

**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



# Open Door Tidings

*From the Pastor*

## *Drink in God's gift of nature and rejoice*



Dear Friends,

It will not be long before the leaves start changing colors and the cool breezes of autumn will be touching our face. (At least I think so.) Hopefully, we will all take the time to appreciate the beauty of nature and the artistry of God. Sometimes we are so busy and preoccupied that we do not use our senses to drink deeply of the stream of life.

To be alive is a wonderful gift. To be aware of the beauty of earth and the splendor of the skies connects us with the mystery of the universe and fills us with a deep connection with all that is. To miss a golden tree, billowy clouds in a blue sky, or the red cardinal on the evergreen branch is a real loss. We need to be awake to the colors, sounds and rhythms of nature. We will be closer to God when we do so.

One of my favorite hymns is "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee." You probably realize this if you pay attention to the hymn selections for worship. I like the second verse which encourages us to see and sing with genuine joy.

"All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea  
Chanting bird and flowering fountain, call us to rejoice in thee."

Pause, observe and express gratitude for a magical existence. Pumpkins, bundles of hay, mums and exquisitely dressed trees stir us and compel us to consider the source. Let not a day pass without noticing something special lingering for attention and appreciation. Let not a day pass without saying, "Thank You!"

Peace and Blessings,

Jim Hallam  
Pastor

*P.S. Please remember to pray for all of our brothers and sisters who are hurting so. Where possible extend a hand or send a gift. Our humanity is realized in connection and compassion.*



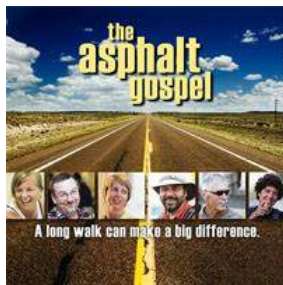
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## Adult Sunday School—9 a.m.

**No Adult Class  
on October 8.**

**We will complete  
*The Asphalt Gospel*  
in October and  
move on to a  
new series (see below).**



In 2006, six ordinary people set out on a walking journey to change the face of Christianity in America. The Asphalt Gospel tells their story.

If you could change the face of Christianity in America, what would be different about it? Would it be more compassionate? More in touch with everyday life? More justice-oriented? Would the kind of Christianity you embrace include Jesus' authentic welcoming of diverse people and viewpoints?

Come explore new ways of looking at Progressive Christianity. Bring your Bibles and join us as we continue at 9 a.m.

### **Starting in October—The 3 Letters of John**

“How plain, how full, and how deep a compendium of genuine Christianity!” Thus did John Wesley speak of the First Epistle of John. These three letters have justly enjoyed esteem disproportionate to their size. Very little can be said with confidence about the author of these documents. Come explore the mystery and the varied themes of these letters. We will start this series in mid-October.

*Tom Loane*



## **Flea Market**

**Saturday, October 7**

**9 a.m. — 2 p.m.**

**Come join the fun!**

## Scottie's Sunday School Class

We continue to tie up some loose ends as we complete our study of Dallas Willard's HEARING GOD and begin LIVING IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE, “a book . . . created from the transcript of a conference held in February of 2013 . . . built around the theme Knowing Christ Today.”

The first DVD session, “*How to Live Well: Eternal Life Begins Now*” is a powerful beginning to an ongoing journey, with God acting in our lives and our helping to lead others into discipleship. We meet in the church parlor at 9 a.m. If you're curious, this might be the one to come and see.

*Scottie DeMartinis*



## October Lectionary

**October 1 — Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 17:1-7      Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Philippians 2:1-13      Matthew 21:23-32

**October 8 — Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20      Psalm 19  
Philippians 3:4b-14      Matthew 21:33-46

**October 15 — Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 32:1-14      Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Philippians 4:1-9      Matthew 22:1-14

**October 22 — Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 33:12-23      Psalm 99  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10      Matthew 22:15-22

**October 29 — Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12      Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8      Matthew 22:34-46



## Prayer Scripture of the Month

For October the *Prayer Scripture* is:

“But as for me, my prayer is to you, O Lord.  
At an acceptable time, O God,  
in the abundance of your steadfast love,  
answer me.”

*Psalm 69:13 (NRSV)*

## There's a Special Event coming in October

On Sunday, October 29th, please plan to stay after the morning worship service for this special occasion in the education building. After lunch, there will be a visual presentation by the three Martielli young people about their three-year experience and travels in Hong Kong and various places in the Far East.

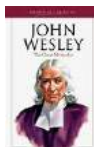
Tessa, Jocelyn, and Derek will be putting together the lunch, the presentation, and the decorations (with the help of parents James and Wendy, of course)!

**Join us then—October 29!!**



JOHN WESLEY

—QUOTE OF THE MONTH



“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy mind, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength: this is the first and great commandment” (Mark 12:30); the first and great branch of Christian righteousness.

From *The Way to the Kingdom*  
Submitted by Bob Erb

## Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC



October 14  
October 21  
October 28



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

**Give to UMCOR's relief and recovery efforts for all hurricane victims.** (100% of your donation goes to the cause). You can give online to UMCOR's Domestic Disaster **Advance #901670**; or send a check for UMCOR, with the Advance number in the notation line, to our **Conference Treasurer**, Eastern PA Conference, United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 820, Valley Forge, PA 19482. Contributions support the personnel, supplies and equipment needed to organize disaster response and a long-term rebuilding.

*From the Conference Website*

## Worship Participation Schedule

	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
10/8	L. Vitale	J. M. Rich	E. & N. Turner
10/15	R. Coroniti	L. Gular	P. & G. Davis
10/22	C. Masters	G. Frazer	W. & J. Martielli
10/29	W. Martielli	F. Heit	L. & F. Vitale
11/5	L. Moran	D. Erb	A. 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.**

## Valley Forge UMC to offer online American Heart Association course

We will be offering a group learning experience using the American Heart Association course. Bring your laptop and a credit card to register. We'll provide technical help and WIFI. The date is November 11 at 10:15 am in the adult classroom on the lower level of the education building. Questions or to register contact Tom Loane at [tloane@comcast.net](mailto:tloane@comcast.net)

### Heartsaver® CPR AED Online 1.75 Hour Online

The AHA's Heartsaver CPR AED Course has been updated to reflect new science in the 2015 American Heart Association Guidelines Update for CPR and Emergency Cardiovascular Care. This course is designed to prepare students to provide CPR and use an AED in a safe, timely, and effective manner.

Heartsaver CPR AED Online is the eLearning portion of the Heartsaver CPR AED blended learning course and is designed to teach students the cognitive information needed for CPR and AED training.

Upon successful completion of both portions of the course, students receive a Heartsaver CPR AED course completion card, valid for two years.

Price : \$25.50

Tom Loane



**More Help Needed:** Three more people are needed to transport members of our church (who live in the Phoenixville area) to Sunday services. You will be scheduled to drive once a month. Many thanks to Rich and Carole Masters, John Torres, Nancy Loane, Lynda Austin, Jo Marie Jones, Patty Davis, Robin Coroniti, Adam Davis and Pastor Jim, who have already volunteered to drive. Please contact Nancy Loane to sign on. Many thanks!

Nancy Loane



If you are interested in going to Haiti with our Mission Team, please contact Adam Davis. The dates of the trip are February 17-24, 2018.



### October Birthdays

Adam Davis	11
Ian DeMartinis	12
Dick Fallows	27

### October Anniversaries

Liz & Joe O'Hara	6
Barbara & Bill Arnold	31



The Ladies' Birthday Club will meet on Monday, October 30 at the Sly Fox on Kimberton Road in Phoenixville (the restaurant is part of the Maple Lawn plaza—where Planet Fitness is located—at the opposite end). The time is 11:45 a.m. There is plenty of parking around this plaza. Come and join the fun. Let Patty Davis know if you plan to attend.

Patty Davis

**Valley Forge United Methodist Church  
Administrative Board Meeting  
September 25, 2017  
Minutes**

**Attendees:** Scottie DeMartinis, Bob and Doretta Erb, Adam Davis, Fern Heit, Noel Turner, Nancy and Tom Loane, Tom Davis, Jim Hallam, John Torres, Maggie Horosky.

Minutes were approved from August meeting, only correction was to capitalize Bible.

**Old Business:** none.

**Finance:** Income YTD \$88,830, expenses YTD \$72,813. Total Trustees \$468,026. \$3,000 allocated for cabinets, \$4,000 allocated to Haiti. Church operating account total \$4,751 in the operating account.

**SPRC:** No Report

**UMM:** Had a work day on 9/23, performed outdoor work, cleaned out drain behind playground, hung banner for flea market. We discussed and approved getting quotes and John and Glenn will do that for paving behind carriage shed and sealing parking lots.

**UMW:** Preparing for flea market on October 7.

**Learning:** Sunday October 29, the Martiellis will have a presentation on their 3 years in Hong Kong and Far East during a lunch after service. Will consider movie presentation in November, license was renewed for film viewings. November 11<sup>th</sup> will be a group coordinated online class at 10:15 AM for CPR/defibrillator training.

**Reaching Out:** Fern received the information about 3 families from PACS for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**Nurturing:** No Report

**Pastoral Items:** We will have parking assistance during charge conference. Jim thanked Tom for printing labels for new Bibles, and was thankful that all the Bibles were pledged by congregation members.

Jim proposed moving living nativity to be part of the regular Sunday morning service. Living nativity service would be after 10:30AM service and still have 11:00PM candlelight. This would be in lieu a 6 PM family service and evening living nativity. Jim will check with Steve and the animals.

Mission ConneXion of the 5 churches - emphasis on flood buckets. Request from Montgomery County Prison-furnish a room for men to meet with children visitors. Tom Ebersole will get a list of items requested and Jim will update us.

**New Business:** Solidified nominating committee. Nancy has requested additional help with transporting elder members to church services. Extra Bibles will be used for Wednesday Bible study. Jo Ellen will need one for referencing. Adam will purchase a new lapel microphone. Scottie expressed her joy of our teamwork and she is proud to be here.

Pastor Jim closed with a prayer.

# October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 Communion	2	3	4 Bible Study 1 p.m. Pastor Jim	5 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir, 7:30 p.m.	6 Flea Market 9 a.m.—2 p.m.	7
8 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30	9	10	11 Bible Study 1 p.m. Pastor Jim	12 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir, 7:30 p.m.	13 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.	14
15 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30	16 Columbus Day	17	18 Bible Study 1 p.m. Pastor Jim	19 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir, 7:30 p.m.	20 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m. Mens' Group Meeting, 9:30 a.m.	21
22 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Outreach Sunday	23 Admin. Board Mtg. 7 p.m.	24	25 Bible Study 1 p.m. Pastor Jim	26 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir, 7:30 p.m.	27 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.	28
29 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Martelli Presentation & Lunch	30	31 Happy Halloween!			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	