



Spirit News

September 5, 2019

United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley
An Open and Affirming Congregation
13421 Clopper Road, Germantown, MD
Phone: (301) 540-3449
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Website: UCCSenecaValley.org

Prayer Requests

- Prayers for a close friend whose brother passed from lung cancer.
- Pray for peace in Colombia and the world.
- 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 Susan Gotard and Andrew Broadie, "that we find Christ in our Lives."
- 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

Welcome back! This Sunday is our "Welcome Sunday," the church equivalent of homecoming. After a long summer we want to welcome you back to church and make sure we get the message out to our friends and neighbors that they are welcome here. Havruta adult bible study begins at 9am discussing the book of Ecclesiastes. Worship begins at 10am with a new worship series focused on prophecy and pottery. Pastor Holly will preach, the choir returns to sing for us, Sunday School classes will be back in session after the Children's Message portion of the service, and the sanctuary will be filled with community. Then after worship join us in the Gathering Room for more fun. There will be Root Beer Floats, an opportunity to tie dye a shirt (bring your own from home), bubbles and fun activities for kids, and a "welcome" photo booth. We also will be showing that video of our Flat Jesus pictures from the summer. You don't want to miss this special Sunday! Please feel free to bring a friend.

Flat Jesus Pictures Needed ASAP

If you took any Flat Jesus pictures over the summer and haven't already sent them to Pastor Holly or posted them on our UCCSV group facebook page (not just your personal page), please email them HollyRJackson@gmail.com or if they are on your phone text them to 202-247-8592. Holly will be pulling all the pictures together for a video to be shown in the Gathering Room after

worship on Sunday. All pictures are due by 12 noon on Saturday!

Bring a Shirt to Worship



On Sunday, September 8th as part of our Welcome Sunday festivities we will be tie dying shirts after worship during our fellowship hour. If you (or your child) would like to participate please bring a white shirt with you to church. We will have a

very limited number of shirts available for purchase for those who forget their shirts but still want to participate.

Worship Series: Prophecies and Pottery, Journey with Jeremiah

Do you look around at the world and despair? Heartache, displacement, violence, helplessness, and homesickness have long been a part of the ongoing human story. But it's not the end of the story. Our faith and our sacred scriptures invite us to deal openly and honestly with these things, helping us to remember the presence of God and the hope of a better future. During the month of September the assigned scripture passages from the lectionary give us the gift of journeying with the prophet Jeremiah during a time of exile for the Hebrew people. His interactions with God can give us insight as to how to be people of faith in difficult times and whether God is at work even when it seems all is lost. In this worship series we will encounter the familiar imagery of God as the Potter who can reshape and remake us, molding us as individuals and as the church, into vessels of living water ready for a brighter tomorrow.

September 8: The Potter's Wheel: Reworked Not Thrown Away
September 15: Shards: Still My People
September 22: Vessels: Healing Tears
September 29: Earthenware Jars: Hope for the Future

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.

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

September is Pasta Month

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

First Friday for Seniors: Grandparent Diet

Event Type: Health

Age Group(s): Seniors, Adult

Date: 9/6/2019

Start Time: 10:30 AM

End Time: 12:00 PM

Where: Germantown Library, 19840 Century Blvd., Germantown, MD 20874

The latest recommendations from the EAT-Lancet Commission on Food, Planet and Health state that the healthiest diet is one that is plant-based. Find out why, what that means specifically in terms of eating, how you can make the change, and why our planet depends on all of us! Whether you want to stay healthier, feel better or move your family towards a healthier diet, this is the place to get started.

The presentation will be led by Speaker Linda Goldsholl, M.S. R.D., a nutritionist with the Montgomery County Department of Human and Health Services (MCDHHS) African American Health Program.

First Friday for Seniors is co-sponsored by the Germantown Library Advisory Committee and the Germantown Library.

Adopt-A-Road

Join UCCSV friends and members as we make a part of Middlebrook Road beautiful. Trash grabbers, gloves, reflective vests, and trash/recycling bags provided.

When: Saturday, September 14th

Where: Small fenced in parking lot of Seneca Valley High School off of Middlebrook Road (near the auditorium entrance)

Time: 9:00 am

Questions/RSVP: Jenny at
utzjhome@gmail.com

images to assist each participant in embracing his or her own aging.

The first five 2 ½ hour sessions will take place on Saturday mornings at the Schmidt Davis Home in Germantown from September 28-October 26. The last five sessions will be offered in a retreat format from Friday, November 1-Sunday, November 3. During the retreat weekend, Friday and Saturday sessions will take place at the Sumser's home and Sunday will take place at the Schmidt Davis home. Costs include a materials fee of \$15 and a \$125 registration fee. The class which will be co-facilitated by Suzanne Schmidt and Lois Sumser is limited to 8 participants. There will be a brief informational meeting after worship after Fellowship on September 8. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board by The Gathering Room. Please contact Suzanne at revsasphd@gmail.com with questions.

Grubby Sunday September 15!

It's time to deep clean our church building and spruce up our grounds! Wear your Grubby Clothes to worship and then join the fun in making our sacred space sparkle! Members from the Seventh Day Adventist Church will join UCCSV to make for fast work! If you can bring cleaning supplies or gardening tools, please be sure your name is on any item you wish to have returned.

Property Ops is grateful to the Fellowship Committee for providing cheese pizza for all of the helpers!

The Soul of Aging Fall 2019 Sessions

The Soul of Aging will be offered again this fall. These sessions are for those fifty-five and older who want to explore, understand, and face the truths of growing older. Themes include beliefs about aging, forgiveness, our understanding of God, and reflecting on our own death. The Soul of Aging sessions use readings, poetry, thought-provoking questions, and working with

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. 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!



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

UCC Seneca Valley will receive the NIN offering on **October 6, 2019** as part of their World Communion Sunday observance.

Order Your Advent Devotional Today!

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 22nd. Delivery expected mid October. Cost approximately \$5.

Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

September 29th 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.

Calendar

Soul of Aging Informational Meeting – September 8
 Welcome Sunday – September 8
 Deacons Meeting (7pm) – September 9
 Pizza Night at Ledos – September 10
 Adopt-A-Road (9am) – September 14
 Council Retreat (9am – 12 noon) – September 14
 Grubby Sunday – September 15
 Church Council Meeting (7pm) – September 16
 Mens Breakfast (9am) – September 21
 Social Action Committee Meeting (11:15am) – September 22
 PFLAG (2:30pm) – September 22
 One Anothering (10am) – September 28
 Pulp Pilgrims Book Group (11:30am) – September 29
 Ladies Night Out (7pm) – September 30