

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

Abundant life . . . Fulfillment . . . find the way



Dear Friends,

In the Gospel of John we read that Jesus came that we might have abundant life. Have you ever thought about what brings meaning, purpose and fulfillment to your life? As I contemplate this question, three important ingredients flow into consciousness. I believe that if these become real in our journey then we will find a peace and inner light that will bring harmony and joy to life.

First, there is trust. This word defines faith for me. Because of who Jesus was and what he accomplished, we can be assured that God is with us every day supporting us with an eternal embrace. Although many challenges come our way, God is with us. We cannot blame God for bad things that happen to us. Good and bad happenings are the result of being alive. The divine presence is always with us, however. There is nothing that can ever separate us from the love of God that we have received through Jesus, the Christ.

The second ingredient of an abundant life is gratitude. Life is a precious gift. Every day is a miracle. We are to open all of our senses to appreciate the beauty of nature and the warmth of family and friends. We are to celebrate the moment and live our lives with quality. A prayer of thanksgiving is to be a constant part of our awareness. If we color our world with appreciation, then we will find reason for celebration.

The third component of a fulfilled life is sharing. To be only concerned about me and my own safety and security is destructive of abundant living. Jesus shows us the way of a meaningful life when he washes the feet of his disciples and suggests that he has given his disciples an example of how they are to deal with the world. Not getting but giving brings completeness. We are to share who we are and what we have with others. When we have this awareness and make it alive in our daily actions, then we are blessed. Indeed, when we live with love we live in God. Why? Because God is love.

May each of us, for as long as we have, live an abundant life grounded in God's love with the assurance of the divine presence—always.

Blessings and peace,

Jim Hallam
Pastor



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Adult Sunday School—9 a.m.

A New Series: *Violence Divine*

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



What does the word "eschatology" mean? What is eschatology not!

Why does Jesus choose the words "Kingdom of God?" What are the consequences of those words?

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 9 a.m.

Tom Loane



May Lectionary



May 7 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10

May 14 — Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14

May 21 — Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:18-20
1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21

May — Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 John 17:1-11

Scottie's Adult Sunday School Class now focused on 'hearing God.'

During the month of May, we will be listening to several DVDs, concluding our study of Dallas Willard's "Hearing God."

Third DVD: *Trinitarian Fellowship*

Fourth DVD: *Still Small Voice*

Fifth DVD: *Hearing God in the Context of the Kingdom of God*

Final DVD: *Hearing God as a Life*

Have you known people who were so close to God that they were never lonely? What do you think of the prospects of such a relationship for you? Join us for some interesting discussions, at 9 a.m., downstairs in the church building.

Scottie DeMartinis

Upcoming UMW activities

Maria Duprez, a long-time member who now lives in Florida, will be in the Phoenixville/Valley Forge area in June. She would love to see us and suggested that we meet for lunch on June 6th at 11:30 a.m. The venue will be the Black Powder Tavern, which is located on Route 252, across from the entrance to the Gateway Shopping Center.

If you are available on June 6th, please contact me as soon as possible, so we can make a reservation at the restaurant. Call me at 610-933-3683.

THEN, don't forget . . .

Our Flea Market is scheduled for the first Saturday in October - the 7th. Since we haven't had a Flea Market for a while, it's likely that you have items that are in re-saleable condition and would be ideal for the Flea Market.

Please—no clothing! Set aside linens, books, tools, dishes, toys, games, puzzles. Then bring them to the church during the week before the sale and we'll arrange the items for sale at the Flea Market.

On the day of the sale, we have fun greeting shoppers, eating hot dogs and homemade soup and enjoying fellowship.

If you have questions, please contact me at 610-933-3683.

Fern Heit





Prayer Scripture of the Month

The Central District office has published a monthly list of Prayer Scriptures for the conference year 2016-2017.

For May the *Prayer Scripture* is:

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

1 John 5:14



May Birthdays

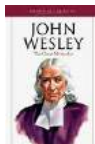
Chrissy DeMartinis	2
Tom DeMartinis	8
Terral Johnston	17
Laurie Bohl	17
Michelle Torres	18
Robin Coroniti	21

May Anniversaries

Frank & Sue Rechner	14
Patty & Bob Hepp	17

JOHN WESLEY

—*QUOTE OF THE MONTH*



“More especially, when he approaches the table of the Lord, it is not with a light or careless behavior, but with an air, gesture, and deportment which speaks nothing else but “God be merciful to me a sinner!”

From *The Almost Christian*
Submitted by Bob Erb

Y'all Come!! And Dance!!!
Sunday, May 21—after Worship



Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC

May 6
May 13
May 20
May 27



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

Country Dancing—Line & Partner

for beginners
with professional instructors

Lunch provided—Country Fare 12-1 p.m.

Instruction 1-1:30 p.m.
Practice/Dancing/Fun 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Worship Participation Schedule

	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
5/7	B. Cooke	J. Torres	L. Gular
5/14	Mother's Day Tea & Coffee	F. Heit	G. Frazer
5/21	L. Austin	J. Rich	B. Lishon
5/28	Memorial Day Tea & Coffee	D. Erb	F. Heit
6/4	F. Heit	R. Johnston	M. Horosky

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
April 24, 2017
Minutes**

In Attendance: Tom Loane, Glenn Davis, Adam Davis, Nancy Loane, Fern Heit, Pastor Jim Hallam, Steve Knotts, John Torres, Richard Johnston, Maggie Horosky, Patty Davis, Robin Coroniti, Doretta Erb, Bob Erb, Michelle Torres

Maggie opened the meeting with a reflection: "Take time to rest, and be thankful to God."

Minutes of March 27th meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

FINANCE: Currently, we have an excess of \$11,000.00 for the year vs. the proposed 2017 budget. Tom Davis reported that, as of April 22, 2017, the Trustees balance is \$474,345.00 of which \$427,302.00 is in the Vanguard accounts. A transfer of \$26,000.00 will be made over to the Vanguard accounts shortly. There is \$12,000.00 in the operating account.

SPRC: Nancy Loane will be doing an inventory of Bibles in the sanctuary, and we will consider replacing them, and adding large-text versions. SPRC agreed that the congregation be encouraged to follow along with the Bible readings each Sunday, with everyone using the same version. Testimonies will be moved to Week Two, instead of Week One (communion).

UMM: From John Torres: Clean-up Day was held April 22nd. Property was cleaned up and mulched. The front of the stage is painted, air conditioners are in, and filters changed. The following expenditures were approved by the Board: \$742.50 for Angelo's bid for cleaning and buffing floors in the Reeves building, \$1,100.00 window cleaning bid on both buildings by I Do Windows; and a \$700.00 estimate from Brian Reeves for a new back door with hardware for the sanctuary.

UMW: No report.

LEARNING: Speaker Irene Gaskins will be here Saturday, April 29th at 10am in the Sanctuary (along with Mary King on piano) along with refreshments in the Reeves building afterwards. Line dancing with lessons, and country-fare lunch on May 21st. Bob's weekly Bible Study begins on July 12th at 7:30pm and will continue for eight weeks.

REACHING OUT: Upcoming meeting this Sunday.

NURTURING: Patty Davis proposed a few new cabinets in the kitchen, with an approximate cost of \$2,800.00. Fern is waiting to hear from the Board of Health before this proposal is considered by the Board.

PASTORAL: Pastor Jim said that the Sunrise Service was attended by approximately 100 people, and the breakfast following was a great success. He also complimented the music program at VFUMC.

NEW BUSINESS: Nancy proposed a new defibrillator for the Sanctuary, which would cost approximately \$600.00. This was approved by the Board. Tom Loane will be making the purchase. Tom, Adam, Steve, Robin, and Glenn volunteered to take classes to operate same.

On May 21st, there will be a celebration for Dr. Powell at 3pm, May 21st, at Berwyn UMC. All are invited. Cost is \$7.00. She is becoming the Director of Conference Ministry.

Pastor Jim closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting - Monday, May 22nd at 7pm.
Nancy Loane will be handling the devotion.

Respectfully submitted,
GD

**Central District Celebration & Dinner
to honor Dr. Anita Powell on completing her term as D.S.
May 21, 3 p.m.**

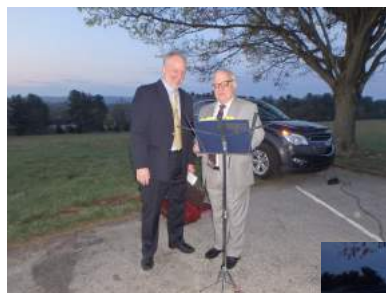
Berwyn United Methodist Church, 140 Waterloo Road, Berwyn, Pa.

Requested contribution for refreshments is \$7 per person.

We're also invited to donate toward a gift for Dr. Powell.

Registration online: <https://epaumc.churchcenteronline.com/registrations/events/56030>
or through local church representative. Deadline for registration: 5/14/17

April 16, 2017



Images

from

Easter



Thank you . . .

We received a thank you.
The following is an excerpt . . .

“I want to thank you and your congregation for the wonderful Lenten Meditation book I picked up when visiting in March. I enjoyed the readings every day. They all were very meaningful. ‘Til next time!”

Sincerely,
Rosie Alleva

Happy Faces!

Joyful Day!

Many thanks to the Erbs for the photos!

May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Bible Study 1 p.m. Church Office	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m.		Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Communion			Bible Study 1 p.m. Church Office	Sanctuary Choir 6:30 p.m. Bell Rehearsal 7:30 p.m.		Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.			Bible Study 1 p.m. Church Office			Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m. NO MEN'S GROUP in May
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Country Dance After Worship Lunch provided.	Administrative Board Meetings, 7 p.m.		Bible Study 1 p.m. Church Office			Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
28	29	30	31			
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	Memorial Day				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	