

Pastor's Ponderings

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” -Matthew 25:31-32

This scripture comes to us from Matthew's gospel about the judgement of the nations. It is well worn scripture for those who feel called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, visit the sick and imprisoned. The extended scripture from Matthew 25:31-46 is a direct passage about how to follow Jesus. With this vision, it is impossible to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ without caring for others. It is impossible to be a Christian without offering compassion and mercy to other people. Matthew 25 is compelling and at the beginning of the year offers guidance for any 'resolutions' you might be making.

Making resolutions is a tired practice, but for people of faith, this is a great time to reignite your spiritual practices. What ways do you want to live your faith this year? Are you ready to add daily prayer to your life? Would you like a daily scripture reading or devotional activity? Do you feel called to connect to a hospital, prison or provide clothes or welcome to a stranger? There are more scriptures with more suggestions for faith resolutions that might be more suited to you.

Galatians 5:22-26 name the fruits of the Spirit. They are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Do any of these have a pull on your heart? Do you need to develop kindness toward others as a practice, speak less negatively, offer more positive encouragement to others? Is there a lack of peace or patience in your heart? With the pain of the world, sometimes our hearts falter and struggle with the fruits of the Spirit. Just like adding physical exercise at the beginning of the year, adding exercises for our Spirit is a faithful goal.

It has been a long painful year for many people. I'm getting lots of calls for prayer, and hearing from people who are fearful and anxious. As the page of the calendar turns, take time to consider the blessings in your life. Perhaps consider what you are anticipating for 2018. Make a resolution to grow closer to God and live the life to which you are called.

My prayers are with you on your journey! Much love and peace to you in 2018!

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Flame Delivery Changes, February 2018

Our printed newsletter, Flame, due to the increase in costs and bulk mail issues, will no longer be mailed. The Flame will be available on-line through our Website where you can sign up to receive it automatically, www.umcvista.org. Printed copies will be available in the Narthex/Church Office at the beginning of each month. If you require a printed copy mailed to your address, please contact the church office, 760.726.0442. Thank you for your continued support and your understanding.

-Barbara Mitchell, Lenore Averell, Paula Amaro - Flame Staff

Finance/Stewardship update

As we start the New Year in 2018, I want to thank everyone for their generosity in 2017. We are a committed and faithful congregation as evidenced by your giving to many important causes in 2017, 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 2018 include nine 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 2018, it is not too late to do so. We are eager to make our ministry plan for 2018, 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

Around the World in 80 Minutes, sharing our world experiences

On January 19, 2018 Vista United Methodist Church members will again share their experiences in different locations as part of "Around the World in 80 Minutes". Anyone who has 10 photos of places they have traveled or lived may submit photos on CDs or flash drives. They can be left in the church office. Please include your name so your photos can be returned.

Photos of your kids having fun will be enjoyed by all. So would some historical shots that take us back in time. Please share those great memories you have had with others in our congregation. Phil Biggs has volunteered to assemble the slide show again this year. Please let Luene Corwin know your choice of location. If you have questions, please call Luene, 760.704.1242 or Phil at 760.598.8022 or e-mail to lhcorwin@cox.net or pebiggs@gmail.com.

All church members and friends are invited to attend the event. A potluck will start at 6:00 p.m. Persons whose last name starts with A-F bring a main dish; G-M bring a side dish, and N-Z bring dessert. Please be kind to the earth and bring your own tableware (but paper plates and plastic tableware will be available.) At 7:00 p.m. we will start our trip around the world and it will end 80 minutes later. (Not the 80 days that it took in Jules Verne's novel!)

X-tra giving for January

X-tra Giving for January is Souper Bowl of Caring. Our students have been joining in the Souper Bowl of Caring since 2000 and have donated over a ton of food. Please join us in our project and be part of this movement that provides shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry, and compassion to those in need. Our drive begins Jan. 1 and ends Feb. 4. Donations can be brought to Sunday School or dropped in the box in the Narthex or Church Office. See Beckie Henselmeier or e-mail her at familyministries@umcvista.org for more information.

Communion Sunday, January 7

Communion offering for Sunday, Jan. 7 will go to support United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) California fires. The California fires have not only damaged many acres of land, but also disrupted the lives of many people. UMCOR is helping support those that have been affected. UMCOR is there to help with cleanup, lodging needs, equipment, emotional support and a friendly smile. Thank you for your continued support.

-Sue Humphrey, World Missions Committee

New Members' Brunch

Our next New Members' Brunch, where you can make your church relationship formal, will be Sunday, January 14, 12:15 p.m. Questions? Please RSVP to Barbara Mitchell 760.724.0923 or Pastor Leigh Ann Shaw.

All Congregation Retreat, Jan. 20 Dreams and Visions

"Your sons and daughters shall prophesy. Your old will dream dreams and your young will see visions." (Joel 2:28, adapted)

Please join us on Saturday, Jan. 20, 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall when we talk and pray about the dreams and visions we discern for our church. Church Consultant Rev. Mary Scifres will lead us in a half-day retreat, filled with laughter and fun activities to get our creative thoughts flowing along with deep listening and prayerful conversation to welcome the Holy Spirit's guidance. Your ideas and insights will be integrated with the strategic work and ministry brainstorming done last summer and fall by Church Council and the Building Inspiration task force, and then become the basis of the strategic work the new Gap Task Force will be doing this winter and spring. Everyone is invited – young, old, member, guest, friend of the church. RSVP on-line or sign up in the office or call Paula, 760.726.0442, to help us plan for materials and morning snacks. But even if you realize at the last minute you can attend, you are welcome! Mary promises to have us out the door by noon.

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

Next deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 17, 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

Our new accompanist, Adam Ferrara, continues to add, delightfully, to our services. Not only playing organ and piano, but singing with the Praise Band and joining the Chancel Choir on an acapella piece.

Adam's early love of music began after seeing a percussion performance at the Fox Theater in Detroit. According to his mother, he went banging on things around the house for days.

Many people have had an impact on his life, including Stephen Warner, Dr. Michael Burkhart and Dr. Scott Messing.

Adam has varied interests as well as his musical talent. He is an independent photographer and videographer; private lesson instructor of piano, organ and trumpet; computer programmer and web designer; life guard, swim coach and marching band coach. Adam also enjoys mountain biking, pipe organ repair, theater organ, and silent films.

He has helped at Camp ALEC, a literacy camp for children with physical disabilities whose primary communication mode is AAC (augmentative and alternative communication), which is run in honor of his cousin, Alec.

He and fiancé, Emily, would like to visit Yosemite, Norway, Iceland, famous cathedrals in France with notable Cavaille-Coll instruments, Germany, Patagonia, National Parks and drive the entire Dalton Highway in Alaska.

Adam is a welcome addition to our musical staff.

-Carol Pence, SPRC Member

Meet our Praise Band drummer

Greg Rye, born in Alhambra, married for 41 years, has a son and one granddaughter. He is semi-retired, still working part-time for the Oceanside Unified School District.

He began his drumming career at the age of 11, receiving a drum set for Christmas. At 16, he began playing in a Cavalry Chapel Band. Greg says he truly enjoys playing. He has been playing with our Praise Band for 15 or so years.

He enjoys challenging himself and playing and learning new music. As if that is not enough, he also plays with three other bands in North County as well as playing for clubs, parties, weddings and special events. And that isn't all! He has started a non-profit business, which will provide live music at retirement communities and to shut-ins. Greg's intention is to touch hearts and spirits, a very rewarding experience for him.

We are very fortunate to have Greg as a part of the Praise Band!

-Nancy Montgomery, SPRC Member

Family Ministries (Beckie Henselmeier)

- **Confirmation Class of 2018** - Our Confirmation class begins on Sunday, Jan. 21 at 9:00 a.m. A complete calendar can be found online at the Youth Page. Please pray for our students, their families, and mentors during this important journey in their lives of faith.
- **Club 45** - This new year, our Education Committee will be hosting a new ministry. 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. Our first event will take place on Sunday, Jan. 21.
- "Main Event" Youth Group will do a Park Clean Up on Sunday, Jan. 7 at 10:30 a.m. at Guajome Park. Students should dress comfortably, with hats and closed-toed shoes, and please send them with a sack lunch and water. See Beckie Henselmeier for more information.

Prayers of Vision

As part of our planning and visioning this year, we invite the whole church into a prayer vigil commencing at 9 p.m. on Jan. 17 (following the Church Council meeting), and concluding at midnight on Jan. 19 (in preparation for our Retreat on Saturday). A table will be set up in the Narthex, for information and registration. You will have an opportunity to sign up for 30 minutes or one-hour time blocks during the 50-hour period. You are simply asked to be the person during your block of prayer that offers the devotion of our church to the ways of God. The Chapel will be open on Thursday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and you are welcome to utilize this space for your block of prayer time, otherwise we encourage you to pray in whatever space is most meaningful to you. Please consider joining us as we consider what God is calling the people of UMC Vista to in this time and place.

Reconciling Ministries update

First, we would like to thank members of the congregation who attended the Peace Pole dedication at the mosque, Masjid Alittehad. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know one another better. We are looking toward to a concert and a youth project with our Muslim friends. Thanks to everyone who contributed toward the purchase of the pole. We are in the process of purchasing a pole as a gift to the city of Vista. We have met with the Public Arts Commission on two occasions, and we are in the public notice process at present. The location will be along Main Street at the western end of Rotary Park, where the memorial to the Armed Services is located.

We are planning storytelling events for February, the love month. We're excited about this opportunity to share stories with members of our congregation and others regarding our experience with LGBTQ issues. You will hear from people who are gay, who have gay relatives and who have questions about LGBTQ. The storytelling will take place in the chapel between services. Watch the Spark for more details. Please contact me or any member of our community with your questions.

-Lyn Berry, Chair, Reconciling Ministries

Happy “January” Birthdays

Jane Fischer (1)
Marvin Phillipi (1)
Ray Coast (2)
Sean Flanagan (3)
Jordyn Fraser (4)
Sheridan Blakeslee (7)
Carol Yunt (8)
Dan Gubaton (9)
Cassandra Levarado (9)
Elizabeth Choque-Jimenez (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.

Family Game Night

The next game night is Friday, January 12, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For questions or for more information, please see Suzanne McMurchie.

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.

and Two Fishes

Please don't hesitate to donate your recyclable containers, but be sure they are clean and have lids. Aluminum pans are not needed. Recyclable plastic bags are also needed.

-Margo Rogers

Heartfelt Thanks

A special thank you to our giving congregation which gave over 50 blankets to our “and 2 Fishes” family. You are truly a giving congregation and those receiving the blankets are so appreciative of your kindness.

Michael Trail and Brenda Walker

I am so grateful that folk from UMC of Vista were able to attend the Leap to Confidence graduation in November. UMC Vista's support of our Leap to Success mission is appreciated!

Kelley Grimes, Dir. of Community Engagement

Leap to Success (Transforming women's lives)

Greetings from Operation HOPE-Vista

We currently have 11 children under the age of 10 and a group of teenagers! Between Thanksgiving and December, more than 16 groups and churches provided gifts, supplies, caroling, gingerbread house-making, and decorating. Thank you to the UMC Vista Ruth Circle and Linda Grider as facilitator for making sure that our mothers were not overlooked at Christmas by providing beautiful robes and nightclothes! The Office Annex was our staging area, and a young girl visiting the boutique with her mother asked why all of Santa's things were at our office. Some quick thinking on our part resulted in the explanation that Santa used offices as pick up points so that he didn't have to worry about trying to carry everything in his sleigh at once. Whew!

The Lilac fire created much drama around here, as the Sheriff asked us to prepare to evacuate. This proved to be an ordeal: several clients already in active trauma before the threat of fire, and the magnitude of trying to move 50 people made for an exciting 24 hours! One small boy privately stated that his family didn't own a car, which meant they had to stay behind with the fire. We all told him that he would leave on our shoulders if need be! No man left behind! We are all well, and our greatest challenge continues to be affordable, available housing. Thank you for your support, and best wishes for a joyous, holy Christmas.

Nicole Ketcher, Resource Development Manager
Operation HOPE-Vista

UM Coalition Habitat Build

The United Methodist churches of the South District are partnering with Habitat for Humanity for a two-day build and fundraiser. All churches are invited to participate in this connectional opportunity to serve those in need in San Diego. Dates: Saturday and Sunday, February 9 and 10. We will be dispersed to building sites throughout the city, including Barrio Logan and El Cajon (efforts will be made to keep church groups together). Our goal is to raise at least \$12,000 for Habitat for Humanity and have as many churches as possible participate. All ages are invited; those under age 16 will be building playhouses at an off-site church. For more information, please contact Rev. Melissa Spence at mspence@fumcsd.org.

United Methodist Women's Corner

- The UMW Circles meet January 9: Kenworthy/ Esther Circles will meet in the Chapel at 2:00 p.m. Ruth Circle will meet at Coco's at 9:30 a.m.
- The UMW leadership meeting is Jan. 16 at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

United Methodist Women Sunday

United Methodist Women Sunday is Jan. 28. Dione Taylor, E.D., has accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker. Dione is the present Co-Lay Leader of the South District and serves on the Board of Ordained Ministry. She attended the 2016 Jurisdictional and General Conferences as a delegate and reserve delegate, in that order. For the past 19 years her day job has been as the Director of the Counseling program and a professor at Point Loma Nazarene University. The graduate students she works with are seeking futures as counselors for either K-12 or college-age students. UMW is proud to introduce her to UMC Vista on Jan. 28th.

Pray together for...

Family of Gladys Baird, Olive Harris, Beverly Wright (Hospice), Sue Downey/Bob Baker, Jane Fischer, Richard Trawick, JaDene Dugas, Chico Treutle, 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!

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Sunday School 9:00 am
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