

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

What Are You Giving For Lent?

Dear Friends,



There is a custom held by many Christians that Lent is a time for giving up, a time for sacrifice. Often it is the sacrifice of something very pleasant such as chocolate or deserts. I am not sure what is really accomplished by these acts for our souls. It may be a better way to look at the sacrifice of lent by linking it to giving something to make the world better.

At the end of Lent we remember Good Friday, where Jesus made his sacrifice for all who have lived in the past, in the present, and in the future. Through this sacrifice, Jesus gave to all the gift of eternal life, not based upon anything but the generous love of God. The gift is ours, all we have to do is to accept it and embrace its reality in our lives. The sacrifice of Christ was a gift of grace. So during Lent, what gift of grace are you going to give?

When Jesus was going to the cross, there was a choice. Jesus had options. Jesus did not have to accept the evil we had planned for him. He could have walked away at any time. While his tormentors where thinking they were mocking a dying man, they were actually telling the truth. Jesus could have left the cross at any time, he could have done it peacefully, or with force. It was always an option. They just happen to be options he did not choose. Their mocking would have stopped abruptly if Jesus would have opened their eyes to see the ten thousand angels just waiting his command to destroy the world and save their Christ. Instead Jesus chose to be obedient unto death, even the ugly death upon a cross, so that he could give us a gift: forgiveness for all the stupid unthinking things we do all the time. Jesus gave us a gift of grace.

The question for us is how can we emulate Jesus this lent and give the gift of grace to someone who may never deserve to receive it from us? This is a gift to our worst enemy that they may never know we have given them. This may be a gift to a perfect stranger who would never be able to repay us for our kindness. A gift of grace is an act of salvation to someone we see is struggling. A gift of grace that is an answer to prayers that only God has fully heard and understood.

Lent for Christians is a season of openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we seek to perceive how God wants to use us. It is listening for God's answer to our prayer, "Lord, not my will but your will be done." You cannot do what you did last year because God may need use your gift to bless someone new. Is there a sin committed against you that you need to forgive not just in word but in deed? Is there a relationship that needs healing? Is someone angry with you, and it is not even your fault but theirs? For lent be like Jesus, tell them you are sorry. Take the blame. Forgive them for not understanding what they did. And open up a new opportunity for you both to live a new life.

Are there those who do not love you, who mock you, and wish you were dead. It may be the gracious act of sacrifice to step away from their lives. Be the one to take the animosity out of the situation. You may allow this death of your relationship so both of you may experience, the possibility of resurrection and new life. It may be a gift of grace.

Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	1
March Lectionary	2
Adult Sunday School	2
Short Sayings	2
Lenten Service Schedule	3
Birthdays/Anniversaries	3
Volunteer Schedule	3
Shrek Performance	4
Admin Board Minutes	5
March Calendar	6

March Lectionary



March 1 – First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7 Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

March 8 – Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17 or
Matthew 17:1-9

March 15 – Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

March 22 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

March 29—Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45



“What are you giving for Lent?”

Continued from page 1

Is there someone who is all alone and needs someone to come into their life. Not just for a moment but for a life time. God might give you the gift of becoming that person, that gift of grace. Adoption into a family can be a powerful gift. It may be children who need a grandmother. It may be a young mother who needs a big sister. It may be a young man who needs a wise uncle, who could mentor and show the ropes. Could that gift of grace be you.

We never know the gift of grace we can be, until we take the chance and say to “God, here I am, send me.”

Blessings, Pastor Michael Johnson

Adult Sunday School class now focusing on Ephesians

Many Christians are spiritually starved because they ignore the spiritual “food” God has provided in the Bible. Why not join us to study God’s word joyfully in a small group together? In this Adult Sunday School class we often experience interesting discussions as we learn.

In March 2020, we are going verse-by-verse through the wonderful book of Ephesians.

We meet in the church parlor at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We provide Bibles, or bring your own. We invite you to come!

Bob Erb

Short Sayings . . .

If you experience the gospel, you never get over the sense of relief of being rescued.

Pastor John Starke-2017

I thought growing old would take longer.

A realization expressed on a T-shirt

“How goes your walk with Christ?”

A classic greeting by late 17th-Century Pietists

Submitted by Bob Erb



Scripture of the Month

For March the special *Scripture* is:

Jesus asked, “For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves?”

Is it not the one at the table?

But I am among you as one who serves.”

Luke 22:27

Tai Chi at Valley Forge UMC



Tai Chi Classes



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

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

Lenten Service theme is “Bridges”

The theme of this year’s Community Lenten Services is “Bridges.” All services are held on **Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:30 p.m.**

On **March 4**, the mid-week service will be held at **St. Ann Roman Catholic Chapel**, 605 Main Street in Phoenixville. **Pastor Nathan Coleman** of Bethel Baptist Church will preach **“Bridge Over Greed.”**

On **March 11**, the service will be held at **St. John’s Lutheran Church**, 355 St. John’s Circle in Phoenixville. **Pastor Eric Woodworth** of Charlestown United Methodist Church will preach **“Bridges Over Fear.”**

On **March 18**, the service will be held at **St. Peter’s Episcopal Church**, 121 Church Street in Phoenixville. **Pastor Dan McDowell** of Grace Crossing Church will preach **“Bridging the Swamp.”**

On **March 25**, the service will be held at **First Presbyterian Church**, Main and Morgan Streets in Phoenixville. **Pastor Cynthia Krommes** of St. John’s Lutheran Church will preach **“Bridging Difference.”**

On **April 1**, the service will be held at **Grimes AME Church**, 338 Morris Street in Phoenixville. **Pastor Doug Hagler** of First Presbyterian Church will preach **“When to Burn a Bridge.”**



March Birthdays

Gail Frazer	10
Richard Johnston	13
Maggie Cooke	17
Maya Cooke	17
Soren DeMartinis	18
Derek Martielli	22
Kerry Hallam	27

March Anniversaries

Patty & Glenn Davis	5
Jo Marie & Steve Hranilovich	14

Time to Spring Ahead . . .



On **Saturday, March 7**, before you retire for the evening, turn your clock ahead one hour.

Food for Thought: There are different kinds of love—love you feel for a spouse, for a child, for a parent, etc. Scripture says we should also love our “enemies.” But who are our enemies? Think about it. More about this next month.

Free Shrek Performance to be held on April 2

A **free Shrek** performance (see **poster on page 4** of this newsletter) will be held on Thursday, April 2 at 1 p.m. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. This performance will be held at the Perkiomen Valley Middle School. Our own Sandy Knotts is involved in this production, and she has directions to the Middle School if you need them. You may e-mail Sandy at: sknotts@pvsd.org


Worship Participation Schedule

	Refreshments	Liturgist	Greeter
3/1	J. M. Jones	J. Torres	P. & G. Davis
3/8	B. Cooke	J. Martielli	C. & R. Masters
3/15	S. Jennings	J. Rich	S. Jennings
3/22	L. Moran	J. Torres	E. & N. Turner
3/29	L. Bohl	L. Gular	W. & J. Martielli
4/5	F. Heit	D. Erb	L. Austin

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.

Perkiomen Valley High School

Presents



SHREK

THE MUSICAL

Based on the Dreamworks Animation Motion Picture and the book by William Steig

Friday 4/3 7:30 pm Saturday 4/4 6:30 pm
Sunday 4/5 2:00 pm

Spahr Auditorium - PV Middle School East

Tickets \$10.00

Ticket information: www.pymb.org

Book and Lyrics by
DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE

Music by
JEANINE TESORI

Originally produced on Broadway by
DreamWorks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions

SHREK THE MUSICAL

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.MTIShows.com

**Valley Forge United Methodist Church
Administration Board Meeting
Minutes
February 24, 2020**

In Attendance: Pastor Michael Johnson, Glenn Davis, Tom Davis, Noel Turner, Bob Erb, Adam Davis, Fern Heit, Patty Davis, Robin Coroniti, Maggie Horosky, Patty Torres, Doretta Erb

Adam Davis opened the meeting with a reflection on love, and returning to what our belief is. He reminded us that Jesus is the way to truth, and we should not try to change it.

Minutes of January 27th were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: Tom Davis reported that property insurance coverage has been increased on the Reeve building, as was approved at the January meeting.

FINANCE: Adam stated that an audit of the general checking account was completed, and everything was found to be in order. The finance report for the end of January, 2020 shows there was an actual surplus of \$2,376.00 for the year.

Reporting from Tom Davis shows, as of February 23, 2020, the Trustees balance is \$525,312.00 of which \$479,294.00 is in the Vanguard account. Financial reports were approved. Tom also noted that he will be working to prepare a document for the bank which shows the Church Treasurer and Trustees Chair.

SPRC: Robin Coroniti is interim chair, and a permanent chair is expected to be selected this Sunday.

UMW: There was a meeting this past Sunday, and the committee agreed to donate \$400.00 each to seven (7) local community organizations.

UMM: A clean-up day is being planned for the Spring. Lighting was repaired in the parlor area.

EDUCATION: No report.

OUTREACH: Adam Davis, having returned from the Haiti mission this past Saturday, reported that the group built five new houses over the week, two of which were funded by VFUMC. He will be presenting a slide show about the mission on Sunday, March 8th as part of the church service.

FELLOWSHIP: The Valentine Pancake Breakfast was held on Sunday, February 9th by the Martielli family and much appreciated by all who attended.

PASTORAL: Bible study continues. Ash Wednesday service will be at First United Methodist Church, and the Easter Sunrise service is in the works.

NEW BUSINESS: A motion was carried by the board to appoint Libby Moran and John Torres to SPRC, who were nominated by Doretta Erb of the Nominating Committee.

Pastor Mike closed the meeting with prayer.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 23, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Patty Davis will be handling the devotion, and Robin will run the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
GD

MARCH, 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Communion SPRC Mtg , right after worship, Pastor's Office	2	3	4 Bible Study (Pastor Michael) Office, 10:30 a.m. Lenten Service, St. Ann Roman Catholic Church, 7:30 p.m.	5 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.	6	7
8 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	9	10	11 Bible Study (Pastor Michael) Office, 10:30 a.m. Lenten Service, St. John's Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m.	12 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.	13	14
15 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	16	17	18 Bible Study (Pastor Michael) Office, 10:30 a.m. Lenten Service, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 7:30 p.m.	19 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.	20	21
22 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	23 Administrative Board Meeting 7 p.m.	24	25 Bible Study (Pastor Michael) Office, 10:30 a.m. Lenten Service, First Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m.	26 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m.	27	28
29 Sunday School, 9 a.m. Fellowship, 10 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.	30	31			Jazzercise: Monday-Thursday at 6:15-7:15 p.m.; Friday & Saturday at 9-10 a.m. Choir—Julia Rich Tai Chi—Maggie Horosky	