

VINCENTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LAMPLIGHTER

JANUARY, 2021



THANK YOU!

Dear Friends,

I want to start 2021 with thanksgiving. There are so many things that I want to say thank you for as we begin 2021. All my thanks goes to God! While much was lost in 2020, much was also discovered and rediscovered. God activated the Church, God activated our faith and God activated hope.

I thank God that all of you generously gave to the church to ensure that our ministries and worship services would continue no matter what. I give thanks to God that through your generosity, we have been able, not only to maintain our ministries, but also to add new ones. My concern when the pandemic began was that ministries would struggle the longer in-person gatherings were shut down. But you knew that people were in need. You knew that the Church has a role in society to bring hope in situations exactly like this one. Thank you for helping us continue our ministries and reach out to those in need in our community in many ways.

I also want to thank you for your dedication to worship. Another concern early on in the pandemic was that we would see great attendance online in the beginning, and then it would slowly decrease. But we have not seen any decline in our worship attendance. Now that we are offering both in-person and virtual options for worship, we are averaging 30 people in-person and 30 accounts on Facebook Live. We know that many do not have access to Facebook, and do not feel comfortable worshipping in person at this time. Please, help us make sure that our worship services reach them. A Facebook account is not needed in order to watch our worship services. I also ask that those who are able like, share and comment on our worship videos. This will help us reach not only our own church members, but also new disciples who haven't been transformed by the Word of God yet. This is a form of virtual stewardship that can spread God's Word further than we can imagine!

Thank you, Lord, for sending dedicated, faithful disciples to the Vincenttown United Methodist Church. Thank you, Lord, for giving us the wisdom, vision and determination that we need to do ministry during a global pandemic. Thank you, Lord, for giving us the sacred call to be your hands and feet, your hope, your messengers and your love to our community. Thank you, Lord, for the generosity of your people.

Blessings,
Reverend Dave

Friends, in each newsletter, you will now get the upcoming scriptures for the next two months. This will help you prepare for Sunday morning worship and we pray it will encourage you to open up your Bibles ahead of time. We pray that this will help us all become active participants in worship, and not just observers.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2021 SCRIPTURES

January 10th – Isaiah 40: 1-9 & Mark 1: 1-11

January 17th – Matthew 2: 22-23 & John 1: 43-51

January 24th – Jeremiah 16: 16 & Mark 1: 14-20

January 31st – Zechariah 13: 2 & Mark 1: 21-28

February 7th – Isaiah 35: 5-6 & Mark 1: 29-39

February 14th – Malachi 4: 5-6 & Mark 9: 2-9

February 21st – Isaiah 42: 1-4 & Mark 1: 9-15

February 28th – Psalm 78: 2 & Mark 4: 1-20

December Finance Report

Bastedo Estate: \$109,551
Cemetery: \$20,187
Capital Improvement: \$34,448 (up \$960)
Stocks: \$25,335 (up \$2,934 Nov.)
Operating Funds: \$30,453

December Operating Funds:

Total Income: \$19,448
Total Expenses: \$22,314
Overall Total: \$2,896

Year to date:

Total Income: \$162,282
Total Expenses: \$156,680
Overall Total: \$5,602

~ The Church Misses Seeing each of You ~

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

Apportionments (Shared Ministries) \$12,393 paid
in December. Which meant that our church paid
100 % of our commitment to the Conference.

Offertory Prayer

The Lord our God often gives us many wonderful
things that makes our life worth living. He gives us
the gift of family and friends, the gift of love and
laughter. As humble servants, we should show
gratitude and give something back to the Father.

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!

Calling all Women

Our UMW has really been affected by the pandemic, which is rather an ironic statement since everyone's life has been touched by Covid in many ways. In short 2020 has been pretty much of a "Bah-Humbug" year all around. We especially missed being able to have our annual Advent Party and putting up the giving tree in the narthex, decorating it, eating and singing carols together with all women in our congregation that special night.

The main function of our women's group has always been to support missions, locally, nationally and internationally. Because we have not been able to have our usual fundraisers, we are struggling to support those programs. We have squeaked by this year's projects and been able to help most of our commitments, but unless we can up our giving, 2021 does not look very bright.

We have realized for a while now that our current members are getting older and we need some fresh blood and new ideas. So besides this being a plea for funds, this is also a cry for new members who will come through this time of separateness to gather anew with energy and a spirit of wanting to help people in need close to home and far away. We also welcome all suggestions as to how our UMW can become a group that combines a group that reaches in to our hearts, to help us grow spiritually, helps us to lean in to each other for friendship and support, and reaches out to serve our Lord by helping others in our own back yard and across the globe.

As a result, we are putting out a call, both to our present members and to the congregation to help us to add to our treasury so we can meet our mission obligations this coming year. Each time we have asked for the congregation's help with larger UMCOR projects, you have never failed to lend a helping hand. We pray this time will be no different. If you can contribute, please send your gift to our treasurer Joan Powell, 503 Meadowyck Lane, Southampton, NJ 08088. And if you have any fresh new ideas to help our UMW, please email: claudiagifford1122@gmail.com; or bubbelindy@comcast.net.

Thank You!!!!

We know this has been a difficult year for many financially. We are especially thankful this year for the staff gift that was given to each of us. Your love and kindness are truly hope in the midst of pain. Thank you all so much!

Reverend Dave Ledford, Peggy Thomas and Sue Mansfield

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 STILL OPEN!

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. Religious gatherings are exempt from Governor Murphy's recent crowd restrictions. We may worship 25% capacity, which for us is 83 people. 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 pretty low and we feel confident that our safety measures are enough to keep worshiping in person while also keeping everyone safe. Our worship services are also live on Facebook, so there are a couple different ways to worship with us on Sunday mornings. Please check our Facebook page, website or phone message if you plan on attending worship in person on a Sunday morning. With cases rising quickly, it is possible that a decision to return to virtual only worship could be made during the week. Either way, we love worshiping with you!

VINCENTOWN UMC WORSHIP, MISSIONS & SMALL GROUPS

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

THURSDAY: 11am & 7pm Advent Bible Study on Zoom

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!!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 Bradley Bogert

7 John Gadjerowicz IV

10 Emma Morrison

11 Lois Klotz

14 Michele Woodbury

23 Kathy Rosmando

28 Joyce Bonstead, Melissa Burdge

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

6 Frank & Grace Hicks

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, February 6th from 10am-12pm.

The best practices for dropping off donations during the pandemic 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 and to our local scouts for many generous donations during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons including these gifts given to our Secret Santa...



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.