

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

Be awake as we enter a season of gratitude



Dear Friends,

What a splendiferous gift we have been given. It is called life! As we enter a season of awareness and thanksgiving, may each of us awake to the beauty around us. May we open our eyes to see the glory of nature and the wonder of connection with other people. May we be moved to express gratitude for all that is lovely, healthy and inspiring.

As I seek to be more awake, let me share with you some of my ramblings.

AWAKE

*Beautiful maple tree dressed in stunning orange
Standing firm against an azure sky. The ending of another cycle.*

*So it is with the journey called life. Splendid for a moment and then gone,
A fleeting flicker in a mysterious blackness.*

*The challenge, the call to the individual soul.
Celebrate and connect with the breath of all.*

Pensively contemplate the rhythm of the ocean.

Pause to feel the face warming sun.

Look up at the slowly moving clouds.

Attentively listen to the whisper of the wind.

The spirit aware, alive, dancing for a time.

Be thankful always! Let the words of gratitude be on your heart and in your mind each passing day.

Blessings and Peace,

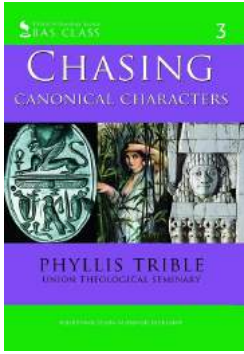
**Jim Hallam
Pastor**



Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	1
Adult Sunday School	2
Scripture of the Month	2
Trustees' Announcement	2
Donating for Adopted Families	2
November Lectionary	3
November Birthdays/Ann.	3
Tai Chi Information	3
Volunteer Schedule	3
Diabetes Event (Nov. 4)	4
Calendar (Nov-Dec 2018)	5
Gun Violence Awareness Event	5
Short Sayings	5
TIME CHANGE	5
Breathe in the Holy Spirit	5
Board Meeting Minutes	6
November Calendar	7

Adult Sunday School—9 a.m.



Tom Loane's SS Class



The story of Jezebel in 1 & 2 Kings is an amazing story of religious conflict. Both Elijah and Jezebel are guilty of mass murder but only she is condemned. The Hebrew Bible is not equal opportunity!

Watch these ancient texts come to life as you learn about the colorful personalities within the Biblical narrative. Our guide, the eminent Phyllis Trible, uses literary, rhetorical and feminist methods to weave a vibrant tapestry, illuminating the tales of the Hebrew Bible and their unforgettable characters.

In November we will be studying Miriam and Jezebel.

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

Notice from Trustees:

The painting project on the upper floor of the Reeve building will start on Monday, November 12th, and is expected to be completed no later than Friday, November 16th. There will be no Jazzercise during that time. There should be no problem with having bell choir practice.

Most of the tables and chairs will be donated to a start-up church in Chester, Pa. These items are scheduled to be moved out on Saturday, November 10th, starting at 11:30 a.m. (*Any labor assistance from the congregation on this Saturday would be greatly appreciated.*)

Any questions, please contact Glenn at 484-684-5254.

Carrying on Scottie's Sunday School class.

We all need to become more familiar with the Bible. This is God's guidance available for every aspect of our life. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

How well do *you* know your Bible? A former pastor sometimes recited Bible verses from memory during the worship service. When a member of the congregation said, "I wish I knew the Bible like you do," the pastor asked, "Well, do you read your Bible?" The somewhat shamefaced answer was, "No."

The approach for this "open-Bible class" is expository teaching in depth of various books of the Bible. Since September we have been studying the Gospel of John. (A great book!) We are still early in our study of John and have many weeks yet to go.

Please join us this Sunday morning or any week that you can make it! The time: 9:00 to 9:55 AM. The place: the church parlor. Bring your Bible; also we have extra Bibles in the class. All are invited!

Bob Erb



Scripture of the Month

For November the special *Scripture* is:

"... we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal."
2 Corinthians 4:18

Our season of giving has arrived . . .

November has arrived, and that means we gear up to help families in the community who may not have Thanksgiving/Christmas without our help.

Lists will be posted on the bulletin board of the Education Building very soon. This year we will help four families for Thanksgiving dinner, and we've been assigned the same four families for Christmas dinner and gifts for the little ones.

Last year's confirmation class will be assisting with deliveries as they have that experience from last year. They are soooooo looking forward to helping at Thanksgiving and Christmas this year, too!! As in previous years, we will be making four Phoenixville families very happy this year.

God bless all our helpers.

Fern Heit

November Lectionary



November 4 — Twenty-fourth Sunday After Pentecost
All Saints Scriptures
 Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 24
 Revelation 21:1-6a John 11:32-44

Additional Scriptures for November 4
 Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146
 Hebrews 9:1-14 Mark 12:28-34

November 11 — Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost
 Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 Psalm 127 or Psalm 42
 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44

November 18 — Twenty-sixth Sunday After Pentecost
 1 Samuel 1:4-20 1 Samuel 2:1-10 or Psalm 113
 Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) Mark 13:1-8

November 25 — Christ the King Sunday
 2 Samuel 23:1-7 Psalm 132:1-12
 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37



Happy Thanksgiving!

November Birthdays

	Kevin Bohl	4
	Colleen Dorrin	4
	Steve McClellan	4
	Bill Arnold	5
	Tom Davis	7
	Liz Gular	7
	Jim Bohl	12
	Lynda Austin	16
	Drake Vitale	20
	Tessa Martielli	26
	Libby Moran	27

Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC

November Tai Chi Classes:

November 3
November 10
November 17
November 24



If you are interested in joining the class,

November Anniversaries

Steve & Sharon Knotts	8
Michael & Colleen Dorrin	13
Sue & Steve Walter	21

Worship Participation Schedule			
	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
11/4	W. Martielli	D. Erb	W. & J. Martielli
11/11	L. Moran	R. Masters	C. & R. Masters
11/18	F. Heit	J. M. Rich	L. & F. Vitale
11/25	G. Frazer	T. or N. Loane	P. & J. Torres
12/2	P. Torres	L. Gular	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.

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.**

Eating Well to Prevent Diabetes

Sunday, November 4th 11:45 am

Please join us to hear expert speaker, Carolyn Farhy MS, RDN, LDN, nutrition educator with Main Line Health for more than 10 years, who specializes in programs educating the public in a wide range of nutrition topics.

*And Pastor Jim will lead us in a 10-minute **fun** exercise break!*



Topics:

- ~ **Why is Diabetes so dangerous?**
- ~ **Can Type II Diabetes be prevented?**
- ~ **If I have diabetes already, is there anything more I can do?**
- ~ **What is Glycemic Index?**
- ~ **Does physical activity help?**
- ~ **So many diet plans—which one is best?**

Healthy snacks and beverages will be served. Please email laurie-vitale@comcast.net or valleyforgeumc@comcast.net for more information. *Everyone is welcome to this free event! (Daylight Savings begins the night before - Fall Back-turn clocks back 1 hour.)*

Short Sayings

- The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

Chinese proverb

- It is the duty of nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor.

George Washington

- If God does not exist, then everything is permitted.

Paraphrasing F. M. Dostoyevsky

Submitted by Bob Erb

2018 Calendar November – December

Sunday November 4th: Wellness Program: Diabetes
11:45 a.m.

Sunday November 11th: Anniversary Sunday

Sunday November 18th: Stewardship Sunday

Wednesday: November 21st: Thanksgiving Eve Service
7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 9th: Fellowship/Lunch & Family Carol Sing
(Advent emphasis)

Sunday December 23rd: Lunch & Live Nativity (Noon)

Monday, December 24th: Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m.
Candlelight Service at 11 p.m.



Reminder: It's time to turn your clocks back one hour before you retire on Saturday evening, November 3rd.

SAVE THE DATE:



The Phoenixville Area Clergy Association is planning a **Gun Violence Awareness Day** event. The event will be held on **Sunday, November 4, from 4 to 6 p.m.** This special event is still being planned. When I have more info I will pass it on by bulletin and/or church-wide e-mail.

Have a crisis? Breathe in the Holy Spirit

I think I can be correct in assuming that many people face times of crisis in their lives—times when they fear something or someone, times when they fear that something dreadful will happen. I know I have encountered times like that.

Recently I started a new organist job at a church in Wayne. I didn't think I had a prayer to actually get this job. The previous organist is way more proficient than I. I've got "some game" at the keyboard, but I have heard this woman play and she could bring tears to my eyes she is so good at the keyboards. Somehow, I got the job.

I immediately began to wonder, "Can I do this?" Really, I was saying to myself, "*I can't do this.*" Even before I played my first Sunday, I could feel the eyes of judgment boring into the back of my head as I would be sitting there at the organ, trying to lead them in song.

When that dreaded day came, and I was preparing to take my place on the bench, the pastor came in and asked how I was doing. "I'm nervous," I said. "Well," he said. "A few nerves are good. We need a little adrenalin to move us forward and keep the movement going." I said, "I think I have more than a few nerves."

The pastor said, "We can prepare and do everything we can to get ready for each Sunday, and then what you do is breathe in the Spirit. We get all tangled up in nerves or whatever and we forget that we can't do anything by ourselves. When we try to do anything without God, sometimes we get it done without a glitch, sometimes not. But when we acknowledge the Spirit and let Him be a part of our everything, we can move forward and feel confident. Whatever you can't do, God picks up the slack. God first, and then just breathe in the Spirit and do it."

I know I'll never forget that moment, and I've heard that message before, from that pastor (I attend one of his Bible studies.) But since it became so personal in that moment, I believe it might "stick" this time. Of course, I'll have to remind myself. We can't do anything without God. He is our rock. He is our power. God first, then breathe in the Spirit.

The Editor



**Valley Forge United Methodist Church
Administration Board Meeting
Minutes
October 22, 2018**

In Attendance: Patty Davis, Robin Coroniti, Glenn Davis, Fern Heit, John Torres, Adam Davis, Steve Hranilovich, Rick McNeill, Pastor Jim Hallam, Tom Davis

Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Adam has not heard back from the contractor in reference to the retaining wall.

FINANCE: Noel reported that, at the end of September, we have a deficit of \$9,889.00 vs. the 2018 budget. The report was not accepted by the board since there appears to be an error with the “pledge” amount of \$70,068.00.

Tom Davis reported, as of October 19, 2018, the Trustees balance is \$487,473.00 of which \$445,918.00 is in the Vanguard account, down approximately \$20,000.00 from September. Tom also recommended that the board reconsider the amount agreed upon for the outreach monetary donations and new furnishings. The board agreed to keep the amounts the same.

SPRC: Charge Conference was held on October 9th. There is no other news.

UMW: No report.

UMM: On Saturday, the air-conditioners were taken out and the blinds were taken down in the Reeve building. There was repair work done on one of the benches. Mike Gambone was awarded the Reeve Building paint project, coming in with the lowest bid. Painting will start on Monday, November 12th, and will be completed no later than Friday, November 16th. Jazzercise has been notified.

EDUCATION: No report. Reminder: Carolyn Farhy, MS of Main Line Health will provide a program “Eating Well to Prevent Diabetes” on November 4th at 11:45am. Healthy snacks will be provided after the church service.

OUTREACH: The board approved the allocation of \$31,000.00 recommended by the Outreach committee to various charitable groups in the community. \$4,000 (each) will be sent to Mom’s House and The House. \$3,000 (each) will be sent to St. Mary’s Shelter, Good Works, The Brubaker family in Haiti, and Orion Communities. \$2,000 (each) will be sent to The Clinic, Good Samaritan, and PACS. \$5,000 will be dedicated to the VFUMC mission team.

HOSPITALITY: A movie and luncheon event was held on October 14th after church with good attendance.

PASTORAL: Robin will have the Missional Moment this Sunday to share our outreach efforts. There will not be an administrative board meeting in December.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 26th, at 7pm.

Fern shared a reflection from Don Meyer’s book, Think About It, and shared a passage which talked about how time is fleeting, and that we should rethink how we manage and allocate our time.

Pastor Jim closed the meeting by sharing a new poem he wrote, which dealt with being aware and being appreciative of the people and world around us. Nancy will handle the November devotional.

Respectfully submitted,
GD

November, 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
	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, 7:15 p.m.		Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Communion		Election Day	Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jim Office	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.		Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m. Men's Group Meeting 11:30 a.m.
Wellness Event—after Worship						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30			Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jim Office	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.		Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
Anniversary Sunday						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30			Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:30 p.m.			Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
Stewardship Sunday						
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	Admin. Board Mtg 7 p.m.		Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Pastor Jim Office	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.		