



*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**

The In-Home meetings have been great! More than 65 people have attended and shared their vision for the future of our church. Each gathering was asked, 'if you had all the money and resources necessary, the best pastor and the perfect facility, what ministry are we called to do?' Among the comments and wisdom is a desire to invite and welcome more people by having a kitchen, and a large variety of programs and opportunities for younger people. You've shared that you want to be a church that speaks to people's soul, offers friends and fun, and shares our faith life together!

As we look into the future, making space for others who speak different generational experiences may be important. Recently I talked about the Millennial generation and their strengths, but I thought you might enjoy hearing the generational experiences of some of our staff. I've asked them to share just a little to give you a snapshot of who we are and invite you to share your perspectives with us and one another. Growing into the future will require us to make room for all kinds of people.

"I, Pastor Leigh Ann, was born in 1970 and am a part of the so-called 'Generation X.' My generation is known for growing up as 'latch key' children and that is my experience. Both of my parents either worked or went to school all of my growing up years. Since my Mom was not at home, I made dinner regularly and we seldom ate at the dining room table. Sesame Street first aired on PBS two months before I was born. The best musician of my generation is Sting. He plays rock, and jazz and speaks to issues of love, social justice and world concerns."

"I, Pastor Frank, was born in 1949, and am an early part of the "baby boomer" generation. My generation is known for living through significant social unrest and change, I was aware of and participated in various movements for social equality, racial equality, rights of women, and immigration for instance. Both of my parents were teachers, as was my adult brother who lived with us, I stayed in after-school programs and came home at the same time my parents did until junior high school, then was a bit of a latch key kid. My favorite music was classical and Broadway musicals, partly because of my brothers musical tastes. My family ate most meals at the dining room table, brother Don usually cooked, a variety of menus, from stuffed peppers to beef stroganoff. Sunday dinner was important, a hold-over from both parents being farm-raised kids. My generation has seen significant change especially in technology, I was born the year the first jetliner flew, saw the moon landing live, did math by pencil, was 16 before I had a portable calculator, now sitting at a desk with a computer with two terabytes of memory, I've lived through all of it."

"I, Paula Amaro, was born in 1958, and am a part of the baby boomer generation. My generation is known as the first TV generation. My experience as a young girl was watching Walter Cronkite and The Wild Wild West (TV series). My favorite music growing up was country music. Our family didn't eat together all the time but I cooked a lot of Hamburger Helper. One of the changes I've seen is that when I was under age 10, I would be gone all day playing everywhere and walking to school by myself; now parents drop their kids off at school and they are watched carefully when playing outside, not roaming all over the neighborhood."

"I, Susan Kronoff, was born in 1949, and am a part of the baby boomer generation. The Vietnam War was a significant event for my generation and I thought we had an honorable reason for being there, but our politicians wouldn't let the military fight to win. My brother was on his way there when our National involvement ended. The Beatles and always classical music are my favorites. I remember having "breakfast" for dinner: scrambled eggs, pancakes.... and Spam! When I was young, the family was the center of life; then it morphed into community; then the individual was most important. It's all cyclical."

Next Month... Watch for some more staff by the generations! Thank you for sharing your life at the church, as we offer God's grace to our community and world! Blessings to you as you celebrate the Risen Lord!

Happy Easter! Pastor Leigh Ann

## Finance/Stewardship Update

As we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter, many of you made generous extra giving to our regular budget and special causes to benefit a variety of programs in our Church, community and the world. Thank you for your generous support. You are a generous giving and caring congregation. If you have not made a pledge or are not a regular giver in support of our 2018 budget, after prayerful consideration you are invited to financially join us in our joint efforts to spread the good news of the love of Jesus in our community and around the world. Regular giving is easy. You may put cash or a check in the envelope located in the pews and place it in the collection plate in the worship service. On-line giving is also available on our Website at [www.umcvista.org](http://www.umcvista.org). Open the website and click on giving to register or log in. Again, thank you for your generous financial support of our Church.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair

## Communion Sunday, April 8

Communion Offering for April 8 (second Sunday of April) will help the Mama Lynn Center in the Congo. The Mama Lynn Center in the UMC East Congo Conference is well on its way to being completed. It will become a life-changing place of hope for women who have been used as pawns in the wars that have ravaged the region. The local church will bring physical, psychosocial and spiritual support for these women, and the center will house the women and teach income-generating skills such as cooking, sewing, midwifery, and child care to provide long-term sustainability. Youth in the East Congo Conference have helped make the bricks for the building and now we need to help complete the furnishings. Please give generously.

-World Missions Committee

## X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for April

Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving will go to Stand Up for Kids, a national volunteer organization with an Oceanside Chapter, has as its mission the elimination of youth homelessness. The Oceanside Chapter served at-risk youth under the age of 21. They have an outreach and drop-in center staffed by volunteers providing a place for youth to come in off the streets. The center provides showers, a mailing address, internet, e-mail and telephones for the youth. In addition, Stand Up for Kids provides meal packs, and when available, blankets, sleeping bags and small tents. As a final part of the program, Stand Up for Kids will help youth acquire birth certificates, social security numbers, jobs, transportation and places to live. Stand Up for Kids accepts donations of money, food, clothing and hygiene products.

-Karen Felien

**Saying Farewell and God Bless...**to Betsy Jean Miller (second service) who is leaving this area March 30 to be near her daughter and two grandsons and their families in Scottsdale, Arizona. It was not a decision that she wanted to make but one that was needed. Don and Betsy joined UMC Vista Nov. 21, 2004 while Pastor Lynne Austin was serving our church. Pastor George was instrumental in honoring Don's death in the Chapel with a very meaningful service for their family. Betsy adds, "So UMC Vista has served us well, and I wish you continued blessings as you continue the journey of this very special place for so many of us. Sincere best wishes."

## Cable Foundation update

As most of you know, the United Methodist Church of Vista celebrated a partnership with 22 charities at a "You Make the Difference" luncheon held on the church lawn on February 24th. Beth announced each of the 22 charities with a brief description of their mission. If you couldn't attend the event, you missed the opportunity to visually and spiritually see and feel what the UMC of Vista is accomplishing beyond "just writing a check". However, a "Partnership" is only created when a minimum of two people work together to accomplish a goal and that doesn't end with the luncheon or a check. We, the congregation, have to get involved with the charities that interest us, help them accomplish their mission, not just with money but time, effort and prayer. Fortunately for me, I was approached by several of the Charities to come and see what they really do. On March 6th, Vic Johnston and I met with Debra Sallaz, Development Officer for Solutions for Change. She didn't inform us about what Solutions for Change does but had one of their clients going through their program explain what Solutions for Change has allowed her to become. If you don't know the mission of Solutions for Change, they take men with children or women with children, homeless, probably with an addiction and turn them around by building their self-reliance. Approximately 39% of their clients suffer from substance abuse, 36% fled domestic violence, 25% experience mental illness, and 17% have a disability. It is a 1000-day partnership with their resident families, which blends affordable housing, educational opportunities, employment training, and health-related solutions. The program follows a highly individualized plan that includes daily classes to address substance abuse patterns, mental health issues, histories of violence and trauma, and any other barriers to self-reliance. Upon graduation, they become responsible individuals in society. They solve family homelessness, one family and one community at a time.

I am extremely proud of the Cable Foundation's fiduciary responsibilities that have provided the funds for the UMC of Vista's Mission Outreach Program and, hence to the approved charities. However, funding is like "writing the check". It is a part but not the complete circle. Forming a "Partnership" with a charity and seeing what they are accomplishing completes that circle. I know, for myself, personally witnessing the miracle that Solutions for Change has made on this one person's life has completed that circle for me. And, they have accomplished this for 850 families and 2,200 children since 1999. Get the complete circle; make a difference; become a Partner.

-Warren Elsasser, President, Cable Foundation

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

Next deadline is Wednesday, April 18, 2018  
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

## Cable Ministries Outreach News

These are excerpts from “thank you” letters received from recipients of CMO funds. Please see the full letters on the narthex bulletin board. We are blessed to be part of so many lives in so many ways.

- We are so grateful for your trust and continued confidence in North County Lifeline and our Project LIFE! Thank you so much! Don Stump, Executive Director
- Thank you all for the ...grant...received by Interfaith.... (The) check was divided two ways: First, \$12,000 for Interfaith’s Social Services; and second, \$8,000 for 2018 Hope through Housing Rental Assistance. We are so grateful. Greg Anglea, CEO, Cohn Family CEO chair
- On behalf of New Entra Casa, I want to express to you our deep appreciation for your loyal support in bestowing upon us your gift...When we need you the most you always show up in the nick of time. Kimberly Kelley, Executive Director
- On behalf of the vulnerable children and families in Africa and Southeast Asia, we want to say thank you for giving the gift of water, health, and hope. Your gift makes an immediate impact in communities just like Haralo, Ethiopia where up until recently women had to walk up to 10 miles each way, every single day, to gather water for their families.

## What is X-tra Mile Ministry Giving?

A “thank-you” received from Interfaith gives us a clue: “We are deeply grateful for your contribution of bags of canned fruit and jars of peanut butter received by Interfaith on 2/14/18, given to help people facing hunger and homelessness. It is because of you, our family of volunteers and donors, that Interfaith is able to help those struggling to achieve stability and independence.” Robert A. Adams, Chief Development Officer

This is a very giving congregation, but not all of us can give in the same way. Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving each month is one more way for us to reach out to our community in a concrete way. Your Outreach Committees: Missions, Church and Society and Evangelism, at the beginning of each year, try to choose organizations that we can help when we aren’t always physically able to get out and serve. We also try to help some of those worthy organizations that we were not able to provide with Cable funds. There are so many worthy organizations in our community, and even though individually we can’t be everywhere doing everything for whatever reason, we can help through our X-tra Givings. And NO, you don’t have to give to every project—you can pick and choose what speaks to you. So thank you, Church family, for all you do in whatever way you do it. You are truly the hands and feet of Christ in this community.

-Barbara Mitchell, Evangelism

### Easter Sunday, April 1

6:30 a.m. – Sunrise Worship Service

7:00 a.m. – Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser (till 11 a.m.)

9:00 and 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Egg Hunt between services, sponsored by SSP

## Student Ministry News (Beckie Henselmeier)

- Mark your calendar: Polar Blast VBS is scheduled for Friday, June 29, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Saturday, June 30, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Celebration Sunday, July 1 at 9 a.m. Registration is now open! If you’re interested in volunteering, please contact Beckie Henselmeier.
- Movies on the Lawn 2018 is almost here! Friday nights on June 22, July 20, and August 10! More information on both is at <http://www.umcvista.org/family-ministries/>

## Meet a member of the Staff

Susan Kronoff started attending our church May, 2008. Because of her 50 years of experience working in offices, she volunteered to fill in when the bookkeeper position became vacant and has been there since December, 2014. Her office hours are Monday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can find her in her office (Finance Office) on the lower level.

Susan is the second oldest of seven siblings. She grew up in Santa Ana then as an adult moved to Hawaii. She lived there for 30+ years, is the mother of a daughter, Tina. She and Tina moved back to California in 2007 and live together in Oceanside.

While living in Hawaii, she loved to scuba dive. She would catch fish and lobster and her neighbor and dive partner would make delicious dinners for them with their catch. She is an avid reader of mystery stories and biographies. Her daughter makes jewelry and Susan sews handbags which they sell at craft fairs.

Susan volunteers at “and Two Fishes” on Thursdays at the 2 p.m. shift. She supports charities that promote community, understanding and peace. Susan dreams of traveling to France and hot air ballooning over the Loire River Valley. Because she is a homebody who wants to sleep in her own bed each night, she continues her travel by watching KPBS and the travel channel.

Susan is a cat lover, her 18 year-old cat named Pua came with her when she moved back to California.

We are very lucky to have such a conscientious person who keeps our church books in excellent condition and makes sure bills and staff are paid in a timely fashion. Please tell her thank you when you see her.

-Margene Haase, SPRC committee member

## Academic Scholarships Available

If you are an active member of UMC Vista or the family member of an active UMC Vista member, you may be eligible for one of our academic scholarships for the 2018/2019 school year. If you are planning to attend an accredited college, trade school or other training program, we encourage and welcome you to apply. Applications must be completed by the student and are available on the church website and in the church office. The UMC Vista Foundation will receive completed application packets through May 31. They will be reviewed at our June 2018, regular meeting. Applicants may be invited to an interview. Questions? Ask any Foundation board member or call Gary Lamb, Foundation President, 760.598.1915.

## Family Game Night

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



## Happy “April” Birthdays

*Felix Fernandez (1)*  
*Don Diegelman (5)*  
*Mary Ann Gallagher (6), Ko Kim (6)*  
*Mal Blakeslee (7), Jimmie Smith (7)*  
*Joan Lindegren (11)*  
*James Hill (12)*  
*Lorelei Clarke (14), Edward McGinn (14)*  
*Susan Kronoff (15)*  
*Evelyn Lawson (16)*  
*Bill Rockwell (18)*  
*Toan Dao (19)*  
*Connor Flanagan (20)*  
*Lauri Arrowsmith (21)*  
*Heidi Kendall (22)*  
*Alison Mathias (23), Katie Newman (23)*  
*Lynne Slavinski (24)*  
*Tom Johnston (28)*  
*Michael Murray (30)*  
*Daniel Gubaton (30), Yolanda Gubaton (30)*

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

### Heartfelt Thanks

Dear Friends: Thank you for (your) donation to UMCOR Sager Brown. Thank you for your loving support. Gifts such as this, help us perform the mission that we have been called to fulfill. UMCOR's mission is to alleviate human suffering. Compelled by Christ, UMCOR has responded to natural or human-made disasters for over 77 years. Our appreciation to all for this gift.

Grace and Peace, Amy Fuselier, Director of Relief Supplies

Good Job, Vista!

I wanted to send a note of gratitude and congratulations for the inspiring community grant event you hosted on February 24. I heard nothing but praise for your hospitality and vision from the other guests. Mary and I get to work with churches across our United Methodist connection and I do not know of any church living out their commitment to serving their community in such an interpersonal and impactful way. I am confident this is an event you will want to continue each year and that everyone will want to attend to see the faith of the United Methodist Church of Vista in action!

Andrew Ponder Williams,  
Church Consultant with Mary Scifres

A BIG thank you from UMW to...

all the wonderful bakers in this congregation who helped make our recent bake sale a success! Thank you to the folk who were our set-up (bright and early AND in the rain!) and take-down crew at the Farmer's Market: Kevin Duffey, Scott & Tracy Lyons, Jim Pence, John Mitchell and UMW ladies. And thank you to those of you who purchased the remaining goods on Sunday. We couldn't have done it without you. Last count was \$745, going a long way towards fulfilling our commitments to mission and service.

Blessings!

Barb Mitchell, Marlene Phillippi and Jacque Howard

Easter Walk 2018 (held on March 24) was another successful day of discipleship. Thank you to the countless volunteers that made the event possible so we continue to grow, serve, and learn in Christ as a community.

Beckie Henselmeier

## Did you know?

- You need to contact Paula Amaro, Office Manager, to put your meeting/event on the church calendar? Also, if you want a blurb for the bulletin, Spark or Flame and for prayers. If you have any questions or concerns, call Paula and she can either help you or direct you to the right person.
- For family events, youth and video you need to contact Beckie Henselmeier, Director of Ministries.
- If you are interested in joining the choir or music program, you need to contact Rev. Frank Hallock, Associate Pastor of Music and Visitation. Also if you are interested in having a pastoral visit.

## New Member

Marilyn Butterstein was born and raised in Buffalo, New York. Her church activities have included ushering and helping at the soup kitchen. She has a son Brett, a daughter Brooke and three grandsons. She enjoys camping, gardening, reading, sewing and tennis. Marilyn joined our congregation on Jan. 14.

## Reconciling Ministries

As a Reconciling Ministries Community, we want to make sure that all feel welcomed in our church, especially those who are marginalized. Our RMC mission statement speaks not only of sexual orientation and gender identity, it also includes race, age, ethnicity, physical or mental capacity, education, economic or marital status. We want to make sure that ALL are invited to be part of God's family, that ALL are encouraged to become involved in the life and ministry of our church, that ALL have a seat at the grown-ups table, and no one is left out.

For several years our own Lynda Mounts attended another church in the denomination where she was raised. The pastor knew that Lynda was gay, and told her every time he saw Lynda that he was praying for her. She was pretty certain that he was praying that God would “save” her from the sin of homosexuality, as he understood it. He was very sincere in his beliefs, and his prayers were no doubt equally as sincere. What Lynda needed then, what she needs now, is a church that will pray WITH her, walk WITH her. What marginalized persons need is a church home that will pray WITH them, walk WITH them. That's a big part of what we want UMCV to be.

Why does this matter? Why does it matter how welcoming we are? It matters to the single parent who is working hard to raise their child. It matters to the millennial (22-35 yrs old) who wants to find meaning for their life. It matters to the parent of a trans child who wants desperately to provide healthy spiritual guidance along with love and nurturing. It matters to the person who lives with a disability and needs barriers removed. It matters to the couple who fall in love and need a church family to embrace them and support them. It matters to the couple who have taken in their aging parents. It matters to the person who was kicked out of their church when they came out as LGBTQ, or whose marriage ended in divorce, or who was an alcoholic or drug addict and who all heard words as they were growing up that who they were was an abomination in God's eyes, and have never darkened a church door since, afraid that God really doesn't love them. It matters to the parents who have been told that their child's sexual orientation damns them to hell, and that it is the parent's fault. It matters to all who have been excluded and need desperately to know that they are beloved by the God who created them, and by those who claim the name Christian.

-Lynda Mounts/Barbara Mitchell

## United Methodist Women's Corner

- The **UMW Circles** meet April 2: Kenworthy Circle will meet at 2 p.m. in the Chapel. Ruth Circle will meet at Louise Clark's home at 3725 Southridge Way in Oceanside at 9:30 a.m..
- The **UMW leadership** meeting is April 17 at 10 a.m. in the Chapel.
- Please bring cookie/healthy snacks for Sunday hospitality.

## Hospitality greeters needed

We are in need of additional Hospitality Greeters for both worship services. For questions and dates, please contact Ruth Rockwell. Thanks for volunteering!

## Pray together for...

Ko Kim, Barbara Baldridge, Lisa Gerwig, Joe Baird, Bill Peaker, Nick and Kara May, Margene Haase, Mary Nixon, Lynda Mounts, Sue Downey/Bob Baker, Jane Fischer, 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](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!