

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

Do all you can with your God-given gifts



Dear Friends,

At a conference I recently attended, I heard Daniel Rodriguez share his beautiful tenor voice with us in song and testimony. You may remember Daniel as the New York policeman who was present at the tragedy of 9/11 and afterwards sang the National Anthem at numerous events. He now shares his dramatic story with others using his trained voice as a tool to help others reclaim the gift of living in a free country with all of its blessings.

Mr. Rodriguez told the audience about his experience on that horrendous day in New York City. After the first tower fell, he intuitively knew that the second would fall as well. Standing with the Inspector, his boss, he knew that if they did not move they would die. While contemplating this reality and what to do, a thought thundered through his mind. It was in the form of a stinging question. “Did I Do Enough?” As the former cop flushed out the meaning of this question for us, I could not help but ask myself this vital question. Am I doing all I can with the gifts that God has given me? Am I making this world a better place through who I am and what I do? What about you?

What we do with our journey is our choice. As Christian people we affirm that God is with us, wants the best for us, and challenges us to be the people of love. We live our legacy every day. One of the reflection questions I had my students at Newman University answer was this: What do I want people to say about me when my journey is completed? This question compels us to ask probing questions. How am I living? How am I trying? What am I doing with the days God has given to me?

Again, we decide what we will do with the precious gift of life. No one else can make the choice for us. In the comic strip, Born Loser by Art Sansom, a woman sits at a table and says to herself, “The first step in having a successful spring cleaning is to make a good to-do list.” She then comments: “Now that I’ve completed that step, it gets much more difficult. The second step is to find somebody to do your to-do list.” My friends, the responsibility of living our life cannot be given to someone else.

Jesus tells us the story of the talents. One person is given five thousand gold coins, another receives two and the third person gets one. Those who receive more do something with it. The person with one thousand gold coins digs a hole, saves it, and gives it back to the master. He did not use the gift. We are called to be all that God has created us to be. We are called to make a difference with our lives. If we do the best we can, we will most assuredly hear the words of affirmation: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.

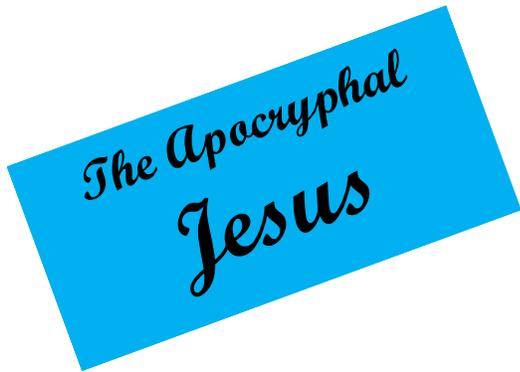
Peace and Blessings,
James R. Hallam, Pastor



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Adult Sunday School—9 a.m.



The Bible as we know it doesn't really say a lot about the life of Jesus from the time he was born until he turned 30 and began his ministry. Except for the episode in the temple where he astounded the people in charge with his knowledge of the scriptures, we know very little about his life during that time.

In Tom's Sunday School class, Pastor Jim is leading discussion about "The Apocryphal Jesus." The class is talking about what can be learned from some of those stories we don't study often or may not even know a lot about.

Join us for this interesting discussion. We meet Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Education Building. Bring your Bibles.

Scottie's Sunday School Class

We all know there are many references to love in the Bible. Jesus tells us to love God, to love our neighbors the same way we love ourselves. We're even told to love our enemies, and sometimes that's a big order to fill.

So what exactly is this thing called love? I heard from a pastor preaching a sermon once that love can be described as "committed self-offering." Let's look at that for a minute.

Offering means giving. Then self-offering would mean giving something of yourself. What's that? I don't think it means money in this case. What I've been taught is that when we truly love, like God loves, we're giving part of ourselves—what makes us unique, one of our best qualities. This might be compassion, generosity, or maybe even just a listening ear.

Who needs you today? Who needs the best you have to offer today and tomorrow and the next day and the next (that's the committed part)?

Think about it. This is just one of the topics we could discuss in our Sunday School class. Come and enjoy our talks, and join our talk as you feel comfortable to do so. We meet on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Church Parlor.

Scottie DeMartinis

May Lectionary



May 6 — Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98
1John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17



May 13 — Ascension Sunday

Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47
Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53

OR

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19

May 20 — Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

May 27 — Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17



Don't forget . . .

. . . To purchase **canned goods for PACS** when you shop. School will be closing soon for the summer. Students will be home with their families instead of eating meals at school. PACS shelves will need to be restocked. Any canned goods or non-perishables will be appreciated. Thanks.





Prayer Scripture of the Month

For May the *Prayer Scripture* is:

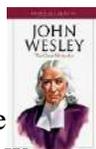
*“Are any among you suffering?
They should pray.”*
James 5:13a

Notice: The Wednesday Bible Study, led by Pastor Jim, will meet for the last time on May 16th. The group will resume meeting in the Fall.



JOHN WESLEY

—QUOTE OF THE MONTH



“The Christian rule of right and wrong is the word of God, the writings of the Old and New Testament; all that the Prophets and holy men of old wrote as they were moved by the Holy Ghost; all that scripture which was given by the inspiration of God, and which is indeed profitable for doctrine, or teaching the whole will of God.

Announcement: The Administrative Board Meeting this month will be held on the third *Monday, May 21, at 7 p.m.* since Memorial Day is the 28th.



From *The Witness of Our Own Spirit*.
Submitted by Bob Erb

Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC

April Tai Chi Classes:

May 12
May 19
May 26



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



May Birthdays

Chrissy DeMartinis	2
Tom DeMartinis	8
Alfred Haase	11
Terral Johnston	17
Laurie Bohl	17
Michelle Torres	18
Robin Coroniti	21

May Anniversaries

Frank & Sue Rechner	14
Patty & Bob Hepp	17

Worship Participation Schedule

	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
5/13	Mother's Day—Donuts	L. Gular	P. & J. Torres
5/20	G. Frazer	J. M. Rich	B. & B. Cooke
5/27	Memorial Day—Donuts	G. Frazer	N. & T. Loane
6/3	L. Austin	N. Turner	S. DeMartinis

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.**

Please join your friends at
Valley Forge United Methodist
Church for:

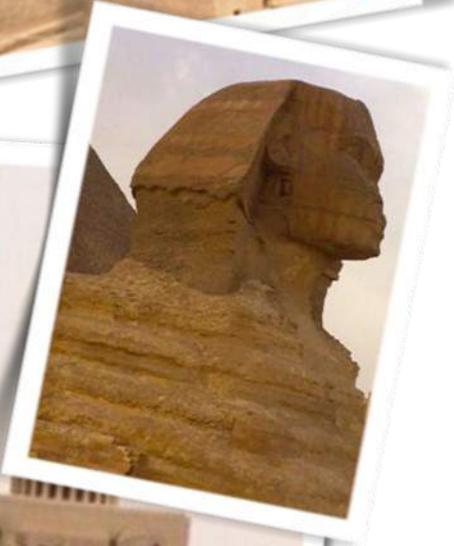
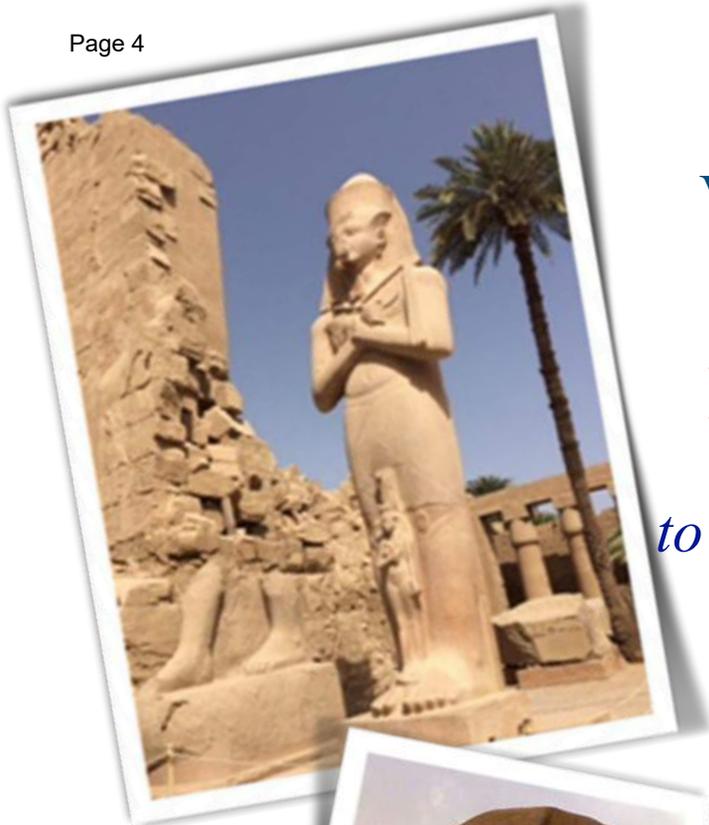
Lunch with the Loanes

*to hear tales and see photos from
Nancy & Tom's
voyage around the world!*

Sunday, May 20th

11:30 am after Worship Service

** Light Lunch and Deserts will
be provided **



**Valley Forge United Methodist Church
Administration Board Meeting
April 23, 2018
Minutes**

IMPORTANT NOTE: Next administration board will be Monday, May 21 instead of the 28 (Memorial Day)

In Attendance: Glenn Davis, Fern Heit, John Torres, Robin Coroniti, Noel Turner, Patty Davis, JoMarie Jones, Rick McNeill, Maggie Horosky, Laurie Vitale, Bob Erb

Fern opened the meeting with a story about a young boy with a disability adopting a disabled dog, reflecting on gratitude and thanksgiving.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Laurie, Wendy, and Maggie will be working together to update the VFUMC website.

FINANCE: For February, Noel reports that we had a surplus \$151.00 vs. the 2018 budget. As of April 20th, 2018, the Trustees balance is \$478,749.00 of which \$431,507.00 is in the Vanguard accounts, per report supplied by Tom Davis.

SPRC: No report, as a quorum was not met at this evening's meeting. Rick asked that "procedures" be scratched from the SPRC agenda.

UMM: The kitchen restoration project is looking good and almost complete. Chris Simon will be updating the quote on the retaining wall soon, and the Gabion wall approach seemed acceptable to the UMM. The post and rail fencing has been completed. A Church clean-up day will be held at 9am on Saturday, May 19th.

UMW: No report.

LEARNING: An informal luncheon is planned for May 20th after the church service for Nancy and Tom Loane's return from their world cruise. They will present a photo review of their world cruise. The Nativity will return this year, and will be held on Sunday, December 23rd. Laurie shared that their survey so far showed that the congregation prefers expert speakers, Bible study, and Sunday School, in that order. The favorite time for activities is after the church service. Laurie is also looking into a Wellness event for a future educational program. They are also reviewing ideas for the younger members, who seem to prefer mission-type activities.

REACHING OUT (Missions): No report.

NURTURING: The committee will be organizing the luncheon on May 20th.

PASTORAL: No report.

NEW BUSINESS: A request by Jazzercise to hold classes on Wednesday and Friday at 9 a.m. was approved by the board. Bob Erb thanked Laurie for putting his book on the church website. He has also registered as Lay Conference Person for the Conference on June 14th, to be held in Oaks, PA.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 21st, at 7pm.

JoMarie will be handling the devotion next month.

Respectfully submitted,
GD

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
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						Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 Communion			Bible Study 1:15 p.m. Pastor Jim			Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 Mother's Day			Bible Study 1:15 p.m. Pastor Jim			Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m. Spring Clean-up Day, 9 a.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 Lunch with the Loanes	Administrative Board Meeting 7 p.m.					Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
27	28	29	30	31		
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	Memorial Day					