

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

Life, light and love can be made real in us



Dear Friends,

On Easter Sunday my granddaughter, Sydnie, sang and signed the words to Andra Day’s “Rise Up.” This song moves me deeply because it reminds me that we are all part of the human family. No member of our family is more important than another. When someone is struggling, we are called to help.

And I’ll rise up.
 I’ll rise like the day.
 I’ll rise up.
 I’ll rise unafraid.
 I’ll rise up.
 And I’ll do it a thousand times again.
 And I’ll rise up.
 High like the waves
 I’ll rise up.
 In spite of the ache
 I’ll rise up.
 And I’ll do it a thousand times again.
 For you
 For you
 For you
 For you.

There were so many who did rise up to assist Sydnie. She was born premature with a cancerous tumor. Things looked pretty dark at the time but this beautiful person survived although she still has challenges. God’s healing power was at work through the competency and care of her doctors, through the love and prayers of a devoted mother, family and friends, and through the life force compelling a little girl to claim the amazing gift of life for herself.

It was the love, support and genuine care of others that generated the light that overpowered darkness. Love worked its miracle of healing, and hope dispelled despair. These are the qualities lived by Jesus and entrusted to us as his disciples. Things looked bleak during the passion but the resurrection happened. Whenever life, light, and love are made real in the context of daily behavior, the resurrection becomes a loving and breathing reality. We are the resurrection people. Thanks be to God!

Peace and Blessings,
 James R. Hallam, Pastor



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Adult Sunday School—9 a.m.

123

Letters of John

The 3 Letters of John

“How plain, how full, and how deep a compendium of genuine Christianity!”

How do we develop into the people we are? We all know that DNA is part of it. We are also influenced by the culture we live in, by other people, by the things we read and watch on TV.

Then can we say that we are what we pay attention to? If we pay attention to dark things, evil things—we may reflect that in our living. However, if we pay attention to “the Light” and all that goes with it, like love, grace and forgiveness, won’t our lives reflect love, grace and forgiveness?

As we study 1 John, we may discover new things to pay attention to—things about God and his “Light.” Join us as we “dig” into topics from the Word to help make our lives more meaningful—to reflect “the Light.” We meet Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Education Building. Bring your Bibles.

April Lectionary



April 1 — Easter Sunday

Acts 10:33-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 John 20:1-18 or
Mark 16:1-8

April 8 — Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2 20:19-31

April 15 — Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19 Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48

April 22 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12 Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18

April 29 — Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40 Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8

Scottie's Sunday School Class

From the back cover of the DVD entitled LIVING IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE . . . “a series of seven talks . . . taught by Dallas Willard and John Ortberg, who also serves as a conversation partner with Willard after each session”:

ONE Willard—How to Live Well. Eternal Life Begins Now

TWO Ortberg—Who Are the Experts on Life Transformation?

THREE Willard—How to Step Into the Kingdom and Live There

FOUR Ortberg—Experiential Knowledge of the Trinity

FIVE Willard—Understanding the Person: Including the Invisible Parts

SIX Ortberg—The Importance of Christian Discipline

SEVEN Willard—Blessing.

Come and enjoy their talks, and join our talk as you feel comfortable to do so. We meet on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Church Parlor.



Scottie DeMartinis

Spring . . .





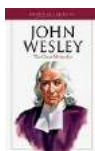
Prayer Scripture of the Month

For April the *Prayer Scripture* is:

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

JOHN WESLEY

—*QUOTE OF THE MONTH*



“Now cast thyself on the Lamb of God, with all thy sins, how many soever they be; and ‘an entrance shall’ now ‘be ministered unto thee, into the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!’”

From *The Way to the Kingdom*.
Submitted by Bob Erb



Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC

April Tai Chi Classes:

April 14
April 21
April 28



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

Computer help offered

The following is a message from Maggie Horosky, a member of VFUMC.

If anyone needs computer help or instruction, they can feel free to call on me. Some people have had issues, and they were afraid to call me because I do it for a living. However, I don't mind helping if someone has a need. Please just call and I'll do what I can to help.

Call Maggie Horosky at 610-343-1343.



April Birthdays

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

April Anniversaries

No anniversaries in April.

Worship Participation Schedule

	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
4/15	P. Davis	R. Johnston	L. & F. Vitale
4/22	E. Turner	J. Torres	P. & G. Davis
4/29	W. Martielli	R. Masters	C. & R. Masters
5/6	L. Vitale	J. M. Rich	E. & N. Turner

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
Administration Board Meeting
March 26, 2018
Minutes

In Attendance: Glenn Davis, Adam Davis, Fern Heit, John Torres, Pastor Jim Hallam, Robin Coroniti, Noel Turner, Patty Davis, JoMarie Jones, Tom Davis

Adam opened the meeting with a reflection and prayer about love not needing to be perfect, and that our ability and willingness to love others shows that we are growing spiritually.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: The March 5th audit was completed successfully by Adam and Noel.

FINANCE: For February, Noel reports that we had a surplus \$981.00 vs. the 2018 budget. As of March 23, 2018, the Trustees balance is \$470,029.00 of which \$421,797.00 is in the Vanguard accounts, as reported by Tom Davis.

SPRC: No report. Next meeting in April.

UMM: The kitchen restoration project is moving along and should look good by Easter. Glenn spoke with Chris Simon to meet with us at our next work Saturday to inspect the retaining wall and discuss solutions and costs. Rail fencing will be completed on the next Saturday workday.

UMW: Next event is this Easter Sunday, Sunrise Breakfast.

LEARNING: JoMarie reports: Easter Egg Hunt will be this Easter Sunday for kids 12 and under. A potluck dinner is planned for May 20th for Nancy and Tom Loane's return from their world cruise. A midsummer Bar-B-Que is a possibility this summer, and a Talent Show in November, which will be catered. The Nativity will return this year, and probably will be held on December 23rd. Their next meeting will be in April.

REACHING OUT (Missions): Robin is going to research the average amount placed in the Haiti Hut to see if it will be necessary to increase our gift to Haiti, as they add 30 additional students in the fall.

NURTURING: Patty Davis reported that additional visitor gift bags have been made up, and that hand cleaner was set up in church during the flu season.

PASTORAL: Maundy Thursday Service is in Phoenixville. JoEllen is working on a new church directory, and we want to be sure to include new and returning members. There is still a balance remaining at the Charter School in Chester, and some funds will be used to provide lunches to students on Snow Days.

NEW BUSINESS: We discussed updating the website, and that Wendy and Laurie will reportedly be working on that. It was noted that there is no notice of the Sunrise Service, and the monthly newsletter that is posted also needs updated.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 23, 2018 at 7 p.m.
It is unknown who will be handling the devotion next month.

Respectfully submitted,
GD

April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter Sunday Easter Sunrise Easter Breakfast Worship, 10:30 Easter Egg Hunt	2	3	4	5 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m.	6	7 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
8 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 Communion	9	10	11 Bible Study 1:15 p.m. Pastor Jim	12 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m.	13	14 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
15 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30	16	17	18 Bible Study 1:15 p.m. Pastor Jim	19 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m.	20	21 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
22 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30	23 Administrative Board Meeting 7 p.m.	24	25 Bible Study 1:15 p.m. Pastor Jim	26 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m.	27	28 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
29 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	30			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		