

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

Time is limited; live life on a positive page



Dear Friends,

Tick Tock! Tick Tock! Tick Tock! Yep, time is passing by. The inexorable movement of the digital number on the clock or second hand of our favorite time piece confirms the fact. None of us knows how much time we will have on planet earth, but we do know it is limited. After all, none of us will live forever. There is a time for every season so Ecclesiastes informs us. We do not, however, have a crystal ball that tells us what the future has in store for us.

So, here are some things to think about. In light of our finiteness, it would do us well to live each day with celebration. We are to live our moments with quality because we have a splendiferous gift. It is called life! We are fortunate to be able to choose how we will deal with our time and experiences. Consider the choice of living each day positively or negatively. We can appreciate the gifts of nature and the beauty of the earth. We can value the relationships that bring joy and love to our existence. On the other hand, we can be negativists. We can spend time be-moaning whatever it is that we want to gripe about. We determine the flow of our days by how we think and act.

The power of choice cannot be underestimated. We cannot do every thing so it is incumbent upon us to make priorities. We can live with fear, greed and resentment or we can, with God’s grace, come out of our self created tombs and live with affirmation, love and hope. We can be sustained by God’s infinite hug and live lives of goodness, empathy and generosity.

I like what Emily C. Heath writes in her book, Courageous Faith. She is a recovered alcoholic, the minister of the Congregational Church in Exeter, New Hampshire and a reflective writer. She lives her life as a “thank you” to God. She has experienced the new life lived and proclaimed by Jesus. She writes that for herself and many, the purpose of life is to live a life of gratitude to God for the new life she has received. I would like you to ponder what Rev. Heath says about her reality.

“The best way I know to show gratitude to God is to live as a resurrection person in this world. I live as an example of what God’s grace has done. I also live not just for myself but for others, all of whom God loves just as much as me. I want God to be able to use me as a tool, one that can help others to find their own way to a new life, and one of many whom God can use to help this whole world to rise.”

In this Easter season, I shout “Amen” to what Heath shares.

Peace and Blessings,

Jim Hallam
Pastor

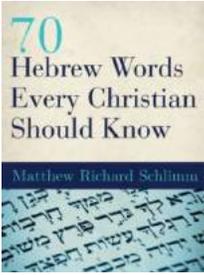


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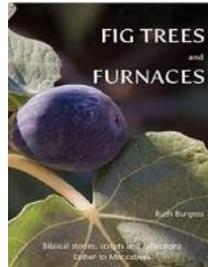
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Adult Sunday School—9 a.m.

Tom Loane's SS Class



Double Feature



Our class has two parts each week for variety.

Part 1 - English isn't God's first language. In Hebrew names often have a second or third meaning as a noun or adjective. For example "Cain" also means spear. The Hebrew "Eden" also means delight. As we read the Bible in English we miss these word meanings with little thought as to the richness and range of meanings in Hebrew. We will explore 70 words in Hebrew every Christian should know, taking a few words each week and seeing how they fit in scripture.

Part 2 - Bible Stories for Adults - As children we probably read numerous Bible stories such as Noah and the Ark. We probably didn't read the entire story of Sodom and Gomorrah and especially of Lot and his daughters. It is time to reread these stories as adults looking at the messages of God in these ancient texts.

Join us Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. to share in this presentation and discussion. You can drop in at any time and still participate. Bring your Bible.

Tom Loane

An "Open-Bible" Adult Sunday School Class— Carrying on Scottie's Class

Colossians 3:16: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom . . ."

Explore the Bible with us this week! Studying God's Word is time well invested. We often "invest" many hours of our (brief!) lives in watching TV each week. Compare those hours with the time that you invest in the Word of God.

We continue our study in the Gospel of John and are now beginning the wonderful Chapter 15. All ages are invited to join us to dig into the written Word and to learn more of the living Word, our Lord Jesus Christ. Please come any Sunday that you can!

The time: 9:00 to 9:55 a.m. The place: the church parlor. You may bring your own Bible; however, we have plenty of ESV large-print Bibles at the class for your use.

Bob Erb



Scripture of the Month

For April the special *Scripture* is:

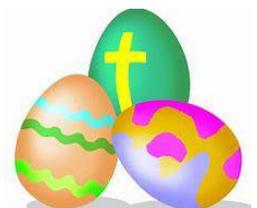
*"Ask, and it will be given you;
search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for you."*
Luke 11:9



Gather the Kids . . .

Easter Egg Hunt at Valley Forge UMC

Easter Morning after Worship—11:45 a.m.



April Lectionary



April 7 – Fifth Sunday in Lent
 Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126
 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8

April 14—Passion/Palm Sunday
Palm Service
 Luke 19:28-40 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13

Passion Service
 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-29

April 21— Easter Sunday
 Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 1 Corinthians 15:19-26
 John 20:1-8 or Luke 24:1-12

April 28 – Second Sunday of Easter
 Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 150
 Revelation 1:4-8 John 20:19-31

Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC

April Tai Chi Classes:



April 6
April 13
April 20
April 27



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

Mission Opportunity . . .

Hello! If you are looking to add a meaningful and spiritually enriching opportunity to your summer calendar it is not too late to book your reservation for participation in this summer's Appalachia Service Project experience in Chavis, Kentucky.

The dates are July 27-August 3. The mission of ASP is "to make homes warmer, safer and drier one relationship at a time", meaning that while volunteers are engaging in home repair they are also building relationships with the homeowners. You don't have to be skilled in any facet of construction to participate (I certainly am not!). The minimum age requirement is that you must be finished 8th grade, but there is no maximum age limit! Please check out the Appalachia Service Project website to find out more about this experience, and if you are at all interested please contact me so that I can tell you more about it!



Kerry Hallam
 484-620-6031
Ethelglue@aol.com



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
4/7	L. Bohl	N. Turner	C. & R. Masters
4/14	F. Heit	R. Johnston	S. Hranilovich
4/21	Easter Breakfast	J. Torres	N. & T. Loane
4/28	C. Masters	D. Erb	S. Jennings
5/5	L. Austin	R. Masters	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.

*Music by
George Stiles*

Honk!!

*Book/Lyrics by
Anthony Drewe*



A Musical Tale of “The Ugly Duckling”

Presented at Spahr Auditorium—Perkiomen Valley Middle School

Friday, 4/12/19—7:30 p.m. * Saturday, 4/13/19—6:30 p.m.

Sunday, 4/14/19—2 p.m.

**Free Senior Citizen Matinee
Thursday, April 11—1 p.m.**

Tickets \$10 * Ticket Information at www.pvmb.org

Short Sayings

Fruit of the Spirit

Joy is love singing

Peace is love resting

Patience is love enduring

Kindness is love's touch

Goodness is Love's character

Faithfulness is love's habit

Gentleness is love's self-forgetfulness

Self-control is love holding the reins.

If you once forfeit the confidence of your fellow citizens, you can never regain their respect and esteem. It is true that you may fool all of the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all of the time; but you can't fool all of the people all of the time.

Abraham Lincoln

Submitted by Bob Erb

Expansion on Galatians 5:22,23

Community Lenten Service . . .

This coming Wednesday
April 10—7:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
865 Main Street, Phoenixville

Speaker
Rev. Dan McDowell
of Grace Crossing Community Church,
Phoenixville

Foot Care Program at Valley Forge UMC

Learn how to care for, and protect, your feet in a special program by our very own Dr. Melissa Younger. This event will be held on Sunday, May 5, after worship in the Reeves Building. A light lunch will be provided. Everyone welcome!

Nancy Loane



Gift Card Found . . .

A gift card to “Target” has been found in the Sanctuary. If this card is yours, please contact Julia at 610-948-5765 or

CatsOfLargoLodge@aol.com



Thoughts

Recently I learned a new “spin” on the “Good Samaritan Story” at a Bible Study. We’re in the Gospel of Luke. Someone read the scripture containing this familiar story and then discussion ensued. We reviewed the story verse by verse . . . A man was injured and robbed on the road and left for dead. A priest came by. Now priests in those days—some of the holiest people around—knew the rules, had been studying scriptures for years. He should have stopped and helped. Then the Levite came by. We were taught that priests come from the tribe of Levi—knew the rules, obeyed the rules or suffered death, especially if the rules had to do with the logistics in the Temple and the like. He should have stopped, too. Then along comes the Samaritan. At this point I learned new information since I had studied this story in Sunday School many . . . many years ago. What I learned was the cultural attitude with which this Samaritan may have been regarded. Samaritans were considered half-breeds, considered to be almost “scourge of the earth” by the Israelites. This Samaritan, discovering an injured man along the road, was the **least** likely of all people to help. Instead, he’s the one who forgot his own reason for traveling, put the man on his beast of burden, took him to an inn, cared for him and paid for his room, board and care from the innkeeper. Shocking!

So we in the Bible Study were posed a question. Who is a person or people in our lives who are the most unlikely people to help you or someone in a crisis? More shock! I had never, ever thought of such a question before, especially about a simple Bible story I have known for more than 50 years.

So I started to think about the people in my life. The people I most often come in contact with, other than my son, are the people I work with at the bus company. So these are the people whose behaviors I most frequently observe. Now I have developed good friendships with several people from the bus company—people whom I would trust with my life. They are good people with good characters. But I have to admit there are a couple of people about whom I have my doubts. There are men who openly talk of womanizing and disrespecting people. And there are women who think nothing of gossiping and starting rumors that have been very hurtful to others around them. I know this by personal experience.

So I tried to imagine people with those behaviors helping someone they didn’t even know and culturally had no business helping. Those people are “my Samaritans.” They are people I can honestly say I don’t trust and wouldn’t depend on in a crisis or any other situation. In fact, I’m most likely to avoid them.

However! . . . If I have anything of Jesus in me at all, and I like to think I do, my next thought has to be . . . “my Samaritans” are God’s children, also. God loves them just as unconditionally as God loves me. And now that I’ve identified them as “my Samaritans,” I have to ask myself another question . . . What would I do if I was traveling down a road and found one of “my Samaritans” injured and needing help? Well, I’d like to think I would do everything I could to help. At least I hope I would.

I’ve been given a gift in this. I’ve been given a new way to think about the people in my life. This Bible Study experience about the Good Samaritan has given me a lot to think about.

I wonder if other people have “Samaritans” in their lives. Do you? If you identify a “Samaritan” for yourself, what’s the next step. I’m trying to pray and let God into my thoughts about it. And I’m listening for God speaking to me about “my Samaritans” and a lot of other things. God’s unconditional love is more powerful than any other power we can know. What a comforting thought . . . In all situations.

Happy Easter!

The Editor

Valley Forge United Methodist Church
Administration Board Meeting
March 25, 2019
Minutes

In Attendance: Robin Coroniti, Glenn Davis, Pastor Jim Hallam, Tom Davis, Patty Davis, Nancy Loane, Steve Hranilovich, Rick McNeill, Robin Coroniti, Jo Marie Jones, Adam Davis

Steve opened the meeting with a reading from Sacred Earth by Owen Owens, which reminds us that God created us and sustains us in a fragile environment, and that the diversity of life shows us the divine nature of God, and this diversity deserves our respect.

Minutes of the January meeting were approved, after corrections that Royal Bank is now Bryn Mawr Trust, and that Tom Ebersole will be preaching on Easter, not officiating.

OLD BUSINESS: The Jazzercise lease was reviewed and a new lease will be sent to Adam to get signed after it's put together by Rick McNeill. Changes were minimal, and the rent will remain the same in the new lease. It was approved that the Trustees will be applying to Bryn Mawr Trust for a credit card in Tom Davis' name with a credit limit of \$5,000.00. There will also be cards issued to John Torres and Adam Davis with a \$500 limit. This should simplify and more easily track building-related purchases.

FINANCE: The finance report for the end of February shows we had a surplus of \$1,155.00 vs. the 2019 budget. Tom Davis reported, as of March 22, 2019, the Trustees balance is \$462,005.00 of which \$422,160.00 is in the Vanguard account.

SPRC: No report. Rick indicated there might be a meeting in April.

UMW: No report.

UMM: New lenses for light fixtures in the Reeve building were installed, Sanctuary's door repaired, as well as the installation of a new faucet in the Reeve's Ladies' Room. Spring Clean-Up Day will be Saturday, April 20th at 9am. Stump grinding cost of not-to-exceed \$500 was approved.

EDUCATION: Jo Marie reports: Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 21st at 11:45am; Diabetic foot care seminar by Melissa Younger, probably in May; Steve's Boston Marathon talk on June 2nd, Youth Group will be packing Shoe Boxes for Christmas in September, to be led by Leslie Davis; transport shoe boxes in November; Movie and Lunch in late October; Advent Program and Covered Dish on December 8th; Live Nativity on December 22nd at Noon.

OUTREACH: Libby and Adam highlighted the recent Haiti Mission, which was shared with the congregation this past Sunday.

FELLOWSHIP: Steve thanked Nancy for setting up Gilbert's talk about his experiences in Uganda and with Compassion International, along with the accompanying luncheon.

PASTORAL: April 18th is Maundy Thursday. The service will be at Phoenixville UM church. April 19th is Good Friday, and the church will be open from Noon to 3pm. April 21st is the Sunrise Service. Tom Ebersole will be preaching. In April, the United Methodist Judicial Council will be reviewing the recent vote on the Traditional Plan, and will release its findings at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Pastor Jim closed the meeting with prayer.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 22, 2019 at 7pm. Adam Davis will be handling the devotion.

Respectfully submitted,
GD

APRIL, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
				Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:25 p.m.		Tai Chi 10:15 a.m.
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Communion			Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jim Office	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:25 p.m.		Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
PALM SUNDAY Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30			Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jim Office	MAUNDY THURSDAY Service at FUMC Phoenixville, 7:30 p.m.	Church open from Noon to 3 p.m.	Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
EASTER SUNDAY Sunrise Service, 6 a.m. Breakfast right after. Worship, 10:30 Egg Hunt, 11:45 a.m.	Administrative Board Meeting 7 p.m.		Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jim Office	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:25 p.m.		Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m. Spring Clean-Up, 9 a.m.
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>				
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. Wednesday & Friday: 9 a.m. Bible Study—Pastor Jim Choir—Julia Rich Bell Choir—Nancy Loane			