



*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**

The GAP team have been hard at work! We have a draft of our Ministry Act Plan (MAP) for the next few years and are putting 'action items' to the goals. It is a living document and a work in progress, even after it's affirmed by our congregation.

For the last few months we've been meeting in homes and with various groups of the church to gather input and ideas about where YOU believe God is calling us. It is clear that you are passionate about Family and Friends, that you believe our relationships with one another and welcoming more people to our church family is very, very, very, (very ....) important! Everything about what we do and how we do it connects with your value of people!

A draft mission and vision statement for our church to ponder is: 'United Methodist Church of Vista is called to Build Relationships of Justice, Faith and Hospitality to Bring God's LOVE to all people.' Our relationships of JUSTICE are outreach ministries of all kinds both locally, and globally. Our relationships of FAITH are worship and discipleship and small groups and faith formation both inside and outside the walls of our church. Relationships of HOSPITALITY are welcoming at the front door of the church on Sundays and throughout the week and going out into the community to nurture and care for intergenerational families, particularly families with growing children.

I have heard many of you want a larger space to gather, share meals, hold celebrations and potlucks and have fun together. Many of you feel the downstairs space is not well suited for gathering together due to accessibility and safety issues. Many of you are passionate about our feeding ministry on Thursday and want to see it expanded to provide other caring resources like showers, supplies for the week, clothing and other resources for getting into a home. There is interest in whether a preschool or afterschool program for children in our area would work on our campus and whether we have the capacity to move forward on this. A few of you have big bold visions of being a local hub for ministry and outreach. And many of you want more opportunities for classes and worship during the week.

As I mentioned, we have a draft of goals related to relationships of Justice, Faith and Hospitality and have started putting ideas for action steps down for the next five years. After we finish this step of our Ministry Action Plan, then we will look at the facility and other resources needed to accomplish our goals. In other words, how are we going to welcome new folks, join them in faith exploration and do good works in the world?

If you haven't offered your insights and vision, don't hesitate to email me or our church consultant, Mary Scifres. And please join us in prayer as we look into the future of the United Methodist Church of Vista!

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 giving and caring congregation. The total giving for the first quarter of 2018 is about \$81,500. Our total ministry budget for 2018 is \$453,650 and to date we have a shortfall of about \$28,000 in pledges and givers of record towards funding the 2018 budget.

If you have not made a financial commitment to the ministries of our church, we invite you to prayerfully consider the blessings of this congregation to your family in faith. Regular giving is easy and helps us do more intentional ministry. 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 the ministries of our Church.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair

## Communion Sunday, May 6

Communion Offering for May 6 will help Second Mile Haiti keep families together. One in 10 children in Haiti lives in an orphanage and 80% of these children have a living parent. In Haiti, one in five children are undernourished and one in 10 are acutely malnourished, families with little resources and few options turn to these institutions at their most desperate time. With an 80% unemployment rate, and 76% of people living on less than \$2 a day, parents must make difficult decisions about their sick and vulnerable children.

Second Mile Haiti's mission is to reduce the number of children living in Haiti's orphanages by empowering the caregivers of vulnerable children through health, education, and business. They want to break the cycle of undernutrition in Haiti and keep families together. Caregivers are the center of their approach. Children are referred from within Haiti's Health and Social Service sectors. The children are screened for severe acute malnutrition. Children with acute malnutrition are admitted to the live-in center with a caregiver/family member. The family member participates in daily education classes in health, nutrition, business, gardening and literacy, as well as hands on livelihood-training, peer-support and how to manage income-generation activity. Second Mile Haiti wants to break the cycle of undernutrition and keep families together. For more information on Second Mile Haiti go to [www.secondmilehaiti.org](http://www.secondmilehaiti.org). Please give to our May communion offering.

-World Missions Committee

## Seminar on Grief and Healing

Our church is offering a 6-week Seminar on Grief and Healing on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. beginning May 5 and concluding on June 9. This seminar is to help those experiencing loss through death of a loved one in their lives. It could be a family member, other relative, or friend. It does not matter how long it has been since the loss occurred, as grief has many manifestations; it may endure for a long time or it may come and go. This seminar will offer an opportunity for growth and healing with a spiritual emphasis. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Johnson at 760.560.7150 or Susan Delaney at 760.806.7847.

## Centering Prayer: an Introductory Program

Centering Prayer: an Introductory Program is for anyone looking to deepen their relationship with God. Centering Prayer is a simple method of prayer, rooted in Christian tradition, in which we sit in silence and listen for God. Come and experience this yourself at our introductory workshop on May 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For information, call Jan Simpson, 760.726.0100 or 760.803.0908. To register, call Contemplative Outreach North San Diego, 760.745.8860.

## Organ Concert

Please join us on Saturday, May 19 at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary for an Organ Concert presented by Adam Ferrara, our Music Accompanist. Adam will be giving an organ concert featuring works by Reger, Bach, Buxtehude and Mendelssohn. For more information, please call Adam, 760.726.0442.

## X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for May

Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for May will go to the Neighborhood Resource Center at Grace Presbyterian Church. They collaborate with Foothill Oak Elementary School to identify and tutor second and third grade students who need help with reading and writing. They also use their computer lab to help adults needing to learn computer readiness and job skills. More info about all the great work that the NRC does will be available in the narthex, as well as a list of items needed. Thank you for your help.

-Loretta Pierce

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

Next deadline is Wednesday, May 16, 2018  
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

## 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, May 11, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For questions or for more information, please see Suzanne McMurchie.

## Youth Promotion Sunday, June 3

Youth Promotion Sunday is June 3. Students in fifth grade will be promoted into Youth Group for our summer activities and events. All other students will be promoted on Sunday, August 12. See Beckie Henselmeier for more information.

## Graduation Sunday, June 10

On Sunday, June 10 at both worship services we will be recognizing students who are graduating from high school or college. If your student is graduating, please call Paula at the church office by Monday, June 5 or write their name, school, and degree (if it applies) on the back of your registration card.

## Summer Sunday School, June 10

Summer Sunday School starts June 10. This year, we're traveling to the sea-shore and embarking on a voyage to learn about Jesus' presence with us ALWAYS in "Shipwrecked!" Through various stations and experiences, we'll learn that Jesus carries us through all of life's storms. Music, games, crafts, snacks, and more! We'll meet as one group in room 212. See Beckie Henselmeier for more information. Sign up on the website.

## 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 can be found at <http://www.umcvista.org/family-ministries/>.

## Holiness 101 – Study with Pastor Frank Sundays at 9 a.m., May 6 – June 10

Whether big or small, the choices we make shape our lives' paths. And the simple, intentional choice to love God, embrace truth, and enjoy every moment of life is the path to holy habits. In *Holy in the Moment*, this study gives a refreshing perspective on holiness, showing us that holiness isn't a rigid standard to keep, but is instead a gift to receive through a vital relationship with God. Through gentle encouragement, biblical insights, and applicable ideas you'll learn to discern feelings, overcome distractions, and cast off the weight of shame so that you can choose to grow in holiness without the pressure of perfectionism. Sign up in the church office or Narthex. See Pastor Frank Hallock for more information.

## Disciple Bible Study classes starting this Fall!

Disciple Fast Track is an adaptation of the original, bestselling Disciple Bible Study. The study is ideal for busy people who want to fit an in-depth Bible study into their schedule. The study retains the familiar Disciple format. *Into the Word* helps readers deepen their understanding of scripture and make connections between what they already know and what they are reading. Each week you will encounter three spiritual disciplines, learn what they are, and how you can engage those disciplines. In every session, you commit to how you will respond to scripture in terms of ministry in the world.

*Into the World* identifies some needs in the world for which ministry is needed, invites participants to understand the scripture message and to respond. Classes meet for a total of 24 weeks, studying Genesis–Exodus and Luke–Acts for 12 sessions each. Sign-ups will begin in June but if you have further questions, please contact Beckie Henselmeier.

## Happy “May” Birthdays

Rosalynn Kim (1)  
Tim Arrowsmith (3)  
Betty Wayne (5)  
Gary Felien (14)  
Laura Biggs (16)  
Michael Burns (16)  
Sean Casey (17)  
Kailey Clarke (17)  
Adam Way (23)  
Ethel Arrowsmith (23)  
Paula Amaro (24)  
Lorraine Bradshaw (24)  
Linda Boyd (24)  
Jung Kim (24)  
Jake Bowlin (25)  
Vic Johnston (26)  
Annelise Gerwig (27)  
Traci Wheeler (27)  
Nick May (28)  
Timothy McGinn (28)  
Amber Schneider (28)  
Elton Nixon (29)  
Caedmon Bowlin (31)  
Pamela Fantin (31)  
Else Newman (31)

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

### Heartfelt Thanks

Thank you very much for your generous donation of \$4,000 and the food donation. I can't begin to express how grateful we are for that donation. Our teens and our program depend solely on donations and we are blessed to have such thoughtful people, like yourselves, in our lives. May God return your generosity tenfold.

-Vista Teen Outreach Board

Thank you, John Haase, for maintaining our beautiful roses. We appreciate you.

## Operation HOPE-Vista Update

Many thanks to everyone who attended and supported the 15th Annual Dinner and Auction on March 24. Feedback from attendees has been very positive so everyone seemed to have a good time while benefitting the shelter. We were able to raise over \$34,000 for shelter programs and services!

We currently have 19 children in shelter and 15 adults. Kids Hour programming is taking off with our new Kids hour liaison. The children are really enjoying all the structured activities while their parents are in their skill building classes each evening. The best part is, the kids are learning so many skills while having fun! For volunteers and staff, it is fun to see their confidence grow by leaps and bounds. We could always use more volunteers in the evenings to help assist the liaison. Mother's Day is approaching for which the kids will be making gifts for a special woman in their life. If you have questions or would like to participate, please contact us at 760.536-3880, extension 303.

-Sharon Hall for Nicole Ketcher,  
Resource Development Director,  
Operation HOPE-Vista

## Our History

*UMC Vista has a rich history in this community. This begins our new series on the history of our church. If you have a memory about our past that you would like to share, please contact Barbara Mitchell, 726.726.0442.*

### The Winters' Garden

When our current location was being cleared in 2000 the Building Committee needed to decide what to do with an “Old Tree” on the property. The late Bill and Nancy Winters, Past Presidents of the Vista Garden Club and members of our Church did some research and determined that this “Old Tree” was an Elderberry Tree native to Oregon!

The tree was well over 100 years old! It was in dire condition so with Bill's direction the lower limbs were propped up, trimming was done and with some TLC you'll find that it blooms every year and once in a while you'll find that it still bears fruit!

The Trustees of our Church donated a bench so you can sit and enjoy this lovely garden appropriately named “The Winters' Garden”. Please stop and enjoy this wonderful treasure on our property!

-Tommy Thomson



## United Methodist Women's Corner

- The **UMW Circles** meet:
  - >Tuesday, May 1: Ruth Circle will meet at Coco's Restaurant in Vista at 9:30 a.m.
  - >Tuesday, May 8: Kenworthy Circle will meet at 2 p.m. in the Chapel.
- The **UMW Organization Meeting** is Tuesday, May 15 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Our noon luncheon will be a salad potluck. At 11:00 a.m., Elizabeth Brody of the League of Women Voters will speak on "Ballot Pros and Cons" to acquaint us with the seven new propositions on the June 5th primary ballot. All church members, men included, are invited to come hear Brody's non-partisan discussion of these confusing ballot measures. All are invited to bring a salad and join us for lunch.
- The **UMW leadership** meeting is May 22 at 10 :00 a.m. in the Chapel.

## 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...

Marvin Philippi, Marilyn Mathias, Nancy Winters, June Miklau, Louise Foster, Lenore Averell, JaDene Dugas, Mary Nixon, Lisa Gerwig, Joe Baird, Bill Peaker, Nick and Kara May, Margene Haase, Lynda Mounts, Sue Downey/Bob Baker, Jane Fischer, Chico Treutle, Harold MacDermot, Tom Johnston, Bob Hickman, Joan Lindegren, Ron Bradshaw, Joan Brainerd, Nancy Koski, Carol Yunt, Alice Leclair, Jan Frate

## 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!