**The** **Vincent Voice**

**December 2023**

**Vincent**

**United Methodist Church**

**100 Vincent Place**

**Nutley, NJ 07110**

**973-667-5440**

[**vincentumc@verizon.net**](mailto:vincentumc@verizon.net)

[**www.vincentumc.org**](http://www.vincentumc.org)

**Worship and Sunday School**

**Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

Holiday Greetings to All of You!

Yes, it's getting to be that time! The bustle of activity is just beginning in preparation for Christmas marking the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To emphasize the spiritual dimension of the holiday season, your church has developed an exciting and inspiring schedule of experiences. Additional information for all of the following seasonal events can be found in this issue of the Vincent Voice.

The focal point of the Advent season will be our Sunday worship services, as it should be. This year, I will be preaching about “The Heart of Christmas” that point us to the manger child of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ. Each worship service will include the lighting of the Advent Candles by one of our church “families” and special music by our choir and soloists and bells. There will also be special highlights each week: an Advent Communion, the Greening of the Church, and the presentation of our White Gifts.

Advent will also be sprinkled with some other special seasonal seasonings. On December 3, we will have our annual Living Nativity reenacting the birth of Jesus in a stable setting on our church lawn. On Wednesday evening, December 6, we will have our Christmas Concert and Dessert presented by the United Women in Faith, featuring the Rutherford Select Choir directed by our Tricia Blanchard. After lunch on Sunday, December 17, we’ll go Christmas Caroling to our homebound members.

Then, on Christmas Eve Day, we will mark the Fourth Sunday of Advent at the 10 a.m. service and later welcome the baby Jesus anew into our world and into our hearts. The Family Service will be at 4:00 and will feature the carols, scripture, and *“Our Own Christmas Pageant”* as we re-enact the nativity with costumed characters from among the children who attend the service. The Traditional Service will be at 9:00 p.m. (note the earlier time like year), featuring carols, scriptures, music by the Choir, “O Holy Night,” a Christmas sermon, and the *Service of Candlelighting*. Once again, the Chancel Choir and Wesley Ringers and Soloists will provide the Prelude Music for the later Christmas Eve service starting at 8:45.

There will also be numerous opportunities to share the miracle of Christmas with those in need. Some of these include our White Gift program for children in need, the Mitten Tree, Christmas Greetings for World Hunger, Alternative Giving for “For Tanzania,” and our Care Kitchen on December 30.

With anticipation and reverence and gratitude, let us “prepare the way of the Lord.”

Peace and Goodwill,

*Rev. Dave*

**December Worship Schedule**

**December 3 – First Sunday of Advent**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Sacrament of Christian Baptism

Anthem by the Chancel Choir

Homily by Rev. LeDuc

***“The Heart of Christmas: Hope”***

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

**December 10 – Second Sunday of Advent**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Blessing of Our White Gifts

Anthem by the Chancel Choir

Sermon by Rev. LeDuc

***“The Heart of Christmas: Peace”***

**December 17 – Third Sunday of Advent**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Anthem by the Chancel Choir

Anthem by the Wesley Ringers

Song by the Praise Band

Sermon by Rev. LeDuc

***“The Heart of Christmas: Joy”***

**December 24 – Christmas Eve**

**10:00 a.m. Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Anthem by the Chancel Choir

Anthem by the Wesley Ringers

Sermon by Rev. LeDuc

***“The Heart of Christmas: Love”***

**4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service**

Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles

Carols and Scriptures

Message in Drama

***“Our Own Christmas Pageant”***

Service of Lighting

**9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Traditional Service**

Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles

Carols and Scriptures

Anthem by the Chancel Choir

Sermon by Rev. LeDuc

***“The Heart of Christmas: Jesus!”***

“O Holy Night”

Service of Candlelighting

**December 31 – First Sunday after Christmas**

Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles

Carols and Scriptures

Anthem by the Chancel Choir

Sermon by Rev. LeDuc

***“Christmas Stories”***

**Advent Begins – December 3**

Advent begins this year on December 3. Advent is a season of reflection and repentance as we prepare to receive the gift of the Christ child. We will begin the journey to Christmas with the lighting of the first of the four candles on our Advent Wreath and the “Greening of the Church.” Join us as we set off together for the manger in Bethlehem and its special gift to us all.

**“The Heart of Christmas” Series**

At Christmastime, there is a festive spirit as we decorate our homes, enjoy holiday music, prepare gifts for loved ones, and more. But what is the heart of Christmas? Join us during Advent as we prepare our souls to receive the gift of God’s love, to kneel at the manger of our Lord, to the heart of Christmas – Jesus.

**Christmas Eve Day Services –**

**10:00 a.m. & 4:00 & 9:00 p.m.**

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. The morning service at 10:00 a.m. will be the Fourth Sunday in Advent Service. The Family Christmas Eve Service will be at 4:00 p.m. The Traditional Candlelight Service for Christmas Eve will be at 9:00 p.m. We hope you will join us in person or online for any or all of our Christmas Eve Day services as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Christmas Eve Services**

Our church offers two different opportunities on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ! Both services will be held in the church sanctuary and also be available for viewing on the church Facebook page and by Call-In on the usual Sunday morning numbers. **The Family Service** will be held at 4:00 p.m. It will include the lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles, carols, scripture, and feature *“Our Own Christmas Pageant”* as we re-enact the nativity with costumed characters from among the children who attend the service. While this service may be less formal, all of the children and youth make it very special! **The Traditional Service** will be held at 9:00 p.m., with prelude music featuring soloists, the Wesley Ringers, and the Chancel Choir beginning at 8:45 p.m. The service will include carols, scriptures, music by the Choir, “O Holy Night,” a Christmas sermon, and the *Service of Candlelighting*. This is a lovely and moving service that brings peace and joy to the heart! Whichever service fits your schedule or style, we hope you'll come with family and friends to sing *"Joy to the world! The Lord is come!"*

**Christmas Sunday – December 31**

Many people think that the Sunday before Christmas is Christmas Sunday. This is not true because that Sunday is the fourth and last Sunday in Advent! Christmas Sunday is the first Sunday on or after Christmas! On that Sunday, we sing a lot of joyous carols, light the Advent and Christ Candles, and share some Christmas stories. It is fun and informal and a true family celebration of the wonder and love of Christmas. If you’re in town, come and enjoy this delightful service!

**Vincent Church Is Open for Worship**

Vincent Church is open for worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. The service is also broadcast live each week on the Vincent United Methodist Church Facebook page and is available by Call In. We ask anyone who is not feeling well to worship from home.  People are welcome to wear masks if they choose.  The left “wing” section of the Sanctuary will remain a “distanced” section for those who prefer it and the ventilation system will be circulating air.  Masks and hand sanitizer will continue to be available. May the Lord guide us as we seek to worship and serve God together.

***Advent Devotional Guides –***

***Available on the Usher’s Table***

***or by contacting the Church Office.***

**Worship with Us on Facebook Live!**

On Sundays at 10 a. m. (9:50 for prelude music), we invite you to go to the church’s Facebook page on a computer, tablet, or smart phone by clicking this link: [Vincent UMC Facebook Live Tab](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2F100064540486049%2Flive_videos%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C2773696907f9410dfb3f08db5e36d5ad%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638207361895867276%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Z86SibspDC%2B64TJli%2FGOGF8k1WYjsqnexJLwy1v3pUw%3D&reserved=0) (or for our main page: [Vincent UMC Facebook Page](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fprofile.php%3Fid%3D100064540486049&data=05%7C01%7C%7C2773696907f9410dfb3f08db5e36d5ad%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638207361895867276%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GO4wD5%2FDBbFzXKFdm9ZuEeCWx8knKun1SeJOs3BJwus%3D&reserved=0)). You do not need a Facebook account to watch the service (you may need to click “Not Now” on the invitation to join Facebook).  Click on the service to enlarge it and join in the worship service!

**Call In to HEAR the Worship Service!**

Those unable to be online for Sunday worship can call in to worship with us by phone.  To do so: call phone number 1-929-205-6099 (touch the green “dial” button if you haven’t), enter this Meeting ID: 886-1883-8523, touch #, then enter Participant Code 100, press # again, then enter Password 100, press # again and you’re in!  So call in by phone on Sunday mornings at 9:50 a.m. to join our Vincent Church family for worship at 10:00!

**To Enhance “At Home” Worship**

Here are some tips for enhancing your “at home” worship experience.  1.) As the service begins, light a candle inviting God’s presence into your worship space. 2.) Have a Bible ready to explore the scriptures with Rev. Dave.  3.) Open up the weekly update, if you are able, scroll down to the very bottom, and have the words to the hymn (s) ready to sing along with the song leader.  May we sense the presence of the holy in our worship together.

**Church School**

Vincent United Methodist Church’s Church School has classes for children from Kindergarten through grade 12. Children go to their classes after the children’s sermon at church each Sunday, except the first Sunday of each month. The curriculum being used is “Deep Blue” featuring Bible stories, a weekly DVD clip, games, crafts, and activities to help children “grow deeper in their faith.” On Communion Sundays (first Sunday of each month), the children remain in church for worship as a family and can pick up a clipboard in the back of the church to do some Bible activities. Children and their families are invited to come any Sunday or contact Michael Blanchard ([mblancha23@gmail.com](mailto:mblancha23@gmail.com)) for more information.

**Nursery Room Use**

The Nursery Room is open on Sunday mornings for the use of parents with little ones who need a place to feed, change or rock a child.  We ask that everyone clean up and sanitize after themselves.  It is not to be a play area for older children to help maintain its cleanliness.

**“An Unlikely Advent” Study**

“An Unlikely Advent” by Rachel Billups is the study being used for the Monday morning study group from 9:30-11:00 from November 27 to December 18. The study focuses on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the Nativity story: Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas. The class will meet on Zoom: [Monday Morning Study Group](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85833552508) or Meeting ID 858 3355 2508. For more information, contact Pam Rossman (973-534-6636) or Becky Olivo (201-657-0204). All are welcome.

**Youth Group Gift Wrap Service**

The Youth Group will offer Gift Wrapping after worship on December 3, 10, and 17 as a fund raiser toward their summer mission trip to RISE. Let us help take one thing off your to-do list this Christmas season. Folks can bring their items to be wrapped to the Library after service. The youth can help if needed. There are no set prices, just donations. Thank you for your support!

**Living Nativity – December 3**

Vincent United Methodist Church will present its annual Living Nativity on Sunday evening, December 3, following the Nutley Holiday Celebration at the Nutley Park Oval. From 6:00-7:00 p.m., members of the congregation will present short portrayals every 20-30 minutes of the birth of Jesus in a stable setting on the front lawn of the church. The free presentation will include Angels, Shepherds, Wise Men, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and live animals – including sheep, goats, donkeys and maybe more! Refreshments will be served. This is a beautiful reminder of the heart of Christmas – the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Christmas Concert and Dessert – December 6**

The United Women in Faith invite everyone to their annual Christmas Concert and Dessert on Wednesday evening, December 6 at 7:30. The concert will be in the Sanctuary with the Rutherford High School Select Choir sharing holiday selections directed by our Tricia Blanchard. Refreshments will be served afterwards in Philhower Chapel. All are welcome to come and enjoy a festive evening of Christmas music and fellowship.

**Let's Decorate the “Mitten Tree”!**

The “Mitten Tree” is a long-time tradition at our church.  Each year, winter clothing articles are collected by putting them on an artificial Christmas tree located inside the front entrance of the church. Articles can be placed on the Mitten Tree through December 17th.   Please bring unused mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, etc. and place them on the tree.  Those articles will be donated locally to people in need.

**White Gift Program - December 10**

Once again, we will be seeking to provide White Gifts for children in need. This year, we will be seeking some gifts and some gift cards. For the gifts, people are invited to pick up a gift tag from the Bulletin Board in the stairwell of the Education Building starting November 26 and purchase a gift for one or more of thirty children served through Bessie Green Community in Newark. Please wrap them in white tissue and a bow or ribbon.  This is to signify that none of the gifts are more important than the others. For the gift cards, we are seeking $25 gift cards to support the Township of Nutley’s Holiday Treasure Chest to provide gifts for needy children and to serve several people and families through our church. We are asking people to donate/purchase gift cards in the amount of $25 from local stores such as Kohl's, Target, Burlington Coat Factory, and Old Navy. The cards can be wrapped in a white envelope if you wish. We will have a large box decorated as a White Gift to collect the cards on December 10. If you are not able to attend the service, the box will be in the church office for donations to be dropped off prior to December 10th (Monday to Friday from 10-1). During our worship service on December 10, people will be invited to come forward and present their gifts before the altar as a token of gratitude for God’s ultimate gift to us of the baby Jesus.

**Christmas Caroling - December 17**

While Christmas is a time of joy for many people, it is a lonely time for others. As Christians, we are called to share the love and hope with people in need of some Christmas cheer. We will meet at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 17 at church for caroling to or calling our homebound members and friends. We’ll order some pizza for lunch for those who would like to stay after worship. So, bring your jingle bells, wear a Santa hat if you have one, and bring a bundle of holiday spirit! Whether you sing like a bird or a frog, come out and share the joy of Christmas with others!

**“Christmas Moments Evening” – December 19**

Rev. LeDuc will hold an “Advent Devotional Night” on Tuesday evening, December 19 from 7:30-8:30 on Zoom. He will share a devotional story and then invite everyone to share the Christmas moments they’ve experienced in this season or years past.. He invites everyone to have a candle to light as we seek to connect anew to the Light coming into the world in this Advent season. Here is the Zoom link: [Christmas Moments Evening](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89836238539?pwd=SEVlUjI1cEtxaUM2MUgySkpXN2wzZz09). All are welcome.

**Christmas Solace Service – December 21**

Advent is the time we wait in hope for God to come into our world and transform us with new life. This time of year can also be difficult as we remember loved ones who are no longer with us, become overwhelmed with frenzy, or are affected by longer and longer nights. All who are in need of solace are invited to attend. Please join us on Thursday, December 21 at 7:30pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 158 Vreeland Avenue in Nutley.

**Christmas Greetings for World Hunger**

The Outreach Team of Vincent Church is sponsoring “Christmas Greetings for World Hunger” again this year. In lieu of sending Christmas cards to your church family, please consider making a donation to World Hunger (through UMCOR) and sending your greeting via a “Vincent Christmas Card.” The greetings will be published in the Vincent Church Christmas Letter. Send your Greeting and Donation (payable to Vincent United Methodist Church) to the Church Office or put them in the offering plate on Sunday morning or email them to the Office at [vincentumc@verizon.net](mailto:vincentumc@verizon.net) making a donation online ([Vincent Church Online Giving](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YSNA/home)) using the “World Hunger” line. The deadline is Tuesday, December 12th. Merry Christmas to all!

**Poinsettias for Christmas**

Every year, we decorate our sanctuary for Christmas Eve with a beautiful array of poinsettias. The congregation is invited to dedicate/purchase a plant in honor or memory of someone. The listing of dedications will be published with the Vincent Church Christmas Letter. If you would like to do so, send your dedication and $12 per plant (payable to Vincent United Methodist Church) to the Church Office or put them in the offering plate on Sunday morning or email them to the Office at [vincentumc@verizon.net](mailto:vincentumc@verizon.net) while making the payments online ([Vincent Church Online Giving](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YSNA/home)) using the “Christmas Poinsettia” line. The deadline is Tuesday, December 12th. If you have any questions, call Cathie Tedesco at 973-751-2749.

**Invite a Friend to Church!**

Late November and all of December are terrific times to invite someone to come to church with you. In the midst of the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, people are more mindful of the place of spirituality in our world and in their lives. They are, then, more receptive to an invitation. Do you have a friend, relative, acquaintance, or neighbor who might be struggling with concerns or loneliness, or searching for a church or direction in life? Why not invite them to come to church with you to find the comfort, peace, and love of God we share here? Invite them to come and worship with us, to stay for coffee and conversation afterward, and to get to know a bit about our congregation. Maybe they will find a church home. The Lord calls us to open our doors and invite others to join in this ministry we share and this is a great time to do so!

**Christmas Moments**

We get going so busily at the holidays that it is important to be on the lookout for “Christmas Moments.” In this season, we all come across those times when we see or hear or feel the beauty or love or joy of Christmas. It may be in the radiance of a child’s face or a touching holiday story or a whimsical joy! When we experience these moments, it is so important to stop and recognize them and enjoy them. We could also do well to reflect on them later or journal about them. Whatever we do, let’s not miss those “Christmas Moments,” for they are signs of God’s love through the baby Jesus trying to break forth into our world…and into our hearts.

**“For Tanzania” Alternative Gift Cards**

The Outreach Team is inviting people to make an “alternative gift” for Christmas toward our Greater New Jersey “For Tanzania” campaign. The goal is to raise $100,000 to build a church sanctuary at the Conference Center in Dar es Salaam and provide a year’s worth of living wages to all Tanzanian pastors. Rather than buy an unneeded gift, consider donating $5 to $500 toward the building of the Sanctuary and providing salary for these dedicated but barely paid pastors. The beautiful gift cards would be filled out and given to the recipient as their gift. They will be available after church some Sundays or by contacting the Church Office. Donations can also be made at [Vincent Church Online Giving](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YSNA/home). For more information, visit [www.gnjumc.org/fortanzania](http://www.gnjumc.org/fortanzania). May this be one way we honor the birth of Jesus this year.

**Stewardship Campaign Reminder**

Many members and friends of our congregation received information about our 2024 Stewardship Program: “Generous..” We thank those of you who have returned your Estimates of Giving Cards to the church. If you intend to and haven’t done so yet, we ask you prayerfully do so as soon as possible. Extra cards are on the Usher’s Table or you can contact Richard Baumann ([force5@verizon.net](mailto:force5@verizon.net)). We have received so many blessings from the Lord. May our hearts overflow with gratitude in supporting the Lord’s work through our Vincent United Methodist Church.

**Rev. LeDuc to Retire**

It has been announced that Rev. LeDuc will be retiring as of June 30 after 39 years of ministry. He looks forward to spending more time with his wife and family, pursue some other things that bring him joy, and serve the Lord in other ways. We thank him for his 17 years with us here at Vincent Church and pray all the best for him. Our Staff-Parish Relations Committee will be working with our District Superintendent and Bishop toward the appointment of our next pastor as of July 1. Let us keep this process in our prayers.

**Middle East Special Offering**

Vincent Church is collecting a special offering to provide resources to assist providing shelter, food, and other necessities to those who have been left homeless, helpless, and afraid by the violence in the Middle East.  Donations will go through UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) with 100% of funds contributed going to the effort.  Donations can be made in any envelope marked “Middle East” (checks to VUMC) and placed in the offering plate or sent to the Church Office., or online at [Vincent Church Online Giving](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YSNA/home).  Let us also be in prayer for peace and for aid and comfort for those impacted.

**2023 Donations Needed by December 28**

As we come to the end of the year, please be aware that donations to Vincent Church that you would like posted to your 2023 Financial Statement need to be received by Thursday, December 28, to the Church Office or to Financial Secretary Rich Baumann or online through our Vanco giving portal. We thank everyone for their support of this ministry we share for the sake of Jesus Christ in the world.

**Tom Kenney Address**

Tom Kenney has moved. His new address is for those who might like to send him a card: Paramus Veterans Memorial Home, 1 Veterans Way, Paramus, NJ 07652. Let’s keep Tom in prayer in this time of transition.

**Story Team**

We have a new Story Team that is working to help us gather and tell the story of God’s activity in our lives and in our church. Our reporters will be out and about seeking input and stories. If you have a story to share or might like to join the Story Team, contact the Church Office.

**Youth Group RISE Interest Meeting – December 3**

There will be a meeting after church on December 3 in the Sanctuary for any youth who might be interested in going on the RISE mission trip next summer. All students in grades 8-12 are eligible to go. Contact Tricia Blanchard ([pblanchard2323@gmail.com](mailto:pblanchard2323@gmail.com)) or Danielle Blair ([dmb514@gmail.com](mailto:dmb514@gmail.com)) for more information.

**“The Chorus of Communities” Christmas Concert**

“The Chorus of Communities” will be presenting their 34th Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 p.m. at Vincent Church. Tickets are $15, students and seniors are $12, families of three or more are $35. A light reception will follow. For more information, contact Jennifer Williams at [sweetjenni29@yahoo.com](mailto:sweetjenni29@yahoo.com).

***In Prayer…***

**Church Family and Friends Prayer Concerns**

1. Diana Spangenberg is undergoing a T-cell transplant
2. Anita McRea is recovering from a back epidural.
3. Pam Alfano had a vein ablation.
4. Randy Rossman is on the waiting list for a lung transplant.
5. Marilyn Testa is recovering from surgery.
6. Several church members going through cancer treatments.
7. For a just peace in the Middle East.
8. For a just peace in Ukraine.
9. Those engaged in the struggle against racism.
10. The men and women in law enforcement.

Let us keep these and all those on our prayer list wrapped in our prayers

**PRAYER LIST**

Tom Olivo, Diana Spangenberg, Jack Casale, Sue Casale, Helen Tress, Bob Hosking, Evelyn Hosking, Fred Kingston, Pam Alfano, Linda Baker Grimm, Stephen Delaney, Anita McCrea, Sharon Lautenbacher, Marilyn Testa, Sue Brogan, Nor James, Linda Matto,  Walter Koroluk, Kristen Henderson, Randy Rossman, Amanda Rivera,  Dominic Capello, Rosie Miles, Catherine Abate, Mike Turner, Juliana Peter, Sarah Dupuy, Imre Kovacs, Roman, Vincent DeNunzio, Cindy Keiss, Joyce Verzi, Bob Parran, Jeff Mitschow, Tom Tress, Jr, Clayton Carroll, Sr, Charles Kuczinski , Cindy Keiss, Jeannie Noble, Dr. Lane Sofman, Kaitlin Rifici, Ella Hill, Andrew Nelson, Antonia Concepcion, Adela Manzano, Deb Matthews, Richard Moore, Ray Vetterlein, Nelson Matos, Barbara Golding, Steve Canonico, Jimmy Richelo, Pablo Estevez, Beverly Parran, Kim Brown Cofield, Rev. Doug Miller, Family of Carol Beronio, Family of Maria Tulp, Carmine Gennarelli, Gail Rasieleski, Family of Ken Schmolze, Family of Robert Cook, Family of Burt Schutt, Family of Linda Tittrington, Bill Picillo, Family of William Ford Riffle, Lucy Olivo, Family of Louise Hallenbeck, Moeses Guzman, Cora Paris Ponnwitz

**In the Military**

Justin Bakal, Jonathan Raia, Eric Dietrich, R. T. Morgan, Joseph Craige, Justin Fonyi, Kenneth Bratten, Zack Hickey, Matthew Morrow, Thomas Nowoslawski, Nicholas Nowoslawski, Shane Edwards, Grant Higginbotham, Daniel Eadie, Ryan Fen, our Veterans

**Remembering the Enslaved of Nutley**

The Nutley Clergy Fellowship, with the support of the Township Commissioners, Nutley Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Council and the Kingsland Trust, are raising money for the installation of a memorial stone and commemorative plaque to honor the African American men and women who were historically enslaved in the Township. It will be dedicated to recognize the enslaved in Nutley who helped build our community.  The recognition and unveiling is planned for Juneteenth, 2024.  Donations can be made out to “Vincent United Methodist Church” noted for “Enslaved Marker” (mailed or brought to 100 Vincent Place, Nutley, NJ 07110) or online at [www.vincentumc.org](http://www.vincentumc.org) using the “Giving” tab. All donors providing contact information will be acknowledged and invited to the unveiling.

**Altar Flowers**

To help beautify our altar for our Sunday worship services, members and friends are invited to donate a flower arrangement in honor or in memory of someone, to celebrate an occasion, or to the glory of God. Following the service, they can be taken home or they can be delivered to someone who is ill or homebound. To reserve a date, contact our Flower Coordinator Cathie Tedesco (973-751-2749 or [tedescocathie@gmail.com](mailto:tedescocathie@gmail.com)). The cost of the altar arrangement is $30.00 and may be paid by check made out to VUMC and sent or dropped by the church office.

**December Birthdays**

1 Tim Henderson

1 Angel Caro

2 Andrew Hunter

3 Leah Kries

5 Wendell Grimm

6 Katherine Blair

6 Ciara Brown

10 Logan Goode

10 Zachary Maichuk

12 Tatem Pied

13 David Caithness

14 Debbie Slattery

17 Lucas Dziura

17 Kristen Henderson

19 Katie Gotoff

20 Andy Lautenbacher

20 Alexandra Phillips

20 Alexis Phillips

22 Scott Dziura

23 Evelyn Hosking

25 Mary Simmons

28 Brendan Gashke

29 Max Groeger

29 Stephanie Tangora

31 Nicholas Pallotta

**December Anniversaries**

19 Jim & Christine Novotny

27 Bill & Bette-Ann Rebenack

***Remember Your Church in Your Will***

**Shop-Rite Gift Cards**

Our church participates in a fund-raising program with Shop-Rite.  Church members or friends are invited to purchase Shop-Rite gift cards from the church of which the church makes 5%.  Every little bit helps as we make over $1000 a year on this.  They can be used at any Shop-Rite store and can be used for food and/or prescriptions.  To purchase the gift cards or for more information, see Lillian Gripp after church or contact the Church Office.

**Online Giving!**

We can support the mission and ministry of Vincent Church through online giving through Vanco! This can be done by using this link: [Vincent Church Online Giving](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YSNA/home), by visiting the church website and clicking “Online Donation,” or by downloading the “Vanco Mobile” app from the Apple App Store (iPhone) or the Google Play Store (Android). The Vanco service is highly secure, supporting online giving to over 20,000 churches and non-profits. It is nationally endorsed by the United Methodist Church. They can process donations by credit card (yes you can collect your rewards on this!) or by electronic payment from a bank account. You can also setup recurring giving so it would be a one-time setup. We would appreciate your consideration of opting to cover the small fee for the transactions. Collectively, the fees will add up to lost income for the church. Your online donation, plus the coverage of the fee, will be on your year-end giving statement and will all be tax deductible. May this be one way that we offer ourselves to the work of the Lord through Vincent Church.

**Stock Donations Welcome**

Vincent Church has an account with TD Ameritrade and welcomes stock donations to the church. After a stock has grown, cashing it in means paying income tax on the capital gain. By donating it to the church, the church can cash it in for full value and the donor receives an income tax benefit as a charitable donation for that full value. Anyone who might like to explore this or donate stocks to the church, should contact our church Financial Secretary Rich Baumann at [force5@verizon.net](mailto:force5@verizon.net). This is one way to support the work of Christ through Vincent Church.

**Vincent Church Endowment Fund**

Vincent United Methodist Church has established an Endowment Fund which provides members and friends the opportunity to make charitable gifts to the church.  The Endowment Fund is intended to be a permanent fund that is an enduring source of financial support and a living memorial to those whom Vincent United Methodist Church has served. Since the work of Christ in the world is of importance to us all, we are invited to consider including Vincent Church in our planned giving.  Our new Vincent Church Endowment Fund is an ideal vehicle to do so. The Endowment Fund is a permanent fund whose investment income is to be used to support the maintenance and improvement of our church property.  For more information, contact Dave Rauschenberger at 973-667-6947 or [daveandgale@aol.com](mailto:daveandgale@aol.com).

**Care Kitchen Help Needed – December 30**

The Care Kitchen is a take-out program, serving hot meals most Saturdays from 11:30-12:30 at our church.  On Saturday, December 30 help will be needed as our Vincent Church team gathers from 9:15-1:15 for prep work, packaging the meals, distributing the meals, and cleaning up. Sign up for an hour or two by contacting Barbara Carrino at 973-919-0077 or [barbaracarrino@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaracarrino@yahoo.com).  We feed 65-75 people in need each month in our area.

**Community Care Kitchen**

The Community Care Kitchen serves hot take-out meals three times per month at Vincent United Methodist Church (100 Vincent Place in Nutley) on the second, third, fourth and last Saturdays of each month from 11:30-12:30. Prepared and shared by people from Vincent Church, Grace Church, Holy Trinity Church, St. Mary’s Church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and St. Phillip the Apostle Church, the meal might be chicken or beef or pasta with delicious sides and vegetables.  Everyone is welcome to come by the Community Care Kitchen and pick up a meal-to-go including families and seniors.  Please bring a large bag or two to carry the food.  In these tough times, there is a growing need and the churches are partnering with others in our community to make a difference in the world.  Anyone who would like to make a contribution can contact the Vincent Church Office or visit the church website at [www.vincentumc.org](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.vincentumc.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C2773696907f9410dfb3f08db5e36d5ad%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638207361895867276%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yF4JSkXJPedAwZkpuBckaRhHE8mvR6nxyY7tEIkGg6c%3D&reserved=0). We are proud to partner with the Community Food Bank of New Jersey and to serve as a GNJUMC Hope Center.

**Vincent UMC Safety Protocol**

Our church has developed some safety protocols in case of a fire, medical or security emergency.  Our ushers and Church School staff have been trained as to how to proceed with different situations.  If you see a situation that needs attention, please speak to one of the ushers for assistance.  This might include smoke or fire, someone in medical distress, or someone whose behavior is erratic or makes one uncomfortable.  If you see something, please say something to an usher who will then address the situation.  We want our church to be a welcoming, safe, and peaceful setting for our worship and service of God.

**AED Available for Emergency Use**

Our church has an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which can diagnose and defibrillate someone having a heart attack. On opening it, the AED has simple audio and visual commands that are designed to be used by any layperson. It is located in a marked metal box in the hallway to the chapel. While we pray it will never be used, it is available if a heart emergency arises.

**First Aid Kit and “Stop the Bleed” Trauma Kit**

Our church has a First Aid Kit and a “Stop the Bleed” Trauma Kit. They are located on the door in the Usher’s Closet opposite the Ladies Room. They contain items needed in case of a medical emergency. While we pray they never need to be used, they are available in the case of an emergency.

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**“Stop the Bleed” Trauma Kit**

Our church has a “Stop the Bleed” Trauma Kit.  It is located on the door in the Usher’s Closet opposite the Ladies Room.  It contains an extremity tourniquet, emergency bandage, trauma sheers, rolls of compressed gauze dressing, gloves, and instructions.  While we pray it will never be used, it is available in the case of an emergency.

**In Case of Horrid Weather**

‘Tis the season for snow and ice! Since we value you greatly, there are some rare occasions when we will decide to cancel church rather than have you risk your life and limbs to get to worship. If such a stormy Sunday arises, you can check our Facebook page, the Church Office answering machine, or your email. We pray, however, for a season of sunny winter Sundays!

**Vincent UMC Little Pantry Donations Needed**

Please support our Vincent Youth in their newest fight against hunger! The youth have created a Little Pantry that will be placed by the stairs on the park side of the church. They are looking for items to fill the pantry: Non-Perishable Items only, No expired foods, so please check the Expiration Date, No Opened boxes or jars, New items only, No glass bottles, as this will be outside and subject to temperature changes. Donations will be accepted in 2 ways: Bring your donation to church on Sunday mornings and place in the box in the Narthex, Place your items directly into the cabinet. (which can be accepted any day). Please join us to help those who are in need! No donation is too small, so please consider picking up an extra can of vegetables or box of pasta when you do your grocery shopping. Any little bit helps. Vincent UMC Youth Group (grades 6-12)

**Monthly Mission Contributions for December**

“Monthly Mission” contributions for December are for our Vincent Church Care Ministries. Once a month, our church Care Pantry distributes bags of personal care items to over 75 families in need in our area. Many of these essentials are too often ignored when bills and food are the top priority. Then in non-pandemic times in conjunction with several other Nutley churches, we serve over 50 people a hot dinner meal at noon on 3-4 Saturdays per month in our Fellowship Hall. Some served are seniors on a limited income, families and individuals struggling to get by, and homeless neighbors who need a good meal. Your “Monthly Mission” donation (any envelope marked “Care Ministries”) or at [Vincent Church Online Giving](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YSNA/home) will help provide aid to those in need in our area.

**Parish News**

**Funeral**

Louise Hallenbeck, mother of Laura Brandao, went home to the Lord on November 13. Rev. LeDuc officiated her service on November 17 at Armitage & Wiggins Funeral Home in Kearney. Our prayer go out to Louise’ family and friends.

**Upcoming Events**

January 7 Epiphany Sunday

De-decorate the church

Dedication of Church Leaders

January 9 FPEC Assistance Week 1

January 14 Human Relations Day

Dedication of Church Leaders

January 16 FPEC Assistance Week 2

February 11 Souper Bowl Sunday

UMYF Hoagie Sale

February 14 Ash Wednesday Service (7:30)

February 18 First Sunday in Lent

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**CHURCH STAFF**

Ministers: **All Members of the Congregation**

Pastor: **The Rev. David LeDuc**

Prayer Minister: **The Rev. John Benitez**

Organist: **Tricia Blanchard**

Choir Director:  **Joe Maleno**

Office Administrator: **Kairyn Contreras**

Sextons: **Angel Caro & Marisa Torres**

Missionary: **Kabaka Ndala Alphonsine**

A close-up of several business cards

Description automatically generated

A white and black card with text and a christmas tree

Description automatically generated

A person in a red robe surrounded by animals

Description automatically generated

A form with a message

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

A letter to a church

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

A manger in a stone room

Description automatically generatedA group of people in clothing

Description automatically generated

Vincent United Methodist Church

100 Vincent Place

Nutley, New Jersey 07110

