



*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**

### **Love your neighbor.**

Several years ago, I was standing in line at my neighborhood Starbucks, in front of a young man, who was speaking very loudly, and using the f-word. He was talking about school and work. He didn't sound angry. He wasn't dressed in a way that his grandmother would criticize. He just kept swearing.

I tried to ignore him, but he was so loud, everyone in the store was clearly listening to him talk. I looked down at my feet, and tried to avoid eye contact. Because I was standing in front of him, it felt like he was yelling at me, and his words were like weapons bouncing around the room. His swearing felt like an unintended assault.

From somewhere in the line, another male customer yelled, "Hey Man, there are ladies present. Take that talk outside." The young man who had been using the f-word immediately paused. He seemed to see me, and leaned toward me and said, "Ma'am, I'm sorry." The young man continued talking to his friend, but in a much quieter voice.

This was my neighborhood and these people were my neighbors. When I left the coffee shop, I was thinking about Jesus' command to love our neighbors and how hard it is. Jesus didn't specifically say, love your neighbors even when they swear so loudly you feel abused. Jesus didn't say; love your neighbor who intervenes when someone is swearing. Honestly, I didn't think the young man should have stopped swearing because there were women present. I thought he should have stopped swearing loudly inside Starbucks because it was just bad manners.

Neighborhoods are living organisms of people who don't always share much in common. Our neighbors are more defined by our day-to-day encounters with each other than by our skin color, gender, heritage, political affiliation or religion. "Hello Neighbor!" "Won't you be my Neighbor?" Whether we go to Starbucks or the gas station, to a school or a bus stop, the people we encounter are our neighbors. This is what Jesus was teaching.

Jesus never said, "Let your neighbor take care of themselves." Jesus never said, "Do unto your neighbor in whatever means you can get away with." Jesus never said, "Your neighbor's health is not your problem." Jesus said, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." You can read this command in Matthew 22:37 – 40 and in other places in the Bible too. (Check it out if you want to go deeper.)

As we are living through a pandemic, our loud, unmasked faces can spread more than swear words. Our physical presence can do harm without our intent. We can spread disease as quickly as we spread gossip, and that isn't very neighborly. We can project illness on the melody of a song or with the robust recitation of the Apostles' Creed. Churches have a lot of power in this world to proclaim love and compassion to our neighbors, or spread judgment and disease. During this pandemic, loving our neighbor means we wear a mask, stay apart and use the phone or Zoom instead of meeting in person. Just because you haven't gotten COVID-19 yet, doesn't mean you won't get it. Please care for each other, and care for our church by being a good neighbor.

Stay safe! I'm still holding you in prayer, Neighbor!

## Finance Focus

As we head into the last months of the Church year, many important and exciting things continue to be happening in the life of our Church. We thank you for your generous continued financial support of our ministry plans. We kicked off our Stewardship Campaign for the 2021 budget on Sunday, October 5, the theme is: “Looking Forward in Ministry,”

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. If you are behind in your giving or wish to make an additional gift to help your Church reduce our budget shortfall for 2020, please prayerfully consider doing so. During the month of October, you will hear more about stewardship opportunities each Sunday, with the conclusion of the Stewardship Campaign on Sunday, October 25 with the online or mailing of your pledge cards to support the 2021 budget.

Regular giving is essential 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.umcvista.org](http://www.umcvista.org) and click on “Giving” to register or log in and make your gift. Again, thank you for your generous financial support of the ministries of our Church.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair

## Update from the Education Committee

As with most things, COVID-19 related health and safety protocols have limited the programs and events supported by the UMC Vista Education Committee, but we want you to know we are still here with the same purpose; to bring faith enrichment and education to our church youth, families and to the community. Needless to say, finding ways to serve this purpose has been a new challenge but through the initiative and dedication of the teachers and members of our congregation, we’ve connected in various ways over the last several months. Deliveries of flowers, blessing bags, Youth Group welcome kits and Sunday School at-home packets are some ways we’ve remained engaged.

As we gear up with the new season and continue to be mindful of doing our part to support health and safety guidelines, we are at work developing plans for Sunday school connections and other safe activities. Unfortunately, our cherished Annual Trunk or Treat event is not an activity we can responsibly host as currently advised by the San Diego County Health Advisory Board but we’ll continue to work to find alternatives until we can be back together again.

If you feel called to join Education Committee or have suggestions, questions or comments, we are always happy to hear from you! You can email [ColleenGuffey@gmail.com](mailto:ColleenGuffey@gmail.com) or call/text to 760.419.5548.

## World Communion Sunday, October 4

World Communion Sunday is Oct. 4, 2020. Celebrated the first Sunday in October, this Special Sunday with offering focuses our attention on the universal and inclusive nature of the church. We look forward to this celebration annually when we partake of Holy Communion together and share our gifts to support racial-ethnic students and others in their quest to become leaders who embody the mission of The United Methodist Church.

The offering facilitates the educational preparation and training of United Methodists from around the world and bolsters recruitment, training and retention of racial-ethnic people for leadership positions at every level of the church.

-Nancy Winters, World Missions Committee

## Africa University Update

Recent issues of the Africa University newsletter have given information on how the pandemic is being handled on the campus. During the summer some students had to remain on campus because of travel restrictions so they made hand sanitizer and masks for the community. All classes this fall will be online. Tuition fees are unchanged but no charges for meals or accommodations. The University is foregoing collection of technology fees so students may use those funds to improve their access to internet services.

The Cable Outreach Fund has provided sufficient funds for VUMC to establish an endowment to the University that generates funds for a scholarship each year. This fall there are 870 new students enrolled with 15% from other countries. On the website the total enrollment is shown as over 12,000 students representing 36 African countries. The University was founded in 1912 and is a private institution related to Pan American and the United Methodist Church.

-Jacque Howard

## Address Update

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Next deadline is Wednesday, October 21, 2020  
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

## SPRC staff announcement

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) would like to introduce and welcome our newest staff member, Michael Beu. Michael has been hired as the Video Technology Coordinator. He will be assembling our worship online and takes over from Adam. Michael has been hired for 10-15 hours per week. He recently graduated from Cal State Northridge with a B.S. degree in Film production. He has experience at other churches, most recently at Corona Del Mar Community Church where he has been working to update their worship to include live-stream and present regular weekly information segments. Michael is very excited to be working at our church with our staff. Although there are challenges which include camera technology, online social media platform reliability, constant change and receiving many different clips every week from many church members, we are sure Michael is up to the task, and ready to partner with us as we all learn through the process. This position is a first step in our commitment to reaching homebound members, those with health concerns and folks who move from our area, even after we return to in-person gatherings. Please take a moment to email your welcome to Michael at [MichaelB@umcvista.org](mailto:MichaelB@umcvista.org).

-Margene Haase, SPRC Chairperson

\*A reminder to liturgists the video uploader is now at: <http://videoupload.umcvista.org/>

## Invitation to Join The League of Women's Voter's Ballot Measures via Zoom

The League of Women Voter's North County San Diego is pleased to present a Pros and Cons Ballot Measure Presentation via Zoom for the United Methodist Church of Vista on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 1:00 p.m.

The Pros and Cons presentation will provide a nonpartisan, unbiased summary of each state and local ballot initiative, the financial impact of the proposition, key supporters and opposition, and financial contributions made in support of or opposition to the measure.

Two researcher/presenters will present the propositions and, time allowing, answer questions regarding the propositions. Questions can also be submitted in advance through a link on our website and can be submitted in writing during the live one-hour webinar using the Zoom Q & A feature.

To register for this presentation, click this link and follow the instructions to register for the Zoom presentation: [http://bit.ly/LWVNCSD\\_UMCV](http://bit.ly/LWVNCSD_UMCV)

For additional information on the ballot measures you may find the following resources helpful:

Voter's Edge: <https://votersedge.org/ca>

Easy Voter: <http://www.easyvoterguide.org/>

As a nonpartisan political organization whose mission is to encourage informed and active participation in government at all levels, we look forward to an informative meeting!

## Happy "October" Birthdays

Randie Annin (4)

Eric Johnson (4)

Ann Hostetler (5)

Michael O'Neil (6)

Marie Bonner (10)

Sharon Pease (10)

Dominic "Nico" Chappell (12)

Heather Clarke (12)

Rae Ann Wirth (12)

Lisa Gerwig (13)

Patrick O'Connor (14)

Lynda Mounts (15)

Philip Biggs (16)

Sarah Felien (18)

Mike Bollinger (20)

Brenda Merritt (20)

Alice Robeson (20)

Gerri Schoening (20)

Shelly Burns (24)

Carol Pence (24)

Patricia Avila (31)

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

## 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,**

**October 1 and 15, 1:30 p.m.**

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

**Meeting ID: 946 9817 4382**

**Trustees, October 20, 6:00 pm**

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

**Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986**

**Finance, October 28, 7:00 p.m.**

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

**Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468**

## UMW Corner

**UMW Circles not meeting in October.**

## 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, October 14. 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](mailto: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.

## Pray together for...

Stan Hamilton, Ko and Rosalynn Kim, 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](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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