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# Vale United Methodist Church

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## **“Pajamas and Stories”**

December 31, 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: GATHERING**

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

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Advent Wreath Lighting**

**One:** We come giving thanks that the gifts we've been given are the gifts we can give.

**Many:** We open our hearts, readying them for the gift of a new year!

**One:** The promises of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Light are the Divine Gifts we receive.

**Many:** We will use them to reassure those who need to know that they are the recipients of these gifts as well.

**One:** The gift of hope is an essential survival tool because it reminds us that the hard times do not have the last word. The gift of Christ's peace reminds us that we can have peace even in the midst of non-peaceful situations. The gift of joy is not the equivalent of happiness, but rather the deep call to delight in the small things. The gift of love is the clarion call to us as Jesus' disciples. The more love we put into the world, the better the world will be. The gift of Christ's light is the reassurance that we are never alone.

**Many:** We light these candles as a sign that we will be Present with Assurance 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 Wise Man, 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 Reassuring Presence. Let this assurance grow in our lives each day, so we can be a Present of Assurance to others. Unwrap and open our hearts. May it be so. Amen.

### **\*Hymn “Blessed Assurance”**

**UMH 369**

### **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 62:1-3**

- One: For Zion's sake, I will not be silent;  
Many: For the sake of Jerusalem, I will not rest —  
One: Not until her integrity shines like the dawn,  
Many: **Her deliverance like a flaming torch**  
One: The nations will see your vindication, and the rulers  
your splendor;  
Many: **You will have a new name that God's mouth will  
bestow.**  
One: You will be a garland of beauty in Yahweh's hands,  
Many: **A solemn crown worn by your God.**

**Second Reading**

**Galatians 4:4-7**

**Gospel Reading**

**Luke 2:22-40**

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

*Please respond with "Thanks be to God."*

**Hymn "Love Came Down at Christmas" UMH 242**

**Story I**

**Dorothy Arbiter**

**Hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" UMH 211**

Hymn “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” UMH 240

**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

### PRESENT TO THE WORLD: SENDING

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

## \*Hymn “We Three Kings”

UMH 254

## Mission and Ministry Opportunities

## Blessing and Charge

## Postlude

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

## **NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP**

The Baptism of Jesus, January 7 2024

“How Much is Your Bible Worth?”

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 31, 2023 – Jan 7, 2024**

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**Sun, Dec 31**

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

**Mon, Jan 1**

**Happy New Year!**

**Wed, Jan 3**

10:00 am Wednesday Morning Bible Study

7:30 pm Chancel Choir

**Sat, Jan 6**

10:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Sun, Jan 7**

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

3:00 pm GS Troop 56061 Meeting



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## Vale Mission and Ministry Opportunities

"Not a Spectator Sport"

Dec 31, 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 over! A big thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, bought a tree, and spread the word! We will have a final report soon.

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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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**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 their efforts in supporting our Vale community through their gifts and graces. Please prayerfully consider contributing to this fund as 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

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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)



**Hypothermia Shelter** – Vale is once again providing meals for the Hypothermia Shelter. We need a few more volunteers to cook and serve meals at Christ Lutheran Church on January 5 and 6. Please sign up to help out on Vale’s SignUp page. Contact Vicky Alonzo at [icandoit030480@yahoo.com](mailto:icandoit030480@yahoo.com) or the office at [office@valechurch.org](mailto:office@valechurch.org).

**Furniture Donations** - A family of 3 adults and 2 school age boys from Venezuela is in need of furniture. All they have is a mattress on the floor and a Christmas tree in a small apartment. If you have furniture that you could donate, please contact Mike Martin at [mike.vumc@yahoo.com](mailto:mike.vumc@yahoo.com)

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**Save the Date** - Starting in 2024, we will be have special events at Vale on the third weekend of each month. Our first event will be a Square Dance on Saturday, January 20, from 7 to 9 pm. Punch and cookies will be served. Flannel attire is encouraged!

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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

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