

VINCENTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LAMPLIGHTER

November, 2020



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

November 2020

Always remember!

November is a month of remembrance; this year more than ever. There are many people and many things I want to remember this November. Some of them are good, some of them are bad. We remember the good to try and emulate it in the future. We remember the bad to try and avoid it in the future. There are things that I want us all to remember this November in particular.

Remember that God loves you. November is election month. As you read this, we may still not know the results. But what, thankfully, is over is the campaigning. The negativity, the attacking, the division and the us vs. them is over. I'm not naïve enough to think that these things will now cease to exist. But at least they aren't in every commercial on every channel and every app anymore. Remember that regardless of who wins and who loses, regardless of who you support, God loves you.

Remember the Saints who came before you. November 1st is All Saint's Day, a day to remember and give thanks to God for the dedicated disciples who served Christ and handed the ministries of the church down to us. Some of your saints may have just passed away this year. Far too many saints have passed away this year from COVID-19. Their legacy doesn't have to end just because their earthly life has. We remember all the saints and follow their example to ensure that the next generation has a church to serve too!

Remember the beginning of the pandemic. Do you remember those days? So much uncertainty, so little knowledge. It was an incredibly difficult time, but that isn't the first thing that I remember. I remember the prayers. Early on, we focused on praying for our essential workers. Soon, things took a divisive turn. But in those early weeks, we were united. The military flew over hospitals to show their support. Online events were dedicated to those essential workers; doctors, nurses, law enforcement, fire fighters, EMTs, postal workers, grocery store workers. Suddenly, they became our heroes. I want to remember that unity and that love. I want to remember the way we came together and honored our neighbors.

Remember to give thanks to God. Sometimes we focus too much on negatives. Sometimes we focus too much on fear. Sometimes we focus too much on uncertainty. Well, we've got a remedy for all of it...God! In the face of negativity, God brings grace. In the face of fear, God brings hope. In the face of uncertainty, God brings assurance. This Thanksgiving, we all have things to be thankful for, but we shouldn't reserve it for that one day a year. Every day is Thanksgiving, like Tom Turkey taught our VBS students. We can thank God every day for waking us up, for the food we eat, the roof over our heads, the clothes we wear, the friends we enjoy, the family who loves us and for the love and forgiveness that God has given us through Christ. Remember to give thanks to God turns our attention away from things that we can't control and things that weigh us down and invite us to focus on the opportunities and blessings God gives us every day. Will our problems go away? I can't promise that. But with a positive, thankful attitude, we will be better equipped to handle them.

Peace and Blessings, Reverend Dave

WE'RE BACK!

On Sunday, **OCTOBER 25TH**, we returned to the sanctuary as approved by the Reopening Team and the Church Council! 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 supplies, 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. We have been able to focus our minds on God during our in-person worship services. We even had communion together! We expect that over time, more and more people will feel comfortable returning to in-person worship. Don't worry, there is plenty of room for all of you! 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. One way or another, we love worshipping with you!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Andrew McMaster
- 5 Helen Rice
- 6 Brandon Morrison
- 7 Michael Bogert, Ronald Gerber
- 8 Lee Valocik
- 9 Claudia Gifford, Peggy Thomas
- 12 George Scott
- 15 Michael Sweet
- 19 Raymond Gifford
- 20 Tyler Bogert, Dorothy Hall,
Wendy Talbot
- 21 Connor Adams, Kathrine Hunt,
Matthew Monastero
- 22 Russell Thomas
- 29 Raymond McGill

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12 Rev. Dave and Sherrie Ledford

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.

VINCENTOWN UMC WORSHIP, MISSIONS & SMALL GROUPS

SUNDAY: 11am Facebook Live Online Worship

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

FRIDAY: 7:30pm Youth Group in person outside in good weather, on Zoom in bad weather

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 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!!

Food Pantry

Thank you for your generous donations to the Food Pantry. The next Food Pantry Date is: Saturday, December 5th from 10am-12pm.

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.

October Finance Report

Bastedo Estate: \$109,551
Cemetery: \$20,187
Capital Improvement: \$36,862 (up \$1,245)
Stocks: \$23,331 (down \$1,049)
Operating Funds: \$37,655

September Operating Funds:

Total Income: \$13,224.00
Total Expenses: \$12,365.48
Overall Total: \$858.62 (in the black)

Year to date:

Total Income: \$128,369.05
Total Expenses: \$122,148.
Overall Total: \$6,220.27 (in the black)

Thank you so much to all of you who have generously given your usual gifts, and even some extra gifts to ensure that the ministries of the church would continue during the pandemic!

It has been wonderful seeing members back in Church this month. Looking to grow in attendance next month.

Offertory Prayer

O Lord,
We thank You for Your steadfast love and mercy on us. Father, we believe that every word in the Bible was breathed out by You and we believe Your promise that You will bless us when we are obedient to Your Word. And so, without hesitation, we gladly give to You what is Yours. Bless these tithes and offerings, Father.

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!

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

Traditionally, our church has hosted the community for an ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship service. Reverend Dave has been in contact with the other pastors, and together they have decided that this year's Thanksgiving Eve service will be virtual. Reverend Dave and other pastors from the 08088 area code will be recording their parts and putting them all together into one service. It will be posted to Facebook and our website by 10am on Wednesday, November 25th so you can watch it at a time that works best for you!

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. Now that our church building has reopened, you may resume dropping off donations!

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"

Vincentown United Methodist Church

97 Main Street, Vincentown 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

OR

VISIT IN PERSON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 11:00 A.M.

(MASKS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED)

Food Pantry, 1st Saturday

Lay Leader—Beverlee Adams

Church Council Chairperson—Frank Hicks

Organist—Susan Mansfield

Administrative Assistant—Peggy Thomas vumcsec@gmail.com

Vincentown United Methodist Church

97 Main Street

Vincentown, 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.