



# Spirit News

September 6, 2018

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

- Pray for Laura T. who mourns the passing of her father. May she and her family be comforted by God's love (anonymous).
- Please keep my parents in prayer especially my dad who is scheduled for cataract surgery (Maggie Nyamweya).
- Pray for Nick Owen. He is in the hospital with a concussion and his brain is swelling. Pray for his surgery and quick recovery (Chloe Jackson).
- Pray for Dan Davis. Thanks be to God for skilled medical team and smooth recovery (Suzanne Schmidt).
- Pray for Betty and family. 52 year old son going in hospice (anonymous).
- Prayers for the soul of Alexie, my second son, who was killed by a drunk driver 15 years ago (Adam DeBaugh).
- Pray for Leila. Prayers for my good college friend as she recovers from major surgery (Stephen Henry).
- Gratitude for John McCain's service to our country and prayer for his family (anonymous).
- Pray for Jim Hall & family. Jim's mother passed on Friday, August 24 (anonymous).
- Pray for our daughter-in-law who lost her dad, Alberto Gonzalez; prayers for Gonzalez family (Ruthanne and Kerry Stoltzfus).
- Please pray for peace and strength of my sister, Heather, as she is going through a difficult time in her marriage (Terri Molaski).
- Prayer for Lois and Tom Sumser as they travel to Prague to spend time with their daughter (Adam DeBaugh).
- 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](mailto: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:  
Jeremiah 29:10-14 and Romans 8:18-28

## **This Sunday at UCCSV**

It's time to come back to church after our summer travels and adventures! This Sunday will be a homecoming, a celebration, and an invitation all in one. Join us for worship at 10am when we begin a new series for September - "A Future with Hope." In a time when injustice is everywhere, so much seems uncertain and the present is chaotic it is tempting to want to give up before we even begin. But God has promised us a future with hope. How do we hold on to that hope and plant it as a seed that will grow and flourish? What does it take to be faithful in a time of struggle? We'll answer these questions together in prayer, music, story and ritual. Then after worship it's time for a tailgate party! In our Gathering Room and outside in the parking lot we will share food and laughter, watch a slide show of pictures of Flat Jesus from this summer, play games together and connect with friends old and new. Welcome back to church, we have missed you!

## **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!

## **Facebook Policy Reminder**

Did you know that UCCSV has two distinct pages on Facebook? We have an official facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedChurchOfChristOfSenecaValley>. This is similar to our website as the public face of our church. General church information is posted there and things of interest to both community members and potential visitors. We also have a group page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/426523820718594/>, with 90 members and friends of our congregation. This is a public page as well, but it is more for internal questions and concerns. On the group page any member can share prayer requests, articles, things of interest to

the wider community, suggestions or requests for recommendations, etc. If you are not a part of the UCCSV group you may request to become a part of the group and we will add you in.

Also, a reminder that I am on facebook as Holly R. Jackson and am happy to be "friends" with members. However, you must do the friend requesting. This way you get to decide whether you want me to be able to see your facebook page and vice versa. I do not have a public facebook page, only a personal one so my personal views shared on my facebook page do not reflect the church or any official entity. On my personal page I do post things about my family, spirituality, and politics. A warning that I am more explicitly political on my page than I often am in church and I also do not police language the way I would at a church function. Because of that I also will not friend anyone in the church under 18 years old.

## Interfaith Women's Shelter Meals 2018

Interfaith Women's Shelter Meals 2018 - Share the food love!! Our congregation is signed up to provide meals for approximately 30-35 shelter guests at the Wilkins Avenue women's shelter in Rockville beginning with dinner on Sunday,

September 9th and ending with lunch on Thursday, September 13th. Many hands make light work! Please sign up by clicking the website below, or signing up on sheet on the board, or email Katy Crowley

([cek0891@gmail.com](mailto:cek0891@gmail.com)) or Joyce Miller  
([millej243@gmail.com](mailto:millej243@gmail.com))

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094FACAB28A7FC1-interfaith/>

## MoCo Rise for Climate - Rally on September 9th

A broad coalition of Montgomery County environmental activists, faith leaders and civic organizations will join together for a **rally at Rockville Town Center on September 9th (1:30-4pm)** calling on local officials to take bold action on climate change.

MoCo Rise for Climate (R4C) will feature U.S. Congressman Jamie Raskin, Democratic County Executive Candidate Marc Elrich, and climate scientist and political activist Danielle a Luttenberg Meitiv. Also on the podium are Montgomery County native Sebastian Medina-Tayac, a member of the Piscataway Indian Nation and 2017 high school field director for the People's Climate March, and Destiny Watford, awarded the 2015 Goldman Environmental Prize for work to block an incinerator project in Baltimore County.

Live music by local artists, a family friendly Kids' Area, and representatives from environmental, business and civic groups will work to build awareness and advocacy for action on climate change, and the serious impacts facing Montgomery County and the region.

We'd love to have a strong UCCSV presence at this event as we continue to live in to our mission as a church to protect the environment. Please mark your calendars and prepare to join in the work of protecting God's creation together with our Montgomery County neighbors.

## Pulp Pilgrims Book Group

We are currently reading, *A River in Darkness: One Man's Escape from North Korea*, a memoir by Masaji Ishikawa.

Half-Korean, half-Japanese, Ishikawa's family moved from Japan to North Korea when he was thirteen years old and unwittingly became members of the lowest social caste. His father (Korean) was lured to North Korea after the Korean War by promises of abundant work, education for his children, and a higher station in life. Ishikawa candidly recounts his tumultuous childhood and the thirty-six brutal years he spent living under a crushing, totalitarian regime; barely escaping North Korea with his life; and, the challenges of repatriating to Japan.

There are 10 copies of the book in print with 21 holds and 7 copies of sound recordings with 4 available within the Montgomery County Library System.

Several book group members also have copies they are willing to lend. If you need a copy, send an email to the book group (see above 'to' list). Do the same if you have a book to lend.

We hope you will join us, Sunday 16 September 2018, at 11:30am in the Narthex. Contact is Deborah Tomblyn, [deortombly@aol.com](mailto:deortombly@aol.com).

\*\*Our October ***Bad Blood*** by John Carreyrou. You will need to place a hold on this book.

## **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!

## **Ledo Pizza Night September 11**



The second Tuesday of each month will be UCC Seneca Valley night at Ledo Pizza on Wisteria Drive in Germantown. Ledo will give UCCSV a portion of its sales (between

10%-20% depending on the amount spent) from both eat in and carry out all day. You must present a flyer (available at church or at Ledos Tuesday evening starting at 5:30pm) to have your sale counted towards our total. Join us for an inexpensive, kid-friendly, evening out and help us raise some funds for UCCSV!

## **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.

## **Parent Corner - For Parents and Family of UCCSV's Children and Youth**

This Sunday we start a new year of Sunday School and we are excited about the year to come!

### Lower School Class (PreK-6th Grade)

Holy moly, our Lower School Class is going to have a great year together! Continuing with the Holy Moly curriculum we used last year we will start with a tour through the Old Testament.

9/8 - The Story of Creation

9/16 - Adam and Eve

9/23 - Noah and the Ark

9/30 - 5th Sunday Joint Class Art Project

Holy Moly incorporates video together with traditional storytelling and bible reading to encourage the children to experience and understand scripture from many different angles. The curriculum also often uses art, games, movement, and discussion to further explore ideas related to the day's story. This month we are introducing a new classroom activity. Whenever we have a 5th Sunday in a month, all Sunday School classes will come together to work on an art project. More information on this month's art project will be forthcoming.

### Upper School Class (7th-12th grade)

Our youth will continue to learn together and build community with one another on Sunday mornings. Our curriculum for this group will be varied this year depending on teachers and themes. We are also introducing a new service project program on the 4th Sunday of the month. On 4th Sundays the youth will either plan, participate in, or learn about service to others.

9/9 & 9/16 - Special Lessons with Helen Hanes

9/23 - 4th Sunday Service Project

9/30 - 5th Sunday Joint Class Art Project

Many of our youth went through Confirmation last year but that means that their journey as followers of Jesus and members of the church has just begun!

Also if your youth would like to volunteer to be a Youth Helper for the Lower School Class on Communion Sundays please be sure to sign up on the sheet in the hallway outside the church office. We love it when our youth connect with the youngest members of our church community!

## **Calendar**

Chancel Choir Practice (7:30pm) – September 6, 13, 20, 27

Welcome Back Cookout/Tailgate Party (after worship) – This Sunday, September 9

Deacon's Meeting (7:00 pm) – September 10

Pizza Night at Ledos – September 11

Men's Breakfast (9:00am) – September 15

Trustees' Meeting (6:00pm) – September 17

Council Meeting (7:00pm) – September 17

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

Reminder: For those who signed up - The Soul of Aging, Part 1 (9:30am to Noon) – September 22 & 29 at the Schmidt Davis home