

Valley Forge UMC Vision Statement

We are a Christ-centered community learning and striving to make our faith a way of life as we share with each other and all people the love, acceptance and forgiveness lived and proclaimed by Jesus of Nazareth.



Open Door Tidings

From the Pastor

Truth is not dead; challenge yourself to seek it



Dear Friends,

The cover of the April 3, 2017 issue of “Time Magazine” poses this question in bold red type, “Is Truth Dead?” The substance of the article answering this question has political implications, but I want to answer the question from a Christian perspective. “No, truth is not dead!” In the Gospel of John the self-affirmation of Jesus is emphatic. “I am . . . the truth.” (John 14:6) This is not “fake news” nor “alternative fact.”

Leslie Weatherhead in his book, Over His Own Signature, challenges the reader to consider three implications of the profound statement: “I am the truth.”

1. It implies that he who seeks the truth is seeing God.
2. The search for truth is an adventure which we certainly ought to undertake.
3. To say that Jesus is the Truth challenges us to sincerity at all costs.

I like what Weatherhead writes: “When we move nearer the truth, we move nearer to Jesus, who is himself both the Truth and the Source of our urge to discover it.”

What does it mean to you when Jesus declares, “I am the Truth?” It suggests many things to me beginning with the fact that in actuality Jesus is precisely that, the Truth.

- Jesus teaches and shows us how to be connected to God.
- We are to love God with our minds and be open to new understanding.
- Jesus demonstrates that relationships are crucial to human fulfillment and calls us to love others even as we love God.
- We are reminded that living in love is living in God because God is love.
- Jesus compels us to reflect on our lives and strive for authenticity. He is the Truth for he shows us a path that connects us with the eternal and leads to a life of meaning, inner peace and hope.

Blessings and peace,

Jim Hallam
Pastor

Christ
The Way, the Truth,
and the Life.

JOHN 14:6

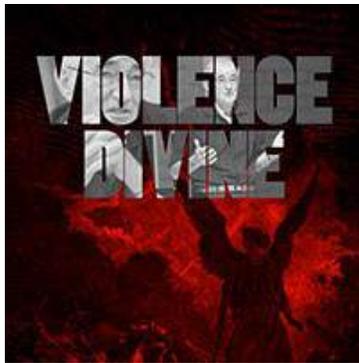
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Adult Sunday School—9 a.m.

A New Series: *Violence Divine*

Overcoming the Bible's betrayal of Its Non-violent God



Is God demanding charity or justice? Do we understand what Amos means when we hear “let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

You have grown and your understanding of the Bible needs to grow too! Together we will discuss the Bible and issues of violence. We will find important aspects of the teachings of Jesus.

John Dominic Crossan, one of the world's foremost historical Jesus scholars helps us understand violence.

Although this sounds complex, I promise it easy to understand and we'll have fun.

Come explore new ways of looking at the Bible texts. Bring your Bibles and come join us at 9 a.m.

Tom Loane

April Lectionary



April 2 — Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

April 9 — Palm/Passion Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66
Psalm 31:9-16 Matthew 27:11-54
Matthew 21:1-11

April 16 — Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

April 23 — Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-23 Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31

April 30 — Third Sunday of Easter

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

Scottie's Adult Sunday School Class now focused on 'hearing God.'

Dallas Willard comments on 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13: “I can be assured at a certain point in my progression toward spiritual maturity simply that ‘the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone’” (John 8:29). It should be the hope and plan of every disciple of Christ to come, by gracious assistance, to this place of rest in God's companionship and service . . .” (Hearing God, pp. 209-210)

Have you known people who were so close to God that they were never lonely? What do you think of the prospects of such a relationship for you? Join us for some interesting discussions, 9 a.m. downstairs in the church building.

Scottie DeMartinis

UMW is planning activities and fund-raisers

In case you haven't seen the advertisement on the bulletin board in the Reeves Building, there is a bus trip available on April 20 through the Senior Circle of Phoenixville Hospital. The trip includes a production of “My Fair Lady” at Dutch Apple Theater in Lancaster County, a meal and transportation. The bus leaves the Hospital at 9:45 a.m. and returns at approximately 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$104 per person. There are still seats available, so if you are interested, please contact Fern Heit at 610-933-3683 as soon as possible. Thanks for considering this event: transportation, a meal, and a show . . . what a deal!!!

THEN: I know October is a long way off, but it's never too early to sort through housewares, jewelry, closets, and drawers and gather items that are still usable and save them for Valley Forge UMC. Then bring them to the church during the week before the sale and we'll arrange the items for sale at our UMW Flea Market, which will be held on **October 7**—the first Saturday of October.

Bring linens, books, tools, dishes, toys, games, puzzles—anything BUT clothing.

Members of the UMW, and anyone who wants to help, will be available during the first week of October to arrange the items and prepare our fellowship hall for the sale on Saturday, the 7th. On the day of the sale, we have fun greeting shoppers, eating hot dogs and homemade soup and enjoying fellowship.

If you have questions, please contact me at 610-933-3683.

Fern Heit



Prayer Scripture of the Month

The Central District office has published a monthly list of Prayer Scriptures for the conference year 2016-2017.

For April the *Prayer Scripture* is:

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 14:13



April Birthdays

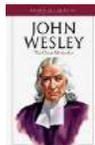
Kim Heit	1
Linda Gular	3
Bob Hepp	15
Rolf Oesterlin	16
Tom Loane	18
Soren DeMartinis	18
Michael Dorrin	28

April Anniversaries

Rick & Tracey McNeill 2

JOHN WESLEY

—QUOTE OF THE MONTH



“Suppose, then, one of those who heard the Apostle Peter preaching repentance and remission of sins, was pricked to the heart, was convinced of sin, repented, and then believed in Jesus . . . Now it was that he could truly say, “I live not, but Christ liveth in me; I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

From *Scriptural Christianity*
Submitted by Bob Erb

Each year, the church administration writes four checks to Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS), due to members’ generous contributions on the first Sunday of each month, and the Thanksgiving Eve service.

We received a thank you letter enumerating these checks and the total amount. The total for 2016 is **\$1,713.04**

Many thanks to everyone for donating to those in our community who need help the most.

Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC



April 8
April 15
April 22



If you are interested in joining the class, call Maggie Horosky at 610-343-1343.

April 29th is World Tai Chi Day.

Although we won’t have class on April 29th, (ReNewU is planned for that day), our class will celebrate Tai Chi Day on Saturday, May 6th. Our instructor, Mitch Goldfarb, has opened the class on May 6th to everyone for **free**. So if you’ve been thinking about trying Tai Chi, that’s the day to try.

Worship Participation Schedule

	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
4/9	L. Bohl	E. Turner	L. Ludwig
4/16	Easter breakfast	S. DeMartinis	E. & N. Turner
4/23	L. Austin	L. Gular	P. & G. Davis
4/30	J. M Jones	G. Frazer	L. Austin
5/7	L. Bohl	E. Turner	L. Ludwig

Note of Caution:

The schedule may be changed due to members’ scheduling issues. The most up-to-date version of the Schedule is the weekly Bulletin.

Notice: Congregation member **Linda Ludwig** has a business which provides *Senior Companion Care and Pet Sitting*. Linda is willing to help other members of the congregation with her knowledge and compassion. **Phone: 610-906-0774.**

Valley Forge United Methodist Church
Administrative Board Meeting
Minutes
March 27, 2017

In Attendance: Tom Loane, Glenn Davis, Adam Davis, Nancy Loane, Fern Heit, Tom Davis, Pastor Jim Hallam, Steve Knotts, John Torres, Richard Johnston, Maggie Horosky, Rick McNeill, Noel Turner, Patty Davis, Robin Coroniti, Doretta Erb, Bob Erb, Kris Keller of Orion Communities, John Torres, Michelle Torres

Ms. Keller opened the meeting by speaking to the board about the services and history of the Orion organization, which is located on Bridge Street in Phoenixville. Through mostly volunteers, they offer assistance to those experiencing poverty, homelessness, disability, and/or illness. They assisted approximately 700 families last year on a budget of \$5000 to \$6000 a month. Missions and Outreach will review the need here, and advise the board.

Minutes of February were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

FINANCE: Currently, we have a balance of \$10,246.00 in our operational accounts for the year vs. the proposed 2017 budget. Tom Davis reported that, as of March 24, 2017, the Trustees account balance is \$471,276.00 of which \$424,102.00 is in the Vanguard accounts. A motion was approved to hire Ministry Works, a payroll service, for \$714.70 a year. They will take care of the payroll, direct deposit, as well as tax documents. Implementation will be at our convenience.

A motion was approved to move \$18,000 to Vanguard from the operating account. A motion was approved to increase the Haiti monthly donation to \$250 from \$200.

Audits for the year 2016 were completed.

SPRC: Next meeting is April 24th at 6:15 p.m.

UMM: Clean-up Day will be held April 22nd at 9 a.m. Nancy and Tom Loane requested that the floors in the Reeves building be stripped and waxed (Glenn will arrange); the front of the stage be repainted, (UMM); the wainscoting in the sanctuary be painted where chipped, (UMM); to get an estimate on window cleaning on both buildings (Glenn will advise); and get an estimate on a new back door with hardware for the sanctuary (Glenn to call contractor).

UMW: Flea Market will be on October 7th.

LEARNING: Next meeting will be April 23rd. Speaker Irene Gaskins will be on April 29th in the Reeves building, and Line Dancing on May 21st, including lunch.

REACHING OUT: Richard reported that the group will be discussing several different charitable options for this year, and will advise the board next month.

NURTURING: Delivered cake for a New Members coffee hour. Patty Davis requested consideration for new wall cabinets on the sink side, as well as a pantry cabinet(s) just outside the kitchen, as well as painting the existing cabinets with new hardware. Fern will call the Board of Health to make sure that a range hood is OK to install without inspection, and Patty Davis and John Torres will work on the pricing of the cabinets which will be discussed at the next meeting.

PASTORAL ITEMS: A letter from Calvary United Methodist Church in Philadelphia was received and given to Richard Johnston to share with the missions group to consider possible assistance here. The Maundy Thursday service will be at 7:30 p.m. The church will be open on Good Friday between Noon and 3 p.m., and Easter sunrise service will be at 6:15 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS: We agreed that we need an updated directory. Pastor Jim will ask JoEllen to update.

Pastor Jim closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting - Monday, April 24th at 7 p.m.
Maggie will be handling the devotion.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Davis



**The award-winning
Benchmark School
in Media
teaches bright
children who learn
differently.**

On Saturday, April 29, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., Dr. Irene Gaskins, founder of the internationally-known, award-winning Benchmark School, will share about her belief in children and personal faith story at Valley Forge United Methodist Church, Route 23, Valley Forge, Pa. The event is free and open to the public. Reservations are suggested; call 610-783-7888 (leave a message) or email the church at valleyforgeumc@comcast.net.

The independent, co-educational Benchmark School is committed to helping bright students ages 6-14 who learn differently or have yet to reach their academic potential develop the confidence, strategies, and knowledge to become lifelong learners, thinkers, and problem-solvers.

Established in 1970 in Media, Pa., by Dr. Gaskins, Benchmark, cited as an elementary and middle school that demonstrates excellence in American education, has a reading instruction program that is used by colleges and universities throughout the U.S. and Canada. Benchmark's almost fifty years of proven student achievement is evidenced by the successes of thousands of alumni, almost all of whom have gone on to higher education – with many attending the nation's top colleges, universities, and graduate schools.

Everyone is welcome to hear the remarkable story of the Benchmark School and the extraordinary story of its founder, Dr. Irene Gaskins, a woman of deep faith and vision.

Visit the church website (valleyforgeumc@comcast.net) or contact Nancy Loane at 610-415-9247 for more information. This program is sponsored by ReNewU, a ministry of Valley Forge UMC.

Everyone is invited - no charge.

Reservations (610-783-7888) are suggested.

**The Church is located on the corner of Route 23 and
Colonial Springs Road in Valley Forge.**

www.vfumc.org 610-783-7888

April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Communion	3	4	5 Bible Study 1 p.m. Church Office Lenten Service, 7:30 p.m.	6 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.	7	1 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m. 8 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
9 Palm Sunday Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	10	11	12	13 Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary	14	15 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
16 <i>EASTER</i> Sunrise Service, 6:15 a.m. Easter Breakfast after Sunrise Service Worship, 10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt after worship	17	18	19 Bible Study 1 p.m. Church Office	20 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.	21	22 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m. Spring Clean-up Day, 9:30 a.m.
23 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	24 SPRC Meeting 6:15 p.m. Administrative Board Meeting, 7 p.m.	25	26 Bible Study 1 p.m. Church Office	27 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.	29	29 ReNewU, 10 a.m. <i>Irene Gaskins</i>
30 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.		Jazzercise: Monday-Thursday at 6:15-7:15 p.m.; Saturday at 9-10 a.m. Bible Study—Pastor Jim Choir—Julia Rich Bell Choir—Nancy Loane				<i>Looking ahead . . .</i> ReNewU—April 29, 10 a.m. Irene Gaskins , founder of The Benchmark School