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# Vale United Methodist Church

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## **“Being Present with Peace”**

December 3, 2023

11528 Vale Road • Oakton, Virginia 22124

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

In Person Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Worship at 8:30 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.

**WE CELEBRATE OUR PRESENCE TOGETHER:  
GATHERING**

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

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Advent Wreath Lighting**

One: We unwrap a present on this second Sunday of Advent with great anticipation for the gift that God will reveal.

Many: **We open our hearts as we open the gift!**

One: The promise of Peace is the Divine Gift we receive.

Many: **And what will we do with it?**

One: The gift of Christ’s peace reminds us that we can have serenity even in the midst of non-peaceful situations. Peace is not simply the absence of conflict. Peace is an ever-present gift that we can open at any time when we stop, breathe, and trust that we are never alone. And the gift of peace we can give is to be present for those who feel alone.

Many: **We light this Candle of Peace as a sign that we will be Present with Hope in the world.**

## What Can I Give Him?

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Magi, I would do my part;  
Yet what can I give Him: I will give my heart.

## Prayer of Presence

Many: Holy Living Light of God, you are our Peaceful Presence. Let this peace grow in our lives each day, so we can be a Present of Peace to others. Unwrap and open our hearts. May it be so. Amen

## \*Hymn “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

UMH 218

## The Peace

*From your seat, please offer your neighbors the peace of Jesus Christ.  
The liturgist will call out “**May the peace of Christ be with you!**”  
Please respond with, “**And also with you!**”*

**THE WORD PRESENT AMONG US:  
PROCLAIMING**



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

**First Reading**

**Isaiah 40:1-11**

- One: "Console my people, give them comfort," says your God.
- Many: "Speak tenderly to Jerusalem's heart, and tell it that its time of service is ended..."
- One: A voice cries out, "Clear a path through the wilderness for Yahweh! Make a straight road through the desert for our God!"
- Many: **Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low; let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges become a valley!**
- One: Go up on a high mountain, you who bring good news to Zion!
- Many: **Shout with a loud voice, you who bring good news to Jerusalem!**
- One: Shout without fear, and say to the towns of Judah "Here is your God!"
- Many: **Like a shepherd you feed your flock, gathering the lambs and holding them close, and leading mother ewes with gentleness.**

**Second Reading**

**II Peter 3:8-15a**

**Hymn “Let There Be Peace on Earth”**

**UMH 431**

**Gospel Reading**

**Mark 1:1-8**

*The reading will end with “A word of God that is still speaking.”*

*Please respond with “Thanks be to God.”*

**Children’s Moment**

*After the Children’s Moment, children will be dismissed to their  
Sunday School class.*

**Sermon “Being Present with Peace”**

**Rev. Haugh**

**FULLY PRESENT IN THE MOMENT: PRAYING**

*We practice being present in the moment with God through prayer.*

**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 send prayer requests to [PrayerRequests@ValeChurch.org](mailto:PrayerRequests@ValeChurch.org).

### **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.

## **God's Tithes and Our Offerings**

### **\*Doxology**

**UMH 87**

#### **“What Gift Can We Bring”**

*What gift can we bring, what present, what token?  
What words can convey it, the joy of this day?  
When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing,  
What song can we offer in honor and praise?*

### **\*Blessing of the Offerings**

# THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**UMH 15**

**Breaking the Bread**

**Giving the Bread and Cup**

*In the United Methodist tradition, all who seek to lead a Christian life, together with their children, are welcome to receive communion. Gluten-free elements are available upon request.*

**Communion Prayer**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **PRESENT TO THE WORLD: SENDING**

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

**\*Hymn "Away in a Manger"**

**UMH 217**

**\*Mission and Ministry Opportunities**

**\* Blessing and Charge**

**\* Postlude**

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

Thank you to Diane DuBois  
for providing our coffee hour treats!

Lay Readers:

10:00 Tom Feeney

Virtual Wayne Applewhite



## **Sermon Notes and Illustrations**

*This is a page for you to take notes on the sermon or for our children and youth to illustrate what they've heard in the story today.*

## **NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 10, 2023

“Being Present with Joy”

Rev. Jeff Haugh

UMH - *United Methodist Hymnal* (Blue)

TFWS - *The Faith We Sing* (Black)

W&S - *Worship and Song* (Green)

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Our Advent worship series comes from Worship Design Studio.

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**This Week at Vale: Dec 3 – Dec 10, 2023**

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**Sun, Dec 3**

- 8:30 am Worship Service (Virtual)
- 10:00 am Worship Service (In-Person)
- 10:15 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Tree Sales\***
- 11:00 am Children's Choir
- 11:30 am Handbell Choir

**Mon, Dec 4**

- 5:00 pm Tree Sales\***
- 7:00 pm Troop 1983 B&G BSA Meeting

**Tues, Dec 5**

- 5:00 pm Tree Sales\***
- 7:00 pm Missions Committee Meeting

**Wed, Dec 6**

- 10:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study
- 5:00 pm Tree Sales\***
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

**Thurs, Dec 7**

- 5:00 pm Tree Sales\***
- 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting

**Fri, Dec 8**

- 5:00 pm Tree Sales\***

**Sat, Dec 9**

- 9:00 am Tree Sales\***

**Sun, Dec 10**

- 8:30 am Worship Service (Virtual)
- 10:00 am Worship Service (In-Person)
- 10:15 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Tree Sales\***
- 11:00 am Children's Choir
- 11:30 am Handbell Choir

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\* see announcement for details

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# Vale Mission and Ministry Opportunities

"Not a Spectator Sport"

Dec 3, 2023

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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, Bill Barnhart, at [FinSec@ValeChurch.org](mailto:FinSec@ValeChurch.org)





**Tree Sales** – Tree sales are in full swing! There are jobs for everyone, from donating cider and cookies to working the register to helping bag and load trees. We need as much help as possible, as it truly “takes a village” to ensure a successful event! Please look over the dates and sign up at [bit.ly/ValeTreeSale](http://bit.ly/ValeTreeSale) to help out.

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**Tree Sale Saturday Special Events** – Join us on Saturday, Dec 9, from 10 am – 2 pm for a bounce house, spin art, and ball toss! Tell your friends and neighbors to head on over and join the fun!

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**Advent Wreath Lighters** – Would you like to participate in our Advent worship series? We are looking for individuals and families to light the Advent wreath for the in-person and virtual worship services through December 17. If you are interested, please contact the Vale office at [office@valechurch.org](mailto:office@valechurch.org).



**SEDC Sponsors** – The SE DC Ministry currently has 4 children who have no sponsors. We are looking for people who would like to donate a \$100 Visa Gift Card so the child's family can provide some Christmas gifts. If you'd like to help, please contact Mary Morran at [mmorran01@gmail.com](mailto:mmorran01@gmail.com) for more details.

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**The Closet** – Our next volunteer day at The Closet is Tuesday, December 12. We are asked to send two people from 10 am - 1pm and another two people from 1- 4pm. If you can help for either shift, please sign up on the SignUp Genius found on Vale’s website, or the missions bulletin board in the hallway. The jobs are easy & the organization helps the greater area in so many ways. If you have questions contact Nancy Abramson at [StronachNW@aol.com](mailto:StronachNW@aol.com)



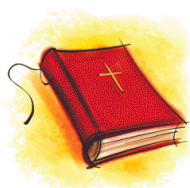
**New Children & Youth Ministry Director –**  
We are thrilled to welcome Miracle Ryder as our new Director of Children and Youth Ministries here at Vale. She will be responsible for our Sunday School classes, Vacation Bible School, and Youth program. We will share her talents with Community of Faith UMC and are excited about the possibilities that she brings to us.

Miracle says: "I am looking forward to joining your community in January & returning to the area of my alma mater, George Mason University. Education is incredibly important to me as I studied School Counseling before attending seminary at Boston University. No matter where I've lived or studied, the UMC has always been home & community. Faith has carried me through many life challenges & blessings. I look forward to hearing your stories as we get to know each other."

She will start on January 14, and Miranda Mason's last day will be January 19.

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**Advent Devotional** – A companion journal is available for our Advent worship series on the table outside the office.



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**Christmas Eve Lay Readers** – If you would like to participate in our Christmas Eve worship by reading one of our Bible passages, please contact the office at [office@valechurch.org](mailto:office@valechurch.org). We need 3 readers each for the 7pm and 9pm services, so please consider helping out!

## Holiday Worship Services:

Sun, Dec 24

**Christmas Eve**

10:00 am Worship Service (In-Person)

7:00 pm Candlelight and Communion (In-Person)

9:00 pm Candlelight and Communion (Streamed)

9:00 pm Candlelight and Communion (In-Person)

Mon, Dec 25

**Merry Christmas!**

Sun, Dec 31

**New Year's Eve**

10:00 am Pajamas and Stories (In-Person)

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**Holiday Office Hours** – The Vale office will be closed from Dec 23 through Jan 2. It will reopen on Wednesday, Jan 3.

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**RISE Against Hunger 2024** – Vale will be hosting our meal packing event for RISE Against Hunger on Sunday, February 4! This year we are aiming to pack 75,000 meals, and we will be packing our one millionth meal this year, so come help us reach this amazing milestone! Please sign up to help out at [bit.ly/RAH2024](https://bit.ly/RAH2024)



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**Chancel Choir – WE WANT YOU** - to join the Choir at Vale!! Everyone is welcome, and anyone can learn to sing.

If you've ever had any interest in singing with a very friendly and loving group of people, now's your chance! Chancel Choir (ages 14-100) rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Come and sing with us! Questions? Contact Jan Smith at [music@valechurch.org](mailto:music@valechurch.org).

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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 email him at [applewhitew2003@yahoo.com](mailto:applewhitew2003@yahoo.com), or call at (703) 815-6618 with any matters you might want brought to Jeff

## 2023 VALE CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Tom Feeney, Chair • Bob Lacy, Vice Chair • Susan Leigh, Secretary  
Wayne Applewhite, Lay Leader • Bill Rigger, Finance  
Bill Barnhart, Financial Secretary • Stan Ellis, Treasurer  
Bette Rutherford, SPRC • Eric Koefoot, Trustees Chair  
Stephanie Marshall, Witness Ministry  
Linda Chrosniak, Outreach Ministry  
Dorothy Arbiter, Lay Member of Annual Conference  
Karen Leniart, United Methodist Women, President

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## VALE CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haugh, Pastor  
Cell: 804-687-3938 / [Pastor@ValeChurch.org](mailto:Pastor@ValeChurch.org)

Loris Michaelis, Administrative Assistant  
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Miranda Mason, Director of Christian Education  
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Diane Willard, Director of Vale Preschool  
703-620-2594 / [Preschool@ValeChurch.org](mailto:Preschool@ValeChurch.org)

Jan Smith, Music Director  
703-620-2594 / [Music@ValeChurch.org](mailto:Music@ValeChurch.org)

Norm Dietz, Accompanist/Organist

Vicky Alonzo, Nursery Caregiver  
Olesya Ellis, Nursery Caregiver

Edilman Robles, Custodian