



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

Attending church is good for your health. Many studies have been done showing that people who attend church regularly have more social connections, and less depression. Church attenders smoke less, lead healthier lives and even live longer. In a very real and quantitative way, Church is good for you.

'Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.' Paul's letter to the Corinthians details the characteristics of love and care between people. Truthfully, Paul also challenged the people of Corinth to quit being jerks, in addition to teaching about love. Sometimes the church and church people make mistakes, but we keep coming back to this faith-based ethic on love. Loving acts of respectful kindness require practice and that practice makes you healthier.

Attending church lets us practice forgiveness, compassion and a relationship with the divine. That's worth a lot in this world today when everyone stares at their cell phone and forgets the person on the other end! Diana Butler Bass says in her book *Grounded*, "Spirituality is about personal experience — the deep realization that dirt is good, water is holy, the sky holds wonder; that we are part of a great web of life, our home is in God, and our moral life is entwined with that of our neighbor. But none of this is for the sake of feeling good, individual prosperity, or guaranteeing a blessed afterlife. It is about tracing the threads of the interconnected universe, about finding God in nature and in community — and, in finding God, discovering that we really are one."

People who are regular church attenders get to mingle with different generations, experience mentoring and engage in altruism. There is a wisdom that comes from listening to the stories of our grandparent's generation and seeing the naïve sweetness of our children's generation. Coming to church assures that you will hear stories of those who have less than you do. You will be given the opportunity to reach out and share your resources to give someone else food to live or resources for education or even more. All of these have been proven to add happiness and joy to your life.

Everyone knows that the Church is not perfect. We struggle and even fail with regularity. It is easy to point to our flaws BUT what about the ways that we offer health, life and happiness to our community and the world!! What about the ways we make a difference! "Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you," says Isaiah (41:10). Our God is with us and challenges us to be Godly people, fierce with justice and bold in compassion. Jesus came to offer us health and abundant days to experience all this with one another.

May your everyday erupt with joy and go to sleep with gratitude!

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

Where does our money go?

This month I would like to write a few words on stewardship. I know you are thinking, “why is he writing about the Fall finance campaign in June?” Relax, I’m not. I just want to try and give you my take on what stewardship is all about. Relationships, and I don’t mean with your aunts, uncles and cousins. I mean with the people sitting next to you in church or the people on the same committee you are on, or the couple sitting next to you at a potluck dinner. In other words, stewardship is more than coming to church Sunday and listening to Pastor Leigh Ann, singing a few hymns, and putting your offering in the plate. It is about hearing about the good work of God over the years. I know that in this day and age, things are very different from even 50 years ago, but I feel that we need to re-think what we are all about and try to find a few more minutes a day or week to make the church more meaningful in our lives.

We have a great opportunity coming up the last week in June that will give you a chance to “test the water”. The Fuller Center for Housing will be stopping at our church on Friday, June 30 to spend the night in our Fellowship Hall. This group is a non-profit ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Their website fullercenter.org is interesting reading. About 30 men and women will bike from Seattle, starting on June 2, stopping at churches along the way to help build, other times to rest and get acquainted with church members. They will be travelling the coast route and plan to reach Vista around 3 pm or so. They will need showers, and we can help: take two or three people home that afternoon, let them shower and change, and then bring them back to church joining in an all-church potluck dinner as we listen to some of their stories. This will be an interesting fun-filled afternoon and evening. Please call Lynda Mounts, our contact person, 760.420.4327, and offer your shower and/or help with the dinner. In helping others, we are helping ourselves and our church, and isn’t this what we really are all about?

-Tommy Thomson

Total Budget for 2017	\$501,275
Total Received (21 weeks)	\$246,693
Total Spent	\$224,694

Seeing God in Opera meets June 4

Seeing God in Opera Group will meet in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 4 at 4:00 pm. For details, call Rev. Frank Hallock at 760.726.0442.

Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, June 11 at both worship services we will be recognizing students who are graduating from high school or college. If your student is graduating, please call Paula at the church office by Monday, June 5 or write their name, school, and degree (if it applies) on the back of your registration card.

Promotion Sunday

Promotion Sunday for our youth is June 11. Students in fifth grade will promote into youth for summer activities and events. All other students will promote on Sunday, August 13th.

Make a Difference Day is coming!

What are you passionate about? Do you want the UMC of Vista to support and be more involved in stopping human trafficking, aid those who are homeless, work with environmental issues, support our local teachers or our global missionaries?

The members of the UMC of Vista are blessed to be able to support some incredible and life-changing work in our community, both locally and globally, through our Outreach Funding. On Sunday, June 25th, during UMC of Vista “Make a Difference Day” you are invited to be that “change you want to see in the world.” You will have the opportunity to declare your passions and commitment to help those organizations who have applied for 2018 Outreach funding. Each applicant for funding will need someone to vet and advocate for them. That person is YOU!

Give some thought to your passions. Pray for guidance on where God would have us put our resources. Come on June 25th and declare your passions!

Flame Editors Lenore Averell and Barbara Mitchell Flame Production Paula Amaro WEB Master Jim McGlocklin Next deadline is Wednesday, June 14, 2017 Comments or suggestions, please let us know.
--

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

Communion Sunday, June 4

The June 4 communion offering will go to “Congo Women Arise” a partnership of East Congo Conference, Cal-Pac Conference and Memphis and Tennessee Conference to build the Mama Lynn Center.

In Congolese culture, women are the foundation of the family, church and village. These women are targeted and used as pawns in the war raging in the region. In an attempt to disjoint families and communities, their aggressors leave them as victims of physical, sexual, psychological, social and domestic problems.

As the local church brings physical, psychosocial and spiritual support for survivors at the “Mama Lynn Center,” women can learn income-generating skills such as cooking, sewing, midwifery, and childcare to provide long-term sustainability.

United Methodist Women provide a key leadership role for the program, as survivors rediscover their own value and reintegrate with society.

The “Mama Lynn Center,” will become a life-changing place of hope with a transformative effect on many villages and communities. The three conferences are raising funds to assist with the construction of the Mama Lynn Center, as United Methodist Youth in Kindu contribute brick-making skills to the program. An anonymous donation of \$150,000 given at the end of 2016 has kick-started the effort to raise a total of \$350,000. Bishop Unda of the East Congo Conference said, “I am the happiest man because I initiated this project, and day by day, it is becoming a reality.”

-Sue Humphrey, World Missions Committee

X-tra Giving for June

Our X-tra Giving for June will be the Women’s Resource Center (WRC) which is dedicated to providing the highest quality support services, counseling, shelter and education to North San Diego County women, children and men involved in or threatened by domestic violence or sexual assault. WRC assists its clients in healing so that they can do the following.

BUILD: their dignity, self esteem and confidence.

LEARN: that what has happened is not their fault.

KNOW: that they and their children have a safe haven.

FEEL RELIEF: from the fear of physical, verbal and emotional abuse.

FIND OUT: that someone understands their problems and that there are solutions.

HOPE: by learning that they can make different, better choices in the future.

There are a variety of needs on their wish list which will be available for you in the Narthex throughout June. Thank you for your continued caring and support for the people of North County.

Student Ministry News (Beckie Henselmeier)

- Promotion Sunday for our youth is June 11th. Students in fifth grade will promote into youth for summer activities and events. All other students will promote on Sunday, August 13th.
- Summer Sunday School starts June 11. The Sunday School program for our Preschool through those-who-have-finished 4th grade will head to “Camp Out - Getting S’more of Jesus.” This summer, we’ll meet as one group in room 212. Students will learn through music, games, crafts, and snacks.
- This summer, students age four through finished fourth grade are invited to join us at “Maker’s Fun Factory” VBS 2017 on July 24 - 28th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm daily. Students will understand that they are uniquely created by God through incredible Bible-learning experiences where students see, hear, touch and even taste these stories of their faith! Don’t miss out and register today at www.umcvista.org/vbs/ or contact Beckie.
- Grab your friends and family for “Movies on the Lawn”! Pack a picnic dinner or buy something from our food trucks, enjoy a time of fellowship and games, and then relax with a movie on our upper lawn at sunset! Each film will be shown on a Friday night (June 23 July 21, and Aug. 11) and the movies are “Cars,” “Trolls,” and “Zootopia.” Our mission project for this event is a “back-to-school” supplies drive including backpacks. At “Back to School Sunday” on August 13th we will have a blessing of our donations and they will go to families in need and Breeze Hill Elementary School. See Beckie or Colleen Guffey for more information.

United Methodist on contemporary issues

“The United Methodist Church has a long history of concern for social justice. Its members have often taken forthright positions on controversial issues involving Christian principles. Early Methodists expressed their opposition to the slave trade, to smuggling, and to the cruel treatment of prisoners.” “The Social Principles, while not to be considered church law, are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of General Conference to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation as historically demonstrated in UM traditions.” (Book of Discipline, 2016, page 105)

Our Social Principles are broken into six sections and address many issues of our modern world. The six sections are: The Natural World, The Nurturing Community, The Social Community, The Economic Community, The Political Community, and the World Community.

Our statement (in part) on The Right to Health Care from the Social Community: Health is a condition of physical, mental, social, and spiritual well-being. John 10:10b says, “I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.” Stewardship of health is the responsibility of each person to whom health has been entrusted. Creating the personal, environmental, and social conditions in which health can thrive is a joint responsibility—public and private. We encourage individuals to pursue a healthy lifestyle and affirm the importance of preventive health care, health education, environmental and occupational safety, good nutrition, and secure housing in achieving health. Health care is a basic human right... We encourage hospitals, physicians, and medical clinics to provide access to primary health care to all people regardless of their health-care coverage or ability to pay for treatment.

Happy “June” Birthdays

Joey Graziano (1)

Brandon Flanagan, Linda Grider, Ruth Kameya (6)

Emily Hansen (7)

Melissa Bodnar, Paul Fischer (8)

Brenda Walker (9)

Susan Delaney (11)

Luene Corwin, June Miklau (12)

Joan Brainerd (13)

Christopher Clarke, Stella Hansen (15)

Barbara Shores (16)

Ackura Amaro (17)

Laurie Clarke, Alyssa Coker, Louise Horna (18)

Sara Biggs (19)

David Freeman (20)

Larry Averell (21)

Marlene Coast, Susan Hamlin, Sarah LaFoe (22)

Benjamin Crumpacker-Smith, Alicia Olinger (23)

Lauren Adams (24)

Susan Miller, Donald Smith, Jim Wills (26)

Dave Adams, Phillip Setter (27)

Sharon Hall, Abby Way (29)

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

Why I joined the Reconciling Ministries Community

Reconciling Ministries is a national ecumenical organization recognizing the full inclusion of all people in God's kingdom. Within our Vista UMC is a small group of folks that have come together to learn more about how to advocate for inclusion of all people in our church. We have begun this process of learning, and some of our team will be sharing periodically. We hope that you will prayerfully participate in this conversation and share your thoughts with us. UMC Vista is NOT an official member of the Reconciling Ministries Movement, only our small group. We welcome your questions and concerns.

It's more like why I believe in Reconciling Ministries! One of the definitions for “reconcile” is “to bring into agreement or harmony, make compatible or consistent.” I believe that everyone is worthy of love and acceptance, and that each person—no matter who they are because of gender, ethnicity, age, sexual preference/orientation, or handicapping condition—has gifts to share with this world. As a teacher of Severely Handicapped I experienced firsthand the knowledge that some people considered my students to be “less than”. And because I was a teacher of Severely Handicapped, I too, in their opinion as evidenced by their actions, fell into that category. It was my job to help my students learn to work and play alongside others. Sometimes, we were successful and sometimes we weren't, but bottomline is that every person is a person of worth and should be treated with respect. We know that God does not disparage, discriminate nor label persons, but accepts us all as we are when we come to His footstool. That is something I need to remember always if I wish to be a disciple of the Christ. -Barbara Mitchell

Heartfelt Thanks

A big thank you from UMW to all those who baked, helped at Farmer's Market and who purchased our baked goods. By the end of May 13 we had raised \$689, and by the end of May 14 we had a grand total of \$843. We owe a BIG thank you to Vic Johnston, Marvin Philippi and John Mitchell for helping us with setup. UMW uses these monies to fund various mission projects. Thank you all!

-Marlene Philippi and Barbara Mitchell

Join Operation HOPE-Vista at the Moonlight Amphitheatre!

Operation HOPE-Vista has been asked again this year to partner with the Moonlight Foundation for a preview night fundraiser. The date will be June 13 for the preview performance of *Aida*. This is Elton John and Tim Rice's version which claimed four Tony awards and promises to be a really great performance!

The last day to obtain tickets in person will be June 4 in the Narthex following both services. Lawn tickets are \$15 and have a reserved space – ticket holders are welcome to bring a picnic or use the snack bar on site. Wine is available for purchase, but for insurance reasons, none can be brought in.

Three other ticket packages are available and ALL come with complimentary reserved orchestra seating. The first is the Comfort Package (\$48) which purchases a stadium cushion and binoculars. The second is the Dinner Package (\$60) and the third Deluxe Package (\$90) provides dinner and the cushion and binoculars!

Gates open at 6:30 pm for dinner guests and 7:00 pm for all others. An evening under the stars with friends and music . . . what a great way to welcome summer! So, do plan to join us and travel back to ancient Egypt and a musical story that has it all - forbidden love, family conflict, royal intrigue, loyalty, villainy, heroism, and a timeless love story.

-Sharon Hall

Family Game Night in June

Family Game night will be on June 9 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.

Lecture and conversation, June 28 and July 19

Religion in Literature: Issues of Gender, Sex and Submission - Three books have inspired movies and mini-series: *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Red Tent* and *The Scarlet Letter*. Join Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw for a lecture and conversation. Bring your own copy of the book. Sign up and get the reader with additional reflection and guiding questions. Cost for the copied material is \$3.00. Wear red. Bring a red snack or drink. Please sign up in the Narthex for the next lecture, “The Red Tent”.

“The Red Tent”— June 28 at 10 am or 7 pm

“The Scarlet Letter”— July 19 at 10 am

United Methodist Women's Corner

- The Circles will meet on Tuesday, June 6: Esther Circle will meet at the home of Dulsie Cargill at 1181 Masterpiece in Oceanside at 10:30 am. Ruth Circle will meet at IHOP Restaurant located at 632 Sycamore in Vista at 9:30 am. Kenworthy Circle will meet at 11 am to go have lunch and visit with JaDene Dugas at her residence.
- The UMW leadership meeting is June 20 at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Pray together for...

Larry Averell, Rollin Grider, Janice Frate, Tom Johnston, Loretta Pierce, Maggie/Giorgio Graziano, Ed Christensen, Bob Hickman, Joan Lindegren, Ron Bradshaw, Joan Brainerd, Nancy Koski, Carol Yunt, Randie Annin, Russ Townsend, Alice Leclair

Terry Boyd passed away on April 13; Joan Bearss passed away on April 28. Prayers for the families of Terry Boyd and Joan Bearss.

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!

United Methodist Church of Vista
490 S. Melrose Drive
Vista, CA 92081
Phone: (760) 726-0442
Web: www.umcvista.org
Sunday Worship: 8:45 and 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:00 am
Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
VISTA, CA 92081
PERMIT NO. 13