

**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*

## *Spiritually—what’s in your closet?*



Dear Friends,

Do you ever stop and ask yourself, “What shall I wear today?” I ask this question on a daily basis. I usually wear a suit on Sunday, so I go through a process of selecting a suit, a shirt, and a tie that matches. My wardrobe correlates with the activity in which I am engaged. Thus, special attention is paid to Sunday.

I remember taking a Clinical Pastoral Education course in Seminary involving visitant a patient at Graystone Park, a mental hospital in New Jersey. We were required to reflect on our preparation for the visit. I described what I chose to wear and that I combed my hair using a little hairspray to keep it in place. I indicated that I read over my notes from a previous encounter with the person to be seen. My supervisor, a certified Chaplain, wrote on one of my reflection papers something like this: “You prepared yourself well on the outside but what about the inside.” This was a provocative question that startled me and compelled me to think seriously about my preparation before visiting a wounded individual.

Maybe we all need to ask ourselves about our internal wardrobe, that becomes magnified in our living day-by-day. I resonate with the writer of Colossians when he suggests that God has given each of us a wardrobe to wear with his label on it. We live a new life in Christ and are encouraged to feel and live the attributes of kindness, compassion, gentleness, self-discipline, gratitude and love among others. In other words, we are to be Christ-like in our decision making and actions.

To be a Christian disciple endeavoring to incarnate the life and message of Jesus is a challenge. It is, however, the mandate given to us by the Spirit that dwells in each of us. The eternal presence challenges us, compels awareness, and encourages change. The nudge of the Spirit encourages a self-inventory focused on values and intentions. We are to make an intentional effort to actualize in every moment the way of Christ. Ultimately, the way is a love that is grounded in the eternal grace given to us as gift. We are to walk our days with the heart song of the universe warming our hearts. We are instructed to wear love. It is our basic, all purpose garment. We are to never be without it.

What shall I wear today? Please ask the question but do not look in your closet. Look in your heart! Put on the wardrobe especially made for you by a loving God made known in Jesus, our mentor and inspiration.

Peace and Blessings,

Jim Hallam  
Pastor



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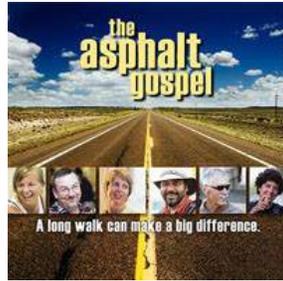
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## Adult Sunday School—11 a.m.

### A New Series:

## The Asphalt Gospel

**Starting**  
**August 20th**



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 11 a.m. on September 3 and 9 a.m. throughout the Fall.

*Tom Loane*



## September Lectionary

### September 3 — Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15    Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c  
Romans 12:9-21    Matthew 16:21-28

### September 10 — Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14    Psalm 149 or Psalm 148  
Romans 13:8-14    Matthew 18:15-20

### September 17 — Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31    Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21  
Romans 14:1-12    Matthew 18:21-35

### September 24 — Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15    Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Psalm 78  
Philippians 1:21-30    Matthew 20:1-16

## On September 10th, back to 9 a.m.

In a previous newsletter, I quoted Dallas Willard's observation in the HEARING GOD DVD Leader's Guide that "Learning to hear God is more about becoming comfortable in a continuing conversation, and learning to constantly lean on the goodness and love of God, than it is about turning God into an ATM for advice."

On September 10th, we'll be watching "Hearing God as a Life," the last of six DVDs for Dallas Willard's book, HEARING GOD, and looking forward to some further discussion that will lead us into another of his books, LIVING IN CHRIST'S PRESENCE. You are not required to have a copy nor to read the book; we will be reviewing and discussing its contents together in class, which usually leads to some interesting comments. Come and see if you would like to be a part of this. We meet in the church "parlor" at 9 a.m.

*Scottie DeMartinis*

## UMW News



Ladies . . . We are getting closer to our week for providing meals for St. Mary's Shelter — the week of 9/11 to 9/15. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Education Building. Please sign up for what you are able to contribute to the daily meals. A family can plan a meal, prepare and deliver it by 4 p.m. on their day. (By the way, the Shelter schedule is very structured, so it's a good idea to have your meal there promptly at 4 p.m.) Another option is for two or three people from different family units to plan a meal together, prepare and deliver it. Another option for anyone is to plan and purchase the ingredients for a meal and deliver them to the Shelter (by 4 p.m.) and the staff there will prepare it. So you have several choices about how to participate in this traditional mission project that our church has done for many years.

If you have questions about this process, please ask me. I'm happy to help. My number is 610-933-3683 or e-mail me at [FernH729@aol.com](mailto:FernH729@aol.com).

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this important project.

*Fern Heit*



## Prayer Scripture of the Month

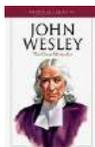
For September the *Prayer Scripture* is:

“Truth, righteousness, peace, faith and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You’ll need them throughout your life. God’s Word is an *indispensable* weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters.”

*Ephesians 6: 14-18 The Message*

JOHN WESLEY

—QUOTE OF THE MONTH



“The testimony of the Spirit is an inward impression on the soul, whereby the Spirit of God directly witnesses to my spirit, that I am a child of God; that Jesus Christ hath loved me, and given himself for me; and that all my sins are blotted out, and I, even I, am reconciled to God.”

From *The Witness of the Spirit*  
Submitted by Bob Erb

## Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC



September 2  
September 9  
September 16  
September 23



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

## It's time to think FLEAS!!!

Calling all Fleas!

Members of the UMW are organizing a Flea Market, which will be held on Saturday, October 7. It's time to start sifting through the basement or attic to make contributions of items that you can't use anymore. Everything but clothing is acceptable.

We do accept prom gowns, winter coats and handbags. Also welcome are: books, linens, pillows, shoes, tools, glassware, dishes, pots/pans, vases, jewelry, games, toys, etc. If you are not sure that an item you have is eligible, please contact Lynda Austin or Fern Heit.

We will begin setting up the Flea Market on Monday, October 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. During the Flea Market, we will offer lunch that includes homemade soups, hot dogs, chips, baked goods and beverages. All workers get lunch free of charge.

Fern Heit



**Give to UMCOR's relief and recovery efforts for Hurricane Harvey 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
9/3	J. M. Jones	F. Heit	R. Coroniti
9/10	M. Torres	N. Turner	L. Moran
9/17	L. Bohl	R. Johnston	M. Torres
9/24	P. Torres	J. Torres	B. & B. Cooke
10/1	D. Erb	T. or N. Loane	C. & M. Dorrin

### 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 United Methodist Church**  
**Administrative Board**  
**August 28, 2017**  
**Minutes**

**In Attendance:** Tom Loane, Glenn Davis, Adam Davis, Nancy Loane, Fern Heit, Pastor Jim Hallam, Maggie Horosky, Patty Davis, Robin Coroniti, Bob Erb, Doretta Erb, Noel Turner, Scottie DeMartinis.

Maggie opened the meeting with a reflection about God's continued love for His creation, despite the imperfections. *Minutes of June 26th meeting were approved.*

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**FINANCE:** Currently, we have an excess of \$6,263.00 for the year vs. the proposed 2017 budget. The Trustees reported that, as of August 25, 2017, the Trustees balance is \$459,937.00 of which \$413,580.00 is in the Vanguard accounts.

**SPRC:** Conference forms were completed for upcoming Charge Conference.

**UMM:** No report.

**UMW:** Flea Market in early October, and September 11th shelter meals upcoming.

**LEARNING:** Summer Bible study went well, with an average of 10 attendees. Online defibrillator classes were discussed. A \$175.00 renewal fee for movie license was approved. The office will send a check under the "education" budget line item. There will not be a Youth Sunday School, since no one is of age yet.

**REACHING OUT (Missions):** The pastor has been sharing letters with the congregation on Sundays which have been sent in by gift recipients.

**NURTURING:** Sunday brunch and church service in Reeve Building is upcoming on September 10th, starting with Sunday School at 9 a.m.

**PASTORAL:** Charge Conference will be held at VFUMC on September 27th (Wednesday) at 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Confirmation classes will be starting soon. Leslie Davis and Kerry Hallam to assist. Some classes will combine with Phoenixville. Summer worship attendance was very good. September 20th is when afternoon Bible study begins; September 24th is the Bible Dedication Sunday; October 22nd is Outreach Sunday; November 12th is Anniversary Sunday; November 19th is Commitment Sunday; November 22nd is Thanksgiving Eve service; and December 10th is a family Advent service at 4pm.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The pastor's discretionary account was increased by \$1,000 for 2017, and will be increased in 2018. Most all 60 Bibles have been dedicated. Only a couple are available. A request was made for the landscaper to cut weeds around the church property. Adam said he would contact him.

Pastor Jim closed the meeting with prayer.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, September 25th, at 7pm. Rick McNeill will be handling the devotion.

Respectfully submitted,  
GD

## *Special Celebration planned for September 10*

**On Sunday, September 10th, we begin a new programmatic year. We will gather together to celebrate our life together. Here is the agenda for this special day when we meet together in the Reeves Building:**

**9:00 a.m. — Christian Education**  
**9:45 a.m. — Breakfast**  
**10:30 a.m. — Worship with Communion**  
*Special Music by Elle Gyandoh*  
**11:30 a.m. — Ice Cream Bar**



### September Birthdays

Rick McNeill	1
Lois Anderson	7
Ian Hranilovich	8
Richard Masters	9
Carole Masters	14
Scottie DeMartinis	14
Sue Walter	16
Sue Rechner	23
Laurie Vitale	26
Richard Plummer	27

### September Anniversaries

Robin & Rick Coroniti	8
Linda & Bob Gular	10
Jane & Richard Plummer	30

### *Announcements*

The Administrative Board is in the process of **planning for the upcoming year** and we are looking for anyone who is interested in **servicing on a committee**. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Pastor Jim, Fern Heit, or Adam Davis. Thank you!



**Help Needed:** Several of our members would like to come to church, but no longer drive. Help is needed to pick them up on a Sunday morning, then drive them home after church. If we get **8 volunteers**, you would drive only once a month. Phoenixville area. Please see Nancy Loane to volunteer. Thanks.

**Johnstons at Open House:** Westtown Station's Open House, featuring the woodworking of Richard Johnston and the photography of Terral Johnston, will be held on **September 16 and 17 from Noon to 5 p.m.** The address of Westtown Station is 850 Street Road, Westtown, PA 19395

**Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study to reconvene:** The Wednesday early afternoon Bible Study led by Pastor Jim, will begin again on **September 20 at 1 p.m.**



The VFUMC **Ladies Birthday Club** will meet to celebrate their September birthdays on Monday, September 25 at Valley Forge Pizza, Route 23—halfway between the church and Phoenixville. The event will begin at 11:45 a.m. Since parking is minimal there, please meet at the church at 11:30 if you want to carpool. To reserve a place, please contact Patty Davis at 610-247-6909 or Nancy Loane at 610-247-0455.

**Bell Choir's First Rehearsal:** The bells will soon be ringing! The first bell rehearsal for the year is Thursday, **September 28 at 7:30 p.m.** An additional one or two ringers are needed, so please join us. Contact Nancy Loane for more information.



# September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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		Fall/Winter Schedule will resume on Sunday, September 10: Sunday School 9 a.m. Refreshments 10 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.			1	2 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
3 Hymn Sing, 9:20 a.m. Worship, 9:30 a.m. Fellowship, 10:30	4 Labor Day	5	6	7 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m.	8	9 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
10 <b>Celebration</b> Sunday School, 9 a.m. Breakfast, 9:45 a.m. Worship, 10:30/Communion Ice Cream Bar, 11:30 a.m.	11	12	13	14 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m.	15	16 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.
17 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	18	19	20 Bible Study 1 p.m. Pastor Jim	21 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m.	22	23 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m. Mens' Group Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
24 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Pew Bible Dedication	25 Admin. Board Mtg. 7 p.m.	26	27 Bible Study 1 p.m. Pastor Jim <b>Charge Conference</b> 6:30 p.m.	28 Sanctuary Choir, 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir, 7:30 p.m.	29	30 Tai Chi, 10:15 a.m.