



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

Advent is the season of waiting! We live in a world that hates waiting! No wonder why people don't want to participate in Christianity or attend church. Why would you willingly count the days before something happens? Why would you deliberately "wait?"

Christian waiting at the end of the year is fundamentally about ushering in a new world order. It is a radical act of defiance against a world that has given in to injustice and hate. Coming to church during Advent celebrates Jesus who comes into the world to bring a new way of life. Singing the songs of Advent and Christmas cling to life and hope when all you see and anticipate is more bad stuff.

Please plan on coming to church (any church) during Advent. Please plan on counting days down on the calendar and share the countdown with your children or your grandchildren. Teach someone how to wait with joy. Light candles week-by-week if that feels good to you. Google a scripture a week and read it or re-read the weekly scriptures from church. Consider the people of the Christmas story like the angels, the pregnant women, the men who guarded and stood by the women, or the shepherds out in the fields. Imagine those people and what they might say today. Imagine the baby growing in Mary's body and how precious that little baby is. Waiting doesn't have to be annoying or painful. It is taking your time and meeting the message of God up close and personally.

I went and saw the new Mr. Rogers movie last week. It is not a children's movie. It moved a little slow and there weren't any scenes with anything blowing up. In a world that presents violence as the norm and every story with a happy ending, this movie runs counter to our expectations. There were more than a few moments of silence in the movie. I remember watching Mr. Rogers as a young child and having albums of his songs that my mother let me listen to. Mr. Rogers never spoke down to children but offered respect. If the lady who looked into the Magic Mirror on the Romper Room TV show saw all the children watching from home, Mr. Rogers knew our hearts and spoke with us about our fears and loves. Who is it today that knows your heart and helps you when you are afraid?

Fear is the currency of our time. If you watch the news on television and switch between the major networks, you will hear about fear. Truth and lies run together. We are living in painful times and that's scary, but Christmas is coming. Not the Christmas of magic love stories or reindeer flying through the skies. The Christmas of Jesus' birth is coming soon. Yes, they live together but visiting church helps us sort out the faith from the fantasy.

Hope. Peace. Joy. Love. Our Christ bursts into the world with love. This is the journey through Advent to Christmas. We remember that this is what we are waiting for every year. Jesus calls us friend, challenges us to love our neighbor and brings in a beautiful day in our neighborhood! It's YOU God is calling! It is YOU God loves! I'll watch for you in church....

Grace and peace,
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Finance Focus

Thank you for your generous support of the Ministry Action Plan with your pledges and support of the Stewardship Campaign for the 2020 budget. Pledges are still coming in supporting the 2020 budget. As of the end of November we have 92 pledges returned for over \$239,575 pledged for the 2020 budget. With our Thanksgiving Offering and Christmas Offering we hope to raise the necessary funds to balance the budget for 2019. The November parking lot sale raised over \$1,700 for the general fund to help us close the gap. If you still wish to make a pledge or estimate of giving for 2020, pledge cards are available from the ushers in the worship services, or at the scrip table and you may put them in the offering plate during both worship services. We are making an impact in our community and the world by spreading the love of Jesus Christ to all people. If you have any questions, please free to contact Rollin Grider.

Christmas Concert, “Angelic Hosts Proclaim”, December 8

The Music Ministry invites you to attend our annual Christmas season concert “Angelic Hosts Proclaim” on Sunday, December 8 at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This seasonal concert for Advent and Christmas presents our Chancel Choir, Anderson Handbell Choir, the Chamber Orchestra and soloists. The concert will feature music from emerging composers such as Kim Andre Arnesen and Ola Gjeilo, and also well-known modernists Dan Forrest, Joel Raney, and our own Pastor Frank Hallock. One of the highlights of our Christmas concerts is inviting the audience to sing with the choir and orchestra in arrangements of carols. In keeping with the “Angelic Hosts Proclaim” theme, we will join together singing arrangements of “The First Noel” and “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”. Plan now to come and join us for an afternoon of beautiful and uplifting music as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christmas. A free-will offering will be taken during the concert presentation, a \$10 donation is suggested.

South Africa presentation, Dec. 10

Join us for an inspiring presentation by our own Debbie de la Cruz on her trip to South Africa on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Bring your friends and neighbors. All are welcome! Lunch provided following the presentation.

Sponsored by UMW

Christmas Eve Services – Tuesday, Dec. 24

4:00 p.m. – Family Candlelight Service
(with childcare)

7:00 p.m. – Traditional Worship with Choir
and Candlelighting (with childcare)

10:00 p.m. – Meditational Worship and Communion

1st Sunday after Christmas – Sunday, Dec. 29

One worship service at 10:00 a.m. (with childcare)

No Student Ministry Sunday School.

Please join your family for worship.

Advent Study

Join us for the “Light of the World: A Beginner’s Guide to Advent” study on Sundays (Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22) at 9 a.m. with Pastor Frank and 9:30 a.m. for youth with Beth; or Mondays (Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9 and 16) (Scrip table) at 10:00 a.m. with Lyn; or at 6:00 p.m. with Barbara/Sandy in the Chapel. The cost of the book by Amy-Jill Levine is \$15.30. Sign up in the Narthex on Sundays or in the church office. Please call the church office, 760.726.0442, for more information.

Poinsettias

Order your Poinsettias in honor or memory of someone special. These names will appear in our Dec. 22 bulletin. Forms can be found in the church office or in the Narthex. Please complete the form and turn it in to the church office or put it in the offering plate along with your check made out to UMC Vista, clearly marked “Poinsettias.” Cost is \$13. Last day to order is Dec. 15.

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

The Flame (monthly newsletter)
United Methodist Church of Vista
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Around the World in 80 Minutes - 2020

Do you remember the movie “Around the World in 80 Days”? On January 24, Vista Methodists will again go Around the World in 80 Minutes. Mark your calendar and plan to share photos of your travels while you enjoy fellowship and a potluck dinner. Luene Corwin can answer questions (lhcw@cox.net) and Phil Biggs (pebiggs@gmail.com) will handle photos and projection.

Tis the season to be jolly, or is it?

Christmas is for family and our kids. For us Christians, it is the birth of Christ and a joyous time in our Christian community. For most of us, it is the happiest time of the year. However, it can also be a time of loneliness. We may think of family members and friends that are no longer with us. A tragedy that occurs around this time of the year seems to be even more difficult to cope with or we may just be overwhelmed with everything that the season brings. If you are experiencing any of these feelings and would like to talk with a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Leigh Ann or Mike Walker, 760.726.0442.

Ecumenical Peace Vigil, Dec. 1

Please join us at 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 1 for an Ecumenical Peace Vigil. We will begin in the sanctuary and then move out to the peace pole with candlelight. We will hear a few speakers and sing some songs about peace. At the peace pole, you will be invited to share your visions for peace. This is a wonderful way to start the Advent season. Please contact Lyn Berry for more information.

Annual “See’s Candy” Drive for Veterans

You may purchase individual small treat boxes to be distributed at Veteran’s Village in San Diego and/or to fill up your own Christmas gift list! Candy orders will be taken Dec. 1 and 8 in the Narthex (delivery on Dec. 15). For details, contact Pastor Frank, pastorfrank@umcvista.org or 760.726.0442. Make the season sweet!

UMW Bake Sale, Dec. 15

Home-baked Christmas goodies for you, your neighbor or your co-workers coming Dec. 15. No time for all that baking at your house, no ingredients for Christmas baking or the skill to make them look delectable? UMW will fill your need with Christmassy goodies available, ready to be gifted or immediately enjoyed, in the Narthex on Dec. 15. All proceeds go toward UMW missions. Contact Jacque Howard for more information.

X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for December

Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for December will continue to go to our Caring and Sharing Christmas program. Through this program, families in need are able to celebrate Christmas with family gift cards and presents for the children. Please pick up a list of items in the Narthex. For questions, please see Beth Brainerd Hallock.

Communion Sunday, December 1

Communion offering for Sunday, December 1 will go to support Katherine Parker, our missionary in Nepal, to help promote better health for the Nepali. The Moringa plant that our missionary, Mozart Adevu, introduced into western Africa to improve nutrition, is now being grown in Nepal to help combat the problems of climate change and food production. We are thankful for our missionaries who work together to help everyone.

-Sue Humphrey, World Missions Committee

Christmas gifts for our staff

As we prepare our Christmas gift list, let us remember our staff. This is an opportunity for us to say, “thank you” for all the support they provide our church throughout the year. We invite your gifts of cash donations or checks (made out to UMC Vista; write in the memo, “Staff Gift”) and kindly place your gift in the Present Box at the end of each service, which will be available in the Narthex, Dec. 1, 8 and 15, or you may place it in the offering plate. We will present your gifts to the staff on Dec. 17. If you have any questions, please see Dakota Koenig, Staff-Parish Chair.

Christmas Caroling, December 15

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2:00 p.m. for Christmas caroling. Please plan to participate in this wonderful holiday tradition. It is heartwarming and fun-filled with Christmas spirit for the home bound we visit and for us, the carolers. We also need cookies to take these members. If you have questions, please call Kathy Johnson at 760.560.7150.

Family Game Night dark in December

There will be no game night in December. The next game night is Friday, January 10, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For questions or for more information, please see Margene or John Haase.

Happy “December” Birthdays

Chris Amaro (1)
Donna Richard (2)
Merry Nickerson (4)
Janet Green (5)
Susan Hernandez (7)
Nayeli Cargill (8)
Robert Myers (8)
Alan Mathias (10)
Bob Graham (11)
Janet Hughes (13)
Katie Pierce (14)
Keira Pierce (14)
Sandra Hendron (15)
Shelley Palone (16)
Carl Treutle (16)
Lucas Choque-Jimenez (17)
Delores Hunt (18)
Beverly Thomason (19)
Michael Trail (19)
Carol MacKay (20)
Martha Treutle (20)
Jeff Montgomery (21)
Kent Richard (21)
Jeannie Jackson (22)
Juna Spitz (24)
Beth Brainerd Hallock (28)
Andrea Maniti (28)
Gavin Keiser (30)

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

Centering Prayer

Would you like to learn how to give all your burdens and concerns to the Lord? Join us for Centering Prayer every Monday at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Call Martha Treutle with any questions about this life-changing ministry, 760.726.0442.

Did you know....?

- Can't find your name badge? Check the frame under your car seat—they like to hide there! LOL.
- A great time to invite your friends and family to join us in church is during the holiday season.
- Check Lost and Found (under counter in Narthex near Scrip table) for keys, water bottles, glasses, whatever... they will be donated if not claimed.

Hearfelt Thanks...

Another successful parking lot sale is in the books. Thanks to all for the donations to the parking lot sale held on Nov. 16. A special thanks to the following who helped with setting up, picking up donations, cleaning up, and collecting money: Bonnie Berumen, Diane and Phil Biggs, Mal and Sheri Blakeslee, Alan and Nancy Feder, Rollin Grider, Guffey family, Frank Hallock, Tom and Sue Humphrey, Rosalynn Kim, Gary Lamb, Jeanette Marusak, Barbara Mitchell, Scot Spitz, Brenda and Mike Walker, Jim Rogers and other members of the Chancel Choir.

-Scott and Tracy Lyons

Helping Hands and “and Two Fishes” would like to thank our congregation for all the clothing donations for our men and women that attend our weekly meal. Please continue donating, we have a donation area in the Narthex. With winter on its way, we are beginning our coat and blanket drive, new or gently used would be greatly appreciated. Thanks again! Please contact Brenda Walker, 760.726.0442, with any questions.

Meet Aquelyn Delight Nharaunda, Africa University scholarship recipient

Twenty-one year old Aquelyn Delight Nharaunda, of Zimbabwe, is in her first year of study at College of Health, Agriculture and Natural Sciences at Africa University, earning a degree in Agribusiness Management. Oldest of three, raised by her divorced mom, Aquelyn wants to thank us for her scholarship which allows her to study at Africa University. A dream come true, financial burdens have been lifted from her mom's shoulders who was hired in 2008 as a general cleaner at the University which helped provide food, shelter and education for Aquelyn and her two brothers. Attending the University has been an inspiration for Aquelyn; meeting other students and faculty, learning new languages and about other cultures has been an exciting journey, inspiring and encouraging her to dream BIG and to make her dreams reality. Aquelyn is thankful for the chance to make her dreams come true, and to provide a better future for herself and for her family. With this scholarship she has come to believe that grace really exists and is manifesting itself in her life through you. She is grateful for fulfilling her dreams.

United Methodist Women's Corner

- UMW Circles meet December 3: Kenworthy Circle will meet in the library at 2:00 p.m. **Ruth Circle** will meet at the home of Linda Grider at 4226 Lindos Way in Oceanside at 9:30 a.m.
- The UMW Organizational meeting is Dec. 10 in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.
- The UMW leadership meeting is December 17 at 10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Pray together for..

Carol Pence, Alline Piercy, Jean Vought, Patrick O'Connor, Larry Veysada, Raub and Marilyn Mathias, Mary Jane Bode, JaDene Dugas, Thelma Koda, Skip Harvey, Jan Simpson, 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!

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