



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

We begin the season of Lent on February 17, Ash Wednesday. As we enter Lent, we will meet the time of the calendar we stopped sharing in-person worship in 2020. We were in the middle of a sermon series, a Lenten study and preparing for a beautiful Easter experience. The last year has taught us a lot about ourselves and expanded our horizons beyond the singular space of our Vista sanctuary. The last year has broken open new awareness about our selfishness and wants.

Lent is about repentance and reflection. Lent is about acknowledging your own finitude, the awareness that you will die some day. Lent meets Jesus in his death and celebrates the gift of life he offers. I love the invitation to soul-examine in Lent, but personal growth, even because of our call from God to do so, can be a harsh season of the Christian year.

The psalmist writes, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and make me like you in all my ways." Psalm 51:10 is a cornerstone of the Lenten challenge to get that heart gussied up for good. It is so much easier to visit the cardiologist and say, "my heart hurts; fix it" than to open up the spiritual wounds and sins that we harbor, and allow to fester. This journey of Lent we take every year reminds us that life is hard and we struggle and fall again and again on this journey, BUT we also always have the opportunity to get right with God.

Giving up chocolate is the entry level fasting many do to remember God's superiority in our life. Giving up chocolate is a choice to fast from something sweet and delicious to remember that God created the world and all chocolate within it. Giving up chocolate is taking a step of obedience to a God who calls us to fast from harm, hurt, evil, sin. Giving up chocolate can also be a choice to save the money you'd spend on chocolate and give it to a good cause. For the 6 weeks of Lent, saving the three dollars a week you always spend on chocolate and give it to your church, or a non-profit you support is another way of honoring God and cleaning out your heart. Of course, there is more than fasting from chocolate that we can do to reorient our life to the compassion and love of God's teaching.

I have no idea how the national health crisis will continue to unfold but how we meet it is up to each of us. I hope that we can find a way to shout "He is Risen!" on Easter morning gathered in a common space, even if it's outside and cold. I hope that the vaccine and new leadership to get it dispensed, and the new leadership to heal the hate that seems to have contaminated every community, bring healing and health. I hope because Jesus has always walked the life journey with us, offering healing to brokenness and blessing through humble compassion. I hope because there is no other way, and the God of creation is worth our trust.

Welcome to the starting point to the Lenten journey. What will you do to get your heart right with God this year? Email and let me know your plans for fasting, daily prayer, almsgiving or something else. I look forward to hearing from you.

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Finance Focus

We are happy to announce that we completed the 2020 Church Budget year by meeting all our “Ministries” financial obligations. Your many generous gifts enabled our church, as a caring and sharing congregation, to spread the good news of God’s love, and the Salvation of Jesus Christ in our community and around the world. On January 30, 2021, the Church Council approved the new budget for 2021. The amount needed from all sources to complete our ministry goals for the 2021 year is \$576,974.13. We have received 88 pledges for 2021 totaling \$278,020, with givers of record totaling \$70,000. If you have not yet made a pledge to support our ministries budget for 2021, you may still do so by filling out your pledge note and mailing it to the Church office or dropping it off in the secure mailbox at the Church office. We have also received several new online giving pledges. If you wish to give online just click on the giving tab on our home page and fill out the necessary information. If you have any questions about our ministry plans or the 2021 budget feel free to contact me by phone or Email.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,
Lay Leader

Lenten Practices Call to Spiritual Discipline

As we begin our Lenten journey, please consider a special spiritual discipline during Lent such as fasting, daily prayer and or giving a special donation to your church or other non-profit. In this way, we grow our heart to God and demonstrate our obedience to our faith.

Church Family on the Move...

This year has been one of changes for many folks in our congregation. We send our prayers and best wishes with all those in our church who have left the area. They do enjoy hearing from you.

Ruth and Bill Rockwell
2200 Morrow Ct. NW
Salem, OR 97403
rock2521@aol.com

Nadine Kaina
807 Bank Street NE #102
Decatur, AL 35601
nkaina81@gmail.com

Note: If you are interested in getting the updated church directory emailed to you, please email Paula at umcvista@umcvista.org with your request or call the church office.

Happy “February” Birthdays

Sonia Maniti (2)
Marie Mounts (2)
Suzy Harlow (5)
Robbie Pierce (7)
Gary Lamb (9)
Janice Myers (9)
Gabriel Shute (13)
Julianna Bodnar (14)
Brenda O’Neil (14)
Warren “Scot” Spitz (15)
Paul Hernandez (15)
Loretta Pierce (17)
Sarah Klahn (19)
Nicole Burns (21)
Jacque Howard (22)
Mike Walker (22)
Tim Clarke (23)
Tim Smith (23)
Keona Christian (25)
Nadine Kaina (26)
Lyn Berry (27)
Karen Canfield (27)

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

What a great honor

Brenda and I would like to thank the United Methodist Women for their yearly award. UMW are such a large part of our church and for them to recognize us is humbling.

-Mike & Brenda Walker

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

Next deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

Heartfelt Thanks

Thank you from our whole ministry team on staff at the UMC Vista! Your cards, goodies and gifts for Christmas were both appreciated and uplifting! Thank you for your generosity and kindness to all of us! We feel deeply blessed to be in ministry with you!

-Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw, Rev. Frank Hallock,
Paula Amaro, Joann Balardeta, Bonnie Berumen,
Adam Ferrara, Michael Beu,
Jimmy Patton, Greg Rye and Roy Good

This has been a difficult year for everyone, including our church family. However UMC of Vista has come out in a big way in supporting “and Two Fishes.” This has been a record year for cash donations, clothing and volunteer support. UMC of Vista’s “and Two Fishes” is one of the few outreaches in Vista still putting out a hot meal every week. This is because of the support of all of you. This Christmas our gifts contained socks, knit hats, gloves, candy, cup cakes and \$20 in gift cards for Jack In the Box. We had one 12-year-old homeless boy that we bought gifts for. His father said it was the best Christmas he has ever had. Our guests have shown so much gratitude for the clothing, blankets and sleeping bags we have provided this year. I want to thank you all so much for your support. “and Two Fishes” is one of our local outreaches that is serving the Vista community. Because of your generous donations, we have been able to continue our work through this pandemic.

-Mike Walker

On behalf of Operation HOPE-North County, THANK YOU to the United Methodist Church of Vista for the wonderful news about your very generous gift in response to our Cable Grant application. We are deeply grateful to all of you for this grant and for the UMC of Vista’s many years of dedication and support.

We feel abundantly blessed to be your partner in making a difference in the world! Your gift will provide necessary upgrades for us, as well as support for our Pantry of HOPE and our Shelter program sustainability. Every dollar will be spent directly in ways that will benefit every child and adult in our program.

Everyone at Operation HOPE-North County hopes you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy. We are sending our sincere wishes for 2021 with faith that it will bring both renewed hope and abundant blessings amidst the challenges we are all facing!

Gratefully,
Cindy Taylor, Board President and
Nicole Ketcher, Director of Resource Development

A big THANK YOU to staff and laity for the planning and production of the special UMW Sunday worship. United Methodist Women are blessed to have the support of UMC Vista as the organization continues to be in mission with women, children and youth during the pandemic.

-Jacque Howard, President, UMW

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. Download the Zoom app to your device, click on “join a meeting” and follow the prompts to join the gathering.

**Leigh Ann’s Sunday Coffee Chat, Sundays,
10:30 a.m.**

Meeting ID: 116 335 354

**Frank’s Music Chat, Mondays, 11:00 a.m.
Meeting ID: 910 7168 1567**

**No Host-Drop In Coffee Chat, Wednesdays,
10:00 a.m.**

Meeting ID: 613 081 197

**SPRC, Feb. 3, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting ID: 968 9336 2856**

**Congregational Care Meeting, Feb. 4 and 18, 1:30
p.m.
Meeting ID: 946 9817 4382**

**Education Committee, Feb. 10, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting ID: 974 1879 0097**

**Trustees, February 16, 6:30 p.m.
Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986**

**Finance, Feb. 24, 7:00 p.m.
Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468**

**Church Council, Feb. 27, 9:00 a.m.
Meeting ID: 986 7336 5130**

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, February 10. 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.

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!

Pray together for...

Don Brainerd (Beth's brother), 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

Barbara Baldrige passed away on December 19.

Update

Rev. Dr. Orlie White, a retired member of the California-Pacific Conference, passed away on December 20, 2020.

Rev. White is survived by his children: Richard, David, Kevin and Stephen. A virtual memorial service is currently being planned.

Condolences may be sent to:

Mr. Stephen White

11626 Andanza Way

San Diego, CA 92127

United Methodist Church of Vista
490 S. Melrose Drive
Vista, CA 92081
Phone: (760) 726-0442
Web: www.umcvista.org
Return Service Requested