



Spirit News

September 26, 2019

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

- Pray for Bobby – Marlene's coworker. Prayers for the family, he passed away. He had a stroke 2 days ago and was only 40 years old (Sabine Cox).
- Pray for daughter and family travel daughter's (Shook) family returning from the South (Ruthanne).
- Ongoing Prayer for Alexis Symanski recently diagnosed with breast cancer who is facing a radical mastectomy and hysterectomy (Suzanne Schmidt).
- 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 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

In the midst of brokenness and destruction radical acts of hope may seem useless, but we are called, as Jesus' followers, to seek out and find hope where others see only disaster. At the end of our series on Jeremiah life is a mess for the prophet, but God tells him to do as God says and take a leap of faith, even if he might never see the payoff of his actions. In church our job is to be good stewards of the community God has entrusted to us, knowing that we may never see the result of some of the seeds of hope and love we plant. How can we put our hopes and dreams for UCCSV and Germantown and our families and friends into the equivalent of Jeremiah's sturdy and lasting earthenware jars and have faith God will find a way to redeem them when the time comes? Join us for worship at 10am as we look beyond the near future and plan for a Realm of peace and joy to come. Pastor Holly will preach, the choir will sing, and we will pray together. Be a part of something this weekend and renew your soul for another week to come.



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 way 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, 443 472-0120, or Shelly Moore, Shelly6046@yahoo.com, 202 375-3601.

Where's the Playground, Suzie?

There's an old song by Glen Campbell entitled "Where's the Playground, Suzie?" It seems like an appropriate title for the focus of this message. September 24th was my 70th birthday. Having reached this milestone, I can honestly say I have all I need. Rather than

receive birthday gifts, it occurred to me to inquire about needs the church might have. Pastor Holly suggested that the church could use a playground. Because Dan and I love the church, children, and the future of both, we loved the idea.

Dan and I have made a significant gift in honor of my 70th which will serve as seed money for the playground. We also invited family and friends to make a donation to the fund. Several have already done so. If the idea of funding the playground appeals to you, feel free to make a donation too.

Having a playground on our church property sends an important message to the children of our congregation, those of the Seventh Day Adventist congregation, and the local community.

It will be great fun to answer the question "Where's the Playground, Suzie?" with "Right here at UCCSV!"

You'll find a donation button on the church's website at <http://www.uccsenecavalley.org/donate> or you may drop a check in the offering plate marked playground fund.

With a grateful heart,
Suzanne Adele Schmidt





United Church of Christ congregations and leaders will converge Saturday in Washington, D.C., for the National Trans Visibility March! Join our transgender and nonbinary siblings as we say a loud "no" to transphobia and this administration's attacks on the trans/nonbinary community.

Please join the ONA Coalition, the UCC's national ministries, and the churches of the UCC's Central Atlantic Conference and Potomac Association as we march!

We will gather at First Congregational UCC, 945 G Street N.W., between 8 and 9:30 a.m. Coffee and refreshments will be available. At 9:30, First Congregational will lead a prayer ritual and then we will walk together to the rally location. Bring your church banners and signs!

Contact Kimi Floyd Reisch at 651-283-0962 with questions and information about other events at the march.

Our thanks to First Congregational UCC for their pre-march hospitality!

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/1Xa0KUbirc5Gs78ecsL2kCHOB6RhkPAumV3jw8XmbCAw/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.

October 6th: The UCC - All About our Denomination
October 20th: UCCSV - All About the UCC Seneca Valley Community

Calendar

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

Mark Your Calendars!

UCCSV's Fall Fun Weekend

Friday, October 18th at 6:30pm – Fall Fun Night with a bonfire, s'mores, and fun fall activities

Sunday, October 20th after worship – Bring your pumpkins for pumpkin carving and painting as a community.