

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

Let Faith, Hope, Love & Grace be yours always



Dear Friends,

While at the shore Memorial Day weekend I finished reading a book by Michael Kinnamon, *The Witness of Religion in An Age of Fear*. Once again I was reminded that there are religious leaders who preach punishment more than grace, fear more than hope. I agree with Kinnamon that the word for our time is “Be not afraid!”

Now let me be clear about the biblical message concerning fear. The scriptures acknowledge that fear is a natural part of the human experience. Yet the message that reverberates throughout the Old and New Testaments is “Be not afraid.” The author mentioned above lists passages that help us hear the theme. “Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him, . . . It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” (Deut. 31:8) The prophet Isaiah speaks to his people in the midst of their exile in Babylon: “Do not fear, for I am with you: do not be afraid, for I am your God.” (Isa. 41:10) The Psalmist reminds us that “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? (Ps. 27:1)

In the Gospels the theme continues. “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you, . . . Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” (John 14:27) The angle Gabriel said to Mary, “Do not be afraid.” One night Paul had a vision in which the Lord said to him, “Do not be afraid, but keep on speaking and do not give up, for I am with you.” (Acts 18:9-10)

There is legitimate fear for sure. Too often, however, our fear is in the wrong places. We fear losing our financial security; fear losing a loved one, fear of becoming dependent. Fear can be toxic and prevent fullness of living. We are to fear God not in the sense of being afraid of punishment or because of a feeling of being unworthy. Rather we fear God because God is holy not because God is cruel. With “awe” and “reverence” we acknowledge the Source of life. We experience our connection with the mystery that is present and unconditionally loving.

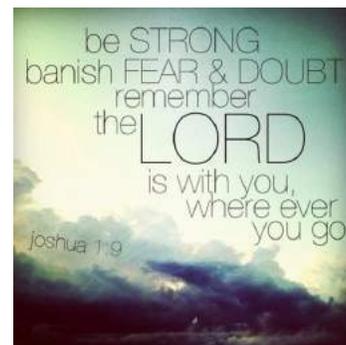
Trust in God displaces ungrounded fear. We know that the God revealed to us in Jesus is always near to strengthen, encourage, inspire and comfort us. Fear can be a destructive emotion while our faith can bring certainty and healing. I remember the words I heard a minister share many years ago. He shared the thought of Christopher Moltisanti. “Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered. There was no one there.”

Blessings and peace,

Jim Hallam
Pastor

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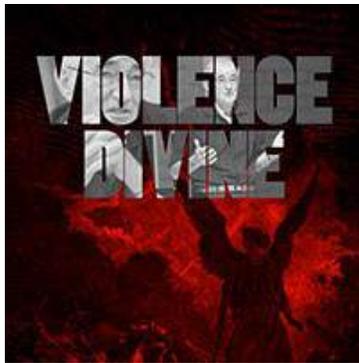
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Adult Sunday School—11 a.m.

A New Series: *Violence Divine*

Overcoming the Bible's betrayal of Its Non-violent God



Are Jesus and his followers violent? Compare the Jesus in Mark 13:26-37 with the same event in Luke 17:22-37, then draw your conclusions.

You have grown and your understanding of the Bible needs to grow too! Together we will discuss the Bible and issues of violence. We will find important aspects of the teachings of Jesus.

John Dominic Crossan, one of the world's foremost historical Jesus scholars helps us understand violence.

Although this sounds complex, I promise it easy to understand and we'll have fun.

Come explore new ways of looking at the Bible texts. Bring your Bibles and join us at 11 a.m.

Tom Loane



June Lectionary



June 4 — Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 John 7:37-39

June 11 — Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2, 4a Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20

June 18 — Second Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

June 25 — Third Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 or
Psalm 17
Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39

Reaching Out . . . PACS Update

Summer is officially just around the corner and public schools have just closed. But there are a lot of students in the Phoenixville area who will be at a loss since they receive “free” lunches at school because of their circumstances. I urge you to remember to bring a non-perishable lunch donation when you come to church on Sunday mornings and I will see that they all get to PACS, where these families can pick up groceries for their children's lunches.

Some examples include: peanut butter crackers, cereals, soups, peanut butter, jelly, snack bars, juice boxes, pretzels, etc. You will be making a difference in a lot of children's lives just by buying one or two items each time you shop. Just leave your donations in the large basket at the entrance into the sanctuary.

Thanks for considering to help when you feel you can.

Fern Heit

June Birthdays

Gabrielle Coroniti	1
Frank Rechner	1
Korrine Heit	4
Maggie Horosky	6
Steve Hranilovich	16
Patty Davis	19
Doretta Erb	21
Julia Marie Rich	21
Dorothy Wilkinson	22
Pat Hepp	27
Kelly Keller	27



June Anniversaries

Jim & Laurie Bohl	7
John & Patty Torres	12
Carole & John Gallis	17
Bill & Barbara Wynn	17
Bob & Doretta Erb	27
Elaine & Noel Turner	29





Prayer Scripture of the Month

For June the *Prayer Scripture* is:
**“Make this your common practice: . . .
 Pray for each other so that you can live together
 whole and healed.”**

James 5:16

Announcing . . .

God is still speaking!

The Word of God is **living** and **active!**
Hebrews 4:12

Announcing the Wednesday-evening Summertime Bible Study at Valley Forge UMC.

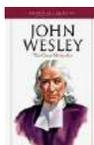
7:30 p.m. in the Church Parlor
 beginning on July 12 for eight weeks.

Again this year the theme will be
“Great Chapters of the Bible.”
 Please come when you can!
 Bring your Bible!

This study will be led by Bob Erb.

JOHN WESLEY

—QUOTE OF THE MONTH



“God is my record, before whom I stand,
 doing all this in sincerity; having a real
 design to serve God; a hearty desire to do
 his will in all things; to please him who
 had called me to ‘fight the good fight,’
 and to ‘lay hold of eternal life.’”

From *The Almost Christian*
 Submitted by Bob Erb

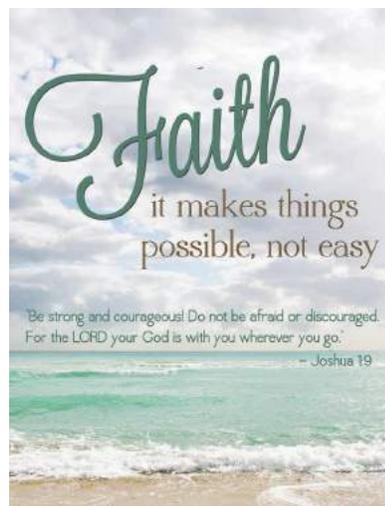
Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC

June 17

June 24



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



Worship Participation Schedule

	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
6/11	R. Coroniti	N. Loane	A. Davis
6/18	M. Horosky	N. Turner	S. Knotts
6/25	G. Frazer	J. Torres	S. Hranilovich
7/2	B. Lishon	L. Gular	L. & J. Bohl
7/9	L. Gular	G. Frazer	P. & J. Torres

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.**

Valley Forge United Methodist Church
Administration Board Meeting
May 22, 2017
Minutes

In Attendance: Tom Loane, Glenn Davis, Adam Davis, Nancy Loane, Fern Heit, Pastor Jim Hallam, Richard Johnston, Maggie Horosky, Patty Davis, Robin Coroniti, Bob Erb, Rick McNeill, Tom Davis, Noel Turner

Nancy Loane opened the meeting with a reflection regarding how we try to control every aspect of our lives, an impossible task. Accept God's love, stop worrying, and live without fear.

Minutes of April 24th meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: A new directory will come out next year, possibly with photos.

FINANCE: Currently, we have an excess of \$5,551.00 for the year vs. the proposed 2017 budget. Tom Davis reported that, as of May 19, 2017, the Trustees balance is \$496,809.00 of which \$458,365.00 is in the Vanguard accounts.

SPRC: It was approved that the church would purchase 60 new Bibles at \$19.79 each. We will look into the cost of stamping the church name, and will approach the congregation to consider dedicating a Bible (or two) in memory of Loved Ones. The Bible selected is the red NRSV pew Bible, large print.

UMM: Window cleaning was completed. Brian Reeves completed installation of a new back door in the church. Invoice was higher than estimate due to additional labor required on the frame. Painting is being done by UMM. Floor buffing in the Reeves will be done July 5th.

UMW: The inspector at the Board of Health approved a range hood for the kitchen, as per Fern and Glenn.

LEARNING: The Line Dancing luncheon and class was a good time with a good effort put forward, but probably won't be repeated. Bob's weekly Bible Study begins on July 12th at 7:30pm and will continue for eight weeks. A Variety Show in September is possible.

REACHING OUT (Missions): Committee will meet soon, and will give recommendations at the June board meeting.

NURTURING: The board approved a not-to-exceed \$3,000.00 expenditure for (2) 30" kitchen cabinets, a range hood, a three smaller cabinets around the hood. Remaining cabinets will be painted, with new hardware. We will probably make the purchase/installation in late June.

PASTORAL: Pastor Jim attended a conference meeting at which Dr. Powell was recognized for her service. She will become Director of Connectional Ministries. Our church was recognized with a certificate for meeting the Conference Pledge in full. Our church will be part of the South District, with Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm as Superintendent. Prayers for Pastor Jim as he goes for cataract surgery this week. Another concern: Pastor Jim's trumpet has been placed on the 60-day Disabled List, due to a sprained valve casing, but should hopefully return to action before the end of summer.

NEW BUSINESS: A new defibrillator for the Reeve Building was purchased for \$600.00. A Thank You to Tom Loane.

Pastor Jim closed the meeting with prayer. **Next meeting** - Monday, June 26th, at 7pm. Rick McNeill will be handling the devotion.

Respectfully submitted,
GD

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
4 Worship, 9:30 a.m. Fellowship, 10:30 Communion Adult SS Class, 11 a.m.	5	6	7	8	9	10 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
11 Worship, 9:30 a.m. Fellowship, 10:30 Adult SS Class, 11 a.m.	12	13	14	15	16	17 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m. Men's Group Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
18 Worship, 9:30 a.m. Fellowship, 10:30 Adult SS Class, 11 a.m.	19	20	21	22	23	24 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
25 Worship, 9:30 a.m. Fellowship, 10:30 Adult SS Class, 11 a.m.	26 Administrative Board Meeting, 7 p.m.	27	29	30	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	