

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.

Valley Forge United Methodist Church



Fellowship Report

From the Pastor

“Why the Christmas Bells Rang”



Dear Members and Friends,

Have you ever heard the story of “Why the Christmas Bells Rang”? Norman Vincent Peale liked to tell the story because of its beauty and truth. The message is simple—only love rings the bells.

There were some amazing bells in a church tower known all over the globe for their magnificent sound. They rang on Christmas but had not been heard for a long time. Why? Because they rang only at the moment of sacrificial giving. The king was disturbed that no gift could make the chimes ring. He decided on one Christmas that everyone should bring the best and most generous gifts they could find. People brought their gifts to the altar. They grew richer and more impressive as time passed. The king even put his gold crown on the altar but the chimes did not ring.

The story describes the plight of two children from a poor family who each managed to earn and save a silver coin for an offering. They were bringing them to the great church as an offering. It was bitterly cold and the snow was deep. As they walked along, the older boy saw a woman half frozen but still alive. He lifted her up and began rubbing her wrists and temples. She responded and her breathing became more regular. He knew he could not leave her alone. Although he wanted to go to church, he decided to stay and help the woman. He instructed his younger brother to take his treasured silver coin and present it as his offering. Reluctantly the younger boy did just that.

The story concludes with heavenly music ringing out from the glorious Christmas bells. What was it that made them ring? What extraordinary gift made the bells ring? A small boy shyly puts two silver coins on the altar next to the king’s crown. Love rings the bells!

Norman Vincent Peale ends his telling of the story of the Christmas bells with these words, “People have been celebrating Christmas for almost two thousand years, and it touches the hearts of men on no other day. Still we do not perhaps fully comprehend that the essence of Christmas is the love of God in human hearts. And so Christmas survives because love can never die.”

Let us not forget Peale’s wisdom as we buy our gifts, plan our parties and decorate our trees.

“God bless us every one!” (Tiny Tim)

Jim Hallam
Pastor



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UMW at Valley Forge UMC

Saturday, January 21, 11:30 a.m. We'll be trying something new and different in January. First, we will have lunch at Bahama Breeze in King of Prussia (that's not the different part). The new and different part is the opera. From lunch, we will go across the street to attend an opera—live from the Met at 12:55 p.m. "The Enchanted Island" will be the production. I understand it is a new work and the story is drawn from a work by Shakespeare. I have purchased a few tickets in advance because I understand they will go fast. The price of the ticket is \$24 and \$22 for seniors. Try to decide early, so seating will be available for all of us in the restaurant and the theater.

Patty Davis



Don't forget . . .

. . . To view the Valley Forge UMC introduction of Pastor Jim, click on the **church website** at: <http://www.vfumc.org/>, or go to **You Tube** at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y33ad4-HzSs>. Download it, show your friends, talk about VFUMC!

So You Want to Read The Bible

If you have always wanted to read the Bible and lost interest shortly after Leviticus, this is the opportunity for you! Tom Loane is leading a Sunday School class reading the Bible from cover to cover. December is a great time to join us as we move from Deuteronomy into what the Hebrew Bible calls the Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and The Twelve Minor Prophets). When Jesus speaks of the "law and the prophets" he was likely referring to this Hebrew structure. We move in an easy to follow discovery of what the text has to say to each of us. Come discover how the Bible speaks to you.

Tom Loane

Outreach is preparing Holiday Meals & Gifts

Thank you, one and all!!!! Our Thanksgiving meal deliveries were very well received. All of the families were most appreciative and shared their gratitude. Beth, Maria, Patty Torres and I got a little wet since it was raining on delivery day, but the rain did not wet our spirits. The congregation of VFUMC came through with donations and we completed the task. A special thank you to Maria, our very own Spanish-speaking interpreter!!

Christmas meal sign-up sheets were posted on Sunday, December 4. Don't miss your chance to help out with Christmas dinners. There are also a couple of gift spaces that need to be filled in for the children of our three families. Remember to bring all wrapped gifts, labeled with the child's name, to the church no later than Sunday, December 18. If you have any questions, please call Fern at 610-933-3683. Thanks!

Fern Heit

December Lectionary



December 4 — Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
1 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

December 11 — Third Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 18 — Fourth Sunday in Advent

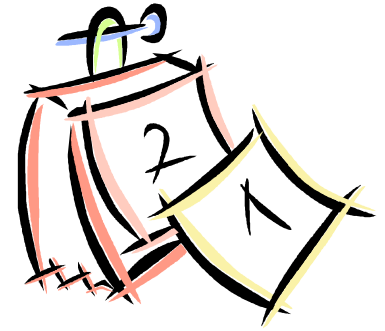
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:47-55
Romans 16: 25-27 Luke 1:26-38

December 25 — Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12) John 1:1-14

Upcoming Events

at Valley Forge United Methodist Church



- December 7 Bible Study (Scottie DeMartinis), Parlor, 7:30 p.m.
- December 8 Sanctuary Choir Practice, 6:30 p.m.
Bell Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.
- December 11 Sunday School, 9 a.m., Fellowship, 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Advent Musical Program, 4 p.m.,
Lima Brass Band and Mary King
- December 13 Bible Study (Pastor Jim) 1 p.m.
- December 14 Bible Study (Scottie DeMartinis), Parlor, 7:30 p.m.
- December 15 Sanctuary Choir Practice, 6:30 p.m.
Bell Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.
- December 18 Sunday School, 9 a.m., Fellowship, 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.
Advent Musical Program, 4 p.m., featuring the
Valley Forge UMC Sanctuary Choir, the
Valley Forge UMC Bells,
and a Family Carol Sing.
- December 21 Bible Study (Scottie), Parlor, 7:30 p.m.
- December 22 Sanctuary Choir Practice, 6:30 p.m.
- December 24 Live Nativity, 5 p.m.
Family Service, 6 p.m.,
Candlelight Service, 11 p.m.
- December 25 Merry Christmas!
Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.
- January 1 Happy New Year!
Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.



December Birthdays

- Ruth Burnett 2
- Carole Gallis 3
- James Martielli 12
- Andrew Bohl 14
- John Gallis 18
- Jo Marie Jones 20
- Joseph Longobardi 24
- Maria Duprez 24
- Steve Walter 25
- Robert Gular 27
- Luke Hippenstiel 27



December Anniversaries

- Richard & Carole Masters 3
- Ed & Fern Heit 4
- Lovye & Rolf Oesterlin 29

Recipes for Tasty Tid-Bits

We had a request to publish a couple of recipes for snacks recently made for Sunday's refreshment time.

Breakfast Cookies

1 cup butter, softened
1 1/2 cups sugar
3 eggs
2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. baking soda
20 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
(pre-cooked bacon can be used)
3 cups corn flakes
1 cup dried fruit
(I used a blend of cranberries and apricots)

In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar. Beat in eggs. Add flour and baking soda; mix well. Stir in bacon, corn flakes and dried fruit. Drop by rounded tablespoons onto ungreased baking sheets.

Bake at 350 degrees for 15-18 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool for 2 minutes before removing to wire racks.

Store in the refrigerator.

Both recipes contributed by Laurie Bohl.



Community Event

The Choir and Friends of **St. Matthews United Methodist Church** at 600 Walker Road in King of Prussia, invite you to attend the **Candlelight Messiah Concert on Sunday, December 18th at 7 p.m.** The choir will present the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah. Janellen Farmer will be conducting and Jeff McDonnell will be the accompanist. A reception will follow this event. For further information, contact janellen@netzero.net or phone 610-933-7090.

Cracker Cookies

1 stick butter
1 stick margarine
1/2 cup sugar
Graham crackers, original
Rice Krispies cereal (can also use nuts or a combination of Rice Krispies and nuts)

You'll need aluminum foil and a jelly roll pan or a large baking pan with sides.

Break the graham crackers into fourths. Line bottom of ungreased baking pan with the graham crackers. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In saucepan, combine the butter, margarine and sugar. Bring the mixture to a full boil and boil for 3 minutes. Pour this mixture over the graham crackers. Sprinkle the cereal over the entire pan. Bake in pre-heated oven for 10 minutes. The mixture on top of the cookies will be bubbling when the cookies are done. Spread aluminum foil. When the cookies are done, **immediately** remove the cookies from the pan and place on the foil. Do this quickly or the cookies will stick to the pan. Cool and enjoy!



Advent Musical Programs
on Sundays during Advent, 4 p.m.



December 11 &
December 18

December 11—Lima UMC Brass & Mary King
December 18—The Sounds of VFUMC
Sanctuary Choir & Handbell Choir
Family Carol Sing



Everyone in the Community
is welcome!

