



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.

**We will return to two services on Sunday, September 2:
9 am (band) and 11 am (choir)**

Between services spend time with each other and enjoy coffee fellowship!

Pastor's Ponderings

"They said to him, 'Sit, give us this bread always.'" –John 6:34

The story of our family is told in food. The food that is put out on the dining room table in dishes and bowls. The food that is brought home from the store or at a roadside stand. The food that perfumes the air in the morning and the evening inspires memories of the past and for the future.

The disciples said to Jesus, 'give us this bread always.' They were talking about nourishment that offers eternal life. It could have been stale or fresh bread. We don't know. Truthfully, the flavor and texture of the bread is only a curiosity. The most important thing is sitting with Jesus and sitting with each other and taking time as community and family to be with one another and remember. Remember who made our life and sustains us now.

Food literally gives us life, in addition to telling the story of our family. I was back in Texas for my Aunt's funeral and when in Texas, there is a lot of meat and not a lot of veggies. My Aunt was famous in our family for saying she didn't want any salad on her hamburger. She made it to 94 and never ate what some consider healthy food. When my cousins cleaned out my Aunt's room at the skilled nursing facility, there were 4 soda pops left in the mini-fridge. At the end of the day of celebrating and remembering her life, we shared a 'coke' toast in honor of Aunt Barbara. Food and family sitting around a table are signs of love and life and remembrance.

As August concludes and September begins, I wonder if you are ready to finish out the rest of the year. Do you have the energy to make it from now through Christmas? Do you have the patience to love your neighbor as you love yourself? It has been a very busy first half of the year and I confess I'm still pretty tired and my calendar for the rest of the year looks full already. I'm sure yours is also!

I read today that Starbucks is going to bring out their Pumpkin Spiced Lattes a week early this year. It makes my heart happy that Fall is almost here. That means time for sitting with family for special meals is also almost here. But, why wait for the end of the year to reconnect for a special gathering. Why wait until there is a special moment to tell the story of how much your family belongs to each other. With everything crowded on the calendar, let's not forget making time for a meal or just a cup of your favorite beverage with the people you call family. Make memorials and tell stories with each other. Let's not lose what is most precious to us in this world.

Grace,
Pastor Leigh Ann

Finance/Stewardship Update

As we head into the last four months of the church year, many important and exciting things continue to be happening in the life of our church. The summer months were eventful in continuing to carry out our ministry in the local community and around the world. We thank you for your generous continued financial support of these activities. The good news is that currently our financial obligations are being met and ministry plans are ongoing. Plans are underway for the fall stewardship campaign to raise the funds necessary to meet out 2019 budget obligations. You will hear more about these plans in the coming months.

Your support of our general fund budget is essential to keep your church and ministry programs up and running. You are a caring and giving congregation. In July you received in the mail your Giving and Pledge Summary for the first six month of the calendar year. If you are behind on your giving or wish to make an additional gift to help your church reduce our budget shortfall for 2018, please prayerfully consider doing so.

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. 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, September 2

Communion Offering for September 2 will support the Theological Seminary at the newly named Katanga Methodist University in Mulunguishi, Congo. David and Lorie Persons, now retired missionaries that we supported, worked many years encouraging the growth of the Seminary into a first rate institution. The Methodist church is growing rapidly in the Congo and they need many more ministers. Let's help them grow. We will have more information on posters in the narthex. This is exciting to hear of such growth. The Persons worked so hard to help.

-Sue Humphrey, World Missions Committee

X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for September

Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for September will benefit Michaelle House and Fraternity House. Fraternity House, Inc. mission is to provide warm and caring homes where men and women disabled by HIV/AIDS can receive comprehensive care and services in order to rebuild their health and return to independent living, or where they can spend their last days in comfort and dignity. We will be collecting paper goods that will benefit both residential facilities. Michaelle House is here in Vista and Fraternity House is in San Marcos.

Join Pastor Frank for "Faith and the Wesleys", Sundays, 9 a.m. in Chapel from Sept. 2 to Oct. 28

Sunday morning study led by Pastor Frank at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel, will be on "Faith and the Wesleys". The class begins Sept. 2 and concludes Oct. 28. We will be working with the book, "The Wesleyan Way" by Scott J. Jones, which provides discussions from noted theologians, pastors and leaders about what it means to be a disciple of Christ from a Wesleyan perspective. A great introduction and insight into the history, theology and practices of John and Charles Wesley and of our denomination, the United Methodist Church. Please sign up for this class so we may order the right amount of class materials. For more information, please contact Rev. Frank Hallock, 760.726.0442 or musicmanfh@hotmail.com.

IMPACT Sunday - Community

A big THANK YOU to all those who participated in this event. Thanks to you we made an IMPACT at: Solutions for Change, made over 100+ kits of hygiene and nutrition packs, almost 30 bagged lunches to give to folks who come to our 'and 2 Fishes' Thursday soup kitchen, as well as notes to our congregation members who are unable to attend church as well as cards for the Veterans at The Veteran's Village throughout the year.

-Suzanne McMurchie

Kudos to the Generosity of UMC Vista

You did it! United Methodist Women thank you for supporting their first "A Tea Party of Your Own Making". We pray you all sipped your tea with gratitude knowing how far your gifts were able to go for women and children, no matter how far the distance, because of your loving assistance. Awed, that once again we can confirm that our congregation has surpassed our expectations and we can contribute more to missions than was expected. Thank you.

-Jacque Howard, UMW President

Did You Know...

- UMW collects Box Tops for Education? These are going to be given to Breeze Hill Elementary School. Please put them in the box on the counter in the narthex. Thank you.

Flame Editor
Barbara Mitchell
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Next deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2018
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

**Bishop Grant Hagiya to Present
Report by Commission on a Way Forward
Sunday, September 16, 2:00 p.m.
at San Diego First UMC
(2111 Camino del Rio South, San Diego)**

Bishop Hagiya is a member of the Commission on a Way Forward. Over the last 18 months, the 32 member Commission has completed an examination of every paragraph of our Book of Discipline (the rules and guidelines for our denomination) concerning human sexuality and has explored options to help maintain and strengthen the unity of the church. The current language of our Book of Discipline states that homosexuality is ‘incompatible with Christian teaching,’ which continues to be a point of disagreement among our denomination. The Commission’s report will be presented for a vote by the delegation of the specially called General Conference which gathers in February 2019. General Conference is a body of global representatives.

The One Church Plan garnered the most support from the Commission and seeks to give churches the room they need to maximize the presence of the United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible. This plan removes language from the Book of Discipline used in the United States that restricts pastors and churches from offering a continuity of caring and God’s love to all persons based on their own discernment and contextual setting. Another plan was drafted called The Traditionalist Plan which seeks to maintain the current language of the denomination, and increase the accountability for adhering to the rules as they are prescribed.

For more information and clarification of the 93 page report, plan to attend the presentation by Bishop Hagiya.

**Church and Society Committee’s
Helping Hands Outreach**

Church and Society is proud to announce our UMC Helping Hands Outreach is ready! If you would like to see our shelves, see a member of Church and Society who will gladly show you! A list of available items is posted. We have been working on this project for several months and that work has paid off! We have simple and basic necessities of life available for the homeless as well as the working poor. Volunteers will be available Thursday evenings between 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. to attend to the project. Additional hours will be added at a later date.

We are in need of new or gently used sun hats or caps. If you have any hats you’d like to donate, please drop them in the designated box in the Narthex. For more information, please contact Sherry Johnston, 760.726.0442.

Family Game Night

The next game night is Friday, September 14, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For questions or for more information, please see Suzanne McMurchie.

Discipleship Ministry (Beckie Henselmeier)

- 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.
- Thank you for your support of the Youth during the Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser. We were able to raise \$350 towards offsetting costs for the Youth Fall Retreat in September. We are grateful for your generosity.

**“Make A Difference” Community
Partner Faire**

Join us before or after worship on Sunday, Sept. 30, for an opportunity to visit with our Community Partners. Get to know organizations that are doing amazing work in our community and around the world! This is your opportunity to connect with our Community Partners! See Beth Brainerd Hallock for more information.

**Sunday Supper’s “Dead Sea Scrolls”,
Sunday, Sept. 23, 4 p.m.**

Join Rev. Lanny Arrowsmith for our first “Sunday Supper.” The topic for the evening is the Dead Sea Scrolls, those mysterious fragments of sacred texts found in the deserts of Israel. Hear about their inscriptions and meanings in our lives today. This event will take place in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner is \$7 per person and will be served at 4 p.m. See our website or church office for more information.

**Ringers and Singers, Sunshine Magic Singers
begin rehearsals, Sept. 5**

Ringers and Singers rehearse at 3:15 p.m. and the Sunshine Magic Singers rehearse at 4:00 p.m. in the choir room on Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 5. They both welcome first through middle schoolers. Questions for the Ringers and Singers may be directed to Carol Pence by calling, texting or emailing at 760.689.8024 or cnjpence@sbcglobal.net. Pastor Frank Hallock can be contacted through pastorfrank@umcvista.org with questions about Sunshine Magic Singers.

Be Still and Rest in Me

“O Lord, be thou near to me. Amen.”

Please join us in Centering Prayer every Monday morning from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. in the chapel. Please call Martha Treutle, 760.598.1701, or Jan Simpson, 760.803.0908 for further information.

Happy “September” Birthdays

Betty Beck (1)
Anita Maag (2)
Annette Stamm (2)
Doris Starr (2)
Connor Way (2)
Brenda Foss (3)
Carol Graham (3)
Stan Hamilton (3)
Scott Hansen (3)
Sherry Johnston (3)
Michael Slavinski (4)
Wayne Foss (6)
Christen Holder (7)
Dakota Koenig (9)
Jeannie Martinsen (11)
Taylor Drennon (12)
Christopher Tivar (12)
Aiden Amaro (13)
Barbara Wheatley (13)
Kathy Kim (14)
Betsy Jean Miller (14)
Jimie Patton (14)
Mas Kameya (15)
Tommy Thomson (15)
Phoebe Fraser (17)
Sara Baldwin (18)
Grace Hernandez-Jackson (19)
Gemma Johnson (20)
Patricia Hotaling (21)
Becky Adams (25)
Aaron Amaro (28)
Jayne Seiffer (28)
Christian Guffey (29)
Scott Myers (29)
Raub Mathias (30)

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

Community Offerings

Come and hear the nationally acclaimed San Diego Gay Men’s Chorus Chamber Chorale present Vivace, a concert of sacred and secular music, including, “O, What a Beautiful Morning”, spirituals like “Plenty Good Room” and excerpts from Carmina Burana, on **Sunday, Sept. 9, 4:00 p.m.. in the Sanctuary**. Tickets on sale Sept. 2 (\$10 if purchased ahead of time) or call 619.432.2244 or SDGMC.org. For more information, please contact Lyn Berry.

The North County anti-Human Trafficking Collaborative meeting will be held Sept. 6 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Soroptimist Int’l Vista and North County Inland invites all interested individuals to attend. The meetings always offer updated info of Human Trafficking importance county wide with emphasis on our area. Guest speaker is Joseph Travers, founder and Director of “Saved in America”, a dedicated group of retired law enforcement and Navy Seals who rescue victims.

-Kaye Van Nevel, Soroptimist Int’l Vista

Heartfelt Thanks

When families come to Women Resource Center (WRC) for help they often leave with nothing but the clothes on their back. As they begin to rebuild their lives they need continued support to provide important items like medications, household necessities, toiletries, toys, food, clothing, gift cards, school supplies, transportation, shoes and many more. We can never thank you enough for your most recent donation of food, gift cards and a dish strainer on July 2. WRC believes all people deserve to live a life free from the crimes of domestic violence and sexual assault. We could not serve thousands of families annually without your support. It takes all of us to create a world where these violent crimes stop. Without community leaders and champions like you investing and believing in us, what we do would not be possible. Through your support, we are able to always say ‘yes’ to families that need our help and be there for them when they are ready to reach out for help. For that we thank you. -Lauren Jane Stephenson, Development Director

Your generous support of the Global Mission Fellows Program creates opportunities for young adults like Jessica to grow into the nimble leaders that our church needs to thrive. As a supporter, you are making this ministry and transformation possible. -Global Mission Fellows

New Members

Joann Balardeta is a resident of San Marcos along with her husband, Jim. She grew up in West Covina. Joann has three children and four grandchildren. A retired accountant, she likes reading, sports, writing, movies and walking her dog.

Carol Mackay was born and raised in Chicago, in the Catholic faith. Attending a Presbyterian church she became a church deacon and was active in foreign missions. A retired registered nurse, Carol enjoys playing Bridge and Mahjong, reading, traveling and dining.

Her husband, **Don Mackay** (pronounced ma-kuy’ as in guy) was born in Scotland, growing up in Canada and the US. He was raised Church of Scotland Presbyterian. Don too has held several positions in their former church around a variety of committees and foreign missions (related to Haiti and Costa Rica). He has one surviving son and two grandchildren. A retired professional engineer he enjoys computers, photography, reading, sports and travel.

Cynthia Midlan was born in Wisconsin and was baptized Lutheran. Her husband, **Kevin** (pronounced Kee-vin) was born and raised in Ohio and Oregon. He was born and raised a Methodist! They have two children and two grandsons. Both are retired, Kevin was a San Diego Superior Court Judge. Cynthia enjoys computers, gardening, photography and reading. Kevin enjoys reading and travel.

Dolores Sasway, a former member of UMC Vista for many years, was born and raised in Pennsylvania. Dolores and now deceased husband, Joe, upon their retirements moved to Ramona. She has three children who grew up in this church and now has four grandchildren. A retired teacher, Dolores enjoys music, reading, travel and keeping fit. Welcome home, Dolores!

United Methodist Women's Corner

- The UMW Circles meet on September 4: Kenworthy Circle will meet in the chapel at 4:00 p.m. Ruth Circle will meet at 9:30 am at the home of Louise Clarke at 3725 Southridge Way in Oceanside.
- UMW will be having a **Bake Sale** at the Farmers' Market on Saturday, September 15 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and will sell remaining goods, Sunday, September 16 in Narthex.
- The UMW leadership meeting is September 18 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.
- The UMW Organization meeting is October 9 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. League of Women Voters coming to explain the ballot; we will have a salad potluck. (No meeting on September 11.)

Pray together for...

Kevin Midlam, Ruth Rockwell, Bonnie Lambert, Nadine Kaina, Dan Gubaton, Ethel Arrowsmith (hospice), Tom Johnston, Ko Kim, Carol Yunt, Barbara Baldrige, Marilyn Mathias, June Miklau, Lenore Averell, JaDene Dugas, Louise Foster, Bill Peaker, Sue Downey/Bob Baker, Jane Fischer, Harold MacDermot, Joan Lindegren, Ron Bradshaw, Joan Brainerd, Nancy Koski, Alice Leclair, Jan Frate

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!

Fellowship Meal update...

Thanks for your participation! So far this year, we've received \$120 from Chili's, \$255 from Panda Express, \$295 from Jersey Mikes and \$208 from Souplantation from our monthly restaurant fundraising meals. Thank you for using the flyers from weekly bulletins to help raise money for our church.