



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

“It’s time for the Christian church to get with the cosmological program. We need new wineskins for the new wine the Holy One is pouring out in the 21st century. Twenty-first-century science has provided us with new a new story of creation that needs to inform our biblical stories of creation.”
-Darwin, Divinity, and the Dance of the Cosmos, Bruce Sanguin

We are an adaptive kind of church and have always responded to the learning and new awareness of the world. We haven’t always done it easily, because human beings tend to like things to be predictable. No one likes to be startled. But, built into the DNA of the Methodist community is an understanding that everything evolves and we are always going to learn more about the universe we live in. And because the universe is in motion and always changing, the church must always be adapting to a new world.

A young person and member of the church was in her first year of college. She was studying biology and the sciences. At Christmas break she came to me and asked, “How can I believe in God and science?” She was having a crisis of faith. Her question assumed that science and religion (or faith) are in conflict. While this one question began four years of conversation during her college years, my basic answer was that science and the Christian faith are not in conflict with one another. It is our Wesleyan theology that supports the belief that religion and science can go together.

Cosmology is the study of the origin of the universe. The big bang is the most well known scientific cosmology for the origin of the universe. Christian cosmology includes the seven days of creation and the Garden of Eden. It also includes the re-creation story of Jesus who transformed all sin of the human heart and gave humanity a fresh beginning. From the Old Testament (or Hebrew Scriptures) to the New Testament (or Christian Scriptures) our conversation about cosmology is due for some reflection and updating. The good news is our journey of faith is an exploration and adventure, not a defense. God doesn’t need to be defended as if the Bible is God’s final paper in school. God is still God when we reflect on creation and the universe and being human.

Some Christians consider the study of science or the universe as a betrayal of faith. You may have studied about Galileo Galilei and learned about the tension and hostility between science and religion. Galileo has been called the “father of observational astronomy” and the “father of the scientific method.” Christians remember him because he said the earth was NOT the center of the universe. Galileo actually wrote to a church leader saying that despite the earth not being the center of all things, that wasn’t at odds with the Bible. Nonetheless, Galileo’s writings were said to be “foolish and absurd in philosophy, and formally heretical.” (Check out the Wikipedia page for more on Galileo.) Despite being labeled as a heretic by the Pope, Galileo was right. Despite being locked up for his later life, Galileo’s study was true. What influence could the church have had in the world, if the church leadership would have learned from Galileo and celebrated the vast beauty of the universe?

The Father of the Methodist Church was John Wesley. Wesley was a man who was interested in health, and physical well-being, as well as science, and nature, in addition to how all of it impacted people’s faith and life. Wesley didn’t shy away from conversations about child labor laws, education, health care, jails/prisons and punishment, alcohol and food and so much more. His study of science was not hostile to his faith, but part of his never-ending faith journey. I am reading a great article titled, “John Wesley’s Precedent for Theological Engagement with the Natural Sciences” by Randy L. Maddox that appeared in the Wesleyan Theological Journal in Spring of 2009. It is rather long but fascinating. If you have hours to spend, I recommend it to you, but be warned, it goes deep into the weeds of our faith.

The parables of Jesus point us in faithful directions. Jesus’ parable about new wine in old wineskins is valuable as we vision into the future. Jesus said, “No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved (Matthew 9:16-17).” As we look to the future, and anticipate church after the pandemic, what are the lessons we MUST take forward? How will our faith community necessarily and productively change and adapt? We have been blessed with “new wine,” but will we have the faithfulness to put it in new wineskins?

God bless you in our celebration of Resurrection Sunday and the days beyond,
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

Finance Focus

As we are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter in new ways, many of you continue making generous extra giving to our regular budget and special causes to benefit a variety of ministry programs in our Church, the community, and the world. Thank you for your continued generous support. You are a giving and caring congregation. The total giving so far during the first quarter of 2021 is over \$79,282 towards our 2021 ministry budget of \$552,170. You will shortly be receiving your quarterly giving statement for the first quarter of the year. We look forward in anticipation to when we will be back on our regular Worship schedule sometime in the future. In the meantime, we continue to pray and support each other in this time of world-wide Coronavirus pandemic.

If you have not made a financial commitment to the ministries of our church, we invite you to prayerfully consider the blessings of this congregation to your family in faith. In this time of the Coronavirus pandemic, it is especially important to continue your regular giving so that we may continue to carry on our ministry goals in the community and the world. We would encourage you to continue to make your donations via check, or by online giving. Please no cash donations. You may mail your check to the Church or drop by the office with your gift Monday through Friday from 8:30 to noon. Online giving is also available on our Website at www.umcvista.org. Open the website and click on giving to register or log in. You may also go to your bank and arrange for direct monthly online giving from your account. This is the best way to accomplish online giving to the Church, as you determine the amount to be given as well as the date during the month. Again, thank you for your generous financial support of the ministries of our Church.

If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to call or email me.

Blessings and good health to all of you.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,
Lay Leader

Music Ministry's Spring Virtual Concert

The Music Ministry of UMC Vista is presenting a Spring Virtual Concert, "Songs of Renewal and Joy." Our Chancel Choir, Praise Band and musicians from our Chamber Orchestra have created a Virtual Concert to be aired on Sunday, April 11 at 4:00 p.m. The concert features many different musicians and a variety of music in celebration of Eastertide and Spring. Artists include Jimmy Patton and Enrique Platas; our flautists, Adrianna Nims and Bin Rosenthal; a brass ensemble, soloists, ensembles, the choir and our organist, Adam Ferrara. The concert will be available at 4:00 p.m. on April 11th and will continue to be viewable for several weeks. Tune in and let the joy of music lift your spirits as we are moving forward to a time of renewal and new hope.

-Rev. Frank Hallock

Happy "April" Birthdays

Felix Fernandez (1)
Ko Kim (6)
Mal Blakeslee (7)
Allan Mejia (8)
James Hill (12)
Lorelei Clarke (14)
Edward McGinn (14)
Evelyn Lawson (16)
Bill Rockwell (18)
Toan Dao (19)
Kingsley Escobar (20)
Connor Flanagan (20)
Lauri Arrowsmith (21)
Pat Preston (21)
Heidi Kendall (22)
Alison Mathias (23)
Katie Newman (23)
Tom Johnston (28)
Annamarie Abutin (28)
Lilia Victa (29)
Maria Bowlin (30)
Daniel Gubaton (30)
Yolanda Gubaton (30)

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

Easter Worship - Parking Lot

Easter Worship in the parking lot at 9:00 a.m. by reservation only. Call the office and let Paula know you are coming so we can reserve you a parking space to celebrate our Risen Lord! HE IS RISEN!

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

Next deadline is Wednesday, April 21, 2021
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

Donations to Christ Ministries Center

As part of our Lenten/Easter giving, the Reconciling Ministries Committee would like to help Christ Ministries Center/Safe Harbors in San Diego. Our church family was very generous during Alternative Christmas 2020, however, the need is deep and ongoing. Led by Rev. Bill Jenkins, this organization gives aid to immigrants, new mothers and their babies by providing housing, food and the basics of daily living. They have the following three items as their most important and immediate needs: disposable diapers, especially sizes 3 & 4, baby wipes, and socks for babies and children.

Cash or checks made out to UMC Vista with "Christ Ministries Center" in the memo line are also deeply appreciated. Drop off your donations on Thursday, April 8 at church (on the bench by the church office) between 8:00 a.m. and 12 noon. If you have questions, please contact Kathy Johnson or Nancy Feder through the church office.

2021 Academic Scholarships

The Endowment Fund Committee is offering 2021 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 May 28 by 5:00 p.m. Applications are in the church office and on our website. To have an application mailed or emailed to you, please call the church office, 760.724.0442 or email umcvista@umcvista.org. For questions, call Gary Lamb.

Heartfelt Thanks

To my wonderful church family,

Thank you so much for all your calls and beautiful cards. They meant so much to me.

Marlene Philippi

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 at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting ID: 116 335 354

No Host-Drop In Coffee Chat

Meeting ID: 613 081 197

SPRC, April 7, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 968 9336 2856

Congregational Care Meeting, April 22, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 946 9817 4382

Education Committee, April 14, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 974 1879 0097

Trustees, April 20, 6:30 pm

Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986

Finance, April 28, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Church Council, April 24, 9:00 a.m.

Meeting ID: 986 7336 5130

Discipleship and Education Committee

The Discipleship and Education Committee wishes to extend thanks and appreciation to the families and teachers who participated in our Zoom Sunday School during Lent for our Elementary aged children. Our classes included prayer, songs, a lesson focusing on the Lord's Prayer and a craft to do on their own or together with their family, it has been a unique experience for us all!

Thank you.

-Suzanne McMurchie

Outreach “thank yous”

Guatemala Project

Dear Friends of the Guatemala Project,

I pray that you and your loved ones are well. ...the Guatemala Project continues to be in mission...there is no tourism allowed (at this time) in Guatemala. In Chichicastenango many of our dear friends and students find themselves without any income. Many struggle to feed their families.

Juan Toj, our in-country director, was made aware of just how critical the situation is in many of the surrounding villages and started doing something about it. ...we’ve been able to continue to be in mission by providing donations to purchase food. Juan and his sons drive to these surrounding villages and hand out food staples. Currently that includes corn for flour, beans, rice, sugar and cooking oil. To date with generous donations, the Guatemala Project has been able to provide food for over six hundred families

We plan to continue taking teams to Guatemala, when it is safe, to continue installing fuel efficient stoves and other projects. Until that day, providing food from afar is a way that the Guatemala Project can continue to be in mission with the Mayan families in the Highlands of Guatemala.

With deep gratitude,

Caroly R. Ingram, Director

Canine Companions

Dear UMCVista,

Thanks for your support in such a difficult year, and for increasing your support in 2021! It’s greatly appreciated.

Peace and good cheer,

Kim Danker

Wounded Warrior Homes

Dear UMCVista,

We are in receipt of your generous Outreach Award of \$20,000 dated February 10, 2021. We are honored you have chosen Wounded Warrior Homes to be one of your 2021 Community Partners.

With your donation, you are directly investing in America’s wounded veterans. In particular, your generous gift is sure to make a difference in the lives of the post-9/11 veterans struggling with Traumatic Brain Injury and/ or PTSD that we help here in North County.

Your congregation is generous in both spirit and action! We look forward to working with you and we welcome engagement from your members.

Best regards,

Mia Roseberry

Executive Director and Co-Founder

Wounded Warrior Homes

Leap to Success

Dear Friends at UMC,

Thank you for all of your amazing support in helping to empower women. May 2021 be filled with love, peace and joy! Sending you gratitude!

Your friends at Leap to Success,

Kelley Grimes

Congratulations to our Leap to Success partner!

In celebration of Women’s History Month, U.S. Representative Mike Levin (D-CA) announced Oceanside resident and Executive Director of Leap to Success, Dana Bristol-Smith, as the March Constituent of the Month, honoring her work in helping women overcome trauma and abuse.

Rep. Levin entered this statement recognizing Dana Bristol-Smith into the Congressional Record:

“Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Oceanside resident and Executive Director of Leap to Success, Dana Bristol-Smith, as my March Constituent of the Month. March is Women’s History Month, a chance to celebrate and pay tribute to women and all the ways they have made profound impacts on our nation. While we use this opportunity to commemorate phenomenal women of the past and present, I am honored to include Dana in the celebrations, a woman who has dedicated her life to uplifting women every single day right here in my district.

Dana started her Leap to Success Women’s Leadership program in 2008 after learning of the correlation between domestic violence victims’ lack of self-confidence and their ability to avoid returning to abusive partners. In response to this discovery, she developed a program to help these women own their power and start living for themselves again. Her program brought immense success and joy from the participating women, and from then on, she made it her mission to expand Leap to Success to as many women as she can.

With helpful guidance and an environment full of encouragement and love, Dana’s goal is for women who may be in abusive situations to discover the courage to find their voice, own their worth, and feel empowered to move forward in life. Dana’s community of supporters help women realize that their past is nothing to be ashamed of, but rather, an opportunity to create a brighter and healthier future. While there is so much more we must do to prevent domestic violence, I am grateful for leaders like Dana whose passion and heart creates hope and inspiration for women. I am honored to recognize her as my Constituent of the Month.”

-Barbara Mitchell

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, April 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, 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...

Marie Mounts, Ko Kim, Olive Harris, Lilia Victa, Beverly Thomason, Stan Hamilton, Tommy Thomson, Margo and Jim Rogers, Joan Brainerd, Stan Hamilton, Larry and Karen Veysada

Our sympathy is extended to the friends and family of:

- **Doris Starr** upon her passing on March 21, 2021. She was a member of our church since September 1959. Her family shares there will be a memorial time in the future. We hold the Starr family in prayer and give thanks for our sister. Cards can be sent to: The Starr Family, 105 Via Monte Picayo, San Clemente, CA 92673
- **Lorraine Bradshaw** upon her passing on March 25, 2021. Lorraine was 90 years old, joined the UMC Vista in 1998 and much loved for her cookies and kindness. A celebration of life will be planned for Summer 2021. Condolences may be sent to her address in care of Scott Bradshaw.

-Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

A Celebration of Life

Marlene Philippi and family will have a "Celebration of Life" service for Marvin on Saturday, April 10 at 11:00 a.m. at Buddy Todd Park (2800 Mesa Drive in Oceanside).

Return Service Requested

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