



A Monthly Newsletter of the United Methodist Church of Vista

We are called to be an authentic, accessible and inclusive community
in Christ, celebrating and extending God's love into the world.

Pastor's Ponderings

What does it mean to be a Christian?

Christianity is a lifelong commitment of striving to follow the life practices and values of Jesus. It is not about wearing a cross in your jewelry or speaking a certain prayer. It is not about looking a certain way or even that you attend church all the time. It is about how you make choices for yourself and for others.

Being a Christian requires learning about Jesus and the lessons he taught, and then doing likewise. All the stuff we do in church is about remembering who Jesus is and was, and offering spiritual 'tools' to help you be a Jesus-follower. Those of us who follow Jesus and claim the traditions of the United Methodist denomination aren't any more or less Christian than anyone of any other denomination. Denominations of the Christian faith are all Christian but each one places the emphasis in different places. United Methodist Christians focus on grace in both personal holiness and community action.

The spiritual and faith tools that our church teaches are prayer, singing, fellowship, study, fasting, giving financially, giving time, witness, liturgy, love of neighbor...and so many more. As we come closer to the end of the year, we will be talking again about stewardship and asking for your commitment for 2018 through your time, talents and treasures. I know it seems like it is early, but the staff and some leadership of the church are already thinking about our ministry plans and work for next year. Please start praying about how God is calling you to step up in faith next year.

Study after study shows that giving and charity makes us healthier, and happier people. Charity feeds our heart and is a spiritual tool for us to connect with Jesus. In a world that is struggling with civility and compassion, one way to make a difference is to teach our children about charity. Start when they are young and show them how to give. If you believe in donating blood, take your children or grandchildren with you. If you or someone in your family loves animals, make time to volunteer at the humane society or other animal organization. When you come to church, let a child place your offering envelope or monetary gift in the offering plate.

Talking about stewardship at the church isn't just about money, it is about living Jesus teaching to care for neighbor and do justice in the world. The United Methodist Church of Vista is striving to do more courageous and bold ministry. We see the world outside our walls and want to make it better. I believe 2018 is at our doorstep, there are many hurting and hungry people looking for hope. Let us be a Community of Christ that steps up in caring for one another and giving to those in need.

Grace and peace be with you,
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Change in worship times

Starting in September: Join us in Worship at 9 am (band) and 11 am (choir). After experimenting with one worship time during August, it is a great opportunity to try something new in September. Church coaches and planters tell us that it is easier to invite new visitors to worship times at the hour or half hour, as well as advertise for these times. They also tell us that it is important to provide enough time between services for cars to leave the parking lot after some time for fellowship. Some families have even requested time between services for Bible Study. Worship committee has discussed this for the last year and it was part of the discussion of our last Church Council meeting when we agreed to move worship to August for one service. As we look to the end of the year, and pray that our congregation grows in ministry and faithfulness, let us try this worship time experiment to see how we grow.

X-tra Giving for September

Our September Giving will benefit T.E.R.I., a non-profit organization dedicated to serving individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities and their families. T.E.R.I. (training, education, research Incorporated) was established in 1980. They now have 12 homes and serve approximately 650 families with respite care. They employ 450 people.

One of those families is in desperate need. Any type of food and toys will help; clothes: maternity stretch pants, newborn twin girls, children's shorts, 14-16; and boy 4T

One of the group homes has individuals that have been living together for 36 years and mostly came from state hospitals with no family connection. Any items will help to make their life more comfortable. Shirts, sizes small to x-large, pants, toiletries, etc. T.E.R.I. has started a resale shop at 3772 Mission Ave. in Oceanside. Any items you wish to donate for that specifically will help this great organization! You may take them directly there or drop off at the church. Any questions, please see Sherry Johnston.

X-tra givings vs. communion offerings

What are x-tra givings? Are they different than communion offerings? How? Who is in charge of them? Do I have to donate to every one?

This church, as you may have noticed is very giving. Many of us, however, cannot physically get out and do as much anymore, so we—your Mission outreach groups: Church & Society, World Missions, WWJD, and Evangelism—try to provide a variety of opportunities. Each month your Outreach groups help our congregation reach out in concrete, not necessarily physical nor monetary ways...these are called “x-tra giving.” We reach out to community organizations, find out what they need and we invite you to help supply those needs (i.e. food drives for Vista Teen Outreach or And Two Fishes, paper goods for Michaelle and Fraternity Houses). Communion offerings are developed and chosen by Missions Committee based upon World Mission askings from the greater UMC. Many of these are national or global (i.e. Africa University, PET project, or UMCOR /Disaster project.) These are specific to the one Sunday of communion and are extra monetary offerings.

Your community and your Outreach Committees continue to give praise and thanks to you for your generosity in helping with these various projects...and no, it is not necessary for you to give to every project, every mission. We give you choices and you are free to pick and choose the giving or offering that touches your heart and mind. Again, we give praise and thanks to you and for you.

Communion Sunday, September 3

The September 3 communion offering will help support the Fairfield Children's Home in Old Mutare Zimbabwe, Africa. Across the street from Africa University there is a cluster of buildings housing children who are vulnerable, abandoned, or orphaned. These homes are designed to simulate a family's residence. There is a “mother” and “auntie” and multi-aged children living together as a family. Our communion offering will help feed, cloth, provide school fees, salaries for the “mother” and “auntie” and administrative costs. The Fairfield Children's Home strives to raise children to be friendly, educated, spiritual adults. For more information: www.fosakids.org/about-us/our-story. Let's help these children too.

-Sue Humphrey, World Missions

Family Game Night, September 8

Family Game night will be on September 8 at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. For questions or for more information, please see Suzanne McMurchie.

New Members Brunch

Coming Sept. 10, the New Members Brunch! Who is invited? Anyone wishing to formally join with our church family, all who have joined recently, anyone who would like to help welcome them. This will take place after services that day (12:15 ish!). Folks who wish to join will take their vows and be celebrated right there. We hope you might join us for this special event. Please RSVP to the church office or Barbara Mitchell (760.724.0923) by Sept. 5.

UMW invites you...Hawaiian Luau

Hawaiian Luau means good food, music, and hula dancing. That is what you will get on September 23, with dinner and fun beginning at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. United Methodist Women are planning an unforgettable evening of fellowship to raise funds for national and worldwide mission projects. Tickets will be sold on September 10 and 17, at a cost of \$10 each or \$25 for a family. Tickets will not be available after Sept. 17.

<p>Flame Editors Lenore Averell and Barbara Mitchell Flame Production Paula Amaro WEB Master Jim McGlocklin Next deadline is Wednesday, September 20, 2017 Comments or suggestions, please let us know.</p>

<p>The Flame (monthly newsletter) United Methodist Church of Vista 490 S. Melrose Drive Vista, CA 92081</p>

10 Things YOU can do to teach your Children/Grandchildren about Charity

1. Donate Clothes: Get your children involved by sorting, bagging and dropping off clothes you don't wear anymore to the Salvation Army or Goodwill.
2. Help Your Neighbors: Rake the leaves of an elderly couple. Bake cookies or bread and deliver to a serviceman or servicewoman. Take a box of Sees Candy to a local Fire Department.
3. Give Blood: Take your children or grandchildren with you to donate blood. Model and share why you donate.
4. Make Birthdays Charitable: At your child's first school-age birthday party, ask guests to bring a 'gift book' to be donated to a local charity. Invite your son or daughter to look at their book shelf and pick a book to donate. Involve the birthday boy or girl in the decision to take the books to a school or woman's shelter or doctor's office.
5. Include pets: When shopping buy a bag of dog or cat food to drop off at an animal rescue. Allow your child to visit the recipients of the gift.
6. Deliver nutrition: Build food baskets or bags with a full meal. Churches, Schools and other organizations have specific lists of requested items, often around the holidays.
7. Change for a Difference: Create a 'charity' jar at home. Invite children to donate to the jar when they get their allowance or some money for helping out. Put change in when you get home at night. Go online with children and study different charities at Charitynavigator.org and decide together where the change goes to.
8. Help Elders: Mow the grass for Grandma. Wash Grandpa's car. Help a senior church member by raking their lawn or even, taking them a flower to decorate their home.
9. Pitch in at Church: Volunteer to usher, acolyte or read scriptures during service. Join in on a church clean up day.
10. Send hand written notes: Get some note cards and help children write to service men and women who are serving our country. Send notes to police people thanking them for their service to the community. Send a thank you note or prayer note to a school in your neighborhood for the teachers, principal and other education leaders.

Calling potential Cub Scouts and parents

The United Methodist Church of Vista is seeking interest among parents and Cub Scout-age boys (as of January or February 2018) to restart Cub Scout Pack 709! This Pack was previously part of our church before leaving many years ago. Cub Scouting is for boys in the first through fifth grades, or 7 to 10 years of age. Boys who are older than 10, or who have completed the fifth grade, can no longer join Cub Scouting, but they may be eligible to join the Boy Scouting or Venturing program. Currently, the UMC Vista charters Boy Scout Troop 709 and Venturing Crew 709. Our intent is to restart this unit in 2018 primarily with parents and boys from the UMC Vista. If you are interested, or who have family members who might be, please contact Dave Hendron at david.hendron@mac.com. Thank you!

Family Ministries (Beckie Henselmeier)

- Thank you to everyone who donated backpacks, lunch boxes, and school supplies to our drive for Breeze Hill Elementary. They are grateful for our continued partnership and our generosity in support.
- Join us for "Maker's Fun Factory Mini VBS" Saturday, Sept. 9 (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.) and Sunday, Sept. 10 (9 a.m. – 1 p.m.). Students 4 – 5th grade will discover that they're uniquely created by God and built for a purpose. Both days is \$20/student with a "Bring a friend" discount of \$10 if they register together. The 1-day option (Sunday only) is also \$10/student. Registration available online at umcvista.org. See Beckie Henselmeier or Margene Haase for more information.
- Youth Fall Retreat "Don't Fall Apart" will be September 22 -24. Trip Highlights: Visit to Palm Springs, CA, day at Wet N' Wild Waterpark, Small Groups and Study, Worship at Palm Springs UMC, Fellowship with four churches from the South District. Cost: \$100.00 per student. Sign-up Deadline is Sunday, Sept. 10, with a \$25.00 deposit.

Women's Retreat 2017 - "A Cup of Blessing"

All women at the UMC Vista are invited to attend a one-day Women's Day Retreat on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Thibodo Community Center in Vista. Worship, study, crafts, food, fellowship and more. The cost is \$45 and includes materials, lunch, and more. Register today at umcvista.org. Please see Pastor Leigh Ann Shaw or Beckie Henselmeier for more information.

Caring Card Ministry

During our weekly staff meetings, Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann, Rev. Frank, Beckie and I go over the prayers that people write on the back of their attendance cards. We share in sending cards to each of these persons to let them know their concerns have been heard.

I am so glad to do this "caring card ministry". Writing a quick note to someone acknowledging their prayers or concerns gives me a chance to let someone know I am praying for them and their concern. It is amazing how just sending out one card can make a difference in someone's life. What is even better is hearing back from them thanking me for the card.

-Paula Amaro

Happy “September” Birthdays

Betty Beck (1)
Anita Maag (2)
Annette Stamm (2)
Doris Starr (2)
Connor Way (2)
Brenda Foss (3)
Carol Graham (3)
Stan Hamilton (3)
Scott Hansen (3)
Sherry Johnston (3)
Michael Slavinski (4)
Wayne Foss (6)
Christen Holder (7)
Dakota Koenig (9)
Jeannie Martinsen (11)
Christopher Tivar (12)
Aiden Amaro (13)
Barbara Wheatley (13)
Kathy Kim (14)
Betsy Jean Miller (14)
Jimie Patton (14)
Mas Kameya (15)
Tommy Thomson (15)
Phoebe Fraser (17)
Sara Baldwin (18)
Janice Rakestraw (18)
Grace Hernandez-Jackson (19)
Gemma Johnson (20)
Patricia Hotaling (21)
Becky Adams (25)
Aaron Amaro (28)
Jayne Seiffer (28)
Scott Myers (29)
Raub Mathias (30)

Note: If your birthday is not listed, please call Paula at the church office.

Ringers and Singers, Sunshine Magic Singers resume rehearsals

Ringers and Singers and Sunshine Magic Singers have resumed rehearsals on Wednesdays in the Choir Room. Ringers and Singers rehearse at 3:15 pm and the Sunshine Magic Singers rehearse at 4:00 pm. Both Ringers and Singers welcome first through middle school. Questions for the chimers may be directed to Carol Pence by calling, texting or emailing at 760.689.8024 or cnjence@sbcglobal.net. Pastor Frank Hallock can be contacted through pastorfrank@umcvista.org with questions about the singers. Not too late to join!

Heartfelt Thanks

The Board of Directors of the Veterans Assoc. of North County (VANC) takes this opportunity to thank you for your generous donation in the kind of various office supplies, pot/pans, etc. Your generosity and support is sincerely appreciated.

VANC is committed to support and provide resources to all active duty, veterans and their families for their service to our Country. If you would like additional information about how you may help local veterans and their families through VANC, please contact us or join us at our monthly meetings.

Check Atkinson, President/Founder
760.505.4712

My eldest son, John Arthur, died on July 2 after being diagnosed with cancer of the liver and lungs. The melanoma had been discovered last August and was Stage 4 by June of this year. John moved from Oceanside to Indiana last August to be with his daughter and grandchildren and his new great-granddaughter, now five months old. John and I kept in touch by phone, facebook and videophone.

Some of our congregation will remember praying for John while awaiting a liver to be transplanted. He was fortunate to receive that gift in 1994. John recognized the blessing of being able to live another 23 years because of answered prayers.

My grief has been beyond words at times but your prayers, cards, calls and visits are appreciated more than I can say. Thank you dear friends. You are a true blessing for me.

JaDene Dugas

Sincere thanks to all of the church members who donated food items, cash, or gift cards to the Hawkes House in July. I really appreciate all of your generosity and so do they. God bless you all.

Loretta Pierce

Our Faith in Action

Here at UMC Vista putting our faith into action is part of our story; it is who we are. This is just a partial list of what we have done this busy summer. Thanks and blessings to all for your faith-filled work. As we have been called, this work has been done by all of us, together, working to make the world a better place .

- Tijuana with International Relief Teams to build-a-house-in-a-day for a family (Vic Johnston)
- Paint/spruce up in the Breeze Hills Elementary garden area
- Breeze Hill Preschool Reading program—making homework bags
- Backpack/lunchbox drive for Breeze Hill Elementary
- Feed the homeless every Thursday
- Cable Trust Make A Difference Day
- Special offerings for: Congo Women Arise, Shade and Fresh Water Project and Methodist Camp Encinal in Mexico
- Special drives for: Women’s Resource Center, Hawkes Home and Michaelle and Fraternity House

United Methodist Women's Corner

- The UMW Circles meet September 5. Kenworthy Circle will meet in room 203 at 4 pm. Ruth Circle will meet at 9:30 am at the home of Lousie Clarke at 3725 Southridge Way in Oceanside. Esther Circle will meet at 10 am in Fellowship Hall.
- The UMW Organization meeting is September 12 at 10 am in Fellowship Hall.
- The UMW leadership meeting is September 19 at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Community

Operation HOPE-Vista - occasional help needed

Operation HOPE-Vista is looking for individuals who would be willing to help with assembling materials for mailing. The shelter tries to mail electronically whenever possible both for conservation reasons and to control overhead. However, two or three times a year a physical mailing is on the calendar. So, if you have been looking for a way to help at the shelter occasionally during the daytime (when all is quiet), this is it! Call Sharon Hall (818.632.4160) or email shallret@cox.net if you would be 'on call' for these projects. Lots of hands make the work go smoothly and quickly.

Pray together for...

Jim McGlocklin, Tommy Thomson, Juna Spitz, Jim Wright, Larry Averell, Janice Frate, Tom Johnston, Loretta Pierce, Maggie/Giorgio Graziano, Bob Hickman, Joan Lindegren, Ron Bradshaw, Joan Brainerd, Nancy Koski, Carol Yunt, Randie Annin, Alice Leclair

Ed Christensen passed away August 22. A memorial service date to be scheduled.

Memorial service for former member Gerry Duerre is on Sunday, September 24 at 2 pm in the Sanctuary.

Stay connected

E-mail: umcvista@umcvista.org

Website: www.umcvista.org

Facebook: United Methodist Church of Vista

Be sure to check us out on Yelp!

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Sunday Worship: 8:45 and 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:00 am
Return Service Requested