
Vale United Methodist Church



“Being Present with Love”

December 17, 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

“Ding Dong Merrily on High” arr. Rice-Young
Vale Flute Choir

Welcome

Advent Wreath Lighting

One: We unwrap a present on this last 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 Love is the Divine Gift we receive.

Many: And what will we do with it?

One: The gift of love is the essence of the birth of Christ. The Holy One wanted to be so present to us that God’s Spirit became flesh in order to inhabit the gifts of touching, healing, comforting, and presence. Love is the clarion call to us as Jesus’ disciples. The more love we put into the world, the better the world will be.

Many: We light this Candle of Love as a sign that we will be Present with Love 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 Loving Presence. Let this love grow in our lives each day, so we can be a Present of Love to others. Unwrap and open our hearts. May it be so. Amen

***Hymn “Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling”**

UMH 384

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

II Samuel 7:1-11

Second Reading

Psalm 89:1-4

One: Forever I will sing the wonders of your love, Yahweh, proclaiming your faithfulness to all generations!

Many: I'll tell them that your love stands firm forever, your fidelity is fixed in the heavens.

One: "I have made a covenant with my chosen; sworn an oath to David, my faithful one:

Many: "I will establish your line forever, and make your throne firm throughout all generations."

***Hymn "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"**

UMH 229

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

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 Love"

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.

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

“Away in a Manger” arr. Pearce

Vale Flute 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 “Love Came Down at Christmas” UMH 242**

Mission and Ministry Opportunities

Blessing and Charge

Postlude

“Masters in this Hall” arr. Rice-Young

Vale Flute Choir

**Please stand in spirit or in posture.*

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023

“Being Present with Light”

Rev. Jeff Haugh

Thank you to the Grove family
for providing our coffee hour treats!

Lay Readers:

10:00 Bette Rutherford
Virtual The Deppe Family

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 17 – Dec 24, 2023

Sun, Dec 17

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

Mon, Dec 18

- 7:00 pm Troop 1983 B&G BSA Meeting

Tues, Dec 19

- 7:00 pm Wire Choir
- 7:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting

Wed, Dec 20

- 10:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Sun, Dec 24

- 10:00 am Lessons and Carols (In-Person)
- 7:00 pm Candlelight and Communion (In-Person)
- 9:00 pm Candlelight and Communion (In-Person)
- 9:00 pm Candlelight and Communion (Streamed)

** see announcement for details*

Vale Mission and Ministry Opportunities

"Not a Spectator Sport"

Dec 17, 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 over! A big thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, bought a tree, and spread the word! We will have a final report soon.

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)

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.

Year End Staff Recognition – It is a tradition at Vale UMC to recognize each of 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 this past year as we moved out of the pandemic 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 section 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

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



RISE AGAINST HUNGER



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.



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.

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, 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

VALE CHURCH STAFF

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

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

Miranda Mason, Director of Christian Education
703-620-2594 / ChristianEd@valechurch.org

Diane Willard, 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