



*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**

I SEE A NEW CHURCH, part 2

John Wesley wrote, "though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?" We are in a season of "seeing a new church," but in all ways this visioning should be guided by the love of God.

To see a new church or a new community of faith is to have vision and insight. It is a brave act to trust God's promptings and to trust that you are hearing God. The work of visioning is the work of God's faithful people. Stories of brave people who vision are all over the scriptures. Noah had a vision of a boat and how to gather God's creatures on the boat. Abraham and Sarah had a vision of a great people. Isaiah and Jeremiah and Micah had visions that challenged injustice. Zachariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph all had visions of children who would grow up to save people.

The work of seeing should come with a caution. It is truly only work for people who are brave and understand that things aren't always going to be easy. God doesn't promise a smooth path. The book of Revelation at the end of the Bible depicts some amazing visions. The author, John, conveys brutality and mystery, as well as hope and redemption. The book is written to the seven churches that were in Asia Minor, to strengthen the faith of the members. The goal was to offer assurance that the goodness of God would deliver them from the evil powers of the world. In the midst of challenge and evil, somewhere, somehow, God reminds us of God's steadfast promise of this eternal relationship.

Our connection of United Methodists in Southern California and throughout the West are in a season of visioning and listening for God's revelation about what is next. Our Bishop, Rev. Grant Hagiya, has invited all the churches of our region to discuss our vision for the future. I've invited the Church Council to give feedback and the entire congregation will be invited to a multi-church meeting on October 26th to share too. (Watch for more of this information later.) Last month I shared guiding questions from our Bishop. This month I want to share some thoughts for Rev. Adam Hamilton, the founding pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City.

Rev. Hamilton shared his vision for a new church in his regular blog from September 18, 2019. Hamilton writes, "My hope is that the next United Methodism removes the language and policies that exclude, harm, or alienate LGBTQIA persons and their friends and family. I pray that we make room for faithful, thoughtful, compassionate, and caring United Methodists who may disagree, drawing upon the spirit of Wesley who said, 'though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike?' I hope for a United Methodist Church where my children's generation (millennials) and my granddaughter's generation no longer shake their heads wondering how a church whose central ethic is love continues to practice what they perceive as bigotry and discrimination against their LGBTQ friends." Rev. Hamilton presents the centrist view of leadership in our church making space for all people.

I confess, this is a hard conversation to have. I grew up with the understanding that polite conversation demands we talk about the weather and avoid politics and religion at all costs. Maybe you find it hard too. Even though our congregation has members who hold many different views on human sexuality and what the bible says about it, we have worked to focus on mission and fellowship and acting in faithfulness. We've held the work of God before us. In so many ways we truly exemplify John Wesley's call to 'love alike,' even as we don't agree. I trust you will continue to be a model of looking into the future, with our eyes on Jesus' work, and have the hard conversations we must have because of the time we are living through.

I'm so excited for the continued conversation about the next part of the building, and the powerful ministry and mission YOU have in your future! It is an amazing time to be at Vista as you truly serve as a model of generosity, compassion and focus!

Pastor Leigh Ann Shaw

## Finance Focus

As we head into the last months of the Church year, many important and exciting things continue to be happening in the life of our Church. We thank you for your generous continued financial support of these ministry activities. We will kick off our Stewardship Campaign for the 2020 budget on Sunday, October 6 with the theme of "I See A New Church."

Your support of our general fund budget is essential to keeping your Church and ministry programs up and running. You are a caring and giving congregation. 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. The Silent Auction on August 26 along with the "Old Fashioned Potluck," was a lot of fun and raised over \$3,800 for the general fund.

During the month of October, you will hear more about stewardship opportunities each Sunday and in the mail, with the conclusion of the Stewardship Campaign on Sunday, October 27 by turning in your pledge cards to support the 2020 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 [www.umcvista.org](http://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

## New Member Class and Luncheon

New Members' Class is scheduled for Oct. 6 and there will be a Luncheon on Oct. 13 (downstairs, at 12:15 p.m.). Anyone wishing to join or just wanting to learn more about UMC Vista is welcome to attend the New Members' Class in the Chapel between services. Pastor Leigh Ann and Barbara Mitchell will be happy to answer your questions. If you think you might like to join, please pick up a packet of New Member papers from the Badge table in the Narthex and return to Barbara Mitchell or the church office. For more information, call the church office, 760.726.0442.

## Discipleship/Education (Beckie Henselmeier)

- Trick or Treat for Teens through the month of October! Education/Discipleship invites you to support Vista Teen Outreach in our drive through October. Our final day of collections will be on Sunday, Oct. 27. See X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for a list. Each class will have a competition for most items collected. Students are also invited to wear their costumes to worship on Sunday, Oct. 27. For more information, please see Beckie Henselmeier.
- Reading Buddies at Breeze Hill Elementary School! The Education/Discipleship program is partnering with Breeze Hill Elementary to start a reading buddy program. Adult volunteers would be needed one to two hours per week to work one-on-one or in small groups assisting students in reading and comprehension. We will have an interest meeting between services in the Chapel on Sunday, October 13. For more information, please see Margene Haase or Beckie Henselmeier.

## 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](http://umcvista.org/pathways).

## Family Game Night, Oct. 11

Family Game Night is October 11 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.

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

Next deadline is Wednesday, October 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**

## **World Communion Sunday, Oct. 6**

On World Communion Sunday, Oct. 6, the United Methodist Church will offer generous support to national and international students who rely on scholarships to pursue graduate-level education. Your support will empower students who are following God's call.

-Nancy Winters, World Missions Committee

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

Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for October will benefit Vista Teen Outreach (their mission is to reach out to Vista teens in need of nutritional assistance). The Education/Discipleship invites you to support Vista Teen Outreach in our drive through October. Our final day of collections will be on Sunday, Oct. 27. Items needed are as follows: tuna, granola bars, snack items, canned soup/raviolis/Spaghetti O's, Top Ramen, Cup of Noodles, pasta and canned spaghetti sauce. For more information, please see Beckie Henselmeier.

## **We welcome a new Nursery Attendant, Jesse MacKinnon**

On behalf of Staff-Parish we would like to share with you that Karen Felien has resigned as our Nursery Care Attendant. Karen's mother, who is now 100 years of age now needs more care from her family. Karen will be assisting her mother on Saturdays and Sundays. We may not see her as often as we would like, but we know she would appreciate your calls, prayers and cards during this time. We are so very grateful to Karen for all of the care, positive support and comfort she has given to the children in our nursery care. She also has been a wonderful mentor to all those who have worked with her over the years. Our thanks and blessings to Karen.

We also welcome Jesse MacKinnon, who assumed her new role on Sept. 23 as our new Nursery Attendant. Jesse who recently married comes to us from Florida. Jesse has experience working in a Day Care Center, and is a college student with a major in Psychology. Jesse's husband is in the military. Please make sure you stop by the nursery and welcome her to our church family.

-Dakota Koenig, Staff-Parish

## **Staff Planning Retreat**

Staff Planning Retreat, Tuesday, Oct. 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., off-site. Please keep Pastor Leigh Ann, Pastor Frank, Beckie, Joann, Adam and Paula in your prayers as they get together for their annual staff retreat to plan for 2020!

## **Trunk or Treat**

Join us for **Trunk or Treat, Friday, Oct. 25**, on the Upper Lawn from 6–8 p.m. Costumed kids (and adults) will be treated to games, crafts, a hot dog dinner and lots of candy. Free to all, invite your friends, family and neighbors to join in the fun! Donations of candy and small prizes are needed. Donations of new socks will be donated to "and Two Fishes". Need more info? Please check with Beckie Henselmeier.

## **Choir concert that will put some "fun" in a fundraiser, Oct. 20, 2 p.m.**

The Music Ministry invites you to an afternoon of fun and memories as we offer a concert called "Where Have We Heard That Before?" You know the tunes that, once you hear them, just seem to repeat and repeat in your head? Frequently called 'earworms' these songs are famous both for how catchy and singable they are...and how unforgettable. Cartoon jingles, TV show themes, and amusement park classics, tunes you will be able to name in three notes! Think "Happy Birthday" or "Jeopardy Theme". That's the program you will be hearing, and participating in as well, for we would love to have you not only come and listen, but sing along! This will be a lot of fun, what a great time to invite friends, colleagues or anyone at all!

The concert will be offered on Sunday, Oct. 20 at 2:00 p.m.! Please note the early start time, we want to try that for this light-hearted event, so that you go have lunch and then come back for musical fun, and be finished long before dark. This event is also directly a fundraising event to support the 2019 Budget needs. Our goal would be to raise \$1,000 and we are suggesting a modest \$10 donation toward that goal. We promise you will have fun and also support all the ministry that is a part of UMC Vista. Again, Sunday, Oct. 20 at 2:00 p.m. For more information, see Pastor Frank Hallock. See you there!

## Happy “October” Birthdays

Randie Annin (4)  
Eric Johnson (4)  
Ann Hostetler (5)  
Michael O’Neil (6)  
Jim Nelson (8)  
Sharon Pease (10)  
Dominic “Nico” Chappell (12)  
Zachary Keiser (12)  
Heather Clarke (12)  
Rae Ann Wirth (12)  
Lisa Gerwig (13)  
Patrick O’Connor (14)  
Lynda Mounts (15)  
Philip Biggs (16)  
Sarah Felien (18)  
Mike Bollinger (20)  
Brenda Merritt (20)  
Alice Robeson (20)  
Gerri Schoening (20)  
Shelly Burns (24)  
Carol Pence (24)  
Patricia Avila (31)

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

## Alternative Christmas, November 10

Alternative Christmas is just around the corner. Alternative Christmas gives you an opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for people on your list who “have everything”, or for you to make a donation in another persons name, to a charity of your choice. This year we have nine worthy projects for you to select from. They are: International Child Care, Caring and Sharing, Operation Hope-North County, and Two Fishes, Guatemala Project, Heifer Project, Neighborhood House of Calxico, UMCOR, and SSP.

The process is simple: pick up an order form and look around at the booths. Each booth will have a representative to answer your questions. After you have decided which cause to support, fill out an order form, get a greeting card and info on the project to give your recipient, then pay the cashier. Please make checks out to UMC Vista and our church will send the money to the appropriate places.

Remember, Alternative Christmas will take place on Sunday, Nov. 10 in the Narthex and outdoors from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

-Brenda Walker

## I See A New Church

Hello! I’m new to this Church. I actually was not a church goer until later in my life. I started coming to the United Methodist Church of Vista to attend the holiday concerts that my friend, a long time member, told me about. I so enjoyed the concerts and the people I met that within a few years, I joined and I was baptized here.

I have felt welcome since the first day that I walked in the door. We are so blessed to have such a beautiful place for worship and making friends. Whether you attend first service with music by Adam and the incomparable Praise Band or you sleep in a little and attend second service where Pastor Frank leads our beautiful traditional Church Choir, you will get a relaxing yet thoughtful worship experience. Our Pastor Leigh Ann Shaw always gives a topical sermon accompanied by appropriate scriptures read by one of our congregation with prayers to uplift us all.

Maybe the nicest thing about our United Methodist Church is the ongoing support that all of us give to each other and the church. There are always activities going on whether hospitality in the form of cookies and coffee in the narthex, different forms of fellowship in the fellowship hall, Sunday Suppers, fund raisers, Sunday School, holiday activities, religious education opportunities and outreach programs.

As we are taught by God, we are the Stewards of this land and this church that he has created. I see a New Church where we welcome all people of all cultures and races to enjoy this Church that God has given us. So we must practice good Stewardship which the Bible defines as utilizing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of his creation.

I love and support my church, the United Methodist Church of Vista, in every way I can. Good Stewardship is pledging to give to the Church what you can on a regular basis to keep the lights on and the doors open. Good Stewardship is supporting fundraising efforts when sometimes our pledges fall short. Good Stewardship is supporting the Outreach organizations that depend on the help from our church. Good Stewardship is volunteering to help with our many activities and the committees that support them. It is my hope that all of us will be good Stewards this year and for the coming year, by trying to increase our pledges. Even increasing what we give by 5 or 10 percent to meet the rising operational costs would help so much. I am confident that we are a generous and compassionate congregation that will pull together to meet the challenges and joys of the coming year.

Thank you,  
Joann Balardeta

## 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 October 1: Kenworthy Circle will meet in the library at 2:00 p.m. Ruth Circle will meet at Coco's at 9:30 a.m.
- October 12 will be a Bake Sale at the Farmer's Market. October 13 will be some baked goods at church. Note: Oct. 11, the church office will be open to receive goods for the Bake Sale from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- The UMW leadership meeting is October 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the library.

### Centering Prayer

"Lord, You are my hope in an often hopeless world, You are my hope of heaven, my hope of peace, my hope of change, purpose and unconditional love. Fill the reservoir of my heart to overflowing with the joy that real hope brings. 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.

### Pray together for...

Family of Larry Averell, Family of Nancy Bennett, Alline Piercy, Jean Vought, Patrick O'Connor, Larry Veysada, Raub and Marilyn Mathias, Mary Jane Bode, 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](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!

### Community Outreach

- A Concert of Music for Organ and Other Instruments plus original compositions for choir and organ by Frank Hallock and Adam Ferrara, Sunday, Oct. 13 at 4 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church (845 Chestnut Street in Escondido) to benefit the Palomar Chapter, American Guild of Organists Scholarship Fund. Cost: \$25 donation at the door that includes a Pasta Bolognese dinner. For more information, see Frank, Adam or Carol Graham.

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
VISTA, CA 92081  
PERMIT NO. 13