



Spirit News

September 9, 2020

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

Prayer Requests

- Prayers for a safe journey for my brother and sister-in-law as they move to Florida in September (Joyce Miller).
- A prayer of thanksgiving for a weekend of good virtual fellowship (Patrick Jackson).
- Pray for a family dealing with difficult mental health issues with their transgender child (John Bartkowiak).
- Please pray for the Family of Lewis Calloway our neighbor who died this morning (Debby Gensch).
- Prayers for the immigrants crossing the Rio Grande (Jeanne Springmann).
- Praise and thanksgiving for Stephen's new job! (John Bartkowiak).
- For all students who are working to learn how to learn in this new online environment; for all teachers who are working to build spaces in which they can do so (Patrick Jackson).
- Pray for students and teachers who learn in person or virtually. Keep them safe! (John Bartkowiak).
- Prayer for a sane and safe time as we help others to cross the river to vote (Suzanne Schmidt and Dan Davis).
- Happy 56th Anniversary to Donna & Ed., much love to you both! (Susan Percy).

This Sunday at UCCSV

The weather is starting to change and the kids are going "back" to school which means it is time for a new program year to start at UCCSV. Normally this Sunday would be our "Welcome Back" or "Rally Day" Sunday but this year, of course, looks a little different. But just because things are different doesn't mean God is absent. In fact, God is on the move and inviting us back

to church by reimagining church. God is on the move and asking us to wrestle with how and where faith and technology intersect. Join us this Sunday as we begin a new season and a new worship series on how God is moving and inviting us to come along for the ride. We'll celebrate communion together so bring some bread and juice or wine. We'll also see some pictures of the beautiful banner many of us contributed artwork to. Come reimagine church with us as we explore how technology impacts our faith. The zoom room opens at 9:30am and worship begins at 10am. Join us on Zoom or for our livestream on our facebook page.

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>

Social Action News

The Social Action team is pleased to announce that all 500 postcards for the Recover Our Vote campaign have been distributed and will be mailed by September 20th. A special thanks to everyone who volunteered to complete and mail the postcards!

Suzanne Schmidt and Dan Davis, co-chairs for Social Action team at UCCSV



Chat and Chew Lunch Bunch

Friday, September 11
12:15-1:15
Black Hills Regional
Park
Shelter A, Parking Lot 1

Bring your own lunch
and enjoy fellowship
with others

Contact person: Jeanne Springman
Jspring10506@aol.com

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

September 13 - "Welcome Back/Reimagine the Church" Faith, Technology and Communication

September 20 - Faith and Democracy Sunday

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 (Recorded Worship - no Zoom)

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

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 September 18 - November 20.

Enjoy the chance to connect with others with social distant fellowshiping around a fire.

BYOB&SS (bring your own beverage and smores stuff).

Time to be announced later.

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.)

Donations Needed for Local Elementary School Students

Our church was recently contacted by case workers with a program called Linkages to Learning at Fox Chapel Elementary School in Germantown. Linkages to Learning is a community school partnership with an integrated focus on health, social services, community engagement and leadership to support student learning, strong families, and healthy communities. The program is looking for new partners in their work and so they reached out to us. This program is working with 30 students in the school who are in need. We have been given an opportunity to make a difference in their lives!

Linkages to Learning is in need of the following for Fox Chapel students starting online learning:
Earbuds or Headphones - doesn't matter what kind

Computer Mouse- wireless would be best but anything else works too

Digital Timers

Flash Drives - 3-8 GB are fine

Small Desk Lamps

Academic Planners for Elementary School Students

These items (except for the Academic Planners) need not be new. Gently used items in good shape are very welcome. You can drop these

items off for collection at the church during Pastor Holly's Front Porch Hours on Thursdays from 4-6pm.

If you would prefer to order something online you can find a wish list at

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3NFWX55YU9EQ9?ref=wl_share.

You can mail it directly to Pastor Holly at 9713 Breckenridge Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20874. Just let her know that it is coming.

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. This coming Saturday the members of the outgoing Council and the members of the incoming Council will meet together for a Retreat/Orientation by Zoom. Then later in the month, at our September Council meeting, the new Council will meet for the first time and continue to lead our church until next May.

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.

It is important to note that the Nominating Committee did a fantastic job recruiting and contacting many people for new positions at UCCSV. In next week's Spirit News there will be

a complete Nominating Committee report on all the positions filled for this coming program year. However, three voting positions on Church Council remain unfilled at this time. The Council Clerk, Christian Education Chair, and an At-Large Council Seat all remain open at this time. If you would like to volunteer for one of these positions or if you would like to nominate someone for them, please email Holly at HollyRJackson@gmail.com and she will share the information with the Nominating Committee.

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!

Calendar

Friday, September 11, Chat and Chew (see enclosed article)

Sunday, September 13 - Social Action Team Zoom Meeting from 4-6 pm

Friday, September 18, Fire Pit Fridays (see enclosed article)

Friday, September 25, Chat and Chew