



07.19.2018

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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 23

Luke 15:11-32

2 Corinthians 4:7-9

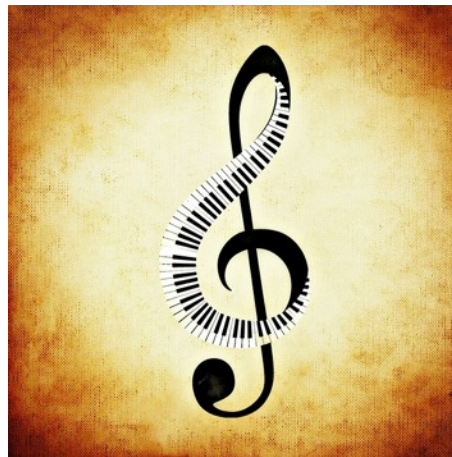
JULY SCHEDULE

After leading us in worship last Sunday, Pastor Michael has begun a season of vacation and study leave that has him away the other July Sundays. Elders have arranged for preaching and worship leadership during those weeks as well as asking some folks to be "on call" for Emergency Pastoral Care. Please be sure to join us for the gift of worshipping together as well as supporting your fellow members who are choosing to be vulnerable and courageous and share a good news message with you.

Preaching schedule:

July 22 - Shannon Mudd

July 29 - Carl Wasylyszyn



UPDATE FROM TRANSITIONAL MUSIC STAFF SEARCH TEAM

The team has been working diligently through the Spring and into the beginning of Summer. We have received materials from qualified candidates and begun the interview process. We had hoped to find someone for the position before too many members of our team were scattering for some summer time afar (or to give birth to a child!), but, alas, we have not completed the process. So, we have to pause our meetings for the month of July, and hope to resume the process in early August. Thank you for your continued prayers.

Team members: *Sue Bradley, Mark Fehnel, Christine Durst, Joe McKeefery, Michael Bush, Shannon Mudd, Tim Dougherty, and Elaine Langerhans*

Listen to & download Sunday's message

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

UPCOMING GREETERS

July 29 - Virginia DeWitt

Aug. 5 - Catherine Smith

Aug. 12 - TBA

UPCOMING USHERS

July 29 - Rob Schultz and David Reese

Aug. 5 - Janice Coffey and Joan Walkup

Aug. 12 - Chris Maurizio

UPCOMING COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

July - The Neubig Flock

Aug. - The Schultz Flock

Sept. - The Flora Flock

SOUNDBOARD

July 29 - Jim McKinley

Aug. 5 - Joe Sciandra

Aug. 12 - Matt Harrington

WORSHIP CANDLE

July 29 - Ed Matthews

Aug. 5 - Holly Branham

Aug. 12 - Ellen Matthews

UPCOMING LITURGISTS

July 29 - Cheryl Fredericks

Aug. 5 - Beth Eustis

Aug. 12 - Chris Jackson



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

Click [HERE](#) to visit.

SMALL GROUPS

NOTE: SOME OF THESE GROUPS WILL BE BREAKING FOR JULY, AND RESUMING IN AUGUST.

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

Wednesday Night Spiritual Life Group - Gospel of Matthew - Will Resume in September

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. 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.

Thursday Morning Spiritual Life Group - Book of Exodus - Will Resume in August

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 Thursday morning from 10:30-11:30 a.m. 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. Pastor Michael facilitates. 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](#). We meet SUNDAY, September 9 at 9:00 p.m.

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 next meeting will be held on Monday, September 24 at 1:00 p.m.

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.

SUNDAY - JULY 22

10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration
Sunday School

Beth Eustis and Shannon Mudd
will lead worship and deliver the
message.

Church Softball playoffs

NEXT SUNDAY - AUGUST 5

COMMUNION

10:30 a.m. Worship
Celebration/Communion
Sunday School

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

Greeter - Grover Emrich

Ushers - The Mudd family

**Lighting the Worship Candle -
Jenifer Mudd**

Liturgist - Shannon Mudd

Soundboard - Lauren Patrick

**Lean on Me Prayer Partners -
Beth Eustis**

**Infants/Toddlers - Tori Hall
and Wendy Pekol**

UCCVF SOFTBALL UPDATE

The UCCVF Softball team got rained out last Sunday. Because of the league tie break rules, our 4 - 2 record was good enough for fourth place, so we will be in the playoffs this Sunday against the Church of the Good Samaritan. The game is at 1:30 on Field A (to the left from the parking lot). If we win that game we will play for the championship at 3:30 against the winner of the Apostles and Wayne Presbyterian. Please come join us or cheer for us! If any questions, please contact [Evan Pennypacker](#) or [Ed Hafer](#).



FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

The **Caring Crafters** meet on Wednesday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. at UCCVF to create items for charity. No crafting experience necessary! 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.

In Our Prayers

- Healing and strength for Charlotte Emrich who broke her arm in a fall and is recuperating from surgery.
- Complete healing for Walt Glazier, son in law of Doug and Joan Johnson, who will have a third back surgery in the near future.
- Comfort and peace for Martha Parrish Bush's sister, Maggie, who has stage 4 bone cancer.
- Healing and strength for Emily Mancuso.

Pastor
The Rev. Michael T. Bush
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