



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

After Easter. Turning a Corner. Looking down the road. We are almost there. We shared in-person worship outside for Easter, everyone is eligible for a vaccination, and while cases are still rising and changing, we are nearing a time for large in-person gatherings if we continue precautions. We will continue online worship as we reach out beyond the driving neighborhood of Vista, CA, and we are working toward an in-person worship time.

The last year has not always brought out the best of people. While there has been much to be appreciative about, there has been much harm done. Perhaps the best place to start is to check in with your own self. How are you feeling? Angry? Sad? Lonely? Empty? Excited? Maybe a lot of different emotions at the same time? If you experience someone else acting unkindly, remind yourself that you don't have to accept someone else's meanness or anger. (More on this below.) While you can't walk away from your own feelings, it is valuable to remember that you can walk away from someone else if their words or actions aren't healthy for you.

Therapists report a 66% increase in people contacting them for visits. If you are struggling with your spirituality and faith, don't hesitate to call me or Pastor Frank or any of our church leadership who are wonderful at prayer and listening. The congregational care team is shifting their calling back to pre-pandemic levels, but still checking in regularly. Don't hesitate to tell our calling team you really appreciate the calls and look forward to having the contact. If you are feeling depressed to the point of suicidal, or like you want to hurt or harm yourself or someone else, please reach out to a therapist through your healthcare provider or call 800.273.8255, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. If you are a veteran, they have a special resource just for you.

Perhaps it is the way people feel isolated or something else, but I've noticed an increase in tension and cruelty between people. You may have noticed it in the nation, our state and our city, as well as our church family. I've experienced bullying and aggressive anger directed at me, other staff and members of the congregation. To be clear, bullying in churches has been a problem for a long time. Because churches are a place where people have been taught to be nice, and fear raising their voice, bullying and bullies can thrive. Bullying was a hot topic a few years ago, but as we come back to seeing people and interacting, we will probably have to deal with it again in churches.

One article from a website called "Church Answers" (link below) lists some characteristics of a church bully. The traits listed begin with, "they don't see themselves as bullies." Often church bullies see themselves as heroes who are saving the church. Church bullies have "personal and self-serving agendas;" "they form power alliances with other members to undermine staff and weaker members." They often "have intense and emotional personalities." They are famous for saying "some people are saying." They "create chaos and wreak havoc." These are just a few of the traits listed in this article, but there are many more resources about bullies, spotting bullying and how to deal with bullies.

If you are dissatisfied with what you see on the news and around your neighborhood, be the person who begins a different way. If you have been harmed by a bully, get some care for yourself before you get out there to heal other people. If you are dissatisfied with aggressive unkindness, stay fixed on God's love for you and learn how to be a change agent. If you believe prayer changes everything, pray for the bullies and those who have been bullied.

It is time for hope! It is a new day! Grace and peace,

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

<https://churchanswers.com/blog/nine-traits-church-bullies/>

from website: Church Answers written by Thom S. Rainer. Originally posted March 30, 2015.

Finance Focus

The Committee on Finance/Stewardship continues to be thankful for your generous support of Church ministries efforts in our local Church, the community and around the world. This is a unique time in the life of our Church as we shelter at home and have online Worship services. We greatly appreciate your continued financial support of all our ministry areas. The Easter offering saw generous extra giving of \$2,795 in a variety of areas supporting our Ministry efforts. The total yearly giving as of the fourth week in April of 2021 is \$143,835.88 towards our total 2021 ministry budget of \$573,974. As we have completed the first quarter of the year, each of you who have given money in the offering envelopes, or online have probably received or will be receiving your quarterly giving statement in the mail.

If you have not made a financial commitment to the ministries of our Church family, we invite you to prayerfully consider the blessings of these ministries to you and your Church in faith. Regular giving is easy and helps us do more intentional ministry. Since we are not meeting in person for Worship, you may mail or drop your offering at the Church, as we now have a secure lockable mailbox on our property next to the office. Many of you have arranged for direct regular giving from your bank account to the Church. Online giving is also available on our Website at www.umcvista.org. Open the website and click on giving to register or log in. Again, thank you for your continued generous financial support of the ministries of our Church.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,
Lay Leader

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.

Happy “May” Birthdays

Rosalynn Kim (1)
Tim Arrowsmith (3)
Paula Catling (5)
Joann Balardeta (7)
Kevin Guffey (9)
Jeanette Marusak (11)
Gary Felien (14)
Laura Biggs (16)
Michael Burns (16)
Kailey Clarke (17)
John Giard (20)
Adam Way (23)
Paula Amaro (24)
Linda Boyd (24)
Jung Kim (24)
Jake Bowlin (25)
Vic Johnston (26)
Annelise Gerwig (27)
Sabrina Leffler Streeter (27)
Traci Wheeler (27)
Nick May (28)
Timothy McGinn (28)
Elton Nixon (29)
Caedmon Bowlin (31)
Elese Newman (31)

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

Flowers for Birthdays, Anniversaries and Special Events

Is there someone or something you would like to recognize and celebrate? Let us know WHAT and WHEN you would like “Flowers” and Michael Beu will create a “Flower Slide” just for you. You can email Michael at michaelb@umcvista.org.

Flame Editor
Barbara Mitchell
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Next deadline is Wednesday, May 19, 2021
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

In Celebration of our Mothers

May 9th is Mother's Day! In honor of our moms, we will be sharing special pictures during worship and the whole month of May! Submit your pictures of you and your mother, or the women of your life who love you like a mom through this link: <https://videoupload.umcvista.org/>

Be sure to mark them "Mother's Day" and include your name and your mom's name. For more help, contact Michael Beu at Michaelb@umcvista.org.

Annual Conference

The 37th Annual Conference for California-Pacific Conference will take place virtually June 17-19, 2021.

For more information go to:

www.calpacumc.org/ac2021/

Centering Prayer

Come join us for Centering prayer! We meet on Mondays from 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. through conference call. You may join our conference call by dialing 1.916.233.0790 then, following voice directions, enter 678964#, next say your name#. Enter meeting and say "Hello!". We have just begun a wonderful new book, *The Wisdom Jesus*. This is a great time to join us.

Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of contemplative prayer by preparing our faculties to receive this gift of God's presence and guidance. It presents ancient Christian wisdom teachings in an updated form. Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer: rather it casts a new light and depth of meaning on them. It is at the same time a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. This method of prayer is a step beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Him.

The source of Centering Prayer is the indwelling Trinity; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The focus of Centering Prayer is the deepening of our relationship with the living Christ. It tends to build communities of faith and bond the members together in mutual friendship and love.

If you would love more joy in your life, please call Martha Treutle at 760.809.2520. We are waiting to welcome you in our journey!

Did you know?

- In this time of COVID, there has been little normalcy with having to be locked down. But in case you didn't know, the church has a variety of medical equipment to lend you if you should find yourself in need. It is downstairs in the storage room and includes potty chairs, walkers, canes, wheelchairs, crutches and more. So if you are in need you are welcome to give the church a call and ask. It's a simple check-out/in system of whatever you need for however long you might need it.

-Barbara Mitchell

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

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

Meeting ID: 910 7168 1567

No Host-Drop In Coffee Chat

Meeting ID: 613 081 197

SPRC, May 5, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 968 9336 2856

Congregational Care Meeting, May 6, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Education Committee, May 12, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 974 1879 0097

Church Council, May 22, 9:00 a.m.

Meeting ID: 986 7336 5130

Trustees, May 18, 6:30 pm

Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986

Finance, May 26, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Heartfelt Thanks

Thanks to everyone who donated the needed items to Christ Ministry/Safe Harbors, this last month.

Loretta Pierce

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya **Response to the Derek Chauvin Verdict**

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. – Amos 5:24

Like most of you, I have been following the Derek Chauvin trial with deep concern and sadness. It seemed very apparent to me that George Floyd did not have to die, and Derek Chauvin needed to be held accountable. The fact that a jury of his peers reached that conclusion gives me a glimmer of hope that we can make the necessary changes so this doesn't happen again and again. However, this one verdict does not make this the norm, and we have to continue to press the case that Black Lives Matter, period. It is up to all of us to keep pressing our law enforcement, political and justice systems to make the reforms necessary that Black and Brown people are not singled out and subject to violence and death.

We have to remember that this verdict represents the basement and not the ceiling of what needs to take place in our nation. It is the start of justice, but only the start. All of us need to be held accountable. All of us need to feel the complicity of racial violence and unnecessary deaths. All of us need to repent!

There is no true victory in today's verdict. The only victory would have been that George Floyd didn't die, and since we cannot change that reality, a victory would be that there will be no more unnecessary George Floyd's deaths for others.

Nor does this change the reality of fear for Black and Brown people in our society. We have to name that fear, and do everything we can to alleviate such fear in the future. The fact that many of us do not have to have "that conversation" with our children about how to deal with the police in order not to be hurt or killed, speaks volumes of how we are so insulated from this fear. Yet our Black and Brown siblings face this fear every single day.

We need to continue to pray for George Floyd's family and also for Derek Chauvin. We can hate the crime that he committed, but we are taught never to demonize the person. We need to pray for his soul and for the confession and reform that is possible. Justice has been served, but we have to wait for final sentencing. We are far from over this.

The trial of Derek Chauvin is over, but our work for justice and righteousness has just begun.

Be the Hope,
Bishop Grant J. Hagiya
Los Angeles Area Resident Bishop

From Cal-Pac Conference... Summer Camp 2021

This summer, come outside and explore the universe of God at Summer Camp 2021 where we are "ALL IN" at Cedar Glen. Registration is open now and we are extending Early Bird until June 20th. No Deposit due until closer to camp!

At summer camp, young people will grow in faith, learn leadership skills, grow self-esteem, make life-long friendships and have fun. California-Pacific Conference summer camp is a safe place where everyone belongs. We have been working with American Camp Association and the CDC on protocols.

We plan to host camp hall meetings in June to answer questions. These will be on Zoom and dates are yet to be determined.

Events this year have been shortened as part of our COVID-19 Health Protocols. Camps that are available are for Elementary, Junior High, and High School youth. There are adventures to be had in God's great creation - so plan ahead for a great summer!

For more information, or with questions regarding the program or applications, please contact Kenny Funk at kfunk@calpacumc.org.

- **Senior High Camp** (grades 9 - graduating): July 6-10, 2021 (\$340/student)
- **Junior High Camp** (grades 6-9): July 11-14, 2021 (\$290/student)
- **Older Elementary Camp** (grades 3-6): July 15-18, 2021 (\$290/student)

District Camp Scholarships

The UMC Vista Endowment Fund is offering 2021 scholarships to children of active UMCV members. Contact Kenny Funk at kfunk@calpacumc.org for questions regarding the program or application registration. Once you have obtained confirmation of your camp registration, a copy of it needs to be sent to the UMC Vista Endowment Fund's mailbox at church or send to Gary Lamb at gdlamb@sbcglobal.net by June 20, 2021.

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, May 12. 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

Return Service Requested

United Methodist Church of Vista
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