

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

Celebrate the Christmas gifts—love & grace ... share them with others



Dear Friends,

The Advent/Christmas is a special time in the liturgical year. We are reminded to “keep awake” to the real meaning of Christmas as we joyfully anticipate the gift of God’s amazing love.

It is too easy to lose ourselves in the business and commercialism of this season. Decorating, buying presents, cooking, and partying have a way of distracting us from the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Christ Child. Please do not let the trappings of Christmas distract you from the real meaning of this special day. Quietly celebrate the promise of God’s constant presence in your journey. Acknowledge and receive with gratitude the gift of God’s grace.

Be alert to those who are hurting at this time when we gather for family festivities. Say a prayer for the lonely ones who have no visitors and find Christmas a despairing experience. If you are able, seek out someone who is struggling. Give them a gift, a hug and a smile. Give your selected person the gift of time and a listening ear. As you give the gifts of presence and love, the Christmas story will come alive. God’s love is given through us. Never doubt the difference your concern and warmth can mean to another human being.

Have a blessed Christmas filled with warmth, good health, laughter and joy.

Peace and Blessings,

Jim Hallam
Pastor

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	1
Adult Sunday School	2
December Lectionary	2
UMW Christmas Dinner	2
Prayer Scripture of the Month	3
Quote of the Month	3
Tai Chi Information	3
Christmas Eve Schedule	3
Volunteer Schedule	3
Outreach News	4
Special Thank You Notes	4
December Birthdays/ Anniversaries	4
Pix of Fall Clean-Up Day	4
Board Minutes	5
December Calendar	6



Adult Sunday School—9 a.m.



The 3 Letters of John

Letters of John

“How plain, how full, and how deep a compendium of genuine Christianity!”

Thus did John Wesley speak of the First Epistle of John. These three letters have justly enjoyed esteem disproportionate to their size. Very little can be said with confidence about the author of these documents. Certainly the early Church held them in high esteem.

Come explore the mystery and the varied themes of these letters. Bring your Bible.

Tom Loane



Scottie's Sunday School Class

Developing a meaningful prayer life might be one of the most important steps in the Christian walk. To most, talking to God is something we learned to do as children and the practice grew with us into maturity. Listening for God to talk back to us – now that can be a bit more difficult, but learning to listen for God can mean a deeper and more fulfilling life with the most gracious lover of our souls.

In our studies of Dallas Willard's books, we're learning to deepen our conversations with God, to quiet ourselves so we can hear his voice loving and guiding us. Sometimes we also might use DVDs, especially those of Andy Stanley, to help us learn.

Anyone is welcome to join us in our quest for a deeper relationship with God. We meet at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the church parlor. See you then.

Scottie DeMartinis



December Lectionary

December 3 — First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

December 10 — Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

December 17 — Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24 — Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:47-55
Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

December 31 — First Sunday after Christmas Day
Isaiah 61:10–62:3 Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40





Prayer Scripture of the Month

For December the *Prayer Scripture* is:

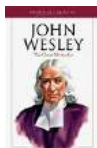
“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

Acts 2:42 (NRSV)

JOHN WESLEY

—QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Thou shalt love,—thou shalt embrace with the most tender good-will, the most earnest and cordial affection, the most inflamed desires of preventing or removing all evil, and of procuring ... every possible good.



From *The Way to the Kingdom*.
Submitted by Bob Erb

Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC

December Tai Chi Classes:

December 9
December 16
December 23
December 30



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

*Schedule for Christmas Eve
& Live Nativity*

Worship Service—10:30 a.m.

Lunch—11:30 a.m.

*Live Nativity
12:30—1:15 p.m.*

*Candlelight Service
11 p.m.*

Worship Participation Schedule

	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
12/10	G. Frazer	J. Torres	N. & T. Loane
12/17	P. Torres	N. or T. Loane	L. & J. Bohl
12/24	Christmas Eve	S. DeMartinis	T. & R. Johnston
12/31	J. M. Jones	J. Rich	L. Austin
1/7	B. Lishon	L. Gular	S. Knotts

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.**

Outreach News and Holiday Updates

A really special "thank you" to all who brought their donated items for Thanksgiving. All the houses I delivered to were soooooo thankful for your donations. I thank you too!!

Right now there are sign-up sheets in the Education Building for you to sign up to purchase Christmas gifts for the three families we have adopted for Christmas. There are gift suggestions listed. However, we have been supplied with the names and ages of the boys, so you can shop on your own and surprise them, too. Please remember to sign up and help make Christmas special for these young boys.

There will be another sign-up sheet in a week or two for meals that will be delivered to these families for Christmas. These recipients are ALWAYS so appreciative.....their budgets are tight and Christmas is difficult for them. Please watch for sign-up sheets if you feel more comfortable donating food vs. gifts. Whatever you can do goes a long way in helping out these families.

Christmas is a time for sharing and our church has been doing this for over 35 years. We are so blessed to be able to help folks out who have to stretch their budgets during the holidays. So let's do what we can to help out these three families for Christmas.

Thank you to all!!



Fern Heit



Thank you to John Torres, Lynda Austin, Jo Marie Jones and Steve Hranilovich, Patty and Glenn Davis, Robin and Rick Coroniti, Adam Davis, Elaine and Noel Turner and Nancy Loane for providing transportation to our members to church services.

Excerpt from PACS thank you letter

“Since July 1, 2017, PACS has spent a total of \$9,150 in direct aid to keep 2 families from having their electricity cut off, provided 3 families with a tank of heating oil, and kept 7 families from being evicted from their homes. Your donations truly make a difference in people’s lives.



December Birthdays

James Martielli	12
Andrew Bohl	14
Jo Marie Jones	20
Noel Turner	20
Steve Knotts	22
Marie Duprez	24
Robert Gular	27
Luke Hippenstiel	27

December Anniversaries

Richard & Carole Masters	3
Fred & Laurie Vitale	8
Lovye & Rolf Oesterlin	29

Fall Clean-up Day 2017

... Many thanks to all who participated!!!



*John & Glenn:
Looks like
important
discussion.*



*Tom is sprucing
up one of our
church signs.*

*The Vitales are
hard at work.*



**Valley Forge United Methodist Church
Administrative Board Meeting
November 27, 2017
Minutes**

In Attendance: Tom Loane, Glenn Davis, Adam Davis, Nancy Loane, Fern Heit, Maggie Horosky, Bob Erb, Doretta Erb, Noel Turner, Tom Davis, John Torres, Rick McNeill

Bob Erb opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of October, 2017 meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Fern said that the Thanksgiving meals were delivered, and all went well.

FINANCE: Currently, we have an excess of \$11,329.00 for the year vs. the proposed 2017 budget. Tom Davis reported that, as of November 27, 2017, the Trustees balance is \$470,549.00 of which \$422,146.00 is in the Vanguard accounts. Rick Coroniti will be looking at the Vanguard allocations and will advise us. We will also be checking our Bonds for maturity dates and current rates. The proposed 2018 budget of \$121,400.00 was approved by the board.

SPRC: No Report.

UMM: Clean-up Day was last Saturday, as leaves were cleaned up, post and rail fence repaired, and upper parking lot lights installed. The retaining wall in the back has to be inspected for future repair, and a chain will be installed across the fence opening. This Saturday, at 11:30 am, we will need to set up tables and chairs in Reeve building for the Advent service.

UMW: No report.

LEARNING: Advent luncheon is this Sunday, December 3rd after the service. Ham and rolls will be provided, along with potluck side dishes from the congregation. Mary King will also be there.

REACHING OUT (Missions): No report.

NURTURING: No report.

PASTORAL: No report.

NEW BUSINESS: Nancy mentioned that there is still a need for additional drivers to help transport certain members. Nancy will also be sending out an e-mail to the congregation asking them to consider giving personal holiday gifts to employees, including Pastor Jim, since the church, as a group, no longer provides holiday gifts.

Adam closed the meeting with prayer, and was thanked by all for his good service as Administrative Board chair over the last several years.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, January 22, 2018 at 7pm.

Rick McNeill will be handling the devotion.

Respectfully submitted,
GD



December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 Communion, First Sunday of Advent, Advent Celebration	4	5	6 Bible Study 1 p.m. Pastor Jim	7 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir, 7:30 p.m.	1 UMW Christmas Dinner 8	2 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m. Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m. 9
10 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30	11	12	13 Bible Study 1 p.m. Pastor Jim	14 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m.	15 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m. NO Men's Group meeting this month.	16 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
17 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30	18	19	20	21 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m.	22 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.	23 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> Worship, 10:30 a.m. <i>Light Lunch, 11:30 a.m.</i> <i>Live Nativity 12:30 p.m.</i> Candlelight Service 11p.m.	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29	30 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
31 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. Bible Study—Pastor Jim Choir—Julia Rich Bell Choir—Nancy Loane	