options around this, please talk to Holly.

Children's Playground Fundraising



Dan and Suzanne Schmidt have recently offered to provide seed funding for a children's playground to be built on our church grounds. Suzanne is also asking her friends and family to celebrate her upcoming birthday by giving to this project. Having a playground would be a signal to our

families, and any visiting families, that children are welcome here. If you would like to contribute to this effort of hospitality for our children and young families, we have recently created an online donation option on our website to collect donations for this project. Thank you for support!

<http://www.uccsenecavalley.org/donate>

Worship Series: Prophecies and Pottery, Journey with Jeremiah

Do you look around at the world and despair? Heartache, displacement, violence, helplessness, and homesickness have long been a part of the ongoing human story. But it's not the end of the story. Our faith and our sacred scriptures invite us to deal openly and honestly with these things, helping us to remember the presence of God and the hope of a better future. During the month of September the assigned scripture passages from the lectionary give us the gift of journeying with the prophet Jeremiah during a time of exile for the Hebrew people. His interactions with God can give us insight as to how to be people of faith in difficult times and whether God is at work even when it seems all is lost. In this worship series we will encounter the familiar imagery of God as the Potter who can reshape and remake us, molding us as individuals and as the church, into vessels of living water ready for a brighter tomorrow.

September 15: Shards: Still My People
September 22: Vessels: Healing Tears
September 29: Earthenware Jars: Hope for the Future

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.

INSTRUCT
ENCOURAGE
PRAISE
INFLUENCE
SHARE
GUIDE
INSPIRE

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/1Xa0KUbc5Gs78ecsL2kCHOB6RhkPAumV3jw8XmbCAw/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!

Sanctuary DMV Accompaniment Training

Christ Congregational Church
9525 Colesville Rd, Silver Spring
September 14, 1:30-3:30pm

Over the past two years, volunteers with Sanctuary DMV's accompaniment program have supported dozens of immigrants at their ICE check-ins, immigration court appointments, and more. Accompaniers provide moral and emotional support to immigrants going through extremely trying processes. They show solidarity, reduce the likelihood of detention with their presence, and keep relatives or lawyers informed in case of an arrest.

There is an increasing number of requests for accompaniment and more volunteers are needed to help fill the need. Because of the volume of requests for check-ins and appointments in Baltimore in particular, Sanctuary DMV is looking to build a bigger volunteer base in Maryland.

The next accompaniment training will take place on Saturday, September 14 at 1:30pm at Christ Congregational Church in Silver Spring, MD. Language skills other than English, and access to a car, are useful but by no means necessary.

Please register in advance:

Form: <https://forms.gle/xK8YEc1VvWNpbJr6>

For more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/408356216698630/>

UCCSV Orientation and New Members Class

If you have been a visitor at church and would like to know more about our community or would like to join the church by becoming a member please come to our UCCSV Fall Orientation sessions. There will be three different sessions after church. Although we'd

love for you to attend them all, none are mandatory. They are simply a good way to get to know what the church is about and how you can find your place here. Sessions will be on Sundays after worship, 45 minutes to an hour long, and starting at 11:45am. If after these sessions you would like to become a member of UCCSV, we will find a Sunday that works for your schedule so you can join as a part of our worship service. Not sure why or whether becoming a member matters? The discussions at our sessions will help to answer any questions you may have. If you cannot attend any of these sessions but would still like to become a member please contact Pastor Holly and we'll set up a time to meet one on one to just go over some specific information you should know before joining. If any of these sessions sound interesting to you but you are already a member or have been at UCCSV for a long time, please join us anyway! We'd love to have your perspective and we can all learn more together. If you need childcare in order to attend these meetings, please let us know and we will arrange it.

September 22nd: How Did We Get Here? - Getting to Know You and Your Faith Journey
October 6th: The UCC - All About our Denomination
October 20th: UCCSV - All About the UCC Seneca Valley Community

Pastor Holly Wants to Chat with You!

I'm eager to connect with the wonderful people of UCCSV. I am making time on my calendar to sit down for lunch or coffee with you at a place of your choice. I can even just go on a walk with you around a park or we can sit outside and chat. I can come to you and join you somewhere near your workplace or we can find a local spot if you are nearby church. Below is a link to a sign up genius where you can sign up for a date. We will work out details of time and place by email after you sign up. You can have a topic in mind or have no agenda at all. I am

making time for you and want to hear any joys or needs or worries or celebrations that you want to share.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48afae28abfa7-lunch>

If you would like to participate in a chat with me but you cannot find a day or time that works for you on the sign up genius, please email me at HollyRJackson@gmail.com. I can accommodate other days or times, including weekends and evenings as needed. If you want to chat I am happy to find a time!

Order Your Advent Devotional Today!

The promise of God's presence and restoration is not just for humanity but for all creation. Keep company with the stars and planets, cattle and sheep for the Advent 2019 season.

From the writers of the popular online Daily Devotional, *A New Earth* includes a biblical text, reflection, and prayer for each day. New for 2019: this popular resource now includes daily readings through Epiphany.

Signup sheet located on bulletin board outside the Gathering Room. **Deadline to sign up is September 22nd**. Delivery expected mid October. Cost is approximately \$5.

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

September 29th at 11:30 (Narthex)

Title: *The enchanted hour: the miraculous power of reading aloud in the age of distraction*
/ Meghan Cox Gurdon. 2019- 278 pages or 7 audio discs (8 hour)

14 paper copies with 6 currently available and 3 CD copies with 2 available in the Montgomery County Library system.

Abstract:

A Wall Street Journal writer's conversation- Examines how reading aloud makes adults and children smarter, happier, healthier, more successful, and more closely attached, even as technology [TV, tablets, smart phones, video games, etc.] pulls in the other direction. The book is full of research and tons of stories, books, and resources that support her conclusions. Very interesting and totally engaging. She lives in Bethesda, MD with her husband and 5 vivacious children.

Calendar

Mens Breakfast (9am) – September 21

Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) –
September 22

PFLAG (2:30pm) – September 22

Church Council Meeting (7pm) – September 23

One Anothering (10am) – September 28

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group (11:30am) – September 29

Ladies Night Out (7pm) – September 30