



*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**

When it was evening, on the day Jesus was crucified, the disciples were huddled in a house, with the doors locked, because they were afraid. Jesus burst into the gathering without using the doors and spoke to the disciples saying, "Peace be with you, as the Father has sent me, so I send you." (Check out John 20:19-23 to hear the whole story.)

In the midst of enormous stress, change, injustice and even, violence, Jesus sent the disciples out into the world to share "Good News." He blessed them with the Holy Spirit and trusted them to get out into the world and share God's love. He knew the travels and sharing wouldn't be easy and a bunch of people would reject those disciples. But the risks were apparently worth the effort.

You've probably been reading or hearing about the on-going discussion in the United Methodist Church related to our position on LGBTQ persons in the leadership of the church, as well as our position on who has access to wedding ceremonies in the UMC. You may have a lot of questions, curiosities and concerns. I'm sorry to tell you, there aren't a lot of answers about what the future of our denomination looks like, but I do have some information to share.

- The United Methodist Church has NOT split and has NOT announced that it will split.
- The only body able to speak for our church and change our rules is the General Conference. The General Conference meets every 4 years and will meet again on May 5-15, 2020 in Minneapolis.
- What did happen is that a group of people, from different perspectives, met and developed a protocol for the church to split. Although many people are expressing interest and hope because of their work, as yet there is no legislation or process.
- If General Conference votes on and approves any plan to split our denomination, it will have to be reviewed by Judicial Council (the Supreme Court of the UMC) to see if it is constitutional. (Yes, the UMC has a constitution.)
- There may be a vote done in Annual Conferences and local churches between 2021-2024 (Yes, that's a 3-year time frame) based on the proposal that came from the group that made news. There may also be votes on changing our constitution (which is as difficult as you might imagine).

As I keep thinking and praying on the state of our church, I keep thinking on the story of Jesus visiting the disciples after his crucifixion. The crucifixion of Jesus was an absolute breakdown of human conscience. It exemplified the worst of humanity and the best of God. Despite the most hateful act of humanity, Jesus still called the Disciples to share the Good News. Even as our denomination struggles with issues of sexuality, gender, covenant and sex, God is still calling us to get out into the world and BRING THE GOOD NEWS! Whether we are called United Methodist, or Christians in the Wesleyan Tradition or the Reformed Methodist Church, we are always and forever called to Love God and Love our Neighbor.

As the people of the UMC Vista, we have a legacy and commitment to the hungry, the homeless, the working poor, the young, the middle-aged, the older-and-wiser, the married, the divorced, any gender and gender-curious, anyone with any hair color or body type or political affiliation or perspective. We have a commitment to our friends, our family and the people we've never met before but hope to soon. We have an aspiration to welcome anyone and offer respect to everyone. Sometimes, honestly, we fall short, but always, we strive! This is NOT the time to huddle in a room and worry about what is going to happen. Now is not the time to let fear dictate our course. Now is the time to keep on doing the mission and ministry that God is calling us to do. I hope we can still, and always, find ways to be faithful to the Good News which is for all people!

**Jesus said, "Peace be with you, as the Father has sent me, so I send you."**

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

## Finance Focus

We are happy to announce that we completed the 2019 Church Budget year by meeting all our Ministries financial obligations with a \$1,700 positive balance. Your many generous gifts enabled our church, as a caring and sharing congregation, to spread the good news of God's love, and the Salvation of Jesus Christ in our community and around the world. On January 15, 2020 the Church Council approved the new budget for 2020. The amount needed from all sources to complete our ministry goals for the year is \$519,717.41. We have received 104 pledges totaling \$301,605, with givers of record totaling \$70,000. If you have not yet made a pledge to support our ministries budget for 2020, you may still do so by filling out a pledge card found at the Scrip table and placing in the offering plate. We have also received several new online giving pledges. If you wish to give online just click on the giving tab on our web home page ([umcvista.org](http://umcvista.org)) and fill out the necessary information. If you have any questions about our ministry plans or the 2020 budget feel free to contact Rollin by phone, e-mail or at church.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair

## Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is Feb. 25. We will meet at Pegah's Kitchen (945 S. Santa Fe Avenue in Vista) between 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for our fellowship dinner. Pegah's will donate 15% of our checks to the church to be used to Stop World Hunger. Flyers will be inserted in the church bulletins on Feb. 23 to be given to Pegah's when you order. If there are any questions, please contact Sara Baldwin (760.726.0442).

## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, on Feb. 26, begins our Lenten season. Join us for prayer and imposition of ashes worship service at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. Our sanctuary will be open during the day, and pastors available if you prefer to drop in for ashes during the daylight hours. Don't miss out on this special Lenten practice as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus and participate in his eternal gift of life.

## Education/Discipleship

- We are looking for someone special to work in our nursery on Sunday mornings! If you or someone you know would enjoy spending a few hours on Sunday morning caring for children 3 years old and younger during worship, so their parents can attend worship or study, please contact Margene Haase or Pastor Leigh Ann in the church office.

## Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale Fundraiser

In conjunction with Scout Sunday, Feb. 9, BSA Troop 709 will be hosting a pancake breakfast and bake sale fundraiser from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a wonderful breakfast with family and friends or take your order to go! Breakfast tickets are \$10 per person (children 5 years of age & under eat free with a paid adult). Cash, check, or credit card payments will be accepted. Breakfast includes: Pancakes, sausage patty, scrambled eggs, juice, coffee or tea. The Boy Scouts will also have delicious baked goods for sale.

You can e-mail Dan from Troop 709 to RSVP at [dwilbers@cox.net](mailto:dwilbers@cox.net). Thank you for your continuing support of the Boy Scouts!

## Opportunity to serve

Usher volunteers needed at the 11 a.m. service. Please call Sara Baldwin, 760.724.1859 for more information.

Flame Editor  
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Next deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020  
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

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

Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for February will benefit Vista Teen Outreach - Hunger Hurts. With over 800 students in Vista's middle and high schools who are hungry, homeless or both, Vista Teen Outreach provides easy access on campus to food pantries. They are stocked with food, water and hygiene kits and available to any student in need. Your donations can be dropped off in the Narthex. Thank you for your caring and generosity. For more information see Pat Rose or Sherry Johnston.

## **Communion Sunday, February 9**

The Communion offering for Sunday, February 9 will go to McCurdy Ministries Community Center located in Española, NM, where for 103 years, United Methodists have been working. McCurdy Ministries is thriving and striving to make an important difference in the Española Valley, working in partnership with McCurdy Charter School (MCS) which is located on their campus. McCurdy Ministries Community Center creates hope and empowers the lives of children, youth, adults and families through education, life skills and faith-based programs. Their ministries include McCurdy Preschool, Project Cariño (mental health counseling program for MCS students and families), After School Care, Camp Stars (summer camp that combines the best of VBS with STEM education) and their Volunteer Program which welcomes volunteers to their campus from around the country. Please give to this mission project.

-Nancy Winters, World Missions Committee

## **Family Game Night, February 14**

Join us for Family Game Night, Friday, February 14, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For questions or for more information, please see Margene or John Haase.

## **Lenten Studies 2020**

"Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week" by Amy-Jill Levine, delves into the story and literature surrounding the last days of Jesus' life. Study dates to be determined. February 26 begins our Lenten season. More information to be announced.

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*You Are Invited  
to a Very Special Luncheon  
Celebrating UMC of Vista's  
2020 Outreach  
Grant Partnerships  
Saturday, February 22,  
12:00 p.m.*

*This is your opportunity  
to get to know the  
organizations  
we are partnering  
with through our  
outreach grant program  
and find out how we can  
deepen our partnership  
with our time,  
energy, and prayers.*

*The lunch will feature  
some great BBQ,  
entertainment  
(our own Praise Band)  
and an introduction  
to the work of the  
22 agencies we have pledged  
to support in 2020.*

*Please RSVP to the Church Office.  
We hope to see you there!*

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## Happy “February” Birthdays

Sonia Maniti (2)  
Marie Mounts (2)  
Suzy Harlow (5)  
Robbie Pierce (7)  
Gary Lamb (9)  
Janice Myers (9)  
Erin Wheatley (9)  
Gabriel Shute (13)  
Julianna Bodnar (14)  
Brenda O’Neil (14)  
Brenda Rivenbark (15)  
Warren “Scot” Spitz (15)  
Paul Hernandez (15)  
Loretta Pierce (17)  
Sarah Klahn (19)  
Nicole Burns (21)  
Jacque Howard (22)  
Mike Walker (22)  
Tim Clarke (23)  
Tim Smith (23)  
Ed Paradis (24)  
Keona Christian (25)  
Nadine Kaina (26)  
Lyn Berry (27)  
Karen Canfield (27)

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.

## Heartfelt Thanks...

Helping Hands and “and Two Fishes” want to thank our congregation for all the gift cards, clothing, blankets and jackets that have been donated. Please continue to donate. There is still a real need for MEN’S clothing and gently used sleeping bags. A container is in the Narthex for all donations. Questions, please contact Brenda Walker or Margo Rogers at the church office, 760.726.0442.

Thank you for your donation to Mobility Worldwide, Columbia (PET). Rest assured it was well-spent. It brought mobility, quality of life and dignity to several deserving people.

Jim Well, Board Member

Thank you for all your farewell hugs, gifts and cards. Do come and visit in your travels. Love to all of you as I will miss you all.

Geneva Christensen  
580 Gilbert Road #216, Gilbert, AZ 85296  
Phone: (760) 212-5938

JaDene Dugas is now home. Calls are welcomed. Her cell number is (760) 822-8969. Updated address: 1590 W. San Marcos Blvd. #318, San Marcos, CA 92078

## Joys from Church Council: Celebrations of Advent & Christmas

- Three classes had about 25 participants (including youth) and a new volunteer to be a facilitator.
- We had a couple folks volunteer to teach a Bible Study.
- Peace Vigil saw lots of organizations represented and participating in this second annual event. Good attendance from the community, not as many from our own congregation.
- Reading Program for Breeze Hill set in motion.
- Christmas Eve Services were all unique, and Family Service special due to participation of children and Youth.
- Youth are wanting to participate.
- Community Partners lighting the Advent Candles was a nice touch.

## Building Update

The Building Committee met their goal of submitting plans by December 31. The City of Vista, in looking at the plans, had questions that need to be reviewed by the Commission as well as neighbors: the Columbarium and our ministry activities with those less fortunate.

Fees for the changes were not anticipated; however, because of the sequence of permits, there will be enough money to proceed at this time.

In the meantime, the architect has committed to continuing the process without additional fees; and the Building Committee will continue working on the various other items that must be completed prior to a congregational vote. The goal has been to get everything to a point of readiness should the vote of the congregation be to move forward. Further questions? Please contact a member of the Building Committee: Martha Philips, Margo Rogers, Suzanne McMurchie and Mike Walker. Ex-Officio members are: Beth Hallock, Rollin Grider, Billy Stempson and Pastor Leigh Ann Shaw.

## United Methodist Women's Corner

- UMW Circles meet February 4: **Kenworthy Circle** will meet in the library at 2:00 p.m. **Ruth Circle** will meet at the Broken Yoke Restaurant in San Marcos at 9:30 a.m.
- The Organization meeting on Feb. 11, 10:00 a.m. will be celebrating the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program of the Organization. Nannette Stamm will present a program on maternal and child health. A lunch will follow with the menu of "stone soup" representing a sacrifice of the cost of a normal lunch and instead contributing that lunch money for the designated cause of the program. Each lunch participant is asked to bring an item that will become part of the soup, such as a can of peas, corn, tomatoes, etc.
- The UMW leadership meeting is Feb. 18 in the Chapel at 10:15 a.m.

## Pray together for...

Lilia Victa, JaDene Dugas, Mike O'Neil, Jim Rogers, Alline Piercy, Raub and Marilyn Mathias, Mary Jane Bode, Thelma Koda, Jan Simpson, Tom Johnston, Ko Kim, Carol Yunt, Barbara Baldrige, Louise Foster, Bill Peaker, Jane Fischer, Harold MacDermot, Joan Brainerd, Nancy Koski

Louise Foss passed away on January 27. Memorial service pending.

## 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!

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