



*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**

Easter is Coming

The season of the Christian calendar which falls prior to our Easter Celebration is called "Lent." Not "lint" like you find in your drier. The customary liturgical color of Lent is purple. Purple symbolizes the royalty and authority of Jesus.

Every season of the year has a different quality or experience. Just like summer is usually warm and winter is usually cooler our Christian seasons have a particular quality too. The quality or spirit of Lent is reflective, contrite, self-evaluative. Lent follows the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus and invites us to "carry our own cross" and walk in solidarity with Jesus.

Lent during 2020 formally begins with Ash Wednesday, which is Feb. 26. The traditional Christian ritual associated with Ash Wednesday is receiving an ash smudge on your forehead. The ashes traditionally are the burnt palm branches used on Palm Sunday from the prior year. Ash represents the end of the cycle of life and our human relationship with all creation.

Contemporary Christians have claimed new ways of observing the Lenten season beyond "giving something up." Some Christians fast from one meal a day and give the money they save to a food bank or shelter or their church. Some Christians take on a new spiritual discipline for this season. A friend of mine prayed her way through the Psalms one year. Another friend began a yoga class to get more physically fit and honor the needs of her body.

Lent concludes on the Saturday before Easter Sunday. Holy Week is the week just prior to Easter. During that week Christians worldwide remember Jesus' final days on earth. We remember his gift of love and life that he offered humanity. We remember the pain of his life which ended violently and with great hatred. And we remember that God does not allow pain and hate to be the final word of any story.

Easter morning is a celebration of Jesus' resurrection. This is the most sacred and holy of all Christian holidays. The meaning of being Christian is bound in the joy that God overcomes tragedy with healing life. The resurrection of Jesus is a mystery which we can never fully understand. What we can trust is that God accompanies humanity through every dark place we go.

Grace and peace,  
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

## Finance Focus

As we come to the end of the first quarter of the church calendar year, the beginning of April you will be receiving your first quarter financial giving report. It will include the amount that you pledged for 2020, and the amount given at the end of the first quarter of the church year. If you have not yet decided about your stewardship financial giving for 2020, you may still do so by picking up a pledge card at the scrip table, filling it out and placing it in the offering plate. We are happy to announce that during the first quarter of the year that we are meeting all our church financial/stewardship obligations in the 2020 budget, although we are significantly short in our pledged giving to meet all the financial obligations in the 2020 budget. Finance/Stewardship Committee is working hard and has plans for additional stewardship opportunities to close this budget gap during the year.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair

## UMC of Vista's Music Ministry presents "Sighs Into Song"

This season's Lenten and Easter Season concert is titled "Sighs Into Song", and will be presented on Sunday, March 29 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The concert features the Chancel Choir, soloists, Anderson Handbell Choir, and our Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Rev. Frank Hallock, Minister of Music. The music ranges from unaccompanied choral music to choir and congregation singing together with the full orchestra. The choir and orchestra will perform music by Elaine Hagenberg, Craig Courtney, Dan Forrest, Brian Wilson, Frank Hallock and others. This concert also has many of our orchestra musicians playing as soloists with the choir, Please plan to join us and bring a friend!

Rev. Frank Hallock will offer a pre-concert lecture at 3:15 p.m. to provide insight into the musical selections and some background on the theme of the presentation. Light refreshments will be available in the Narthex for lecture attendees. No charge for the concert or the lecture. These wonderful concerts are made possible through the generous support of the church, individual donors and concert-goers like you. A free-will offering will be taken to support this vital and important ministry. Please come and join us for this celebration of the seasons of Lent and Easter.

## Lenten Study

Join us for "Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week" Lenten study on Sundays (March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5) at 9:00 a.m. with Pastor Frank and 9:30 a.m. for youth with Beth; or Mondays (March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6) with Barbara and Heather Hasteley in the Chapel. The cost of the book by Amy-Jill Levine is \$9. Sign up in the Narthex on Sundays or in the church office. Please call the church office, 760.726.0442, for more information.

## Annual Church Camp Barbecue

Please join us for the Annual Church Camp Barbecue on Sunday, March 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Slow cooked beef, salads, desserts and a drink are on the menu, as well as fun with family and friends and more information about the upcoming camp. Tickets for the barbecue on sale. Cost: \$10 per adult and \$5 for children, ages 5 to 12. For more information, please contact Tracy Lyons, [lyonsgolf@yahoo.com](mailto:lyonsgolf@yahoo.com), or Pastor Frank, [musicmanfh@hotmail.com](mailto:musicmanfh@hotmail.com).

## Save the date

Family Church Camp is April 24-26. More information to be announced.

## Family Game Night, March 13

Join us for Family Game Night, Friday, March 13, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For questions or for more information, please see Margene or John Haase.

## Opportunity to serve

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

Flame Editor  
Barbara Mitchell  
Flame Production  
Paula Amaro  
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Jim McGlocklin

Next deadline is Wednesday, March 18, 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 March**

Our X-tra Mile Ministry Giving for March will go to Helping Hands, our Thursday evening outreach; in addition to the nightly meal for our homeless and hungry community. We provide basic daily supplies such as toiletries, hygiene products and other items. A list of the most needed items will be available in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach. For more information, see Brenda Walker.

## **Communion offering for March**

The Communion offering for March 1 will go to UMCOR (formerly called the One Great Hour of Sharing). Every year one special offering is taken for UMCOR through One Hour of Sharing to defray the costs to run the operation so when any disaster occurs 100% collected for that disaster goes to the project. UMCOR is usually one of the first to respond to a disaster and one of the last to leave after all is cleaned up. Through this offering UMCOR can continue the work it has been doing for over 75 years. This offering makes it all possible. Please give generously.

-Nancy Winters, World Missions Committee

## **X-tra Mile Givings**

We ARE a mission-minded church, that is evidenced by our commitment to use our Cable funds for helping others do good works in our community and around the world; by our Youth serving through SSP; by our Communion giving each year; by our serving of a Thursday meal to anyone in need, as well as meeting personal needs of clothing and personal supplies to name a few. But there is still more need. With our X-tra Mile Givings we can help meet and alleviate some of that. Your Outreach Committees (Church & Society, Missions, Evangelism, Reconciling Ministries) each year designate groups that we, as a congregation, can help in concrete ways. We find out what they need and invite you to help supply those needs. It may not seem like much to us, but it is a big help to those in need. We continue to give thanks and praise to you, our congregation, for your compassionate and mission-minded giving. And, as always, you are free to pick and choose what speaks to your heart and mind. May God continue to bless us in our efforts of mission to those in need.

-Barbara Mitchell

## **Community Offerings**

### **From the Reconciling Ministries Community...**

If we had a list of Frequently Asked Questions about our congregational stoles, these would be on it: Is that a badge of some office? Is that something Stephen Ministers wear? Is that a fashion statement of some kind? Are you a lay minister?

All of these – and more – boil down to one essential question: what is that stole you’re wearing all about? The unique stoles you see many people in our congregation wearing every Sunday are an outward display of support for inclusion and full rights of everyone – particularly LGBT – in our church. By wearing the stoles, most made with colors of the rainbow and some bearing the Reconciling Ministries insignia, we are saying to everyone, “You are welcome here. We love and support you. We advocate a fully inclusive church.”

We are thrilled with the number of stoles we see dotting our congregation each Sunday, and we have high hopes for a developing sea of color. If you wish to help make a statement, stoles can be ordered from any member of the Reconciling Ministries community (Kathy Johnson, Barbara Mitchell, Lyn Berry, Gary Lamb, Loretta Pierce, Rollin Grider, Alan and Nancy Feder). Thank you for your support.

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**Operation HOPE-North County’s** 16th Annual Dinner and Auction fundraiser, Spring into HOPE - “Creating Community Connections” is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the McClellan Senior Center on Vale Terrace in Vista. Tickets (\$60 presale and \$70 at the door) will be available March 8 and 15 in the Narthex between services. All proceeds from this annual event support the shelter’s programs and clients. Staff and volunteers are working hard to make it a terrific evening, so we hope you will join us for fellowship, fun, and a great meal, all the while supporting the work of Operation HOPE-North County.

-Sharon Hall

## Happy “March” Birthdays

- David Hendron (3)
- Marilyn Mathias (6)
- Elizabeth O’Toole (6)
- Ruth Rockwell (6)
- Ken Sheridan (6)
- Donald Mackay (8)
- Geneva Christensen (9)
- Hope McGinn (9)
- Melissa Giard (10)
- Trent Hamlin (10)
- Steve Lambert (10)
- Diane Biggs (12)
- Erin Fraser (12)
- Greg Kim (13)
- Rollin Grider (16)
- Dolores Sasway (19)
- Olive May Harris (22)
- Lance Bodnar (23)
- Ruben Choque-Jimenez (23)
- Madelyn Knight (24)
- Margene Haase (25)
- Seana Wheatley (25)
- Don Wirth (25)
- Roger Martinsen (27)
- Sandy Harvey (29)
- Barbara Lange (29)
- Dottie Nelson (29)
- Kathleen Vought Mejia (30)
- Sandy Riser (30)
- Roan Pierce (31)
- Sophie Pierce (31)
- Sue Downey (31)

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

### Centering Prayer

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...

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and the travel for me and my family on the passing of my son-in-law, Steve Abbott. He was a wonderful husband and father and “son” to my daughter, Caroline and my grandchildren, Anneliese, Elizabeth, Laura and Tim and me,

Thanks again in Christ’s love,  
Nancy Winters

The Veterans Association of North County (VANC) would like to give you a heartfelt thank you for your generosity Our highest gratitude and appreciation for donating all the supplies (especially the jump drives), but mostly for having faith in us! We are humbled and appreciative knowing that there are groups like yours out there.

Lori Boody

## Easter Flowers Order Form - 2020

Multi-colored Easter flowers that will brighten our worship on Easter may be given in honor or memory of someone special in your life. A list of these people will then appear in our Easter bulletin. Please complete the form below and turn in to the church office or put it in the offering plate along with your payment (check made out to UMC Vista, clearly marked for “Easter Flowers”). Thank you. Last day to order is March 31. See Paula for more info.

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Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$18 each) for \_\_\_\_\_ Easter flowers.

*You are welcome to take your Easter flowers after the 11:00 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.*

## United Methodist Women's Corner

- **UMW Circles meet Tuesday, March 3:** Kenworthy and Ruth Circles will carpool from the church at 9:30 a.m. for a tour of Women's Resource Center followed by lunch at IHOP.
- The UMW leadership meeting is March 17 at 10:15 a.m. at the library table.

## Pray together for...

Linda Grider, Louise Foster, Lilia Victa, JaDene Dugas, Alline Piercy, Raub and Marilyn Mathias, Nancy Koski, Mary Jane Bode, Thelma Koda, Ko Kim, Carol Yunt, Barbara Baldrige, Jane Fischer, Harold MacDermot, Joan Brainerd

**Memorial service** for Max and Louise Foss is Saturday, March 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

## 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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