



*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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## **One Worship Service during the month of August at 10 a.m.** *as we “make an IMPACT together.”*

### **Pastor's Ponderings**

“For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield; but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the poor of your people may eat and what they leave the wild animals may eat. You shall do the same with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard. Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest.” –Exodus 23:10-12

If you were to look ‘work’ up in a dictionary, you’d find a definition along the lines of ‘doing something for someone for pay.’ The word ‘work’ is often associated with drudgery and ‘the salt mines,’ and ‘the overlord boss,’ and ‘struggle.’ Work is transactional. Do something to get something. At least this is how it has been for our culture for the last 100 years or so. Work is not often associated as a life-giving, joyous experience.

What is your idea or concept of work? We have many folks who are retired in our congregation and you often say things like, ‘I’m busier now than when I worked.’ I often count the years I have until I retire and imagine the time I will have to teach Sunday school and hike and camp and travel. Sometimes we imagine work as something we have to get through in order to get on to the things we want to do. We treat our life as if it isn’t our own but controlled by someone else.

As I flip through the scriptures and think about how the Bible defines ‘work,’ I find Psalm 136 that talks about God’s work in creation and in history. “O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, and God’s steadfast love endures forever.” The work of God is defined by love and creation. Over and over the Psalmist repeats, “God’s steadfast love endures forever.” The Bible presents God’s work as giving love to humanity and all of creation. The Bible reflects God’s work in creation and Jesus’ work of redemption, and God hasn’t retired yet. God’s still at work also.

The Holy Spirit is God’s continuing ‘worker-bee’ in our world today. The Holy Spirit is getting it done by planting passion and curiosity in our hearts. The Holy Spirit stirs in us a drive to do justice, love kindness and act with humility. As we look around and hear stories of immigrants and hurting families broken up and violated at the border, that stir in your heart to ‘do something’, is the Holy Spirit at work. As we yell at the television and pray for the boys who got trapped in the cave in Thailand, that’s the Holy Spirit at work. This work that the Holy Spirit calls us to isn’t drudgery but life giving and grace-filled. This work we are challenged to isn’t transactional, but generous. In giving ourselves to the service of God, we do God’s work in creation and build relationships that bring healing and hope.

The world defines work in shades of power and control, but God defines work as life-giving and life-sustaining and joyful. It is time to remember that God calls us to different work than the world does and in the midst of that work, God also challenges us to take Sabbath and rest. Just as God rested from Creation on the seventh day, we are also called to make time to be renewed in body and spirit. I hope you are taking time to rest this summer and play a little.

Whether you are in church or taking a vacation, the work of God continues here. But it can’t happen without your generous gifts and financial support. Thank you for all you do! Our Church has a vision of what God calls us to do as we feed people, care for one another and grow faith. Our Church has a MAP for the future, but it can’t be enacted without YOU! Please prayerfully continue the God-work you are called to in the Fall. We are blessed by the Life of Jesus and called to give life to others! May it be so today and always.

Pastor Leigh Ann

## Finance/Stewardship Update

We are now one month into the second half of the church year, we want to again celebrate, and thank you for your generous support to the many important ministries and outreach programs of our church. Your support of our general fund budget is essential to keeping your church and ministry programs up and running. As of end of July, we are meeting our essential ministry budget items, the bills are paid, although our current level of giving leaves us around \$10,000 behind the total dollars needed to meet our ministry goals for the 2018 budget needs. You are a caring and giving congregation. We are planning two events this summer to help us close the budget gap. During Impact August, an all church potluck and silent auction is planned for Sunday, August 26 in which those in attendance are being asked to bring an extra potluck item to auction off in a silent auction. The proceeds will go to support the general fund of the 2018 budget. August through the end of September will also see special UMCV money boxes being distributed to donate your extra change and bills in and return by the end of September to help close the budget gap.

Regular giving is easy and helps us do more intentional ministry. You may wish to consider on-line giving as a convenient way for you to make regular contributions to our church budget. Go to our website at [www.umcvista.org](http://www.umcvista.org). Open the website and click on 'Giving' to register or log in and make your gift. Again, thank you for your generous financial support of the ministries of our church.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair

## Communion Sunday, August 5

Communion Offering for August 5 will support the Smile Train International children's charity. Smile Train is a 501(c)(3) organization and charity providing corrective surgery for children with cleft lips and palates. Headquartered in New York City and founded in 1999, Smile Train provides free corrective cleft surgery in 87 countries, training local doctors and providing hospital funding for the procedures. Every child with a cleft needs more than just surgery — they may also need dental care, orthodontics and speech therapy. Where these services are available, Smile Train does everything they can to support them to their patients. Thank you for your support.

-World Missions Committee

## X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for August

Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for August will benefit the Get On The Bus/Center for Restorative Justice program. One of their programs operate from April thru June of every year and unites children with their incarcerated parents at various prisons, on Mother's Day and Father's Day. Their needs are specific and include gift cards to Carl's Jr. only, since the bus can't go to multiple places at meal time. The prison meal is provided by Subway. Other much needed items are backpacks, books, pens, markers, paper and small games to play on the bus. Thank you for your support. Any questions, contact Loretta Pierce.

## IMPACT AUGUST:

### Sunday, Aug. 5: Impact MUSIC

Music Camp's Summer Concert at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary

### Sunday, Aug. 12: Impact STUDENTS

Student Ministry Promotion Sunday & Bible Presentations for third grade students

### Sunday, Aug. 19: Impact COMMUNITY

Join our community partners for various service projects.

### Sunday, Aug. 26 – Impact HOSPITALITY

UMC Vista End of Summer Potluck

## IMPACT Community on August 19

Have you wanted to get involved without being on a committee? Or are you just wanting to help someone in need? After worship on August 19 we are planning to go out into the community and do some work...but we need some help getting it coordinated before we go. If you are willing to call a couple of our community partners, work with Suzanne McMurchie on getting information out to the congregation and help gather materials together, please put a note on the back of your registration card or call Paula in the church office to let her know. (Plan on wearing your work clothes to worship and expect there will be a blessing of our work and time before we head out!)

## Summer time...

Thank you for continuing your financial giving this summer as we continue to do the work of mission and ministry. Even when you are away, our staff continues working hard on your behalf. At the end of June our giving was \$10,930 short of our planned budget with \$1,500 left to pay on our apportionment/missional giving for 2018.

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Next deadline is Wednesday, August 15, 2018  
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

## **Music makes an IMPACT!**

On August 5, the first Sunday of IMPACT August, we will be focusing on the Music Ministry of the church. We will provide music on that Sunday in the single blended Worship Service, and offer the concluding Summer Music “Mash-up Musical” that evening, with Dinner on the Lawn at 5:00 p.m. and the concert at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, involving all the musical forces! We hope to see all of you for that event!

This Ministry involves about 60 persons, including Chancel Choir, Anderson Handbells, Praise Disciples Band, Ringers and Singers Chime Choir, and Sunshine Magic Singers for students in elementary and middle school. In addition to weekly music for worship, the music folks offer three to five concerts yearly, and special music for special events. We are so fortunate to have a gifted staff, Pastor Frank Hallock and Adam Ferrara, and our equally gifted and dedicated volunteer leaders, Carol Pence, and Brenda Foss. The members of the choirs give additional time to set-up concerts, help with set design and construction, spend hours in extra rehearsals, and all of our musicians give generously of their time and commitment that helps create UMC Vista’s exceptional and joyous Ministry of Music. “Let us sing Praise in the Sanctuary.”

## **Celebrate the end of summer, August 26, IMPACT Hospitality Day**

The closing event for IMPACT AUGUST will be a “good old fashioned Potluck!”. We will gather together following Worship for a community meal in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 26, we’ll officially begin about 11:30 a.m. So break out the recipe for “Aunt Suzy’s bean casserole” or “Twice Baked Mac and Cheese”, and somebody has to bring a Jello Salad, right? We want to share this potluck in truly Methodist style. Did you know that one of the earliest references to this tradition came from Thomas Nashe in the 16th century? Nashe wrote of a communal meal in which what was served was “the luck of the pot”. The only real rule is to prepare enough food to share with others. If your last name begins with A-H, please bring a salad or a side dish, I-Q bring a main dish, and R-Z a favorite dessert. If you bring enough for about 8-10 servings, we should all eat well! Drinks will be provided. Let’s make this a great hospitality and fellowship celebration!

## **Discipleship Ministry (Beckie Henselmeier)**

- Last Movies on the Lawn is Friday, August 10 at 6:00p.m. Final movie is “Coco”. More information can be found at <http://www.umcvista.org/family-ministries/>.
- Our annual “Back to School Sunday” will take place on Aug. 12 for IMPACT Students. All students are invited to bring backpacks or lunch-boxes for a blessing for the new school year. Our students will promote into their new Sunday School classes, Pre K – 5th Grade. And our 3rd Grade Bible Presentations. If your student needs a Bible, please email Beckie. Registration forms for 2018/2019 are online at [umcvista.org/family-ministries](http://umcvista.org/family-ministries). Please turn them in by Aug. 26.
- New classes starting this September: “Disciple FAST TRACK” will be taught by Beth Brainerd Hallock and John Mitchell and will meet for a total of 24 weeks. The first 12 weeks will focus on the Old Testament and the remaining 12 weeks on the New Testament. Each group session lasts 75 minutes, with small group study, weekly discussions, video reviews and study guides to carry you through the week. More detailed information and sign ups available in the Narthex or Church office. See Beckie Henselmeier for more information.

## **Murder Mystery Dinner, August 11**

Please join us August 11 at 4:00 p.m. for a “Murder Mystery Dinner” fundraiser for our Youth Group in Fellowship Hall for a killer good time! Dress up in your 50’s best attire for this interactive fundraiser. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids age 10 and under; cost includes dinner and dessert. The proceeds benefit the Youth Fall Retreat 2018. Tickets available! See Beckie Henselmeier for more information.

## **Opportunity for FUN**

There is an opening for a first service Sunday school teacher for the 3-4-5th grade classroom. Curriculum is provided. You provide a little prep time and your presence on Sunday morning. Contact Beckie Henselmeier or Margene Haase for more information.

## **Family Game Night**

The next game night is Friday, August 10, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For questions or for more information, please see Suzanne McMurchie.



## Happy “August” Birthdays

Manuel Tivar (1)  
Michael Newman (2)  
Taylor Lyons (3)  
Alfred Chappell (4)  
Bob Harlow (4)  
Mary Nixon (4)  
Vera Casey (6)  
Sue Humphrey (6)  
Marlene Philippi (6)  
Ranae Mathias (9)  
Carson Way (10)  
Helen Robertson (12)  
Andrew Mathias (13)  
Tim Biggs (14)  
Margo Rogers (14)  
Adam Amaro (15)  
Lucille Baumann (15)  
Bonnie Lambert (16)  
Mark Wheatley (18)  
John Haase (19)  
Andrea Shaw (20)  
Jennifer Swetland (20)  
Brice Spitz (21)  
David Felien (23)  
Beverly Lynn (23)  
Barbara Mitchell (23)  
Skip Harvey (23)  
Mark Wheeler (23)  
JaDene Dugas (26)  
Warren Elsasser (26)  
Louise Foster (27)  
Gerald Williams (28)  
Donna Hill (29)  
Helena Maniti (29)  
Patricia Rose (29)  
Harold MacDermot (30)

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

## Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group meets every fourth Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. in room 212. All are welcome. The next meeting will be August 22.

This is a safe, confidential place for anyone who is experiencing the loss of a loved one. It could have been a recent death, or it might have taken place in the past. Grief can be delayed. Grief can manifest itself in one's physical body.

For more information or questions, contact Susan Delaney, email [delaney@miracosta.edu](mailto:delaney@miracosta.edu) or phone, 760.806.7847

## Community Offerings

### Days for Girls

Second Saturdays is Days for Girls Workshop in Escondido. Days for Girls is a charitable foundation that makes it possible for young girls around the world to attend school every day. If you can sew, cut, stack, quality control, you can help! August 11, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. is our next date. Gather at our church to carpool at 8:15 a.m. Please contact Barbara Mitchell, 760.390.4196 for more information.

### Operation HOPE-Vista Summer Fundraiser

Want to beat the heat and spend a deliciously cool and magical night under the stars at Vista's beautiful Moonlight Amphitheatre? Join Operation HOPE-Vista for their annual summer fundraiser Preview Night Performance . . . this year's performance is the Broadway stage production of The Hunchback of Notre Dame! Some tickets will be available through the shelter office at 760.536.3880, ext. 200. Three orchestra seating packages are available this year, all of which include reserved orchestra seating. The Deluxe (\$90) includes gourmet patio dinner, OHV seat cushion, fleece blanket, and performance; the Dinner package (\$75) includes gourmet patio dinner and performance, while the Comfort package (\$60) includes OHV seat cushion, fleece blanket, and performance. Don't miss this wonderful performance! Call Tracy Lyons for information.

### New Members

Brenda and Michael O'Neil are folks that joined as New Members in January. (Editor's Note: We apologize for not introducing them to you earlier.) Michael was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota and grew up in the Midwest. He was baptized as an infant in the Roman Catholic faith. He has been on Finance and capital campaign committees in prior churches. He met Brenda on a blind date, and they've been married 25+ years! In retirement, his interests include computers, sports and travel.

Brenda was born in Vermont and was raised Southern Baptist. She retired from teaching business courses for high school. She too has held several positions in other churches. Her interests include concerts, movies, travel and reading.

Welcome to both Brenda and Michael!

**United Methodist Women’s Corner**

- The **UMW Circles** meet in September.

**Pray together for...**

Ethel Arrowsmith (hospice), Loretta Pierce, Tom Johnston, Lynda Mounts, Ko Kim, Carol Yunt, Barbara Baldridge, Marilyn Mathias, June Miklau, Lenore Averell, JaDene Dugas, Mary Nixon, Louise Foster, Bill Peaker, Nick and Kara May, Margene Haase, Sue Downey/Bob Baker, Jane Fischer, Harold MacDermot, Joan Lindegren, Ron Bradshaw, Joan Brainerd, Nancy Koski, Alice Leclair, Jan Frate, Bob Hickman

**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!

Return Service Requested

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