



# Spirit News

September 16, 2020

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

- Pray for Luz who is having a knee replacement on Thursday (John Bartkowiak).
- Pray for Ruthanne who is having a cardiac catheterization on Wednesday in prep for a heart valve replacement at a later date (John Bartkowiak).
- Prayers of thanks that Tim's Aunt Linda is cancer free (Tim Fuss).
- Pray for the people in Southwest Louisiana and the people in Northern California and Oregon who lost everything (Sabine Cox).
- Prayers for our new UCCSV Leadership Council as we embark on a new calendar year (Beth and Laura).
- Prayers for my great Aunt Lois who passed away last week at the age of 95 (Terri Molaski).
- Prayers for Jen's sister in law and family, who recently tested positive with COVID (Tim Fuss).
- Prayers for new members in our community (Jeanne Springmann).
- Thank you for this congregation! (Luz).

## This Sunday at UCCSV

We're celebrating Faith and Democracy Sunday this week in worship. This is a non-partisan celebration and call to action around voting, the 2020 census, and voter education. We believe that every citizen of our country should have the right and opportunity to vote and all people should be counted as part of the 2020 census. As people of faith we want to make our voices heard and have our government and public policy address issues that are important to us. Join us on Sunday as we hear testimonies of people engaged in organization around voting and justice issues and why this matters to us as

a church community. Dan Davis will also give us an update from the Social Action Committee during a Mission Moment about actions you can take right now to support voting in November's elections.

**To be a part of our service send in a picture of yourself with your voter registration card or send in a selfie you've taken with your "I voted!" sticker during a previous election.**

Many of us do this and post that picture to social media to encourage others to vote. Now let's encourage each other and all those watching. Send pictures to [HollyRJackson@gmail.com](mailto:HollyRJackson@gmail.com) and they will be integrated into the service. The Zoom room opens at 9:30am and worship begins at 10am.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84470757726?pwd=VUhkWDZacGZBUFBwYWISU3QxN3dlUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726

Passcode: 20874

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 844 7075 7726

Passcode: 20874

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcm87sP9zS>



## Upcoming Sundays at UCCSV - God on the Move in Technology and Democracy

September 20 - Faith and Democracy Sunday

September 27 - Joint Zoom worship with Hope UCC (Dialogue Sermon with Pastor Holly and Pastor Amber Neuroth)

October 4th - World Communion Sunday:  
Worshipping with Potomac Association UCC churches

October 11- Faith and Technology - How sharing our message has changed through the years

October 18- Racial Justice and Voting

October 25 - Guest Preacher: Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippet

November 1 - A Blessing for the Election

## Interfaith Works

The Social Action Committee, after careful consideration and discussion with the Interface Works volunteer representative, has decided that UCCSV will not be preparing and serving meals for the women's shelter in 2020. But don't worry! We were informed that the ladies are currently well taken care of and supported. If you would like to continue to support the shelter, there are still ways that you can help. Through their website you can learn how you can donate money or donate non-perishable food, or personal items to the shelter. The website is <https://www.iworksmc.org/get-involved/donate-2/>



## A Mini Spiritual Online Retreat: Saturday, September 19 at 7 pm

Last fall some in our congregation participated in the "Crossing the River" retreat led by Lumunos and offered at UCCSV. The hope was to have a follow-up retreat this fall, but Covid-19 made it impossible to offer an in-person retreat.

However, **this Saturday @ 7 pm**, Doug Wysocky-Johnson, last year's retreat leader and Marjory Bankson are teaming up to offer a **one-hour retreat** focused on the Journey Outward, Journey Inward.

As we came into 2020, who would have thought that we would be facing a global pandemic and so much societal upheaval?

What is all this upheaval telling us? How should we respond? What inner work (the spiritual journey within ourselves) and outer work (our relationships, jobs, activism, and volunteerism) do we need to do? Both wisdom from the past and the research of today provide us with tools and ideas that illuminate ways to move forward and help us to embrace change.

As Jesus and other spiritual leaders taught us, the journey requires a mixture of inner work and outer work. The goal of the retreat is to help you gain clarity on next steps, both for your well-being and the world's benefit.

There is no charge and you can easily register on-line by following this link:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ehac064mc4539eea&llr=av47avb ab>

## **Leadership Transition this Month for Church Council**

Normally UCCSV would have a leadership transition in May when the congregation elected a new Council to serve for the upcoming year. Because of the pandemic and juggling with moving all church activities online this summer back in June the congregation voted to have our previous leadership stay in place until such a time as we could do a leadership transition with a minimum of disruption. The time for this change has finally come. This coming Saturday the members of the outgoing Council and the members of the incoming Council will meet together for a Retreat/Orientation by Zoom. Then later in the month, at our September Council meeting, the new Council will meet for the first time and continue to lead our church until next May.

We thank those who are stepping off of Council for the fantastic job they have done over the last few months to lead our congregation through this difficult transition. Claro Yu has been a fantastic Moderator and his steady leadership has been invaluable. Claro is stepping back from Council for a well deserved break and to focus more on helping our church to fully implement our strategic planning work. Susan Percy has been a wonderful At-Large Member, organizing church wide community art projects, reminding Council of the needs of the entire congregation, and serving on Trustees. We are so thankful for her service. Finally, Colby Harmon has led the Social Action Committee for several years now helping

us to get more focused on our giving for Germantown Help and connecting us with outside organizations working on immigration, environmental justice, and LGBTQ+ concerns. He also has organized events around racial justice issues and led us through the transition years of letting go of the beloved Emergency Assistance Program and focusing more on other community wide concerns. Colby will be moving over to one of the At-Large positions on Council in this coming year.

The following leaders are continuing in their positions and we thank them for their faithful service:

Beth Lauriat: Fellowship Chair  
Laura Lineberger: Property Operations Chair  
John Bartkowiak: Deacons Chair

This fall we welcome Suzanne Schmidt and Dan Davis as the new Co-Chairs of Social Action. We are excited to see what new leadership they bring to this important ministry area. We also welcome back Russell Shelley to the position of Treasurer. Russell has been an incredible asset to our church over the years helping to keep our finances in line. And finally, we welcome Tim Fuss as our new Moderator. Tim had been the Council Clerk for the past year and has served as a UCCSV Deacon for many years now. Tim will continue to provide our church with strong leadership as we reimagine UCCSV and our ministries for the future.

Please keep your Church Council in prayer as we move through this time of transition. We are so grateful to have so many good and faithful servants in our congregation!

## Zoom Worship Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to help lead our Zoom worship experience there are ways you can help. We still need a "Greeter" and a "Liturgist" every Sunday. Greeters will welcome people as they come into the meeting before worship by voice or by chat and help by supplying important web links in the chat box. Liturgists will lead the service with Holly. We also welcome musical video offerings of instruments or voice that we can use during worship. In addition, we welcome pictures of our congregation during this time apart

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090849a4a722a02-uccsv>

## Social Action News

The Social Action team is pleased to announce that all 500 postcards for the Recover Our Vote campaign have been distributed and will be mailed by September 20<sup>th</sup>. A special thanks to everyone who volunteered to complete and mail the postcards!

Suzanne Schmidt and Dan Davis, co-chairs for Social Action team at UCCSV



## Fire Pit Fridays

Fire Pit Fridays will be held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month, starting September 18 - November 20.

Enjoy the chance to connect with others with social distant fellowshiping around a fire.

BYOB&SS (bring your own beverage and smores stuff).

## Front Porch Hours

Pastor Holly will be having "Front Porch Hours" on Thursdays from 4-6pm every week. During that time she will be sitting out on the church's front porch (by the office doors). You can join her on the porch during that time for conversation, pastoral concerns, suggestions, or whatever else you might want to share with her. It's time she wants to offer to you. No appointment needed. Masks will be required and safe physical distance will be maintained. Bored or lonely? Anxious or frustrated? Wanting to chat about the news and the state of the world? Full of ideas or feeling empty? Meet her on the "Front Porch" and have a chat! (If those hours don't work and you need to talk to her you can always make an appointment by emailing her.)

## Donations Needed for Local Elementary School Students

Our church was recently contacted by case workers with a program called Linkages to Learning at Fox Chapel Elementary School in Germantown. Linkages to Learning is a community school partnership with an integrated focus on health, social services, community engagement and leadership to support student learning, strong families, and healthy communities. The program is looking for new partners in their work and so they reached out to us. This program is working with 30 students in the school who are in need. We have been given an opportunity to make a difference in their lives!

Linkages to Learning is in need of the following for Fox Chapel students starting online learning:  
Earbuds or Headphones - doesn't matter what kind

Computer Mouse- wireless would be best but anything else works too

Digital Timers

Flash Drives - 3-8 GB are fine

Small Desk Lamps  
Academic Planners for Elementary School  
Students

These items (except for the Academic Planners) need not be new. Gently used items in good shape are very welcome. You can drop these items off for collection at the church during Pastor Holly's Front Porch Hours on Thursdays from 4-6pm.

If you would prefer to order something online you can find a wish list at  
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3NFWX55YU9EQ9?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3NFWX55YU9EQ9?ref=wl_share).

You can mail it directly to Pastor Holly at 9713 Breckenridge Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20874. Just let her know that it is coming.

## **September Birthdays**

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Ron Domingo     | 9/19 |
| Ulric Domingo   | 9/19 |
| Suzanne Schmidt | 9/24 |
| Stu Yeany       | 9/25 |