



06.22.2017

www.uccvf.org

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UCC/VF's Weekly Newsletter

The FORGE

SABBATICAL SEASON: DEEPER ROOTS, WIDER REACH

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The United Church of Christ at Valley Forge, following in the Way of Jesus, is called by God to deepen our relationships with the Spirit and our faith community so that we will be empowered to reach out widely to our neighbors in love, justice, hospitality, healing, and hope.

Scripture for
This Sunday
Genesis 21:8-21
Matthew 10:24-39

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." - Jesus in Matthew 11:28-30

Your church leadership team loves this community and what the Spirit has been doing among and through us, and so they have been intentional that the Sabbatical season not be a "checking out" time for the congregation. Please, be a part of our being rooted together. Join us for worship whenever you are in town on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. - most Sundays Pastor Meagan McLeod will preach, but we will also honor our newer tradition of church members sharing the Sunday message on four different occasions during this season. Join us for Wednesday evening (led by Pastor Meagan McLeod) Spiritual Life group which will meet through the end of June. Please, continue to honor your personal spiritual practices wherever you are in this season. Please continue to take advantage of other opportunities to learn, laugh, serve, and share throughout this season, that we will continue to be an inclusive community that reaches out widely to our neighbors with justice, love, hospitality, healing, and hope.

Contacts in this season:

General church questions: Renee Miller, Administrative Assistant 610-688-8588
church@uccvf.org

Pastoral care need: [Beth Eustis](#), Moderator of the Elders

Pastoral care emergency (hospice, death, crisis) or wish to talk with a Pastor for whatever reason: [Pastor Meagan McLeod](#), Sabbatical Supply Pastor, Cell phone: 267-439-0651

Questions about our Music Ministry: [Joan Johnson](#), Director of Music

Questions about Christian Education: [Nathanael Vissia](#), CE Director

Our Senior Pastor, Michael Bush, will return following Labor Day

Thank you for being part of what the Spirit is doing within and among and through the United Church of Christ at Valley Forge!

Come and see.

SUNDAY - JUNE 25

10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration
Sunday School
NO Sunday Morning Breakfast
Club
3:00 p.m. Church softball with
Presbyterian Power

THIS WEEK

Wed. - 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Life
Group - Exodus
Thur. - Spiritual Life Group -
Matthew will return in Sept.

NEXT SUNDAY - JULY 2 COMMUNION

10:30 a.m. Worship
Celebration/Communion
Sunday School
NO Sunday Morning Breakfast
Club

Listen to & download Sunday's message

<http://www.uccvf.org/sermonmp3.html>



CONGRATS TO RON (and Leah) ADAMS

*former UCCVF member and Assistant Coach for the
Golden State Warriors*

Strengthen the Church Special Offering: Invest in the Vision

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. We will continue to receive the Strengthen The Church offering through the month of June and we invite you to prayerfully consider your contribution.

Many thanks, Angela Steel and the Stewardship Committee

In Our Prayers

- Healing thoughts for Walt Glazier, son-in-law of Doug and Judy Johnson who is having back surgery soon.
- Healing for Mary Evans, our Infant/Toddler Room caregiver who is recuperating from a fall.
- Healing for Vicki Johnson, friend of the Matthews family.
- Healing for Dan Mitchell. <https://www.gofundme.com/28j7uq4>
- Support for Reese Bogle.
- Healing and strength for Emily Mancuso.

UPCOMING GREETERS

June 25 - Frank and Carol Schmidt

July 2 - Sam and Melba Matthews

July 9 - Jody and Allen Canale

UPCOMING USHERS

June 25 - Joan Walkup and Mary Shiffer

July 2 - Holly Branham and Cheryl Fredericks

July 9 - Jim and Rosemary McKinley

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP

TIME

June - The Hillman team

July - TBA

August - The Smith team

WORSHIP CANDLE LIGHTING

June 25 - Gwynne Hagee

July 2 - Jane Groves

July 9 - The Glatfelter family

SOUNDBOARD

June 25 - Jeff Durst

July 2 - Kristin Canale

July 9 - Lauren Patrick

SMALL GROUPS FOR WAY, TRUTH, AND LIFE MULTIPLIED

Whether you have previously participated or not, you are welcome to try one out.

Wednesday Night Spiritual Life Group - Exodus

Many have seen the *Ten Commandments* film that tells part of the Exodus story, but we offer an opportunity to look at this story more fully and connect it with the stories of our own spiritual journey. Some questions we will consider include: What are the stories we have not commonly heard in this narrative? Why did Israel tell this story? How and why has this story so often spoken to oppressed and hurting people (like African slaves)? As citizens of a modern empire and also fragile human beings who can experience bondage in different ways, how does this story of Empire and liberation from bondage speak to us individually and as communities of people? Come join us each Wednesday evening 7:30-8:30 at UCCVF. We open with prayer, sometimes share some goodies, read and talk about the text and how it connects with our contemporary situation, and close with a prayer circle. Rev. Meagan McLeod will facilitate. Come and see!

Thursday Morning Spiritual Life Group - Gospel of Matthew will return in September

This group meets at UCCVF 10:30-11:30 a.m. each week. We begin with prayer, read a portion of the story of Jesus and his ministry, and then we discuss what the story meant in its own time and how it may form and shape us in our time. Matthew's Gospel is often best known for the Beatitudes and Sermon on the Mount. We will look at these teachings, the context, the symbols, and more. Pastor Michael Bush will facilitate the conversation starting September 14. Come and see!

Sunday Morning Prayer Advocacy Ministry: This group meets monthly for a time of praying for one another and for anyone requesting prayer. They also read and discuss various books on prayer and healing as a way to grow in understanding and practice of prayer. We meet generally the second Sunday of the month 9:00 AM-10 AM For more information contact Gwynne Hagee.

Grief Support Group: Pastor Michael continues leading a monthly Grief Recovery group here at UCCVF for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one and are grieving. The group will meet again in August.

Lean on Me Prayer Ministry: The Lean On Me prayer ministry is a one-on-one prayer time that is offered *every Sunday after worship*. Two of our Prayer Partners will be seated in the chapel chairs in the Sanctuary. You are welcome to come and sit next to one of them, tell them what you would like to pray about (a joy, concern, or thanksgiving) and then the Prayer Partner will lift you up in prayer.



HAVE YOU LIKED US ON FACEBOOK?

Our Facebook page offers links to articles connected with faith life, periodic reminders, photos and more!

Click [HERE](#) to visit.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Greeter

- Frank and Carol Schmidt

Ushers

- Joan Walkup and Mary Shiffer

Lighting the Worship Candle

- Gwynne Hagee

Soundboard

- Jeff Durst

Lean on Me Prayer Partner

- Christine Durst and Chris Jackson

Infants/Toddlers

- Barb Fox and Virginia Dewitt

UCCVF Softball



We had another exciting game on Sunday against the Iron Works Church of Phoenixville. It is a relatively new church that joined the league last year. It was another low scoring game that was very quiet for a few innings. After giving up a run, UCCVF scored 5 in the third for a 5 - 1 lead. But Iron Works would not go softly and by the end of the sixth inning, we led 8 - 5. In the top of the seventh, they got several on base, but we were able to hold them to one run for an 8 - 6 win. Another strong defensive game. We are still tied for third place going into our last two games.

This Sunday we play Presbyterian Power - a combination of Phoenixville and Ardmore Presbyterian Churches. We have had many very good games against them, so hope to get back on track in scoring a few more runs. A win against them will ensure we make the playoffs on July 16. The game is at 3:00 on Field 1 (the field to the left as viewed from the parking lot).

Come and cheer for the team! If you have any questions or if you are interested in playing, please contact [Ed Hafer](#).

HELP NEEDED FOR THE MITCHELL FAMILY - UPDATE

An update on the Mitchell family: While Dan is no longer having seizures, he is still having some health issues and is not yet back at work full time. It is hard for them to pay all their bills for their family, including two small children, with one income. Any gift cards for Wegmans or Giant or a Visa gift card that can be spent on anything would be very much appreciated. Most of all, please keep this family in your prayers.



FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

The **Caring Crafters** are meeting monthly during the summer to create items for charity. Email the church office if you would like to join the group.

The **Monthly Dinner Out** group meets monthly at local eateries for fun and fellowship. Members are asked to sign up to pick a place to eat and organize the meal. If you would like to join the group, please let Rosemary McKinley know. The next dinner will be held Friday, June 23 at Lauren Patrick's house. Call the church office for details.

UCCVF Bridge Group - We meet once a month at various locations. All are welcome - any level of expertise is invited from novice to experienced. It is a social group. Dessert and coffee or tea will be served and then we start playing cards. Contact Phil Clark for more info.

IN MEMORIAM

A Redbud Tree has been installed by Susan Bradley in memory of Jimmy Crane. The tree was planted along the right side of the entry drive. The memorial tree will be dedicated in the fall after Michael Bush returns.



Sabbatical Supply Pastor
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