



# The Seneca Valley Voice

**The United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley**  
13421 Clopper Road ♦ Germantown, Maryland 20874  
Phone: 301-540-3449 ♦ Website: [www.uccsv.org](http://www.uccsv.org) ♦ Email: [uccsv@aol.com](mailto:uccsv@aol.com)



## Stewardship

### *Together we will ...*

... is the theme of this year's pledge drive, which the Stewardship Committee believes best characterizes how UCCSV members and friends strive to work as one to fulfill the Church's many mission objectives.

UCCSV can only meet the challenge of sharing Jesus' gospel through word and song, help feed families in crisis, make a statement for peace and social justice, and provide a welcoming place for newcomers through the efforts of all the people who unselfishly give of their time and talent each year.

The realities of having skilled professional staff and a nice facility to call "home", however, require a significant ongoing financial commitment. For the coming year, UCCSV will need to offset slightly more than \$200,000 in expenses to keep the lights on, the doors open, the music rolling, and to support the staff. This boils down to roughly \$17,000 per month or about 10 percent more than we expect to receive this year.

You will soon be receiving a solicitation to make your pledge for 2008 along with a pledge form.

Pledging helps our church leadership plan for the coming year.

After prayerful consideration, please pledge generously. If you have pledged previously, and thankfully most people who read this fit this category, please consider increasing your pledge by 10 percent or more. If you have not pledged before, please consider doing so for 2008.

Chair of Stewardship

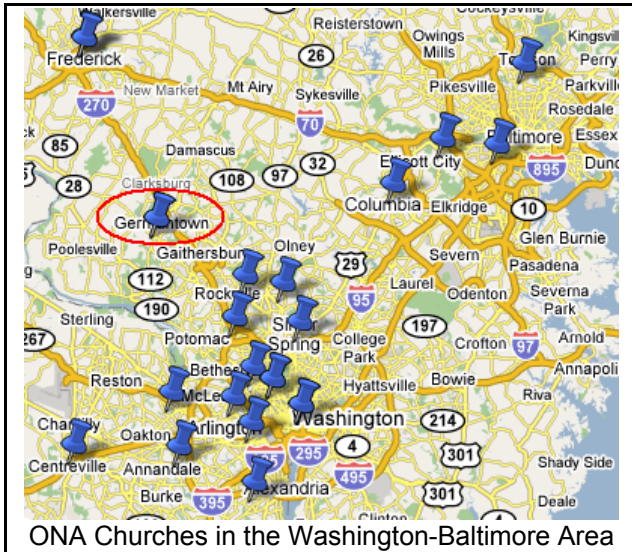
## Social Concerns

The Board for Social Concerns would like to send cards, letters, and an occasional package to American military personnel serving anywhere overseas. Do you have close or extended family members or close friends in the Service? If so, please send names and addresses to the office – [uccsv@verizon.net](mailto:uccsv@verizon.net).



## ***UCC of Seneca Valley Becomes an Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation!***

At a special congregational meeting on October 21, the United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley resolved to extend an extravagant and unambiguous welcome to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. Seneca Valley joins 20 churches in the Washington-Baltimore Area and over 700 other UCC churches across the country that have become "Open and Affirming" congregations.



Over the past eleven months the UCCSV has studied LGBT issues by hosting speakers, screening videos, holding discussions and presenting Bible studies. During that time a variety of concerns, hopes and opinions regarding ONA were shared and prayerfully considered by members of the congregation. The year of ONA related activities culminated in the recent special congregational meeting at which over 50 members voted. A resolution to adopt an Open and Affirming statement of welcome to the LGBT community (printed below) was accepted by a margin of 95%.

As an Open and Affirming congregation, the United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley welcomes people of all sexual orientations and all gender identities and expressions.

We welcome everyone seeking God's presence to our service of worship and into the full life and leadership of the church. Whatever your background might be – your race, your nationality, your age, your physical or mental ability, your gender identity or expression, your sexual orientation – whoever you are and wherever you come from, we welcome you into our community of faith.

## **UCCSV Youth**

The month of November is a time for the youth group to remember the things they are thankful for. It is also a time for them to share their time, talents and treasures. Some of the youth will walk for the Homeless in D.C. this month; others will be getting ready for the Advent season and practicing with the brass band; some will be working hard on their confirmation; still others will spend time with their families. Whatever they may be up to, their hearts are full of love and generosity. Be on the lookout for a change in the Youth's bulletin board in the hallway to see what they are thankful for this season.

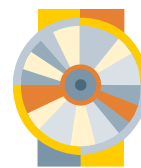


## **Hanging of the Greens**

Looking forward to .... December 1. Advent will be here sooner than you think! Mark your calendars now for **Hanging of the Greens/Advent Workshop, Saturday, December 1, 4-8 pm**. All ages are welcome! No special skills required!

Fun, food, activities, decorating, and carol singing will round out the time together. The youngsters will be making tin punch ornaments. If you use frozen drink concentrate, please bring in the tops and deposit them in the collection box in the narthex. The more tops, the more hammering fun, the more decorations!

In addition, we will be accepting monetary donations to supplement and purchase replacements for our existing decorations. Please include Decorations on the memo line of your check made to UCCSV.



## **Music CD**

Thank you to all who gave a donation for the UCCSV Music CD! \$410 was added to the music budget that will supplement music expenses for the rest of the year.



## Status of Southern California Fires and UCC

October 23, 2007

*Firefighters across Southern California braced today for another day battling a dozen out-of-control wildfires that have burned more than 200,000 acres, forced the evacuation of more than a quarter of a million people and destroyed more than 700 homes and buildings in seven counties.*

Wildfires in Southern California continue today, forcing the evacuation of numbers of communities. Many of the homes that have been damaged or destroyed are owned by people who are middle to low income families who will be in need of assistance to rebuild. Additionally, there have been a number of apartment complexes that have burned, displacing residents. While we will not rebuild these buildings, persons who have no place to live will need care.

The United Church of Christ National Disaster Ministries office working with our UCC Southern California, Nevada Conference and ecumenically is seeking \$100,000 to assist with long term recovery. These funds should be directed to the One Great Hour of Sharing special fund, Emergency USA, marked for 2007 California wildfires. Information on how to send funds is noted below.

Jane Heckles, conference minister, UCC Southern California, Nevada Conference has provided the following update on our churches and members.

The fires burning in southern California have affected a number of our church families. The Southern Association has been most affected so far.

Moderator Pam Price at Alpine Community UCC reported that winds had taken the fire to their south and north and that they were still doing alright.

Rev. Rich Freeman at Community Cong'l UCC of Chula Vista reported that fires were still away to their southeast at noon. More recent reports show moving closer.

The whole town of Ramona was evacuated and fire burned quite a bit in town. Rev. Alex Dreese's home is safe but at least 8 church families have lost their homes.

The whole area around the Lake San Marcos UCC was evacuated but most were able to return home today. The Community Church of Poway and many in that town are under evacuation. A number of church families have been affected.

The Escondido church was safe and Rev. Steve Swope said that only outlying areas had been evacuated.

University City UCC has a few families evacuated who live to the east. Rev. Curt Fuller said the church is sheltering more than a dozen families with their assorted pets.

Moderator Tom Boggs at Carlsbad reported that the schools were closed and the fire might burn south of them but he thought the church and most of their members would be okay.

Beth Ellwood at United Church of the Valley in Temecula reported things were okay there other than the air quality. Their music director's home is in the burn area to the south but no confirmation has come in yet about the status of her home.

Rev. Mike Holland in Tustin says the fires nearby are way up in the hills and Irvine United Congregational says the same.

Rev. Petra Malleis-Sternberg says that the fires around San Bernardino have not had an effect on the church at this time but that ash is falling at the church and air quality is terrible.

The secretary at the Highland UCC says the air is thick with ash but not other danger signs.

As of this writing we have no other churches in harms way in Los Angeles or Ventura Counties.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Pray for people who live in communities affected by wildfires.
2. To help those affected by disasters you may send gifts payable to your congregation marked for "Emergency USA" with the request

they be sent through your Conference office on to Wider Church Ministries.

3. Please remember our neighbors in California as they face a continuing struggle with wild fires. If you wish to make a donation through the UCC you can make a check to UCCSV. Those funds will be shared along with other gifts from One Great Hour of Sharing donations. You may make a secure on-line donation via the following link:

[Make a secure on-line donation.](#)

Florence Coppola, Executive, National Disaster Ministries

*"National Disaster Ministries' are supported by OCWM and OGHS."*

### Thula Sizwe

The Thula Sizwe traditional Zula a Cappella Singers from South Africa will be making another visit to UCCSV. They will worship with us at 9:30 am and 11:00 am on November 18, and will perform in concert at the church at 4:00 pm that afternoon. . A free-will offering will be accepted. Invite your neighbors and friends.

### Inquirer Classes

Inquirer classes for those considering membership continue on Sunday, November 4 and 11. Attending these classes does not obligate you to join the church, but it does provide you with information to consider whether God is calling you to membership in this faith community. If you are interested please call the office at 301-540-3449.

### An Invitation to a Spiritual Spa

#### 'Tis the Season ... to Renew Body, Mind & Spirit

A Spiritual Spa Experience for Women with Faith@Work & St. Joseph Institute, Port Matilda, Central PA .

November 2-4, 2007

6:00 pm Friday through 12:30 pm Sunday

#### **Gather your women friends to:**

- ~ Rest and Renew yourselves before the holiday season
- ~ Listen for the Spirit's invitation to live an integrated life
- ~ Experience a Spiritual Spa setting, with full services, and lovely woods for hiking

***www.StJosephInstitute.com***

- ~ Leadership Team: Tiffany Montavon, Linnea Nilsen Capshaw, & Jenny Sheetz
- ~ \$225 by October 15, 2007; \$300 after October 15 for a double room
- ~ \$325 by October 15, 2007; \$400 after October 15 for a single room
- ~ Above rates include food & lodging. Spa services are booked independently.

See ***www.FaithAtWork.com*** for reservations and details.

**Note:** See the poster on the bulletin board and Suzanne Schmidt for more info.

## Mind, Body, Spirit

Mind, Body, Spirit will meet on Tuesday, November 13, from 7:30-9:00 pm. This group affords the opportunity to learn meditation as a means of improving health through relaxation and provides a path for drawing closer to God. All are welcome. Please call the church if you plan on attending and for directions.



## Tea Time

You are invited to  
Afternoon Tea

The Pampered Chef

Saturday, November 10  
1:00 pm

Proceeds from the show to benefit  
UCCSV Emergency Assistance Fund.

Come sample fabulous finger food recipes that are simple to prepare and elegant to present while enjoying afternoon tea with a few friends. Even if you are a non-cook who still loves to entertain – Simple Additions will allow you to do it in style!!

So that we have enough food and beverages please call the church if you plan on attending.



## November Scripture Readings

(Scripture for Sunday in bold print; Sermon title bold and italicized)

### Sunday, November 4

**Sermon Title: *Welcoming Jesus***

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Psalm 119:137-144 or Isaiah 1:10-18

Psalm 32:1-7

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

**Luke 19:1-10**

### Sunday, November 11

**Sermon Title: *Bless God's Holy Name***

Haggai 1:15b-2:9

**Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21** or Psalm 98

or Job 19:23-27a

Psalm 17:1-9

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38

### Sunday, November 18

**Sermon Title: *New Heaven, New Earth***

**Isaiah 65:17-25**

Isaiah 12 or Malachi 4:1-2a

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

### Sunday, November 25

**Sermon Title: *Jesus the Christ***

**Jeremiah 23:1-6**

Luke 1:68-79 or Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> Confirmation field trip 7:30p – Choir 7:30p – Boy Scouts	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8:30a – 8p - 7 <sup>th</sup> Day
<b>4</b> Stewardship Presentation 2-4p – Inquirer Class 4-7p - Confirmation 8:30p - AA <b>Clocks Fall Back</b>	<b>5</b> 7:30p Deacons & Christian Education (Malone's)	<b>6</b> 10a - Saff 8:30p - AA	<b>7</b> 7:00p – <i>Saving Jesus</i> 7:30p – <i>One Anothering</i>	<b>8</b> 7:30p – Choir 7:30p – Boy Scouts	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 8:30a – 8p - 7 <sup>th</sup> Day
<b>11</b> 2-4p – Inquirer Class  8:30p - AA	<b>12</b> 7:00p – Deacons 7:30p – Social Concerns	<b>13</b> 10a - Staff 7:30p – Mind, Body, Spirit (Kasemans)	<b>14</b> 7:00p – <i>Saving Jesus</i> 7:30p – <i>One Anothering</i>	<b>15</b> 7:30p – Choir 7:30p – Boy Scouts	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:30a – 8p - 7 <sup>th</sup> Day
<b>18</b> Thula Sizwe in worship 4p – Thula Sizwe concert 8:30p – AA	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10a - Staff 7:30p - Council 8:30p - AA	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>24</b> 8:30a – 8p - 7 <sup>th</sup> Day
<b>25</b>  8:30p - AA	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10a - Staff 8:30p - AA	<b>28</b> 7:00p – <i>Saving Jesus</i> 7:30p – <i>One Anothering</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

Please watch the bulletin boards and Sunday bulletins for November calendar updates.

Groups who meet regularly at UCCSV;

Sunday/Tuesday nights: 8:30p – AA

Thursday nights: 7:30p – Boy Scouts

Saturdays: 8:30a-1:00p and 4:00-8:00p – 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventists