

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

Trials and Endurance



Dear Friends,

As I sit here and type this out, it has been about four weeks since I have been at the church and in that time the following have occurred:

- Worship that is both Zoom and Facebook Live at the same time
- Weekly devotions
- Website updates
- Hosting the Conference Council on Youth Ministries Meeting
- Talking to several of you
- Leaving messages for several of you

For those I have talked with, you have been so welcoming and I have enjoyed every conversation I have had and look forward to more conversations. And yet, there are more people to call and talk to, and there is much to do in terms of worship, outreach ministry and navigating this time.

And then there is life during these times of uncertainty. Every day it seems that guidance changes on how to be safe; infections increase and responses vary from doing nothing to isolation. It is a time that can create conditions of discord and discontentment in relationships and families. It can be difficult to maintain a positive attitude, and feeling down and antsy is common in today's world. Uncertainty and change always create anxiousness as it forces each of us to adapt to a daily schedule that is different than how we lived prior to COVID-19.

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As I reflect on all of this, I am reminded of the words in James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:3-4—that our life's experiences create for each of us endurance. The authors are describing a type of endurance that is the ability to not only navigate life's conditions but to move through them while focusing on God. This kind of Christian endurance allows us to look at our lives and those conditions that surround our lives and know that we are not alone—that God/Christ is right with us, walking with us, comforting us and loving us. During systemic racism, managing our illnesses, dealing with family dynamics and experiencing intense emotions associated with the changes that have been forced on each of us due to COVID-19, we are facing multiple trials at the same time. This can create a sense of overwhelmingness that can make you feel that the trial is too much and lose focus on how God is interacting in your life. Christian endurance needs trials for each of us to know that no matter what we are going through we are being shaped by God if we let God mold us during our trials. As we endure, we learn how to rely on God more and how to feel God's presence during our trials.

From the Pastor Continued from Page 1

My hopes and prayers are that as you navigate the trials of your life, you choose to rely on God so you can endure those trials growing closer to God. I am looking forward to sharing your trials and walking with you, and to experiencing the trials that ministry will present to us for each of us to grow in our Christian endurance, keeping Christ in focus and taking the time to hear and feel Christ’s presence in our lives.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Dave

Valley Forge UMC to move forward with re-opening the church for worship

Valley Forge UMC is moving forward in offering flexible worship options for all members, beginning August 16th. During this time of uncertainty and following Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (state) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, we are excited to offer the following worship times.

- Sundays at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM (and phone) and livestreamed to Facebook from the Sanctuary (if you would like to worship at this time, please contact Pastor Dave at (814) 883-0118.
- Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in the Reeve Building is a face-to-face worship that will follow all state and CDC guidelines. Masks are needed along with waivers (to be e-mailed prior to August 16th) and hand sanitizer.

We are offering these two opportunities to worship together while continuing an on-line option. We will follow all state and CDC guidelines as published. I look forward to seeing everyone in the worship format that is the most comfortable for you!

Pastor Dave

Looking forward . . .

Please note the following special dates for our church and the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference:

South District Conference:

Tuesday, September 15th,
6:30 p.m. via zoom

Annual Conference:

October 13th-14th
via zoom and livestream

Valley Forge Charge Conference:

October 29th
8 p.m.
via zoom

Thanks received from two local charities

The Church received two thank you letters from our charities:

From Phoenixville Women’s Outreach: “On behalf of Phoenixville Women’s Outreach, I would like to thank you for your recent donation. We are most grateful to be the recipient of this gift, especially during this uncertain time . . . when we know that people, churches, businesses, and nonprofits are all struggling to sustain themselves while helping others.”

Cheryl Messere

From Good Works: “[2020 began as] ‘the year of perfect vision . . . Few if any imagined a global pandemic, racial unrest and political division like we’ve experienced the past [few] months. At Good Works, we will remember [2020] as a time witnessing God’s faithfulness and provision. A time of faith being put into action. A time of service to others when the need was the greatest. A time of lives changed, today and for eternity. A time when hope trumped despair. Thanks for partnering with us.”

Robert Beggs

Scripture of the Month

“Jesus said to them . . . ‘It is the Spirit who gives life; The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.’ ”

John 6:63

Pastor Dave lists Ministry Series and Scriptures for August

This part of the Ministry series spans the five Sundays in August, in which we will continue examining scripture to help us learn about each other and what it means to accomplish ministry together. The series continues as an opportunity for us at Valley Forge UMC to get to know each other through God's word and Christ's example of being love in a world of darkness. The intent is for key areas of a Christian's personality to be examined and how to live out the Christian personality so that together we can be the body of Christ at Valley Forge UMC and beyond. Join us each Sunday in August as our ministry adventure continues!

August 2nd	Acceptance	John 6:60-71
August 9th	Forgiveness	Luke 17:1-10; Philemon 1:17
August 16th	Prayer	Matthew 6:5-15
August 23rd	Faith	2 Corinthians 5:7; Genesis 22:9-14
August 30th	A Journey of Roads	Jeremiah 29:10-14; Matthew 6:25-34; John 4:13-14

August Lectionary



August 2nd — Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21

August 9th— Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-23

August 16th — Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

August 23rd — Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8—2:10 Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20

August 30th — Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:106, 23-26, 45b
Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28

Thank you ...

The members of Valley Forge United Methodist Church owe a debt of gratitude to **John Pancoast** for repairing the damaged drip edge of the Reeve Building for no charge.

Thank You



August Birthdays

Jane Plummer	4
Bill Wynn	4
Wendy Martielli	10
John Torres	19
Lou DeMartinis	21
Nancy Loane	25
Loye Oesterlin	26
Annette Rorke	27
Ben Cooke	30

August Anniversary

Tom & Nancy Loane	10
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From the Trustees: During this time of social distancing, the weeds in our flower beds have gotten a bit out of control. If you have some spare time, please consider spending a few minutes at the church pulling weeds while singing a couple hymns! You don't even have to wear a mask! *Thank you!*

**Valley Forge United Methodist Church
Administration Board Meeting
July 27, 2020 via Zoom Conferencing
Minutes**

In Attendance: Pastor Dave Piltz, Adam Davis, Tom Davis, Glenn Davis, Patty Davis, John Torres, Robin Coroniti, Maggie Horosky.

Pastor Mike opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of June 22nd meeting were approved.

Old Business: Pastor Dave mentioned that we should include a church history on our new website. He will be checking with Jo Ellen to see if we have a short written history to add to the website.

Finance: The finance report from Noel, for the end of June, 2020, shows there was a deficit of \$7,983.00 for the year. Reporting from Tom Davis shows that, as of July 24, 2020, the Trustees balance is \$513,381.00, of which \$466,722.00 is in the Vanguard account. We will need to get clarity from Noel on the definition of the Family Ministries line item, and the Missions and Outreach line item, as well as a possible addition for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and how the Pastor can obtain those funds.

SPRC: Robin reported that there was a meeting this month and that they will meet again in August. Pastor Dave has been calling members of the congregation and has reported very good conversations.

UMW: No Report.

UMM: A note will be placed in the monthly newsletter inviting the congregation to voluntarily stop out to help pull weeds and help take care of the landscaping. John Pancoast took care of repairing the damaged drip edge on the Reeve Building at no charge. Pastor Dave will be sending him a letter of thanks.

Education: No Report.

Outreach: No Report.

Fellowship: No Report.

Pastoral: Pastor Dave noted Annual Conference will be on October 13th and 14th. Richard Johnston will attend. The District Conference will be on September 15th at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Dave felt that it would be advantageous for someone from the congregation to attend. The Charge Conference will be held on Thursday, October 29 at 8 p.m. Charge conference forms are in and will be reviewed.

He noted that it's been very difficult to start with our church with this social distancing, and he has been trying his best to connect well through Zoom and live Facebook. He also noted that he's very excited to discuss new Outreach opportunities when things open up.

New Business: Discussed re-opening of church services in the Reeve Building. A motion was passed to re-open church services on August 16th. There will be a 9:30 a.m. service from the sanctuary that will be a live Facebook broadcast, and there will be a 10:30 a.m. service in the Reeve Building for those who would like to attend that service. Masks, signs, sanitizers, social distance set-ups, etc. will need to be prepared in advance. Those attending will need to sign a waiver form and sign-up sheet. The group cannot exceed 25 people.

The board decided to defer a decision on allowing any outside groups to rent any of the buildings until further notice. The buildings will remain closed to all groups including Jazzercise, birthday party requests, receptions, etc.

Pastor Mike closed the meeting with prayer.

NOTE: NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 24, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
GD

AUGUST, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Sermon: "Acceptance"	3	4	5	6	7	1 8
9 Sermon: "Forgiveness"	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Sermon: "Prayer"	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 Sermon: "Faith"	24 Admin Board Meeting by Zoom 7 p.m.	25	26	27	28	29
30 Sermon: "A Journey of Roads"	31	<p>Please note the time for Sunday services <u>until</u> August 16th is 9:30 a.m. Information about the 16th and after will follow in a church-wide e-mail.</p>				

Topic: Valley Forge UMC Worship
 Time: Sundays until August 16th, 9:30 a.m.
 Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84978720384>
 Meeting ID: 849 7872 0384
 Or call in
 929 205 6099 US (New York)
 Meeting ID: 849 7872 0384