

**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



# Fellowship Report

*From the Editor*

## ***Ideas shared from Captured by Grace***



*I want to share some ideas we're learning about in Scottie's Sunday School class. We're using a book titled, Captured by Grace, by Dr. David Jeremiah, a pastor, author and creator of a popular Christian radio talk show called "The Turning Point." In the following paragraphs from the book, Jeremiah talks about the origin of grace and then compares grace to mercy, two words I once thought meant the same thing.*

"In the Greek tongue of Paul's day, the word for "grace" was *charis*. It carried the connotation of graciousness or favor. But the term evolved in the Greek world until it meant the actual gift, the concrete expression of kindness. Grace happens . . . and it acts. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God " (Ephesians 2:8). Such grace can come only from God. It is the gift unsought, unmerited, unlimited. For no matter what we have done, no matter the depth of our transgression . . . grace overrules them all. God pursues us relentlessly, He will not give us up, and once He has captured us, He won't let us go. . . Grace is the bridge over a chasm that seemed infinite—the canyon between our depravity and His holiness. That bridge is wide and sturdy and sure, beckoning to us to cross over into a life too wonderful for us to imagine.

Mercy . . . At the heart of the mystery is an essential concept: the idea of mercy. We must understand grace, at least within the limits of our comprehension. We must understand mercy. And we must be clear on how the two ideas intersect. We often use the words as if they are synonyms—one and the same. . . The truth is more elusive, like the words themselves. Think of it this way: Mercy is God withholding the punishment we rightfully deserve. Grace is God not only withholding that punishment but offering the most precious of gifts instead.

Mercy withholds the knife from the heart of Isaac; ***Grace provides a ram in the thicket.*** Mercy runs to forgive the Prodigal Son; ***Grace throws a party with every extravagance.*** Mercy bandages the wounds of the man beaten by the robbers; ***Grace covers the cost of his full recovery.*** Mercy hears the cry of the thief on the cross; ***Grace promises paradise that very day.*** Mercy pays the penalty for our sin at the cross; ***Grace substitutes the righteousness of Christ for our wickedness.*** Mercy converts Paul on the road to Damascus; ***Grace calls him to be an apostle.*** Mercy saves John Newton from a life of rebellion and sin; ***Grace makes him a pastor and author of a timeless hymn (Amazing Grace).*** Mercy withholds what we have earned; ***Grace provides blessings we have not earned.***

*My wish for you this Thanksgiving season is that you will experience God in a new way, a way that draws you closer to Him. I'm hoping that you will be drawn into a more personal relationship with our God, who loves unconditionally, saves mercifully and gives us grace that knows absolutely no bounds.*

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

### Inside this issue:

From the Editor . .	1
A Stewardship Thought	2
Outreach Update	2
November Lectionary	2
UMW News	2
Upcoming Events	3
Birthdays/Anniversaries	3
Bell Notes	4
Still Time to Read the Bible	4
Thanksgiving/Advent Dates	4
Fall Clean-up Day	4
Community Events	4

## UMW at Valley Forge UMC

**Tuesday, November 8, 11:30 a.m.: UMW Meeting, Luncheon, and Bible Study.** It's Election Day so we are hoping we will get a nice turn out for this meeting. First, we will hold a business meeting, to decide a few important items. After the meeting, we will have a light lunch and then Pastor Jim has agreed to join us for our Bible Study, (if you are able to stay). Of course, men are invited to the lunch and the Bible Study, and we hope they will attend. This will be held at 50 Meadowbrook Lane (Patty's house). If you need directions, send an e-mail or phone 610-917-3363. Please plan on attending.

**Saturday, December 3, 4:30 p.m. Christmas Party.** Jo Marie has graciously volunteered to host this year's Christmas Party. Details of the party and directions will be announced after the meeting on November 8. This is always a wonderful time, so you will want to save this date.

**Saturday, January 21, 11:30 a.m.** This afternoon will be something new. First, we will have lunch at Bahama Breeze in King of Prussia. From there, we will go across the street to attend an opera – live from the Met at 12:55 p.m. "The Enchanted Island" will be the production. I understand it is a new work and the story is drawn from a work by Shakespeare. I have purchased a few tickets in advance because I understand they will go fast. The price of the ticket is \$24 and \$22 for seniors. Try to decide early, so seating will be available for all of us in the restaurant and the theater.

## A Thought about Stewardship . . .

"Jesus talked about money in 16 of the recorded 38 New Testament parables. Jesus spoke five times as often about money and earthly possessions as he did about prayer. A careful researcher can find 500 verses in the Bible on prayer, and a few more than 500 on faith. But more than 2,000 verses in the Bible are concerned with money and possessions.

Clearly, money is a part of our Christian formation. The only subject Jesus mentioned more often than money is the kingdom of God. Surely, however, the kingdom of God and money are in the same general category of spiritual concern. Let us no longer be ashamed to talk about money in the church."

*- excerpted from The Abingdon Guide to Funding Ministry, contributed by Pastor Jim.*

## Outreach is preparing Holiday Meals & Gifts

The holidays are coming up quickly. We have adopted three families this year to lend a hand with Thanksgiving meals and Christmas meals/gifts. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Education Building. Take a moment to check them out and sign up to assist these families who need a little extra help to get through the holidays. All donations are very much appreciated. We will also need help with deliveries. If that is something for which you would like to volunteer, see Fern or anyone on the Outreach/Missions committee for details. Thank you in advance!

*Fern Heit*

*Thank you to everyone who participated in our Ton Ton Noel project, for the girls at H.O.P.E.*

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## November Lectionary



### November 6 — All Saints Sunday

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25    Psalm 78:1-7  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18    Matthew 25:1-13

### November 13 — Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Judges 4:1-7    Psalm 123 or Psalm 76  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11    Matthew 25:14-30

### November 20 — Christ the King Sunday

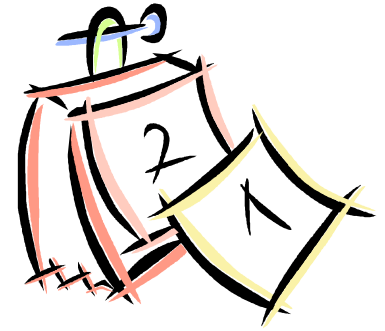
Ezekiel 34:11-16    Psalm 100  
Ephesians 1:15-23    Matthew 25:31-46

### November 27 — First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9    Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9    Mark 13:24-37

# Upcoming Events

at Valley Forge United Methodist Church



- November 2 Bible Study (Scottie DeMartinis), Parlor, 7:30 p.m.
- November 3 Sanctuary Choir Practice, 6:30 p.m.  
Bell Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.
- November 5 Fall Clean-up Day, 9 a.m.
- November 6 Sunday School, 9 a.m., Fellowship, 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m., with Holy Communion
- November 8 UMW Meeting, Lunch, 11:30 a.m., and  
Bible Study (Pastor Jim) 1 p.m., Patty Davis' residence
- November 9 Bible Study (Scottie DeMartinis), Parlor, 7:30 p.m.
- November 10 Sanctuary Choir Practice, 6:30 p.m.  
Bell Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.
- November 13 Sunday School, 9 a.m., Fellowship, 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.
- November 15 Bible Study (Pastor Jim), Parlor, 1 p.m.
- November 16 Bible Study (Scottie), Parlor, 7:30 p.m.
- November 17 Sanctuary Choir Practice, 6:30 p.m.  
Bell Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.
- November 19 Men's Meeting, 9 a.m.
- November 20 Sunday School, 9 a.m., Fellowship, 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.– Commitment Sunday
- November 22 Bible Study (Pastor Jim), Parlor, 1 p.m.
- November 23 Thanksgiving Eve Service, Sanctuary, 7:30 p.m.
- November 24 Happy Thanksgiving!
- November 27 Sunday School, 9 a.m., Fellowship, 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Advent Musical Program, 4 p.m., Lima Praise Band  
Pot-Luck Dinner, 5:15 p.m.
- November 28 Administrative Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- November 29 Bible Study (Pastor Jim), Parlor, 1 p.m.
- November 30 Bible Study (Scottie), Parlor, 7:30 p.m.

## November Birthdays

R.J. Williams	3
Kevin Bohl	4
Bill Arnold	5
Tom Davis	7
Liz Gular	7
Jim Bohl	11
Lynda Austin	16



*Don't forget . . .*

**Turn your clocks back one hour on  
Saturday, November 5,  
before retiring.**

## November Anniversary

Steve & Sue Walter      21



The church bell choir is looking for substitutes. Love to have you join us! Please see Nancy Loane.

*Nancy Loane*

**Fall Clean-Up Day**  
**Saturday, November 5**  
**9 a.m.—Noon**  
**Come join the fun and**  
**fellowship!**



**Thanksgiving Eve**  
**Worship Service**

**Wednesday, November 23th**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**Valley Forge United Methodist Church**

*Participating Pastors:*

Joseph DiPaolo, Wayne UMC  
Dawn Taylor-Storm, St. Matthew's UMC  
James R. Hallam, Valley Forge UMC

*Special Music:*  
Combined Choir from  
their churches.

*Everyone in the Community*  
*is welcome!*



## ***So You Want to Read The Bible***

We continue our Reading the Bible plan and move through the Torah. Come join us for a great way to read and understand our Bible as a whole document.

*Tom Loane*

***Don't forget . . .***

. . . To view the Valley Forge UMC introduction of Pastor Jim, click on the church website <http://www.vfumc.org/> or go to You Tube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y33ad4-HzSs>. Download it, show your friends, talk about VFUMC!



**Advent Musical Programs**  
on Sundays during Advent, 4 p.m.



**November 27, December 4**  
**December 11, & December 18**

All programs will be held in the  
Valley Forge UMC Education Building

**November 27—Lima Praise Band**  
Pot-Luck Dinner at 5:15 p.m.

**December 4**

Mary King, from Lima UMC,  
performing the Handbells

**December 11—Lima UMC Brass & Mary King**

**December 18—The Sounds of VFUMC**

Sanctuary Choir & Handbell Choir

Family Carol Sing

**Everyone in the Community**  
**is welcome!**



## **Community Events**

### **Jewish Food & Cultural Festival**

**Sunday, November 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Temple Oheb Sholom**

**555 Warwick Drive**

**Wyomissing, Pa.**

**610-375-6034**

**[www.ohebsholom.org](http://www.ohebsholom.org)**

### ***Multi-faith choir to perform November 13***

This concert will include settings of Ave Maria and select Moses Hogan works. The performance will be held on Sunday, November 13 at 3 p.m. at St. Basil the Great Church in Kimberton, Pa.

### ***Control Your Cravings!***

Tony Longobardi, long-time friend of Valley Forge United Methodist Church, will present a seminar regarding cravings controlled by hypnosis on Friday, November 11, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Education Building of VFUMC. The fee for the seminar is \$40 per person and is payable at the door. Pre-registration is required and can be accomplished by calling Tony at 610-659-0526, or e-mailing him at [info@HypnosisByTony.com](mailto:info@HypnosisByTony.com). Tony also has a website: [www.HypnosisByTony.com](http://www.HypnosisByTony.com). He has agreed that for everyone from VFUMC who attends the seminar, he will donate \$5 to our Haiti mission.