



VINCENTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World By:

Honoring our Past,
Preparing for the Future,
Serving in the Present"

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

Rev. David L. Ledford, III - Pastor
pastorvumc97@gmail.com

11:00 Worship Service in-person and on Facebook Live. All are always welcome!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

THANK YOU

May 2021

This is the last time I will write to you in a newsletter. As previously announced, Bishop John Schol has appointed me to the United Methodist Church at Absecon, effective July 1st. We have since found out that Rev. Connie Squire has been appointed as Vincentown UMC's new pastor. I am very excited for you and for her. I have known Pastor Connie for several years, and I know she is a great fit for you, and you for her.

As Sherrie, Georgie and I pack and prepare to move, I have found myself getting emotional about pretty much everything. From the small things in life to the big things, this church, this community and this parsonage are filled with memories. I remember getting the phone call from my previous District Superintendent that I was coming here. I was serving in Phillipsburg and things were going very well there. I didn't want to leave. Part of it was because of that success, but another part of it was that I was unsure of myself. Upon visiting the SPRC and then attending Church Council a couple months later, I instantly knew that this is a good church; too good for me. My previous experiences in pastoral ministry were serving a 6-person church, a 2-person church and a 40-person church. This was (and still is) a church with attendance averaging in the 80s and with ministries, committees and full-time responsibilities. I was afraid I wasn't good enough.

What I learned in five years is that ministry isn't a one man or one woman show. Anyone, even a bishop, would struggle without friends. Even Jesus surrounded himself with friends before starting his ministry. Doesn't that say it all? That's how important it is to have people doing ministry with you. That's how important YOU are! From day one, I have known you as a church with strong lay leadership. I never had to worry about finding someone to do something. I can't tell you how amazing that is. So many of my colleague's biggest concern is finding people to do things. I have never once had that problem.

We have worked together as a ministry team. You have always made up for my flaws. I came here as a fairly inexperienced, 28-year-old bachelor. I am leaving here ordained, with 8 years of experience, married and a father. I think we all knew when I started here that there would be growing pains. I am sure that there were. I am sure there still are. I am so thankful for your patience, your love, your grooming and your help. This church is what every church claims to be; hospitable and welcoming. Because of that, because of who you are, I was never concerned about making disciples here. The community knows what kind of church this is, and because of that, we get visitors very often. In 5 years, we have added over 30 new members. We have done things that the world says churches can't do any more. We built a new youth group from scratch. We grew our Sunday School. We increased our ministries and our giving during a pandemic. And we have made our Bible Studies and worship services available to people all over the world by introducing virtual ministry options. We've adapted, we've been outward thinking, we've been steady in administration and we have been good stewards of people and property. Those are the keys to fruitful ministry. Thank you for your love, your support, your participation, your presence and your prayers. God be with you, 'til we meet again!

Grace and Peace, Reverend Dave

Upcoming Scriptures

May 9th – Acts 10: 44-48

May 16th – Acts 1: 1-11

May 23rd – Acts 2: 1-21

May 30th – Proverbs 3: 1-8

June 6th – Bishop Schol preaching

June 13th – Matthew 28: 16-20

June 20th – Missy Scott preaching

June 28th – Rev. John Coffee preaching

WE'RE STILL OPEN!

Masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing are required for all in person gatherings. Many of our friends have made their way back to in-person worship. We believe that we have a safe and comfortable space to worship where our safety measures do not distract from our primary objective; to worship God. Thank you to all who have been worshipping in-person for your flexibility and for keeping our worship services safe for everyone.

For those worshipping with us online, we thank you for your dedication to the church and our worship services. We are continuing to work on our new technologies to make sure that your experience of God is as flawless as humanly possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

VUMC WORSHIP, MISSIONS & SMALL GROUPS

SUNDAY: 11am Worship (in person and Facebook Live)

THURSDAY: 11am & 7pm Bible Study on Zoom

FRIDAY: 7:30pm Youth Group

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 any previous services, you may go to our Facebook page and click on "videos", or go to our website, vincentownumc.org.

Have a ministry idea? We would love to hear it!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sammy St. John
- 5 Jelane Blazewick
- 6 Dana Mansfield
- 7 Betty Stover, Carrie Wach
- 8 Doris Hemminger
- 10 Bodie Worrell
- 14 Judy Bray, Pat King, Kristie Worrell
- 15 Jeff Hicks
- 17 LaRaine Young
- 18 Camryn Bogert
- 20 Audrey Cannon
- 25 Richard Bamford
- 26 Kim Mauroff
- 27 Beverly Barthmaier
- 29 Janet Monastero
- 31 Jack Traino, Brody Gross

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Tim & Kristie Worrell
- 16 Ted & Claudia Dengler
- 31 George & Missy Scott

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Bryce McMaster
- 3 Clay Bridges, Gail Hall
- 5 Carlo Monastero
- 6 Margo Griner
- 8 Johanna Mansfield
- 10 Braylyn Bruno
- 12 Jodie Gross, Xander Emmert
- 13 Chase Startare
- 15 Frank Hicks, Mike Rudderow
- 16 Dan Everett
- 17 Claudia Dengler, Mary Gibson
- 18 Grace Hicks, Susan Mansfield, Arron Morrison, Cailey Talbot
- 19 Nick Dengler, Ella Worrell
- 22 Lisa Bogert, Matthew Hunt
- 28 Gary Rosmando
- 30 Carrienne Grundner, Jeanne Miller

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Gary & Kathy Rosmando
- 16 Richard & Joyce Jones, Clay & April Bridges
- 17 Jim & Donna Chappine

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
- 20 Lawrence Scott
- 26 Riley Leonard
- 28 Jonah Worrell
- 29 Ian Rudderow, Eddie Sweet
- 30 Jessica Sweet

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

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

Food Pantry

Thank you for your generous donations to our Food Pantry! The next Food Pantry Day is: June 5th 10am-12pm. If you have donations, we will arrange a time to safely meet and receive them so that we all stay safe and healthy! If you have any questions or donations, please reach out to Deb Barton, Nancy Mercer, Carole Simon or Rev. Dave.

April Finance Report

Bastedo Estate: \$110,427
Cemetery: \$20,337
Capital Improvement: \$37,142 (up \$700)
Stocks: \$28,369 (Up \$867)
Operating Funds: \$29,349

April Operating Funds:
Total Income: \$12,357
Total Expenses: \$13,384
Overall Total: - \$1,027

Year to date (1/1/2021 - 4/30/21)
Total Income: \$49,992
Total Expenses: \$53,860
Overall Total: -\$3,868

~ The Church Misses Seeing each of You. Offertory Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You that You can satisfy our every desire and need. Your word says that we should give honor to You with the first fruits of our wealth. Accept our tithes and offerings as a gift of worship to You. Multiply what we give for the effective growth of Your kingdom. May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith so that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may have the strength to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. May we be filled with all the fullness of God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Frank Hicks, Finance Chair

EFFECTIVE JULY 1ST, REV. CONNIE SQUIRE HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS THE NEW PASTOR OF THE VINCENTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!



Connie has been blessed to serve the Dingmans Ferry and Barryville UMCs as an associate pastor and the Vernon UMC for the past four years as a full-time pastor. Her passion is in outreach to the community and beyond through inclusion of all, in line with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She has a social work degree from Rutgers University, giving her a background to see the true value of every person and a M.Div. from Drew Theological School. She is excited to be involved in building and equipping the body of Christ within the community she serves. She has two adult sons, Dalton Van Der Sluys (28) and Garrett Van Der Sluys (25). Connie also has her fur baby, Gracie, who is three. They enjoy the outdoors and God's creation through hiking and visiting the local dog park and making additional connections within the community.

Online Giving is Here!

What are the benefits of online giving?

- o 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!

SPECIAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

All elected leaders of the church are invited to a Special Charge Conference on June 1st at 7:00. This meeting will take place before Church Council.

2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Greater New Jersey's Annual Conference for 2021 will be held on Monday, May 24th and Tuesday, May 25th. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the conference will be completely virtual. Anyone can view it on the conference's YouTube page, www.youtube.com/GNJUMC. This year, during annual conference we will be able to watch Reverend Dave get ordained!

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

LAMPLIGHTER, MAY, JUNE, JULY, 2021

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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.