



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

New Year's Blessing

2020 has felt to me like flying on an airplane while sitting outside on the wing. Every single day felt like being hit by the rush of wind and an occasional bird. New Year's day 2021 feels like a hard edge. Maybe the hard edge is a prayer for mercy from pain, death and isolation, to something refreshing, healing and new. What will this 2021 bring us?

Prayer is our entrance to a conversation with God. Prayer opens the door and invites God's voice into your heart and mind. Prayer isn't magic but it is transformation. The transformation that comes with prayer is something between you and God. The transformation that happens as we move from one year to a new year is mysterious and potential.

Peace be with you. Grace be with you. Mercy be with you.

There is only one resolution that I am taking with me into 2021. It came to me one morning as I was making coffee. For years I've cleaned the cats' bowls, while the coffee beans are grinding, I put clean dishes away, put dirty dishes in the dishwasher, and set my coffee pot to perking, while getting the half/half out of the fridge and putting food in my cats' bowls almost all at the same time. There is an order that allows doing everything at the same time while something else is happening. (Don't try to figure it out if you aren't a multitasker.) I've done this methodically for years to save time in the morning and be quicker about getting things done. Somehow at some time feeding my cats and making coffee became urgent every single day.

That one morning, rather than rushing from task to task, I smelled the coffee beans as they were grinding. I started the coffee perking before I did the next thing. Rather than doing everything at once, I did one thing at a time. (Sometimes multitaskers forget that you can do one thing at a time.) God's voice can sound like beans grinding and smell like fresh coffee. Transformation can be doing tasks one at a time and hitting the pause on multitasking. (Did Satan multitask? I think, maybe.) Transformation can be breathing instead of rushing.

As we look into 2021, the one resolution that I'm making and working on is doing one thing at a time. If 2020 has taught us anything it is that everything can stop or change without any warning. Prayer is the vehicle that moves us from despair to renewal. Prayer brings us down from flying high and puts us gently on the ground again.

If you are looking to get your feet back on the ground, I don't know what will work for you. For me, taking things as they come, one moment at a time is what I'm focused on. Reinhold Niebuhr wrote the much quoted and referred to serenity prayer about letting go of the multitasking way. I particularly like the less quoted second section of the prayer: "God grant me the serenity... Living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time; accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; take, as God did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that God will make all things right... that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy... forever in the next. Amen."

Grace and peace to you and your family in 2021.

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

Finance Focus

The Finance/Stewardship update as we start the New Year in 2021, we want to thank everyone for their generosity in 2020. We are a committed and faithful congregation as evidenced by your giving to many important causes in 2020, including the regular budget, missionary giving, special giving to outreach projects to help people around the world and your support for local projects. While our 2021 budget is still being finalized by the Committee on Finance/Stewardship, we plan to present it to the January meeting of the Church Council. Our pledges for 2021 include many who have continued and increased their pledges. As of the middle of December 2020, we have received 84 pledges for more than \$232,720. If you have not yet taken the opportunity to complete a pledge card toward our ministry efforts for 2021, it is not too late to do so. We are eager to fully fund our ministry plans for 2021 and hope after prayerful consideration you will join in funding the great ministry of this congregation! It is a pleasure to serve God alongside you!

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair

Communion Offering for January

The communion offering for January will help the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). MAF has continued delivering food, flying the sick and injured to hospitals, and supporting the work of missionaries, Bible translators, and local churches during the worldwide COVID Pandemic. This is one way we can help spread God's word to the isolated places of the world.

-Sue Humphrey, World Missions Committee

Happy "January" Birthdays

Jane Fischer (1)
Marvin Phillipi (1)
Ray Coast (2)
Sean Flanagan (3)
Jordyn Fraser (4)
Sheridan Blakeslee (7)
Sabrinarose Mejia (7)
Dan Gubaton (9)
Cassandra Levardo (9)
Elizabeth Choque-Jimenez (10)
Cheryl Gustafson (10)
Mary Jane Bode (11)
Marilyn Butterstein (12)
Shawn Johnson (13)
Frank Hallock (15)
Stephanie May (15)
Stephen Preston (17)
Alan Feder (18)
Gracie Morgan (18)
Betty MacDermot (19)
Roy Good (20)
Kai Graziano (21)
Jerry Cox (21)
Jim Pence (21)
Bonnie Berumen (22)
Karen Felien (22)
Karen Veysada (23)
Stu Gibson (24)
Alline Piercy (24)
Victor Avila (25)
Leila Fernandez (25)
Jalyn Phillips (25)
Taylor Hansen (26)
Ben Selinger (26)
Nancy Feder (28)
Janice Frate (29)
Judy Gibson (29)
Andres Maniti (29)

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

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Next deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

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, January 6. 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, homemade items or fresh foods.

Heartfelt Thanks

UMC of Vista,

Thank you for the good news that Leap to Success will be awarded a grant! We are so appreciate of your congregation's support. We are excited to work on our Affirmation Card Deck and share positive messages with the community. We all need hope and inspiration during this challenging time.

Please extend our thanks!

Be safe and well,

Dana

Note from Scrip Coordinator

The Kroger Company (parent company of Ralphs and Food 4 Less) encourages you to sign up for their Community Rewards Program by linking your rewards card to our Church Community Rewards. It is easy to understand and easy to explain! The more you shop at Ralphs or Food 4 Less, the more money UMC Vista will earn!

If you have any questions, please email, community.programs@ralphs.com or visit their website at <https://www.ralphs.com>. RALPHS NPO # is NH 400 and Food 4 Less number is GA735. You need those numbers so we can get credit for your purchases. Also you can call Tom Humphrey for help in getting signed up.

-Tom Humphrey

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.

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

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

Passcode: 490490

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

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

Meeting ID: 910 7168 1567

**Congregational Care Meeting,
January 7, 1:30 p.m.**

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

Meeting ID: 946 9817 4382

Passcode: 490490

Trustees, January 19, 6:30 pm

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

Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986

Passcode: 490490

Finance, January 27, 7:00 p.m.

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

Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Church Council, Jan. 30, 9:00 a.m.

UMW Special Mission Recognition

Each year the United Methodist Women (UMW) recognizes those who have gone above and beyond in their mission commitment and work. There are many folk in this congregation who give of their time and talents. Many thanks to all. This year, UMW has selected a team as our recipients for this Special Mission Recognition: Michael and Brenda Walker! And they are quite the team! Michael has been president of “and 2 Fishes” working on our feeding program for those in need, he has long been a part of the Building committee, Congregational Care and is our Stephen Ministry coordinator. Retired from service, he is a big advocate for Veterans and their needs.

Brenda has long been a part of Church and Society and was part of the team that initiated and developed the “Helping Hands” portion of “and 2 Fishes,” and she continues to maintain and distribute a variety of necessities and clothing to our Thursday evening folk. Brenda also serves on the Cable Foundation committee, as well as “and 2 Fishes”.

Both Michael and Brenda, during these months of COVID quarantine have continued their service of collecting food for the various area Food Banks—some which is dropped off at the church and some which they generously pick up from folks’ homes. They’ve collected other goods as well and have led our efforts to continue to be a vital part of our community even in this difficult time. Thursday evenings, you can find them at the church, working to serve and meet the needs of those that come looking for help.

Asked about the Walkers, Jacque Howard shared, “I especially admire them both because I have seen their caring hearts when they serve the community that comes to the “and 2 Fishes” meal on Thursdays.”

Our many prayers and thoughts go out to the Walkers who continue to keep UMC Vista mission in our community alive and on track. Thank you, Walkers, we appreciate you.

Merry Christmas from your Congregational Calling Team

On behalf of our Calling Team, thank you for such welcoming greetings, and gracious conversations during this time. We feel so very blessed and appreciative to continue to stay connected with you. The richness of your conversations and emails continues to bring joy to our hearts and we hope to yours as well. When we call, or email, please always make certain you let us know of any needs that may arise and we will do our very best to try to find the necessary resources to assist you. Remember, your church is always “Open.”

Christmas elves have been busy at work bringing holiday cheer. Pastor Leigh Ann sent many Christmas cards; Pastor Frank helped distribute poinsettias and good cheer; Paula brought joy with phone calls and Joann and Bonnie were secret elves. Our whole team has been busy calling everyone, and sending cards as well.

The Advent Season brings us Hope, Peace and Joy as we await the Savior’s birth. We find strength in His everlasting love for us. Let us rejoice in His love and the fellowship and friendship we have with one another.

Merry Christmas!

Dakota Koenig, Lay Minister

Carol Yunt's memorial

Carol Yunt's graveside service was on Dec. 8 after her passing on Nov. 22. The graveside service was 25 years to the day after her husband, Fred passed away in 1995.

Fred, Larry and Steve Yunt wished they could have had a regular service that more could have attended, but it just wasn't possible due to the pandemic. They know that their Mom would have understood.

If you would like to read the "Memories" posted online by family and friends, visit "dignitymemorial.com/obituaries" and enter "Carol Yunt" in the search box. The Memories section is located below her obituary. You're welcome to post any memories of your own, if you'd like, her webpage will remain active the next year.

May our mother and father rest in peace.

-Fred, Larry and Steve Yunt

Pray together for...

Don Brainerd (Beth's brother), Barbara Baldrige, Lorraine Bradshaw, Marie Mounts, JaDene Dugas, Ko Kim, Olive Harris, Lilia Victa, Beverly Thomason, Marvin Philippi, Stan Hamilton, Tommy Thomson, Margo and Jim Rogers, Joan Brainerd, Stan Hamilton, Larry and Karen Veysada

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Rev. Orlie White upon his passing on Dec. 20. Plans for his memorial remembrance are pending. Please keep his family in your prayers at this time.

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!

Return Service Requested

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