



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

The California Pacific Annual Conference met last week. Attendance was high as we dove into the challenges we face! It was a lot of work! The weather was better than it usually is this time of year but still hot. The days of conference start early and finish late. Barbara Mitchell, Gary Lamb and Pastor Frank were committed and absolutely represented you with panache. I want to give you a little highlight reel of what unfolded in Redlands.

As you may know, our General Conference (a gathering of delegates from across the world) gathered last year and approved something called the Traditional Plan which enhanced requirements and punishments for denying the full participation of LGBTQIA persons in the life of our United Methodist Church. Our regional leadership is generally in agreement that the Traditional Plan is unfaithful to God's commandment to love God and love neighbor as yourself. Although we have different understandings of gender and sexuality, we believe all people are welcome and beloved in God's kingdom and any participation should not be evaluated based on who you love or how you identify your gender. NO DECISION was made but the members of the conference made it clear that we will not evaluate leadership, including candidates for ministry, based on sexuality or gender.

Beyond the conversation about sexuality, we also did a lot of regular work including voting on delegates to the next General Conference to be held in 2020 in Minneapolis, MN. Three Laity and three Clergy delegates from our Conference were elected. There will be a Jurisdictional Conference where new Bishops to our Western region will be elected, so eight additional Laity and eight additional Clergy delegates were elected. Jurisdictional Conference could elect as many as three new bishops with three of our current bishops planning to retire. This work of electing delegates took much of our time on Friday. We passed a new Conference budget that represented a reduction of \$1.3 million dollars. The Bishop has been steadfast in urging a reduction in budget across our region for the last three years. We approved recommendations to discontinue eight churches in our annual conference including Big Bear Lake UMC. While these recommendations were approved, there was grief for the action. And we voted to affirm all but two resolutions on our consent calendar including a resolution in support of reproductive health care, rights and justice (Res 19-08). We also read the names of and affirmed 210 candidates who are called to be local pastors, and other ordained or set apart leaders for ministry.

We worshiped, sang and ate together. Opening worship was led by the LGBTQIA task force with three clergy sharing poignant of the morning. We held a special worship to honor those retiring from ministry, and a special worship for those who've passed away this last year. Rev. Don Diegleman was honored at the memorial service. Barbara and I were invited to plant seeds in remembrance of Don's life. There was a service to remember your baptismal covenant and a service to ordain and commission new clergy. We shared communion everyday (with gluten free bread).

All of this and more can be looked up on calpacumc.org/secretary. Although it was exhausting and at times frustrating, I'm grateful for the ministry of our church. The relationships of our region create a network for the ministry we do in Vista. The work of our Cable Outreach Grant and our conversations about expanding our facility and everything else we do is because of our connectional church. We support one another in prayer and wisdom and vision, even when we don't always agree about the Bible or faith. We remain committed to living our lives with Jesus as our model, brother and guide.

Thanks be to God for those who offer leadership, financial support and prayer to our church! Together we are the Kingdom of God reaching out into a broken world. Amen!

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Finance Focus

As we head 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 keep your church and ministry programs up and running. Together, we are participating in ministry to serve Jesus Christ in our community and around the world. To date we are meeting our essential ministry budget items, the bills are paid, although our current level of giving leaves us behind the total dollars needed to meet our ministry goals for the 2019 budget needs. We are planning two events during the summer and fall to help us close the budget gap. On August 25 we are having our Summer Silent Auction and Potluck after the Worship Service with many interesting items for sale. If you have items to donate for sale, call or e-mail Rollin Grider at 760.726.9594 or hagrider@cox.net to get your items on the list.

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,
Co-Lay Leader

Mark your calendar...

Silent Auction and potluck, August 25

The Finance/Stewardship Committee will be having their second annual Silent Auction and Potluck luncheon on Sunday, August 25 at 12:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Make plans to join us for the exciting opportunity to bid on many items in support of the general fund of the 2019 budget. For the potluck, if your last name begins with A-F bring a main dish; G-M, a side dish or salad; and N-Z, a dessert (enough to share with eight people). Many items will be available for you to bid on, including an Oak rolltop desk donated by Bob Schmeiser, a round glass coffee and end table donated by Louise Clarke, pies by Linda Grider, and Pastor Leigh Ann is making her special green chili chicken casserole. If you have items that you wish to donate, please contact Rollin Grider to get on the list. Individual sheets will be provided for you to list your items and to suggest a minimum bid price. The Silent Auction will take place during the potluck and the winners will be announced. Funds will be collected at the end of this fun event. If you have items you wish to donate call or e-mail Rollin Grider at 760.726.9594 or hagrider@cox.net.

Family Game Night dark in July, August

Family Game Night is dark in July and August. The next Family Game Night is September 13 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For questions or for more information, please see Margene or John Haase.

Discipleship/Education (Beckie Henselmeier)

- Grab your friends and family for "**Movies on the Lawn**"! Pack a picnic dinner and enjoy a time of fellowship and games, and then relax with a movie on our upper lawn at sunset! Each film will be shown on a Friday night (July 12 and July 26) and the movies are "Incredibles 2," and "Small Foot."
- **Save the date for Camp ROAR!** Monday, July 22 through Friday, July 26, daily from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Cost is \$35 per student until July 14 or "bring a friend" and both get to attend for \$50. (Registrations must be turned in together.) This year, featuring After-Care, available by pre-registration only. Care from 12:00 until 5:30 p.m. (or until needed) for \$15 per day per student. Register today at umcvista.org/family.

Kids Summer Music Camp to offer "The League of Extraordinary Musicians"

Make plans now to join us as the Sumer Music Camp kids, together with the Chancel Choir will offer another "mash-up" musical on Sunday, July 14 at 6:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This year's camp theme is Superhero-based, and you will enjoy meeting the Agents of LEM as they use their newfound superpowers to help lost humans and robots alike to find their way home. Our Praise Band members, together with keyboardist, Adam Ferrara, will be the "pit orchestra" and members of the Chancel Choir, soloists and the Campers will make up the production company.

As in past years, we invite you come early for a Dinner on the Lawn at 5:00 p.m., then come on into the Sanctuary for the performance. Tickets for the concert are \$9 for adults, \$6 for kids under 16, and children under 5 are free. Lawn seating for dinner is free, Community Tables will be offered for \$11 for adults and \$7 for kids (price includes admission). A private table seating up to eight is offered for \$80 per table. Ticket sales will begin two weeks before the performance.

Come and support the Music program, and enjoy these gifted young people and musicians for "The League of Extraordinary Musicians."

Flame Editor
Barbara Mitchell
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Paula Amaro
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Next deadline is Wednesday, July 15, 2019
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

Communion Sunday, July 7

Communion offering for July 7 will go to the Missionary Aviation Fellowship. This remarkable organization serves some of the most isolated people on earth. MAF uses 46 aircraft to land on mountainsides, jungle clearings, and tropical rivers. They work in eight countries including Haiti, Papua, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Medical doctors and supplies are delivered, as well as evacuations to hospitals. Clean water projects, disaster relief, education and agricultural assistance, and assistance to local church leaders are provided. Missionary service takes so many forms! MAF even helps install and maintain internet connections to reduce isolation. This is our chance to help.

-Norm Corwin, World Missions Committee

X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for July

Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for July will benefit the Women's Resource Center (WRC) which is dedicated to providing the highest quality support services, counseling, shelter and education to North San Diego County women, children and men involved in or threatened by domestic violence or sexual assault. WRC assists its clients in healing so that they can do the following.

BUILD: their dignity, self esteem and confidence.

LEARN: that what has happened is not their fault.

KNOW: that they and their children have a safe haven.

FEEL RELIEF: from the fear of physical, verbal and emotional abuse.

FIND OUT: that someone understands their problems and that there are solutions.

HOPE: by learning that they can make different, better choices in the future.

There are a variety of needs on their wish list which will be available for you in the Narthex throughout July. Thank you for your continued caring and support for the people of North County. -Barbara Mitchell

Grief Support Group

When someone dies, our grief manifests in many ways. We might stop doing things we used to enjoy. We might feel physically ill. And we can also seem, to the outside world, like nothing is wrong. But our sadness underneath continues. Our church can sustain you with the Grief Support Group, which meets every fourth Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. in room 212. You are welcome. Contact: Susie Delaney, 760.806.7847.

Did you know...

- The best way to get new folks to church is to invite them personally to services, to events...social media works too?!

Welcome Back

On Sunday, July 14, we will officially "Welcome Back" Pastor Leigh Ann and Pastor Frank to UMC of Vista. These positions are appointed annually, so we are so pleased and honored that they will be returning to us for another year. We will celebrate our Welcome Back with cupcakes in the narthex at the end of each service. So please take a moment to convey your appreciation to Pastor Leigh Ann and Pastor Frank as our ministry partners.

-Dakota Koenig, Chair, SPRC

Ireland Tour Choir to offer a Bon-Voyage Concert

The Scotland/Ireland Tour Choir, most of whom are members of the Chancel Choir, will be offering their tour repertoire in concert on Sunday, July 21 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come and give our travelers a great send-off. Music will range from acapella selections of sacred music, modern anthems, and features two new arrangements by Frank Hallock: the beloved American folk tune, "Shenandoah, and "The Parting Glass", a traditional Irish tune. Admission is free, and you will have an opportunity for a free-will offering in support of the Music Ministry and the General Budget. For more information call Pastor Frank at 760.726.0442.

X-tra Mile Ministry Givings vs. Communion Offerings

What are X-tra Mile Ministry Givings? Are they different than Communion Offerings? How? Who is in charge of them? Do I have to donate to every one??

This church, as you may have noticed is very giving. Many of us, however, cannot physically get out and do for the various organizations that we—your Mission outreach groups: Church & Society, World Missions and Evangelism—have designated. So, each month your Outreach groups help our congregation reach out to our community in concrete, not necessarily physical nor monetary ways...these are called "X-tra Mile Ministry Giving." We reach out to community organizations, find out what they need and we invite you to help supply those needs (i.e. food drives for Vista Teens or "and Two Fishes", paper goods for Michaelle and Fraternity Houses). Communion offerings are developed and chosen by Missions Committee based upon World Mission askings from the greater UMC. Many of these are national or global (i.e. Africa University, Mobility Worldwide or UMCOR /Disaster project). These are specific to the one Sunday of Communion and are extra monetary offerings.

Your community, your Outreach Committees and your World Missions Committee continue to give praise and thanks to you for your generosity in helping with these various projects...and no, it is not necessary for you to give to every project, every mission. We give you choices and you are free to pick and choose the Giving or Offering that touches your heart and mind. Again, we give praise and thanks to you and for you.

Happy “July” Birthdays

Mary Ann Maniti (1)
Chad Green (3)
Terry Lenker (3)
James McGlocklin (4)
Nancy Koski (5)
Noah Wheeler (5)
Marlize Clarke (6)
Justin Felien (6)
Bob Schmeiser (6)
Angelina Maniti (7)
Tom Humphrey (8)
Ruth Lloyd (8)
Amy Pierce (8)
Debbie Forbis (12)
Kendall Guffey (12)
Richard Miklau (12)
Lanny Arrowsmith (13)
Kim Johnson (15)
Julie Tambur (16)
Nancy Bennett (17)
Nancy Winters (17)
Jacob Clarke (18)
Rev. Chung Kim (19)
Niall Cargill (21)
Jim Wright (21)
Rolita Cargill (23)
Adam Ferrara (23)
Jim Rogers (23)
Merlee Sheridan (23)
Alexa Burt (24)
Ray O’Toole (25)
Carol Gano (27)
Ruth Hamilton (28)
Carter Guffey (29)
Cindy Anske (30)
Larry Veysada (31)

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

Operation HOPE-North County, a 2019 Nonprofit of the year

As part of the Annual California Nonprofits Day, Operation HOPE-North County was named a California Nonprofit of the Year by Assemblymember Tasha Boerner Horvath of the 76th District. On June 5th representatives from OHNC traveled to Sacramento to join with 100 other nonprofits to be honored by their California senators and assemblymembers. The honorees and legislators attended an inspiring and (with more than 500 in attendance), sold-out celebration luncheon on the South Lawn of the state capital. The annual event began in 2016 to honor the work being done across the state by countless nonprofit organizations and to foster relationships between elected officials and nonprofits.

Heartfelt Thanks

The MacDermot Family wishes to thank our church for use of the Fellowship Hall to celebrate our 70th wedding anniversary with more than 40 relatives attending from Oregon, Minnesota and locally. Thank you for cards and phone calls from our church members. We felt very special.
-Harold and Betty MacDermot

Giving trends in the United States: The Giving USA report, released on June 18, 2019, said individual charitable giving to social and community organizations fell by 1.1%, from \$295 billion in 2017 to \$292 billion in 2018. Charitable giving ended a four-year streak of increases, and was the largest decline since 2009. The report suggests that a major change in tax rules is the cause of the decline but another year of review will explain the bigger picture. Giving to religious organizations is estimated to have seen the largest drop in charitable giving. Decline in giving to religious organizations is blamed on clergy misconduct (in the case of the Roman Catholic Church), failure by church leaders to inspire generosity and the perception that church is ‘boring.’ Total charitable donations have hovered around 2 percent of the gross domestic product for many years according to the report and nudged down in 2018 across the board. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/9696/amid-broad-drop-in-charitable-donations-giving-to-god-down-3-billion-last-year>.

From the Annual Conference 2019

It was a joy to once again serve as one of your representatives to Annual Conference. Some highlights for me included the various conversation sessions, learning more of what others think/feel/believe.

One worship led by the LGBTQ Task Force was powerful. The term used to describe clergy and others who serve/have served in the closet for decades and generations is “The Hidden Faithful.” They reminded all of us that they have ever been serving faithfully and fruitfully alongside us at the expense of their personal, mental, emotional and spiritual health, and only now are being themselves. The sermon encouraged us to see the image of God in others and allow God to move as HE wills in the life of each person. We were also reminded it is our job in “*mishpat*,” a Hebrew word used to refer to God’s actions of justice and mercy embodied in the life of Jesus Christ.

Another highlight following commissioning was the introduction of one Maya Usher, 17, a candidate for ministry. Maya, having just completed 11th grade, told everyone that in 2028 she will be the Rev. Maya Usher! She shared a little of her story and her vision that all will be truly welcome and young people voices will have more say in the church and the workings for social justice. She left us with: “If you want to see a new church, just watch me!”

It is always a blessing to attend AC and to see how God works through so many to bring love, peace and justice into the world. I invite you to join us next year. Blessings.

-Barbara Mitchell

United Methodist Women's Corner

- UMW Circles dark in July and August.

UMW Honors Colleen Guffy

Every year Vista United Methodist Women select a person to honor as a Quiet Disciple. They are recognized by their readiness to serve, often in quiet unassuming ways. This year we are proud to announce that Colleen Guffy has been chosen for our 2019 Quiet Disciple.

Colleen is a busy lady with four active children, a husband and a career. She serves on the Discipleship/Education Committee and the Worship Committee finding liturgists for first service and as acolyte coordinator (including cleaning robes).

You could have seen her helping to organize the Annual Trunk or Treat or collecting food for the Vista Teen Outreach.

Colleen shares her faith through her dedication and devotion to God with quiet strength, a cheerful disposition and readiness to help in whatever way she can. The South District United Methodist Women recognized the district's Quiet Disciples at a special event on June 1.

Pray together for...

Larry Averell, JaDene Dugas, Thelma Koda, Skip Harvey, Jan Simpson, Larry Veysada, Ethel Arrowsmith (hospice), Tom Johnston, Ko Kim, Carol Yunt, Barbara Baldrige, Raub and Marilyn Mathias, Louise Foster, Bill Peaker, Jane Fischer, Harold MacDermot, 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!

Centering Prayer

God of the silence. Calm and quiet my soul at the fount of Your loving presence. In Your silence, replenish me with a force for love, especially for those who are the most demanding. When there is nowhere else to go, inspire me to drop into my heart and find Your life-giving grace there, weaving the fabric of human reality into a tapestry of love. Amen.

Centering Prayer is every Monday at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Call Martha Treutle with any questions about this life-changing ministry, 760.809.2520.