

**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*

## ***Big muscles can fool you; real strength is in God***

Dear Friends,

In the book, The Word According to Mister Rogers, we read these words: “When I was a boy I used to think that strong meant having big muscles, great physical powers; but the longer I live, the more I realize that real strength has more to do with what is not seen. Real strength has to do with helping others.”

In our culture there is a major emphasis on externals. We spend many hours “fixing ourselves up” so we look nice. There is, obviously, nothing wrong with wanting to present a nice appearance. What matters, ultimately, however, is what we are on the inside. Lifting weights may give a person big muscles but as Fred Rogers writes, real strength has more to do with what cannot be seen. It has to do with helping others. Jesus would agree!

The letter to the Galatians suggests we not be self-preoccupied. Rather, we are to stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. We are to share their burdens, and so complete Christ’s law (*The Message, Galatians 6:3*). We are challenged as Christian people to care about others and to lend a helping hand when we can. The Boy Scouts have a great motto, “Do a good turn daily.” When we touch the lives of others with empathy, kindness and deep concern, we fulfill our mandate as those who are part of the Jesus movement.

Be strong, my friends! Help others! By doing so we realize connection and personal fulfillment. We are being Jesus to others.

Peace and Blessings,

Jim Hallam  
Pastor

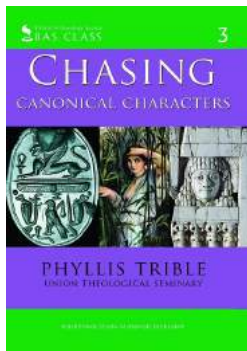


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# Adult Sunday School—11 a.m.



## Tom Loane's SS Class



Watch ancient texts come to life as you learn about the colorful personalities with the Biblical narrative. Our guide, the eminent Phyllis Tribble, uses literary, rhetorical and feminist methods to weave a vibrant tapestry, illuminating the tales of the Hebrew Bible and their unforgettable characters.

Join us Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. (that's after Church and refreshments) to share in this presentation and discussion. You can drop in at any time and still participate. Bring your Bible.



Tom Loane

## God . . . Sense of Humor . . . Do they go together?

Recently in a Bible study session, the group I was part of was discussing the Gospel of Matthew. This group studies scripture verse by verse, considering the culture in which it was written, translations of particular words that sometimes cause difficulty in understanding the meaning of a passage, etc. The particular verse we were studying was Matthew 7:6. The gist of the verse is the virtue of being holy, behaving in a way that gives honor to God. One of the women in the group uses The Message version of the Bible. In The Message, the same verse says, "Banter and silliness give no honor to God." I jumped to the edge of my chair and said, "Silliness does not honor God??!! Well, there goes my life!" The whole group roared with laughter.

The pastor who was leading the group commented that in his opinion Mr. Peterson, the man who paraphrased the Bible into The Message, may not have yet had his morning coffee when he paraphrased that particular verse.

All joking aside, or not, if we are made in the image of God and we have the ability to laugh and joke and see the lighter side of life, then maybe God joins in our laughter. I think God has a great sense of humor. Maybe that's why we seem to have humor sensors. Certainly there are enough hardships and challenges in life that are no cause for laughter. But when something tickles your funny bone, go ahead—yuk it up! And when you do, I believe God smiles with you.

Just a little food for thought . . .

The Editor



## Scripture of the Month

For August 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."  
Matthew 7:7*

## Don't Forget . . .

Your canned foods and non-perishables for PACS!



## August Lectionary

**August 5 — Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost**  
2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a Psalm 51:1-12  
Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35

**August 12 — Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost**  
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130  
Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51

**August 19 — Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 Psalm 111  
Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58

**August 26 — Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
1 Kings 8(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43  
Psalm 84  
Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69



### Scottie's Sunday School Class

On September 9th, when regular Sunday School classes resume, Scottie's Sunday School class members will gather at 9 a.m. to discuss programming plans for the coming year. Scottie will be teaching the class through October.

Pastor Jim will attend on September 9 to help direct the discussion. So, class members, if you have ideas, curiosities about certain topics or biblical concepts, please share your ideas on September 9th. We're looking forward to a productive discussion. See you then.

Pastor Jim

### UMW Dinner Out

The UMW group will be having a fun night out at Chadwick's on Egypt Road in Audubon. The date and time are Tuesday, August 14th at 5:30 p.m. Please respond to Fern Heit if you plan to attend.

Chadwick's is a fine restaurant, plus Tuesday is \$10 menu night, so it's a good night to be there.

Please try to join us if you are able. Let me know *as soon as possible* by phone (610-933-3683) or e-mail [FernH729@aol.com](mailto:FernH729@aol.com)

Hope to see you there.

Fern Heit

### Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC



August Tai Chi Classes:

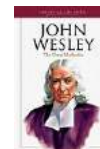


August 18  
August 25

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

### JOHN WESLEY

#### —QUOTE OF THE MONTH



Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing by God, and I care not a straw whether they be Clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on Earth.

Submitted by Bob Erb



### August Birthdays



- Jane Plummer 4
- Bill Wynn 4
- Wendy Martielli 10
- 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

### Worship Participation Schedule

	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
8/12	B. Cooke	J. Torres	L. Gular
8/19	P. Davis	E. Turner	B. Lishon
8/26	N. Loane	L. Gular	M. Horosky
9/2	J. M. Jones	G. Frazer	L. & J. Bohl

**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.**

# August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	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		1	2	3	4 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
5 Hymn Sing, 9:20 a.m. <b>Worship, 9:30 a.m.</b> <b>Communion</b> Fellowship, 10:30 NO SS Class	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Hymn Sing, 9:20 a.m. <b>Worship, 9:30 a.m.</b> Fellowship, 10:30 Tom's SS Class, 11 a.m.	13	14	15	16	17	18 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
19 Hymn Sing, 9:20 a.m. <b>Worship, 9:30 a.m.</b> Fellowship, 10:30 Tom's SS Class, 11 a.m.	20	21	22	23	24	25 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
26 Hymn Sing, 9:20 a.m. <b>Worship, 9:30 a.m.</b> Fellowship, 10:30 Tom's SS Class, 11 a.m.	27 Admin. Board Mtg 7 p.m.	28	29	30	31	