

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

Lent begins; contemplate Me Time for yourself



Dear Friends,

Ash Wednesday begins Lent, a time of contemplation. It provides us with an opportunity to think about who we are and what we are doing with our journey. It compels us to connect with Jesus who teaches us how to be close to God and each other. I encourage you to take some Me Time. This requires discipline, but it will make you a more aware, vital person. I share with you some thoughts.

ME TIME

Some suggest that Me Time is self-centered and unproductive.
 Why waste minutes doing nothing?
 Why choose to be alone and not relating?
 Why be in a cocoon hiding from reality?

Such thoughtless criticism requires a response.
 Comments made by people who are spinning like tops.
 Me Time a waste of precious moments? Hardly!
 A myopic view by those with little perspective.

In the midst of busy schedules and many expectations
 There is the essential need of time apart.
 There is required separation from others.
 A thrust away from blaring music and constant stimulation.

Me Time is an intentional choice to be alone.
 It is to be quiet in a special place.
 It is to listen, grow, discover, become, connect.
 It is disciplined time to be, not do.

Me Time is just for me.
 It does not make me a loser.
 It is an occasion to be still.
 To reflect, meditate and pray.

Me Time is a chance to be in touch with internal rhythms.
 It is a pathway to healthy living.
 It is a promoter of reduced stress.
 It is a crucial practice fostering wholeness and peace.

May you be richly blessed during this important season as we prepare for the glorious news of Easter.

Peace and Blessings,
 Jim Hallam, Pastor

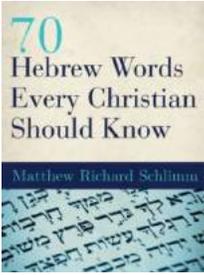


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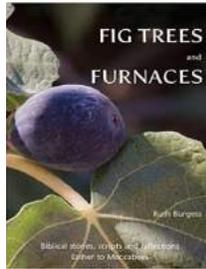
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Adult Sunday School—9 a.m.

Tom Loane's SS Class



Double Feature



Our class has two parts each week for variety.

Part 1 - English isn't God's first language. In Hebrew names often have a second or third meaning as a noun or adjective. For example "Cain" also means spear. The Hebrew "Eden" also means delight. As we read the Bible in English we miss these word meanings with little thought as to the richness and range of meanings in Hebrew. We will explore 70 words in Hebrew every Christian should know, taking a few words each week and seeing how they fit in scripture.

Part 2 - Bible Stories for Adults - As children we probably read numerous Bible stories such as Noah and the Ark. We probably didn't read the entire story of Sodom and Gomorrah and especially of Lot and his daughters. It is time to reread these stories as adults looking at the messages of God in these ancient texts. In March we will look at the story of Lot and the story of Rebekah.

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."

Explore the Bible with us this week! You may be here at church anyway; coming an hour early on Sunday to study God's Word is time well invested.

We continue our study in the Gospel of John and are now beginning the wonderful Chapter 14. All ages are invited to join us to dig into the written Word and to learn more of the living Word, our Lord Jesus Christ. Come whenever you can!

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.

Bob Erb

Scripture of the Month



For March the special *Scripture* is:

*"Enter through the narrow gate;
for the gate is wide and the road is easy
that leads to destruction . . .
the gate is narrow and the road is hard
that leads to life."*

Matthew 7:13, 14a



Announcements

New Address: The mailing address for **Gail Frazer** has changed a bit. Please note the following change:

Gail Frazer
535 Gradyville Road
PC—211
Newtown Square, PA 19073

Telephone: 610-558-5733

**(Please do not call between 8-9 a.m.;
Noon-1 p.m.; 5-6 p.m.)**

Special Thank You . . .

I would like to thank everyone in the congregation who attended the luncheon, and all those who sent cards and gifts for my birthday.

All I received is truly appreciated.

Pastor Jim

March Lectionary



March 3 — Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 34:19-35 Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43)

March 10 — First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13

March 17 — Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-2, 17-18 Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17- 4:1 Luke 6:17-26

March 24 — Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9

March 31— Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC

March Tai Chi Classes:

March 9 — **Free class!**
Bring a friend!!

March 16

March 23

March 30



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

Mission Opportunity . . .

United Methodists are invited to participate in a mission trip to the Appalachia area in Kentucky for a week this summer, from July 27 to August 3. The cost is \$550. If you would like to go and finances are an issue, scholarship funds are available. If you are interested in going along on this mission trip or for more information, please contact Pastor Jim, or e-mail or call the church office.



March Birthdays

Gail Frazer	10
Richard Johnston	13
Michelle Cooper	15
Maggie Cooke	17
Maya Cooke	17
Soren DeMartinis	18
Derek Martielli	22
Kerry Bushey Hallam	27

March Anniversaries

Patty & Glenn Davis	5
Jo Marie & Steve Hranilovich	14

Worship Participation Schedule

	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
3/10	B. Cooke	R. Masters	L. Gular
3/17	R. Coroniti	J. M. Rich	P. & G. Davis
3/24	W. Martielli	T. or N. Loane	B. & B. Cooke
3/31	L. Moran	F. Heit	M. & J. Younger
4/7	L. Bohl	N. Turner	C. & R. Masters

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.**

Gilbert Mfitundinda, participant in Compassion program, will speak at VFUMC March 10

by Nancy Loane

Gilbert Mfitundinda, the youngest of six children and raised in a remote region of southwestern Uganda, found survival a daily struggle. After his father passed away, his mother's work as a peasant farmer barely kept the family fed. All but one of his sibling dropped out of school.

When he was 7, Gilbert was invited to participate in Compassion's child development program which, eventually, led to a degree in Information Technology from Uganda Christian University. In 2016 he came to the USA to work for Compassion International. Today he is pursuing a master's degree in Organizational Leadership at Eastern University. He is also a fellow with Urban Promise International and serves in their after school program in Camden. He serves as the Project Manager and Social Marketing Strategist for Maelearn, an online platform that makes educational resources globally accessible, too.

Gilbert, who is passionate about using his experiences and career path to help those less fortunate is the founder of Love Restoration, a community-based organization that provides education, nutrition, and healthcare to less privileged children aged 3-16 years in southwestern Uganda. A poignant and gifted communicator, he advocates for the life-changing power of love and turning selfishness into selflessness.

Gilbert Mfitundinda will be speaking at our 10:30 worship service on Sunday, March 10. A light lunch follows the service.

*Music by
George Stiles*

Honk!!

*Book/Lyrics by
Anthony Drewe*



A Musical Tale of "The Ugly Duckling"

Presented at Spahr Auditorium—Perkiomen Valley Middle School

**Friday, 4/21/19—7:30 p.m. * Saturday, 4/13/19—6:30 p.m.
Sunday, 4/14/19—2 p.m.**

**Free Senior Citizen Matinee
Thursday, April 11—1 p.m.**

Tickets \$10 * Ticket Information at www.pvmb.org

Community Lenten Service . . .

This coming Wednesday
March 13—7:30 p.m.

St. Ann Roman Catholic Church
604 South Main Street, Phoenixville

Speaker
Rev. Cynthia Krommes
of St. John's Lutheran Church

Don't forget . . .

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time begins this coming weekend. So before you retire on Saturday evening, **turn your clocks ahead one hour.**

PACS UPDATE

Members of VFUMC: There is an urgent need for food donations at PACS in Phoenixville. I will be posting notices around the church indicating the items needed. I will also provide lists that you can use to choose what you might be able to bring once or twice a month when you come to worship on Sundays.

There will be 3 locations in the church where you can place your donations: the first location will be in the entrance to the Sanctuary, the second location will be in the Education Building (either in or close to the kitchen, and the third location will be in the church office. The items will be collected from these 3 locations and delivered to PACS each week.

The need is urgent. Each member bringing 1 to 3 items each week would make a BIG difference to PACS.

You also can donate by putting cash or a check into a "PACS offering" envelope which is inserted in your bulletin every first Sunday of the month.

Thank you soooooooooooooo much!
Blessings,

Fern Heit

Thoughts

Last week one day, as the day began, I felt like I was in an emotional crisis. I felt very alone. As I sat on my bus after I got back from the morning run, I cried . . . cried hard for quite a while. I wasn't paying attention to anyone around me. I was just lost in my river of tears.

I finally pulled myself together, straightened up the bus and started to move toward the bus terminal. I hung up my key and stored my phone in my mailbox, where I found a hand-written note. It was from the driver who parks next to me on the lot. The note said, "You looked visibly upset when we got back this morning. I hope it gets better."

My heart melted. I didn't know anyone was watching me drown in my tears. I was absorbed in my sadness and fear. I found a piece of paper and a pencil and wrote back that sweet soul who left me the note. I told her that I was having a really bad day and that I was feeling alone. And I thanked her for her thoughtfulness and concern. I left the note in her mailbox and went on my way. I had a lot to do at other jobs so I was hoping my thoughts would turn away from sadness and get lost in the work instead.

When I returned to the terminal in the afternoon, there was a small card in my mailbox. On it was written a simple sentence: "You are never alone!" I could feel the tears coming back—this time a different kind of tears. I had forgotten that very simple concept—I am never alone. We are never alone. We have the best help-mate any human could ever have—his name is God. All we have to do to get the help . . . comfort . . . encouragement . . . that we need is reach out and connect to God in our favorite way. Prayer, meditation, scripture, song, a friend . . . so many ways to connect, to breathe in the love of God.

As I walked to my bus that afternoon, a smile spread across my face. The sun was shining and I lifted my face to the sky and whispered to the heavens, "Thank you, God." I carry that driver's card with me every day—that card on which was written that profoundly hopeful sentence, "You are never alone."

The Editor

Short Sayings

Why did Christianity arise, and why did it take the shape it did? The early Christians themselves reply: We exist because of Jesus' resurrection . . . There is no evidence for a form of early Christianity in which the resurrection was not a central belief. Nor was this belief, as it were, bolted on to Christianity at the edge. It was the central driving force, informing the whole movement.

N. T. Wright (in The Challenge of Jesus)

In essentials, unity;
In non-essentials, liberty;
In all things, charity.

*Pietist tradition of warm-hearted,
peace-loving Christianity*

Submitted by Bob Erb

**Valley Forge United Methodist Church
Administration Board Meeting
Minutes
February 25, 2019**

In Attendance: Robin Coroniti, Glenn Davis, Fern Heit, Bob Erb, Pastor Jim Hallam, Tom Davis, Jim Martielli, Patty Davis, Nancy Loane, Tom Loane, Maggie Horosky, Leslie Davis, Steve Hranilovich, Rick McNeill

Nancy Loane opened the meeting with a devotion, and how sometimes we need to get a “Get out of Jail Free” card in order to get rid of our bitterness and forgive others, so that we can make God the center of our lives.

Minutes of the January meeting were approved, after corrections that the Mission Connexion is now the Mission “Connection,” the church’s contribution to the Haiti mission was \$4,350.00, not \$4,800.00, and our visiting speaker on March 10th, Gilbert M., is from Uganda, not Kenya.

OLD BUSINESS: Bowling night is on hold, per Leslie Davis. No further update on the retention wall.

FINANCE: Tom Loane reported that, at the end of January, we had a surplus of 1,634.00 vs. the 2018 budget. He also noted that he and Adam Davis performed an audit for the church and “nothing wrong was found”.

Tom Davis reported, as of February 22, 2019, the Trustees balance is \$460,146.00 of which \$420,302.00 is in the Vanguard account. Tom will be researching to see if a church credit card is available from Royal Bank for Trustee use. Tom reported a letter received by the church has been offered 15 burial plots at \$1,800.00 each, located at the Valley Forge Gardens, Masonic area.

SPRC: Rick McNeill reported that a meeting was held this evening. No other details were offered at this time.

UMW: A flea market will be held in September, to be spearheaded by Lynda Austin. Fern reported that she will be giving up the Certified Food Manager position at the church after 35 years. Everyone thanked Fern for her dedicated service, and for doing such a great job for such a long time!

UMM: New lenses for light fixtures in the Reeve still need to be installed. The holly tree has been removed from the front of the rebuilding and something will be needed in the spring to place there. Steve presented an idea to possibly stain and seal the maple tree stump in front of the church and possibly put a planter on top with seasonal plants. The faucet in the ladies bathroom in the Reeves building needs attention as well as the clock. There are some lightbulbs in the hallway of the Reeve building that need replaced. Reeve floor may need refinished in the Spring.

EDUCATION: A date for the live nativity was set for Sunday, December 22nd at noon. Steve will give a talk about his experience at the Boston Marathon after the Easter holiday. The committee will set dates for the Haiti presentation, and a movie event.

OUTREACH: The Haiti mission trip is ongoing. All parties have arrived safely. Except for a generator problem, all things are going well, according to an email received by Leslie.

FELLOWSHIP: A former Compassion Child, Gilbert M., will be our speaker at church on March 10th. Patty Davis is putting together a luncheon to follow this service.

PASTORAL: March 6th is Ash Wednesday, and April 18th is Maundy Thursday. Both services will be at Phoenixville UM church. April 19th is Good Friday, and the church will be open from Noon to 3pm. April 21st is the Sunrise Service. Tom Ebersole will officiate.

The board approved a \$700 donation to the Methodist home for children as long as the rest of the Mission Connection is participating at the same level. These funds are to be used in the renovation of a room for the new transitional housing project there.

Pastor Jim will research the current church credit card in the office, and will advise with more information.

Pastor Jim will announce to the church information about the Appalachian service project, and that financial support might be made available by the church.

NEW BUSINESS: There was a discussion about the upcoming renewal of the Jazzercise contract and a Jazzercise Contract committee was appointed. They will be meeting on March 25th. The Committee is comprised of Steve H., Robin, Coroniti, Rick McNeill, Adam Davis, and Glenn Davis.

Pastor Jim closed the meeting with prayer.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 25, 2019 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
GD

MARCH, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Communion	4	5	6	7 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:25 p.m.	1 /	2 Tai Chi 10:15 a.m. /
10 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 Gilbert will speak. Lunch after worship	11	12	13 Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jim Office	14 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:25 p.m.	15 /	16 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
17 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30	18	19	20 Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jim Office	21 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:25 p.m.	22 /	23 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
24 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30	25 Administrative Board Meeting 7 p.m.	26	27 Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jim Office	28 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:25 p.m.	29 /	30 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
31 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.				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		