



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

I loved the GAP when I was in High School. At the back of the store there was a wall of multicolored sweat clothes: pink and blue and red and orange sweatshirts and sweatpants and hoodies (although we didn't call them that then). The jeans were great, but the pretty colored clothes on the wall were soft and inviting. This is NOT the kind of GAP I'm talking about.

The Building Inspiration team was activated during 2017 to discuss issues about building a building and new ministries at the church. They recommended hiring a church consultant to guide our congregation in developing a 3- to 5-year ministry plan which may or may not include building another wing for our church structure. With that hire, the Building Inspiration team completed its goals and was dissolved. A new task force was created to partner with church consultant, Mary Scifres, called the GAP TEAM.

The GAP TEAM is a cohort of people in our congregation with different perspectives, and experiences. Their goal is to bridge the GAP between the past and our future, our dreams and an action plan, our anxiety and our service to God. They will work with the congregation to bridge the GAP through deep listening, prayer-grounded reflection, truth-telling and financial maturity. Any ministry plan for our congregation's future looks to draw the best wisdom from a consensus-oriented model.

I have a vision of our congregation in the future, with children and families growing in faith, safe in a secured facility and having fun together. I have a vision of our congregation that engages senior people, offering good coffee, great musical programs, quality bible study and worship and never forgets their wisdom and contributions. I have a vision of this congregation getting out into the world, advocating for justice by caring for the homeless, protecting the environment, reaching out to the marginalized and volunteering in many organizations. I have a vision of this congregation as a touchstone of mainline Protestant Christianity in our neighborhood where people of all differing opinions and perspectives challenge and pray for one another. I love this congregation and believe YOU are critical to the well-being and healthy future of Vista and our region. YOU make a difference NOW and I can't wait to see how you make a greater impact in the future.

During the months of February and March, the GAP team and I will be scheduling home meetings to have conversations about the future of our ministry together. Please watch for those dates, places to pop in, and sign up and come! Your prayerful vision for our future brings us all closer to the Kingdom of God in our midst!

Grace and peace to you, as we look forward to our Lenten Season and our Season of defining our Dreams for our future!

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Finance/Stewardship Update

We are happy to announce that we completed the 2017 Church Budget year by meeting all our 'ministries' financial obligations. Your many generous gifts enabled our church, as a caring and sharing congregation, to spread the good news of God's love, and the Salvation of Jesus Christ in our community and around the world. The proposed budget for 2018 to meet our ministry plans is \$453,650. As of the middle of January 2018 we have received 97 pledges, including nine new pledges and 26 pledges that increased their giving amount supporting the 2018 budget. If you have not yet made a pledge to support our ministries budget for 2018, you may still do so by filling out an orange Spirit of Generosity pledge card found at the Scrip table, fill it out and place in the offering plate. If you have any questions about our ministry plans or the 2018 budget feel free to contact me by phone, e-mail, or at church.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,
Co-Lay Leader

Lenten Sermon Series

Worship and Sermons during Lent 2018 will draw from the book, 'What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?' by Martin Thielen. Rev. Thielen is a UM pastor at a church in Tennessee and lists 10 things you do and don't need to believe to be a Christian. The bottom line is that Christianity is more a way of life than a prescription for how to live or what to believe. Grab a copy of the book at your favorite book vendor, consider joining a study group and don't miss worship during Lent as we answer the most difficult questions of our faith and life! See you there!

-Pastor Leigh Ann

X-tra giving for February

X-tra Giving for February will be Vista Teen Outreach - Hunger Hurts. With over 800 students in Vista's middle and high schools who are hungry, homeless or both, Vista Teen Outreach provides easy access on campus to food pantries. They are stocked with food, water and hygiene kits and available to any student in need.

Our congregation in the past has collected approximately 500 pounds of food plus generous monetary gifts each year. Let's continue to serve hungry children living in our community who attend all the middle and high schools.

Our drive begins Feb. 4 and ends Feb. 25. Your donations can be dropped off in the Narthex. Thank you for your caring and generosity.

-Patricia Rose

Communion Sunday, Feb. 4

Communion offering for Sunday, Feb. 4 will go to Mobility Worldwide (former known as P.E.T.). Kennedy is one of 1,100 boys taking their final exam under the trees in Kenya. He's 12 years old and in his first year of high school. His parents carried him to school for years. When they got a wheelchair, they pushed him to school. And when Kennedy got a Mobility Cart, he started taking himself to school. What pride was in this young man. Kennedy is the first disabled student to ever attend his high school and he wouldn't be there without his cart. His education would have ended. This is one example of how a Mobility Cart can dramatically change the life of a person. Help give new independence to another life by giving to February's communion offering.

Thank you for your continued support.

-Sue Humphrey, World Missions Committee

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Feb. 4 – Souper Bowl of Caring
(last day to turn in your food donations)

Sunday, Feb. 11 – Scout Sunday
All Scouts (Boys/Girls) – wear your uniforms

Tuesday, Feb. 13 – Shrove Tuesday
(meet at IHOP Restaurant, Vista,
from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.)

Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday
7:00 pm - Worship Service, Sanctuary

Sunday, Feb. 18 – 1st Sunday in Lent
9:15 a.m. – Lenten Study with Pastor Frank, Chapel

Saturday, Feb. 24
9:00 a.m. - Church Council
12:00 p.m. - Cable Luncheon Celebration,
Fellowship Hall

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

Next deadline is Wednesday, March 21, 2018
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

Meet a member of the Staff

Paula Amaro has been on staff as Church Secretary since October, 1991, and is now Office Manager. She and her husband Al have been married for 32 years and have three sons, Chris (age 30), Aaron (age 27) and Adam (age 21) and a three-year old grandson, Aiden. All three of her sons are Eagle Scouts. Paula is still volunteering in Boy Scouts and has volunteered for over 20 years. She serves as the Activities and Civic Service Chair for the Buena Creek District. Paula especially loves to sit on Eagle Scout Boards and help with the annual Eagle Scout dinners for the San Diego-Imperial Council.

Her sons have grown up in UMC of Vista and it has been a blessing. Paula is thankful that Adam had two opportunities to participate with the Sierra Service Project, doing mission work in Idaho and Northern California.

Paula has worked with Rev. John Wood, Rev. Lanny Arrowsmith, Rev. Lynn Austin, Rev. Orlie White, Rev. George Hooper and currently, Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw.

Working at UMC Vista for over 25 years, Paula has made a lot of friends. Unfortunately, some of these friends have passed away. She feels that it has been a blessing not only working as a staff member but being a member of the church.

-Sara Baldwin, SPRC Member

Meet our Praise Band bass player

Roy Good, born in Micronesia, married, has a brother and a sister. He went to school in Buena Park and in 1959 his family moved to Leucadia. Roy now lives in Carlsbad. He majored in music at Mira Costa College, learned to play bass and in 1983 he began working at Giacoletti Music in Encinitas. He was hired by our former band director, Dan Mahin, who invited Roy to come visit our Praise Band. Eleven years later, he still is an important part of our church's Praise Band. Roy is now the music manager at Giacoletti and currently is giving ukulele lessons. As professional musicians, Roy and Greg, our drummer, frequently perform weekends at several local spots in the Vista area. Roy enjoys listening to and playing almost any kind of music (except country). His hobbies are music and surfing and since he lives across the street from the ocean, he can surf about anytime he chooses. Roy, Jimmy and Greg are a fantastic threesome who bring us amazing music every Sunday. We are very fortunate indeed to have such talented and dedicated musicians.

-Nancy Montgomery, SPRC Member

Student Ministry News (Beckie Henselmeier)

- CLUB45 is our preteen group that meets every third Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in Room 212. We will play games and discover God's story. This month, our meeting will take place on Sunday, Feb. 18.
- "Main Event" Youth Group will meet on campus for Valentine's Making and Sundaes. Please see Beckie or our web page to sign up.

Lenten Study

"What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be A Christian?" by Pastor and author, Martin Thielen, lists ten things people need to believe, and ten things they don't, in order to be a Christian. This lively and engaging book will be a help to those who may find themselves questioning some of the assumptions they grew up with. This study shows that while we must always take the Bible seriously, we don't always have to take it literally.

Christians need to believe in Jesus—his life, his teachings, his death and resurrection, and his vision for the world. This study considers faith and life in questions such as: Where is God? What matters most? What brings fulfillment? What about suffering? Is there hope? This Lent, join us on a journey that is fresh and easy to understand, and offers authentic Christian insights that speak to our deepest needs. Class schedule: Sundays at 9:15 a.m., led by Rev. Frank Hallock; Mondays at 6 p.m., led by Barb Mitchell; Tuesdays at 1 p.m., led by Beckie Henselmeier. Sign ups in the Church office and Narthex.

Family Game Night

The next game night is Friday, February 9, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For questions or for more information, please see Suzanne McMurchie.

Shrove Tuesday, February 13

Shrove Tuesday is February 13. We will meet at IHOP Restaurant in Vista (632 Sycamore Avenue) from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to have pancakes. (If you prefer not to have pancakes, IHOP has an extensive menu.) IHOP has agreed to donate 15% of each diner's check back to the church. As in the past, these funds will be designated to World Hunger. IHOP gift cards and flyers are available at the SCRIP table. Any questions, please call Sara Baldwin.

Ash Wednesday, February 14

Join us for Ash Wednesday worship service on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Happy “February” Birthdays

Emily Adams (2)
Sonia Maniti (2)
Marie Mounts (2)
Suzy Harlow (5)
Robbie Pierce (7)
Gary Lamb (9)
Janice Myers (9)
Erin Wheatley (9)
Gabriel Shute (13)
Julianna Bodnar (14)
Brenda Rivenbark (15)
Warren “Scot” Spitz (15)
Paul Hernandez (15)
Loretta Pierce (17)
Nicole Burns (21)
Jacque Howard (22)
Mike Walker (22)
Nadine Kaina (26)
Lyn Berry (27)
Karen Canfield (27)

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

Dear UMC Vista,

I am please to share with you our 2017 annual report, marking our 29th anniversary of service to those in desperate need. It tells the stories of some of the countless men, women, and children whose lives were transformed through your generosity. (See in Narthex.)

We continue to work hard to use your funds efficiently - last year again, 98% of all revenues were applied directly to programs. And for the 14th year in a row, we were awarded Charity Navigator’s Four Star (highest) rating. Less than 1% of the charities rated have achieved this distinction.

Thank you again for your support - we could not have done any of this without you! Please know that you have made a critical difference in the lives of so many families and have given them the gift of hope and a brighter future.

With sincere gratitude,
Barry La Forgia, Executive Director
International Relief Teams

Heartfelt Thanks

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Staff and Staff-Parish, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your generous Christmas donations to our staff. These funds were distributed to them on December 18. Your gifts certainly brought them joy. They truly felt the love and appreciation from all of you.

Again, thank you,

Dakota Koenig and the Staff-Parish Committee

New members

Skip and Sandy Harvey, 4954 Lerkas Way, Oceanside, CA 92056. Skip and Sandy met in a high school history class. They have been married for 48 years and have two sons, Scott and Daniel and two grandchildren, Allison and Andrew. Sandy has a nursing degree and has been the Director of the national Organization for Parents of Deaf Children. She has also helped set up hearing testing for newborn infants. Among her many interests are yoga, making jewelry, enjoying their RV Club and reading mysteries. Skip is interested in photography, likes to watch baseball, RV camping, boating, traveling and making memories with their grandchildren.

Tim and Heather Clarke, 1219 Sunbright Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056. They met at the University of Southern California. Heather has served as a choir director, assistant pastor and sung in church choirs. She has a bachelor’s degree in Aerospace Engineering and worked for five years on the Space Station. She has four children. Timothy grew up in Arizona. He also has four children. He has many interests including playing bridge, camping, gardening, music and travel.

Chaba Andrassy and Alexa Burt, 1026 La Tierra Drive, San Marcos, CA 92078. Chaba and Alexa met in 1989 at a soccer game in San Diego. Chaba grew up in Cieske, Hungary, and Alexa in Huntsville, Texas. Chaba is a retired x-ray technologist. Alexa is a retired health care administrator. Their children are Pete Andrassy and Kristine Wasserteil. They have two grandchildren, Emily, age 17, and Alleah, age 13. They both enjoy music and travel.

Flower Calendar

The 2018 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.

United Methodist Women's Corner

- The UMW Circles meet February 6: Kenworthy/Ruth Circles will meet at 9:30 am to car pool to Christ Church. Kenworthy Circle will also meet at 2 p.m. in the Chapel.
- UMW Organization meeting is Feb. 13 at 10 am in Fellowship Hall.
- The UMW leadership meeting is Feb. 20 at 10 am in the Chapel.

Pray together for...

Family of Gil Brown, Margene Haase, Mary Nixon, Lynda Mounts, Beverly Wright (Hospice), Sue Downey/Bob Baker, Jane Fischer, Richard Trawick, JaDene Dugas, Harold MacDermot, Tom Johnston, Bob Hickman, Joan Lindegren, Ron Bradshaw, Joan Brainerd, Nancy Koski, Carol Yunt, Alice Leclair

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
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