

**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*

## ***Redirect intention to Kingdom values***



Dear Friends,

For many years I have wanted to write a book that can be a gift to those high school graduates moving on to other academic endeavors be that a trade school, community college or university. The content of such a book is in my head but inertia has blocked the discipline necessary to take the thoughts from the brain and put them on paper. I have not disciplined myself to do what needs to be done to make the book a reality. Not yet I haven't.

As I think about the talents we have and the many things we would like to do, important things that will bring personal fulfillment, I realize that we do not make them a priority. Perhaps we feel a sense of inadequacy or rationalize that we do not have enough time. I don't know about you but I find that most people find time to do what they really want to do.

As Christian people, our goal is to be an authentic disciple of Jesus who shows us how to live and teaches us about things that really matter. For instance, Jesus talks about the kingdom of God, an internal process culminating in outward action. This kingdom is grounded in the passion of Jesus for compassion, justice and nonviolence. We know what needs to happen in our thoughts and behavior to make this kingdom a reality. We do not, however, energize ourselves to make the necessary changes so that the idea of the kingdom becomes concrete in our living. We do not discipline ourselves nor take the time to live kingdom values.

The lack of intentionality can be viewed in our daily journey. Jesus tells us to store up for ourselves treasures in heaven. We get caught up in cultural values that emphasize things and acquisition. Dollars become more important than actualizing deep, empathic relationships. We relegate our spiritual development to the basement.

Maybe we can do better with our desire and effort to be faithful disciples. Perhaps we can become more disciplined as with awareness and intention we seek to walk the Jesus way. There is an essential question which prods and encourages. We hear it but must really want to implement the answer. What would Jesus do?

Peace and Blessings,

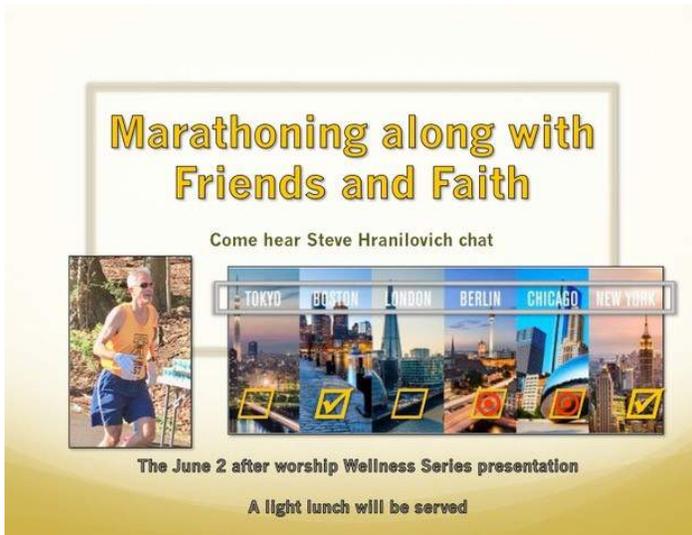
**Jim Hallam**  
Pastor



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**Wellness Series continues on June 2**



**Steve Hranilovich** has been running . . . and all his moving has happened in preparation for his participation in marathons and for building up his running stamina for marathons in the future. Steve has offered to chat with us about this, as part of our **Wellness Series, on Sunday, June 2, after worship. Light lunch will be served.**

**May Lectionary**



**May 5 — Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) Psalm 30  
Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19

**May 12 — Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Mother's Day**

Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23  
Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30

**May 19 — Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148  
Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35

**May 26 — Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67  
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 John 14:23-20



**Adult Sunday School—9 a.m.**

**An “Open-Bible” Adult Sunday School Class—  
Carrying on Scottie’s Class**

Expository teaching of a particular book of the Bible involves starting with Verse 1 of Chapter 1 and going verse-by-verse through the entire book. An advantage is that we deal with topics that might otherwise be ignored in a “topical approach” to Bible teaching. In the 30 sessions so far since September we have covered 15 chapters in the wonderful Gospel of John and are now in Chapter 16. (May 26th will be the last session until Labor Day.)

All are invited to join us to dig into the written Word and to learn more of the living Word, our Lord Jesus Christ. Please come whenever you can!

The time: 9:00 to 9:55 a.m. The place: the church parlor. You may bring your own Bible; however, we have plenty of ESV large-print Bibles at the class for your use.

*Bob Erb*

**Short Sayings . . .**

Every experience God gives us, every person He puts in our lives, is the perfect preparation for the future that only He can see.

*Corrie ten Boom in "The Hiding Place"*

All truth comes from God and leads back to God.

*Francis A. Schaeffer*

Goals are dreams with deadlines.

*Hal Urban in "Life Greatest Lessons: 20 Things That Matter."*

*Submitted by Bob Erb*



**Scripture of the Month**

For May the special *Scripture* is:

*“For misery does not come from the earth . . . but human beings are born to trouble . . . as for me, I would seek God, and to God I would commit my cause. He does great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number.”*

*Job 5:6-9*

**Thoughts . . .**

At the church where I play the organ, we pulled out all the stops on Easter. We hired soloists to help in the choir . . . I played loud for the whole service . . . there were more flowers . . . there were more people . . . there was a lot more music. When we got to the sermon time, the pastor verbally constructed a stark contrast between what was happening in that sanctuary and what happened on that first Easter morning. He pointed out that there were no trumpets blaring for the risen Christ, there probably wasn't music at all unless someone was humming on the way to the tomb.

Instead, there were people who didn't quite know or understand what had just happened. Their friend, Jesus, someone they loved and had followed around the Israeli countryside for maybe three years, had just been killed on a cross three days before. They had been terrified to watch it. They went to the tomb to honor the body of Jesus and they found the body gone. There was fear and confusion and yearning . . . still no music. They wondered who had taken Jesus' body. Some of the group who had gone to the tomb ran in alarm to tell other disciples about the situation. Mary stayed. She wept. She saw someone who the gospel writer called a gardener. He wondered why she was crying. She explained she was looking for Jesus. Then Jesus called her by name. "Mary." She looked up, then recognized him, and oh, the joy that filled her soul! And for Mary, the "music" began again. She saw Jesus, she knew him, and she felt hope again.

The pastor went on to describe that Mary was a follower of Jesus. She took time to pray and to listen for God and to honor the Sabbath. When Jesus was crucified she, and his other friends and followers, had the breath knocked out of them. Mary continued to follow in the way she had learned from Jesus and she went to the tomb to honor him. When he spoke to her and she recognized him, he breathed life back into her. And she ran and told the others . . . she told the good news to others and they all went on to tell the world. We have a risen Christ! Let the trumpets sound and let the music play!

We can be like Mary. We go through life and at times we have the breath knocked out of us. Stuff happens! And then we pray and we listen and we follow . . . and Jesus, in his sweet, sweet love and compassion for his children, breathes life back into us, and oh, the joy that floods our souls. Like Jesus, we rise up. Like Mary, we can run and tell others, so they can rise up. And then we're ready to do more of the work that needs to be done. Let's rise up.

*The Editor*



**May Birthdays**

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

***Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC***



**May Tai Chi Classes**



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

**May Anniversaries**

Frank & Sue Rechner	14
Patty & Bob Hepp	17

<b>Worship Participation Schedule</b>			
	<b>Refreshments</b>	<b>Liturgist</b>	<b>Greeter</b>
<b>5/12</b>	Mother's Day—P. Davis	J. M. Rich	P. & G. Davis
<b>5/19</b>	J. M. Jones	T. or N. Loane	S. Knotts
<b>5/26</b>	Memorial Day—P. Torres	L. Gular	L. Austin
<b>6/2</b>	J. M. Jones	F. Heit	B. Lishon
<b>6/9</b>	S. Jennings	E. Turner	M. Horosky
<b>6/16</b>	E. Turner	R. Johnston	L. Davis

***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  
April 22, 2019  
Minutes**

**In Attendance:** Robin Coroniti, Glenn Davis, Pastor Jim Hallam, Patty Davis, Nancy Loane, Steve Hranilovich, Rick McNeill, Maggie Horosky, Adam Davis, John Torres

Adam opened the meeting with a reflection on Psalms 42:5, following with a prayer.

Minutes of March 25th were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Adam received an additional quote on fixing the retaining wall for approximately \$40,000.00. Other options will be discussed later. An indemnity agreement has been executed with Tai Chi, and a new lease with Jazzercise has been signed.

**FINANCE:** The finance report for the end of March shows we had a surplus of \$2,101.99 vs. the 2019 budget.

Adam reported that, as of April 18, 2019, the Trustees balance is \$475,331.00 of which \$435,487.00 is in the Vanguard account.

**SPRC:** A meeting was held this evening. No details were released.

**UMW:** No report.

**UMM:** Spring Clean-Up Day will be Saturday, April 27th, at 9am. Jo Ellen will be asked to send an e-mail to the congregation. Stump grinding costing \$175.00 was completed. Tom Davis and Adam placed new moulding around the lattice work at the church entrance.

**EDUCATION:** The Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday was successful. A diabetic foot care seminar by Melissa Younger will be on in May 5th after the church service. A light luncheon will be organized by Patty D and Wendy for this seminar. Steve's Boston Marathon talk will on June 2nd, along with a light luncheon which will be organized by Jo Marie.

**OUTREACH:** No report.

**FELLOWSHIP:** No report.

**PASTORAL:** Approximately 75 attended the Sunrise Service, and about 30 attended the breakfast afterwards. The board approved an expenditure of \$750.00 from the Trustees account to go towards the Mission Connection's improvements to be completed at the UM Home for Children. Check to be made payable to "Wayne United Methodist Church".

**NEW BUSINESS:** Adam will be placing an ad on Craigslist and Facebook Marketplace to see if there is value in the playground equipment. The Judicial Council will be meeting next week to discuss the Traditional Plan. Following their report, for educational purposes, the board will organize a committee to present the situation to the congregation.

Adam closed the meeting with prayer.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, May 20, 2019 at 7PM. Maggie will be handling the devotion.

Respectfully submitted,  
GD

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***Announcement***

This year the Flea Market will be held on Saturday, October 5th. Although this fundraiser is six months away, springtime is truly the most ideal time to start collecting reusable items to sell in October. Please pencil the date on your calendar. Thank you.



*Lynda Austin*

# MAY, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
	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			Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:25 p.m.		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. <b>Worship, 10:30 a.m.</b> Communion <i>Foot Care Program</i>				Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:25 p.m.		Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. <b>Worship, 10:30</b>						Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. <b>Worship, 10:30</b>	<b>Administrative Board Meeting</b> , 7 p.m.					Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. <b>Worship, 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>					