

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

A goal for living: Make faith a part of your being

Dear Friends,

So many thoughts are swirling through my mind as I sit here at the computer composing the pastor’s letter for the July newsletter. I decided to share with you some thoughts I had while participating in the mass for my good friend, Dan Quinn, who died on his 90th birthday. I will miss this good man who was my friend for almost fifty years.

As I sat in a pew at St. Titus Roman Catholic Church waiting for the officiating priest to arrive, I realized once again how important faith is to our journey. As a friend said to me after my sister died, “What would we do without faith?” Dan was a priest for twenty years before he left the priesthood to explore life in a different context. He married and has two wonderful sons. But, he always lived his faith sharing theological articles with me; praying at our many lunches together; talking with me about social justice issues. His faith was not just something he thought about but rather an essential part of his being. As we remembered his life, I could not get out of my brain those words of affirmation, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

As I thought about Dan, I had reinforced in my thinking the importance of friendship. Dan and I shared much laughter and serious conversation together. He was a person I could trust who accepted me as I was, confidentially heard my meanderings, and challenged me to be a better human being. I was enriched and nurtured through our friendship. In this moment, I think of Jesus who had a powerful message to deliver and gave his life to make love real. He had the need for friends. Consider Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Remember that he had his inner circle of disciples that experienced some significant events with him such as the transfiguration and the garden of Gethsemane. Life would be so much less if we did not have people whom we call and experience as friends.

As I sadly thought about Dan’s death, I had reinforced for me the importance of legacy. Every person, whether they intend to or not, touches the lives of others for better or worse. Dan brought care, hope and light to many lives. I am certain that he is “home” and am grateful for the gift he was to me. As long as I live, he will be alive in me.

As I participated in the funeral mass, I became acutely aware of the importance of ritual, music and community. Friends and family members gathered to thank God for a life well lived and through their faith found serenity in a difficult time. The affirmation was that Dan was at peace and was in the presence of the One he loved with his whole heart.



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July Lectionary



July 7 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30
Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 14 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17 Psalm 82
Colossians 1:114 Luke 10:25-37

July 21 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12 Psalm 52 or 82
Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42

July 28 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10 Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15 Luke 11:1-13



From the Pastor

Continued from page 1

As I left the church, I was compelled, as many of us are when we lose a person we love, to think about my own journey. How am I living, loving, caring and trying? When my days are done, will I have done the best I could with the blessings, talents and faith bestowed on me by a gracious, loving God?

Perhaps you will join me in contemplating the thoughts I have shared with you, making them applicable to your journey.

Peace and Blessings,
Jim Hallam
Pastor



Important Announcement . . .

Hello, Everyone.

As we previously discussed, a meeting with the District Superintendent is an early and necessary step in the process of selecting a new pastor. The DS has indicated that she wishes to meet with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee on this issue **on August 19, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the church offices.**

At this meeting, I have no doubt that the DS will ask us what we are looking for in a new pastor. As you know, I have asked the members of both SPRC and the Administrative Board for input on this question. I have also sought input from the congregation at large by making a similar request in the Sunday bulletins. We have received some responses to the request, and I expect we will receive more. I believe it would be appropriate for us to meet and discuss our views and these responses in advance of the meeting with the DS, so that our meeting with her will be organized, efficient, and a reflection of the congregation's wishes.

Accordingly, SPRC will meet on **July 29, 2019 at 6:15 p.m. in the church offices** to discuss the responses and prepare for meeting with the DS.

I apologize that both of these meetings will occur during prime vacation time. We had no control over the August 19 date; that was when the DS was available.

Both of these meetings are extremely important to the future of Valley Forge UMC. Please make every effort to attend both meetings. Thanks.

Rick McNeill, Chair
Valley Forge UMC Staff-
Parish Relations Committee



Scripture of the Month

For July the special *Scripture* is:

*“For the mountains may depart and
the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and ‘my covenant of peace shall not be removed,’
says the Lord, who has compassion on you.”*

Isaiah 54:10

Short Sayings . . .

- I am only one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
What I can do, I should do.
And what I should do, by the grace of God I will do.
Edward Everett Hale, and American poet and one-time chaplain of the U.S. Senate
- Inevitably, of course . . . all of us, have to choose the presupposition with which we start . . .
Either human intelligence ultimately owes its origin to mindless matter; or there is a creator. It is strange that some people claim that it is their intelligence that leads them to prefer the first to the second.
John C. Lennox (in God's Undertaker; Has Science Buried God?)

Submitted by Bob Erb

Best Friends enjoy lunch together



BFFs—It's common knowledge that Scottie DeMartinis and Gail Frazer have been friends for a long time. But it's been a while since they had seen each other due to health issues for both of the ladies. Recently, Leslie Davis made it possible for Scottie and Gail to have lunch together (Leslie was there for lunch also), and a good time was had by all.



Congratulations to Michael and Colleen Dorrin on the birth of their baby daughter on June 4, 2019. The baby's name is

Lyta Serenity Dorrin

She was born at 3:04 p.m., weighed 8 lb., 4 oz. and measured 21.5 inches long. Congratulations to the entire Dorrin family, including big brother, Luke, and big sister, Lorelai.



July Birthdays



Jocelyn Martielli	2
Elaine Turner	4
Riley Bushey	6
Talia DeMartinis	16
Evelyn Hodgson	20
Barbara Arnold	22
Glenn Davis	22
Luke Dorrin	26
Fern Heit	29

Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC



July 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.

July Anniversaries

Terral & Richard Johnston	13
Beth & Ben Cooke	29

Worship Participation Schedule		
	Liturgist	Greeter
7/14	L. Gular	R. & T. Johnston
7/21	N. Turner	L. Austin
7/28	R. Johnston	R. Coroniti
8/4	J. Torres	L. & J. Bohl

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
May 20, 2019
Minutes**

In Attendance: Glenn Davis, Pastor Jim Hallam, Nancy Loane, Rick McNeill, Maggie Horosky, Adam Davis, Fern Heit, Robin Coroniti, Tom Davis

Glenn opened the meeting with a reflection called “It’s better to be loving than right”, sent in by Steve Hranilovich.

Minutes of May 20th were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Adam measured the level of the retaining wall to see if it’s moving. We’ll check it in a couple months. In the meantime, we’ll have Mike Cozzone Excavation look at it, and get an opinion.

FINANCE: The finance report for the end of May shows we have an actual deficit of \$6,421.00 for the year.

Tom Davis reported that, as of June 18, 2019, the Trustees balance is \$477,738.00 of which \$441,653.00 is in the Vanguard account. Currently, these totals are \$10,000.00 less, after a transfer for General Expenses.

To whom this may concern, the VFUMC administration board has reconfirmed the 2019 officers and committee members of Valley Forge United Methodist Church with the list (attached) for 2019.

SPRC: There was a meeting this evening, and it was discussed how we might have the church office be able to check the General Checking balance so it doesn’t get too low. Tom Davis will be looking into this, and will advise. Rick McNeill noted that SPRC is looking for any input from the congregation as to what type of pastor we would be looking for, and what working hours would be expected. Rick expects to hear from the DS with possible pastoral candidates by August or early September.

UMW: The flea market will be the first Saturday in October. Fern said we could start to bring items in now.

UMM: There was no meeting this month. Glenn mentioned that we may have to consider sealcoating (and re-lining) the main parking lot, that we should get a bid on stripping and waxing the floor in the Reeve building (including grout cleaning) and also ask the landscaper if he can do additional work on the property, such as weeding. (Maybe \$25.00 more a month here.)

EDUCATION: No report.

OUTREACH: No report.

FELLOWSHIP: No report.

PASTORAL: It was agreed by the board that we accept Pastor Jim’s recommendation to have the Charge Conference at Wayne United Methodist on Saturday, November 2nd, starting at 9am, which will be led by Kay Kotan.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Pastor Jim closed the meeting with prayer.

There will be no meeting in July.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 26, 2019 at 7PM. Steve Hranilovich will be handling the devotion.

Respectfully submitted, GD

JULY, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Worship, 9:30 Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Worship, 9:30 a.m. Fellowship: 10:30 a.m. Communion	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Worship, 9:30 Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Worship, 9:30 Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.	30 SPRC Meeting 6:15 p.m.	31	Jazzercise: Monday-Thursday at 6:15-7:15 p.m.; Friday & Saturday at 9-10 a.m. Bible Study—Pastor Jim Choir—Julia Rich Tai Chi—Maggie Horosky Bell Choir—Nancy Loane		