

**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



# Open Door Tidings

*From the Pastor*

## ***Advent—A different kind of preparation***



Dear Friends,

What are you doing to prepare for Christmas? As for me and my house, some things are in motion. I have already bought some gifts for Kerry who doesn't really want any. We will soon be decorating our home with lights, wreaths, bows, candles and a beautiful nativity scene. I suppose there will be some Christmas parties to attend.

The essential question still lingers, however, requiring a response. What are you (we) doing to prepare for Christmas? We can easily lose ourselves in the business of decorating, baking and buying of presents. The concern about preparation pushes us to move beyond the secular to the spiritual. As Kathy Beach-Verhey writes: "The season of Advent demands a different kind of preparation than the shopping malls and glitz catalogues recommend." Advent is a season of reflection and spiritual preparation as we anticipate the birth of Jesus and his proclamation of the Kingdom of God.

Through worship, prayer and devotional time we pause to consider what Christmas really means and ponder how it will impact our life. A new vision enters our world focused on peace, love, justice, hope and wholeness. Do we through our attitude, principles and behavior incarnate the vision in our journey? Will we take the light of Christ and make it shine in the midst of the brokenness, darkness and confusion of our world? Will others see Jesus present in us?

Have a blessed Christmas. Prepare to receive and live more authentically the grace and spirit of a baby born in a manger, Jesus the Christ. We celebrate his birth with mystery, joy and thanksgiving.

Blessings and Peace,

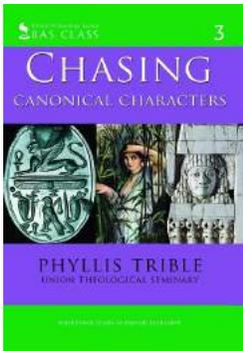
Jim Hallam  
Pastor



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# Adult Sunday School—9 a.m.



Tom Loane's SS Class



The story of Jezebel in 1 & 2 Kings is an amazing story of religious conflict. Both Elijah and Jezebel are guilty of mass murder but only she is condemned. The Hebrew Bible is not equal opportunity!

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

In December we will be studying Jezebel and Jonah.

Join us Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. to share in this presentation and discussion. You can drop in at any time and still participate. Bring your Bible.



Tom Loane

# An "Open-Bible" Adult Sunday School Class— Carrying on Scottie's Class

2 Timothy 2:15—Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling **the word of truth.**

I have now been teaching the Gospel of John in this class for 12 Sundays. We are in Chapter 8 of the 21 chapters, and looking forward to wonderful Chapter 9, where Jesus heals a man born blind.

Please join us this Sunday morning or on any week you can make it. Dig into the Word! Yes, this is Sunday School! No, you are not too old for Sunday School!

The time: 9:00 to 9:55 a.m. The place: the church parlor. Bring your Bible; also we have extra Bibles in the class. All

Bob Erb



## Scripture of the Month

For December the special *Scripture* is:

*" . . . And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord . . . and they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth and he shall be the one of peace."*

*Micah 5:4-5*

## Our season of giving continues . . .

The Thanksgiving meals we provided to families in the community were very well-received. So this year we will provide Christmas dinners for our adopted families along with the gifts for the children of these families.

Please check the list for dinner donations on the bulletin board in the Education Building. If the list is complete, feel free to donate something the families might appreciate, e.g. cake mixes, Christmas candy or gift certificates to local supermarkets — maybe Giant or Redners.

I guarantee all donations will be very much appreciated. Thank you!!

Fern Heit



## December Lectionary



### December 2 — First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36

### December 9 — Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79  
Philemon 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

### December 16 — Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6  
Philemon 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18

### December 23 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55  
Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45

### December 30 — First Sunday after Christmas Day

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148  
Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52

### Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC

November Tai Chi Classes:



December 8  
December 15  
December 22  
December 29



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

## December Birthdays



James Martielli	12
Andrew Bohl	14
Jo Marie Jones	20
Noel Turner	20
Steve Knotts	22
Maria Duprez	24
Robert Gular	27
Luke Hippenstiel	27
Elizabeth "Bettie"	
Jean O'Hara	27

## December Anniversaries

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

### UMW Christmas Dinner Info

The annual Christmas Dinner for United Methodist Women of Valley Forge UMC will be held this coming Friday, December 7, at 5:30 p.m. at the Nook & Kranny Kafe in Phoenixville. The group will enjoy either chicken or steak dinners, and you can be sure there will be games.

For more information, please contact Robin Coroniti or Libby Moran.

## Worship Participation Schedule

	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
12/9	S. Jennings	F. Heit	S. Jennings & B. Cooke
12/16	C. Masters	E. Turner	R. Bushey
12/23	R. Coroniti	R. Johnston	L. Austin
12/30	N. Loane	J. Torres	T. & R. Johnston

### 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.**

### Short Sayings

Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried.

G. K. Chesterton

The worst moment of the atheist is when he really thankful and has no one to thank.

G. K. Chesterton

The thumb alone would convince me of God's existence.

Isaac Newton

Submitted by Bob Erb



### 2018 Calendar – December

Sunday, December 9th: Fellowship/Lunch & Family Carol Sing (Advent emphasis)

Sunday December 23rd:  
Lunch immediate following Worship  
Live Nativity at NOON.

Monday, December 24th: Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m.  
Candlelight Service at 11 p.m.

### Advent—Preparing the way . . .

The pastor at the church where I play the organ was talking during his sermon this past Sunday about preparing, or making, a way for Jesus to enter our lives this Advent and Christmas season. He asked, "Who has made a way for you?" He was reminding us that someone in our lives, perhaps at different times or stages in our lives, and perhaps several people, have made a way for us to be sitting in church on any given Sunday morning. And I began to think about who it was in my life who made a way for me to believe in God and his nature of love, grace and forgiveness. I have memories of when I was a teenager, helping in the primary department of our church Sunday School, where the little children sat in tiny chairs in front of a woman we all called "Aunt Marge." Aunt Marge taught us to sing "Jesus Loves Me," and "Peter, Andrew, James and John in a Sailboat." I still remember almost all the words. She taught us the 23rd Psalm, the Lord's Prayer, the 100th Psalm. She taught us to say simple sentence prayers. Aunt Marge made a way for me. God was ingrained in our lives from the time we were able to sit in those tiny chairs until we reached graduation from high school and tried to make our own ways in the world. I also had "another mother" who lived next door to the home where I was raised. She was my babysitter while my Mom worked. Her name was Susan—a wonderful Christian woman, who tried very hard to live her faith and almost always succeeded. I learned a lot about living into the Christian life from Susan. She made a way for me. And then there's Scottie . . . Scottie was the woman who taught me about grace—a wonderful concept, if you can learn it. It's not easy. Ya gotta want it bad! But I learned, finally. Scottie made a way for me. I sit in church every Sunday, not only because I work there, but because I want to keep learning about God's unconditional love and everything that goes with it. These women in my life made a way for me to be there every Sunday, and not just so I can keep learning, but so when I do learn, I can make a way for someone else someday. I want to be there when someone is heartbroken and let that person lean on me. I want to be able to pray that person into smiling again—to see hope up ahead. I want to take it all in so I can shine the Light back to everyone—whatever the situation might be.

So I'm asking you. Who made a way for you to see God's Light? How did you get to church every Sunday? How do you want to shine into someone else's life? What do you want your Light to look like to them?

Love . . . Grace . . . Forgiveness . . .

Merry Christmas!!

The Editor

### Thank you . . .

### . . . from Chester Community Charter School

Thank you so very much to all of you who have contributed snacks, supplies, toys and clothes to my students at Chester Community Charter School.

The other day someone put out a request for Legos for their classroom and I responded that I had some to share after having just been gifted them from a church member.

Several of the teachers replied that I am like the "fairy godmother" of East C" (our building), since I always have treats to share.

I made sure to let everyone know that my ability to share is made possible due to the generosity of the members of Valley Forge United Methodist Church! My students and my fellow teachers join with me in saying a heartfelt thank you for your generosity and your prayers.

Love,  
Kerry



**Valley Forge United Methodist Church  
Administration Board Meeting  
Minutes  
November 26, 2018**

**In Attendance:** Patty Davis, Robin Coroniti, Glenn Davis, Fern Heit, John Torres, Adam Davis, Steve Hranilovich, Pastor Jim Hallam, Tom Davis, Noel Turner, Nancy Loane, Tom Loane, Libby Moran, Maggie Horosky, Leslie Davis

Nancy opened the meeting with thoughts about over-abundance, our lack of vision for others in need, and our tendency to want more for ourselves. This tendency can cause us pain, and we should approach God in prayer to help us. Pastor Jim then followed with a prayer.

Minutes of the October meeting were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Adam met with the engineer about the retaining wall, and measurements were taken. Proposals will be forthcoming.

**FINANCE:** Noel reported that, at the end of October, we have a deficit of \$3,517.00 vs. the 2018 budget. Report errors from the September report were fixed. Noel also proposed a budget for 2019 which shows a deficit of \$2,324.00 based on anticipated income. The budget was approved, but is subject for adjustment after our 2018 financial results. Tom Davis reported, as of November 24, 2018, the Trustees balance is \$443,487.00 of which \$394,767.00 is in the Vanguard account. Checks have been cut for the monetary gifts to local charities.

**SPRC:** No report.

**UMW:** The UMW Christmas party will be Friday, December 7th at 5 p.m. to be held at the Nook and Kranny restaurant. Thanksgiving meals were delivered to four families with assistance from the youth group. The families were very thankful.

**UMM:** The Reeve Building paint project was completed. Blinds were installed. Leaf clean-up, tree trimming done on Saturday. Need to get ready for the Live Nativity.

**EDUCATION:** Laurie reported that the Wellness program was a success with 25 attendees.

**OUTREACH:** The Haiti mission trip will be on February 23rd to March 2nd. Libby, Adam, and Cameron from Messiah will be going. There may be others.

**FELLOWSHIP:** There will be an Advent Luncheon with music following the service on December 9th. This is being organized by Patty Davis.

**PASTORAL:** The Thanksgiving Eve service had very good attendance and Pastor Jim is hoping that this could be a tradition for the church. The Live Nativity will be on Sunday, December 23rd, at noon. JoMarie is handling a luncheon prior to the Live Nativity. Pastor Jim thanked John Torres for his good service as chairman of the administration board, and noted that Steve Hranilovich would be taking over in 2019. There will be two Christmas Eve services, at 6 PM and at 11 PM.

**NEW BUSINESS:** No meeting in December. Leslie noted that the youth group will be going bowling in January, and that everyone is invited. The bell choir will be playing two songs on December 9th.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, January 28, 2019 at 7pm. Leslie Davis will handle the devotion.

Respectfully submitted,

GD

# DECEMBER, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. <b>Worship, 10:30 a.m.</b> <b>Communion</b>	3	4	5 <b>Bible Study</b> 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jim Office	6 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:25 p.m.	7	1 Tai Chi 10:15
9 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. <b>Worship, 10:30</b> <b>Advent Luncheon</b>	10	11	12 <b>Bible Study</b> 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jim Office	13 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:25 p.m.	14	15 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
16 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. <b>Worship, 10:30</b>	17	18	19 <b>Bible Study</b> 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jim Office	20 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:25 p.m.	21	22 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
23 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. <b>Worship, 10:30</b> <b>Lunch: 11:30 a.m.</b> <b>Live Nativity-Noon</b>	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Service: 6 p.m.</b> <b>Candlelight</b> <b>Service: 11 p.m.</b>	25 <b>Merry</b> <b>Christmas!!</b>	26	27	28	29 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
30 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. <b>Worship, 10:30 a.m.</b>	31 <b>Have a Safe &amp;</b> <b>Happy New Year!</b>	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				