



# Spirit News

September 13, 2018

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
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Website: [UCCSenecaValley.org](http://UCCSenecaValley.org)

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for Kristin's mother, who has a major surgery. Also, thanksgiving for Kristin's new niece, Avery Hope, who was born this week (Kristin Smith).
- Pray for Rosa Henry. Prayers for Rosa as she transitions to Sunrise in Montgomery Village (Judith, Stephen and John).
- Pray for travel mercies for Lois and Tom Sumser as they continue in Europe for another week (anonymous).
- Prayers for my brother in law and sister (Libia) while they deal with the deterioration of Alzheimers (anonymous).
- Pray for the repose of Jordan DaiBanks (age 13) and prayers of hope for his family (anonymous).
- 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](mailto: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:  
Isaiah 43:15-21 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

## This Sunday at UCCSV

Last Sunday we gathered back at church after a long summer and started to consider what it means that God has promised us a future with hope. Continuing to use our image of the future as a seed sprouting into a plant we consider how seeds germinate and burst. A future with hope requires a release from that which binds us to the past. What must break open in us in order to create new life and possibility? What must die in us in order to birth new things? Join us this Sunday at 10am to wrestle with answers to these questions and more.

## **Artistic? Love Worship? Want to be Creative?**

### **Worship Team Meeting Sunday September 30**

Holly needs your help! If you are someone who loves to think artistically or creatively and you would like to have input into our Sunday worship services, you are invited to come join us after worship on Sunday, September 30th to help brainstorm and plan. We will be thinking about ideas, themes and ways to enhance our worship for Advent and Christmas this year. Though the seasons are still a few months away, we want to get ideas in place now that will help us to make the coming months truly meaningful and inspiring at UCCSV. No prior experience needed and attending this meeting is not a commitment to future worship team meetings. This is an ad hoc group focused on specific upcoming church seasons and special services.

## **Grubby Sunday MOVED to October 21st**

Grubby Sunday has been moved to Sunday, October 21st and will primarily focus on our grounds and outside spaces. In particular we need to clean up our rain gardens. Green thumbs are helpful but not required. Help us to serve God's creation by being good stewards of the incredible property that God has given us.

## **Spaghetti September for Germantown Help**

During the month of September we are collecting dried pasta and pasta sauce for Germantown Help's food pantry. Please bring your donations to the church and place them in the basket at the back of the Narthex right outside the Sanctuary. Thank you for helping to feed our hungry neighbors!

## **September Worship Station**

Your UCCSV Church Council is considering where and how God is calling us to be a transformational community for our members and friends, our wider neighborhood, and for all of God's creation and we want you to be a part of that process. This month we are asking you to help us to listen to God's still speaking voice among us and dream and imagine new possibilities for our ministry together.

God has asked you to build an amazing and awesome present day church located in this community. Because your boss is God, you have all the resources you need and there are no limits to the church you can build. God wants you to use all you know about faith and connection with God, all you have experienced in the church or out of it, and all you know about this community and neighborhood. Before you begin, God is asking you to write down three (only three!) of the most critical **characteristics (description)** of this best ever church so that you can stay focused on the kind of community you know God wants you to build.

Here are some questions to think about: What type of congregation will please and serve God? What is important to members of the church? How will you make sure the church and the people continually connect with Jesus and his teaching? What role should the church take in the community? How will the church serve and spiritually nurture the community? What programs will nurture spiritual growth for the church and its members? What resources will help sustain the church? Why would anyone want to be part of the church? How are decisions made? What do you need to sustain the church so it can continually serve God? Is your church spiritually alive? How?

Write down your characteristics on the post it notes and attach them to the church poster. Don't worry if what you would write is similar to

or is a repeat of what someone else has already posted. Add your voice regardless. We want to see how many times a characteristic comes up and how it is described. Be creative and dream with God!

## **Pulp Pilgrims Book Group**

We are currently reading, *A River in Darkness: One Man's Escape from North Korea*, a memoir by Masaji Ishikawa.

Half-Korean, half-Japanese, Ishikawa's family moved from Japan to North Korea when he was thirteen years old and unwittingly became members of the lowest social caste. His father (Korean) was lured to North Korea after the Korean War by promises of abundant work, education for his children, and a higher station in life. Ishikawa candidly recounts his tumultuous childhood and the thirty-six brutal years he spent living under a crushing, totalitarian regime; barely escaping North Korea with his life; and, the challenges of repatriating to Japan.

There are 10 copies of the book in print with 21 holds and 7 copies of sound recordings with 4 available within the Montgomery County Library System.

Several book group members also have copies they are willing to lend. If you need a copy, send an email to the book group (see above 'to' list). Do the same if you have a book to lend.

We hope you will join us, this Sunday 16 September 2018, at 11:30am in the Narthex. Contact is Deborah Tomblyn, [deortomb1@aol.com](mailto:deortomb1@aol.com).

\*\*Our October *Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou. You will need to place a hold on this book.

## **Every good conversation starts with good listening...**

Today we are surrounded by rhetoric which is sometimes difficult to hear AND if we are to understand more deeply, engaging in civil conversation is crucial. If you want to explore how to be in dialogue with others around difficult topics, you will want to know about these upcoming learning opportunities:

### **Difficult Conversations: The art and science of thinking together**

Thursday, September 27, 2018

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Evangelical Reformed UCC, 15 W. Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701

To register, send check for \$15 to ERUCC, 15 West Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701. Please include your name and email address when sending your payment. You may also pay online at <https://erucc.org/conference-payments/> or TEXT the amount to 301-804-2933 and follow the instructions provided. (Registration fee includes lunch.)

**Register by September 21, 2018**

### **Multicultural Dialogue 3 Part Series Exploring Racism & Bias, Meeting the Divine in the Other**

6:30 pm Optional Potluck supper 7:00 pm  
Program Begins

Part 1: Sunday, October 7

Upcounty Regional Services Center  
12900 Middlebrook Rod, Germantown, MD  
20874

Part 2: Sunday, November 11

Islamic Society of Washington Area  
2701 Briggs Chaney Rd, Silver Spring, MD  
20905

Part 3: Sunday, December 9  
IMAAM Center  
9100 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20910

### **Colloquium—Re-Learning Civil Discourse in the Face of Extreme Polarization**

Friday, November 2, 8:30 am-4 pm @  
Germantown Campus of Montgomery College  
"How can you hate me if you don't even know me?" is the question that Daryl Davis has asked Ku Klux Klan members over several decades.

During this day-long engaging and interactive workshop, Daryl will share stories of his surprising success in opening dialogues with people, like Klan members, who hold beliefs in direct opposition to everything that he stands for. With workshop scenarios and engaging discussion, Daryl will guide the attendees in methods and strategies for conversing with people who hold opposing beliefs. His advice: "Establish dialogue. When two enemies are talking, they're not fighting." Attendees should expect to experience uncomfortable emotions and learn how to keep a civil conversation going in spite of them.

Register through Montgomery College. TWA  
Course: MGT541 6 Hours \$50 + \$49 fee = \$99;  
NMR add \$50 Germantown Campus CRN#:  
25278 1 Session F 11/2 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

You'll find posters about these events on the church bulletin boards. Please see Suzanne Schmidt if you are interested in carpooling.

### **Lincoln Temple UCC Closing**

Lincoln Temple UCC, a historic church in downtown DC is having its final worship service on Sunday, September 30th at 11am after 150 years of working for justice and being a witness to the community. You are invited to join the congregation as they say goodbye. It would be lovely if a few people representing UCCSV could be there to show our support for our

sister congregation. 1701 11th Street NW, Washington DC, 2001.

### **Leo Saligan**

Here is link about Leo's award.

<http://su.edu.ph/cotw/leorey-n-saligan/>

### **The Diary of Anne Frank at Rockville Little Theatre**

**Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays September 28-October 7**

I am the assistant director of a play whose message is, sadly, quite pertinent to the times we are living in. You are all invited to purchase tickets for this wonderful production. Please go to the RLT website for more details. The box office is now selling tickets for the show. The standard price is \$22 for adults and \$20 for seniors (62+) and students. Group pricing is also available for groups of 10 or more. The box office is open Tues-Sat from 2-7 pm by calling 240-314-8690.

As friends and family of the crew (me), you have a special half-price ticket opportunity at \$11. To take advantage of this offer, call the box office to order your tickets directly and give them the box office code for our show, which is **KUGLER**. You are welcome to use this code for your own ticket purchases, but please do not share the code outside of our community.

Thanks, John Bartkowiak

### **Evening of Performances to kickoff Party Sign-ups on Friday, September 28th**

Join us for an evening of wonderful performances, delicious desserts, and an opportunity to participate in a wide range of parties throughout the year. Beginning at 6:30

p.m. in the Gathering Room, Laura Lineberger will MC and introduce each host and describe their party while everyone else partakes of chocolate crème pie, pumpkin cake and apple spice among other treats. If you would like to attend a party you can sign up and make a donation to UCCSV. The suggested donation is \$10.

Later in the sanctuary, Dick Bertleman will MC the talent portion of the evening with participants, Holly Jackson, Patrick Jackson, Sabine and Aaron Cox, George and Catherine Benskin, Leo Saligan, and John Teigiser. This party is for everyone!

## 2018 Advent Devotional

Revelation 22:20 – “Come, Lord Jesus” – is nothing short of a prayer for the renewal of humanity. It is the corrective to a society ravaged by gun violence and mass shootings. It’s an indictment of those who elevate the distinctions of nation and tribe to the status of ultimate allegiance.

It’s a vision of a pristine river of life that emanates from one Source and flows through the central street of a city that is illuminated by love. That river nourishes the roots of a tree that gives life...not to a select few...but to people from every nation and culture.

If you long for a world that overflows with God’s love and life, join us in praying this Advent, “Come, Lord Jesus.”

We have preordered a **limited number (10 copies)** [Come, Lord Jesus: 2018 Advent Devotional](#). Please sign up today to reserve your copy (on the bulletin board near the Gathering Room). We ask you to donate \$4 per devotional. Delivery expected the end of October.

## Light Bulb Exchange

When: September 30<sup>th</sup>  
Where: UCCSV Gathering Room  
Cost: FREE  
Sponsor: Pepco



Bring your incandescent light bulbs and swap them for high-efficiency LED bulbs.  
Max. 3 LEDs per family.

## Calendar

Chancel Choir Practice (7:30pm) – September 13, 20, 27  
Men’s Breakfast (9:00am) – September 15  
Council Meeting (7:00pm) – September 17  
Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) –  
September 23  
PFLAG (2:30pm) – September 23  
Kick-off Party and Talent Show – September 28  
Light Bulb Exchange (after worship) – September 30  
Worship Team Meeting (after worship) – September 30

Reminder: For those who signed up - The Soul of Aging,  
Part 1 (9:30am to Noon) – September 22 & 29 at the  
Schmidt Davis home