

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

As Christians we live by faith, grace, compassion



Dear Friends,

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks writes: “For though my faith is not yours and your faith is not mine, if we each are free to light our own flame, together we can banish some of the darkness of the world.” These words are significant as we reflect on our very complex diverse world where people operate on the basis of exclusiveness, insisting that their way is the best and only way.

As Christian people we have our belief system affirming that Jesus incarnates the divine. We assert that we do not connect with God through our actions alone but as the reformers proclaimed, solo gratia—only by grace. So we live in the faith that it is God who desires relationship with us and that this vital relationship is not something owed or achieved—It is a gift! As a result of God’s unconditional love for us experienced in the life of Jesus, we reach out to the world seeking to bring light, hope, peace, love and transformation to our planet. We are thankful for the faith that grounds us, gives us meaning and sustains us throughout our journey.

We realize that Christianity has its unique approach to spirituality, but there are other religions that enable people to live fulfilled human lives. Karen Armstrong carefully writes in her book, Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life, that all the major religions have something in common—this emphasis on compassion. While there are consequential differences between people of faith, we rally around the certainty that genuine altruism—caring for the welfare of others—is essential to authentic spirituality.

May we endeavor to move beyond our stereotypes and prejudices as we walk the way of Jesus. May we work with all people of faith, regardless of ritual and belief, to make our community and world a better place. Our intentional effort to do so will make a profound difference in confronting the hatred, violence and fear that have become, unfortunately, a hallmark of human interaction.

Peace and Blessings,

Jim Hallam
Pastor

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November Lectionary



November 3 — All Saints Sunday (All Saints Scriptures)

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 Psalm 149 or Psalm 150
Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31

November 3 — Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 119:137-144
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10

November 10 — Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Haggai 1:15b-2:9 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38

November 17 — Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17-25 Isaiah 12 or Psalm 118
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19

November 24 — Christ the King Sunday

Jeremiah 23:1-6 Luke 1:68-69
Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 18:9-14



Adult Sunday School class to focus on Galatians

Please come an hour early and join us at the “Open Bible” Adult Sunday-School Class! We are studying Galatians—that great book of Christian liberty and the gospel of grace.

We meet in the church parlor at 9:00 a.m. Just bring yourself. We have Bibles there, or bring your own. I invite you to come!

Bob Erb



This is the weekend! We will get extra sleep—IF we turn back our clocks on Saturday evening. Let this be a reminder to do just that before you retire on Saturday.

Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC



November Tai Chi Classes



If you are a member of the class, please check your E-mail for class notices and status.

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

Note: TAI CHI for VETERANS—FREE

If you are a veteran or know any veterans, please contact Mitch Goldfarb, Tai Chi class director at VFUMC. Call 610-873-1923 or e-mail at

mitch@mitchgoldfarb.com

Short Sayings . . .

• Christian freedom does not mean being free to do as we like; it means being free to do as we ought.

William Barclay

• Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.

Benjamin Franklin

• It's better to walk alone than with a crowd going in the wrong direction.

Diane Grant, Canadian playwright and screenwriter

Submitted by Bob Erb



Scripture of the Month

For November the special *Scripture* is:

*“Praise the Lord.
 Sing to the Lord a new song . . .
 Let the children of Zion rejoice in their King! . . .
 Let them praise his name with dancing,
 making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.”*
Psalm 149: 1, 2b, 3

VFUMC Youth pack boxes for Operation Christmas Child



The Youth of our church recently packed boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Pictured are (l. to r.): Maggie Cooke, Beth Cooke, Jocelyn Martielli, Tessa Martielli, Linda Gular with granddaughter, Bettie Jean. Many thanks to the Youth and their counselors for making the project happen.

Photo by Leslie Davis

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
Tessa Martielli	26
Libby Moran	27



November Anniversaries

Steve & Sharon Knotts	6
Michael & Colleen Dorrin	13
Sue & Steve Walter	21

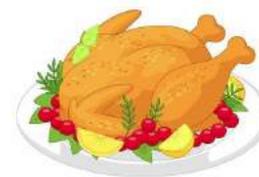
Valley Forge UMC will provide Thanksgiving meals

Once again this year, members of Valley Forge United Methodist Church will provide Thanksgiving meals for 2 families in the Phoenixville Community. This outreach activity is organized by PACS.

Look for sign-up sheets in the Education Building. These families are always so grateful for the help when the holidays arrive. If you have questions about the project, please contact Fern Heit or Leslie Davis.

Thanks for considering your participation in this outreach activity.

Fern Heit



Worship Participation Schedule

	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
11/3	J. M. Jones	N. Turner	A. Davis
11/10	W. Martielli	D. Erb	F. Heit
11/17	L. Bohl	J. Torres	L. Davis
11/24	F. Heit	J. Rich	B. Cooke
12/1	L. Moran	L. Gular	R. Bushey

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.

The 2019 State of the Church Report as prepared by Pastor James Hallam for Charge Conference

Dear Friends,

This will be my last Charge Conference report as minister of Valley Forge United Methodist Church. I will re-retire effective the end of the calendar year. My last services at which I will officiate will be Christmas Eve. My eight-and-a-half years as pastor of this small but vital church have been exceedingly fulfilling. I want to thank all who have made this chapter of my life rewarding and filled it with warmth and appreciation. For all of you who are involved with this special community of God's people, I say, "Thanks be to God!"

I want to encourage you to celebrate "the power of the small." There is an essential place for the smaller congregation validated by the family atmosphere of this grouping of people. You are a caring church demonstrated by your care of each other as well as your commitment to Haiti and by the serious commitment of funds to support local agencies in their humanizing activities.

My friend, John Pritchard, is also retiring at the end of the year. In a recent sermon he shared with his congregation commitments that have sustained him through the years of his active ministry. His commentary states clearly my own emphases of ministry. "My entire ministry has been committed to an expansive understanding of God and faith and church, of rich and multiple ways of experiencing and thinking about God, of faith lived not believed, of church as an open, diverse, committed community." Amen!

I have been criticized on occasion for preaching too much about love. Well, I think that is what the gospel is all about. We live in God's grace every day. We show our love for God by the kindness and respect we give to every human being. We cannot say we love God if we do not see the needs of our brothers and sisters. We cannot say we love God if we do not understand that all of us are connected as the family of God.

Let me be frank and say the Valley Forge church has challenges as it struggles to be a relevant, energized community.

1. The church needs to strategically affirm its priorities and ministry and communicate them more intentionally to the larger community. The people who choose to be a part of VFUMC must consider the ministry here to be special and effective. They must be desirous to be engaged with the uniqueness of this small church.
2. Marketing is essential and resources need to be committed to make the church known.
3. Volunteerism, as is the case in many organizations, needs to be encouraged as a dynamic component of stewardship.
4. New ventures in programming and fellowship have to be implemented to meet the needs of those attending as well as those who might be interested in a small church ministry. Not everything works out as anticipated, but we learn through the effort.
5. Christian education is a necessary dimension of Christian discipleship. People need to want to reflect and grow in their understanding of their faith. We need to encourage all members to share in their expansion of spiritual knowledge and experience.

Continued on next page . . .

State of the Church Report to Charge Conference 2019
continued . . .

Permit me to conclude my report with a challenge to you, the people of Valley Forge United Methodist Church. Please accept and respond to your new pastoral leadership. A new vision and vitality can be extremely beneficial. I encourage you to move on with confidence, hope, sustained commitment and with the certainty that God is present to guide, direct and encourage. Living the Jesus way every day brings peace and fulfillment. Kindness given to every person makes the good news alive and real. May the peace of God that is grounded in God's eternal love be yours this day and every day.

Blessings and Peace,

Jim Hallam, Pastor

Announcements

Celebration for Pastor Jim

Sunday, December 8th, after Worship

***We will have lunch and social time to celebrate Pastor Jim's retirement
 and his 8-and-a-half years as our pastor.***

***(If anyone would like to help with set up, clean up, etc., please text, call or e-mail
 Patty Davis at 610-247-6909 or plr619@verizon.net)***

Valley Forge United Methodist Church has an opening for Sexton. The position is a paid, part-time position performing custodial work in the church's sanctuary and education building. Job responsibilities include dusting, vacuuming, mopping floors and cleaning bathrooms in both buildings. Work is performed weekly, and work schedule is flexible. Completing job responsibilities typically takes only several hours each week, and no more than 10 hours per month. If you are interested in this position, or know someone who may be, please contact Rick McNeill, Chair, Staff-Parish Relations Committee at rmcneill1@comcast.net.

Ladies of Valley Forge UMC . . .

You're Invited to a Handmade Card Party

***Please join your hostess, Beth Cooke, on
 November 16, 2019 * 2-4 p.m.
 2715 Matlack Drive
 Audubon, PA***

***Please RSVP by November 9. Bring a Friend
 Phone or text: 781-258-8738
 E-mail: beth_isnow@yahoo.com***

All Occasion Cards:

Birthday—female, male, kids
 Baby
 Wedding
 Thinking of You
 Thank You
 Get Well
 Sympathy



Holiday Cards & Gifts:

Christmas
 Hanukkah
 Gift Sets
 Holiday Gift Tags
 Gift Card Holders
 Wine Bottle Tags
 Gift Bags



**All items are
 handmade
 by Beth's
 mother-in-law.**



Valley Forge United Methodist Church

1890 Valley Forge Road, P.O. Box 541, Valley Forge, PA 19481

Pastor James R. Hallam
Church: 610.783.7888
Study: 610.368.4725

September 26, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ:

On behalf of Bishop Peggy Johnson, the Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of the Reverend Michael C. Johnson to Valley Forge United Methodist Church effective January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020. Reverend Johnson is a member of the Baltimore Washington Conference serving On Loan to Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

Mike is 1976 graduate of Texas State University; his undergraduate degree is in Psychology, with a minor in Sociology. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky in 1980. Mike also graduated from Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania with a Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Direction in 2014.

Reverend Johnson was ordained a deacon in the United Methodist Church in 1978, and ordained as an elder in 1981. He has been a full member of the Baltimore Annual Conference since 1981. From 1980 to 2008, he held appointments at a number of churches in Maryland. Since 2008, Mike has served churches in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference, and the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, including Otterbein UMC in Mont Clare, PA. Since 2014, he has also been engaged in Extension Ministry as a Spiritual Director.

Mike is married to our Bishop, Peggy Johnson. They have two adult sons, Peter and Gabriel.

We hope that you will keep Reverend Johnson and his family in your prayers as he assumes this new assignment. More importantly, we hope you will join us in warmly welcoming him as he guides us in the latest chapter in our church's story, and leads us in bringing about God's kingdom.

In His name,

VALLEY FORGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

**Valley Forge United Methodist Church
Administration Board Meeting
October 28, 2019
Minutes**

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

A reflection was shared by Robin from Oswald Chambers, “We are saved by simply believing”.

Minutes of September 23rd were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Steve McClellan might offer some VFUMC website solutions by February, according to Robin.

FINANCE: The finance report for the end of September shows there is an actual deficit of \$3,511.00 vs. the 2019 budget year. Reporting from Tom Davis shows, as of October 25, 2019, the Trustees balance is \$492,932.00 of which \$442,384.00 is in the Vanguard account. Financial reports were approved.

There was a discussion on the amount of property insurance coverage written on the buildings by the broker, and the accuracy of the coverage amount. We will try to get a current estimate on the replacement cost of each building before next month’s meeting, as well as checking existing coverages such as Code Upgrade coverage, Debris Removal, etc.

Maggie Horosky will be added as an Authorized Signer of the General Operating Account. Tom will set this up.

SPRC: Rick reported that Charge Conference forms are completed.

We are still searching for a part-time cleaning person. It was approved that up to \$500 could be spent on a one-time cleaning in a couple weeks, if necessary.

It was approved that church employees would receive a 2% pay increase for 2020. It was also understood that the cleaning position cost might exceed the 2020 approved level.

An estimated expenditure of \$1,500.00 was approved for a celebration luncheon of Pastor Jim’s Retirement and his many years of Christian service in the Philadelphia area. This will be held after the church service on Sunday, December 8th.

UMW: About \$1,450.00 was raised in this year’s Flea Market, according to Fern. Robin reported that the UMW Christmas Party will be on December 6th at Nook and Cranny.

UMM: A UMM breakfast was held on October 12th. Air conditioners are out, and filters replaced. John and Adam repaired the stage curtain. Adam replaced bulbs in the Narthex fixture.

EDUCATION: No report.

OUTREACH: The committee will be meeting shortly, and will have recommendations next month for financial support of local groups and missions.

FELLOWSHIP: Patty will organize a welcoming potluck luncheon to be held in January for our new pastor, Michael Johnson. The movie/luncheon event on October 13th was well attended (24).

PASTORAL: The Nominations List for Valley Forge United Methodist Church for 2020 (GFCA Number 067447) was approved by the board. Pastor Jim shared his “State of the Church” report, which will become part of the Charge Conference reports. The Charge Conference will be held at Wayne United Methodist on Saturday, November 2nd, starting at 9am.

November 3rd is All Saints Day.

November 10th is Anniversary Sunday

November 17th is Commitment Sunday.

November 27th at 7:30 PM, there will be a Thanksgiving Eve service.

December 8th at Noon will be the Pastor’s Retirement Celebration Luncheon.

December 22nd will be the Living Nativity.

December 24th (Christmas Eve) there will be a service at 7 PM and one at 11 PM.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Pastor Jim closed the meeting with prayer.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 25, 2019 at 7PM. Maggie will be handling the devotion.

Respectfully submitted,
GD

NOVEMBER, 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
	Jazzercise: Monday-Thursday at 6:15-7:15 p.m.; Friday & Saturday at 9-10 a.m. Bible Study—Pastor Jim Choir—Julia Rich Tai Chi—Maggie Horosky					Charge Conference Wayne UMC 9 a.m.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Communion			Bible Study Pastor Jim 10:30 a.m. Office	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Anniversary Sunday			Bible Study Pastor Jim 10:30 a.m. Office	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Commitment Sunday			Bible Study Pastor Jim 10:30 a.m. Office	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	Administrative Board Meeting 7 p.m.		Thanksgiving Eye Service at VFUMC, 7:30 p.m.	Happy Thanksgiving!		