



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

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream," according to C.S. Lewis.

My dream is for the Kingdom of God to be realized at our church...within our congregation. The Kingdom of God is like the best buffet you can imagine, where everyone is cared for and nourished. I dream that our work at the church connects us with Jesus and sends us out into the world to offer hope for those who are hungry, lonely and lost. Worship is one big piece of claiming the Kingdom of God in our midst.

In August we will be having ONE worship service on Sundays at 10 am. The goal is to have the whole congregation together so that we can share fellowship, build relationships and witness to our faith. It will be what some call a 'blended' experience meaning that some of the weeks we will have band music and other weeks we will have more traditional music. Some weeks we will share in formal liturgy and other weeks it may be more extemporaneous. I hope you will open your heart and come be a part of the community. August is the time to try new things and meet new people.

Marcia McFee, a worship coach and planner, says that 'worship is as necessary to our lives as breathing.' Christians are people who have received and continue to receive the Holy Spirit within us. The Holy Spirit is God realized in our time. McFee says that worship is a time to in-spire (breathe in the spirit of God), ex-pire (breathe out the hurts and pains of the week) and con-spire (breathe with the family of God). The work of God's Spirit is active and constant and physically within us. The work of worship is a part of this Spirit Respiration we do every week.

The mission of the church universal is to make disciples of Jesus and send them out into the world to do ministry. Worship is the fill-up station for disciples to be made and empowered to go out into the world. It is the Holy Oxygen center where we receive breath into our body, both individually and corporately. The journey of discipleship is learning about God and Jesus from the lessons of the Bible for today's world. It is a challenging world we live in and we all relate to it a little differently. So different worship experiences and songs will speak differently to each of us.

I invite you to come to worship in August. Come to see your faith family and experience a variety of worship. The Kingdom of God is realized when we join together, work together, and offer one another the grace of Jesus. Let us celebrate in the month of August in worship! Amen.

Grace and peace to you!
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

THANK YOU!

Special thanks to Dakota Koenig and the Staff Parish for their support and encouragement. We are delighted to be appointed to UMC Vista for another year and look forward to our time in ministry together. Thank you for your cards, words of encouragement and especially prayers! You are a wonderful and generous congregation! It is a blessing to be here!

-Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann and Rev. Frank

One worship service during August

August Worship at 10 am on Sundays: For summer worship during the month of August we will be going to ONE worship service at 10:00 am. As we look toward the future, this is a great time to get back to basics in sermons, take time to build fellowship in the church and experience the joy of worshipping together. This is NOT a permanent change and we will return to two services on September 3, 2017. August worship will have blended music and include band music, as well as the opportunity to hear our guest pianist/organist as we look for a new accompanist. Come with an open heart and the joy of being one body of Christ! For more information, contact Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw.

The Flame

From the Annual Conference...

Last month Pastor Leigh Ann shared with you some of the excitement and joy we felt at Redlands this year with our new Bishop Grant Hagiya. As always, music and worship in such a crowd makes one feel and almost see the Holy Spirit dancing about joyfully! Those of us attending the Missionary Luncheon joyfully received an award for this congregation for its good work towards supporting missionaries through individuals supported and full-payment of apportionments.

Part of the work of this Annual Conference was to vote on the Constitutional Amendments that came out of the General Conference in Portland. These amendments must be voted upon by ALL Annual Conferences and, the results passed on to the General Conference. This meant that we will not know how these amendments fare until the next General Conference in 2020. The amendments included: adding language on gender justice (male and female) to two articles on racial/social justice; election of delegates by ALL conferences rather than appointment by a bishop; bishops themselves will be elected by their own jurisdictional and central conferences; and how and by whom bishops are held accountable.

Other legislation was shared in legislative breakout sessions receiving concurrence, no-concurrence or sent back to committee or the floor of the body for vote. These covered a wide-range of topics including seven related to clergy pay, pensions and health benefits. Three churches asking for historic designation (Harris and Christ UMCs, both in Hawaii, and Downey UMC in California). Harris and Christ both received concurrence, and Downey was referred back to Archives and History for more research. In all there were seventeen recommendations, 16 resolutions and three rule changes. Recommendations and rule changes come from specific committees.

One other piece was that we affirmed the continuance of our current General Conference delegates to attend the specially-called General Conference for 2019 relating to the LGBTQ issues and the Bishops' A Way Forward recommendation. Because these delegates were a part of the discussions at recent Jurisdictional and General Conferences, having full knowledge of the issues and their significance, it seemed best to retain them. At our next Annual Conference we will need to elect new delegates.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, once again, as one of your delegates to the Annual Conference. -Barbara Mitchell

Missionary to speak

Join us on Tuesday, August 1 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall to meet with our missionary to Japan, Rev. Claudia Yamamoto. Folks from Encinitas UMC will join us. Rev. Yamamoto shared her story at Annual Conference Mission Luncheon and you will not want to miss this opportunity to hear her speak. She returns to Japan on August 4, to continue her service with mission and ecumenical affairs. Please see Jacque Howard for further information.

X-tra Giving for August

Our August X-tra giving will benefit Michaele House and Fraternity House. Fraternity House, Inc. mission is to provide warm and caring homes where men and women disabled by HIV/AIDS can receive comprehensive care and services in order to rebuild their health and return to independent living, or where they can spend their last days in comfort and dignity. We will be collecting paper goods that will benefit both residential facilities. Michaele House is here in Vista and Fraternity House is in San Marcos.

UMC Vista Foundation

The United Methodist Church of Vista Foundation is pleased to celebrate the award of \$2,972.50 to a total of 20 of our youth for Camperships to support their attendance at the California-Pacific Summer Camps. These camps are week long, overnight, Christian-based camps where our children engage in worship, small group activities, large group activities and games. They also participate in swimming, archery, rope courses and more. At summer camp, they grow in their faith, learn leadership skills, grow their self-esteem, develop inter-personal skills with peers and adults, make life-long friendships and have fun.

The UMC Vista Foundation is able to make these and other awards because of your generous gifts to our church. When you leave the Sanctuary, please look at the "Family Tree of Life" where the stones and leaves have been inscribed to honor and memorialize special people and occasions in our lives. The UMC Vista Foundation receives these gifts, as well as other bequests and memorial gifts, into a trust fund. We then take the earnings from the investments to support higher education scholarships, seminaries, universities and colleges, youth camp experiences, mission outreach, and other church activities beyond those supported by the annual church budget.

For more information, please contact Gary Lamb at gdlamb@sbcglobal.net. -Jim Wills

Communion Sunday, August 6

The August 6 communion offering will help The Shade and Fresh Water Project in Brazil. It is a national network of after school centers developed by the Brazil Methodist Church to keep children off the streets. Drug related deaths, violence, crime, and prostitution are common in many cities across Brazil. Most parents are working longer hours than the children are at school and cannot provide supervision. "Shade and Fresh Water" is a popular Brazilian expression that describes what is needed to give protection from life's harsh realities. This project coordinates with churches nationally to reach thousands of children. It provides curriculum, training, and a common vision which includes building character and values. Let's help these centers develop programs where children can be safe, have fun, and learn about God. -Teresa Flanagan, World Missions Committee

Family Game Night, August 11

Family Game night will be August 11 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.

Flame Editors
Lenore Averell and Barbara Mitchell
Flame Production
Paula Amaro
WEB Master
Jim McGlocklin

Next deadline is Wednesday, August 16, 2017
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

Elementary/middle school kid's music camp

The Annual Summer Music Camp for elementary and middle school kids will run from Monday, July 31 through Friday, August 4, from 9:00 am to 11:30 am, with a rehearsal on Saturday, August 5 at 9:00 am. The campers will join forces with the Chancel Choir for a performance on Sunday, August 6 at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. This year's musical is entitled "Music of the Spheres", an out-of-this-world musical journey. Registration information will be available in the narthex or church office. Please contact Rev. Frank Hallock for further information.

International Relief Team update

On June 17, 14 volunteers and I traveled to Tijuana to build a house in one day for a family. The funds, approximately \$5,500, had been given to the International Relief Team from the Cable funds.

We met in San Diego at 5:30 am and were put on a 40 passenger bus to go to our building site. Our destination was about 30 miles east of Tijuana. About 15 miles into Mexico, we had to unload our supplies and put them on a 20 passenger bus, which was smaller and more suited for the roads we were going to be traveling.

After creeping on a dirt road we arrived approximately 100 yards from our destination. At that point the road was soooooo steep we had to lug supplies to the building site!

A skeleton crew had started some of the building and the foundation had been poured. During the day we built the house, approximately 12' X 20' which was comprised of two rooms and a loft. The family's home had been constructed of double car garage doors.

We arrived back in San Diego about 6:30 pm, tired but feeling fulfilled in our accomplishments. Please see the SPARK 07.10.17 for a few photos. -Vic Johnston

Where in the world is . . . Katherine Parker?

Katherine Parker is one of our missionaries we are in covenant with through the United Methodist Mission program. That means we give \$2,500 annually toward her support. To find Katherine, we would fly 8,300 miles from San Diego to Kathmandu. Upon landing we would drive about 250 miles on mountainous terrain taking 18-24 hours to reach Musikot, the district headquarters. The fun part begins by traveling several additional hours by jeep and finally walking to reach most of her working villages. Keep your fingers crossed that we don't go during the rainy season. These days, Katherine is spending most of her time in Rukum, a remote district in mid-west Nepal, a very long 88 miles from Musikot. Her blog is a good source for that area of Nepal and the programs that are changing lives of the inhabitants of remote villages. Also, take the time to look for the updates on the mission bulletin board in the narthex. The blog address is bokashi.blogspot.com.

-Jacque Howard, World Missions Committee

Student Ministry News (Beckie Henselmeier)

- Our last "Movies on the Lawn" takes place on Friday, August 11 and will feature *Zootopia*. Bring your lawn chair or blanket starting at 6:30 pm and our movie begins at sunset. Help us with our mission project for the Breeze Hill Elementary School supply drive, more information at <http://umcvista.org/movies/>.
- "Back to School" Sunday is coming! Children—and students of all ages—are invited to bring their backpacks or school bags to worship on Sunday, August 13, for a special "Blessing of the Backpacks" as the new school year starts. We're also promoting our Pre-school - Fifth Grade Students and will present Bibles to our Third Graders. Students of Third Grade students should contact Ms. Beckie to reserve a Bible!
- Parents meeting—Sunday, August 13 at 9:15 am in Room 212. Meet Sunday school teachers, learn about curriculum, and hear about our goals for the year. Child care available.
- Youth Confirmation Orientation will be on Aug. 13 at 11:30 am in the Youth Room. Students grades 7 - 9 are invited to explore joining the church through the Confirmation Program 2018.
- Save the Date: We're planning a Women's Day Retreat! Saturday, Oct. 14 from 9 am - 5 pm. More info to come. See Beckie Henselmeier 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 on Rights of Immigrants, from the Social Community: We recognize, embrace, and affirm all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right of all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, health care, education and freedom from social discrimination. We urge the Church and society to recognize the gifts, contributions and struggles of those who are immigrants and to advocate for justice for all. We oppose immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children, and we call on local churches to be in ministry with immigrant families.

Happy “August” Birthdays

Manuel Tivar (1)
Michael Newman (2)
Taylor Lyons (3)
Alfred Chappell, Bob Harlow , Mary Nixon (4)
Vera Casey, Sue Humphrey, Marlene Philippi (6)
Ranae Mathias (9)
Carson Way (10)
Helen Robertson (12)
Andrew Mathias (13)
Tim Biggs, Margo Rogers (14)
Adam Amaro, Lucille Baumann (15)
Bonnie Lambert (16)
Mark Wheatley (18)
John Haase (19)
Andrea Shaw, Jennifer Swetland (20)
Brice Spitz (21)
David Felien, Beverly Lynn (23)
Barbara Mitchell, Mark Wheeler (23)
JaDene Dugas, Warren Elsasser (26)
Louise Foster (27)
Gerald Williams (28)
Donna Hill, Helena Maniti, Patricia Rose (29)
Harold MacDermot (30)

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

New Members Brunch

New Member Brunch, Sept. 10 after second service! Are YOU interested in officially joining in our fellowship and becoming a part of this church family? You are invited to join us for a new member brunch in the fellowship hall downstairs. It will be a more personal time of getting to know one another, meeting leadership in the church, having a light lunch and sharing in the traditional membership vows of joining the church. Please RSVP to Barbara Mitchell, 760.724.0923; write it on the back of your registration card on Sunday; or call the church office, 760.726.0442 by September 5. We look forward to getting to know you!

It's Cold/Hot in the Sanctuary!

Our church has an HVAC system (Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning) that was designed for a much larger facility than we currently have. The plan, more than 15 years ago, was to build the rest of the facility within a few years, which would be cooled by our current HVAC configuration. The limits of our current system create uneven heating and cooling in the sanctuary, a large quantity of air coming out in a few places around the sanctuary room and spikes in power use that affect our energy cost. In addition, the aging process of the HVAC and the uneven stress on the system has caused a variety of repair needs that the Trustees have been managing. The Trustees are very aware of all concerns, complaints and hopes for a more even and regular temperature during your worship time. As this is a regular facility management issue of our congregation, it has been a part of our regular operating expenses budget. The issue of our HVAC system and how we manage it into the future would best be helped by our congregation deciding whether it's time to move forward with building a new building and additional ministries or deciding to retain our current configuration and get a new HVAC for the current building. For the meantime, we invite you to pray about our visioning into the future, and come to worship with a jacket to put on for those low temperatures that sometimes occur.

-Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw and Billy Stempson, Chair, Trustees

UMC Reconciling Community invites you to...

Building an Inclusive Church

A Workshop on the Basics of the Reconciling Process

with the Rev. Israel Alvaran

September 9 from 9 to 4 p.m. at UMC Vista

Please register online:

<http://tinyurl.com/VistaBIC>

Workshop is free - lunch & snacks provided

Donations are welcome

Why I joined the Reconciling Ministries Community

When I moved up to Vista, the most important thing to me was to find a United Methodist Church that was warm, friendly, and active in its community. Well guess what? The Sunday that I first attended Vista UMC, there was a dynamic pastor named George Hooper and his sermon that day was about reaching out in compassion and with the love of Christ to those who are different in some ways from ourselves. He spoke about the beauty of diversity in our world and how Jesus spent much of his life, showing by example, that in His eyes, we are all children of God and equal in His sight. As I joined in, I met some incredibly faithful and socially active people wanting to find ways of empathizing and sharing the love of God with those in crises. I was invited to join the LGBTQ and their Allies group in 2016. I did not really know much about this struggle, but I felt the heartache and longing to be embraced fully and equally. As we read so many inspiring and eye-opening books, about the people who were trying to make positive changes as it relates to the LGBTQ community, I was excited about being a part of such a strong, hardworking, and devoted group of faithful followers of Jesus Christ. The next year, our church decided to work towards being a part of the Reconciling Ministries and I thanked God for leading me to work with this loving, welcoming, and faithful outreach. As I wait and pray for changes like I did civil and women's rights; in my heart, I know that helping my LGBTQ friends work toward full equality and inclusion in the church, and in the world, seems like the right thing for me as I live in relationship with God in Jesus Christ. I pray that others in our congregation will want to reach out and learn more about our Reconciling Ministries group.

-Loretta Pierce

Building inspiration into the future

Building Inspiration Team: Are we going to build a building? Are we going to do more ministry? What vision matters to the congregation of the UMC of Vista? Do you want more feeding/homeless ministries? Shall we pursue a preschool? It's been 14 years since we built this building and it's time to address our plan then and now into the future. A group of individuals comprised of both men and women, regular leaders and active participants, were discerned at the July Church Council meeting. They will be getting together during the month of August to discuss ministry, building a new building, pros and cons, use of Cable Outreach funds and Congregational financial capacity. This is NOT a new conversation and certainly NOT more change in the church. This IS addressing the ministry of the church into the future. We are called by God to love our neighbor as ourselves! We are called to build community in order to serve community! Thank you for your excitement and support! Thank you for your faith and future hopes! Thank you for worrying more about people than about financial resources. If we are faithful to God's Call, God will open the path before us and lead us into the future! Thanks be to God for the work we do together!

-Beth Brainerd Hallock

United Methodist Women's Corner

- The UMW Circles are dark in August.
- The UMW leadership meeting is August 19 at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.
- Save the date! Luau dinner and entertainment, Sept. 23 at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Community...

Celebrate Operation HOPE-Vista's birthday

You are invited to a birthday party! Operation HOPE-Vista will be celebrating its first birthday as a year-round shelter and a party is being planned. Join us August 5 from 2 - 6 pm at the shelter, 859 East Vista Way in Vista (behind Barnacle's Express). There will be a very festive air with great games, food, tours, information about the shelter, and loads of fun.

The event celebrates not only the birthday, but all the supporters and contributors who together have made the year-round schedule possible. Please plan on stopping by to enjoy the fun. To help us plan food and supplies, the staff has requested that you RSVP either by phone 760.536.3880 or online at www.operationhopeshelter.org. Everyone is hoping for an excellent turnout – hope to see you there!

-Sharon Hall

Pray together for...

Juna Spitz, Jim Wright, Larry Averell, 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, Alice Leclair

Russ Townsend passed away June 11.

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!

and Two Fishes Thursday soup kitchen

We would appreciate any help to serve and cleanup at the evening shift that begins at 4:30 pm on Thursdays. There are lots of our regular volunteers who are gone on vacation. Thank you for considering giving us some help. -Loretta Pierce

Ringers and Singers / Magic Sunshine Singers

The Ringers and Singers will begin rehearsal on Wednesday, Aug. 23 at 3:15 pm and Magic Sunshine Singers at 4:00 pm. Questions, call Carol at 760.689.8024 or Rev. Frank Hallock at the church office. Open to first through middle schoolers.

United Methodist Church of Vista
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Phone: (760) 726-0442
Web: www.umcvista.org
Sunday Worship: 8:45 and 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:00 am
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