



*A Monthly Newsletter of the United Methodist Church of Vista*

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

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## **Pastor's Ponderings**

Mary Oliver asks the question, "Tell me, what is it that you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" This question comes at the end of a poem entitled *The Summer Day*. The poem feels more spiritual than religious and honors the beauty of the world. These words break open the beginning of the year and call us all into the next 12 months.

Have you thought about a New Year resolution? Have you thought about goals or wishes for 2019? Have you prayed that you would have more health, more time with family and friends, eat better or get your finances in order? If you have, you are not alone. But usually, these kinds of "resolutions" are what Mary Poppins would call a "pie crust promise, easily made and easily broken." I wonder what the opposite of a "pie crust promise" is?

We get one body to walk around in and when that body wears out, it is our time to rest. We've said "good-bye" to some beloved friends and family over 2018. We've prayed and held hands and asked God for peace in the midst of illness. We've asked God's help to get through grief and the flood of memories. We've told God what we think about it all and through it all you've supported and loved one another. The community of this church is powerful, generous and changing the world.

Our days wearing our flesh suit do not go on forever, but for the days we have, what is it that we and you are called to do? A few years back there was another fun poem getting shared around about getting old and wearing purple and a red hat. It was a buoyant, hilarious poem! I knew women who took the poem as a challenge and got together every month for lunch and wore red hats and generally had a fabulous time. They truly embraced their "one wild and precious life."

The Psalmist proclaims, "Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth (Psalm 66:1)." This proclamation is generally taken to be for the singer, and that's fine, but maybe it shouldn't just be a faith statement for the musically gifted. Listen to the laughter of children. Remember the sound of a wave folding over on the beach. These are certainly joyful noises and there are so many more! Birds singing and train noises and the kitchen timer going off when a batch of cookies are finished! All joyful noises and definitely part of our precious days.

Let the world hear from you and be bold with joy! Jesus says, "I have come that you might have life, and have it abundantly." The life that Jesus came to give us and the wild life Mary Oliver reflect on demand a joyful noise. It's time to meet a new year! I pray yours is overflowing with love!

Let us have Joy and have it boldly in 2019!

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

## Finance/Stewardship Update

As we start the new year in 2019, we want to thank everyone for their generosity in 2018. We are a committed and faithful congregation as evidenced by your giving to many important causes in 2018, including the regular budget, missionary giving, special giving to UMCOR for several relief projects to help people around the world and your support for local projects. Our pledges for 2019 include 23 brand new pledged investments in our church and many have increased their pledged amounts. If you have not yet taken the opportunity to complete a pledge card toward our ministry efforts for 2019, it is not too late to do so. We are eager to make our ministry plan for 2019, and hope after prayerful consideration you will join in funding the great ministry of this congregation! It is a pleasure to serve God alongside you!

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair

## Building Committee formed by Charge Conference action

On November 18, during a Charge Conference, the Building Study team presented the basic plans to complete Phase 2 of our building. After a discussion, the plans were affirmed and we are moving forward to create construction documents, take all plans to the District Committee and the City of Vista. This portion of our work will likely take 5-6 months and be reported back to a specially called Charge Conference for discernment and approval. Special thanks to the awesome GAP Team, and Building Study team who have done a lot of work!

During 2018 we have developed a ministry action plan! With this MAP... you have declared your focus for all of our ministry together! You are excited and are called to Justice, Faith and Hospitality! You have said that you care about people who come to church for the first time or after decades of participation! You said you want to care for the community of Vista and the world! You said you care about children and seniors and everyone in between! This is a congregation looking into the future with joy and expectation for serving God and being together! The year ahead looks busy and filled with faith-in-action!

Those currently on the Building Committee are: Martha Phillips, Susan Kronoff, Margo Rogers, Rob Pierce, Suzanne McMurchie, Mike Walker and Tim Clarke. Ex-Officio members are: Beth Hallock, Rollin Grider, Billy Stempson and Pastor Leigh Ann Shaw.

## Discipleship Ministry (Beckie Henselmeier)

- Youth Winter Retreat, "Be the Voice", Feb. 1-3, 2019. Students in Middle School and High School are invited to Camp Ceder Glen in Julian for a weekend where they will share their stories and explore the Bible through various young people in scripture. Empower - Speak Up - Lead. Register online at <http://www.calpacumc.org/event/winter-camp-2019-camp-cedar-glen/>. Cost is \$128.00 per student. For more information, please see Beckie Henselmeier.

## Sunday Supper, Jan. 26

"Psychology and Faith" is the theme for Sunday Supper on January 26 at 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with Rev. Greg LaDue. Dinner is \$7 per person.

What the Biblical stories say to us often depends on the lens through which we view them. One of those lenses available is psychology. Rev. LaDue's topic will examine how psychology can be a lens that reveals deeper and more personal meaning to the biblical narrative. We will examine a couple well known stories from scripture that will illustrate how the psychological lens reveals God at work from a different, and perhaps deeper, perspective.

Rev. Greg has been a Licensed Local Pastor for 10 years and holds a License as a California Marriage and Family Therapist. Greg has been in practice for 25 years. He taught Family Systems Theory and Legal and Ethical Issues for Psychotherapists at National University for 13 years. He was the Director of the New Life Counseling Center at San Diego First UMC for 16 years and was appointed to San Diego First UMC as an Associate Pastor for 8 years. Greg has led numerous retreats for several United Methodist Churches and other faith denominations and has conducted numerous workshops.

Flame Editor  
Barbara Mitchell  
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Next deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019  
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, Jan. 6**

Communion offering for Sunday, Jan. 6 will go to Mobility Worldwide (formerly known as P.E.T. International) and will help build and ship Personal Energy Transportation carts for disabled people worldwide. The carts provide the Gift of Mobility for many of God's people in need. The carts cost \$250 each and we have helped to provide several in the past. The need is great.

-World Missions Committee

## **X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for January**

Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for January will benefit Christ Ministry Center, a United Methodist Church mission. Donations of paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, paper plates, napkins and diapers) will be collected in the narthex (bin). Any questions, please call Jacque Howard, 760.726.0442.

## **Family Game, Jan. 11**

The next game night is Friday, January 11, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For questions or for more information, please see Suzanne McMurchie.

## **UMW Sunday, January 20**

United Methodist Women (UMW) will be celebrating the Organization at both services on Sunday, Jan. 20. Lois Knowlton will be the guest pulpit speaker. She has years of experience in serving and advocating for projects in the South District, as well as being an educator and serving as dean of Grossmont College. The 150-year anniversary of UMW will be in March, which is a significant milestone in the evolution of an organization that began as the Methodist Women's Foreign Missionary Society and has evolved into the largest faith-based women's organization in the world. For more information, contact Jacque Howard, UMW President, 760.726.0442.

## **Flower Calendar**

The 2019 Flower Calendar is on the SCRIP table. Please sign up for the date you want to furnish flowers for Sunday worship. You can also call Paula at the church office.

## **Cookies needed for Sunday mornings**

Cookie donations needed for the Hospitality table in the Narthex on Sunday mornings. Please contact Ruth Rockwell, 760.726.0442.

## **Retirement of Scoutmaster Jim Eighmey**

Troop 709's Scoutmaster, Jim Eighmey, recently announced his retirement from that role effective December 31, 2018.

Jim Eighmey's Scouting adventure began when he joined the Cub Scouts, then bridged into Boy Scouts and finally into Explorers. Jim is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honors member of the Order of the Arrow.

In 2013, when Jim took over as Troop 709's fifth Scoutmaster in its 33-year history, it was during a difficult time. He was still relatively new to the unit, but took on the challenging role of repairing a Troop suffering from neglect and from a recent betrayal of trust. Jim has not only rebuilt the unit to a consistently excellent unit, but worked tirelessly to improve the relationship with the unit committee, our church, and its sister unit, Venturing Crew 709. Jim provided opportunities for a youth-led Scouting unit and enhanced the Troop's high adventure program into a truly exceptional youth experience. Jim supplemented this with work by volunteering leadership with the Scottish Highland Games, Mountain Man Rendezvous, and the District Camporee. Also, under Jim's leadership, the Troop has embarked on various successful fundraising campaigns, including the annual golf tournament, which allows the Troop to help directly fund the Troop's summer camp and high adventure programs. Under Jim's leadership, 33 boys have attained the rank of Eagle Scout!

Jim has been honored by the Boy Scouts of America with various awards for his work as a volunteer leader. Jim is a gifted leader whose mentorship has vastly improved our Troop and made it one of the best Boy Scout Troops in the San Diego-Imperial Council.

Jim recently announced his retirement. Jim's successor, Mark McKinnon, will take over for him in January 2019. Mark has big shoes to fill, though! Jim will stay on as an Assistant Scoutmaster continuing to ensure a smooth leadership transition and providing guidance to the new Scoutmaster. Jim will be greatly missed in his Scoutmaster role, though, and we wish him the very best.

-Dave Hendron, Chartered Representative

## **Update on former member Sue Goode**

Our family is deeply saddened to announce that our beloved wife and mother, Sue Goode passed away Nov. 21. She was at her home in Utah and daughter Linda was by her side. She had been declining for some time now and we are relieved that her passing was peaceful and painless.

The members of UMC Vista were family to Mom. You all were very special to her. Ever after her move to Utah, she kept up with the news from the church and the members. You were always in her thoughts and prayers.

Even with this sad news, she would wish you a joyous celebration of Jesus' birth. Thank you for being a part of her family.

Linda Goode

## Happy “January” Birthdays

Jane Fischer (1)  
Marvin Phillipi (1)  
Ray Coast (2)  
Sean Flanagan (3)  
Jordyn Fraser (4)  
Sheridan Blakeslee (7)  
Sabrinarose Mejia (7)  
Carol Yunt (8)  
Dan Gubaton (9)  
Cassandra Levardo (9)  
Elizabeth Choque-Jimenez (10)  
Cheryl Gustafson (10)  
Mary Jane Bode (11)  
Marilyn Butterstein (12)  
Beckie Henselmeier (12)  
Frank Hallock (15)  
Stephanie May (15)  
Betty MacDermot (19)  
Kai Graziano (21)  
Jerry Cox (21)  
Jim Pence (21)  
Bonnie Berumen (22)  
Karen Felien (22)  
Karen Veysada (23)  
Stu Gibson (24)  
Alline Piercy (24)  
Victor Avila (25)  
Leila Fernandez (25)  
Jalyn Phillips (25)  
Taylor Hansen (26)  
Janice Frate (29)  
Judy Gibson (29)  
Andres Maniti (29)

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

## Volunteer Opportunities

- An urgent need for volunteers to usher at the 11 a.m. service. We have lost seven ushers since the beginning of the year. Please call Sara Baldwin, 760.724.1859 for more information.
- “and Two Fishes” urgently needs volunteers since they are short-handed. Volunteers are also needed to hand out bags of supplies for the “Outreach for the Homeless” between 4:15-5:30 p.m. Our hearts are full of gratitude for all of those who make this outreach possible each week. Please call Loretta Pierce, 858.449-3249 for more information.

## Heartfelt Thanks

Thank you for all the many calls, notes and provisions supplied to us during this time of John’s illness. We give thanks and praise to God for this church family that plays such an important role in helping others get through the hard times. Thank you again—you are loved and appreciated.

Barbara Mitchell and family

A heartfelt “Thank you” to everyone for the loving support you gave to Ron and me during his long illness. We felt the prayers and love you gave us and it brought a great deal of comfort to both of us.

Thank you and God Bless you.

Lorraine Bradshaw

Many thanks to the carolers who visited Dec. 16 and let us sing with them. Thanks to the cookie bakers for treats. It was a special time!

Harold and Betty MacDermot

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Staff and Staff-Parish, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your generous donations to the “Present Box”. These funds have been distributed to our wonderful staff. Your gifts certainly brought them joy. They truly felt the love and appreciation from all of you.

Dakota Koenig and the Staff-Parish Committee

Thank you, Congregation, for all the gifts of appreciation that were gratefully received by the staff. We are blessed to be able to work with you. Special thanks to Staff Parish for all your support!

Paula Amaro, Office Manager

## South District Leadership Training 2019

The South District Leadership Training 2019 is January 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at First Korean UMC of San Diego (6701 Convoy Court, San Diego). Who should attend: All Appointed Pastors, Conference Lay Members, Certified Lay Ministers, Lay Servant Ministers, and Local Church Lay Leadership, both elected and volunteer.

What leadership training will be provided? There will be a number of training and retooling opportunities. Below are some examples:

- The Role and Function of the Staff Parish Relations Committee
- Completing Tables I, II, & III: Tips to Save the Local Church Money
- New “Fresh Expressions” of Ministry to Grow a Church
- Ways to Leverage Church Property for Mission and Ministry: Imagine the Possibilities!

The workshops will repeat—offering participants an opportunity to attend two of their choosing. Mark your calendar and recruit your leaders to be there!



## United Methodist Women's Corner

- UMW Circles meet January 8: **Ruth Circle** will meet at Coco's at 9:30 a.m. **Kenworthy Circle** will meet in the chapel at 2:00 p.m.
- The UMW leadership meeting is Jan. 15 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

## Pray together for...

Family of John Mitchell, Family of Lenore Averell, JaDene Dugas, Sue Lenker, Thelma Koda, Marlene Coast, Don Mackay, Skip Harvey, Jan Simpson, Larry Veysada, Marvin Philippi, Jim Pence, Dan Gubaton, Ethel Arrowsmith (hospice), Tom Johnston, Ko Kim, Carol Yunt, Barbara Baldrige, Marilyn Mathias, June Miklau, Louise Foster, Bill Peaker, Jane Fischer, Harold MacDermot, Joan Lindegren, Joan Brainerd, Nancy Koski

## Memorial Services

- John Mitchell, Jan. 12, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Lenore Averell, Jan. 17, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary

## Stay connected

E-mail: [umcvista@umcvista.org](mailto:umcvista@umcvista.org)

Website: [www.umcvista.org](http://www.umcvista.org)

Facebook: United Methodist Church of Vista

Be sure to check us out on Yelp!

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