

VINCENTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LAMPLIGHTER

October, 2020



October 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I pray all of you are happy and healthy! I know that the pandemic has created so many disruptions for everyone. Weddings have been postponed or drastically reduced. Baptisms have been delayed. Worship services have been outside the sanctuary. Many of us haven't seen our parents, our siblings, our nieces and nephews or grandchildren in seven months. Small businesses have suffered and some have even closed. Some of us have even lost loved ones. This has been a difficult time to do ministry. But, look at how this church responded. Within ten days, we had online worship, online committees, online youth group and online Bible Studies up and running. Within just a couple weeks, we had online giving offered as a new and easier way to give for some. We now have a camera installed in the sanctuary so that we can continue going live with our worship services even after we are back in the sanctuary. The church saw a challenge, didn't back down and refused to let the challenge restrain its ministries. Amen, thank you so much, friends!

Yes, this has been a difficult time to do ministry. But is ministry ever easy? Honestly, if ministry ever seems easy, we're probably doing it wrong. Effective, transformational ministry is hard. October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Every October I am reminded of the many pastors of this church (91 to be exact) who have led this church through their own generation's challenges. I have never met a pastor in my whole life who said their ministry was easy. Every pastor, every generation and every church has had their own challenges to overcome. The Vincentown United Methodist Church was founded in 1828. That means this church has been doing ministry right here in Vincentown for 192 years! Let's look back through the years and remind ourselves of the challenges that the saints who came before us had to navigate.

In 1828, our nation was only 52 years removed from declaring its independence. The president was John Quincy Adams, the son of John Adams who was our second president. 1828 was also an election year that saw President Adams defeated by Andrew Jackson who was elected as the seventh president of the United States.

In this church's long history, it has witnessed this nation go to war with itself in the 1860's, saw the end of slavery, two world wars in the early 1900's as well as several other wars throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. This church existed during the devastating flu of 1918, the civil rights movement of the 1960's, when our nation was attacked on September 11th, 2001, during several powerful storms and floods, and now during the global pandemic of COVID-19. Through it all, the 91 pastors of the Vincentown United Methodist Church led well enough to ensure that it would still be here for us in 2020. Even in the midst of all the crazy things that our country and our community have seen, those 91 pastors led effective ministry, baptized babies, confirmed young disciples, married couples, preached the Good News, made disciples of Jesus Christ, officiated funerals and counseled church members through deaths, emotional and spiritual pain, financial concerns, relationship struggles and even their own faith.

Please join me in thanking God for sending those pastors who came before me to build, grow, maintain and lead the Vincentown United Methodist Church. We wouldn't be here without those men and women who answered God's call to lead this church. Amen!

Peace and Blessings, Reverend Dave

October Finance Report

Bastedo Estate: \$109,551
Cemetery: \$20,187
Capital Improvement: \$35,617 (up \$785)
Stocks: \$24,379 (down \$184. August)
Operating Funds: \$36,178

September Operating Funds:

Total Income: \$13,284.83
Total Expenses: \$12,413.98
Overall Total: \$870.85 (in the black)

Year to date:

Total Income: \$115,089.09
Total Expenses: \$109,778.30
Overall Total: \$5,310.79 (in the black)

Friends, thank you so much for helping us get in the black last month! Like many small businesses and families, the pandemic has hit churches hard. We appreciate your generosity so much! In addition to your stewardship, we have had two major advantages this year. 1. We received a very generous one-time gift of \$10,000 this year. 2. We did not have to pay our apportionments for several months this year due to COVID-19. With having to pay apportionments, and without that \$10,000 gift, we would be at about \$10,000 in the red. Thank you for supporting the ministries of the church and for your discernment of how you might help us continue to do ministry!

~ The Church Misses Seeing each of You ~

Praying we can all be together in Church again at the end of the month!

Offertory Prayer

Almighty God, we gather in the name of the one to whom all authority is given – Jesus Christ. As we offer you this money, you ask us to renew our commitment to be your faith-filled disciples. May our lifestyles reflect a desire to be in mission for others. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we pray.

Frank Hicks, Finance Chairman

Online Giving is Here!

As approved by the May Church Council, you can now submit your gifts, tithes and offerings to the church through online giving! Putting donations in the offering plate or in the mail will always be accepted, but if that is not the easiest way for you to give, we offer you this new opportunity! Here are some of the benefits to online giving:

- o No more carrying cash or checks to church!
- o No more remembering! Recurring payments can be set up one time, and then they happen automatically from that moment on.
- o No more worrying! Some of you might grow concerned throughout the year that you have fallen behind. But with online giving, you will always know that you are right on track!

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! You can sign up any time! See Rev. Dave for more info!

Online Worship in the Sanctuary is on the Way!

As approved by the May Church Council, we have installed a camera 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 worshipers that we will still be here for them once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. AMEN!

The Christian Caring Center

Hello, friends!

The Christian Caring Center is open and running. Before our church opens, you can arrange a time for drop off, or you can take items to Pemberton or Browns Mills. Once our church opens on October 25th, you can begin bringing items to the church as we always did.

Any questions please call Mary Sue 609 859-0174.

Thank you.

Mary Sue

To receive your newsletter online, email the church administrative assistant at vumcsec@gmail.com

Pastor's email: pastorvumc97@gmail.com Website: vincentownumc.org

On Facebook and Instagram, search "Vincentown United Methodist Church"

WE'RE GOING BACK!

The Church Council and Reopening team are excited to announce that we are officially returning to in-person worship on Sunday, **OCTOBER 25TH**. Back in June, we announced that we would require 3 things to happen before our church reopens: First, that indoor gatherings of a church our size be permitted by the state. As of right now, a church our size is allowed to gather indoors. Second, that we purchase and receive the necessary cleaning supplied, masks and gloves. We now have all of those. And third, that we see no considerable rise in COVID-19 cases in our area. While cases in New Jersey are rising, Southampton's numbers have been steady. Of course, worship will look, feel and sound a bit different at first such as mandatory wearing of masks, no singing, social distancing. But our God never changes. Next week, you will receive an updated Reopening Plan that will help you know what to expect if you decide to worship in person. We are updating it because our understanding of COVID-19 has improved over time and there are some things in that original plan that are probably not necessary. For those who do not feel comfortable being in person yet, don't worry! We will still be live on Facebook at 11am every Sunday.

WORSHIP, MISSIONS & SMALL GROUPS DURING COVID-19

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

THURSDAY: 10am & 7pm Bible Study: "The Upper Room"
7pm Midweek Prayer Service on Facebook.

FRIDAY: 7:30pm Youth Group on Zoom

SATURDAY: 1ST Saturday of the Month: Food Pantry

EVERY DAY: We worship, serve God and pray with you!

You may find our live worship services by going to our Facebook page (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 "videos", or go to our website, vincentownumc.org, and follow the links at the top of the page. If you have a ministry idea, we'd love to hear it!!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Tim Monastero, Angelica Scott
- 5 Dena Thomas, Louis Stiles
- 7 Daniel Monastero
- 9 Andrew Bogert, Tim Worrell
- 10 Paula Gerber
- 16 Jared Morrison, Kevin Sweet
- 20 Joyce Jones
- 22 Mary Hall
- 23 Jacob Dengler, Aaron Mansfield
- 28 Sandy Riker
- 29 Mark Sweet
- 30 Gail Slack

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Dorrance and Darlene Hall
- 10 Kristina and John Gajderowicz, IV
- 15 Yogi and Beth McMaster
- 20 Brian and April Richardson

If you would like an address for anyone on this lists, or wish to add to it, please reach out to the pastor at pastorvumc97@gmail.com.

Food Pantry

Thank you for your generous donations to the Food Pantry. The next Food Pantry Date is: Saturday, November 6th.

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!

Thank you to all of you, and to our local businesses for strongly supporting our Food Pantry!

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

Vincetown United Methodist Church

97 Main Street, Vincetown NJ 08088 (609) 859-2161

E-mail: pastorvumc97@gmail.com

Rev. David L. Ledford III, Pastor

(732) 632-7613

VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR SERVICES

Food Pantry, 1st Saturday

Lay Leader—Beverlee Adams

Church Council Chairperson—Frank Hicks

Organist—Susan Mansfield

Administrative Assistant—Peggy Thomas vumcsec@gmail.com

NO CURRENT OFFICE HOURS DUE TO COVID-19 ISOLATION

*Vincetown United Methodist Church
97 Main Street
Vincetown, New jersey 08088*

Prepared especially for:

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.