



08.10.2017

www.uccvf.org

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UCC/VF's Weekly Newsletter

# The **FORGE**

## 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  
Psalm 85:8-13  
Matthew 14:22-33

## Interfaith Getting-to-Know-You Picnic at Milky Way Farm

The UCCVF Adult Spiritual Formation Team would like to invite our church family to an Interfaith Getting-To-Know-You Picnic, THIS Sunday, August 13th at Matthews' Milky Way Farm in Chester Springs. We will gather at 5 p.m.; children are welcome, and the event will be held rain or shine. The congregations of the speakers who participated in our Interfaith Dialogue in February are being invited to this strictly social potluck supper. Hopefully, this will include representatives from a West Chester mosque, Philadelphia Jewish temple and New Jersey Hindu temple.

Please bring a dish to pass--anything from appetizer through dessert--and bring your lawn chairs if you have some. Beverages will be provided, but you are welcome to also bring one to share if you wish. Chester Springs Creamery will also be open for those who may wish to purchase additional ice cream for dessert.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area just to give us an idea of how many people may be planning to attend. Feel free to direct questions to Melba Matthews or Catherine Smith.

During the February event, we learned that we had many common points among our religions; come and enjoy discovering our common humanity.

Click on this [link](#) for directions to Milky Way.



## SUNDAY - AUG. 13

10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration  
Sunday School  
5:00 p.m. Interfaith Picnic at Milky  
Way Farm

### THIS WEEK

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

Thur. - Spiritual Life Group -  
Matthew will return in Sept.

## NEXT SUNDAY - AUG. 20

10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration  
Sunday School



## FREE BASEBALL TICKETS!!!

The LGBT Equality Alliance, which our church has supported for the past several years, is sponsoring a PRIDE NIGHT at the Reading "Fightin' Phils" (minor league baseball team) game on *Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 7:05pm*. They are offering FREE TICKETS for their supporters.

If you would like to join the UCCVF group attending this game, please contact [Christine Durst](#) at or 919-604-3425, and she will put you on the list!

*Please contact her as soon as possible, because these tickets will go fast!*

## Listen to & download Sunday's message

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

## **SABBATICAL SEASON: DEEPER ROOTS, WIDER REACH**

*"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. 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](mailto: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

## In Our Prayers



- Support for Reese Bogle.
- Healing and strength for Emily Mancuso.

#### UPCOMING GREETERS

Aug. 20 - Rob and Marni Schultz

Aug. 27 - Mary Shiffer and Holly Branham

Sept. 3 - TBA

#### UPCOMING USHERS

Aug. 20 - The McAleer family

Aug. 27 - Chris Maurizio and Randy Hove

Sept. 3 - TBA

#### UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP TIME

August - The Smith team

Sept. - The Nilson team

Oct. - The Matthews team

#### UPCOMING WORSHIP CANDLE LIGHTING

Aug. 20 - The McAleer family

Aug. 27 - The Flora family

Sept. 3 -

#### UPCOMING SOUNDBOARD

Aug. 20 - Lauren Patrick

Aug. 27 - Jim McKinley

Sept. 3 - TBA

## 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 will return in September

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.

### 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.

**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 September.

**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

### Greeters

- Mary Urso and Joan Walkup

### Ushers

- Grover and Charlotte Emrich

### Lighting the Worship Candle

- Beth Eustis

### Soundboard

- Chris Maurizio

### Lean on Me Prayer Partner

- Christine Durst and Chris Jackson

### Infants/Toddlers

- Tori Hall and Gwynne Hagee

## 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.

**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.

Sabbatical Supply Pastor  
The Rev. Meagan McLeod  
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