



05.25.2017

www.uccvf.org

church@uccvf.org 610.688.8588

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 68:32-35  
John 17:1-11

## **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. To that end, we have hired a pastor who will offer Spirit-filled preaching, new perspectives and understandings, and her own unique lens on the faith stories. We also have the continuing excellent work of our music and Christian Education staff and lay leaders who will together support us in not just "getting through" a Sabbatical season, but in this being a growing season, a time of continuing to deepen our roots in the Spirit that we can widen our reach in love.

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) and Thursday morning (led by Beth Eustis) Spiritual Life groups 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.

*(next page)*

## SUNDAY - MAY 28

10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration  
Sunday School

NO Sunday Morning Breakfast  
Club

Rev. Meagan McLeod will deliver  
the message

NO Church softball

## THIS WEEK

Wed. - 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Life  
Group - Exodus

Thur. - 10:30 a.m. Spiritual Life  
Group - Matthew

11:45 a.m. - Adult Spiritual  
Formation Team mtg.

## NEXT SUNDAY - JUNE 4

### COMMUNION

### PENTECOST SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Teacher Appreciation  
Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Worship  
Celebration/Communion

All Ages Worship. All children and  
youth will remain in worship this  
morning.

4:30 p.m. Church Softball with  
Great Valley Presbyterian

## **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

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.

**Listen to & download Sunday's message**

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

## **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 receive the Strengthen The Church offering on **Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017** and we invite you to prayerfully consider your contribution.

*Many thanks, Angela Steel and the Stewardship Committee*

## In Our Prayers

- 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

May 28 - Henry and Sophie Vila

June 4 - The Wynne family

June 11 - Evan and Melissa Penny-  
packer

#### UPCOMING USHERS

May 28 - Gwynne Hagee and Chris  
Maurizio

June 4 - Phil and Sue Clark

June 11 - Rob Schultz and Mark  
Fehnel

#### UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP TIME

May - The Matthews team

June - The Hillman team

July - TBA

#### WORSHIP CANDLE LIGHTING

May 28 - Harrington family

June 4 - Beth Eustis

June 11 - TBD

#### SOUNDBOARD

May 28 - Lauren Patrick

June 4 - Matt Harrington

June 11 - Jim McKinley

## 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

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. Beth Eustis facilitates the conversation. 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. The next meeting will be held Sunday, June 11 at 9:00 a.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 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

- Henry and Sophie Vila

### Ushers

- Gwynne Hagee and Chris Maurizio

### Lighting the Worship Candle

-The Harrington family

### Soundboard

- Lauren Patrick

### Lean on Me Prayer Partners

- Christine Durst

### Infants/Toddlers

- Mary Evans and Barb Fox

## UCCVF Softball - Back out on the field!



No game this week due to the holiday.

Next Sunday's game will be at 4:30 p.m against Great Valley Presbyterian. Come and see!

If you have any questions or if you are interested in playing, please contact [Ed Hafer](#).

### MISSING AN UMBRELLA?

With all this rainy weather you may be wondering where your umbrella is. Check the coat closet at church on Sunday. There's quite a collection in there!

Also check out the coats, there are a few that have been hanging out for quite a while...

Thanks!

## 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.

**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.

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## SOCIAL JUSTICE SPEAKER ON JUNE 11

On Sunday, June 11, Will Fuller from POWER Metro will be here to talk about social justice issues in the suburbs. Get your strawberries and ice cream and join us! Find out what you can do to make a difference! Any questions, see Beth Eustis

Will Fuller is the suburban organizer for POWER Metro, which is part of POWER, a network of over 65 congregations across southeastern and central Pennsylvania speaking truth to power through organized issue-based collective action. POWER is a multi-faith, multi-racial, non-partisan coalition of faith working publicly to re-create our society. POWER Metro's two main issues are educational equity and economic dignity. For more information, please visit [powerinterfaith.org](http://powerinterfaith.org).

### **POWER Rally for Education Wednesday, June 21 (time TBD) State Capitol, Harrisburg**

- Come join students, teachers, parents, clergy and other citizens as we voice our condemnation of the racial bias inherent in the state's education funding and as we call for legislative action on the moral issue of funding equity.

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## "Conversation on Refugee Resettlement"

Rev. Sturgis Poorman is a retired Presbyterian minister and a former pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Phoenixville. Since his retirement in 2015, Rev. Poorman has volunteered with refugee resettlement agencies in the Philadelphia area. One of those agencies, Bethany Christian Services, actively encourages congregational co-sponsorship of newly arrived refugees. Rev. Poorman will explain the current state of refugee resettlement in the United States and the process by which refugees are admitted to this country. He will also outline the responsibilities of those congregations who do agree to co-sponsor a refugee family and answer our questions on this important topic at a challenging time. Please join the Stewardship Committee on Sunday 18th June after worship (around 12.15 pm) for a light lunch and conversation.

*Angela Steel, Chair of Stewardship Committee*

Sabbatical Supply Pastor  
The Rev. Meagan McLeod  
[Mmcleod@meaganmcleod.com](mailto:Mmcleod@meaganmcleod.com)

Director of Music  
Joan Johnson  
[Joan.johnson.home@gmail.com](mailto:Joan.johnson.home@gmail.com)

Director of Christian Education  
Nathanael Vissia  
[nvissia@uccvf.org](mailto:nvissia@uccvf.org)

Senior Choir Director  
Doug Johnson  
[Doug.johnson.home@gmail.com](mailto:Doug.johnson.home@gmail.com)

Administrative Assistant  
Renee Miller  
[church@uccvf.org](mailto:church@uccvf.org)

Beth Eustis  
Moderator of Elders  
[betheustis@msn.com](mailto:betheustis@msn.com)