



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

UMC Vista Status Updates

It is difficult to feel "in the loop" at your church with doing most things online or through Zoom. I know some of you are feeling lonely and have COVID-fatigue. In truth, I am, and do too. It is tough to share God's Word with you at a distance and not shake your hand, or give you a hug or hear how you are doing every week. The sanctuary and church building continue to be a touchstone for us all, even as we are socially distanced. I continue to remind myself that this time of health pandemic isn't forever, it is only for now. There will be a time we are back together and this will be a memory.

At the beginning of the year we shared ten in-person worship Sundays before pausing live worship due to public health concerns. The first Sunday we were out of the sanctuary was March 15, and the first Sunday we shared online worship was March 22. Special thanks to Adam Ferrara and Rob Pierce for offering technology wisdom and leadership. At the end of August, we welcome Michael Beu on to the worship team and staff. Michael will take over worship video creation, and work on adding livestream and other opportunities for engagement for our congregation. Watch for more information and welcome of Michael!

We are continuing to offer online worship through 2020, even if we can offer an outside gathering, communion or special event. Your health continues to be our top priority as we make decisions week by week. The Worship team settled on a proposal for camera installation (after receiving four bids by three different companies) and then turned the project over to the Trustees. The Trustees are faithfully continuing to work on getting cameras installed, but have come up to the COVID-19 backordering of equipment. It looks like it's going to be another few weeks before we can move our worship recording to our own church cameras and equipment. In the meantime, we are continuing to work with Adam and receiving video pieces from our liturgists and Certified Lay Minister, Dakota Koenig. We are expanding the pool of liturgists and special worship pieces, such as the beautiful harp presentations during July by Naomi Alter. If you have ideas for worship, don't hesitate to email me.

Worship music in August was all traditional hymns from our UM Hymnal, as we gave our band the month off. Coming back in September, we will return to more blended music sharing both band and contemporary music, as well as weekly hymns. Rev. Frank Hallock is taking over the production of the "virtual choir." I have invited Pastor Frank to share with you how it works to put together a virtual choir for worship. (Spoiler alert: It takes many hours of work, rehearsal, and technology patience to offer you beautiful music in this new format.)

The church YouTube channel at United Methodist Church of Vista has 118 subscribers who receive notification when our worship is available on Sunday morning. If you haven't subscribed, please do so by going to YouTube, going to our church channel and clicking the red subscribe button. The more subscribers we have, the more we can do with the channel, to personalize and update it. During the summer months our worship participation is down, as it regularly is, but we are hoping to see you all back in the fall with some new ideas and offerings!

We have been using ZOOM for various committee meetings, coffee chat time with Pastor Frank and Pastor Leigh Ann, and look forward to offering study groups in the fall and for Advent. We continue to send out the meeting ID number with the Spark so you can join the gathering. Everyone is welcome! If I can set up a Zoom meeting for your group, email or call me at the office and let me know when the meeting is.

The church's Scout and Venturing Crew have been meeting online and continue to be active, although they really look forward to having the pandemic behind us. (Please hold them in prayer.) Leap to Success is working with another organization to offer clothing to women on a Saturday in September at our church. All precautions will be made to keep everyone safe, including pre-registering to participate. (We continue to support and pray for Leap to Success and the leadership that makes this such an effective and engaging program.

The Flame

The Building Committee, set up through Charge Conference action in November 2018, continues to work on plans for a new building. They were charged with developing a clear budget for building out the rest of the building (sometimes called Phase 2) and bring that amount, along with a recommendation based on congregational input for how the building might be funded. The committee is continuing to work on this despite the setbacks of COVID-19. They have sent several notifications to our neighbors to let them know about our plans for building, and asked for input. They have continued to clarify the big stuff and the little stuff from kitchen to fellowship space, from columbarium to outside meeting space and restrooms to serve youth having a sleep-over or visitors who need to use a washer and drier. They continue to work with our architect and city to move forward. Whenever this information is ready and fully prepared, the team will bring it all to the congregation at a specially called Charge Conference for congregational vote.

The Outreach Grant program, funded by the Cable Foundation and carried out by the work of the Church Council and entire congregation, has started this year. This work usually begins in May but was delayed this year. We received 34 grant applications, including two for expanded ministries for our congregation in the areas of family and youth outreach and technology video communications outreach. Information about the requests will be going out soon for our Church Council to review and ask questions. We are moving forward, hopeful that we can have a Celebration Luncheon in 2021 but will adapt as is required for circumstances at the time.

Finally, about the United Methodist Church beyond Vista UMC: General Conference was postponed to 2021 and the big conversations and decisions facing our denomination are still pending. The Bishops who were scheduled to retire in 2020, including our resident Bishop, Rev. Grant Hagiya, have been postponed for one year. Our Jurisdiction is expected to elect three new Bishops next year. Our District Superintendent, Rev. John Farley, scheduled to retire in 2020, has also postponed his retirement for one year. Churches across our denomination are continuing to serve God, engage faith locally and be connected globally as a witness to our faith in Jesus Christ. The doors of the buildings may be closed, but the doors of our hearts remain open to the Spirit's call.

September is here... God's grace is alive and at work... We continue in service for God and with our neighbors.

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Communion offering for September

September's Communion offering will go to UMCOR. Since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, UMCOR has been working with health boards, medical professionals, disaster management coordinators and faith leaders to prevent the further spread of this disease. Now it is clear that the impact of COVID-19 will be far-reaching and demands a greater response. The new UMCOR COVID-19 RESPONSE fund will equip Methodist partners in the U.S. and around the world to assist our most vulnerable populations. Grants from this fund will be disbursed quickly and efficiently to address health concerns, food insecurity, water and hygiene limitations and other pressing needs. Please make a gift today to support the UMCOR COVID-19 Response with your September Communion offering.

-Sue Humphrey, World Missions Committee

Finance Focus

As we head into the last four months of the church year many things have changed; however important and exciting things continue to be happening in the life of our church. Our continued online Worship Services and Zoom Committee meetings have been excellent and enabled us to continue to carry out our ministry in the local community and around the world. We thank you for your generous continued support of the financial requirements of our Church budget. The good news is that currently our financial obligations are being met and ministry plans are ongoing. The other side of the coin is that we are behind in our total giving to fully fund the 2020 budget. Additional giving opportunities to close this shortfall are under way with the Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings.

Plans are underway for the fall stewardship campaign to raise the funds necessary to meet our 2021 budget obligations. You will hear more about these plans in the coming months. Your support of our general fund budget is essential to keeping your church and ministry programs up and running. You are a caring and giving congregation. In July you received your Giving and Pledge Summary for the first six months of the calendar year. If you are behind in your giving or wish to make additional gifts to help your church reduce our budget shortfall for 2020, please prayerfully consider doing so.

Regular giving is easy and helps us do more intentional ministry. You may wish to consider online giving as a convenient way for you to make regular contributions to our church budget. Go to our website at www.umevista.org and click on "Giving" to register or log in and make your gift. An even better way to give regularly online, is to go to your bank and arrange for regular gifts to our Church to come directly out of your checking account. You may also drop by the Church office to drop your gift off in the locking mailbox by the office or mail your gift directly to the Church. Again, thank you for your generous financial support of the ministries of our church.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair

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Next deadline is Wednesday, September 16, 2020
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

The Flame (monthly newsletter)
United Methodist Church of Vista
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Heidi Kendall, 2020 Quiet Disciple

Every year Vista United Methodist Women select a person to honor as a Quiet Disciple. A “Quiet Disciple” enriches the lives of others with the love of Christ by a ministry that may be visible to all or quiet and behind the scenes. UMW is proud to announce that our 2020 Quiet Disciple is Heidi Kendall.

Heidi has served the church family and the UMW organization over the years with grace and humbleness while sharing her many talents. As an accomplished artist she has designed sets and backdrops for fund-raisers, designed cards, bookmarks and decorated the fellowship hall for special events. As a talented singer and musician, she is part of the church choir and has performed at many UMW events. Heidi has a caring heart and is a frequent caller and visitor to the homebound. In 2016, UMW presented her with a Special Mission Recognition for her faithfulness and support of UMW mission projects. Heidi will not hesitate to lend a hand, if asked on short notice when help is needed.

UMW appreciates Heidi’s many talents and loves her for her generous and caring spirit. United Methodist Women are blessed to have Heidi Kendall as part of our Organization.

-Jacque Howard, President, UMW

New Members’ Class, Sept. 22, 6 p.m.

In this interesting and challenging time of COVID-19 the work of the Church continues! PTL! To that end, we want to offer an opportunity for anyone who had/has been considering joining our church family to attend a Zoom New Members’ meeting on September 22 at 6 p.m. with Pastor Leigh Ann and Barbara Mitchell. Prior to the meeting you’ll be sent a packet of information about UMC and UMC Vista in particular. Also in that packet you’ll receive the paperwork which we need to keep in our files along with a postage-paid envelope to mail it back to us. Any and all questions that you might have about John Wesley, the UMC or UMC Vista can be asked and answered that evening. We will then plan to take vows on the Sunday at the after service Coffee Chat where you’ll be able to meet some members of our church family...and we truly are a family! We so look forward to having you become a part of us. Should you wish to join or if you have any questions about taking this step of faith, please get in touch by Sept. 14th by calling or emailing Pastor Leigh Ann, Barbara (bjmitch5122@yahoo.com; 760.724.0923), or the Church office.

Happy “September” Birthdays

Nancy Coker (2)
Anita Maag (2)
Annette Stamm (2)
Doris Starr (2)
Connor Way (2)
Brenda Foss (3)
Carol Graham (3)
Stan Hamilton (3)
Scott Hansen (3)
Sherry Johnston (3)
Jean Vought (4)
Wayne Foss (6)
Christen Holder (7)
Dakota Koenig (9)
Jeannie Martinsen (11)
Christopher Tivar (12)
Aiden Amaro (13)
Barbara Wheatley (13)
Kathy Kim (14)
Betsy Jean Miller (14)
Jimmy Patton (14)
Tommy Thomson (15)
Phoebe Fraser (17)
Sara Baldwin (18)
Grace Hernandez-Jackson (19)
Gemma Johnson (20)
Phil Balun (21)
Patricia Hotaling (21)
Chloe Johnson (23)
Aaron Amaro (28)
Jayne Seiffer (28)
Christian Guffey (29)
Scott Myers (29)
Raub Mathias (30)

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

For inspiration this month:

Dr. Arthur Kleinman who teaches at Harvard, wrote a wonderful article on the care of his late wife during the last year of her battle with Alzheimer’s disease. They also faced the isolation from sheltering in place due to COVID-19. He advocates the importance of daily rituals – small but meaningful moments during each day that bring joy and happiness. The last paragraph of his article:

We can all learn how to endure with purpose and make this a period of emotional and moral transformation. A plague, as Albert Camus knew, is the moment to ask what life is for. The response to COVID-19 suggests one answer: care for yourself and others. So take a breath and take the time to change the daily rituals that make up life. Throw yourself into them as if your life were at stake, which it is. (Printed in the Wall Street Journal: “How Rituals and Focus Can Turn Isolation Into a Time for Growth” by Dr. Arthur Kleinman)

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

Congregational Care Meeting,

September 3 & 17, 1:30 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/94698174382>

Meeting ID: 946 9817 4382

Trustees, September 15, 6:00 pm

<https://zoom.us/j/94925693986>

Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986

Finance, September 23, 7:00 p.m.

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

Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Membership and John Wesley, Sept. 22, 6:00 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/94043973972>

Meeting ID: 940 4397 3972

UMCOR

What is the one thing that never changes after every disaster? People just like you have been answering the call as essential workers in UMCOR's response for the past 80 years! In the face of a new kind of disaster — the novel coronavirus — UMCOR's seasoned network has been swift to bring aid. With your help, we will be ready to respond as we enter one of the United States' most active hurricane seasons in 20 years. The novel coronavirus compounds problems in responding to physical disasters, but together we can respond as agents of God's compassion on earth.

Congregational Communications

I want to keep you updated and aware of what's happening at your church. There is a lot going on. How would you like to receive information? And what information would you like to know?

Currently we are sending our communication via email with weekly and monthly news and information. We share information at worship online, during Zoom coffee chats with Pastor Leigh Ann and Pastor Frank. Our congregational care team continues to call congregation members and is available to answer questions, and share updates.

For members who aren't online or don't have an email address, we mail information to them via USPS.

The information shared is worship related, prayer requests, information about our COVID-19 response, missional and community caring opportunities, committee meeting times and information with Zoom ID, and more.

If you are not feeling connected or informed, please email me or Paula and let us know how best to communicate with you. Even if it's just one person, we want to make sure you feel "in the loop."

What information do you want to know? What is most important to you?

These are unprecedented times and we are working hard to keep us all connected. Let us hear from you.

Pastor Leigh Ann

Pastor@umcvista.org

Paula Amaro

umcvista@umcvista.org

Bishop John Yambasu

Bishop John Yambasu recently died in a car accident outside of Freetown, Sierra Leone, on Aug. 16, 2020. Bishop Yambasu was headed to a virtual meeting of the Global Ministries' executive committee. Widely influential across United Methodism in Africa, he filled many roles in United Methodist mission. In addition to his church-wide responsibilities at Global Ministries, he was president of the United Methodist Africa College of Bishops and was instrumental in a broad range of mission initiatives across the continent. He was recently elected chancellor of Africa University in Zimbabwe. Bishop Yambasu was the voice for health justice and peace in all matters sacred and secular with passionate commitment to the welfare and unity of the United Methodist Church. Bishop Yambasu, in January 2019, called a summit on "Agriculture and the African Church: A Call to Action" where he called for better stewardship for the use of church land for food production and training of faithful farmers, a program which is now in action.

Bishop Yambasu was active in responding to the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, caring for those impacted by mudslides in Sierra Leone and working across the board to rally Sierra Leone's religious communities in times of natural disaster. Bishop Yambasu leaves behind a wife and five children. His calm, steady focus and evident faith will be missed in the worldwide United Methodist Church. (*Information from Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church*)

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 Wednesday, September 16. To Drop off: Leave at the church office, on the bench outside the front office door between 9 a.m. and noon. For Pick-Up: Please email Brenda and Mike Walker at Brendakwalker@cox.net and plan to leave your items on your porch or curb by 9 a.m. For more information call Brenda and Mike Walker at .760.505.1702. NO expired or open food, glass jars or homemade items.

Helping Hands and “and Two Fishes”

If you have any, please consider saving men’s clothes for Helping Hands Outreach, and also 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 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.

Pray together for...

Stan Hamilton, Ko and Rosalynn Kim, Linda Grider, Lilia Victa, JaDene Dugas, Karen and Larry Veysada, Alline Piercy, Marlene and Marvin Philippi, 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

Website: www.umcvista.org

Facebook: United Methodist Church of Vista

Be sure to check us out on Yelp!

UMW Circles not meeting in September.