



*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**

Social Distancing is a choice we are making to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. It is a choice we make for the health of one another! It is a practice for our time. This is a spiritual practice that has been unexpectedly thrust upon us, but provides us a means of doing something powerful and bold. I view social distancing as a profound opportunity to love my neighbor and witness to my faith! Maybe social distancing is an invitation to speak up (so others can hear us), and let our faith run free and get back to the beginning, when we became an EASTER PEOPLE!

It is clear, Easter will be different this year. We will celebrate the Risen Christ at a social distance. We will offer online worship, and devotionals and video clips on our facebook page, but we will not be having a big, robust worship in our sanctuary. I confess, my heart is sad and I have been grieving. I love seeing everyone in worship, and having a full sanctuary, and witnessing with and to the children who are so energetic. I love the music and telling the message of GOOD NEWS! God WINS! I love EASTER and celebrating the women who discovered the empty tomb and then ran to share!

We've always said church isn't the building. We've always proclaimed church is the people, out in the world who do the work of Jesus. We've always committed to witnessing to our faith by feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, providing for the poor, advancing education for all, justice for all, and care for all! We've put our faith into practice by worshiping together, praising God and then taking it to our everyday lives. We have been FAITHFUL to God's word, and now we have to do it in a whole new way! In truth, our faith has always been portable and bold, even when we forgot.

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! This refrain of celebration and joy is our Word of Faith EVERY EASTER! It is best conveyed at the top of our lungs! It is best conveyed with outdoor voices! It is best conveyed with excitement and joy and a little bit of curiosity and shock! HE IS RISEN in our world, to our life, for our sake and it is mysterious and miraculous! How did God do this thing? How did God break the cycle of hurt and hate and violence? By reclaiming the life of Jesus with a love so bold we are still celebrating this event thousands of years later! God broke loose and shook the ground of all living to say... "I love you! I love all creation! I'll never leave you alone!"

HE IS RISEN... He is risen indeed! Although this year, we won't be in the sanctuary, together in witness, joy and song, we still claim and proclaim our faith together! The Value and Virtue of not being in our sanctuary, means we aren't constrained by the walls that limit our voice! We aren't constrained by "what we always do." On this Easter Sunday, I will wake up and shout, "HE IS RISEN!" I will listen to see who will shout back, "HE IS RISEN INDEED!" I will read the Easter story from the gospel of Luke and imagine what it was like to discover the empty tomb. I will pray for our world, our nation, leadership everywhere striving toward justice and truth. I will pray for my family, and I will pray for you. At a healthy social distance, I will go for a walk, and look for people to share faith with... "He is risen," I will shout and hope people shout back, "He is risen indeed." No Easter basket or Easter bunny for me, just the hope of a smile and a response, yes, Christ is alive again and always!

I believe social distancing is going to be our new way of living. In a few months or a year, the scientists will find a way of treating the coronavirus and then they will develop a vaccine. It will take time and then our world will develop and build up immunity to this disease, just like we did with other diseases. But our new normal will include a heightened sense of precaution for our health and our neighbor's health. Slowly, we will be able to come back together in our worship space again. Even so, I pray our new normal is living FAITH that is uncontained and bold! So that when there is space between us, we remember to lift our voices as Easter People! God is our hope when we are separated and our light for every dark, gloomy time. HE IS RISEN...in your life, and always! Amen.

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

## Finance Focus

As we are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter in new ways, many of you continue making generous extra giving to our regular budget and special causes to benefit a variety of ministry programs in our Church, the community and the world. Thank you for your continued generous support. You are a giving and caring congregation. The total giving so far during the first quarter of 2020 is over \$103,600 towards our 2020 ministry budget of \$503,805. You will be receiving shortly your quarterly giving statement for the first quarter of the year. We look forward in anticipation when we will be back on our regular Worship schedule sometime in the future. In the meantime, we continue to pray and support each other in this time of world-wide Coronavirus pandemic.

If you have not made a financial commitment to the ministries of our church, we invite you to prayerfully consider the blessings of this congregation to your family in faith. In this time of the Coronavirus pandemic, it is especially important to continue your regular giving so that we may continue to carry on our ministry goals in the community and the world. We would encourage you to continue to make your donations via check, or by online giving and not make cash donations. You may mail your check to the Church or drop by the office with your gift Monday through Thursday from 8:30 to noon. Online giving is also available on our Website at [www.umcvista.org](http://www.umcvista.org). Open the website and click on "giving" to register or log in. You may also go to your bank and arrange for direct monthly online giving from your account, and this is the best way to accomplish online giving to the Church, as you determine the amount to be given and the date during the month of the giving. Again, thank you for your generous financial support of the ministries of our Church.

If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to call or Email me.

Blessings and good health to all of you.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair

## Communion offering for April

This month's communion offering will benefit Operation HOPE-North County. They were unable to hold their annual fundraiser due to the virus. Our own community families need a place to sleep and regenerate in these hard times so let's help support Operation HOPE-North County.

-Sue Humphrey, World Missions Committee

## 2020 Academic Scholarships

The Endowment Fund Committee is offering 2020 academic scholarships to active members or family members of active UMC Vista members. Application packets, completed by the student, are due to the Endowment Fund mailbox by June 29, 2020 (*extended from May 31 due to COVID-19*). Students may be called in for an interview. Applications are in the church office. Email Paula or call her and she can mail or email you the application, [umcvista@umcvista.org](mailto:umcvista@umcvista.org) or 760.726.0442. For questions, call Gary Lamb, 760.598.1915.

## 2020 Camping Ministry for Young People

For information and registration go to: <http://www.calpacumc.org/summercamp/> The Endowment Fund Committee is offering 2020 scholarships to children of active UMCV members and will cover 1/2 the total cost of the Early Bird Registration. *NOTE: Cal-Pac Camperships early bird registrations have been extended to June 1, 2020.* Please turn in a copy of the confirmation page for your child(ren) to the Endowment Fund mailbox in the church office or email Gary Lamb, [gdlamb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gdlamb@sbcglobal.net). For questions, call Gary, 760.598.1915.

## X-tra Mile Ministry Giving

Due to restrictions around the coronavirus pandemic, we are suspending this ministry for the time being. We encourage you instead, as you are able, to make online donations to your favorite charities. Stay safe!

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Next deadline is Wednesday, April 15, 2020  
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

## United Methodist Women's Corner

- **UMW Circles will not meet in April.**

### Zoom Gatherings and Meetings

Zoom meetings are one way we are working on keeping connected. All you need is a computer or smartphone with a built-in microphone and a camera and you can join in. Click on the link and follow the prompts to join the gathering. We are all learning as we go! See you there!

Coffee Chat after Worship, Sundays at 10:30 a.m.  
<https://zoom.us/j/116335354>

Weekly Scripture Journaling with Lyn Berry, on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.  
<https://zoom.us/j/605602723>

Weekly Coffee Chat with Pastor Leigh Ann, Wednesdays at 10 a.m.  
<https://zoom.us/j/613081197>

### Announcements from Pastor Leigh Ann

- Your Financial Support is very important! We are continuing to do the work of God with you and in our community at this critical time. Please consider mailing your giving to the church office or sending it through your bank. Bonnie Berumen can set your giving up online if you'd prefer. If you'd prefer to drop a check by the church office, please call Paula at 760-726-0442 for drop off hours.
- We are continuing to respond to the expanding and unfolding coronavirus per CDC and local health department guidelines. Due to the most current information, our staff is increasing our remote work time and reducing our time in office. In order to protect your health and well-being, onsite visits are limited to 'by appointment only.' Our priorities at this time are: Providing opportunities for the congregation to connect in worship and community through an online portal, and offer a safe, weekly sack meal to those in need. Both of these goals are dependent on the health of us all. Please help us by staying home. For more information contact Trustees chairperson, Kenn Bing or Pastor Leigh Ann Shaw.

## Happy "April" Birthdays

Felix Fernandez (1)  
Ko Kim (6)  
Mal Blakeslee (7)  
Allan Mejia (8)  
James Hill (12)  
Lorelei Clarke (14)  
Edward McGinn (14)  
Susan Kronoff (15)  
Evelyn Lawson (16)  
Bill Rockwell (18)  
Toan Dao (19)  
Connor Flanagan (20)  
Lauri Arrowsmith (21)  
Pat Preston (21)  
Heidi Kendall (22)  
Alison Mathias (23)  
Katie Newman (23)  
Tom Johnston (28)  
Maria Bowlin (30)  
Daniel Gubaton (30)  
Yolanda Gubaton (30)

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

### Pray together for...

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

### 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!

Return Service Requested

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