



Spirit News

September 21, 2017

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

- Prayer for Lynn, Bob, Ross, Mike and Mary: all of whom are battling life threatening illnesses. Prayers of support and thanks for caregivers Betty, Deb, Maxine, Michelle and Matt (young son) who are helping them in tremendous ways (anonymous).
- Pray for my son to cure him from his mental illness and free him from the crisis he is suffering (anonymous).
- Prayer for Bob Fraley and Deb Anderson family. Please pray for Bob's steady recovery from health setbacks and other difficulties (anonymous).
- Prayer for God to heal me from water excess in my body and also God to open the hearts of my sponsors (anonymous).
- 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 3rd 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 care-

giving. 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 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

We talk a lot about love in church but it's a word that is so overused in our culture that some might wonder what we mean by it. Who are we called to love and what should that love look like? We say things like "Love Wins" but is that just empty rhetoric or words to live by? Join us for worship at 10am when we explore a call to love and why it matters. Holly will preach. Ginny Lum will be with us to help lead the choir in singing "Let All Things Now Living." In Sunday School the younger class will be learning about Rebekah and Isaac and the Middle/High School class will be learning about Noah and the flood. After worship the book club will be discussing The Shack, the Social Action Committee has its monthly meeting, and the Confirmation class will meet for the first time this year. It's a Sunday full of love and learning and action at UCC Seneca Valley!

Why is it so hard to be grateful?

"It's not happiness that makes us grateful but gratefulness that makes us happy." - David Steindel-Rast

But while we know this is true, it can be so difficult to practice. So many things get in the way of us feeling true gratitude. How do we overcome them? Join us in worship in October when we will explore this topic in a sermon series called: "The Enemies of Gratitude." How do things like greed, entitlement, and difficult circumstances make us angry, bitter, and feeling like our life has stalled? How can we combat them and find true happiness? You won't want to miss this important series!

Congregational "Speed Dating" ... Get to Know Me!

Do you ever wish you knew more about your fellow UCCSVers? Now is your chance. On Friday, September 29th at 7:00 PM we will use the "speed dating" model to get to know each other a little better. The idea is that you will sit with a partner and you will ask each other a series of suggested questions that should be answered briefly with one or two sentences (any of which may be "passed" on) ... after a certain number of minutes a bell will ring and you will move on to the next person. It will be informative, fun and a light dinner will be provided. Please see John Bartkowiak or Heidi Harmon with any questions.



Get 6% at Home Depot when you pay with Benefit this week only!



Don't forget from now until Sunday, September 24, **Benefit and The Home Depot® will give a 6% contribution** to the causes that matter most to you. Support your school, favorite nonprofit, or help those who were affected most by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. To take advantage of this offer be sure to pay with Benefit when checking out at The Home Depot in-store or online.

When: September 18-24 Monday-Sunday

What: 6% Home Depot contribution

How: Pay with Benefit at any Home Depot store or online at homedepot.com

We can all make a difference. Be sure to support one of the many organizations working to do good. You'll find several of them featured in the beneficiary section of our app under nonprofits.



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.

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 9:12-15
Mark 12:28-33
Matthew 19:13-15

Copies of the scripture are located in the Narthex.

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.)

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

Calendar of Events

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

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

Confirmation Class (11:30am) – September 24

PFLAG (2:30pm) – September 24

Dinner with Holly at Panera Bread
(6:30-8:30pm) – September 27

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

World Communion Sunday (Neighbors in Need
Offering) – October 1

CE Meeting (11:30am) – October 1

Trustees Meeting (11:30am) – October 1

Deacon's Meeting (7:00pm) – October 2

Confirmation Class (11:30am) –
October 8 and October 22

Soup, Salad and Spirit (6:30pm) – October 11

New Member Class (11:30am) –
October 15 and October 29

Paint Night (6:30pm) – October 20

Men's Breakfast (9:00am) – October 21

Social Action Committee Meeting (11:30am) –
October 22

PFLAG (2:30pm) – October 22

Lord's Table at St. Martins (1:00pm) – October 24