



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 ♦ Email: uccsv@aol.com

Moderator's Report

In May we will have our annual congregational meeting, which is a time to hear reports from the different boards and committees about the past year, vote on any new business and elect our slate of officers. This is where you come in. The volunteer hours involved in this church are tremendous. It is also a wonderful way to get to know other people, learn something new or practice something you already know. With all the different activities we have, there must be a place for you.

Please consider how you would like to be involved with UCC of Seneca Valley. The boards, committees, and positions that undertake the work of the church are listed below. Many of them will have openings.

- Property Operations
- Fellowship (hospitality, coffee hour and special events)
- Deacons (assisting during worship, caring for members)
- Christian Education
- Social Concerns
- Stewardship (helping with counting the collection and raising funds)
- Human Resources (working with the staff on any needed policies and procedures)
- Treasurer
- Moderator
- Clerk
- Church Historian
- Hope Task Force
- Pastoral Relations
- At Large Council Members

If you feel called to serve in any of the above ways, please contact one of the members of the nominating committee or Carolyn Roberts.

I hope to have a full list of nominees to present to the congregation in May.



Board of Deacons

On Worship:

As the Church Council and the Congregation decided in January to prioritize "enhancing worship" as this year's strategic goal, the Deacons have begun to invite the members and friends of the congregation to really get thinking about how our worship life might enter a new stage of development. We kicked off this process with a Worship Workshop last month, where people with various interests and concerns about worship met to share thoughts on, well, "enhancing worship." THANKS to those who participated in this workshop, and STAY TUNED if you're interested in continuing to work with us at future workshops. We've got a lot of creative energy around this, and we plan to encourage the participation of each board, committee, and individual to truly broaden our worship opportunities.

Welcome New Members!

Sunday, March 18, was a very special day! We celebrated 5 baptisms and welcomed 7 as new members of our congregation. Many of you have had a chance to get to know these folks, many of whom have already joined small groups and shared their gifts with us. On behalf of the whole congregation, WELCOME, and we definitely look forward to celebrating the gifts of faith and community with all of you!

Chair, Board of Deacons

Christian Education

There will be no Sunday school classes on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday so that families may worship together.

Social Concerns

Guatemala Mission Trip – July 21-31

Do you have a desire to be a part of a mission experience that will change your life? If so please contact the church office.

The dates of this summer's trip are Sunday, July 21, through Tuesday, July 31. The cost for the 11-day mission is \$1,000 (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 sixth 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. Enrollment is on a first-come first-served basis and 12 people are already signed up.

Prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to this experience and contact the church office. For more info, log onto www.faithatwork.org. (Click on Conferences and Retreats to learn more.)



Equal Exchange Sales

Equal Exchange coffee, tea and chocolate will be on sale the **Third Sunday of April** (April 15). This is a change for this month only, and then back to Second Sundays. Thank you for your continued excellent support of this program.



Adopt-A-Road

Thank you.....Thank you.....Thank you..... to all the UCCSV members and friends who have made our Adopt-A-Road participation such a success! Folks have come out in all types of weather – heat, sun, wonderful breezes, and that cold, blustery February morning – committed to the clean-up of our little piece of God's earth. And, have enjoyed getting to know some of their UCCSV friends better in the process. We have almost completed our first year! In July 2007 we'll kick off our second **Adopt-A-Road** year! Please join us!

Our first Spring **Adopt-A-Road** will be on **Saturday, May 19, at 9:00 am**. Mark your busy calendars **now** and plan to bring your family, friends and neighbors! Think **Green & Clean!!** Wear comfortable clothes, hat, sunscreen, and bring water to carry with you. We provide everything else. If you've never done this before, give it a try! Clean-up usually takes 1 ½ - 2 hours. Remember - ***the more people we have, the faster we finish!!***

We meet in the Middlebrook Road parking lot of Seneca Valley High School at 9:00 am. Our adopted one-mile is Middlebrook Road between Rt. 118 and Amaranth Drive (Criswell Honda). For more information or questions call the church office at 301-540-3449.

Tina's Consignment

You can benefit the UCCSV Social Concerns budget by donating items to be sold at nearby Tina's Consignment. All you have to do is bring in clean

usable or wearable items (in season only) to church on Sunday, April 22. Items should sell for a least \$3.00. Appliances, household items, seasonal clothes for all ages, and children's toys are BIG sellers. We will take the donated items to the consignment shop, so all you have to do is bring them to church! Larger items can actually be picked up at your house by Tina's. What a great way to do your Spring Cleaning!! Tina's is located at 289 Muddy Branch Road, in Gaithersburg. UCCSV's code is U3. Tina's # - 301-921-9220

Property Operations

Nextel Update

Nextel and General Dynamics have advised me that the Montgomery County Permitting Department has not yet approved Nextel's construction permit. I believe Nextel and General Dynamics have both been working with officials at the Montgomery County Permitting Department on this project and have provided them with everything the county asked for. It is quite likely that the "delay" is linked to PEPCO and Montgomery County agreeing on how to get the additional electrical power into our building.

General Dynamics has advised me that there is NO structural engineering issue, and that their room in the loft will be fitted with the additional floor supports as depicted in the preliminary construction drawings. The Board of Trustees has already seen and approved those drawings. As I stated in my March report, this is a significant event, as legally we are now PAST the point where Nextel can void their lease with us because of a structural engineering issue(s). Save for some insurmountable flap between PEPCO and Nextel regarding the installation of sufficient electrical power to our building, I believe that Nextel will, in fact, proceed with the construction of their wireless communication support facility at our church.

Door Locks

The Board of Property Operations recently spent \$152.90 to have our locksmith replace the lock in the door to the church office. The locksmith indicated that it is highly likely that the old lock "wore out" as quickly as it did because we (church members with multiple church keys) may have "experimented" with our keys in that lock, rather than first looking at our keys, finding

the correct key in advance, and inserting that key in the lock to open the church office door. With a church budget already needing help, The Board of Property Operations requests everyone's help to put COST AVOIDANCE into practice every time we're at church. With your help - with things as seemingly insignificant as putting the right key in the lock - we can avoid avoidable expenses.

John Teigiser, Chair, Board of Property Operations.



Mind, Body, Spirit

Mind, Body, Spirit will meet on Tuesday, April 10.. This is an opportunity to learn meditation and to draw closer to our God.



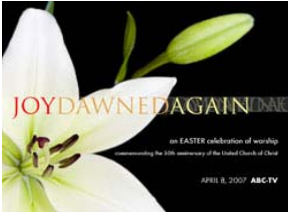
Women's Retreat

Dear Beloved Women of UCCSV,

Twenty five of us have registered for the UCCSV's Women's Retreat on Saturday, May 5, from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. We had hoped to open the event to women outside UCCSV but, due to space limitations (25), we will not be able to do that.

If you have already sent your form and check, thanks. If not, please do so ASAP. If you would like to be added to the waiting list, please let Pam know that as well.

All those who have registered will receive an email two weeks prior to the event with details about the retreat (directions, etc.)



Joy Dawned Again –

An Easter Worship Special on ABC-TV produced by the UCC

Check your local listings for time and channel

To celebrate our 50th anniversary, the United Church of Christ has produced "Joy Dawned Again," an Easter special scheduled for broadcast on many ABC affiliates Easter Eve or Easter Sunday. The 60-minute program depicts a joyous worship service with a surprising liturgical twist—a dramatic turn of events that poses thought-provoking questions on how and why we celebrate Easter.

ABC's affiliate stations will decide when the special will be broadcast in their market. Viewers can visit the "Joy Dawned Again" website at www.UCC.org/joydawnedagain for the schedule, which will be posted during Holy Week. In the meantime, we encourage you to contact your local ABC affiliate and urge the station manager to schedule the program, and please let members of your congregation know about the special through your newsletter and weekly bulletin.

The website will also publish a free study guide to help viewers explore the meaning of Easter—using the TV program as the starting point for reflection. And beginning Easter Sunday, the UCC's virtual community at i.UCC.org (eye-dot-UCC) will host a discussion forum where viewers can discuss the special and their own feelings about Easter with the help of the study guide author, the Rev. David Holden, and one of the program's creators, the Rev. Cliff Aerie.

"Joy Dawned Again" was produced for the ABC-TV network by the United Church of Christ in partnership with the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission. It includes a welcoming message by UCC General Minister and President John Thomas honoring the UCC's 50 years of history. Study guide and station list: www.ucc.org/joydawnedagain. The meaning of Easter: i.UCC.org.

United College Ministries

Dear Friends in Faith,

United College Ministries would like to request that you announce the following event in your bulletins and newsletters for the next two weeks. Thank you for your support of the campus communities of George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College. A formal invitation was sent by mail to you last week and is also attached.

United College Ministries in Northern Virginia will be holding its A Year in the Life of UCMNV and 14th Annual Emmett W. Cocke, Jr. Social Justice Awards Dinner on Sunday April 15 from 6-8 p.m. The event will be held at First Christian Church Falls Church located at 6165 Leesburg Pike. Due to a generous donation the dinner is free. Reservations are required.

The keynote speaker will be Ms. Jean Johnson, founder of New Neighbors Education Center. Music will be provided by The Braeded Chord, WAMMIE Award winner as Best Inspirational/Gospel Group 2006.

Please send your reservations to United College Ministries in Northern Virginia, 8410 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA 22003, or call 703/426-1939 or email [<ucmnv@aol.com>](mailto:ucmnv@aol.com).

Thank you,

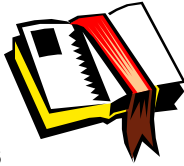
Claudia Newhart
Office Administrator
United College Ministries in Northern Virginia
Changing Lives....Connecting People to God and to Each Other
www.gmu.edu/org/ucm 703/426-1939

Church Email Address Change

- The church email address will change effective April 20.
- UCCSV: uccsv@verizon.net

The UCCSV address is intended for use by those inquiring about UCCSV. Please do not send any emails for Carolyn or Marilyn to this address.

During a short transition period, emails sent to the old AOL address will be forwarded to the new Verizon address.



April Readings

Sunday, April 1 (Palm Sunday)

Luke 19:28-40
 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Luke 22:14-23:56

Sunday, April 8 (Easter)

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43
 John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Sunday, April 15

Acts 5:27-32
 Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150
 Revelations 1:4-8
 John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 22

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)
 Psalm 30
 Revelations 5:11-14
 John 21:1-19

Sunday, April 29

Acts 9:36-43
 Psalm 23
 Revelations 7:9-17
 John 10:22-30



HOLY WEEK AT UCCSV

**Sunday, April 1 – Palm Sunday
 Regular Worship**

Maundy Thursday, April 5 – 6:30p

Good Friday Tenebre, April 6 – 7:30p

Easter Sunday

- 6:15a – Sunrise Service
- 9:30a – Worship
- 10:30a – Fellowship/Coffee
- 11:00a - Worship

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Palm Sunday 6p – Souper & Group 8:30p -AA	2	3 10:00a – Staff 7:30p- Scouts	4 7:30p – One Anothering	5 6:30p – Maundy Thursday Choir After	6 7:30p – Good Friday Worship	7 8:30a-1:00p – 7 th Day 4:30-8:30p – 7 th Day
8 Easter Sunrise Worship 6:15a Worship 9:30&11:00a 8:30p – AA	9 Church Office Closed 7:00p – Prop Ops	10 10:00a – Staff Olan Mills Pictures today 7:30p- Scouts	11 7:00p – Disciple 7:30p – One Anothering Olan Mills Pictures today	12 7:30p – Choir 7:30p – Boy Scouts	13	14 8:30a-1:00p – 7 th Day 4:30-8:30p – 7 th Day
15 Worship 9:30&11:00a 2-4p – Inquirer Class 8:30p - AA	16	17 10:00a – Staff 7:30p – Council 7:30p- Scouts	18 7:00p – Disciple 7:30p – One Anothering	19 7:30p – Choir 7:30p – Boy Scouts	20	21 8:30a-1:00p – 7 th Day 4:30-8:30p – 7 th Day
22 Worship 9:30&11:00a 2-4p – Inquirer Class 8:30p - AA	23	24 10:00a – Staff 7:30p- Scouts	25 7:00p – Disciple 7:30p – One Anothering	26 7:30p – Choir 7:30p – Boy Scouts	27	28 8:30a-1:00p – 7 th Day 4:30-8:30p – 7 th Day
29 Worship 9:30&11:00a New Members Received 8:30p - AA	30	Carolyn Roberts will be on leave from Sunday afternoon, April 22 through Saturday, April 28.				

EASTER EGG HUNT: 10:30a – April 8

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 – 7th Day Adventists