



# The Seneca Valley Voice

**The United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley**  
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## UCCSV to Welcome Our Pastor Carolyn Roberts Back from Her Sabbatical



Save the Dates!! That's right ... Dates

The Pastoral Relations Committee has planned several activities to prepare for Carolyn's return and to welcome her back. Please mark your calendars and attend the following:

### Tuesday, April 8, 5-7:30 pm

This is Carolyn's first day back at the church. We will be hosting an informal reception in the narthex with light snacks. Please make it a point to stop by for a few minutes or more on your way home or before dinner to say hello and welcome Carolyn back. We will also have some flowers in the office for her and a poster/card from our youth and children.

### Sunday, April 13

Carolyn and Anne will both participate in the worship service as Carolyn rejoins the congregation and we say thank you and good bye to Anne (and Linda).



### Sunday, April 20

There will be an all-congregation potluck after church to hear about Carolyn's travels and enjoy fellowship with one another. We all know what wonderful meals we have at UCCSV, so plan to come. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board.



### Great World Religions: Islam

The video series on *Islam Today* is winding up. About 12-14 people have attended weekly. The lecturer presented an historical perspective which focused on the diversity of Islam, from the times of Mohammed to today.

The last session will be on Wednesday, April 2, at the church. The topics are Islam in the West and The Future of Islam. Please join us at 7:15 pm.

## Social Concerns



### Guatemala Mission School-Building Trip July 19-29

Do you have a desire to be part of a mission experience that will change your life? If so, contact the church office and we will get you in touch with those who have already been. They have been on pilgrimages to rural Guatemala and can answer your questions.

The dates of this summer's trip are Saturday, July 19 through Tuesday, July 29. The cost for the 11-day mission is ~ \$1,100 (plus airfare) which includes lodging, food, and transportation while inside Guatemala. The majority of the trip is tax deductible and some scholarship money may be available through our UCCSV and Faith at Work (the non-profit organization in charge of the trip for the seventh consecutive year).

This year the 24-person group will be starting the foundation for an elementary school in the Mayan highlands of western Guatemala. No special skills are required, just an earnest desire to mission to others and be missioned unto in return. Enrolment is on a first-come first-served basis and 13 people are already signed up. It will be a spiritual, educational, and physically-rewarding adventure!

Prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to this experience and contact the office or [www.faithatwork.org](http://www.faithatwork.org) [click on Conferences and Retreats] to learn more.



### The Lord's Table

The Lord's Table is the only soup kitchen serving Upper Montgomery County. The kitchen is operated by volunteers (people of many faiths and the community at large). We use donated food to prepare and serve a meal for those in need.... six days a week at St. Martin's Church in Gaithersburg. There are just two paid workers: a security guard and our kitchen manager.

Counselors and referral people are present every day to assist the guests in finding emergency help (food, shelter, clothing, medication, etc.) The goal of the Lord's Table is to serve the needy, while keeping their dignity in mind.

Volunteers from UCCSV work with a group from Rockville United Church on the fourth Tuesday of every month. A number of students and teachers from Ridgeview Middle School assist us in serving the meal. This past December we benefited from the ecumenical nature of the Lord's Table when a Jewish synagogue served on Christmas Day in our place.

On a typical day, we arrive at 1:00 to prepare the meal assigned us by the food manager. At about 3:15 our cooks leave and the servers begin arriving. We serve our meal from 3:30-4:30 and then clean up.

Over seventeen years ago when I first started volunteering at the Lord's Table, we averaged about thirty-five to fifty guests. The numbers have increased over the years, particularly in the past two or three years. We now serve anywhere from seventy to over one hundred people. Of course we never know how many guests to expect, which is a challenge!

As well as being generous in giving to many causes, people here at UCCSV are great about volunteering time. We have workers at the Lord's Table who come regularly, others who are substitutes and still others who have come on a one-time basis. At holiday times

we've had entire families join us. In January I asked for volunteers and got six additional workers.

The Lord's Table provides a place at the table where people are treated with kindness and allowed to maintain their dignity. It is also a fun place to be. If you'd like to know more or are interested in helping, see me or give me a call.

## Christian Education

### Spirited Parenting

The CE Board is gauging interest in the possibility of forming a Spirited Parenting class for parents of young children. The goal of the class is simple: provide a forum for the discussion and discernment of parenting issues facing Christian parents in today's world. Is it a support group? Yes! Is it a reference group? Yes! Is it a social group? Yes! And it's anything else we may want it to be. Terri and Patrick Malone have agreed to facilitate the first session, having had experience with such a group in the past. Please contact them the church office at 301-540-3449 if you think you might be interested. The first meeting will be April 6 at 4:00pm at the Malone's house. Child care will be provided.

## Share Your Thoughts

### Save the Date: Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>!

Would you like to share your thoughts about how our church might:

1. Upgrade our website?
2. Reach out to our neighbors?
3. Welcome our guests?
4. Publicize all the good things about UCCSV?

Bring your thoughts and ideas to a *Spreading the Hope* event on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, after church. Food and childcare (both very important) will be available. Watch for more details in the bulletin and Spirit News.

## Spring Studio Tour

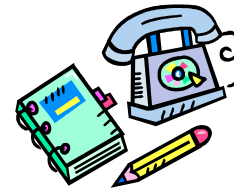


Welcome to Countryside Artisan's Spring Studio Tour

April 11, 12, 13

Meet and talk with the artisans as they open their studios to offer an array of handcrafted items for sale. Find hand blown glass, prints and paintings, yarn, jewelry, ironwork, birdbaths, garden art, plans and mosaics. Brochures may be found on the desk outside the church office.

## Members/Friends Phone Directory:



You may pick up a new Members/Friends Directory on the desk outside the church office at your convenience.

## Annual Reports

Annual reports are due in the office no later than **Wednesday, April 30!**



**Scripture Readings for April**

**Sunday, April 6**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
Peter 1:17-23  
**Luke 24:13-35**

**Sunday, April 13**

Acts 2:42-47  
Psalm 23  
I Peter 2:19-25  
**John 10:1-10**

**Sunday, April 20**

Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
I Peter 2:2-10  
**John 14:1-14**

**Sunday, April 27**

Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:8-20  
I Peter 3:13-22  
**John 14:15-21**

**Church Officers**



**Please see the next page for the  
April Calendar.**



## APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| Sunday   | Monday                                     | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday   | Friday    | Saturday  |
|--|--|---|-----------|--|-----------|---|
|  |  | <b>1</b><br>8:30p - AA  | 2         | 3<br>7:30p – Choir<br><br>7:30p – Boy Scouts         | 4         | <b>5</b><br>7 <sup>th</sup> Day<br>Adventists – all<br>day  |
| <b>6</b><br><br>8:30p AA   | <b>7</b><br>7p –<br>Prop Ops               | <b>8</b><br>10:00a - Staff<br>Carolyn Back!<br>5-7:30p –<br>Reception for<br>Carolyn<br>7:30-9p – Mind,<br>Body, Spirit<br><br>8:30p - AA | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br>7:30p – Choir<br><br>7:30p – Boy Scouts | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b><br>7 <sup>th</sup> Day<br>Adventists – all<br>day |
| <b>13</b><br>Thank you and<br>Goodbye to<br>Anne Holmes<br>and Linda<br>Anderson<br>4-7p –<br>Confirmation<br>8:30p - AA | <b>14</b>                                  | <b>15</b><br>10:00a - Staff<br><br>8:30p - AA   | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b><br>7:30p – Choir<br><br>7:30p – Boy Scouts | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b><br>7 <sup>th</sup> Day<br>Adventists – all<br>day |
| <b>20</b><br>Potluck for<br>Carolyn<br><br>8:30p - AA  | <b>21</b><br>7:30p –<br>Social<br>Concerns | <b>22</b><br>10:00a - Staff<br>7:30p - Council<br>8:30p - AA  | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b><br>7:30p – Choir<br><br>7:30p – Boy Scouts | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b><br>7 <sup>th</sup> Day<br>Adventists – all<br>day |
| <b>27</b><br>10:30a – AED<br>Demo<br><br>8:30p - AA  | <b>28</b>                                  | <b>29</b><br>10:00a - Staff<br>Annual Reports<br>Due!<br><br>8:30p - AA   | <b>30</b> |  |           |   |

### Outside Groups Meeting Regularly at UCCSV:

**Sunday & Tuesday Nights – 8:30p – AA**

**Thursday Nights – 7:30p – Boy Scouts**

**Saturdays – 8:30a-1p & 4:30-8:30p – 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists**