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# *Vale United Methodist Church*

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## **“The Nutcracker: The Greatest Gift”**

December 19, 2021

11528 Vale Road • Oakton, Virginia 22124

[www.ValeChurch.org](http://www.ValeChurch.org)

Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

[Facebook.com/groups/valechurch](https://www.facebook.com/groups/valechurch)



**United in faith, we seek to...**

Align our lives with the way of Jesus Christ.

Invite others to journey with us.

Move beyond our walls to create a more just and loving world.

**GATHERING**

*We gather as the people of God to be formed by God's grace.*

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

**\* Call to Worship**

**Lay Reader**

One: Not in the mighty places of power, but in little Bethlehem, in a room out back:

Many: **The Messiah is coming.**

One: Not born in nobility and wealth, but of Mary and Joseph, who pondered and planed wood:

Many: **The Messiah is coming.**

One: Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings, but by two women, who were the first to know:

Many: **The Messiah is coming.**

One: Nothing will be impossible for God, but when and where we least expect it, look among the straw and the stars:

Many: **The Messiah is coming.**

**\*Hymn**

**“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” UMH 213**

**Advent Wreath** Applewhite-Gedo and Taylor Families

## **Candle Response**

One: Let us pray together:

Many: God of love made flesh, reveal your grace offered  
to us throughout this Advent season. Amen

## **PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE**

*We hear God's word proclaimed. We act in response.*

### **Scripture**

**Luke 1:46b-55**

### **Children's Sermon (11:00)**

**Rev. Dietz**

### **Sermon**

**"The Nutcracker: The Greatest Gift" Rev. Haugh**

**Hymn "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" UMH 216**

### **Call for Joys and Concerns**

### **Call to Prayer**

**UMH 204**

**"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
His name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us,  
His name is called Emmanuel.

## Prayers of the People

*You may ask for prayer requests via chat. You also may send prayer requests to [PrayerRequests@ValeChurch.org](mailto:PrayerRequests@ValeChurch.org).*

*After each petition, there will be a moment of silence closed by*

*“Hear us, O God,” Please respond with*

*“your mercy is great.”*

## The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Special Music (11:00)

**“Angels from the Realms of Glory” arr. Mackie**

Vale Handbells

## Blessing of the Offerings

### \* Hymn

**“While the Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”**

**UMH 236, v 1, 2, 6**

## SENDING FORTH

*Transformed by God's presence, we go into the world to serve.*

### Announcements

#### \* Blessing and Charge

#### \* Postlude

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*\*Please stand in spirit or in posture.*

UMH – *United Methodist Hymnal*    TFWS – *The Faith We Sing*  
*Hymnal*

Lay Readers:

8:30                  Debbie German

11:00                Tom Feeney

Virtual              Judy Jobbitt

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The worship committee gratefully acknowledges the poinsettias and wreaths donated for the sanctuary, fellowship hall and doors:

*In remembrance of Marybeth Quist – Rev. Joanna Dietz*

*In memory of loved ones – Terri Lowry*

*In honor of all cancer survivors including my parents Richard and  
Jane Brewer – Jan Smith*

*In remembrance of beloved family and friends – Dorothy Arbiter*

A special thank you to Frank Taylor for creating the lovely bows for the wreaths.

## Children's Church

We invite the children to take a worship packet and work on the activities during worship at their seats or at the Children's Corner. Our youngest are invited to go to the nursery, across the hall from the worship space.

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### NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas, December 26, 2021

“Christmas Story in Cartoons”

Dorothy Arbiter

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**This Week at Vale: December 19, 2021 – December 26, 2021**

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**Sun, December 19**

- 8:30 am Worship Service (Virtual)
- 8:30 am Worship Service (In-Person)
- 9:30 am Contemporary Christian Topics
- 9:45 am Sunday Small Groups
- 11:00 am Worship Service (In-Person)
- 12:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm **Advent Study: Week Four\***

**Tues, December 21**

- NO Youth Group**
- 7:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting

**Fri, December 24**

- 7:00 pm **Christmas Eve Service\***
- 11:00 pm **Christmas Eve Service (with communion)\***

**Sat, December 25**

Merry Christmas!

**Sun, December 26**

- 8:30 am Worship Service (Virtual)\*
- 1:00 pm **Youth Group Meal Prep\***

\*\*\*The church office will be **CLOSED** the week of Dec26 - Jan 2\*\*\*

\* *see announcement for details*

At this time, many meetings are offered in a hybrid virtual and in-person format. Please contact your group leader for specific information, or email the office at [Office@ValeChurch.org](mailto:Office@ValeChurch.org).

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## Vale Ministry Opportunities

### December 19, 2021

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#### WELCOME FRIENDS! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Whether you are new to the area or a long-time resident, we warmly welcome you to our community of faith at Vale Church!

We look forward to meeting you in person—and hope to see you with us again soon!



Vale UMC is proud to be recognized as a Safe Haven congregation. If you suspect signs of human trafficking, please call 888.373.7888 or text 233733.

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**Enjoy today's message?** – Services can also be found on YouTube and Facebook by searching for “Vale United Methodist Church”. If you would like a DVD, please let us know.

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**Church updates** – Did you know Vale sends out via email a weekly *Shout* and a monthly *Voice* with church updates? If you are **not** receiving our emails and would like to, please let the Vale office know.

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**Do you want to support Vale's ministries?** Did you know that you can give to Vale online? We use the respected vendor Push Pay. You don't have to set up an account and you can designate your offering for a particular mission, program or for the general church funding. Go to <http://pushpay.com/g/valechurch> and see how easy it is. The information is confidential and secure.

If you have any questions or run into any difficulty using Push Pay, please contact our Financial Secretary, Eileen Koefoot, at [FinSec@ValeChurch.org](mailto:FinSec@ValeChurch.org)



**Christmas Eve Services** – We will have worship in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm, with communion served at the 11:00 service only. Please register [on our website](#) to ensure you have a spot, as we have a maximum capacity of 100 people.

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**Church Office Closings** – The church office will be closed the week of Dec 26<sup>th</sup> through Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>. In an emergency, Joanna will be reachable at (703) 346-8335 until the 30<sup>th</sup>, and Jeff will be reachable at (804) 687-3938 after the 30<sup>th</sup>.

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**Post-Christmas Schedule** – On December 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a virtual service at 8:30 only, and on January 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a virtual service at 8:30 and in person at 11:00 only.

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**Bulletin Boards** – To prepare for our guests on Christmas Eve, we are hoping to get all of our bulletin boards and information up to date. If your committee has a bulletin board, please stop by the church to see if it needs cleaned up.

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**Vale Youth Group** – The youth will be meeting one more time on December 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm to prepare a meal for the Hypothermia Shelter. Please contact Joanna Dietz to attend at [youth@valechurch.org](mailto:youth@valechurch.org)

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**Let's do a Shepherd's Run!** – The shepherds were the first humans to tell the good news of Christ's birth. We invite you to participate in sharing the Christmas cheer on Christmas day like the shepherds by putting together a plate of treats and delivering them to a specific location where people are working that day to keep us safe and cared for. The plate can have cookies, cheese and crackers, veggies or fruits - you name it. The items can be homemade or store bought. Please contact Joanna Dietz at [youth@valechurch.org](mailto:youth@valechurch.org) for a location (we don't want the fire station to have 10 items and the nursing homes to have none!). Tags for the plate can be found at [bit.ly/valechurchinfo](http://bit.ly/valechurchinfo). Please be sure to print one out and attach it to the plate so people can learn about the Shepherds Run and our church!



**Hypothermia Shelter** – Vale is providing meals for the Hypothermia Shelter at Christ Lutheran Church on December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please be sure to bring all prepared food donations to the church

kitchen at 12-3 pm on the date you register for. Sign up to donate food or help serve the meal on Vale's [SignUp Genius page](#), accessible on our website.

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**Year End Staff Recognition** – It is a tradition at Vale UMC to recognize each our staff at year end with a monetary gift. This gift is our way of saying “THANK YOU” for your efforts in supporting our Vale community through your gifts and graces. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this fund as functioning during the pandemic this past year has been particularly challenging and our staff have all gone above and beyond in keeping the light of Christ alive at Vale. Contributions may be made via Push Pay or via check. If paying by check please write Staff Year End Gift in the memo column of your check and place it in one of the collection plates or the box on the welcome table. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Bette Rutherford, Staff Parish Chair, at 703-620-2448.



**Advent Candles** – The Advent wreath and candle lighting is a tradition originated in the Lutheran Church in Germany in the 1600s. It was brought to the United States in the 1930s. Originally, the candles stood as a marker of time until Christmas. Although the colors vary, we use three purple and one pink. It wasn't until more recently that the candles were given names. These names can

change but the focus of each should remind the congregation of the waiting period leading to Christmas. This year, we will be using names to reflect our church's themes this Advent season: anticipation, steadfastness, community, and love. The middle white candle always represents Christ's light coming into the world.

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study** – Starting January 5, we will read *Beyond the Broken Heart: A Journey Through Grief*. The first lesson will be very general; you will not need to have read anything beforehand. We meet at 10 am each Wednesday in the Resource Room or you can join us via the [Vale Worship Zoom link](#). The book is available on [Amazon](#) (\$13.99 paper, \$9.99 kindle). You might be able to find a used copy as well.

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**Wayne's Corner** – As the Lay Leader for Vale, Wayne Applewhite acts as the connection between the congregation and the clergy. He invites you to call him at (703)-815-6618 or email at [applewhitew2003@yahoo.com](mailto:applewhitew2003@yahoo.com) with any matters you might want brought to Jeff and Joanna.

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## Vale Music –

### Special Music Request –

We are in need of special music each Sunday for the online worship service. Please contact Jan Smith at [music@valechurch.org](mailto:music@valechurch.org) if you would be willing to share your gifts in this way. Singing, playing an instrument, solos, duets, etc. - we'd love to have you participate!



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**Worship Sign In** – In order to keep track of who is attending in person services, we ask that you please sign in with the usher as you enter. If you have registered beforehand or regularly attend services, your name should appear on the list – simply check yourself off. If you are new or have not registered, please write your name and contact information for Covid tracing purposes.

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We are watching the Covid cases in our area closely. Please refer to our website for any schedule changes. Children's activities will be dependent on applicable guidelines. We will pay particular attention to the practices of Fairfax County Public Schools.

We ask you to register for services so that we can contact attendees if we become aware of Covid cases in our community

## VALE CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haugh, Pastor  
Cell: 804-687-3938 /Pastor@ValeChurch.org

Rev. Joanna Dietz, Deacon of Discipleship  
703- 620-2594 /Youth@ValeChurch.org

Laura Michaelis, Administrative Assistant  
703-620-2594 /Office@ValeChurch.org

Susan Ricci, Director of Vale Preschool  
703-620-2594 / Preschool@ValeChurch.org

Jan Smith, Music Director  
703- 620-2594 / Music@ValeChurch.org

Norm Dietz, Accompanist/Organist

Vicky Alonzo, Nursery Caregiver  
Olesya Ellis, Nursery Caregiver

Edilman Robles, Custodian

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## 2021 VALE CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Tom Feeney, Council Chair • Susan Leigh, Secretary  
Wayne Applewhite, Lay Leader • Bill Rigger, Finance Chair  
Eileen Koefoot, Financial Secretary • George Hohmann, Treasurer  
Bette Rutherford, SPRC Chair • Kandi Molyneaux, Trustees Chair  
TBD, Nurture Ministry Chair  
Stephanie Marshall, Witness Ministry Chair  
Linda Chrosniak, Outreach Ministry Chair  
Dorothy Arbiter, Lay Member of Annual Conference  
Rose Mangino, Lay Member of Annual Conference and  
Youth Representative  
Karen Leniart, United Methodist Women, President