
Vale United Methodist Church



The Gift of Being Present

“Being Present with Joy”

December 10, 2023

11528 Vale Road • Oakton, Virginia 22124

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 third 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 Joy is the Divine Gift we receive.

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

One: The gift of joy is not the equivalent of happiness, but rather the deep conviction that we are called to be present in the work of bringing about “great things” – a better world for those who need it most.

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

What Can I Give Him?

Chancel Choir & Congregation

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 Joyful Presence. Let this peace grow in our lives each day, so we can be a Present of Joy to others. Unwrap and open our hearts. May it be so. Amen

*Hymn “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

UMH 220

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 61:1-4; 10

One: God has sent me to bring good news to those who are poor;

Many: To heal broken hearts;

One: To proclaim release to those held captive

Many: And liberation to those in prison;

One: To announce a year of favor from Yahweh, and the day of God’s vindication;

Many: To comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who grieve in Zion —

One: To give them a wreath of flowers instead of ashes,
Many: **The oil of gladness instead of tears, a cloak of praise instead of despair.**
One: They will be known as trees of integrity, planted by Yahweh to display God's glory.
Many: **They will restore the ancient ruins,**
One: And rebuild sites long devastated;
Many: **They will repair the ruined cities,**
One: Neglected for generations...
Many: **They will be known as trees of integrity,**
One: Planted by Yahweh to display God's glory.
Many: **I will joyfully exult in Yahweh, who is the joy of my soul!**

Second Reading

Psalm 126:1-3

***Hymn "Hymn of Promise"**

UMH 707

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:41-55

The reading will end with "A word of God that is still speaking."

Please respond with "Thanks be to God."

Special Music

"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy" arr. Nix

Vale Children's Choir

Children's Moment

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

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.

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

Offertory

“There Is a Great Joy Coming” arr. Hayes

Vale Chancel Choir

*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

PRESENT TO THE WORLD: SENDING

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

***Hymn “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” UMH 240**

***Mission and Ministry Opportunities**

*** Blessing and Charge**

*** Postlude**

**Please stand in spirit or in posture.*

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

4th Sunday of Advent, December 17, 2023

“Being Present with Love”

Rev. Jeff Haugh

Thank you to Judy Jobbitt
for providing our coffee hour treats!

Lay Readers:

10:00 Kim Haugh

Virtual Suzanne Michaelis

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.

This Week at Vale: Dec 10 – Dec 17, 2023

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***
- 11:30 am Handbell Choir

Mon, Dec 11

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

Tues, Dec 12

- 5:00 pm Tree Sales***
- 7:00 pm GS Troop 56034
- 7:30 pm Flute Choir

Wed, Dec 13

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

Thurs, Dec 14

- 1:00 pm UMW Christmas Party
- 5:00 pm Tree Sales***

Fri, Dec 15

- 5:00 pm Tree Sales***

Sat, Dec 16

- 9:00 am Tree Sales***

Sun, Dec 17

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

* see announcement for details

Vale Mission and Ministry Opportunities

"Not a Spectator Sport"

Dec 10, 2023

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.

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.

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.

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





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 to help out.



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

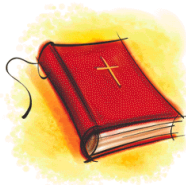


New Children & Youth Ministry Director – We are thrilled to welcome Miracle Ryder as our new Director of Children and Youth Ministries here at Vale. She will be responsible for our Sunday School classes, Vacation Bible School, and Youth program. We will share her talents with Community of Faith UMC and 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 15, and Miranda Mason's last day will be January 19.

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



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. 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 Lessons and Carols (In-Person)

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

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

Mon, Dec 25

Merry Christmas!

Sun, Dec 31

New Year's Eve

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

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

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



2023 VALE CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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Wayne Applewhite, Lay Leader • Bill Rigger, Finance
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Dorothy Arbiter, Lay Member of Annual Conference
Karen Leniart, United Methodist Women, President

VALE CHURCH STAFF

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Jan Smith, Music Director
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Norm Dietz, Accompanist/Organist

Vicky Alonzo, Nursery Caregiver
Olesya Ellis, Nursery Caregiver

Edilman Robles, Custodian