

**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*

***Think learning—keep growing—good goals for spiritual fulfillment***

Dear Friends,

I have been thinking a lot about thinking. I recently read an article in the P.M. Public Management publication titled, “Rediscover the Learning Mind.” Patrick Malone, the writer, quotes Henry Ford, “Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.”

Those of us who realize we are “older” have been given a prescription which, if fulfilled, will help us stay a little younger. It involves thinking and learning. Such an effort requires intentionality and discipline to be sure but think about the reward.

A book by Rachel Held Evans, Faith Unraveled, suggests that faith is about having an open mind. It offers us a challenge. We need not be afraid of growing and changing. Evans writes, “What my generation is learning the hard way is that faith is not about defending conquered ground but about discovering new territory. Faith is not about being right, or settling down, or refusing to change. Faith is a journey, and every generation contributes its own sketches to the map. I’ve got miles and miles to go on this journey, but I think I can see Jesus up ahead.”

Perhaps you can agree with me that Jesus wanted the people he encountered to think and learn. I believe he wanted the community of his day and us to ask questions. His parables and aphorisms challenge us to think about life and to reflect and act on the basis of his teachings. Speaking to an audience of spiritually hungry people, he tells stories that are compelling and encourage individual contemplation. Consider for a moment the Parable of the Rich Fool found in the twelfth chapter of Luke. What are its implications for your journey? What gives your life purpose: What are your priorities? Are you contented with the direction of your living? Become a member of the crowd to whom Jesus speaks. Hear his words and apply them to your story. Are you living the way you want to live? Are you committed to the way of gospel values?

Summer is almost over—a season which often permits us to move at a slower pace. I encourage you to find some time to be silent, to think and to learn. Let’s all use the amazing organ that weighs about three pounds and contains about 86 billion nerve cells. Let’s view thinking and learning as essential tasks of the journey which bring joy and liberation. “Sit at desk and think!” Words of Carl Michalson, a theologian, written on a note to himself. Words appropriate for each Christian person seeking understanding and spiritual fulfillment.

Peace and Blessings,  
Jim Hallam, Pastor



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# August Lectionary



**August 4 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Hosea 11:1-11 Psalm 107:1-9, 43  
 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21

**August 11 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23  
 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40

**August 18 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19  
 Hebrews 11:29–12:2 Luke 12:49-56

**August 25 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6  
 Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17



## Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC



### August Tai Chi Classes



*If you are a member of the class, please check your E-mail for class notices and status.*

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

### Note: TAI CHI for VETERANS—FREE

If you are a veteran or know any veterans, please contact Mitch Goldfarb, Tai Chi class director at VFUMC. Call 610-873-1923 or e-mail at

[mitch@mitchgoldfarb.com](mailto:mitch@mitchgoldfarb.com)

**Attention: All Ladies of the VFUMC**  
 We will bid a fond farewell to  
**Nancy Loane**  
 on Sunday, August 18 —  
 Right after Worship (11 a.m.)  
 at the Phoenixville Country Club, 355  
 Country Club Road,  
 Phoenixville.

**Cost: \$20** *Reservations due as soon as possible.*

**Choose: Chicken Francaise/Angel Hair Pasta or Sesame Crusted Salmon/Teriyaki Glaze**

### Short Sayings . . .

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool . . . or you can fall at His feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us.

C. S. Lewis (in *Mere Christianity*)

*Submitted by Bob Erb*

### August Birthdays



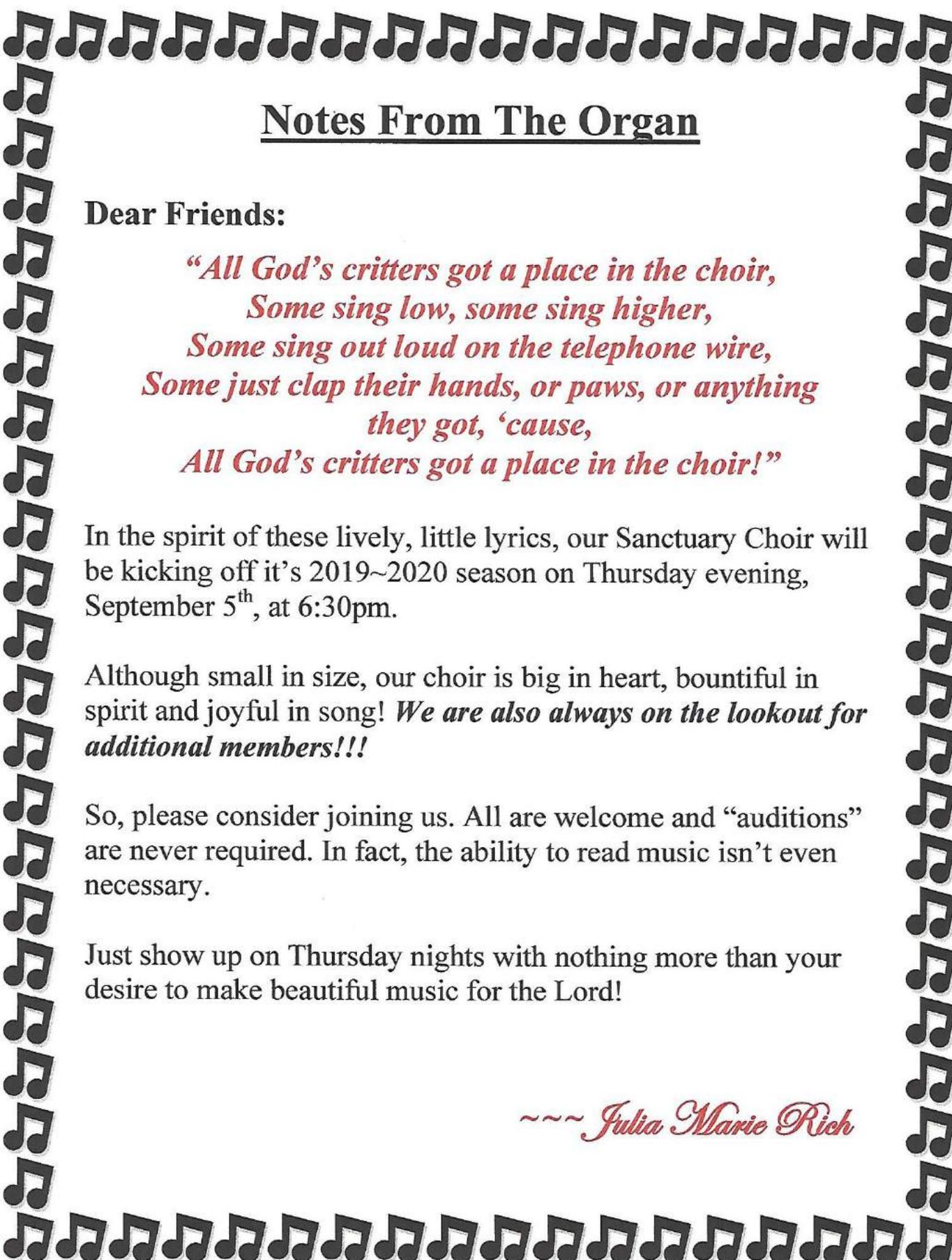
Jane Plummer	4
Bill Wynn	4
Wendy Martielli	10
John Torres	19
Lou DeMartinis	21
Nancy Loane	25
Lovye Oesterlin	26
Annette Roarke	27
Ben Cooke	30

### August Anniversaries

Tom & Nancy Loane	10
Beth & Ben Cooke	29

### Worship Participation Schedule

	Liturgist	Greeter
8/11	L. Gular	L. Moran
8/18	J. Rich	B. Lishon
8/25	D. Erb	L. Gular
9/1	E. Turner	P. & G. Davis



## Notes From The Organ

Dear Friends:

*“All God’s critters got a place in the choir,  
Some sing low, some sing higher,  
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire,  
Some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything  
they got, ‘cause,  
All God’s critters got a place in the choir!”*

In the spirit of these lively, little lyrics, our Sanctuary Choir will be kicking off it’s 2019~2020 season on Thursday evening, September 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm.

Although small in size, our choir is big in heart, bountiful in spirit and joyful in song! *We are also always on the lookout for additional members!!!*

So, please consider joining us. All are welcome and “auditions” are never required. In fact, the ability to read music isn’t even necessary.

Just show up on Thursday nights with nothing more than your desire to make beautiful music for the Lord!

~~~ *Julia Marie Rich*

# AUGUST, 2019

| Sun                                                                     | Mon | Tue                                               | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                                                                         |     |                                                   |     | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| 4                                                                       |     | 5                                                 | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   |
| <b>Worship, 9:30</b><br>Fellowship,<br>10:30 a.m.                       |     |                                                   |     |     |     | 10  |
| 11                                                                      | 12  | 13                                                | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| <b>Worship, 9:30 a.m.</b><br>Fellowship: 10:30 a.m.<br><b>Communion</b> |     |                                                   |     |     |     |     |
| 18                                                                      | 19  | 20                                                | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| <b>Worship, 9:30</b><br>Fellowship,<br>10:30 a.m.                       |     | <b>SPRC Meeting</b><br>6 p.m.                     |     |     |     |     |
| 25                                                                      | 26  | 27                                                | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |
| <b>Worship, 9:30</b><br>Fellowship,<br>10:30 a.m.                       |     | <b>Administrative<br/>Board Meeting</b><br>7 p.m. |     |     |     |     |

Jazzercise: Monday-Thursday at 6:15-7:15 p.m.;  
Friday & Saturday at 9-10 a.m.  
Bible Study—Pastor Jim  
Choir—Julia Rich  
Tai Chi—Maggie Horosky  
Bell Choir—Nancy Loane