



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 1:
9 a.m. (band) and 11 a.m. (choir)**

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

Pastor's Ponderings

Our denomination and church are in a time of change and visioning. The scripture from Genesis 32 about Jacob wrestling with God comes to mind. The story tells that Jacob took his two wives, two maids and 11 children, and lots of animals and servants. He sent all of them ahead of him on their journey and spent time alone. Jacob, alone in the night, wrestled with "a man", who is described in some places as an angel and some places as God. In the morning, as day was breaking, the man did not prevail against Jacob, but put Jacob's hip out of its socket. At the conclusion of the altercation, the man gave Jacob a new name. From this event forward, Jacob would now be called Israel. Israel told this story as a time of wrestling with God and surviving.

Jacob became a new creation! He met his adversary in the night and overcame the challenge. In the morning, before Jacob returned to his family, he had a new name, a new vision and a new identity. I believe our church is wrestling just like Jacob did. I trust that in the morning, as light breaks before us, we will have a new name, a focused vision and a new identity! "I See a New Church" as we become a people who claim hospitality for all, the love of God for all and the power of God to make all things new.

"I See a New Church" was the theme for our Annual Conference 2019 and the Bishop has asked for input from churches as we look into the future. He wants to hear from you: What is the new church that God envisions for people of the Wesleyan tradition of Christianity?

We have already done a lot of this work. We worked on our Ministry Action Plan in 2018 and have carried it forward for discussions about the new building during 2019. I'm so excited about the extra space to extend our homeless meal ministry with "and Two Fishes", and gathering as a congregation and small groups in the fellowship hall. There is a music suite redesign with an open concept work space for music leadership; extended space for ministry staff, and classrooms for our children to stay upstairs on Sunday mornings. The youth space is getting a redesign to create more space, and of course, their room will have direct access up the stairs to the new fellowship hall and the sanctuary. Faith, Justice and Hospitality are the key words and issues you have focused on with the Ministry Action Plan.

The work of praying and envisioning God's call is a constant relationship. We have to continue to stay present to the unfolding call of God that is alive and powerful among us. The Bishop is asking specific questions on the theme of "I See a New Church" to encourage us to keep thinking and to get our input. The questions are these.

- What central mission and purpose is your church called to at this time?
- What is the central need of your neighborhood and surrounding community?
- How can your church fulfill its purpose in "making disciples for the transformation of the world?"
- What compelling missional message would relate to the non-churched people living in your community?
- Who is God calling your church to be?

There is a dramatic movement of the Spirit in our Church, both UMC Vista and the United Methodist Church. Like Jacob wrestling in the night, we are looking toward a new day. As we move into fall, our stewardship team is filled with hope that our ministry is expanding and growing. Our theme for fall will be "I See a New Church" to engage us in this conversation and fund our vision for ministry.

I look forward to the fall and our future ministry together and hope you do too!
Grace and peace,
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

Finance Focus

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 our 2020 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 your Giving and Pledge Summary for the first six months of the calendar year. If you are behind in your giving, or wish to make an additional gift to help your church reduce our budget shortfall for 2019, 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 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

Celebrate Peace Day, Sept. 22

Please join us around the Peace Pole Sunday, Sept. 22, to celebrate world peace. We will have a time of prayer and song between services.

Even though World Peace Day is the day before, Sept. 21, we still can focus on worldwide attention to peacemaking. The day was established by the United Nations in 1981 as a way for all humanity to commit to peace above all differences and to contribute to establishing a culture of peace.

Our church has focused on peace by planting peace poles throughout the community, including ceremonies at Vista High School, Masjid Al-Ittehad, the Vista Buddhist Temple and on Main Street in the city of Vista. The Reconciling Ministries Community also sponsored a Peace Vigil last year and will do so again this year on Dec. 4, the first Sunday of Advent.

This year's theme for International Peace Day is climate change, but individuals and organizations can find numerous ways to go peacefully in the world, in Vista, in our church, and in our homes. Go to www.internationaldayofpeace.org to find ideas about non-violence and social justice in the arts, environment, sports, health and education.

For more information, contact Lyn Berry at 760.201.6113 or vistalynb@gmail.com.

Discipleship/Education (Beckie Henselmeier)

- Third Grade Bible Presentation, Sunday, Sept. 8: If your student needs a Bible, please email Beckie.

Nursery/Child Care Attendant wanted

If you are interested in a position as a Nursery/Child Care Attendant, applications, requirements and the job description are available in the church office. We are also interested in applicants that would serve as substitutes as well. Applicants must be 18 years or older. You may contact Dakota Koenig, Staff Parish, or Beckie Henselmeier, Director of Family Ministries for details.

Family Game Night, Sept. 13

Family Game Night is September 13 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome. Bring a snack to share and join us! For questions or for more information, please see Margene or John Haase.

Children's music classes begin Sept. 4

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

"Make A Difference" Community Partner Faire

Join us in between services or after the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, Sept. 29, 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.

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Next deadline is Wednesday, September 18, 2019
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

The Flame (monthly newsletter)
United Methodist Church of Vista
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Communion Sunday, Sept. 1

The Communion Offering for September will provide for a United Methodist outreach in Brazil, a country where 8.9 million people live on less than \$1.90 a day.

Shade and Fresh Water (an expression in Brazil that means a place where you can have a good time and are safe) is an after-school network of programs in United Methodist Churches in Brazil for at-risk youth ages 6-14. The children are served lunch, helped with school work and have sports activities. Gordon Greathouse, a retired UMC missionary who worked with Shade and Fresh Water for 40 years says, "The purpose of the program is to help children develop healthy values and to think not only of a better life for themselves, but also ways they can contribute to make a better community and world." The program began in 2000. It provides positive alternatives to the destructive choices youth are presented with when faced with poverty, drugs and unstable home lives. When you google Shade and Fresh Water on the internet you will find several articles about the project.

-Jacque Howard, World Missions

X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for September

Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for September will benefit Get on the Bus. This organization provides coordination and transport by bus for family members who want to visit a loved one who is incarcerated in one of California's prisons. Often times, this once yearly trip is their only opportunity to visit their family member. Chaperones go along with the families and we can provide needed gift cards for food and also arts, crafts, books or games for the children to have on the long bus ride. A list of most needed items are found in the narthex.

-Loretta Pierce

Lay Ministry Basic Class

Lay Ministry Basic Class giving everyone an opportunity to learn more about being a Methodist (whether or not you become a Lay Servant, Lay Speaker or Lay Minister) will be October 11 and 12; taught by Beth Brainerd Hallock and Barbara Mitchell. EVERYONE is invited to join us, but you must sign up online at <http://www.calpacumc.org/lsmbasic919> by Sept. 23. This allows time for you to receive your study materials. Please join us.

Meet a member of the staff

We see her on Sunday, greeting us with her special sparkle and leading us in worship. We sense that she is quite busy during the week, but most of us don't know of the many things our Pastor does. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee thought we would all like to know. Here is some of what fills our senior pastor's week.

Preparing worship is a primary task for our pastor. She spends approximately 10 to 15 hours. She spends 16 to 20 hours per week on administrative work, which includes calendaring, coordinating, and supervising the staff and volunteers in functions of leadership and financial administration, working with the building committee and other ad hoc groups. And there are regular annual reports such as 'Tables 1, 2, and 3' and 'Charge Conference' forms, as well as reports and leadership with district and conference events and ongoing work.

Our senior pastor spends eight to 10 hours visiting in homes and hospitals, or in counseling and drop-by meetings. Maybe you've noticed Pastor Leigh Ann's office always has someone in it. (She shares that if the door is open, she can be interrupted, but if the door is closed, there is someone in the office or she's doing focused work.)

Outreach ministry or community ministry get about two to four hours a week for groups like Operation Hope-Vista, Boy Scouts, our Outreach Cable work and emailing or visiting with our community partners like Leap to Success or the Mom's group.

The United Methodist church is a connectional church, and our pastors are required to do work in the district and conference beyond the local church. Pastor Leigh Ann is a member of the District Committee on Ordained Ministry and the Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. These bodies develop and approve new ministers for the whole for the next 20 - 40 years, and she spends 6 days per year with the District Committee (which meets at our church) and 10 - 12 days at a retreat setting with the Conference Board. She also participates about five days each June at the Annual Conference session in Redlands, where she has special responsibilities as a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Pastor Leigh Ann enjoys writing and creative work, she is especially called to teaching and mentoring others whenever she has the opportunity. She believes it is essential to mentor younger people in order to help the next generation have the tools and wisdom to meet new challenges in the church. The church is always changing and tomorrow won't look like today!

The descriptions above do not include Sundays! For Pastor Leigh Ann, Sunday is a day to itself. It's a special day, and we will see her leading us in worship and giving us her sermons, giving us herself as a true Pastor. (She says the best part of the church happens with the children, in Sunday School and with the youth group and the time for children! She looks forward to getting back to a classroom someday but wishes more people in the church took the time to know God through the eyes of our children!)

-Norm Corwin, Member, SPRC

Happy “September” Birthdays

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)
Jean Vought (4)
Wayne Foss (6)
Christen Holder (7)
Dakota Koenig (9)
Jeannie Martinsen (11)
Christopher Tivar (12)
Aiden Amaro (13)
Barbara Wheatley (13)
Kathy Kim (14)
Betsy Jean Miller (14)
Jimmy Patton (14)
Tommy Thomson (15)
Phoebe Fraser (17)
Sara Baldwin (18)
Grace Hernandez-Jackson (19)
Gemma Johnson (20)
Patricia Hotaling (21)
Chloe Johnson (23)
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.

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.

Library and books

Do you enjoy organizing books? We are looking for someone to work on the upkeep of the books downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Pastor Leigh Ann for more information.

Heartfelt Thanks

On a Thursday at the soup kitchen, Jerry and I were both given thank you cards from our diners. This just stunned both of us.

I want the congregation to know how much what we do matters. The following Thursday a big thank you was given to all of our volunteers, and I made sure that the diners were aware that this is a community effort. A standing ovation was given to our volunteers.

-Margo Rogers, “and Two Fishes”

Women’s Retreat 2019, Oct. 5

Please join us for Women’s Retreat 2019, “The Worry Battle”, Saturday, Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Guest Speaker, Rev. Susan Juergensen, will join us at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside. Retreat includes: Worship, Study, Small Groups, Devotionals, Lunch, and more. Cost: \$45 per person for registration, lunch, and materials. Register today online at: umcvista.org/pathways.

Sunday Supper, Sept. 29

Sunday Supper, “The You the World Is Waiting For” with Rev. Darin Arnston, Sept. 29 at 4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Dinner is \$7 per person. Please join us!

Serving as Associate Director of Leadership, Rev. Darin Arntson is passionate about Young People in ministry. She has developed the program Called Out and Set Apart, which connects young people who are exploring a sense of calling with inspiration, tools for discernment, opportunities for experimentation, and one another. Rev. Darin Arntson currently serves on staff for the California-Pacific Annual Conference as the Associate Director of Leadership. Sign up for the dinner in the Church office or in the Narthex.

Do you know...

- You can join us for prayer at the peace pole every first Sunday following first service?

United Methodist Women's Corner

- The UMW Circles meet in September 3: Kenworthy Circle will meet in the chapel at 2:00 p.m. Ruth Circle will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Louise Clarke at 3725 Southridge Way in Oceanside.
- UMW Organization meeting is Sept. 10 at 10:00 a.m. Guest speaker will be Rebecca Steiner, Program Director, from the Foundation for Senior Wellbeing Information Resource Center for North County. The Resource Center provides information on services/resources that are available in the area. They also provide followup on the calls they receive to be sure folks have gotten what they need. A new program has been the "Go-bags for Seniors" which the Resource Center provides to help seniors in case of disaster. Please join us, Sept. 10 at 10 a.m. and stay for lunch (bring your brown bag), dessert and drinks provided!
- The UMW leadership meeting is September 17 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Pray together for...

Patrick O'Connor, Larry Veysada, Raub and Marilyn Mathias, Mary Jane Bode, Larry Averell, JaDene Dugas, Thelma Koda, Skip Harvey, Jan Simpson, Ethel Arrowsmith (hospice), Tom Johnston, Ko Kim, Carol Yunt, Barbara Baldrige, 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!

Community Outreach

BSA Troop 709 Golf Tournament is Saturday, Sept. 9 at St. Mark's Golf Club in Lake San Marcos. Please contact Dan Wilbers (dwilbers@cox.net, 858.344.6837) for more information on how you can support our Scouts! (Our church sponsors T709.)

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