



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

Easter is coming in April. Before Easter arrives, we walk through the hardest days of the Christian life. Lent is a season of reflection and adaptation, making space in our heart and life for the Spirit. This Lent I will share with you a sermon series on Spiritual Practices that will help you find balance and joy. Jesus taught that he came so that we can have life, and life abundantly. Jesus didn't come for us to be sad or somber all the time, but came for us to have life overflowing.

The first three weeks of Lent will focus on "DeCluttering", "Turning Down the Noise" and "Feeling Hunger". These spiritual practices reduce distraction and clutter in our life, challenging us to remember what the most important thing is to us. The second three weeks of Lent focus on "Giving", "Creating" and "Traveling". All of these fill us up in body and spirit by reaching out, taking in and being outside. These spiritual practices are inspirational, challenging us to touch the divine in life and experience God's beauty. Easter is the ultimate revelation of God's gorgeous creation and blessing of redemption.

Spiritual Practices are not activities to add to your busy schedule or an already crowded "to do" list. They are not specific to a season or a time. Spiritual practice is a way of life and a way of focusing that helps you be and become the person you are most called to be. Furthermore, Christianity does not have a cornerstone on Spiritual Practices. Every global religion has things to do that focus you on God or Spirit. There are more traditional practices like fasting and prayer and less traditional practices like travel and art. For many people exercise, surfing, writing and even singing are ways to center and grow closer to God. As we move through Lent toward Easter, the Spiritual Practices I share with you will be connected to our relationship with God through Jesus. We use a Christian lens when reflecting on Spirituality.

My prayer this Lent is that we have time to move through the hard things we are each going through, and find space to heal and renew in this resilient community. I continue to be tired and concerned, but also hopeful and engaged. My dear Church family, my prayers surround you... to each in your own journey... God is with you, calls you by name and affirms your sacred worth.

On to Lent...

Pastor Leigh Ann

Finance Focus

As we come to the end of the first quarter of the Church calendar year, you will be soon be receiving your first quarter financial giving report. It will include the amount that you pledged for 2019, and the amount given at the end of the first quarter of the Church year. If you have not yet decided about your stewardship financial giving for 2019, you may still do so by picking up a pledge card at the scrip table, filling it out and placing it in the offering plate. We are happy to announce that during the first quarter of the year that we are meeting all our Church financial/stewardship obligations in the 2019 budget, although we are significantly short in our pledged giving to meet all the financial obligations in the 2019 budget. The Committee on Finance/Stewardship is working hard and has plans for additional stewardship opportunities to close this budget gap during the year.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,
Co-Lay Leader

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is on March 5. We will meet at IHOP Restaurant in Vista (632 Sycamore Avenue) from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. IHOP has agreed to donate 15% of each diner's check back to the church. As in the past, these funds will be designated to World Hunger. IHOP gift cards and flyers are available at the SCRIP table. Any questions, please call Sara Baldwin, 760.726.0442.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, on March 6, begins our Lenten season. Join us for a prayer and imposition of ashes worship service at 7 p.m. in our sanctuary. Our sanctuary will be open during the day, and pastors available if you prefer to drop in for ashes during the daylight hours. Don't miss out on this special Lenten practice as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus and participate in his eternal gift of life.

New Member Class and Luncheon

Are YOU interested in officially joining our fellowship and becoming a part of this church family? You are invited to attend our New Member Class, March 24 at 10 a.m. in the Chapel; and join us March 31 at 12:15 p.m. for a New Member Luncheon in the fellowship hall. Please RSVP by March 24 to Barbara Mitchell, 760.724.0923; write it on the back of your registration card; or call the church office, 760.726.0442. Note: Committee Chairs are welcome to join the New Member Luncheon.

Discipleship/Education (Beckie Henselmeier)

- **Spring Festival with Egg Hunt, April 13 from 2-4 p.m.** Celebrate Easter with your family at our Spring Festival. Egg hunts will run at 2:15, 2:30, 3:00, and 3:15. Carnival games, crafts, jumper, and fun for the family at this free event. Bring your Easter Baskets and invite your friends.
- **District Youth Olympics - Sunday, March 24, 2 - 6 p.m.** Youth are invited to join their district friends in this event and compete against other teams to win the GOLD. Cost is \$5/student. Held on our campus! See Beckie Henselmeier for more details.
- **Deadline to register for Summer Camp and receive the early bird registration fee is March 31.** Register today online at calpacumc.org/campandretreat/. Receive scholarships from the Vista Foundation by submitting your registration form. See Beckie Henselmeier for more information.

District Camp Scholarships - The UMC Vista Foundation is offering 2019 scholarships to children of active UMCV members. Applications are due to the Foundation mailbox by March 31. Applications and more information can be found on www.umcvista.org. For questions, ask any Foundation board member or call Gary Lamb, Foundation President, 760.598.1915.

Academic Scholarships - The UMC Vista Foundation is offering 2019 academic scholarships to active members or family members of active UMC Vista members. Application packets, completed by the student, are due to the Foundation mailbox by May 31. Students may be called in for an interview. Applications and more information can be found on www.umcvista.org. For questions, ask any Foundation board member or call Gary Lamb, Foundation President, 760.598.1915.

Centering Prayer

Would you like to learn more about the Holy Spirit and His holy guidance created just for you? Please join us in Centering Prayer every Monday in the Chapel from 9:30-10:45 a.m. Call Martha Treutle for more information, 760.809.2520.

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Next deadline is Wednesday, March 20, 2019
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

The Flame (monthly newsletter)
United Methodist Church of Vista
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Communion Sunday, March 3

Communion offering for Sunday, March 3 will go to help support the UMC of El Centro establish an overnight shelter for asylum seekers in the Imperial Valley. This ministry is part of the national Safe Harbor program. Christ Ministry (UMC) in San Diego, that we have supported with Cable endowment funds and our monthly X-tra Mile Giving, is also a Safe Harbor site. The shelter will be in addition to a service they already provide called Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON). JFON is a national program and seeks to provide immigration services for vulnerable immigrant refugees and asylum-seeking neighbors. Located in the Imperial Valley which has a population of 180,000 and an estimated 17,000 undocumented, the El Centro UMC is a mission outreach of justice and mercy that you can be a part of with your Communion Offering on March 3.

-World Missions Committee

X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for March

Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for March will benefit the Helping Hands Outreach of UMC Vista. On Thursday afternoons, in conjunction with the soup kitchen, we hand out basic supplies to our homeless clients. We will provide a list of specific items such as white socks, toilet paper, small size denture cream, deodorant, and seven other items. Thanks for your help.

-Loretta Pierce and Brenda Walker

Opportunity to serve in the 11:00 a.m. worship

If you would like a simple way to participate in service, this is the opportunity for you. We are looking for candle lighters. This role is exclusively to bring the light into the sanctuary at the beginning of service, to light the altar candles and take the light out at the end of service. Training will be offered to those interested. Look for a sign-up in the narthex or contact Colleen Guffey, 760.419.5548.

2019 Flower Calendar

Please sign up for the date you want to furnish flowers for Sunday worship. Call Paula at the church office for the date you want. Dates available: April 28; June 2; July 21 & 28; August 4; Oct. 27 and Dec. 1 & 29.

Family Game, March 8

The next game night is Friday, March 8, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For questions or for more information, please see Suzanne McMurchie.

Welcome new members

Aron and Maria Bowlin joined in October 2018. They have three children, Caedmon, Abbie and Jake. Aron and Maria met at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Okinawa, Japan. Aron is with the Navy Nurse Corps and Maria is a registered nurse and stay-at-home mom. Maria likes reading, and with three active children, sleeping. Aron likes camping, reading and travel. Both have been involved in their past churches.

Also joining us in October were Steve and Pat Preston. Steve and Pat met on a mission trip to Guatemala. Pat is a Tax Preparer and enjoys crafts, music, photography, reading and sewing. Steve is an engineer and enjoys photography and reading. They both grew up in Minnesota. They have two children Timothy and Alicia.

Paula Catling, born and raised in Washington, now retired, was a long-time church secretary. She has a son, Kyle, and three grandchildren: Melia, Carter and Avery. Paula enjoys music, reading and movies.

Gerda or Gerri, as she prefers to be called, Schoening, was born in the Netherlands. She has been a widow since 2015 when her husband of nine years passed. She has three children and six grandchildren. She was a Social Worker and worked in a variety of skilled nursing facilities. She enjoys cards, crafts, dancing, gardening, music, reading, sewing, walking, writing and swimming.

Sandy Riser, born in Kentucky and raised in Ohio, is a transfer. She was a UMC member in Cincinnati and Tucson. She is married to Bernie Weisberg whom she met at work in 1993. In her past churches she participated on various committees and in a lot of activities. She currently is a concert producer and works on specialty events for world-renowned trumpet player, Rick Brown. Sandy enjoys music, reading and travel.

If you haven't met them yet—look for them and introduce yourself! We are so happy you are part of our church family.

A Special Asking...

Feb. 20 several UMW ladies (Jacque Howard, Geneva Christensen, Louise Clarke and Barbara Mitchell) went down to Christ Church to take supplies that were gathered last month. They were very appreciative. The ladies helped out for a few hours working on some thank-you letters and helped put donated groceries on shelves. We learned about new shelters in the works, overcrowding of immigrants (they take in at least one new person a day), shortage of staff and challenged volunteers doing amazing work. Christ Church is in need of bath towels, especially for small children. If you can help donate towels (used okay), there will be a collection spot in the narthex. Thank you.

-Barbara Mitchell

Happy “March” Birthdays

Leah Henselmeier (2)
David Hendron (3)
Marilyn Mathias (6)
Elizabeth O’Toole (6)
Ruth Rockwell (6)
Ken Sheridan (6)
Donald Mackay (8)
Geneva Christensen (9)
Hope McGinn (9)
Trent Hamlin (10)
Steve Lambert (10)
Diane Biggs (12)
Erin Fraser (12)
Greg Kim (13)
Rollin Grider (16)
Dolores Sasway (19)
Lucy Henselmeier (20)
Olive May Harris (22)
Lance Bodnar (23)
Ruben Choque-Jimenez (23)
Madelyn Knight (24)
Margene Haase (25)
Seana Wheatley (25)
Don Wirth (25)
Roger Martinsen (27)
Sandy Harvey (29)
Dottie Nelson (29)
Kathleen Vought Mejia (30)
Sandy Riser (30)
Roan Pierce (31)
Sophie Pierce (31)
Sue Downey (31)

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

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Office volunteers needed!** Duties include answering the phone, greeting guests and light office work. Mondays and Tuesdays from noon to 3 p.m.; and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information or questions, please call Paula, 760.726.0442.
- An urgent need for **volunteers to usher at the 11 a.m.** service. Please call Sara Baldwin, 760.724.1859 for more information.
- **“and Two Fishes”** would appreciate donations of “gently” used clothing for our homeless population. A container in the Narthex is provided for collection. Also, **volunteers are needed for the 2 pm shift on Thursdays.** For more information, see Loretta Pierce.

Heartfelt Thanks

The Helping Hands Outreach wishes to thank Tracy Lyons and Operation Hope-Vista for their donations of socks. We also thank Bev Hopkins, Karen Veysada, Ruth Lloyd and other generous contributors. We appreciate all of our volunteers and donors.
Loretta Pierce

Thanks to all who helped Vista Teen Outreach by donating food, toiletry items and cash. Your generosity made a difference in the lives of 350-400 students a month who are hungry, homeless or both. Hunger hurts; we can help.

Thank you, Pat Rose

Until we meet again...

I walked through the doors of this church about a year ago. I was going through a difficult time, and while my troubles continued to mount, so did the love, support and spiritual guidance I received from this church family. Some of you I know personally, some I don’t. But to all I say, thank you, because your commitment to and support of what this church does, has helped me through the valley and brought me closer to God. I will be forever grateful. I have been to many churches and this is a special place. God is doing his work through you. I have felt it and I have seen it. I pray for God’s blessings on you and this church and your continued work that touches so many lives. I am moving to the Boston area for a job opportunity and to be closer to my daughter. I would love to hear from you and if you come to Boston, it would be wonderful to see you again!

Thank You for Everything and God Bless You,

Lisa Albright (lmtocco64@gmail.com). 714.330.5076

Operation HOPE-Vista becomes Operation HOPE-North County!

Staff and volunteers at the shelter have often found that instead of simply identifying the location of the shelter, the “Vista” tag implied that only Vista itself was served. This misperception becomes critical when it interferes with eligibility for funding. Therefore, the first of several steps has been completed which will officially change the name of the shelter from Operation HOPE-Vista to Operation HOPE-North County. Hopefully this will clarify the scope of the program as well as the communities we serve.

April 27 will be the inaugural Evening of HOPE Gala to be held at CSU San Marcos. The event is planned to recognize members of the community who balance community involvement, professional endeavors and philanthropy – and, of course, to promote the shelter and its programs. The annual dinner and auction usually held in the spring is being moved to the early fall due to budgetary needs. The fall event – “Celebration of HOPE,” will have a familiar format, recognizing successes of clients, the Jean Cole Commitment to service Award, and celebrating new visions for the future.

OHNC is also partnering with Kiwanis on May 4 for the annual Grape Gatsby event. It is a great evening with tasting booths, music, live and silent auction, and lots of fun! More information available from Dick Muir or on our website – <https://operationhopeshelter.org>.

-Sharon Hall

United Methodist Women's Corner

- UMW Circles meet Tuesday, March 5: Ruth Circle will meet at the home of Louise Clarke at 3725 Southridge 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 March 19 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.
- The UMW March 12 Lunch Out will be at 11:45 a.m. at Thai One On (across the street from the church). Everyone is welcome to attend.

Pray together for...

Lyn Berry, Donna & James Hill, JaDene Dugas, Thelma Koda, Marlene Coast, Don Mackay, Skip Harvey, Jan Simpson, Larry Veysada, Dan Gubaton, Ethel Arrowsmith (hospice), Tom Johnston, Ko Kim, Carol Yunt, Barbara Baldrige, Marilyn Mathias, Louise Foster, Jane Fischer, Harold MacDermot, Joan Lindegren, Joan Brainerd, Nancy Koski

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!

Visitor Parking Places

A gentle reminder that visitor parking places are for people who are guests and visitors to the worship time. Please leave these spaces available for those folks and families as a sign of your hospitality and welcome. Thank you!

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