



# Spirit News

September 19, 2019

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

- Pray for Tyler. Broke arm at gymnastics (Tucker).
- Pray for Victoria, Deborah Barnes' daughter. May she heal quickly and may her pain be short lived.
- Prayers for my uncle recently in the hospital.
- 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](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.

## This Sunday at UCCSV

What happens when we are in deep grief? What happens when we look at the world around us and our heart breaks? Are we allowed to cry? Can our tears lead to healing? How do we acknowledge pain and struggle in ourselves and in others and where can we find hope even in the midst of that pain? This Sunday we'll wrestle with these questions as we continue our journey through the book of Jeremiah as we see Jeremiah and God at a particularly low point where grief surrounds everything. We'll name our griefs but also find a healing balm for our pains. The choir will sing "There is a Balm in Gilead" and Pastor Holly will preach. After worship at 11:45am anyone interested is welcome to our UCCSV Orientation and New Members Session where we will explore our faith backgrounds and begin to connect more with one another.



## Movie Night at UCCSV - This Friday

Come join us for youth movie night this coming Friday evening, 9/20, from 6:30-9pm in the Nursery/Classroom. All are welcome! If you're not familiar, our movie nights are very informal and relaxed, and

a great way to enjoy some time together with church friends. We usually get some pizza and folks are invited to bring snacks to share. Kids/Youth (and adults) sometimes bring their own pillows to get comfy. We haven't decided on our movie yet but will have a few to choose from.

## **Grubby Sunday Success**

The Board of Property Operations is grateful to the Board of Fellowship for providing pizza and drinks to all of the volunteer members from UCCSV and from the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church. It is estimated that about 40 people pitched in to deep clean our building and do incredible grounds cleanup work. Many hands indeed make for light work! A deep heartfelt THANK YOU to all of our helpers.

## **UCC Stands with Youth and Takes Action on Climate Change**

Starting on September 20, a diverse coalition of both youth and adult-led groups will be leading an intergenerational day of striking that will launch a week of climate action across the globe.

As people of faith, we recognize that God's creation is sacred and thus we are called to responsibly steward the gifts of creation while protecting our most vulnerable neighbors and communities. The climate crisis presents an urgent need to develop policies that transition our country towards a 100% clean energy economy that fosters economic, environmental, and racial justice across the country. Our responses to climate change must reach across sectors (i.e. transportation, agriculture, power) and so we need a federal response that can provide a clear, achievable policy goal to make this possible.

Join in the climate strikes **and** demand action to protect the sanctity of creation. Urge Congress to promote a just and equitable transition to a 100% clean energy economy in order to build a more sustainable future for all. We need moral leadership to help protect our public health and environment, strengthen our economy through clean energy, and mitigate the worst impacts of climate change.

[Take action today by writing to your member of Congress and ask them to support a clean energy economy!](#)

More Information:

[https://www.ucc.org/news\\_climate\\_crisis\\_youth\\_strike\\_call\\_impels\\_action\\_across\\_the\\_ucc\\_09\\_062019](https://www.ucc.org/news_climate_crisis_youth_strike_call_impels_action_across_the_ucc_09_062019)

## **September is Pasta Month**

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



## **Meals are Needed for Rockville Women's Shelter**

The Interfaith Works Women's Center is a 70-bed emergency shelter serving approximately 300 women per year. Case managers work with women to facilitate recovery and stability, as well as connect them with housing, medical, mental health, and social services.

As we have for many years, our congregation is providing meals for about 30 shelter guests from dinner on Sunday, Oct 6 through lunch on Thursday, Oct 10.

There are many ways that you can help. Please go to the online [SignUpGenius](#) to find one or more spots where you can lend a hand.

There is also a paper sign-up sheet posted at church. Anyone signing up at church will need to receive a confirmation from Katy or Shelly to avoid double sign-ups.

If you have any questions, please contact Katy Crowley, [cek0891@gmail.com](mailto:cek0891@gmail.com), 443 472-0120, or Shelly Moore, [Shelly6046@yahoo.com](mailto:Shelly6046@yahoo.com), 202 375-3601.

## 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](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>

## 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/1Xa0KUbir5Gs78ecsL2kCHOB6RhkPAumV3jw8XmbCAw/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!

## 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](mailto: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!

## Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

September 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Order Your Advent Devotional Deadline This Sunday

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 22<sup>nd</sup>.** Delivery expected mid October. Cost is approximately \$5.

## Calendar

Youth Movie Night (6:30pm) – September 20  
Mens Breakfast (9am) – September 21  
Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) –  
September 22  
Orientation and New Members Class (11:45am) –  
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  
Fellowship Meeting (11:30am) – September 29  
Ladies Night Out (7pm) – September 30