



*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**

How are you doing?

Patrick Stewart is reading a daily Shakespearean sonnet. Alton Brown is doing a kitchen cooking moment with his wife, Elizabeth. Mary Chapin Carpenter is doing "songs from home." She ends every "episode" with the words, "stay mighty." All three of these are posted on Facebook daily or weekly. I've appreciated each one for the encouragement, artfulness and humor. These are three things that are bringing me comfort in this time.

The pollution in creation is reduced but stress and anxiety are taking a toll on our community. When this time of pandemic is in our rearview window, and the stress has faded from our hearts, what is the takeaway you and your family will hold on to? What practices have you started that are wonderful? Is your faith growing or waning? Have you found ways to really engage Godly practices that bless your heart, and your family, and your neighbor?

Jesus' two big commandments are "love God," and "love your neighbor as yourself." Of course, I believe these are really the same thing. Loving God means you love your neighbor. Loving yourself is loving that God is your creator. Loving yourself is keeping Sabbath and "putting the mask on yourself before you help your neighbor." That's what they always say when you fly. Put your mask on yourself first, so you CAN help others. In this moment, we are flying on a new journey in faith and life and the path is feeling bumpy. There will be clear air up ahead somewhere, but for now, we would do well to keep our seat belts fastened and hold on to those masks. The best way we love God, and love our neighbor as yourself is remembering the rules of air travel.

If the pandemic hadn't brought a hard pause to our world, our denomination would be in the midst of a General Conference. The legislation coming forward was about addressing the divisions in our church around the LGBTQIA community. Everyone expected that we were on the verge of a divorce and just waiting to see if the separation would be amicable or messy. I lift this up, because I've been thinking about where we were as a global church before we began online worship and community immediately. Some had likened our denomination and global church to the Titanic. Some believed the church had lost its voice and mission and commitment to justice. Some had given up the church in resentment and anguish. Even before this pandemic, the journey we were traveling wasn't easy. Even before this pandemic and public health emergency, the oxygen masks were falling in our faces.

Our mission as the Body of Christ will never change from loving God and loving neighbor as OURself, but the venue and method of being faithful has changed many times over the centuries. Even as we are reorienting ourselves to this new world we are living in, we shouldn't forget that it was hard before the spread of the novel coronavirus. Even before the spread of global pandemic, our church was needing a fresh beginning.

As we approach a fresh start, what insights and treasures will you want to take with you? I confess, I really appreciate meetings on Zoom, having time to get out and exercise, and seeing fewer cars on the road. I value the quiet time to pray, and vision with God. The stress of this time is so exhausting, but there are a few things I am cherishing. What about you? What are you keeping as a new practice and way of being faithful for this new world?

Grace and peace,

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

## Finance Focus

As we head into June in this unique time in the life of our Church, we want to thank all you for your continued faithful financial support of our 2020 Church Ministry budget. While we are behind about \$6,000 in our total giving for the first five months of the year, we are currently meeting all our financial obligations. Many of you have continued to mail in or drop off your regular offerings in a weekly or monthly fashion. More of you have signed up for regular online giving, and we thank all for your continued support of our ministries. These are challenging times, and while we have missed meeting together on a regular basis for worship or various committee meetings, our online weekly Worship Services continue to be outstanding, and are be viewed with a growing number of people within and outside our community. Pastor Leigh Ann and staff continue to work hard to continue to connect with all of us and support the work of our Church.

As noted above we are currently behind in our projected giving to meet all our financial and ministry goals for the 2020 budget. If you would like to make a gift to the 2020 budget, you may mail it to the Church. 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. Again, thank you for your continued generous financial support of the ministries of our Church.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair

## Communion offering for June

This month's communion offering will benefit Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). MAF pilots are delivering food, handing out information about COVID-19 and speaking to the people in their own language about how to protect themselves. In remote areas with limited access to information MAF staff may be the only meaningful way local people will learn about the threat. In some areas, authorities are restricting air transportation and with the withdrawal of foreign missionaries and aid workers who help share the cost of MAF services to remote areas, the MAF's financial resources are being impacted. Your support is appreciated.

-Sue Humphrey, World Missions Committee

## Attention Graduates!

The UMC of Vista would like to recognize all of our hard working graduates this year. If you have a student graduating from elementary, middle, high School or college, please contact the Church Office by Thursday, June 4th. If you or your family have pictures of your school's unique recognition please forward them as well. We will be asking congregants to participate in a "Card Party" to cheer your graduates on!

## 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. See you there!

**Coffee Chat after Worship, Sundays at 10:30 a.m.**

**<https://zoom.us/j/116335354>**

**Weekly Coffee Chat with Pastor Leigh Ann,**  
**Wednesdays at 10 a.m.**

**<https://zoom.us/j/613081197>**

**Frank's Music Chat, Mondays at 11:00 a.m.**

**<https://zoom.us/j/91071681567>**

**Meeting ID: 910 7168 1567**

**Finance at UMC of Vista, June 24, 7:00 p.m.**

**<https://zoom.us/j/96344597468>**

**Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468**

## Helping Hands and "and Two Fishes"

If you have any, please consider saving men's/women's clothes for Helping Hands Outreach and food containers for "and Two Fishes." You can drop items off on Thursdays between 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. on the lower parking lot near the gate. Someone from "and Two Fishes" should be able to assist you. Please contact Brenda Walker, [brendakwalker@cox.net](mailto:brendakwalker@cox.net) or the church office 760.726.0442, with any any questions. "and Two Fishes" is still providing a sack lunch and a "to go meal" on Thursday evenings between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m.

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

Next deadline is Wednesday, June 17 2020  
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

## 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.

## and Two Fishes update

For three years I have loved every minute of my time as president of “and Two Fishes”. Due to circumstances, I have decided to retire as president. I am still passionate about not only feeding the homeless and those in need, but treating them as people worthy of having a relationship with.

Mike Walker has graciously accepted the position as acting president until our yearly meeting in July to elect new officers. I know that the Thursday’s meal program is in good hands. Thanks to all the volunteers who have participated and supported our outreach in feeding the hungry!

-Margo Rogers

## Food donations for North County Food

### Bank and Interfaith Community Services

We are collecting food donations to take to the North County Food Bank and Interfaith Community Services.

How can you help? Either drop off food items or schedule a pick-up on Tuesdays, June 2 and 9. To Drop off: Leave at the church office, on the bench outside the front office door between 9 am and noon. For Pick-Up: Please email Brenda and Mike Walker at [Brendakwalker@cox.net](mailto:Brendakwalker@cox.net) and plan to leave your items on your porch or curb by 9 am.

For more information call Brenda and Mike Walker at (760) 505-1702.

NO expired or open food, glass jars or homemade items. Food Items Requested:

- Canned Chicken or Tuna
- Canned Fruit, Beans or Vegetables
- Peanut Butter and Jelly or Jam
- Pop-lid Canned Foods
- Hearty Soups, Stews, or Cup of Noodles
- Nuts, Raisins, Cheese ‘n Crackers, Granola Bars
- Dry Beans or Rice
- Mac and Cheese
- Dry Cereal

## 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.

## Happy “June” Birthdays

- Joey Graziano (1)
- Joe Marquez (2)
- Samuel “Issac” de la Cruz (5)
- Karl Kreutziger (5)
- Brandon Flanagan (6)
- Linda Grider (6)
- Chaba Andrassy (7)
- Emily Hansen (7)
- Melissa Bodnar (8)
- Paul Fischer (8)
- Brenda Walker (9)
- Susan Delaney (11)
- Myriah Christian (12)
- Luene Corwin (12)
- Tracy Cole Lyons (12)
- June Miklau (12)
- Joan Brainerd (13)
- Stella Hansen (15)
- Barbara Shores (16)
- Laurie Clarke (18)
- Alyssa Coker (18)
- Marlene Coast (22)
- Susan Hamlin (22)
- Blake Johnson (22)
- Sarah LaFoe (22)
- Benjamin Crumpacker-Smith (23)
- Alicia Olinger (23)
- Susan Miller (26)
- Cameron Guffey (27)
- Sharon Hall (29)
- Abby Way (29)

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

**NOTE: UMW Circles will not meet in June.**

### **What is AmazonSmile anyway?**

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF VISTA every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Why not choose us, the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF VISTA! Incidentally we just happen to sell AMAZON gift cards in \$25 and \$100 denominations.

Need more information or want to buy Scrip? Call or email Tom Humphrey, 760.727.2313 or trhumphrey7@cox.net.

### **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

Betty Wayne (age 99) passed away on March 6. There will be a memorial service in the future in celebration of a life well lived.

### **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!