

**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*

## *Let's be grateful for the power of creation*



Dear Friends,

What a wonder it is—this world in which we live. It would do us well each day to thank God for just one gift of nature that blesses our days. I truly am connected to the ocean. I stand before it in awe. Just this past week I wrote down some of my thoughts. I'm pretending the poetry is exceptional.

*I like to look at the ocean  
So expansive, powerful and deep  
A meditative experience  
That I dare not disregard but keep.*

*The mystery of the ocean  
With various colors and tides  
Source of my creation  
Attraction and caution abide.*

*Soothing but potentially fearful  
Beautiful and joyfully forceful  
A paradox of allurements and fright  
Enlivening all my senses to my delight.*

*The white capped waves keep coming  
While those on the beach enjoy sunning.  
The water cool and salty  
The life force always running.*

*So I stand before the ocean  
In wonderment and praise.  
Silence in the midst of breaking thunder  
A reflective posture for my days.*

We all need to open the senses God has given us to drink deeply of the stream of life. If we do so, we will appreciate more fully the beauty of the earth.

Peace and Blessings,

Jim Hallam  
Pastor



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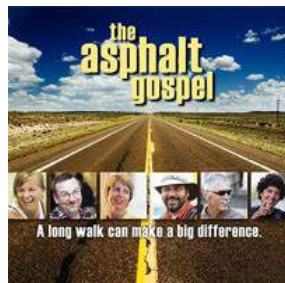
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## Adult Sunday School—11 a.m.

### A New Series:

## The Asphalt Gospel

**Starting**  
**August 20th**



In 2006, six ordinary people set out on a walking journey to change the face of Christianity in America. The Asphalt Gospel tells their story.

If you could change the face of Christianity in America, what would be different about it? Would it be more compassionate? More in touch with everyday life? More justice-oriented? Would the kind of Christianity you embrace include Jesus' authentic welcoming of diverse people and viewpoints?

Come explore new ways of looking at Progressive Christianity. Bring your Bibles and join us as we continue at 11 a.m.

Tom Loane



## August Lectionary

**August 6 — Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15  
Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21

**August 13 — Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28  
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b  
Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33

**August 20 — Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:21-28

**August 27 — Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124  
Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20

## Fundraiser planned to support "The House"

"The House is a new shelter in Phoenixville serving single women who are having hard times. Clients of "The House" can live there until they get back on their feet. All of us can help support this shelter in an easy and fun way. As a fundraiser, the shelter is offering a Boscov's 25-percent discount "shopping pass" that can be used toward anything you buy at Boscov's on October 17, 2017. The cost of the "pass" is \$5 each. It's a win-win situation. See or contact Fern Heit if you are interested.

## UMW News



Members of the UMW are organizing a Flea Market, which will be held on Saturday, October 7. Now is a good time to start sifting through the basement or attic to make contributions of items that you can't use anymore. Everything but clothing is acceptable.

We do accept prom gowns, winter coats and handbags. Also welcome are: books, linens, pillows, shoes, tools, glassware, dishes, pots/pans, vases, jewelry, games, toys, etc. If you are not sure that an item you have is eligible, please contact Lynda Austin or Fern Heit.

We will begin setting up the Flea Market on Monday, October 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. During the Flea Market, we will offer lunch that includes homemade soups, hot dogs, chips, baked goods and beverages. All workers get lunch free of charge.

Summer isn't over yet—there's still time to vacation and relax. There will be lots to do when September arrives.

***P.S. Don't forget about our week to provide meals for St. Mary's Shelter.***

Fern Heit



***Ladies of VFUMC:*** We're starting a Birthday Club and you're invited. Each last Monday of the month we will gather to celebrate birthdays of the ladies born that month.

In August we will meet at Chadwick's (on Egypt Road in Audubon) on Monday, August 28 at 11:45 a.m. If you want to carpool, please meet at the church at 11:30. Please refer to the newsletter or mid-week OTD for a list of who will be celebrated each month. Contact Patty Davis at 610-247-6909 for questions.

Patty Davis



## Prayer Scripture of the Month

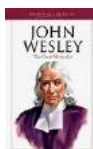
For August the *Prayer Scripture* is:

“If we don’t know how or what to pray, it doesn’t matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves.”

*Romans 8: 26-27 The Message*

JOHN WESLEY

—QUOTE OF THE MONTH



“It is a sure trust and confidence which a man hath in God, that by the merits of Christ, his sins are forgiven, and he is reconciled to the favour of God; whereof doth follow a loving heart, to obey his commandments. Whosoever has this faith thus working by love is not almost only, but altogether, a Christian.”

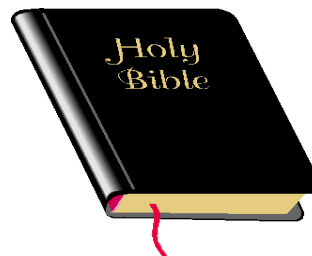
From *The Almost Christian*  
Submitted by Bob Erb

## Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC

August 5  
August 12  
August 19  
August 26



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



## Summertime Bible Study continues

**God is still speaking!**

The Word of God is **living and active!**

*Hebrews 4:12*

## Summertime Bible Study

at Valley Forge UMC.  
7:30 p.m. in the Church Parlor  
Wednesday evenings  
Until August 30th

## “Great Chapters of the Bible.”

In August we will be studying  
“great chapters” in  
the Book of Revelation:  
Chapters 1, 2, 3, 21, and 22.

Please come when you can!  
Bring your Bible!

*This study is led by Bob Erb.*



## Worship Participation Schedule

	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
8/6	P. Davis	J. Torres	M. Horosky
8/13	L. Austin	N. Loane	F. Heit
8/20	C. Dorrin	L. Gular	L. Austin
8/27	E. Turner	G. Frazer	L. Gular
9/3	J. M. Jones	F. Heit	R. Coroniti

**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.**

## Special Celebration planned for September 10

On Sunday, September 10th, we begin a new programmatic year. We will gather together to celebrate our life together. Here is the agenda for this special day when we meet together in the Reeve Building:

- 9:00 a.m. — Christian Education
- 9:45 a.m. — Breakfast
- 10:30 a.m. — Worship with Communion
- 11:30 a.m. — Ice Cream Bar



### August Birthdays

Jane Plummer	4
Bill Wynn	4
Wendy Martielli	10
Tracey McNeill	15
John Torres	19
Louis DeMartinis	21
Nancy Loane	25
Lovye Oesterlin	26
Fred Vitale	26
Annette Rorke	27
Barbara Wynn	29
Ben Cooke	30

### August Anniversaries

Nancy & Tom Loane	10
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### *Pew Bible Dedications*

If you would like to dedicate a new pew Bible “in memory of” or “in honor of” a loved one, please see the insert in the Sunday bulletins. The cost of each Bible is \$20.00.

The deadline for Bible dedications is Sunday, August 27. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Jim or Nancy Loane.



### *Announcement*

The Administrative Board is in the process of planning for the upcoming year and we are looking for anyone who is interested in serving on a committee. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Pastor Jim, Fern Heit, or Adam Davis. Thank you!



### *More pictures of Baby Eliza Nora Knotts*



*Congratulations to Baby Eliza,  
Parents Steve and Sharon,  
and Grandparents Sandy and Dave!!*



# August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
	Fall/Winter Schedule will resume on Sunday, September 10: Sunday School 9 a.m. Refreshments 10 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.		Summertime Bible Study 7:30 p.m., Parlor Leader—Bob Erb			Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Hymn Sing, 9:20 a.m. Worship, 9:30 a.m. Fellowship, 10:30 Communion			Summertime Bible Study 7:30 p.m., Parlor Leader—Bob Erb			Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Hymn Sing, 9:20 a.m. Worship, 9:30 a.m. Fellowship, 10:30 Adult SS Class, 11 a.m.			Summertime Bible Study 7:30 p.m., Parlor Leader—Bob Erb			Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m. <b>NO Men's Group</b>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Hymn Sing, 9:20 a.m. Worship, 9:30 a.m. Fellowship, 10:30 Adult SS Class, 11 a.m.			Summertime Bible Study 7:30 p.m., Parlor Leader—Bob Erb			Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
27	28	29	30	31		
Hymn Sing, 9:20 a.m. Worship, 9:30 a.m. Fellowship, 10:30 Adult SS Class, 11 a.m.	Admin. Board Mtg. 7 p.m. SPRC Mtg. 6 p.m.		Summertime Bible Study 7:30 p.m., Parlor Leader—Bob Erb		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	