

# VINCENTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LAMPLIGHTER

SUMMER, 2020



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Summer 2020

## Lesson Learned

We as the Church have learned many new lessons during this pandemic; and even some old ones. We've learned one of the oldest lessons of the Christian Church; that the Church is not a building. The Church is the people. For the last four months, we have seen exactly what that looks like. For the last four months, the inability to go inside the church has not stopped us from worshiping, it hasn't stopped us from serving, and it hasn't stopped us from dreaming hopeful dreams about the future. The Church has continued on because WE are the Church!

The church has continued, and will continue, to worship online through Facebook Live. Using that technology which wasn't available to previous generations, we have been able to continue hearing musical selections from Sue Mansfield (and her grandson Aaron, too). We have been able to continue hearing God's Word spoken and preached through these online worship services. Honestly, although the delivery of sermons may be different, the way I put a sermon together has not changed at all. We have been able to continue praying with each other every week. And we have even gathered new worshipers through our online worship services. Please, though, remember those in our congregation who do not have access to these online worship services. They haven't worshiped in three months. Please join in me in reaching out to them and letting them know that we are still praying for them and that we miss them.

The Church has continued to be in service to our community. Thanks to the incredible work done by Deb, Jenny, Nancy, Carole, Lisa, Livy, Tiffy, Patti, Wayne, George and Missy, we have been able to reach a growing amount of people in our community. I have also been continuing my work in the community as the Fire Chaplain attending and praying at emergency response team meetings, making phone calls as a chaplain for the hospital and serving as the charter representative for the local Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Through all of these services, the witness of Jesus Christ and the Good News is being spread even in the midst of a pandemic. That, as we learned in our Bible Study, makes a huge impact on the world. The Church is seen as a source of hope and comfort when they are needed the most.

The Church has continued in Christian Education. Our Youth Group has been meeting on Zoom every Tuesday since the pandemic began. We are still virtually seeing each other's faces and hearing each other's voices. We are still reading and studying scripture and we are still finding new ways to have fun with each other while learning about God.

I thank God for the ability to continue these important aspects of church life. But we have not only continued ministries, we have also started new ones. We completed a ten-week Bible Study on finding hope during quarantine and pandemic. On Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup> we will start a new study using the Upper Room. We have also started a virtual online midweek prayer service featuring myself, a lay reader, and the youth group. That has been so well received that we will also be adding those same elements to the music and invitation videos at 10:30 on Sunday mornings.

We are also inspiring the people of the church to come up with new ministries and new ways of reaching people in our community in these difficult days. Lisa, Livy and Tiffy have been collecting food for our Food Pantry and they did so well that they were able to basically completely stock and finance our Food Pantry for the whole month of June. They have done so well that we are exploring ways to expand their outreach to new areas of our community. I can't wait to share with you all of those great ministries and I invite you to participate and help us come up with some too!

So, even though the church building has been closed, we certainly have not stopped being the church. I know that I personally am doing more ministry now than I ever have before. I know that our church members are thinking about ministry in new ways, are thinking about the needs of our community and are thinking about ways in which they can help address those needs. I sincerely thank all of you for your service and your prayers. I also thank all of you for your grace, patience and understanding as I figure out the best ways to do ministry in this unprecedented situation.

Grace and Peace,

Reverend Dave



## COVID- 19 UPDATE

ALL IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS OF THE VINCENTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HAVE BEEN CANCELED UNTIL AT LEAST SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>. IF ALL GOES WELL, WE HOPE TO WORSHIP IN PERSON AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>. IF CASES RISE, THAT WILL CHANGE.

### WORSHIP, MISSIONS & SMALL GROUPS DURING COVID-19

**SUNDAY:** 10:30 Prelude Music posted on Facebook  
11am Facebook Live Online Worship

**MONDAY:** 7pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday; Women's Circles on Zoom.

**TUESDAY:** 7:30pm Youth Group on Zoom.

**WEDNESDAY:** 7pm Midweek Prayer Service on Facebook.

**THURSDAY:** 10am & 7pm Bible Study: "The Upper Room"

**SATURDAY:** 1<sup>ST</sup> Saturday of the Month: Food Pantry

You may find our live worship services by going to our Facebook page ([facebook.com/vumcnj](https://facebook.com/vumcnj)) at 11am on Sunday morning. To find the prelude music and Midweek Prayer Services, you may go to our Facebook page and click on our videos, or go to our website, [vincentownumc.org](https://vincentownumc.org), and follow the links at the top of the page.

### Food Pantry

Thank you for your generous donations to the Food Pantry. The next Food Pantry Date is: Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.

We are following proper social distancing procedures to ensure the complete safety of our team and our guests. The best practices for dropping off donations include arranging a drop off time, and then once the donations are there and the donors have left, church representatives will bring the donations inside. Stay safe and healthy!

Please see the SPRC note in this newsletter for a special thank you to all involved in our Food Pantry ministry.

With questions or donations, please contact Rev. Dave or Missy Scott or Carole Simon or Deb Barton.

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Krisy Bonstead
- 5 Darlene Hall
- 6 George Young
- 7 Paisley Gross, Anna Olson
- 8 Eleanor Rainier
- 10 LuAnn Stiles
- 11 Elizabeth Bruno
- 12 Yogi McMaster, Hannah Dengler
- 15 Primrose McCollister
- 18 Michele Mansfield
- 19 Beverlee Adams, Donnamarie Chappine,  
Rev. Bob Reasner
- 26 Riley Leonard
- 28 Jonah Worrell
- 29 Ian Rudderow, Eddie Sweet
- 30 Jessica Sweet

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Bill and Judy Bray
- 19 Michael and Barbara Rudderow
- 21 Eric and Jodie Gross

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

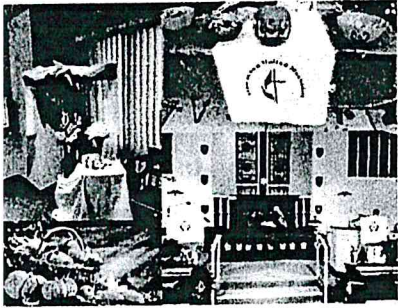
- 1 Paul Riker
- 5 Peg Ryan
- 7 Valerie Conte, Sherrie Ledford,  
Nick Mansfield, Andrea Startare
- 12 Christopher Jones
- 14 Al Thomas
- 16 Sandy Voeckler, Rev. Tom Wadas
- 19 Lindy Thomas
- 21 Harry Irion
- 23 David Bogert
- 24 Nick Olson
- 25 Christopher Talbot
- 26 Barbara Rudderow
- 27 Stephanie McNasby
- 28 Richard Valocik
- 29 Rachael Rudderow
- 31 Briana Talbot

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Dana and Susan Mansfield
- 8 Robert and Christine St. John
- 12 Al and Lindy Thomas
- 14 Nick and Johanna Mansfield
- 21 Larry and Stephanie McNasby

If you need an address for anyone on these lists, please reach out to Reverend Dave at [pastorvumc97@gmail.com](mailto:pastorvumc97@gmail.com)





# Introducing VUMC'S FREE 2020 VBS:

## CHRISTIAN HOLIDAYS

August 24<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> 7pm on Facebook

Registration for our 2020 VBS is available at [vincentown umc.org](http://vincentown umc.org).

COVID-19 restrictions have closed our buildings until at least September 13<sup>th</sup>. But no worries, we have still been working hard on bringing a VBS experience to our young disciples. Using a theme we create ourselves, we will be doing an online VBS with a theme of Christians Holidays. We will teach the kids all about Easter, All Saint's Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. They will go to our Facebook page at 7pm to begin watching our video. Through that video, they will get a point-of-view experience. The camera will become their eyes. Through the camera, they will go into the usual stations of Bible Story Telling, Crafts, Snack, Recreation and Science. We want to give you all of the materials you will need for each day, so please register and let us .

### June Finance Report

Bastedo Estate: \$148,761

Cemetery: \$20,187

Capital Improvement: \$32,557 (up \$745)

Stocks: \$32,557 (up \$375)

Operating Funds: \$995

June Operating Funds:

Total Income: \$11, 726.52

Total Expenses: \$9,100.75

Overall Total: \$2,625.77 (to the good, thank you!)

Year to date:

Total Income: \$82,387.22

Total Expenses: \$73,779.59

Overall Total: \$8,607.63 (to the good, thank you!)

**Please consider taking advantage of our new online banking at [vincentownumc.org](http://vincentownumc.org).**

### Online Giving is Here!

No more carrying cash or checks to church or having to send them in the mail! Recurring payments can be set up one time, and then they happen automatically from that moment on. Online giving will never be the only way to give, it is just an easier way to give for some. If cash and check work best for you, stick with that! Feel free to contact the Finance Committee any time for more information!

### Online Worship in the Sanctuary is on the Way!

We are currently installing cameras in the sanctuary that will allow us to continue going live every Sunday morning even after returning to the sanctuary! With this decision, VUMC has promised our new and home bound worshipers that we will always be here for them. AMEN!

### Thank You Food Pantry Volunteers!!!

To Carole, Deb, Nancy, Jenny, Olivia, Tiffany, Lisa, George and Wayne: The Food Pantry continues to grow. We are feeding about 65 people! We are very thankful for all the hard work you put into the Food Pantry! We would like to take this time to thank Carole, Deb, Nancy, Wayne and Jenny who have worked directly with the families. We also thank Lisa, Livy and Tiffy who are working to bring in donations as well as George and Wayne who go around town businesses to bring in donations as well. Thank you for all of your help!

VUMC's Staff/Parish Relations Committee

### ~ The Church Misses Seeing Each of You~

We missed seeing you at church and wondered how you are. We hope and pray that you'll return, for your absence breaks our hearts. We want you to know we care and miss you very much. we pray God's love will reach inside with a special touch. Should you need anything, please let the Church know. Can't wait to see each of you in church once we reopen!

**Praying we'll be together in Church soon!**

~Franks Hicks, Finance Committee Chair





97 Main St. Vincentown, NJ 08088  
609-859-2161

Rev. David L. Ledford, III - Pastor  
[pastorvumc97@gmail.com](mailto:pastorvumc97@gmail.com)

11:00 Worship Service – Worship with us on Facebook Live.  
All are Welcome!

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## VINCENTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S REOPENING PLAN – 2020

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We can't wait to worship with you in person again. In this document, you will find out exactly what has to happen for us to gather again in the sanctuary, and what it will look like when we finally do. Reopening will be a much longer and more detailed process than closing was. We had no idea the last time we gathered that we wouldn't see each other in person again for months. It happened quickly, but we thank God that no cases of COVID-19 were transmitted through a Vincentown UMC ministry. The Greater New Jersey Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and Bishop John Schol have instated a new mission statement for our churches; "to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and ensure zero transmission through United Methodist activity". So, now our task is to discern how and when to return to in-person worship, while continuing our record of zero COVID-19 transmissions.

Our first step was to put together a Reopening Team. Our team consisted of three people; Rev. Dave Ledford – pastor, Russell Thomas – Trustees President and Brian Richardson – Disaster Relief Coordinator. We began working on our plan in May and followed very specific guidelines from the State of New Jersey and Bishop John Schol. Bishop Schol is very serious about our goal of no transmissions through United Methodist ministries. We want each and every person worshiping with us to feel as safe as possible.

In this plan, you will get an idea of how you may need to prepare before arriving at the church, of what to do when you get here, of what worship will look like, how sanitation will be ensured, how this situation will affect events beyond Sunday morning and how we will determine our readiness to return to in person worship. We understand that disagreements exist regarding mask wearing, in person gatherings and when churches should be open. But we want you to know that our decisions have been based on prayer and guidance from state officials and conference leadership. We thank you in advance for respecting these plans.

Any who are concerned about their health and any who have even the slightest possibility of having been exposed to COVID-19 (or any other infectious disease), will be able to worship from home. A camera is being installed in the sanctuary so that we will be able to continue worshiping online even after returning to the sanctuary.

At the end of the plan, you will see a proposed date to return to in-person worship. This is only a proposal, and is contingent upon the state of the virus at that time. If needed, we will delay. Please look for updates on our website ([vincentownumc.org](http://vincentownumc.org)), on our social media pages (Facebook and Instagram), and through newsletters.

This plan has been approved by both our District Superintendent and the Church Council.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented season of ministry!

Peace and Blessings,  
Reverend Dave  
Brian Richardson  
Russell Thomas

# Vincentown UMC's 2020 Reopening Plan

## THE BASICS

1. Gathering Size: Setting and ensuring capacity limits based on state requirements:
  - a. Vincentown United Methodist Church will reopen when government restrictions for indoor gatherings of 110 people are allowed by New Jersey Governor, Phil Murphy. We will open when all of us can worship together; we do not want to turn worshipers away at the door.
2. Social Distance: Maintaining 6 feet between each person (see CDC guidelines):
  - a. Worshipers will be escorted into the building and offered a seat adhering to the 6-ft social distancing requirement in all directions.
  - b. Worship leaders will not greet worshipers before or after service. Instead, they will enter through a side door when worship is ready to begin and leave through that same door upon the conclusion of worship.
    - i. This applies to the pastor, the organist, liturgists and performers.
  - c. Performers and liturgists are encouraged to use the same guidelines, but if they wish to sit with their family while not performing, they may approach the altar by walking along the side walls.
3. Human Contact: Preventing people from touching objects and other people:
  - a. Doors will be kept open, and special processes will be put in place that will encourage touching all surfaces (including bathroom surfaces) with an object other than exposed skin.
  - b. There will be no passing of the peace, no gathering time and no worship act that will require contact of people or common objects.
4. Cleaning: Cleaning surfaces and all common areas (see CDC guidelines):
  - a. Appropriate cleaning materials will be ordered. We will not begin gathering until these supplies are received and ready to use.
  - b. No gatherings will be held in the same space less than three days apart.
5. Vulnerable People:
  - a. Extra precautions will be used with those who suffer from pre-existing conditions that would make them more susceptible to COVID-19.
6. Protection:
  - a. All worshipers will wear face masks or the duration of their time on property.
    - i. Performers, as long as they are more than 6ft. away from the nearest worshiper, may remove their mask for the moment they are performing.
  - b. Anyone with symptoms, exposure to COVID-19 within the last 2 weeks, or have traveled to a state on New Jersey's quarantine list, must worship online to protect in-person worshipers.
  - c. We acknowledge that our reopening may only be temporary if cases spike again.
7. Signage and Teams:
  - a. Signs will be put in place for social distancing and any other considerations needed in context.
  - b. Ushers will aid the church in protecting all worshipers "from car to pew, and from pew to car".
    - i. Ushers will meet worshipers at their car and escort them to a socially distant seat.
    - ii. At the end of the service, ushers will escort one family at a time out of the sanctuary.
8. What if a Worshiper Contracts COVID-19?
  - a. Tracing
    - i. Anyone who is on church property at any time will sign in to let us know they were present, what times they were present and what parts of the property they were in.
    - ii. All people will be told before every gathering that their name will be collected and will be given to proper authorities in the case that there is an eventual COVID-19 case.



b. Next Steps

- i. The entire list of people who have been in the same area as COVID-19 positive person will be sent to proper authorities.
- ii. The District Superintendent will be notified.
- iii. The Church will be deep cleaned.

**Answering Specific Questions from the Conference**

**Arriving at the Church**

- What information will you provide to your congregation by mail or email about the practices and guidelines for those participating in worship, ministries or activities on your property?
  - **This entire plan will be mailed to every address and email address we have, will be posted on the church's Facebook and Instagram pages, and posted on the Church Website.**
- Will people be required to bring their own mask, or will masks be provided?
  - **Yes, masks will be required until further notice. Worshipers are encouraged to bring their own masks, but the church will have masks for those who need them.**
- How will people park?
  - **Parking will be done as usual, but an usher in the parking lot will request that all worshipers remain in their car until we are able to escort them in.**
- What signage will you post to alert people to social distancing practices?
  - **Signs will be placed in pews, on doors and on walls to ensure 6 ft social distancing occurs.**
- How will people enter the facilities so they do not have to touch door handles and other items?
  - **Doors will already be open, and an usher will come and escort them in.**
  - **Ushers will be masked and gloved.**
- Where will hand sanitizers be placed?
  - **There will be three hands-free sanitizing station located throughout the church.**
  - **We will not open until these stations are received and ready to be used.**
- How will you encourage people who are at risk, sick or have a cough or fever to stay home?
  - **In advertising the church reopening through Newsletters, emails, mail, our website and social media, we will make it very clear that those who feel sick should enjoy our service online.**

**Worship Experience — RECOMMENDED!** Continue online worship services even after your building reopens.

- Will greeters be gloved and masked?
  - **Yes**
- How will you keep necessary inventory of masks, hand sanitizer, appropriate cleansers?
  - **Disaster Relief Coordinator Brian Richardson and Trustees President Russell Thomas will ensure that supplies are kept in stock. We will not open until we have several weeks' worth of supplies.**
- Have you prepared scripts for greeters to guide people to worship safely?
  - **Yes**
- Are you prepared to turn people away or have a planned overflow space if you reach capacity?
  - **The size of our sanctuary, even at 25% capacity, can accommodate a crowd well over our highest attendance number from previous services.**
  - **We will not open until that highest capacity number is allowed by Governor Phil Murphy.**
- What instructions will you post for ALL people entering the building?
  - **Guidelines for how to move about the property**
  - **Guidelines for sanitizing hands before and after the restroom and before and after entering each community space.**
- If singing by the congregations and choirs is prohibited, how will you include music in your service?
  - **Community and Choir singing will not be permitted until further notice.**
  - **Soloists and performers will be permitted as our altar space is well beyond 10ft. from the first pew.**

- Our organist will be present to perform.
- TV screens are also in place to provide music through video and audio.
- How will you collect the offering, without passing the plate, and use safe practices for counting the collection?
  - An offering plate will be placed at the back of the sanctuary and congregants will place their offering in the plate on their way in or out.
  - The plate will be moved by a gloved and masked member of the Finance Committee into a locked and secure location on church property.
  - The plate will sit there for three days, and then counted by gloved, masked and socially distanced non-related members of the Finance Committee.
- How will you provide a safe Communion experience?
  - Communion will be prepared for each individual before worship by an usher who has taken all required safety and sanitary precautions.
    - The bread will be pre-cut into cubes, and put onto plates using gloves and utensils.
    - A small amount of juice will be poured into individual cups.
    - The communion elements will be placed in the pews before worship begins and touched only by the person intended to receive them.
- Have you removed all items from the pews including hymnals, Bibles, sign-in cards, tissues and pens?
  - Our sexton will remove all loose items from the sanctuary prior to reopening.
- Can you manage the order of worship without a bulletin handout?
  - Yes, we will use our TV screens as our bulletin.
- Are procedures in place to clean and care for those working sound and media technology?
  - Yes, only one person will touch and work each piece of technology to prevent cross contamination.
- Have you created a system for microphone use during worship so there is no sharing of equipment?
  - The pastor will wear the personal microphone worn on his face.
  - Only one other liturgist will be invited to speak from the lectern.
  - There are 3 handheld microphones that may be used if necessary, each by only one person per week.
  - All microphones will be sanitized and not touched again between Sundays.
- How will you monitor and clean bathrooms?
  - Disaster Relief Coordinator Brian Richardson and Trustees President Russell Thomas are ordering the required materials and are setting up processes for cleaning bathrooms.
  - Signs will be posted inside bathrooms requiring the use of paper towels to turn faucets on and off and to touch door handles.

## Nursery and Sunday School

- We will assess the ability to begin Sunday School after observing what the state of COVID-19 is in Mid-August.
  - When Sunday School does resume, it will do so following social distancing and mask-wearing protocols.
- Will you allow children in the service?
  - Children may be present, but like all others, will be asked to remain in their pews. Children's Time will be done by the pastor without the gathering of the children.
- How will you ensure the safety of children and the nursery workers?
  - There will be no nursery workers. Multiple rooms will be set up as nurseries so that each family is the only one using a particular room.
  - Nurseries will be for diaper changes only, and parents will remain in the nurseries with their children.
  - How will you clean the items in the children's area before and after they are used? All loose items will be removed and changing tables properly cleaned as planned by Disaster Relief Coordinator Brian Richardson and Trustees President Russell Thomas

## Fellowship Activities — RECOMMENDED! No fellowship, food or coffee hours at this time.

- Do you have single-serve creamers and sugars to lessen germ spreading?
  - No refreshments will be provided until further notice.
- What system will you set up to ensure people maintain social distance during fellowship?
  - There will be no fellowship time until further notice.



- How will you address situations when people do not follow the social-distancing and other public-health guidelines?
  - The pastor will have the ultimate authority in this case.
  - These things are requirements:
    - Only attend worship if you are not actively sick or have been exposed at all to COVID-19 within the last two weeks.
    - Social Distancing
    - Masks properly worn
    - Adherence to all VUMC and New Jersey state guidelines (including travelers from states which are on the New Jersey quarantine list).
  - Any congregants not following these requirements will be asked to leave for the health and safety of all other worshippers.

**Meetings** — RECOMMENDED! Meetings continue online and by conference call.

- How will you train or communicate with leaders about safe health protocols?
  - Meetings will continue virtually until further notice. Permission for a group to meet in person must be approved by the Pastor, the Reopening Team and the Church Council.
- Vacation Bible School
  - With singing discouraged and social distancing required, we do not believe a safe or complete experience is possible this year for our young disciples. Therefore, VBS 2020 will be virtual.

### Outside Group Usage

- Have you communicated to ALL groups using your buildings (congregations, day-care centers, 12-step and scouts) required safety and health guidelines for usage? How will you ensure that these requirements are followed?
  - No groups will meet on property until September.
  - Once groups begin meeting, they will meet in separate rooms.
  - Groups using the same building will do so at least 3 days apart.
  - Disaster Relief Coordinator Brian Richardson and Trustees President Russell Thomas will set up cleaning procedures for all church property.

### Office Practices

- How will you protect office staff and provide masks?
  - Church staff are encouraged to work from home until one week before church reopens.
  - Church staff will wear masks in any space that others may gather.
    - Masks may be removed in private offices with doors closed.
- Are work areas properly social distanced?
  - Yes.
- How will you adapt cleaning procedures and janitorial services?
  - Disaster Relief Coordinator Brian Richardson and Trustees President Russell Thomas will set up cleaning procedures for all church property.

### SUMMARY

The Vincentown United Methodist Church will reopen ONLY when these things happen:

- Governor Phil Murphy lifts restrictions on indoor gatherings of a church our size.
  - For COVID-19, our size with social distancing is 110 people.
- At least a 3-week supply of all cleaning materials, masks and gloves are received.
- We see no evidence of considerable increase in COVID-19 cases in our area.

If all of these requirements are successfully met, our hope is to reopen on: **Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020!**  
However, if cases spike or government/denomination restrictions come about, that date may be delayed.



*A Spirit-directed Christian community of faith, based on scripture and prayer, where God invites all to be filled with the Holy Spirit, to serve, care and love, in the name of Jesus Christ.*

*Prepared especially for:*

*Vincentown United Methodist Church  
97 Main Street  
Vincentown, New Jersey 08088*

## **Vincentown United Methodist Church**

**97 Main Street, Vincentown NJ 08088**

**(609) 859-2161**

**E-mail: [pastorvumc97@gmail.com](mailto:pastorvumc97@gmail.com)**

**Rev. David L. Ledford III, Pastor**

**(732) 632-7613**

**VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR SERVICES**

**Lay-Leader—Beverlee Adams**

**Church Council Chairperson—Frank Hicks**

**Organist—Susan Mansfield**

**Administrative Assistant—Peggy Thomas [vumcsec@gmail.com](mailto:vumcsec@gmail.com)**

**NO CURRENT OFFICE HOURS DUE TO COVID-19 ISOLATION**

**DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER—AUGUST 15**