

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

God is always moving forward, so keep learning

Dear Friends,



God is always creating. “Behold, I make all things new.” (Rev. 21:5) Our God is always moving forward, always has a new word to say, a fresh idea to share. God allows the former things to pass away. We do not always enjoy the change, but change is the way of God and the way of all life. That which never changes is not real, not alive, and a delusion. So with the new year will come some changes.

One of which is me, your next pastor, Rev. Michael Johnson. I have worshiped with you in the past, visiting with my wife, Bishop Peggy Johnson, your current bishop. Later in the year that will probably change, because she is currently limited to twelve years in one place. I have even worshiped once on my own. I will be serving “on loan” from the Baltimore-Washington Conference, of which I am a clergy member. I grew up in the United States Army, as my father served our country. I was baptized at Portsmouth Naval Hospital minutes after my birth by a nurse because I was not expected to live. God answers prayers and I am still here. I was confirmed in my faith and joined the Methodist Church in Mineral Wells, Texas in 1968. I graduated from Carroll High School in Ozark, Alabama in 1973 and with a bachelor degree in Psychology from Texas State University in 1976. In 1978 I was ordained a deacon and became a probationary member of the Southwest Texas Annual Conference (now the Rio Texas Conference). While I attended Asbury Theological Seminary where I graduated with an MDiv in 1980, I married my wife, Peggy and served a two point Borden circuit in the South Indiana Conference. After graduation I accepted the appointment to the three point Doubs circuit in Frederick County, Maryland and had two sons, Peter and Gabriel. In 1981 I was ordained an elder and became a member of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. I later was the pastor of Lansdowne United Methodist Church which I served twice and Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church. Since my wife has been a bishop I have served churches in the Peninsula-Delaware Conference and the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. I am looking forward to being your pastor for the next six months.

I am a teacher, teaching at the school of laity, at district tools for ministry and for the United Methodist Women at their Mission U, at which I will once again be teaching for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference this coming summer. I am also known for writing communion liturgy, and have written liturgy for the worship of Annual Conference, Youth Rally, and General Conference.

My current appointment with the Baltimore-Washington Conference is as a Spiritual Director which will be my other job while I am working part time with you. I have a small practice, and work with a few lay and clergy persons as they seek to deepen their spiritual walk. As a spiritual director I work from a belief that God wants to have a personal relationship with every person, and I know that each of us walk a unique path. I believe that God is bigger, and encourages humans being to be humble, and to be open to what God has to show us: about ourselves, about the universe we live in, and about who God is. I believe I have so much to learn, and that the more I learn, the more I discover that I have only begun to scratch the surface of what God desires to show me. My hope is that my excitement about my spiritual journey will help you in some small way to get more excited about your own spiritual walk during this new year of our Lord 2020.

Blessings, Pastor Michael Johnson

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January Lectionary



January 5 – Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

January 12 – Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17

January 19 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42

January 26 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23

Announcement . . .

The next meeting of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee will be on Monday, January 27, 2020, at 6:15 p.m., before the 7 p.m. Administrative Board meeting.



Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC



January 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

Adult Sunday School class to focus on Galatians

A good activity for the New Year!

For this new year of 2020, a good resolution for each of us is to spend more time in Bible study. Our adult Sunday-school class at VFUMC is a convenient way to study the Word of God in a friendly small group.

We meet in the church parlor at 9:00 a.m. Please join us as we continue our studies in the Book of Galatians. We provide Bibles, or bring your own. We invite you to come!

Bob Erb



Short Sayings . . .

The further a society drifts from truth, the more it will hate those who speak it.

George Orwell

The object of opening the mind...is to close it again on something solid.

*G. K. Chesterton
(in The Autobiography of G. K. Chesterton [1936])*

Nobody is bored when he is trying to make something that is beautiful, or to discover something that is true.

William Inge, writer and clergyman

Submitted by Bob Erb



Scripture of the Month

For January the special Scripture is:

*“Jesus (taking a child by his side) said,
“Whoever welcomes this child in my name
welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me
welcomes the one who sent me;
for the least among all of you is the greatest.”*

Luke 9:47-48

Save the Date:

On Sunday, **February 9**, the annual **Valentine’s Pancake Breakfast** will be held from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This year, the meal is free. Just come and enjoy the food and fellowship. Bring a friend!



January Birthdays



Patty Torres	6
Beth Lishon	8
Audrey Jamieson	8
Beth Cooke	18
Jennie Dishong	25
Bob Erb	30

January Anniversaries

None



A couple of our members, namely **Linda Gular and husband, Bob**, played **Santa and Mrs. Claus** this holiday season, to add spirit and sparkle to Christmas for children in the area. And while they were enacting the famous couple, who should arrive but their own young granddaughter, **Bettie Jean O’Hara** with her parents, **Liz and Joe**. It looks like everyone was having a wonderful time—all smiling faces.

*Photos submitted by
Linda Gular.*

Bettie Jean also enjoyed “showing some love” to the donkey after our **Live Nativity event on December 22**. **Bettie Jean** looks enchanted—the donkey—not so sure.



Calling all Liturgists . . . If you are at all interested in reading scriptures during our worship services, please call the church office or send an e-mail. Thanks.

Worship Participation Schedule			
	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
1/5	TBA	R. Johnston	F. Heit
1/12	L. Davis	J. Rich	S. McClellan
1/19	M. Horosky	J. Torres	R. & T. Johnston
1/26	L. Gular	L. Gular	J. & L. Bohl

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.

JANUARY, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
	Jazzercise: Monday-Thursday at 6:15-7:15 p.m.; Friday & Saturday at 9-10 a.m. Choir—Julia Rich Tai Chi—Maggie Horosky					
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Communion Luncheon right after worship				Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.				Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.				Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	SPRC meeting 6:15 p.m. Administrative Board Meeting 7 p.m.			Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.		