



# Spirit News

September 23, 2020

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

- Prayer for Luz Marina's continued recovery (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Prayer for courage muscles for the days ahead (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Pray for Luz post knee surgery who moves to rehab today (John Bartkowiak).
- A prayer for Luz and a speedy recovery from her knee surgery (Dan Davis).
- Prayers for my friends Liz and Marion who are facing major transitions in their lives (Jeanne Springmann).
- Prayers for safety and justice for all immigrants suffering at the hands of the US government (Deb and Madelyn Anderson).
- Prayers for wisdom and compassion for our elected officials, that they would act without undue haste and with their eyes on the long-term good of the whole community (Patrick Jackson).
- Pray that this election will help usher in a more just, equitable and peaceful world (Diane Teigiser).
- Prayer for my colleague Wanda, recovering from serious illness (Patrick Jackson).

## This Sunday at UCCSV

One of the positive aspects of having online worship is that we can do things online that would be very difficult in person. For instance, this Sunday we will worship together with another UCC congregation, Hope UCC, from Alexandria VA. If we were to do this in person it would be difficult to gather people from both churches in one geographic place. But online we can join together as UCC churches in the DC Metro area for music, fellowship, prayers, and more, all on Zoom. Rev. Amber Neuroth of Hope

UCC and our own Rev. Holly Jackson will participate in a dialogue sermon on scripture from the book of Esther and will lead the worship service together. Each church will contribute music and volunteers so that it is a true joint effort. Join us as we experiment with what's possible! God is on the move with faith and technology and we're excited to follow!

As per usual the Zoom room will open at 9:30am and worship will begin 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>

## LIFT EVERY VOICE & VOTE!



**Register now to Vote!**  
**Encourage your friends and family!**

**OCTOBER 13** is the deadline to register. MD allows registration in person, at the Early Voting Centers, and on Election Day.

**OCTOBER 20** is the deadline to request a ballot by mail, fax, or email.

**October 26th - November 2nd** Early Voting  
7am - 8pm at Germantown Community  
Recreation Center, 18905 Kingsview Rd.  
Germantown, MD 20874 For more details and  
other locations visit [777vote.org](http://777vote.org).

**Voting question link:**

**<https://elections.maryland.gov>**

## **College Students - YOUR VOTE MATTERS!**

Learn how to Register to Vote if you are a  
college student in MD.

Find you polling place, and other helpful  
resources can be found at:

[https://www.campusvoteproject.org/stateguides/  
Maryland](https://www.campusvoteproject.org/stateguides/Maryland)

Social Action Committee

Voting Task Force

"What does God require of you but to do justice  
and to love kindness and to walk humbly with  
your God?"

Micah 6:8

## **Antiracist Intergenerational Book Club**

Suzanne Schmidt and Bethany Fuss are hosting  
an intergenerational book club to work towards  
antiracism. We have bought 20 copies of "This  
Book is Anti-Racist" by Tiffany Jewell using a  
grant from the Potomac Association Faith  
Formation Committee. We will meet by zoom on  
Sundays from 7-8 pm for 5 weeks, starting  
September 27 and ending October 25.

Fourteen participants from ages 15 to 77 have  
already signed up! We are holding spots for 6  
more participants. If you are want to claim one of  
the remaining spots, please contact Suzanne  
Schmidt at [revsasphd@gmail.com](mailto:revsasphd@gmail.com) or Bethany  
Fuss at [mdbfly12@gmail.com](mailto:mdbfly12@gmail.com)

## **Let's Get Together!**

Would you be interested in participating in small,  
safe in-person or Zoom gatherings? We are  
planning on limiting in-person gatherings to 6  
participants to maximize social distancing  
possibilities. If you are interested, please fill out  
this form. Feel free to email Bethany Fuss  
at [mdbfly12@gmail.com](mailto:mdbfly12@gmail.com) with any questions or  
concerns. Link to interest  
form: <https://forms.gle/vR7ftKNEU5XfhZzU9>

## **One Anothering Group**

Saturday, September 26; 10 to 11:30 a.m

Recurring monthly every 4th Saturday

This group is an open group typically attended  
by women of our congregation who come  
together for breakfast, Bible study, laughter and  
support of one another.

[https://zoomus/j/731151827?pwd=b2piNIJnYmQ  
vUDBHes4K09NQUxLZz09](https://zoomus/j/731151827?pwd=b2piNIJnYmQvUDBHes4K09NQUxLZz09)

Contact Deb Anderson

debralanderson57@gmail.com for more  
information.

## **Stewardship Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, September 23 6:30 to 8:30

Your stewardship committee will be meeting for  
the first time to discuss the blessing of giving and  
how to build an inspirational annual Stewardship  
Campaign of being Together With Joy.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81109233475?pwd=S  
IZrWG51RkhwNnhReit6QnZOcDluQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81109233475?pwd=SIZrWG51RkhwNnhReit6QnZOcDluQT09)

Meeting ID: 811 0923 3475

Passcode: 20874

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

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/>

## **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.

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>



## Fire Pit Fridays

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

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.)

## September Birthdays

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