



Spirit News

September 20, 2018

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
An Open and Affirming Congregation
13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD
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Prayer Requests

- Pray for all those effected by the hurricane and those who are involved in rescue attempts and for extended family in ICU and another who had successful open heart surgery (anonymous).
- Prayers for Ross and his family as he begins hospice. Prayers for families and communities in N. and S. Carolina, Philippines and Hong Kong (anonymous).
- Pray for Hernando for his healing of his body from sickness that is bother him (anonymous).
- Pray for all people in the paths of hurricanes and typhoons. Bless and care for each of your children. Bring them solace and food and clean water and medical care. We give thanks for the many hands bringing relief (anonymous).
- Pray for my daughter Joanna to pass her NCLEX that is to be taken in New York (Gemma).
- Continued prayer for Katy Crowley – safe journey and travel (Shelly Moore).
- Continued prayers for Rilla as she goes into hospice care. Bring her and her family comfort and peace during this difficult time (Paula-Marie).
- 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 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:
2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and Mark 4:3-9, 13-20

This Sunday at UCCSV

We've been focusing on a "Future with Hope" for a few weeks now by exploring the image of a seed just beginning to sprout and grow. Germinated seeds must be planted in order for roots to dig deep into the soil. Is the soil in which we plant our hopes fertile? How do we fertilize the soil around us so that we, and our

community, might grow and flourish? How are we preparing the soil for future generations? We'll wrestle these questions and more in worship this Sunday at 10am. The Chancel Choir will share a gift of music with us and our Children's Choir will practice after worship. The Upper School Sunday School class will discuss what service projects they want to take on this year and the Lower School will learn about the story of Noah and the Ark. Give yourself the gift of time spent with the Spirit and connecting with others in community by coming to church this week.

World Communion Sunday Testimonies

Each year for World Communion Sunday we hear stories about people's experiences around communion and what this special ritual means to them as part of our worship service. This year our focus will be on the experience of communion as a child. Did you have a first communion experience or were you always included in the communion ritual? What did communion taste like and feel like as a child? Is it different than your experience now? We want to hear your story. Please contact Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com if you would like to share your story of your experience of communion as a child in worship on Sunday, October 7th.

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.

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!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Through generous donations from people like you, UCC Disaster Ministries is responding to the needs of people affected by 2018 hurricanes both within the United States and around the world. Donate now to deepen the impact of our immediate response and long-term recovery work.



Last week Hurricane Florence roared ashore in the US Carolinas. Although downgraded from a hurricane to a tropical storm, communities are experiencing mass flooding. The large scope of devastation is just

beginning to be known. The UCC is responding.

Last week Super Typhoon Mangkhut (AKA as Ompong) created devastation in the Philippines, and also wreaked havoc in Hong Kong, China and other parts of Asia. Landslides, wind, and rain have claimed many lives, while others are missing. The UCC is responding.

More storms are churning. Stay up-to-date on the [UCC response](#).

Your donation helps the UCC respond quickly to immediate disaster and long-term recovery needs. Our actions focus on the most vulnerable by addressing injustice, responding to the whole community, and filling gaps in service.

One hundred percent of UCC disaster relief funds are used for direct service to individuals and communities, and rehabilitation programming.

Make a secure online donation, or mail your gift made payable to the United Church of Christ:
700 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
Memo: 2018 Hurricane Relief

Stay Updated and Involved: Visit our disaster [website](#). Follow us on [Facebook](#) for updates.

Lord's Table

The Lord's Table is a totally volunteer organization made up of people of all Faiths and the community at large. It has been feeding the hungry of Upper Montgomery County for thirty-three years. UCC Seneca Valley has been part of this effort for over twenty-five years. We have worked with a group from Rockville United Church to cook and serve a

meal on the fourth Tuesday of every month (September through May.) The soup kitchen operates out of St. Martin's church in Gaithersburg.

This past summer during a planned renovation, asbestos was discovered in the walls of St Martin's kitchen. The church made the decision to close the kitchen. It will not be available until June of 2019. We were asked to remove all our belongings from this area to accommodate renovations and asbestos remediation, which is scheduled to be finished in June, 2019. The board of the Lord's Table decided to rent a storage unit to store our more valuable appliances and belongings. Food items went to a variety of organizations serving the needy as well as to families and individuals in need. Shelters have been notified of the closing of the Lord's Table and a notice will be posted on St. Martin's doors.

Founder and still energetic leader of the Lord's Table, Mary Canapary, asks that we all pray for the future of the Lord's Table and for our guests. So many of our UCC members and friends have helped to feed many people over the years and we hope to be able to continue this valuable service in the future.

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.

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!

Light Bulb Exchange

When: September 30th
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.

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

Our October read is *Bad Blood* by John Carreyrou. There are 31 copies in the library system & a waiting list of 71. Let me know if you need a book & I'll try to match you up with someone in our group who has the book.

We will meet Oct 14th at 11:30am in the Narthex. Contact is Deborah Tomblyn.

Our November book is *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. It is the 1st in The African Trilogy. The 2nd & 3rd books are *Arrow of God* & *No Longer at Ease*, respectively.

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.

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of Ushers for September 30th. If you are available, please sign up this Sunday on the bulletin board outside the church office.

In addition, many openings are available for Liturgists and Ushers during the month of October.

September Calendar

Chancel Choir Practice (7:30pm) – September 20, 27
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