



*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**

Will you wait on me? I'm pretty tired and it took all of Thanksgiving week to sleep through the night. I kept waking up and thinking about you and the world and my family and the thoughts run around my head dumping over my neat organized piles of hopes and making a mess of it all.

What were you hopeful for in January that you've given up on this year? Did the list of things you hoped for this year get disorganized with the messiness of living? Advent is that season of remembering your hope. Advent is the time we remember waiting for God's love to pour out all over everything and make sense of life again. Advent starts our relationship with Jesus all over again as we participate in the story of Mary's expectancy. Mary was a young woman who grew plump with waiting for a baby and took us with her on that journey of waiting.

Can you wait a minute; I need a little more coffee to get started today. I still have some pumpkin spiced creamer from October. Yum. It'll be a whole year before that comes back. That's a lot of waiting, for a sweet little taste that goes in my coffee. You may not care, but I wait all year for pumpkin spice to return to the store shelves, but waiting on Jesus... how many good and faithful folks have given that up all together? How many robustly faithful people have given up waiting for Jesus because the meaning and message and experience of Jesus is lost or faded? The hope for anything joyous or life-giving got dumped over and fatigue has set in.

The prophet Isaiah says, "but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31) Waiting offers us a brilliant gift! Seriously, waiting for God brings renewal, strength and restoration. I could use a little restoration right about now. Paul wrote to the people of Roman and told them, "but if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." (Romans 8:25) I can see and taste pumpkin-spiced creamer, but what does the Lord look like and taste like and feel like? Hope, and cultivate patience.

Remember that Advent follows the journey from darkness 'to' light, from conception 'to' birth, and from death 'to' life. I remind you that we are living the 'to' or the middle or during the time of waiting. That means we are living during the time of pale light and shadows. Seeing Jesus come may bring some discomfort for your eyes to adjust to the brightness of God. Feeling hope and being restored will work some atrophied faith muscles that may have been forgotten. This journey of Advent isn't a Hallmark kind of story, but it is the story of coming back to the life we most long for and the love we most desire. It is not a love that is fake or untrustworthy, but this love that God brings is true and steadfast! That's worth the wait!

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds." (Titus 2:11-14)

It has been an exhausting year, but hope emerges when you least expect it. The laugh of a child, the song that sticks in your brain, the spirit of joy that is softly impatient return to us now. Get ready... shield your eyes... God is about to turn on the Light in the world again!

God bless you and keep you, always,  
Pastor Leigh Ann

## Finance/Stewardship Update

Thank you for your generous support of the Ministry Action Plan with your pledges and support of the Stewardship Campaign for the 2019 budget. Pledges are still coming in supporting the 2019 budget. As of the end of November, we have 109 pledges returned for over \$313,920 pledged for 2019. Our Thanksgiving Offering was \$1,215, half which supports our missionary efforts and half for the general fund. The parking lot sale raised over \$3,300 for the general fund. If you still wish to make a pledge or estimate of giving for 2019, pledge cards are available from the ushers in the worship services or at the SCRIP table and you may put them in the offering plate during both worship services. We are making an impact in our community and the world by spreading love of Jesus Christ to all people. If you have any questions, please free to contact Rollin Grider. Together we are making an impact in our community and the world by spreading love of Jesus Christ to all people. If you have any questions, please free to contact Rollin Grider.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair

## Christmas gifts for our staff

As we prepare our Christmas gift list, let us remember our staff. This is an opportunity for us to say, "thank you" for all the support they provide our church throughout the year. We invite your gifts of cash donations or checks (made out to UMC Vista; write in the memo, "Staff Gift") and kindly place your gift in the Red Magic Chimney Box at the end of each service, which will be available in the Narthex, Dec. 2, 9 and 16. We will present your gifts to the staff on Dec. 18. If you have any questions, please see Dakota Koenig, Staff-Parish Chair.

## Christmas Caroling, December 16

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 2:00 p.m. for Christmas caroling. Please plan to participate in this wonderful holiday tradition. It is heartwarming, fun-filled with Christmas spirit for the home bound we visit and for us, the carolers. We also need cookies to take these members. If you have questions, please call Kathy Johnson at 760.560.7150.

## Discipleship Ministry (Beckie Henselmeier)

- **Family Christmas Movie, Saturday, Dec. 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** - Remember taking the time for some hot cocoa and a good old Christmas movie as a family? We're taking some time out to enjoy some family time for the season! Send your kiddos or come as a family. RSVP with Beckie Henselmeier in the Church office, 760.726.0442.
- **Youth District Lock-in, Dec. 27, 9:30 p.m. until Dec. 28, 8:00 am.** Sign-up with Beckie by Dec. 16.
- Please note, no Student Ministry Sunday School on Dec. 30. Please join your family for worship.

## Poinsettias

Beautiful poinsettias that will brighten our worship through Advent may be given in honor or memory of someone special in your life. **A list of these people will appear in our Dec. 23 bulletin.** Forms can be found in the church office or in the Narthex. Please complete the form and turn it in to the church office or put it in the offering plate along with your check made out to UMC Vista, clearly marked for "Poinsettias." Cost is \$11. Last day to order is December 9.

## Annual See's Candy drive for Veterans

You may purchase individual small treat boxes to be distributed at Veteran's Village in San Diego and/or to fill up your own Christmas gift list! Candy orders will be taken Dec. 2 and 9 in the Narthex (delivery on Dec. 16). For details, contact Pastor Frank, [pastorfrank@umcvista.org](mailto:pastorfrank@umcvista.org) or 760.726.0442. Make the season sweet!

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Next deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019  
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

### **4th Sunday of Advent – Sunday, December 23**

One worship service at 10:00 a.m. (with childcare)

### **Christmas Eve Services – Monday, Dec. 24**

4:00 p.m. – Family Candlelight Service  
(with childcare)

7:00 p.m. – Candlelight and Carols (with childcare)

11:00 p.m. – Candlelight and Communion

### **1st Sunday after Christmas – Sunday, Dec. 30**

One worship service at 10:00 a.m. (with childcare)

*No Student Ministry Sunday School.*

*Please join your family for worship.*

### **Annual Christmas Concert, Sunday, Dec. 9**

The Music Ministry of UMC Vista will present its annual Christmas season concert on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This year's concert is entitled "All Is Well", and will feature the Chancel Choir, the Anderson Handbell Choir, and Chamber Orchestra, as well as organist Adam Ferrara. Enhance your concert pleasure by planning to come early to hear Rev. Hallock's pre-concert conversation about the music you are going to hear. The lecture will begin about 3:15 p.m. before the concert. Light refreshments will be available at that time.

Plan to come and bring family and friends as the music of the season prepares us for the arrival of Christmas in music and song. There is no charge for admission; however, a free-will donation will be taken to help support the Music Ministry. Come and celebrate the season with us!

### **Family Game Night dark in December**

There will be no game night in December. The next game night is Friday, January 11, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For questions or for more information, please see Suzanne McMurchie.

### **Cookies needed for Sunday mornings**

Cookie donations needed for the Hospitality table in the Narthex on Sunday mornings. Please contact Ruth Rockwell, 760.726.0442.

### **X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for December**

Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for December will benefit Caring and Sharing program. Through this program families in need are able to celebrate Christmas with family gift cards and presents for the children. Please pick up a list of items in the Narthex.

### **Communion Sunday, December 2**

Communion offering for Sunday, December 2 will go to the Cal-Pac Disaster Response Team. They helped us during and after the Lilac Fire in the Bonsal area last year. Let's help them with the Paradise Fire response, as well as the other fires in California. The Cal-Pac Disaster Response Team set up next to FEMA and helps victims work through the process of getting Federal help as well as responding to current needs. They provide hygiene kits, \$50 Walmart or \$25 ARCO gift cards, a listening ear and evaluate what is going to be needed during recovery. As the recovery progresses, the Cal-Pac Disaster Response Team will be there helping as needed. Your donation to the communion offering will help the Team do its job. There is additional information about the Cal-Pac Disaster Response Team in the Narthex.

-World Missions Committee

### **Tis the season to be jolly, or is it?**

The holidays are a time of worship, giving thanks and spending time with family and friends. For most of us, it is the happiest time of the year. However, it can also be a time of loneliness. We may think of family members and friends that are no longer with us. A tragedy that occurs around this time of the year seems to hit us even harder or we can be overwhelmed with everything that the season brings. If you are experiencing any of these feelings and would like to talk with a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Leigh Ann or Mike Walker, 760.726.0442.

### **Flower Calendar**

The 2019 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.

## Happy “December” Birthdays

Chris Amaro (1)  
Donna Richard (2)  
Merry Nickerson (4)  
Joe Baird (5)  
Elijah Casey (5)  
Janet Green (5)  
Jackson Sweetland (5)  
Susan Hernandez (7)  
Robert Myers (8)  
Alan Mathias (10)  
Bob Graham (11)  
Janet Hughes (13)  
Katie Pierce (14)  
Keira Pierce (14)  
Sandra Hendron (15)  
Shelley Palone (16)  
Carl Treutle (16)  
Lucas Choque-Jimenez (17)  
Delores Hunt (18)  
Beverly Thomason (19)  
Michael Trail (19)  
Carol MacKay (20)  
Martha Treutle (20)  
Jeff Montgomery (21)  
Kent Richard (21)  
Jake Henselmeier (22)  
Jeannie Jackson (22)  
Juna Spitz (24)  
Beth Brainerd Hallock (28)  
Andrea Maniti (28)  
Gavin Keiser (30)

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

## Volunteer Opportunities

- An urgent need for volunteers to usher at the 11 a.m. service. We have lost seven ushers since the beginning of the year. Please call Sara Baldwin, 760.724.1859 for more information.
- “and Two Fishes” urgently needs volunteers since they are short-handed. Two shifts available. The 2:00–3:30 p.m. shift is preparing the food and setting up. Second shift, 4:30–6:00 p.m., helps serve the meal and clean up. Donations of used cookie tins for food storage and gently used jackets are needed (see storage bin in Narthex). Volunteers are also needed to hand out bags of supplies for the “Outreach for the Homeless” between 4:15-5:30 p.m. Our hearts are full of gratitude for all of those who make this outreach possible each week. Please call Loretta Pierce, 858.449-3249 for more information.

## What is Scrip?

Currently, SCRIP is the term used in the nonprofit world that refers to GIFT CARDS and GIFT CERTIFICATES issued by major merchants such as ARCO, Stater Brothers, Albertsons, Home Depot, Walmart, Lowes, Sprouts, Chevron, Target and Souplantation. (These happen to be some of our top sellers.)

The very same gift cards and gift certificates issued and accepted at merchant establishments are the same gift cards and gift certificates used in the Scrip Program here at our church at the SCRIP TABLE every Sunday. Scrip is issued by the merchants themselves, and can be, depending on the merchants, paper gift certificates or plastic gift cards. Also, depending on merchants, the Scrip gift cards and gift certificates may be able to be redeemed on the merchants’ own website.

We buy the Scrip at a discount (1 1/2% to 15%) and sell at face value. The profit we make goes to help support the capital expenditures needed for the children and youth programs. In 2016, we earned over \$5,000.

The Scrip we sell can be used for your own personal use, or for gifts for weddings, birthdays, graduations, and/or Christmas, just to name a few.

We have regular weekly buyers, some occasional buyers, and many who never buy at all. Why not stop by the Scrip table in the Narthex and pick up an inventory sheet. I’ll bet there are items there you use weekly that you could purchase and help the YOUTH at the same time.

I hope to see you at the table soon. We need a few volunteer workers too.

-Tom Humphrey

## Ecumenical Peace Vigil, Dec. 2

Please join us at 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 2, for an Ecumenical Peace Vigil. We will begin in the sanctuary and then move out to the peace pole with candlelight. We will hear a few speakers and sing some songs about peace. At the peace pole, you will be invited to share your visions for peace. This is a wonderful way to start the Advent season. Please contact Lyn Berry for more information.

## UMW Bake Sale, Dec. 16

Home baked Christmas goodies for you, your neighbor or your co-workers coming Dec. 16. No time for all that baking at your house, no ingredients for Christmas baking or the skill to make them delectable. UMW will fill your need with Christmassy goodies available, ready to be gifted or immediately enjoyed, in the Narthex on Dec. 16. All proceeds go toward UMW missions. Contact Jacque Howard for more information.



## United Methodist Women's Corner

- UMW Circles meet December 4: **Ruth Circle** will meet at the home of Linda Grider at 4226 Lindos Way in Oceanside at 9:30 a.m. **Kenworthy Circle** will meet in the chapel at 2:00 p.m.
- The UMW leadership meeting is Dec. 18 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

## Come celebrate with UMW

The UMW Organization Meeting will celebrate Christmas at the December 11 meeting. Our special guest, Adam Ferrara, church organist, will present the program starting at 11:00 a.m. A salad bar luncheon will follow. Previous to the program, we will meet at 10:00 a.m. for our last business meeting of the year and installation of the Leadership Team for 2019. Our installing officer will be Randa Krakow, Cal-Pac Conference UMW Social Action Coordinator. Guests are welcome to enjoy the program and the luncheon.

## Pray together for...

John Mitchell, Marlene Coast, Skip Harvey, Jan Simpson, Marvin Philippi, Bill Rockwell, Jim Pence, Dan Gubaton, Ethel Arrowsmith (hospice), Tom Johnston, Ko Kim, Carol Yunt, Barbara Baldrige, Marilyn Mathias, June Miklau, Lenore Averell, JaDene Dugas, Louise Foster, Sue Downey/Bob Baker, Jane Fischer, Harold MacDermot, Joan Lindegren, Joan Brainerd, Nancy Koski

## 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!

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