



# Spirit News

September 14, 2017

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

- Pray for all people affected by the hurricanes and, especially my brother, Randy, in Florida (Deborah Tomblyn).
- Continued prayers for Dee Dee, who is struggling with recovery from neck surgery (Terri).
- Pray for all those affected by the wild fires out West. Especially lift up my niece and her husband in Oregon (Deborah Tomblyn).
- Pray for my son, to help him find a way to not get or feel anxious when getting together with his old friends (Luvy).
- 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 for Helen for strength as she continues her 3<sup>rd</sup> fight against cancer (Dee Dee Molaski).
- Ongoing prayer for my aunt Jean who was recently diagnosed with terminal bladder cancer (Terri Molaski).
- Ongoing prayer for Laurene Karimi who is battling stage 3 breast cancer with so much courage (Terri Molaski).
- Ongoing prayer for Phyllis Anderson and family. Phyllis is declining with dementia. Surround her and her daughters who are caregiving. Please grant them patience and peace (Deb Anderson).
- Ongoing Prayer for Patti and Gary Dennison who are suffering through severe illness and very difficult times (Andrea Dennison).

- Ongoing Prayer for Michelle Cohen – Has multiple myeloma (Terri Molaski).
- Ongoing Prayer during my continued treatment and palliative care for cancer (Maridell Mason).

*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.***

## This Sunday at UCCSV

Stories of killer storms dominate our news. Wild fires raging out of control compete with raging flood waters for who can cause more destruction. There are more and more signs that scientists' warnings about climate change and global warming are coming to pass. But what can we do about it as individuals and what should the church's response be? Come join us this Sunday for a special "Climate in the Pulpits" worship inspired by Interfaith Power and Light of MD, DC, and VA. We will hear a guest sermon from Mike Tidwell the Founder and Executive Director of Chesapeake Climate Action Network on why we as people of faith should be responding to climate change right here in our state and what we can do to make a difference. In Sunday School the new program year continues with lessons about Rebellion featuring Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel in the Middle/High School Class and our PreK-Elementary Class will continue with Holy Moly following the story of Sarah and Abraham. And don't forget, after church it's Grubby Sunday so come ready to clean up the inside and outside of our church and show our gratitude for the abundance of the beautiful building and grounds we get to call home!

## Get to know this week's Guest Preacher, Mike Tidwell

Mike Tidwell is founder and director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, a grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness about the impacts and solutions associated with global warming in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. He is also an author and filmmaker who predicted in vivid detail the Katrina hurricane disaster in his 2003 book *Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana's Cajun Coast*. His most recent book, focusing on Katrina and global warming, is titled *The Ravaging Tide: Strange Weather, Future Katrinas, and the Race to Save America's Coastal Cities*. His 2004 documentary film, *We Are All Smith Islanders*, vividly depicts the dangers of global warming in Maryland, Virginia, and D.C.

Tidwell has been featured in numerous national media outlets including NBC's Meet the Press, NPR, the *New York Times*, the *Baltimore Sun*, Politico, and the *Washington Post*.

In 2003, Tidwell received the Audubon Naturalist Society's prestigious Conservation Award. Two years later he received an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana. A long-time resident of Maryland, Tidwell lives in Takoma Park with his wife Beth and son Sasha.

More information can be found at: <http://chesapeakeclimate.org/>

## September Worship Station - Protecting God's Holy Ground

The earth is the Lord's and God has called it very, very good. Our planet is part of God's holy ground. It is up to us as God's people to care for the gift of the holy ground we live on and enjoy. Consider all the ways in which we

already as a church care for our planet. On a post-it write down one thing you already do personally in order to care for God's creation. Look at the list for ideas. Celebrate your work and leave it as an offering to God. On another post it write down one new commitment that you would like to make to protect the environment in the month(s) to come. If you need ideas, look at the list. Leave your written commitment on the table as your offering to God.

## Helping After Hurricanes

The news is deeply disturbing. The flooding is unbelievable and heartbreaking to watch. You may be wondering how you can help. There are a few main ways that we suggest making a difference for hurricane victims:

1. Pray for the Victims
2. Assemble Clean Up Buckets. We will be collecting money and supplies at church over the next few Sundays. Please donate the following items:

### BUCKET CONTENTS AS SPECIFIED BY CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If bucket has been used, clean well but do not use if it has held chemicals of any kind.)
- Four scouring pads
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Easy Wipes)
- One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks

- Two pairs non surgical latex gloves
- One pair work gloves, cotton with leather palm or all leather
- 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

All cleaning items must be new – all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

3. Volunteer. Follow the link to find out how you can volunteer to help disaster victims.

[http://www.ucc.org/disaster\\_disaster-volunteers](http://www.ucc.org/disaster_disaster-volunteers)

## 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.

No one tells us what to think, but we pray that God is present in our discussions and gives us new insights and ideas.

For this Sunday our focus will be on

Genesis 2:4-9,15

Psalm 65

Job 12:7-10

Copies of the scripture are located in the Narthex.



## Grubby Sunday

We'll hold a "Grubby Sunday" after worship this Sunday, Sept 17.

Come to church dressed in your working clothes and we'll attack projects both inside and outdoors. There will be something to do for every ability level, and we'll even have pizza for lunch!

Doing the work ourselves relieves us of the cost of hiring from outside. Plus, many hands make light – and fun – work!

## Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

We are currently reading 'The Shack' by William P. Young. "In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant 'The Shack' wrestles with the timeless question, 'Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?'. The answers will astound you and perhaps transform you as it did [the main character]." (From the library abstract.)

There are 35 copies in the library and the books are scattered among the branches so placing a hold is probably necessary. There are also electronic formats.

We will meet on Sunday September 24 at 11:30am in the Narthex. Bring your coffee and join us. Contact: Deborah Tomblyn.

## **New Director of Music Ministry**

The announcement you have been waiting for is finally here: UCC Seneca Valley officially has a new Director of Music Ministry! We are thrilled to tell you that Stefan Petrov will be joining us in worship starting on Sunday, November 12th. Stefan will be a wonderful addition to our staff. As a concert pianist, organist, and choral director, we know he will continue UCCSV's tradition of bringing amazing musical talent to our worship experience. Below you will find more information about Stefan. We want to thank John Bartkowiak, Holly Jackson, Jessica Lin, Joyce Miller and Kristin Smith for their dedicated work on the search committee. Having rehearsed once with Stefan during the interview process, the choir is excited for him to get started. We appreciate your prayers for a successful transition period and your hospitality as we show Stefan how we live out and embody welcome at UCCSV!

**Stefan Petrov** has served as an organist, pianist, and a music director in churches for the last sixteen years, with the majority of this time devoted to Disciples of Christ congregations. He enjoys a multi-genre style of musical worship spanning across generations and traditions, and reflecting the diversity found in the congregations he serves.

Stefan began his piano studies at the National School for Music and Dance in his home town of Plovdiv, Bulgaria where he played his solo debut recital at age nine and made his first orchestral appearance at age fourteen. After moving to the United States in 2000, he continued his piano studies with Neil Rutman at the University of Central Arkansas and later, Ellen Mack at the Peabody Conservatory of Music. In addition, Stefan studied extensively with Russian-American pianist Vladimir Feltsman. Equally at home as a collaborative pianist, Stefan partners frequently with Israeli-American cellist Amit Peled in recitals across the U.S. and Europe, while also serving as a

collaborative piano faculty and piano faculty chair at the Heifetz International Music Institute.

Stefan holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. He lives with his wife Kate in College Park, MD. In their spare time Kate and Stefan enjoy hiking, climbing, skiing and the outdoors.

And while we at church get to experience his work with the choir, have him accompany our congregational singing, and enjoy his other musical offerings to God throughout the worship service, the Arts and Style section of any local newspaper might describe him this way: With arresting interpretations and broad musical versatility, American-Bulgarian pianist Stefan Petrov has captivated classical music audiences as a soloist and a chamber musician in venues across Europe, North America and the Caribbean. His performances have been broadcast on CBC (Canada), WDAV (NC), WFMT (Chicago), WMRA(VA), and Bulgarian National TV and Radio. He has appeared in Steinway Hall (NY), Steinway Series at the Smithsonian (Washington D.C.), the Bulgarian National Palace of Culture, Teatro Nacional (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic), Chicago Cultural Institute and others. His dedication to the study and promotion of contemporary music has led him to collaborate with some of today's most up and coming composers in appearances at The Stone (NY), Corcoran Gallery's Contemporary Music Forum (Washington, D.C.), and the Evolution Contemporary Music Series (Baltimore, MD). We at UCCSV are truly blessed when it comes to music! Welcome Stefan!

-Rev. Holly Jackson

## Calendar of Events

Men's Breakfast (9am) – September 16

One Anothering at Deb's (10:00am) –  
September 16

Fellowship Committee Meeting (11:15am) –  
September 17

Grubby Sunday – September 17

Council Meeting (7:00pm) – September 18

Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) –  
September 24

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group (11:30am) –  
September 24

PFLAG (2:30pm) – September 24

Evening Hours with Holly at Panera Bread  
(6:30pm – 8:30pm) – September 27

Congregational Speed Dating "Get to Know Me"  
(7:00pm) – September 29