



*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**

We are a church looking into the future. We are continuing to refine goals and make our intentions for serving God known. Our Outreach grant program strives to make a difference locally and globally. As we make plans for our future facility, we do so to serve God and care for our neighbors. Every time we worship, or study the Bible, or pray with and for one another, we are making an impact today and with God's help, into the future. I wonder what it will be like in Vista in 50 years.

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the moon landing by Apollo 11 and watching the coverage from that weekend in 1969 is inspirational but also leaves us with a challenge. The dream and goal of landing on the moon was bold and brave and maybe even a little alarming. Who would dare to have a vision that shattered the ceiling of human life? What was it like to consider such a thing? Some of you remember and know the conversations in the years leading up to Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins taking that amazing flight.

Margaret Hamilton was a software engineer who developed the on-board flight software for NASA's Apollo Moon missions. She was born in 1936, in Indiana and earned a BA in mathematics from Earlham College in 1958. Ms. Hamilton shared in an interview that during her work at NASA on the development of software for the space missions she was asked who was taking care of her child at home and why wasn't she there. When I studied American history, women were left out of the story, aside from Betsy Ross and the wives of early presidents. It is only in the last few years that a few women have begun to receive the recognition they deserve for contributions to science and much more. Ms. Hamilton was bold and brave, pushing back against a society that diminished women's capacity and intellect. Her talents were a surprise to many.

One truth I believe about God is that God is full of surprises. The Bible is filled with God challenging humanity to justice and to care for those who are deemed powerless, unworthy and meager. It is absolutely surprising that God doesn't just go for the smartest, most beautiful and richest among humanity to preside over the planet. And about the planet, it is defined as God's creation and given to humanity to care for. Bees and fungi are good examples of small, sometimes annoying things in creation, but without them humanity wouldn't have food or modern medicine. What a surprise that the least of creation makes such an impact. I'm certain we could make a list that went on and on about God's surprises in our life, and all of creation, and in the church.

Isaiah 43:19 says, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 65:17 says, "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind." And Revelation (21), the bold, forward-looking vision of God, says, "Behold, I am making all things new." God turns things over and around, and the least expected is often the most powerful leader or teacher in the story that God writes.

Sometimes we water down our vision and our dreams for our community and making a difference. Sometimes we see the troubles all around us and become numb to the pain of our neighbors. Sometimes we struggle with judging others and want to tell them just to get up and do it differently and blame them. Humanity struggles to trust God and lean into God's surprising ways, but can you imagine what would happen if we did trust God?

Where shall we be as a faith community in 2069? What can we do now to make an impact and keep making an impact? I can think of lots of challenges along the journey but when I think of God's steadfast and strong nature, I'm certain this church is meant to be doing the work we are doing to build a future of God's making! Let us dream bold dreams and lean into God's beloved community!

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

**One Worship Service during the month of August at 10 a.m.**

**Sunday, Aug. 25 – All Church Hospitality Sunday**  
Silent Auction and Potluck, 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

The Flame

## Finance Focus

We are now well into the second half of the Church year, we want to again celebrate, and thank all of 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. 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 \$4,000 behind the total dollars needed to meet our ministry goals for the 2019 budget needs. You are a caring and giving congregation. We want to thank the staff and you for the successful succulent plant fundraiser that raised over \$1,100 to help us close the budget gap. During Impact August, the all Church potluck and silent auction is planned for Sunday, August 25 at 11:30 a.m. after worship, in which those in attendance are being asked to bring an extra potluck item to auction off in a silent auction. We also have many great items for the Silent Auction. (See the Silent Auction article for more details.) The proceeds will go to support the general fund of the 2019 budget.

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 [umcvista.org](http://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

## 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 after the single 10:00 a.m. worship service downstairs 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 side dish or salad; G-P, a dessert; and Q-Z, a main dish (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 as well as a handmade quilt donated by Louise Clarke, 12 Noritake crystal water glasses and a Tiffany hanging glass lamp donated by Alice Robeson, an eight course Prime Rib formal dinner for six donated by Linda Grider, UMC Vista logo shirts and bags donated by Juna Spitz, two rounds of golf at Lawrence Welk, 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 event. If you have items you wish to donate call or e-mail Rollin Grider at 760.726.9594 or [hagrider@cox.net](mailto:hagrider@cox.net).

## Discipleship/Education (Beckie Henselmeier)

- Backpack Blessing, Sunday, August 18 at 10 a.m. - As our students head back to school this fall, we invite them to bring a backpack, lunch box, or other school item to church for our Annual Backpack Blessing. See Beckie Henselmeier for more details.
- Third Grade Bible Presentation, Sunday, Sept. 8: If your student needs a Bible, please email Beckie.
- Sunday school registration forms for 2019/2020 are online at [umcvista.org/family-ministries](http://umcvista.org/family-ministries). Please turn them in by Aug. 30.

## Sunday School teachers needed!

The Discipleship/Education Committee would like to update the congregation on the staffing requirements for Sunday school. In order to comply with best practices for our children's faith development and safety, we are expected to maintain two adults in each classroom setting. Currently, we need three helpers weekly to fulfill this expectation. If we do not accomplish this goal of the two-adult per room policy, we will reduce classrooms to one large room for kindergarten thru fifth grade and a pre-school class. Any helper will receive information and training for this role and our deepest appreciation. Please prayerfully consider stepping forward to enjoy and share the faith development of our precious children. This ministry and service opportunity is core to the vision of UMC Vista for our future. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matt. 19:14) Contact Margene Haase or Beckie Henselmeier if you are called to this ministry.

## Family Game Night dark in August

Family Game Night is dark in 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.

Flame Editor  
Barbara Mitchell  
Flame Production  
Paula Amaro  
WEB Master  
Jim McGlocklin

Next deadline is Wednesday, August 21, 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, August 4**

Communion offering for August 4 will go to Safe Harbors Network (SHN), a broad affiliation of faith congregations throughout San Diego County bound to care for refugees. Rev. Dr. Bill Jenkins runs both Christ Ministry Center (CMS) and Safe Harbors Network with dedication and entrepreneurial aplomb. Pastor Bill's analysis of service to refugees from January 1 through March 31 of 2019, is a total of 10,369 "bed nights" so far this year. That includes not only a bed per person, but also the necessary staff, food, clothing, housing, nursing and medical services, transportation and more. For the year 2019, Pastor Bill estimates SHN may well provide a total of 50,000 "bed nights".

-World Missions Committee

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

Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for August 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.

-Gary Lamb

## **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.

## **A Church Wedding Reception for Adam and Emily Ferrara**

Please join us to congratulate and give best wishes to Adam and Emily on August 11 following the 10 a.m. worship service in Fellowship Hall. Cake will be served. There will be a wedding basket available in the Narthex on August 4 and 11 to place cards or gifts for the newlyweds.

Please mark the date to celebrate with them!

## **What is Stephen Ministry?**

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2, NRSV)

The last few months, I have been seeing more new faces at our Sunday Services. With our church being so busy with different opportunities to serve, I think it is time to talk about Stephen Ministry.

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in our congregation using the Stephen Series system. Stephen Ministry trains people in our congregations to equip and empower lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

Stephen Ministry has two types of ministers, Stephen Leaders and Stephen Ministers. Stephen Leaders are trained off campus by professional trainers of the Stephen Ministry organization. Once a leader is trained, they will return to their church and train and lead the Stephen Ministers.

Stephen Ministers are trained at the church by Stephen Leaders.

UMC of Vista has been a Stephen Ministry church since 2012. We currently have six Stephen Ministers and one Stephen Leader.

For the next few weeks, we will have a Stephen Ministry table in the narthex, please stop by and get to know us.

-Mike Walker, Stephen Leader

## **Cultural Information**

"In American life, there has ultimately been a broad rejection of 'experts' apart from the person searching for the answer on his or her own," says Tim O'Malley, a theology professor at Notre Dame University. "You can literally Google anything. Should I have children? What career should I have? When should I make a will? How do I deal with a difficult child?" "You can find the information more easily through a search engine than finding a member of a clergy." The MinistryMatters.com website shares this information and more in an article titled, 'AP-NORC POLL: Americans Rarely Seek Guidance from Clergy. Polling has shown a steep rise over several decades in Americans identifying as unaffiliated with a religion. Gallup polls in 2018 showed 20% of Americans saying they have no religion, up from 2% in 1955.

## Happy “August” Birthdays

Beverly Hopkins (1)  
Manuel Tivar (1)  
Michael Newman (2)  
Taylor Lyons (3)  
Alfred Chappell (4)  
Bob Harlow (4)  
Mary Nixon (4)  
Sue Humphrey (6)  
Marlene Philippi (6)  
Ranae Mathias (9)  
Aron Bowlin (10)  
Carson Way (10)  
Helen Robertson (12)  
Bernie Weisberg (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)  
Brice Spitz (21)  
David Felien (23)  
Skip Harvey (23)  
Barbara Mitchell (23)  
Mark Wheeler (23)  
JaDene Dugas (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.

## *Heartfelt Thanks*

Dear UMC Vista Congregation,  
Thank you for recognizing me during worship service on “Graduation Sunday.” I appreciated the \$25 Amazon gift card that was presented to me. Thank you church family!

Noah Wheeler

On behalf of Solutions for Change Aquaponics Farm, I want to thank Vic Johnston for volunteering! We are so grateful to him for the time and energy he gave working alongside our formerly homeless residents.

The Aquaponics Farm in Vista provides workforce development training for formerly homeless parents, while providing organic produce for their families and the community. The lettuce is sold, providing revenue that goes back into our program. The parents at Solutions for Change are learning to “get up, suit up and show up”. They get up at 5:30/6:00 a.m., get their kids off to school or daycare and start their day working at the farm. They will complete 380 hours of Employment Related Training toward their 1,000 day commitment, preparing them to successfully secure and keep a full-time job in the community to provide for their families.

Debra Sallaz, Development Officer  
Solutions for Change

## United Methodist Women's Corner

- UMW Circles dark in August.

### Centering Prayer

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.

### Pray together for...

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

**Memorial service** for Joan Lindegren is on Saturday, August 10 at 11:00 a.m.

### 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!

United Methodist Church of Vista  
490 S. Melrose Drive  
Vista, CA 92081  
Phone: (760) 726-0442  
Web: [www.umcvista.org](http://www.umcvista.org)  
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