

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

Stay connected with others . . . let God be the center



Dear Friends,

As a new year begins, I am compelled to reflect on what makes life meaningful.

It is so easy to get caught up in the acquisition of things, forgetting that stuff has a way of cluttering our lives. Of course, it is easier talking about simplifying our existence than actually doing it.

The death of my beloved sister is a reminder to me of a number of important things.

First, life is a precious gift. No one of us knows how many days we have on planet earth. What we do know is that each day is a treasure to be lived with quality and awareness. To rise in the morning with a prayer of thanksgiving for another day of life sets things in motion for a positive celebration of being alive.

Second, what makes life worthwhile is relationships. Paul makes that clear in I Corinthians 13. If we don't have connection and love in our lives, what do we really have? The answer provided is simple and provocative. We have nothing! I am so appreciative of my family and friends. People will always be a top priority in my journey. I was having lunch with a friend the other day when the issue of hobbies arose. He informed me that I had an important avocation. "What is that?" I questioned. His response was clear and true—"People."

Third, we all touch the world for better or for worse. That is we will leave a legacy behind that will flow with light, energy, and love or we will make the world a darker place. Dot, my sister, left behind so much love. Her generosity and care grounded in unconditional love will forever be her gift to me. I miss her terribly but she will live in my heart until my time on earth is completed. My memories of her will reverberate through my mind every day.

Fourth, faith as trust in God makes the living experience meaningful and joyful.

As a ministerial acquaintance of mine recently articulated, "What would we do without faith?" Our faith assures us that we live in amazing grace. We are special, each of us. Our God will be with us through all circumstances. Life may be challenging at times but we know that underneath us are the everlasting arms. Jesus has incarnated God's message of peace, justice and compassion. We know how to live because of his message and life. As we begin a new chapter in our lives, we know that we are never alone. God is with us. Thanks be to God!

Peace and Blessings,
Jim Hallam, Pastor



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Adult Sunday School—9 a.m.

123

Letters of John

The 3 Letters of John

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

In our new pew Bibles, the verses are categorized by topics, and one of the first topics we see in 1 John is “God is Light.” What does that mean to us? Here’s one way to maybe think about it . . . If God is Light and we are made in his image (like it says in Genesis), then aren’t we light also? I heard someone say once that, since we are made in God’s image, that we are “magnificent manifestations of the Divine.” Think about that—magnificent manifestations of the Divine. If we are made in God’s image, then don’t we have the potential of expressing, or *being*, the same things that God is—such as, love, grace, forgiveness, kindness, understanding, compassion—to mention just a few characteristics of God. Just some food for thought.

As we study 1 John, being “the Light” is just one topic we’ll be talking about in our faith walk. Join us as we “dig” into some other topics from the Word to help make our lives more meaningful. We meet Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Education Building. Bring your Bibles.



January Lectionary

January 7 — Epiphany Sunday

Genesis 1:1-5 Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11

January 14 — Second Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51

January 21 — Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20

January 28 — Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28

Scottie’s Sunday School Class

I’ve heard people talk about “staying connected” to God. They seemed to think that connectedness to God is important. And they talk about a variety of ways to do so. Let’s take a quick look.

Prayer is the most common way people connect with God. Various other ways may be just as meaningful—ways like meditation, reading scriptures or other encouraging reading material. Some people use music for spiritual inspiration, perhaps classical music or hymns and their lyrics. God also speaks through people and situations.

The point is it really doesn’t matter how you stay connected to God, as long as you connect. We call that being in relationship with God. That’s what we talk about in our Sunday School class on Sundays at 9 a.m. in the church parlor.

Join us for discussions focused on Dallas Willard’s books and the occasional Andy Stanley DVD. Everyone is welcome. See you at 9 a.m. on Sunday.

Scottie DeMartinis



Outreach Holiday Thanks

Our Christmas Adoption went very well this year. The families receiving help were all very pleased. Our Confirmation Class was super helpful with all the deliveries, which were many!!!

Your gift donations were so generous this year and the food donations also were plentiful. I received hearty "thanks" from all the receiving families.

So, thank you again to all who contributed to our Christmas Adoption. You made a huge difference in a lot of people's lives!!

God Bless you all.

Fern Heit





Prayer Scripture of the Month

For January the *Prayer Scripture* is:

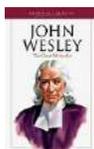
“But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:6

JOHN WESLEY

—QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The substance of all is, “Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners;” or, “God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end we might not perish, but have everlasting life;” or, “He was bruised for our transgressions, he was wounded for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”



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

Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC

December Tai Chi Classes:

January 13
January 20
January 27



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

Christmas Image . . .

Our Live Nativity



Many thanks to everyone who helped make our Christmas Eve celebration successful.

January Birthdays

Patty Torres	6
Beth Lishon	8
Audrey Jamieson	8
Brett Vitale	12
Beth Cooke	18
Lorelai Dorrin	20
Susan Brown	22
Jennie Dishong	25
Pastor Jim	27
Bob Erb	30



No January Anniversaries

Worship Participation Schedule

	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
1/14	M. Horosky	G. Frazer	R. & T. Johnston
1/21	L. Gular	F. Heit	F. Heit
1/28	T. Johnston	D. Erb	L. Austin
2/4	C. Masters	R. Masters	L. Gular

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.**

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m.	5	6 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
7 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 Communion.	8	9	10	11 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m.	12	13 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
14 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30	15	16	17 Bible Study 1:15 p.m. Pastor Jim	18 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m.	19	20 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m. Men's Group Mtg. 9:30 a.m.
21 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30	22 Administrative Board Meeting 7 p.m.	23	24 Bible Study 1:15 p.m. Pastor Jim	25 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m.	26	27 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
28 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	29	30	31			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