

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

Planting God's Word



Dear Friends,

In Mark 4 Jesus tells the parable of the sower. The sower we are told sows the word of God into our lives. The question we have is how fruitful will God's sowing be in our lives? At the beginning of the year the Bishop encouraged each of us to read through the Bible this year. I hope that each of you are in the process of doing just that. As you read, notice how you are receiving the Word in your own soul.

You may notice that as you read, passages you are familiar with; you read the passage but don't really, you just skim through it. It is as if you didn't read anything at all. This is the word hitting the well trodden path. We have been this way, so many times. God's fresh word goes nowhere near our hearts. The well trodden path is also caused, by holding too tightly to what you were told in the past, what others have taught you to believe, or by holding too tightly to your own understanding. We have hardened our hearts against change. The devil will convince us that God does not really want us to think in fresh ways, nor want us to grow in our understanding. Then we are robbed of the blessings God had in store for us.

Another struggle that Jesus was aware of, was our shallowness. We don't want to let God's word penetrate too deeply. We try not to take it to heart. We find a million and one reasons not to let God's word take root in our lives and start to change our perspective and bring us to a place of decision and change. We may find ourselves between a rock and a hard place. To protect our politics, our beliefs, our status quo, our enthusiasm dies for fear of what God may be trying to say to us personally.

Then there is the problem of projection, we start getting into the weeds of other peoples lives. We become distracted from hearing what God is saying to us personally, because we keep seeing what we believe God should be saying to other people. After a while we don't notice what God is actually saying to us. Instead we find we have lots to gossip about in the lives of others. God was trying to save us, but it is easier and it feels safer to see God's concern for others. We even feel righteous in our gossip. Gossip is when we talk about the lives of others. We can see so clearly the speck in someone else's life, but miss the whole purpose for God sharing his word with us, to warn us about the log in our own.

What God wants to find when he sows his word into our lives, whether we read it, hear it, sing it, or watch it on video, is a receptive heart, inquisitive mind and a willingness to act. The saints of old, saw the simple reading of the text as only the first step to hearing what God is trying to say personally to us. Once we know what God said thousands of years ago, we want to move on to the most important task, finding what God is seeking to say at this very moment to us personally. God wants us to use our imagination, our logic, our knowledge, our intuition, our conversations, our whole being to let God's word take root deeply into our whole being.

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February Lectionary



February 2 – Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8 Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31 Matthew 5:1-12

February 9 – Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12) Psalm 112:1-10
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16) Matthew 5:13-20

February 16 – Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37

February 23 – Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 99
2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9



February Birthdays

Rick Coroniti 4
Susan Jennings 19

February Anniversaries

None

“Planting God’s Word”

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Every time we read God’s word, God wants it to be a personal intimate conversation between the two of us. God wants to use this relationship to change our life and the world for the better.

Bible study is a deeply spiritual and personal endeavor. God is always seeking to change the path we are traveling, to one less traveled. God wants us to remove our excuses for not taking to heart, God’s new word to us. God does not want us to focus on the needs of others when God is seeking to have private time with us. God wants us to slow down and listen to what the Spirit is whispering in ways only you can hear and fully understand.

Blessings, Pastor Michael Johnson

Adult Sunday School class to focus on Galatians

Join our small group in Adult Sunday School!

- Think of this in terms of a cost-benefit ratio. The **cost** is coming an hour earlier to VFUMC. (This is not so hard since you are driving here any way.) The **benefit** is studying the Bible with others in our friendly small group.
- “The Word of God is living and active!” (Hebrews 4:12.) “A light to our path!” (Psalm 119:105.)
- We meet in the church parlor at 9:00 A.M. Please join us as we continue our studies in the Book of Galatians. We provide Bibles, or bring your own. We invite you to come!

Bob Erb

Short Sayings . . .

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. *Mark Twain*

Virtue is what happens when wise and courageous choices become second nature.

N. T. Wright

Do the right thing whenever possible. It is always possible.

Oleg Vishnepolsky

Submitted by Bob Erb



Scripture of the Month

For February the special *Scripture* is:

And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13

Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC



February 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.



*It's time for
the annual Pancake Breakfast*

on

Sunday, February 9

8:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

in the Reeves Building

(You can eat before Sunday School or join us after church.)

*Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice,
coffee/tea/milk, fruit and fellowship*

It's Free!!! Just Bring Your Appetite!



Worship Participation Schedule

	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
2/9	Valentine Breakfast	R. Johnston	A. Davis
2/16	R. Coroniti	M. Horosky	P. & J. Torres
2/23	B. Lishon	R. Coroniti	L. Gular
3/1	J. M. Jones	J. Torres	P. & G. Davis

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.

**Valley Forge United Methodist Church
Administration Board Meeting
Minutes
January 27, 2020**

In Attendance: Pastor Michael Johnson, Glenn Davis, Tom Davis, Noel Turner, Bob Erb, Adam Davis, Rick McNeill, Fern Heit, Patty Davis, Robin Coroniti, Maggie Horosky

Maggie opened the meeting with a reflection on compromise, and working as a “band”.

Minutes of November 25th, 2019 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: A motion was approved to increase property insurance coverage from \$600,000 to \$1 Million on the Reeves building, with a premium increase of \$300.00. The policy includes code upgrade coverage.

FINANCE: The finance report for the end of 2019 shows there was an actual deficit of \$6,730.00 vs. the budgeted amount of (\$5,251.00).

Reporting from Tom Davis shows, as of January 25, 2020, the Trustees balance is \$524,260.00 of which \$473,047.00 is in the Vanguard account. Financial reports were approved.

A 2020 Budget of \$130,805.00 for the church was presented by Noel, which was reviewed and approved by the Board. This budget currently projects a deficit budget of \$22,305.00, mostly due to a decrease in pledges as well as an increase in salaries and building cleaning expense. This will be reviewed monthly.

SPRC: Rick said that the committee had their first meeting of the year this evening. The process will begin soon to locate a new pastor for the church, who would start in July. Rick also announced his resignation from the SPRC and the board, effective immediately.

UMW: There will be a UMW meeting after church on Sunday, February 23rd.

UMM: The group will probably meet on a quarterly basis, or as needed. We will try to get a better turnout for Clean-Up Day this spring, maybe offering lunch to all that show up. Glenn will post the 2020 Committee List in the Reeves building.

EDUCATION: Bob Erb is continuing his Sunday School class, and announced there’s plenty of room for more attendees.

OUTREACH: The Haiti mission trip will be February 15th to the 22nd. Adam will be the lone participant from VFUMC. The board approved an expenditure of \$3,150.00 for the Haiti Mission, which will go toward travel expenses and building materials.

FELLOWSHIP: There will be a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 9th, starting at 8:30am. The board approved a reimbursement to Patty Davis for the expense of \$2,044.00, the costs of Pastor Jim Hallam’s retirement celebration held in December.

PASTORAL: Pastor Mike announced that he will begin a weekly Bible Study beginning on Wednesday, February 12th at 10:30am.

NEW BUSINESS: It was suggested that the church consider having the church service at 9:30am on a year-round basis, and the discussion was tabled for a later time.

Also discussed was there may be *one* Christmas service this year at 7:30pm, instead of having two services. Also discussed was the possibility of eliminating the Thanksgiving Service, due to poor attendance.

Pastor Mike closed the meeting with prayer.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7pm.

Adam will be handling the devotion, and Robin will run the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
GD

Cell: 484-684-5254
Ghd722@verizon.net

FEBRUARY, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
	Jazzercise: Monday-Thursday at 6:15-7:15 p.m.; Friday & Saturday at 9-10 a.m. Choir—Julia Rich Tai Chi—Maggie Horosky					
2	3 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Communion	4	5 Bible Study (Pastor Michael) Office, 10:30 a.m.	6 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.	7	8
9	10 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast 8 a.m.—12:30 p.m.	11	12 Bible Study (Pastor Michael) Office, 10:30 a.m.	13 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.	14	15
16	17 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	18	19 Bible Study (Pastor Michael) Office, 10:30 a.m.	20 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.	21	22
23	24 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	25 Administrative Board Meeting 7 p.m.	26 Bible Study (Pastor Michael) Office, 10:30 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service, 7:30 FUMIC	27 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.	28	29