**The** **Vincent Voice**

**February 2024**

**Vincent**

**United Methodist Church**

**100 Vincent Place**

**Nutley, NJ 07110**

**973-667-5440**

[**vincentumc@verizon.net**](about:blank)

[**www.vincentumc.org**](about:blank)

**Worship and Sunday School**

**Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

Dear Friends in Christ,

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which is on February 14 this year.

Lent is a season of self-examination where we are to reflect on our lives in the light of the cross. It is a time where we should faithfully consider committing ourselves to a season of Weekly Worship, Daily Prayer, Daily Bible Reading, to Give Something Up, and/or to Do Something Extra (see elsewhere in this newsletter for further information on this). The point of all of these is the same. It is to draw us closer to Jesus – to knowing him, to following him, to sharing him, and to serving others in his name.

In order to help us do this, we will be sharing in a special Lenten worship and sermon series entitled “The Parables of Jesus.”  Jesus was one of the greatest teachers of all time. One of the reasons for that was that he spoke in a way that the people could understand. He did this by telling parables...stories with a point. In an effort to discover Jesus' message to us, we will embark on an exploration of several of Jesus' parables. Some will be familiar. Others will not. All will speak as vibrantly to us as to those to whom Jesus spoke. Join us as we seek to grow in our faith and learn some lessons for living.

As we join in this powerful season together, may we avail ourselves of this wonderful opportunity to grow in our faith and commitment, to be challenged at the Crossroads of our world, and to journey to life with and in our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ Always,

*Rev. Dave*

**FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**February 4 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Chancel Choir Singing

Wesley Ringers Playing

Homily by Rev. LeDuc

***“Set Free”***

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

**February 11 Last Sunday after Epiphany**

Chancel Choir Singing

Sermon by Rev. LeDuc

***“Love Is…”***

**February 14 Ash Wednesday**

**7:30 – Service of Repentance and Renewal**

Chancel Choir Singing

Homily by Rev. LeDuc

***“To Atone”***

Imposition of Ashes

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

**February 18 First Sunday in Lent**

Chancel Choir Singing

Sermon by Rev. LeDuc

***“The Parables of Jesus - Growth”***

**February 25 Second Sunday in Lent**

Chancel Choir Singing

Sermon by Rev. LeDuc

***“The Parables of Jesus - Humility”***

Dedication to the Lenten Journey

**Souper Bowl of Caring**

Following worship on February 11, the Vincent Church children and youth will be collecting monetary donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring.  Begun in 1990 in South Carolina, the Souper Bowl of Caring has sought to serve those in need on Super Bowl Sunday.  Partnering with several NFL Teams, this youth-led movement has generated an extraordinary $50 million in donations to soup kitchens, food banks, and other charities across the country.  Donations collected will go to the Vincent Church Care Pantry/Kitchen and the CUMAC food pantry in Paterson. Those worshipping virtually can donate to the Care Ministries via the church online giving page.

**Next Pastor – Rev. Dr. Samuel Park**

Bishop John R. Schol has appointed Rev. Dr. Samuel Park as the next pastor of our congregation following Rev. LeDuc’s retirement on June 30. Rev. Park will begin his new responsibilities on July 1st of this year. As a United Methodist Church, we are a part of an appointment system. Our Staff Parish Relations Committee met with the district superintendent to identify our congregation’s needs and the needed skills in a pastor. Pastor Sam was born and raised in NYC. He felt God tug at his heart to be in pastoral ministry at a mission trip in Mexico. He received an M. Div from Drew and D. Min from Wesley while serving churches in NY, MD, NJ, and most recently at Delran UMC. He has a heart for preaching, teaching, the local church, missions, and he loves to see disciples of Jesus making disciples of Jesus. He and his wife Grace are blessed with two wonderful children. Our new pastor will work with us and the conference so that we continue to make disciples of Jesus Christ.  Bishop Schol and the leaders of the Greater New Jersey Conference will work with us to continue to grow as a vital congregation.

**February Children’s Initiative Kick-off!**

In February, we will be restarting two wonderful children’s programs at Vincent Church: the Children’s Choir and the Elementary Youth Fellowship! **Children’s Choir** will be held for 20 minutes after church each Sunday beginning February 4. It will be led by Choir Director Joe Maleno ([Jmaleno94@gmail.com](about:blank)), an elementary school music teacher, with the assistance of Marilyn Testa. The children will learn Sunday School songs and sing in church about once a month. All children with any ability are invited to participate and bring friends! The **Elementary Youth Fellowship** will restart on February 11 after church and the Children’s Choir. This is for children in grades K-5 and their families. Families are invited to order a Super Bowl Sub from the Youth Group or bring lunch and meet downstairs in Fellowship Hall for fun and games. The group will be led by Kira Wallisch of our church ([kira.wallisch@gmail.com](about:blank)), who has experience leading children’s programs. A monthly activity or outing will be planned. All children and families are welcome to come and bring friends!

**Vincent Church Is Open for Worship**

Vincent Church is open for worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. The service is also broadcast live each week on the Vincent United Methodist Church Facebook page and is available by Call In. We ask anyone who is not feeling well to worship from home.  People are welcome to wear masks if they choose.  The left “wing” section of the Sanctuary will remain a “distanced” section for those who prefer it and the ventilation system will be circulating air.  Masks and hand sanitizer will continue to be available. May the Lord guide us as we seek to worship and serve God together.

**Worship with Us on Facebook Live!**

On Sundays at 10 a.m. (9:50 for prelude music), we invite you to go to the church’s Facebook page on a computer, tablet, or smartphone by clicking this link: [Vincent UMC Facebook Live Tab](about:blank) (or for our main page: [Vincent UMC Facebook Page](about:blank)). You do not need a Facebook account to watch the service (you may need to click “Not Now” on the invitation to join Facebook).  Click on the service to enlarge it and join in the worship service!

**Call In to HEAR the Worship Service!**

Those unable to be online for Sunday worship can call in to worship with us by phone.  To do so: call phone number 1-929-205-6099 (touch the green “dial” button if you haven’t), enter this Meeting ID: 886-1883-8523, touch #, then enter Participant Code 100, press # again, then enter Password 100, press # again and you’re in!  So, call in by phone on Sunday mornings at 9:50 a.m. to join our Vincent Church family for worship at 10:00!

**To Enhance “At Home” Worship**

Here are some tips for enhancing your “at-home” worship experience.  1.) As the service begins, light a candle inviting God’s presence into your worship space. 2.) Have a Bible ready to explore the scriptures with Rev. Dave.  3.) Open up the weekly update, if you are able, scroll down to the very bottom, and have the words to the hymn (s) ready to sing along with the song leader.  May we sense the presence of the holy in our worship together?

**Church School**

Vincent United Methodist Church’s Church School has classes for children from kindergarten through grade 12. Children go to their classes after the children’s sermon at church each Sunday, except the first Sunday of each month. The curriculum being used is “Deep Blue” featuring Bible stories, a weekly DVD clip, games, crafts, and activities to help children “grow deeper in their faith.” On Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of each month), the children remain in church for worship as a family and can pick up a clipboard in the back of the church to do some Bible activities. Children and their families are invited to come any Sunday or contact Michael Blanchard ([mblancha23@gmail.com](about:blank)) for more information.

**Church Office Information**

The Church Office is open Monday through Friday from 10-1.  Office Administrator Kairyn Contreras can be contacted at the church at [vincentumc@verizon.net](about:blank) or 973-667-5440.

**Nursery Room Use**

The Nursery Room is open on Sunday mornings for parents with little ones who need a place to feed, change, or rock a child.  We ask that everyone clean up and sanitize after themselves.  It is not to be a play area for older children to help maintain its cleanliness.

**“Holy Envy” Study**

“Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others” by Barbara Brown Taylor is the study being used for the Monday morning study group from 9:30-11:00 beginning January 29. The study looks at how exploring the way other people and traditions encounter God can lead to a deeper understanding of old teachings and an enriched faith. The class meets on Zoom: [Monday Morning Study Group](about:blank) or Meeting ID 839 9664 0145. For more information, contact Pam Rossman (973-534-6636) or Becky Olivo (201-657-0204). All are welcome.

**Confirmation Class Beginning**

The Confirmation Class will begin meeting on Sundays from 11:45-1:15 beginning February 4. There are eight students interested in the class. Other youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to participate. If you might be interested, contact the Church Office, or speak to Rev. Dave.

**UMYF Super Bowl Sub Sale**

The UMYF is having a Super Bowl Sub Sale to raise money for the upcoming year.  The sandwiches are $10.00 each, will be freshly made to order, and ready to be picked up after church on February 11.  Turkey, ham, and salami subs are available with a variety of condiments.  Fill out the form in the Update or see the youth after worship or contact the Church Office.  Orders are due by February 9.

**Vincent Church Shirts for Souper Bowl Sunday!**

On Souper Bowl Sunday, February 11, we are encouraging everyone to wear their Vincent Church T-shirts, or another team shirt or jersey.  Those worshipping virtually are welcome to share in the Facebook comments who your team is!

**“Who Do You Say I Am?” Lenten Series**

Our Lenten worship and sermon series this year is entitled “The Parables of Jesus.”  Jesus was one of the greatest teachers of all time. One of the reasons for that was that he spoke in a way that the people could understand. He did this by telling parables...stories with a point. In an effort to discover Jesus' message to us, we will embark on an exploration of several of Jesus' parables. Some will be familiar. Others will not. All will speak as vibrantly to us as to those to whom Jesus spoke. Join us as we seek to grow in our faith and learn some lessons for living.

##### Ash Wednesday – February 14

February 14 is Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent. We will hold a Service of Repentance and Renewal at 7:30 p.m. We will offer the imposition of ashes and share in the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. The service will be available on Facebook Live and for Call-in. Join us in worship as we begin the Lenten pilgrimage together.

**Lenten Devotional Guides**

“The Sanctuary for Lent” is a devotional guide for the season of Lent.  For each day, there is a scripture, meditation, and a prayer.  Pick one up from the usher’s table in the Narthex (or download a Kindle version for 99¢) and use it for a Christ-centered Lenten season.

**Lent Easter Offering Note**

As we move through the season of Lent, we invite each of us to consider honoring Jesus’ sacrifice for us by setting aside $1 or $2 a day – sacrificing a cup of coffee or a candy bar each day.  This would add up to $50 or $100 for the season, which would be submitted as our love offering on Easter Sunday.  For some, this might be too much to ask; for others, it might be too little.  Please submit whatever your contribution might be.  May this be one of the many ways that we honor the Lord Jesus in this holy season.

**New Member Class – February 13**

We will be preparing to receive a class of new members at worship on Sunday morning, February 25. A letter will go out in early February to those people we think might be interested in joining our church. An orientation class will be held on Tuesday evening, February 13 at 7 p.m. This will be Rev. LeDuc’s last new member class. If you are interested, please contact the Church Office or Rev. Dave.

**An Evening with Our Tanzanian Missionaries – February 20**

Our beloved missionaries from Tanzania, Rev. Mutwale wa Mushidi and Kabaka Alphonsine will be visiting New Jersey from February 15-24. Vincent United Methodist Church in Nutley will have a Dinner and Program with them on Tuesday evening, February 20. The dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. in Philhower Chapel with a menu of chicken piccata, roasted potatoes and vegetables, salad, and dessert (a free-will offering will be invited; RSVP is requested by 2/18 at [vincentumc@verizon.net](about:blank)). The program will begin at 7:00 in the chapel with a presentation about the work of the missionaries in starting churches, building an Annual Conference Center, training women and widows, and teaching children and orphans. Guests are welcome to come for the program only if they prefer. Please enter by the front door of the church. Vincent Church is located at 100 Vincent Place, Nutley, NJ. All are welcome.

**FPE Thank You!**

A word of thanks to all those who helped with our homeless assistance program in January through Family Promise of Essex County.  We provided help for two families who are seeking to find housing and get back on their feet. Thank you to those who made meals, shopped for supplies, and drove items to Montclair.  A special thank you to Barbara Carrino for putting it all together. Well done all!

**UWF General Meeting – March 7 with NFSB**

The United Women in Faith will hold their spring general meeting on Thursday evening, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. in Philhower Chapel. The guest speaker will be Katherine Carmichael, the Executive Director of Nutley Family Service Bureau. Katherine will speak on the many services and initiatives of NFSB, which include the food pantry, thrift shop, and counseling services. Our church partners with NFSB in many ways and this is a way for us to connect more. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring a friend. For more information, contact Gaylene Maichuk ([Gmaichuk@aol.com](about:blank); (973)667-3346).

**Story Team**

We have a new Story Team that is working to help us gather and tell the story of God’s activity in our lives and in our church. Our reporters will be out and about seeking input and stories. If you have a story to share or might like to join the Story Team, contact the Church Office.

**Shop-Rite Gift Cards**

Our church participates in a fund-raising program with Shop-Rite.  Church members or friends are invited to purchase Shop-Rite gift cards from the church of which the church makes 5%.  Every little bit helps as we make over $1000 a year on this.  They can be used at any Shop-Rite store and can be used for food and/or prescriptions.  To purchase the gift cards or for more information, see Lillian Gripp after church or contact the Church Office.

**Remembering the Enslaved of Nutley**

The Nutley Clergy Fellowship, with the support of the Township Commissioners, Nutley Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Council and the Kingsland Trust, are raising money for the installation of a memorial stone and commemorative plaque to honor the African American men and women who were historically enslaved in the Township. It will be dedicated to recognizing the enslaved in Nutley who helped build our community.  The recognition and unveiling is planned for Juneteenth, 2024.  Donations can be made out to “Vincent United Methodist Church” noted for “Enslaved Marker” (mailed or brought to 100 Vincent Place, Nutley, NJ 07110) or online at [www.vincentumc.org](about:blank) using the “Giving” tab. All donors providing contact information will be acknowledged and invited to the unveiling.

**Ushers Needed**

We need some additional volunteers to serve as ushers.  Ushers arrive at 9:15, complete several duties to prepare the church to receive worshippers, greet people as they arrive, and provide assistance during and after the service for the needs of the congregation.  If you can help, please contact the Church Office.

**Fellowship Hour Hosts Needed**

We have Fellowship Hour after church – a time of refreshments and conversation and connection and relationship-building!  To do so, we are seeking people to take an occasional week to host it.  It involves baking or picking up snacks and making the coffee and/or drinks.  If you would be willing to take a week or have questions, contact Judy Mitschow ([Judym1948@gmail.com](about:blank)).

**“Care Notes” Available**

“Care Notes” are pamphlets that offer help and hope in practical and faithful ways for life’s struggles.  We now have a display rack that includes titles on stress, worry, illness, grief, addiction, cancer, retirement, abuse, and more.  They are available able for pickup in the back of the church on Sundays and in the church library during the week.  Please, as their motto states: “Take one and take heart – Give one and give hope.”

**The Green Candle on Our Altar**

We light the Green Candle on our altar each week as a sign of God’s remembrance of, compassion for, and comfort to those who suffer from AIDS, cancer, and other incurable diseases, and as a reminder to each of us to be in prayer for those who are hurting or suffering.

##### Contacting Rev. LeDuc

There are several ways to get in touch with Rev. LeDuc. One way for business or non-urgent items is by email by using [dleduc.vumc@verizon.net](about:blank). He can also be reached by phone at the Church Office at 973-667-5440. For more urgent matters, he can be reached at home at 973-667-1098. For emergency or time-sensitive situations, he can be contacted by phone or text on his cell phone at 201-819-8147.

***Remember Your Church in Your Will***

**February Birthdays**

1 Wayne Cook

2 Barbara Gavigan

3 Marty Simmons

3 Amy Tingle

3 Linda Williamson

3 Benjamin Raughley

4 Denise Ballou

4 Janet Saia-Feld

9 Alan Hunter

9 Tara Murphy

10 Joana Lohf

10 Sophia Marsala

11 Charlie Scorsone

13 Diana Spangenberg

14 Terry Shepard

17 Catriona Caithness

17 Emma Dziura

18 Nor James

18 Gerald Muller

19 Jennifer Herrada

21 Jayne Powell

22 Lauren Hunter

23 Charlie Williamson

24 Jackie Cannataro

24 Barbara Carrino

25 Evan Blanchard

27 Gabriel Carrino

**February Anniversary**

5 Tony & Laura Brandao

12 Walter & Liz (Green) Koroluk

14 Mark & Barbara Gavigan

26 Paul & Becky Raines

**Contemporary Christian Music**

Listening to Contemporary Christian Music is a great way to grow deeper in faith. 99.1 FM is a local radio station that plays this type of music. You can also check out their music and lots of other things at their website [www.star991fm.com](about:blank). Another station is K-Love at 95.5 FM and there are several available on streaming services. They play a mix of artists like For King and Country, Chris Tomlin, Matthew West, Steven Curtis Chapman, Casting Crowns, Mercy Me, and more. If you listen to general pop music, you might enjoy these stations. It is not only good music, but contains a great, faith-filled, and life-affirming message…and “it’s safe for the whole family.”

**Altar Flowers**

To help beautify our altar for our Sunday worship services, members and friends are invited to donate a flower arrangement in honor or in memory of someone, to celebrate an occasion, or to the glory of God.  Following the service, they can be taken home or they can be delivered to someone who is ill or homebound.  To reserve a date, contact our Flower Coordinator Cathie Tedesco (973-751-2749 or [cathietedesco4347@gmail.com](about:blank)).  The cost of the altar arrangement is $30.00 and may be paid by check made out to VUMC and sent or dropped by the church office.

**2023 Year-End Financial Thank You!**

The Finance Team would like to raise an “Alleluia” and “Thank You” to the congregation for their help in meeting our budget for 2023! As we emerge from the pandemic, all of us have continued to support the work of Christ through our church. For this, we give thanks to God and all of you! Your ongoing support for the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ through Vincent Church makes a difference in the lives of people near and far. It’s not too late to submit a giving pledge for 2024 as we see a very challenging year ahead. Once again, “thank you” “alleluia” and “God bless us, everyone!”

**Online Giving!**

We can support the mission and ministry of Vincent Church through online giving through Vanco!  This can be done by using this link: Vincent Church Online Giving, by visiting the church website and clicking “Online Donation,” or by downloading the “Vanco Mobile” app from the Apple App Store (iPhone) or the Google Play Store (Android). The Vanco service is highly secure, supporting online giving to over 20,000 churches and non-profits. It is nationally endorsed by the United Methodist Church. They can process donations by credit card (yes you can collect your rewards on this!) or by electronic payment from a bank account.  You can also set up recurring giving so it would be a one-time setup.  We would appreciate your consideration of opting to cover the small fee for the transactions.  Collectively, the fees will add up to lost income for the church.  Your online donation, plus the coverage of the fee, will be on your year-end giving statement and will all be tax deductible. May this be one way that we offer ourselves to the work of the Lord through Vincent Church.

**Stock Donations Welcome**

Vincent Church has an account with TD Ameritrade and welcomes stock donations to the church.  After a stock has grown, cashing it in means paying income tax on the capital gain.  By donating it to the church, the church can cash it in for full value and the donor receives an income tax benefit as a charitable donation for that full value. Anyone who might like to explore this or donate stocks to the church should contact our church Financial Secretary Rich Baumann at [force5@verizon.net](about:blank). This is one way to support the work of Christ through Vincent Church.

***In Prayer…***

**Church Family and Friends Prayer Concerns**

1. Peggy Rice is at rehab following a stroke (cards not calls please).
2. Dave Rauschenberger is having knee surgery 2/13.
3. Carol Greengrove has a health concern.
4. Randy Rossman is on the waiting list for a lung transplant.
5. Several church members going through cancer treatments.
6. For our church in the midst of a pastoral transition.
7. For a just peace in Ukraine and the Middle East.
8. Those engaged in the struggle against racism.
9. The men and women in law enforcement.

Let us keep these and all those on our prayer list wrapped in our prayers

**PRAYER LIST**

Tom Olivo, Diana Spangenberg, Jack Casale, Sue Casale, Helen Tress, Bob Hosking, Evelyn Hosking, Pam Alfano, Stephen Delaney, Anita McCrea, Sharon Lautenbacher, Marilyn Testa, Sue Brogan, Kristen Henderson, Randy Rossman, Amanda Rivera,  Dominic Capello, Rosie Miles, Catherine Abate, Imre Kovacs, Vincent DeNunzio, Cindy Keiss, Bob Parran, Charles Kuczinski, Cindy Keiss, Jeannie Noble, Kaitlin Rifici, Antonia Concepcion, Deb Matthews, Nelson Matos, Barbara Golding, Steve Canonico, Pablo Estevez, Kim Brown Cofield, Rev. Doug Miller, Gail Rasieleski, Bill Picillo, Lucy Olivo, Family of Louise Hallenbeck, Moeses Guzman, Cora Paris Ponnwitz, Family of Bishop Sol Toquero, Catriona Caithness, Carol Greengrove, Family of Tom Tress Jr, Family of Jimmy Richelo, Tom Bingham, Peggy Rice, Family of Carmine Gennarelli, Mike Turner, Family of Lousie Feist, Family of Jane Zimany, Family of Joan Klatsky, Evan Blanchard, Kim Hosking, Family of May Houtenville, Family of Theresa Cifelli, Family of Devon Thompson, Dave Rauschenberger

**In the Military**

Justin Bakal, Jonathan Raia, Eric Dietrich, R. T. Morgan, Joseph Craige, Justin Fonyi, Kenneth Bratten, Zack Hickey, Matthew Morrow, Thomas Nowoslawski, Nicholas Nowoslawski, Shane Edwards, Grant Higginbotham, Daniel Eadie, Ryan Fen, Erin Brennan, our Veterans

**Vincent Church Endowment Fund**

Vincent United Methodist Church has established an Endowment Fund which provides members and friends the opportunity to make charitable gifts to the church.  The Endowment Fund is intended to be a permanent fund that is an enduring source of financial support and a living memorial to those whom Vincent United Methodist Church has served. Since the work of Christ in the world is of importance to us all, we are invited to consider including Vincent Church in our planned giving.  Our new Vincent Church Endowment Fund is an ideal vehicle to do so. The Endowment Fund is a permanent fund whose investment income is to be used to support the maintenance and improvement of our church property.  For more information, contact Dave Rauschenberger at 973-667-6947 or [daveandgale@aol.com](about:blank).

**Vincent UMC Little Pantry Donations Needed**

Please support our Vincent Youth in their newest fight against hunger! The youth have created a Little Pantry that will be placed by the stairs on the park side of the church. They are looking for items to fill the pantry: Non-Perishable Items only, No expired foods, so please check the Expiration Date, No Opened boxes or jars, New items only, No glass bottles, as this will be outside and subject to temperature changes.  Donations will be accepted in 2 ways: Bring your donation to church on Sunday mornings and place in the box in the Narthex, Place your items directly into the cabinet. (which can be accepted any day). Please join us to help those who are in need! No donation is too small, so please consider picking up an extra can of vegetables or box of pasta when you do your grocery shopping. Any little bit helps. Vincent UMC Youth Group (grades 6-12)

**“Pastor’s Charitable Fund”**

The “Pastor’s Charitable Fund” is used by the pastor to help local people in need or with special mission needs. In the past, Rev. LeDuc has helped people with rent, medical bills, prescriptions, with food, etc. He has also helped students going to seminary or on mission trips and assisted emergency mission projects. Donations can be made in any envelope marked “Pastor’s Fund” in gratitude to God and will serve to help those in need.

**Care Ministries Grants**

We are delighted to report that our Care Ministries have received two very significant and helpful grants. The first is a Community Outreach Grant from our GNJUMC of $8,000 to help us with equipment and supplies to meet the increased needs of our community as we emerge from the pandemic. The second is a Community Food Bank Grant of $15,500 to help us install air conditioning in the lower kitchen. A special thank you to Ainslie Durnin for her expert work on these applications. May these funds help us serve better those in need in our community in the name of Christ.

**Care Kitchen Help Needed – February 24**

The Care Kitchen serves hot meals most Saturdays from 11:30-12:30 at our church.  On Saturday, February 24, help will be needed as our Vincent Church team gathers from 9:15-1:15 for prep work, setting tables, serving the meals, and cleaning up. Sign up for an hour or two by contacting Barbara Carrino at 973-919-0077 or [barbaracarrino@yahoo.com](about:blank).  We feed 40-50 people in need each month.

**Community Care Kitchen**

The Community Care Kitchen serves hot meals at Vincent United Methodist Church (100 Vincent Place in Nutley) on the second, third, fourth, and last Saturdays of each month from 11:30-12:30. Prepared and served by people from Vincent Church, Grace Church, Holy Trinity Church, St. Mary’s Church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and St. Phillip the Apostle Church, the meal might be chicken or beef or pasta with delicious sides and vegetables.  Everyone is welcome to come to the Community Care Kitchen, including families and seniors. Take-out meals are also available, one per person. In these tough times, there is a growing need, and the churches are partnering with others in our community to make a difference in the world.  Anyone who would like to make a contribution can contact the Vincent Church Office or visit the church website at [www.vincentumc.org](about:blank). We are proud to partner with the Community Food Bank of New Jersey and to serve as a GNJUMC Hope Center.

**Care Pantry Needs**

Our Care Pantry provides personal care items for families in need in our area.  We have seen about a 50% increase in numbers. We are in need of paper towels, household cleaners, dish detergent, and toilet paper***.*** People could purchase the items and leave them in or in the bin by the left front door of the church.  Thank you!

**Reusable Bags for Care Pantry**

We understand that supermarket delivery services are sending orders now in reusable bags.  If you end up with more bags than you need, the Care Pantry would gladly receive clean and barely used bags.  The Care Pantry would like to go “green” and needs 80 or more bags each month.  To donate clean and barely used reusable bags, leave them by the Care Pantry located to the left of the elevator on our main floor.

**Vincent UMC Cemetery**

Vincent Church has a cemetery located at 213 Passaic Avenue.  This is where the church began in 1830.  Grave plots and memorial garden plots (for cremains/ashes) are available for church members.  Contact the Church Office for more information.

**Emotional Support Information**

If you need emotional support or are feeling anxiety or worry due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you can call the NJ Mental Health Cares number at 1-866-202-HELP (4357). It is staffed with a live mental health specialist 7 days a week, 8 am-8 pm.  Locally, the Nutley Family Service Bureau is accepting referrals and can be reached by calling 973-667-1884.

**Vincent UMC Safety Protocol**

Our church has developed some safety protocols in case of a fire, medical or security emergency.  Our ushers and Church School staff have been trained as to how to proceed with different situations.  If you see a situation that needs attention, please speak to one of the ushers for assistance.  This might include smoke or fire, someone in medical distress, or someone whose behavior is erratic or makes one uncomfortable.  If you see something, please say something to an usher who will then address the situation.  We want our church to be a welcoming, safe, and peaceful setting for our worship and service of God.

**AED is Available for Emergency Use**

Our church has an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which can diagnose and defibrillate someone having a heart attack. On opening it, the AED has simple audio and visual commands that are designed to be used by any layperson.  It is located in a marked metal box in the hallway to the chapel.  While we pray it will never be used, it is available if a heart emergency arises.

**Emergency Kit in Usher’s Closet**

Our church has an Emergency Kit located on the door in the Usher’s Closet opposite the Ladies' Room. The kit includes a First Aid Kit, a “Stop the Bleed” Trauma Kit, and Narcan nasal spray for opioid overdose treatment. While we pray, they never need to be used, they are available in case of a medical emergency.

**“Upper Room” Devotional Guides Available**

“Upper Room” Devotional Guides are now available for free for pickup in the literature rack in the front church vestibule. They contain a short devotional for each day for two months with a theme, a scripture, a reflection, a prayer, and a thought for the day. They are small and can be used on a breakfast table, on a nightstand, in a briefcase, or pocketbook. Pick one up to use as one way to stay grounded in and to grow in faith in Jesus Christ.

**Spiritual Disciplines for Lent**

Lent is a season of reflection upon our lives, of repentance of our sins, of re-direction of our paths, and renewal of our faith. Life is not easy, and we tend to stray from the way. Lent is a time to try to get back on track by seeking God’s guidance help and strength. So, we are encouraged to consider doing one or more of the following for Lent:

1. **Come to Worship** - Worship is a weekly discipline that puts us firmly in the presence of God. Through hymns and prayers and scriptures and sermons, God speaks to our hearts and encourages us, and seeks to guide us.
2. **Pray Daily** – Let’s take some time to open our hearts to God, sharing our thoughts and concerns and listening for God's guidance in quietness. Even if it is only a few moments, let’s take some time to check in with God!
3. **Read the Bible** – We’ll have available for you a devotional guide called “Sanctuary for Lent.” For each day of the season, it has a scripture, a story, and a prayer. Using this or some other devotional, let’s take a few minutes each day to be fed by God's word!
4. **Give Something Up** – Here’s the old standby! Let's think of something that we could “give up for Lent” that would be beneficial to us and a ready reminder of Jesus’ self-denial for us.
5. **Do Something** - Here's a new twist on the old standby. Is there something we could do to reach out lovingly to someone else in Jesus’ name? Perhaps we could try to call or visit or send a card to one person per week that is in need of encouragement, or some other type of witness or service to others.

Which one might be most meaningful for your journey of faith? Which one might help you grow more in the Spirit? Which one or more of these would best fit your schedule? Think about it. Pray about it. Then, decide how this season of Lent can be an especially holy time for you.

**2024 Staff-Parish Relations Committee**

Our church’s Staff-Parish Relations Committee is responsible for maintaining good communication between our staff and our congregation and supporting and encouraging the growth and development of our staff. If anyone has compliments or concerns regarding a member of our staff, simply speak to a member of the committee. This year’s committee members are Judy Concepcion (Convenor; [jkconcepcion@gmail.com](about:blank)), Gene Carlson, Randy Rossman, Rich Baumann, Marilyn Smith, Cathie Tedesco, Paul Gallagher, Judy Mitschow, Luke Raughley, Helen DeVoe, and Charlyn Kennedy. May God bless our staff and this ministry we share together.

**Monthly Mission Offering for February**

“Monthly Mission” contributions for August will be used for food and supplies when our church helps homeless families through Family Promise of Essex County (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network) in January and July. For many years, our congregation has helped homeless families as they attempt to find suitable housing and get back on their feet with the help of the FPEC team. For more information, visit [www.fpessexnj.org](about:blank). So please consider making a donation for this cause with your “Monthly Mission Offering” contributions for February (designate “Monthly Mission” on any envelope) or at [Vincent Church Online Giving](about:blank) using the Monthly Mission tab.

**In Case of Horrid Weather**

‘Tis the season for snow and ice! Since we value you greatly, there are some rare occasions when we will decide to cancel church rather than have you risk your life and limbs to get to worship. If such a stormy Sunday arises, you can check our Facebook page, the Church Office answering machine, or your email. We pray, however, for a season of sunny winter Sundays!

**Kim Hosking Moving**

Kim Hosking of our church is moving to a new home on February 5. She will be with four other residents and be part of an active community. If you would like to send her a card, her address will be: 4 Wedgewood Drive, West Orange, NJ 07052. Let’s wrap Kim and her parents in prayer.

**Upcoming Events**

March 7 UWF General Meeting (7:00)

March 10 Scout Sunday (Girls and Boys)

March 17 Winter Soup Sale

March 24 Palm Sunday

Community Blessing of the Palms

Easter Egg Hunt (11:15)

March 28 Maundy Thursday Service (7:30)

March 29 Good Friday Community Cross Walk

Good Friday Service (7:30)

March 31 Easter Sunday

April 7 Commitment Sunday

April 13 Spring Cleanup in the Cemetery (10-3)

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**CHURCH STAFF**

Ministers: **All Members of the Congregation**

Pastor: **The Rev. David LeDuc**

Prayer Minister: **The Rev. John Benitez**

Organist: **Tricia Blanchard**

Choir Director:  **Joe Maleno**

Office Administrator: **Kairyn Contreras**

Sextons: **Angel Caro & Marisa Torres**

Missionary: **Kabaka Ndala Alphonsine**

A close-up of several business cards

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Vincent United Methodist Church

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