



# The Seneca Valley Voice

## Carolyn's Column

### Welcome Diane

Monday, 1 March is a day of new beginnings as we welcome Diane, our Director of Music Ministry, into the life and ministry of UCCSV. At 6:00pm that evening, the Choir is hosting a reception for Diane, which will give members and friends a chance to meet and welcome her before her first choir practice (3/4) and worship service (3/7).

Diane comes with a renewed call to serve in a liturgical setting.

After serving 22 years as Music Director at First United Church of Christ in Lakewood, Ohio, Diane and her husband moved to Poughkeepsie, New York when he accepted a position at Vassar College. When her husband died after a long illness, Diane decided to move closer to her daughter and her family, who live here in Germantown. Her daughter is an elementary school teacher with Montgomery Public Schools.

Diane's depth and breadth of experience complement the gifts she brings to UCCSV. While in New York, she completed several recordings, and was involved professionally in numerous choral and theatrical venues. To this background, she adds a rich and vibrant faith, commitment to excellence, and the ability to work equally well with children as well as adults. Diane's deep joy in the sacred gift of music is evident and contagious.

Welcome, Diane.

### Thank You Laura and Beth

Even as we welcome Diane, we also recognize that there simply not the words to express our depth of gratitude for the profound service extended by Beth and Laura during the time of our search for a new Director.

The song tells us that "we get by with a little help from our friends," but we have done far more than get by. Laura and Beth have helped us to express our faith through music in significant and memorable ways. From "teachable moments" to inspired and inspiring anthems, accompaniments, and piano offerings, they have been caring and faithful leaders.

Thank you, Beth and Laura!

### And Special Thanks to Wayne

After almost seven years of service, Wayne is stepping down as editor of *The Seneca Valley Voice*. Thanks to Wayne's legendary attention to detail, everything from format to syntax has benefitted from his careful hand. While we also suspect he had help from a certain resident ghost editor, we know that this responsibility fell primarily on Wayne's capable shoulders. Many thanks, Wayne, for a job well done.

## Opening the Doors of Faith

“The United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley is a teaching church, providing an environment in which persons of all ages grow in faith, transformed to live and teach as disciples of Jesus the Christ.” ~Christian Education Board Mission Statement, adopted June 2004

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At Sunday’s worship, Colby extended the offertory invitation by speaking of his son Andy’s search for a faith community near his home in California. Colby related his own ‘aha’ moment in recognizing that the young children we teach today in church school are the adult church of tomorrow.

Colby’s comments came to mind again Tuesday as our Christian Education Board reviewed the current situation for our children in church school.

One observation was that it can be both challenging and intimidating for teachers to come into the Church School setting on a one-time basis. A second observation is that it can be challenging for our children to be faced with a new teacher nearly every week. It was decided to ask teachers to commit to three-week blocks.

We acknowledged that the decision to encourage members to sign up for even one week of teaching was born in part out of the recognition that finding teachers who will dedicate a longer period of time was difficult, and at times, extremely difficult.

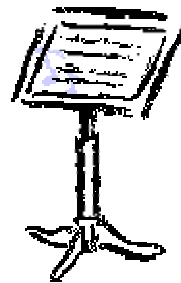
However, we face a paradox. On the one hand, we say that we want to grow our church school, that children are very important to us, and that spiritual formation and spiritual growth is essential to a healthy faith. On the other hand, we say that we are not really comfortable teaching our children.

This struggle to find teachers for our children is not a new one. Nor is it unique to UCCSV. It also is an ongoing challenge in a smaller church, where people are needed to serve in other capacities.

While parents of young children are always the first teachers, it is critical that a child’s spiritual formation be shared by other adults.

The Body of Christ needs all of its members, and it needs all of its members to share the gifts of their faith. So please, share your faith with the children of our church school. As Colby observes, they are the church of tomorrow. And I would add, they are the church of today as well.

*Carolyn*



## Calling All Singers!

I’m looking forward to meeting you on Monday, March 1 and also at Chancel Choir (our first rehearsal together) on Thursday, March 4 at 7:30pm.

Remember, no experience needed!

Diane

## Moderator's Notes

I feel like I should be singing "Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow". Today I was able to see patches of grass on my lawn, but tonight they are calling for a "snow"icane. I'm not sure what that is, but it doesn't sound good.

I can't wait for Spring! With Spring comes new life and change. And we are certainly preparing for new life and change here at UCCSV. You will be seeing some new life being breathed into the sanctuary ceiling soon. There has been some tape degradation on the drywall of the left side of the ceiling. John and Wayne have been busy having the roof inspected and getting bids on the repairs. The good news is that the roof is in good shape and only the drywall and tape in that area need to be replaced. We hope to have the repair done before Easter. Thank you John and Wayne for pulling this together so quickly.

And change is just around the corner too! Our new music director is completing her move to Germantown and Diana will be starting on March 7. Beth and Laura have done a yeomans' job of cleaning and organizing the church loft to prepare for Diana. Thank you to Beth and Laura! And it will be sad not to see Laura's robust direction of the choir and Beth's facial expressions as reflected in the piano, but I am sure they will be glad to have a rest from the excellent job they have done keeping music alive and well at UCCSV. Thank you to Beth and Laura and all the choir members who have kept a song in our hearts during this transition period.

The nominating committee will be getting ready for both change and new life in the boards of the church. As you know, our program year runs from June 1 to May 31, and we will be soliciting new members in April for our boards.

We are grateful for all of the board members who will be returning for the next program year and thank everyone for their service over the past year. If you've never been on a board, please consider serving on Deacons, Fellowship, Property Operations, Social Action, Christian Education or Hope Task Force. It is a great way to get to know other church members while serving God and your church community. If you would like to serve, please contact Sandy or Laura.

And when you receive a call from the nominating committee, please prayerfully consider accepting a position on a board. We are a small but mighty congregation with a strong sense of volunteerism which keeps our church moving forward!

When the "snow"icane comes tomorrow, I will be the one shoveling my walk singing "When the Red Red Robin Comes Bob Bob Bobbing Along" in the hopes that I can wish us into Spring!

Heidi



## Deacons

Deacons continue to host a Lenten series of "Lenten Soupers" followed by discussion and exploration as a way to examine and share our individual and collective faith. Sidney Fowler's book, "*What Matters to You? Matters to Us*" is our guide.

Dinner is served at 5:00pm followed by discussion until 7:00pm.

March 7      ***We are people of God's extravagant welcome***

March 14     ***We listen for the still-speaking God***

March 21     ***We thank God by working for a just and loving world***

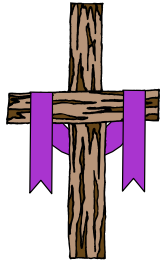
Please join us during the weeks of Lent for an evening of fellowship. ***Ask the questions that are deep in your heart or dance in your head.***

***Together, we'll listen for God who still speaks today.***

If you need child care, please let one of the Deacons know or call the church office at 301-540-3449.

If you need a ride, please call Friends with Wheels - Coordinator for March is Luzmarina.

~Christie, Maggie, Dick, Andy, Ruth, Tom, Beth & Pam



## Stewardship

### One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

On March 14 UCCSV will be taking up an offering for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). You may ask, "What is OGHS, what does it do and why should I contribute to it?" These are good questions, deserving a good answer.

OGHS, as part of Our Churches Wider Mission, is a special mission offering of the UCC that carries God's message of love and hope to people in over 80 countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources for clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-relief, emergency relief and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

In all, nine denominations work together to provide common promotional materials, sharing ideas, costs and a commitment to faithful service.

More than 60 percent of the UCC's offering supports international development initiatives, including annual support for approximately six missionaries working in education, health care and agricultural development. Gifts are also used for disaster preparedness and response (eg. response to the earthquake in Haiti), and disaster and refugee-related volunteer activities.

The UCC responds to development, disaster and refugee needs in more than 80 countries, including the United States. Funding decisions are made by working with our world-wide mission partners to decide how best our monies can be used to help people in need.

On average, 88 cents of every dollar given to OGHS are used for mission programs. Most administrative costs are paid with gifts to Our Churches Wider Mission National basic support and by endowments.

Finally, why should we contribute to OGHS? According to the Gospel of John (John 21: 15-17) Jesus, in his final conversation with his disciples after his resurrection told them, "If you love me feed my sheep." He admonished them three times to do this. Two thousand years have passed since Jesus gave directions for the disciples to give aid to those in need. We are now the disciples and we can follow Jesus' admonition by contributing to the OGHS offering.

Please give prayerful consideration to this offering when it is received on March 14. Join with other disciples in helping to "Feed My Sheep" as directed by Jesus.

Floyd



## Fellowship

### Ladies' Brunch

The Ladies' brunch has been rescheduled! Please mark your calendar for Sunday, April 18. Hope to see you there!

### Women's Retreat

Great news! I have a wonderful spot (thanks to Susan suggestion) to enjoy our women's retreat and the wheels are in motion.

Essential information:

**Date:** Friday, May 7 12:00pm through Saturday, 8, 4:00pm (You may arrive whenever it is convenient for you)

**Venue:** Am Kolel Retreat Sanctuary, 19520 Darnestown Rd., Bealesville, Md.

Features: Up to 28 people, fully supplied kitchen to cook in (including all tableware). Rooms with twin beds. Bedding furnished. Accommodations include small break-out rooms, beautiful grounds, gazebo, fire pit, labyrinth, chapel, rolling country side for peaceful walks.

**Particulars: \$40.00/person.** Because we are less than 90 days from the date, we must guarantee the cost. It will **require full payment with registration** and on a first come first serve basis. Registration began on Sunday, February 21. I need to put a down-payment for the date as soon as possible in order to hold it. We will need to furnish our own food. More to come on that later.

An extra offering would be welcomed to help defer for scholarships. If you need scholarship assistance, please speak with Carolyn.

Thank you,  
Pam

## United Church of Christ Pages for Children

The United Church of Christ has started a new safe page for children on the web. Just goggle United Church of Christ and look for All creatures great and small, our loving God made us all.

## Worship Overview – March

### Sunday, March 7

Theme: Open Invitation  
Isaiah 55.1-9  
Psalm 63.1.8  
1 Corinthians 10.1-13  
**Luke 13.1-9**

### Sunday, March 14

Theme: Embracing Love  
Joshua 5.9-12  
Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5.16-21  
**Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32**

### Sunday, March 21

Theme: Something New  
**Isaiah 43.16-21**  
Psalm 126  
Philippians 3.4b-14  
John 12.1-8

### Sunday, March 28

Theme: Into Jerusalem  
Psalm 118.1-2, 19-29  
Isaiah 50.4-9a  
Psalm 31.9-16  
Philippians 2.5-11  
**Luke 19.28-40; 22.14-23.56**

**Bold: Scripture Focus for Bulletin Theme**



### March Birthdays

March 5	Tom
March 8	Seann
March 9	Bethany
March 10	Jean
March 11	Lorrie
March 21	Jenna
March 27	Tom
March 29	Jacko
March 31	Anne

### April Birthdays

April 3	Jean
April 4	Mike
April 9	Janet
	Karle
April 15	Heidi
April 20	Daniel
April 21	Sarah
April 25	Andrew
April 27	Jim

#### Comments, Questions to:

The United Church of Christ of Seneca Valley  
 13421 Clopper Road  
 Germantown MD 20874  
 301-540-3449 ~ Fax: 301-540-0036  
 E mail: [uccsv@verizon.net](mailto:uccsv@verizon.net)

### Upcoming Events at UCCSV

#### Monday, March 1

6:00-7:00p – Reception for Diane  
 7:00p – Deacons

#### Tuesday, March 2

Noon – Human Resources  
 7:00p – 7<sup>th</sup> Day (Narthex Only)

#### Sunday, March 7

1:33a-2:00p – Confirmation  
 Monday, Mar4ch 8  
 3:00p – Worship Team  
 7:30p – Social Action

#### Tuesday, March 9

7:30p – Mind, Body, Spirit

#### Saturday, March 13

9:00- Adopt-a Road

#### Sunday, March 14

11:15a – Completing the Circle – Worship

#### Monday, March 22

7:00p – Trustees

#### Sunday, March 28

Palm Sunday

### Holy Week Schedule

#### Thursday, April 1, Maundy Thursday

6:30p – Simple Meal with Optional Washing of Feet

#### Friday, April 2 – Good Friday

7:30p – Worship

#### Sunday, April 4

10:00a – Easter Worship