



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

"Speak the truth in love." Ephesians 4:15

Albert Einstein wrote, "Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value."

There has been another kerfuffle about whether women can be pastors, or clergy, or ministers, or leaders in the church. A mega-church in Southern California recently ordained three women as staff pastors, to join the other 18 staff pastors at a church. Those women, who've worked for that church for many years, get to be recognized as ordained pastors of children, youth and pastoral care.

That mega-church is affiliated with Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), which absolutely rejects women as pastoral leaders in the church. The SBC has worked hard to reject women in church leadership and blame the decline of the church on women. Consequently, the ordination of women, even to positions related to children's spirituality and faith, has renewed the spat about women's place in the church.

As the topic of women in church leadership comes up again, it seems like a good time to consider the stance and history of the United Methodist Church in these matters. On May 4, 1956, women in the Methodist church were approved to be ordained. The Book of Discipline was changed to allow the full recognition of women as elders in the church.

Women in the Methodist tradition served as preachers and class leaders from the very beginning, but weren't recognized with the authority of the Bishop for the work of preaching, offering the sacraments and administering the local church until more recently. Among the earliest women leaders was Mary Bosanquet Fletcher, who was an early lay preacher credited with convincing John Wesley that women should be allowed to preach.

Although the equity and respect for women in leadership is uneven compared to men, our contemporary Methodist church does not deny the call and Biblical authority of women. Clergywomen typically receive lower wages, get appointed to smaller churches and struggle to have a healthy-holy life while leading a congregation. The #metoo movement gave women voice both inside and outside the church to speak more deeply about the challenges we face. (Check out the articles with videos attached for more on this.) After 65 years of ordination in the Methodist Church, women still face obstacles, even though we are recognized as pastoral leaders.

It may be a shock to many that the ordination of women is still an issue. It may even be surprising that our church still struggles with women in leadership. The good news is that you can be a force for change and justice in so many ways. Here are a few ways to be an ally for justice. Tell people about women pastors you know and that you believe the Bible supports women in leadership. Listen when women leaders speak and take them seriously, both clergy and lay leaders. Offer affirmations to women leaders that aren't about their appearance, body shape, voice or age. Quit evaluating women based on their marital status, motherhood or feminine qualifications. Advocate for a living salary, and an equal salary as male clergy.

Working for justice and equity for anyone, anywhere, is work for justice and equity for everyone, everywhere. This is the work to which Jesus calls us. Love God and love your neighbor as yourself!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/new-video-calls-out-harassment-of-clergywomen>

<https://um-insight.net/perspectives/jeremy-smith/in-her-words-reflections-by-clergywomen-on-sexual-assault-an/>

The Flame

Finance Focus

As we head into June in this unique time in the life of our Church, we want to thank all of you for your continued faithful financial support of our 2021 Church Ministry budget. While we are behind about \$9,000 in our total projected giving for the first five months of the year, we are currently meeting all our financial obligations. Many of you have continued to support our Church by mailing in or by dropping off your regular offerings on a weekly or monthly basis. Pastor Leigh Ann and staff continue to work hard to connect with all of us through our online Worship Services. More of you have signed up for regular online giving, thank you. These are challenging times, and while we have missed meeting in person on a regular basis for worship or various committee meetings, our online weekly Worship Services continue to be outstanding, and are being viewed by a growing number of people within and outside our community.

If you have not made a financial commitment to the ministries of our Church, we invite you to prayerfully consider the blessings of these ministries to you, your Church in faith, our community and the world. Regular giving is easy and helps us do more intentional ministry. Reminder: You can use the secure drop mailbox next to the office, or online giving 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

Reconciling Ministries

The Reconciling Ministries at our church, and across this country, want to acknowledge and celebrate the month of June, as being "Pride Month." The contributions that our LGBTQ members bring to our lives, enrich our community and our world. The Pride at the Beach will be virtual again, due to the Pandemic guidelines. The Reconciling Ministries Network has other event information around the country. Let us all take time out to celebrate and uplift the diversity and beauty that IS our LGBTQ community. As we participate in inclusive activities to educate, advocate, inspire and uplift others, let us embrace all of God's children as one, in love and grace.

-Loretta Pierce

Happy "June" Birthdays

Joey Graziano (1)
Joe Marquez (2)
Samuel "Issac" de la Cruz (5)
Karl Kreutziger (5)
JoAnne Moran (5)
Brandon Flanagan (6)
Linda Grider (6)
Emily Hansen (7)
Melissa Bodnar (8)
Paul Fischer (8)
Brenda Walker (9)
Susan Delaney (11)
Myriah Christian (12)
Luene Corwin (12)
Tracy Cole Lyons (12)
June Miklau (12)
Joan Brainerd (13)
Stella Hansen (15)
Barbara Shores (16)
Laurie Clarke (18)
Alyssa Coker (18)
Marlene Coast (22)
Susan Hamlin (22)
Blake Johnson (22)
Sarah LaFoe (22)
Benjamin Crumpacker-Smith (23)
Alicia Olinger (23)
Susan Miller (26)
Cameron Guffey (27)
Sharon Hall (29)
Abby Way (29)

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.

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Next deadline is Wednesday, June 16, 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 Fathers

June 20th is Father's Day! In honor of our fathers, we will be sharing special pictures during worship and the during month of June! Submit your pictures of you and your father, or the someone special through this link:

<https://videoupload.umcvista.org/>

Be sure to mark them "Father's Day" and include your name and your dad's name. For more help, contact Michael Beu at Michaelb@umcvista.org. Please submit by June 10.

Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, June 13 we will be recognizing students who are graduating from high school or college. If your student is graduating, please call Paula at the church office by Monday, June 7 or email their name, school, and degree (if it applies).

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 email to Gary Lamb at gdlamb@sbcglobal.net by June 20, 2021. Note: Each UMC Vista child who the UMC Vista Endowment Fund receive an early registration confirmation from will receive \$200.

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

Book Conversation, Sundays, 11:00 a.m.

Meeting ID: 116 335 354

No Host-Drop In Coffee Chat

Meeting ID: 613 081 197

SPRC, June 2, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 968 9336 2856

Congregational Care Meeting, June 3, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Education Committee, June 9, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 889 1248 9059

Church Council, June 19, 9:00 a.m.

Meeting ID: 986 7336 5130

Trustees, June 15, 6:30 pm

Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986

Finance, June 23, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Reconciling Ministries, June 22, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395

Cable Foundation, July 19, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 918 1565 0180

Centering Prayer

Come join us for Centering prayer! We continue to 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!". 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!

SPRC Staff Spotlight – Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is taking time to check in with staff about the impact of the pandemic on our church ministry. As the chair of SPRC, I took some time to ask Pastor Leigh Ann some questions to gain some insight from her both personally and professionally after 13 months since in-person worship paused. She shares both the challenges and what positive changes have taken place over the past year and what ministry may look like going forward.

What has been the most notable shift in the way the church / congregation operates in the past year?

Technology...Pre-Covid [we] did not enjoy or feel comfortable with online worship but as time has passed it feels more like a conduit to folks who may never be able to come to in-person worship otherwise. Adam F. has been a great asset on staff to help get things started online. We have also been able to connect with new people or people who relocated and have been able to continue to attend online.

Is there one piece of technology you learned you could not do without ...what is keeping you connected?

My cellphone...I quickly found that what I had was not adequate to do recording; the speaker was not great, and being able to easily text, check email, and watch video on my phone was necessary. It was time for a quick up-grade.

What has been the biggest challenge of the past year?

Being out of my routine with the church members and my family. I have not spent much time with family and a family reunion was cancelled. The circle of people that I connected with dropped drastically in a short period of time. It went from 100's of in person relationships to a few staff members. I miss hugging people and not seeing everyone on a regular basis. Part of how I identify with my calling as pastor is the connections I make with members of the church and often that happens through the moments we spend together on a weekly basis. Church is a lifeline for some and that little hug at the door helps carry them and me through the next week.

I personally have been impressed with the online services and have heard positive comments from church members as well. How are you all putting that together? I imagine your day to day looks different now.

Yes, the day-to-day has completely changed and there has been a lot of learning and growth along the way. We started out recording worship on Sundays so that we could share worship as close to a Sunday experience as possible. We quickly learned that the technology challenges were too much. Now we record on Wednesdays to give time to edit and distribute worship. I used to have all week to work on a sermon but now I am writing on Monday-Tuesday and recording on Wednesday. It takes 3-4 times as long to create worship. There have been a lot of late nights and scares about finishing worship in time.

What has changed for the other church staff and how are they adjusting to this new environment?

For the online worship, there is a lot more involved and coordination that must take place. We share information in a central document online that myself, Michael, Adam, Frank, Paula and Barbara can access. For example, music is handled by Adam and Frank. They upload their content and then our

newest staff member Michael comes in, takes all the content, and assembles it together with the sermon and announcements, etc. Then he and I talk through how the content goes together. Do we need to add something, what images on the screen at what time, does it all make sense in the order presented, backgrounds, frame, anyone else we need to engage for content? Barbara checks all the grammar and spelling and for continuity issues. Paula creates the worship bulletin and emails and Jim McGlocklin gets everything posted on our website. It is a lot of moving parts and takes us all of us to put it together.

That sounds like a lot of time put in by everyone involved.

It really is...people on staff and some volunteers are being asked to do more than they have in the past. It has been a challenge for everyone to learn how to do it all in a different way very quickly. As we come back together for in-person worship it is important to re-engage volunteers and invite them back into key leadership roles. The church can thrive, and we have a powerful voice in the community, but we need help to do that. The blessing is that everyone will come out of this ok and we will grow in ways that we were not expecting.

What is something you hope we keep going forward or something we have learned that you hope we hang onto?

While I have this deep grief for having lost a year together and 500K+ people passing away, this moment gives our church a chance to move in ways that it never could before. We are no longer just a local community but a global one. We have members in France, Democratic Republic of Congo, Canada, people who have moved, and because of our ability to move to an online service they have stayed connected to this church. Prior to the pandemic, the church struggled with new members and this gives us an opportunity to turn ourselves around. The question I am asking, and I hope others are as well is how do people continue their faith journey themselves if we are not in a building on a Sunday morning?

You have certainly had a lot to contend with. How did you practice self-care during this time?

In the beginning, I baked bread on Sunday's and did some painting because those were the things that helped me to find joy. I have also visited a few of my favorite places like the Huntington Library and San Diego Zoo (always with a mask). I also take time to sit at the beach to stare at the water, it is the perfect setting for reflection and peace. I have also become proficient with ordering from Instacart and GrubHub...this year has given me opportunities to add new skills. In truth, self-care hasn't been that high on my list, but it is time to get back to it.

Over the next few months, the SPRC will feature a member of our church staff in the Flame. While these articles are not extensive enough to share the wealth of knowledge, experience, and dedication each staff member brings to their role at the church, we hope that you get to know a little more about UMC Vista staff and continue to feel connected to the church going forward.

The SPRC works to assess the staffing needs of our church, employ people suited for the vision and work of the UMC of Vista and support each one who is on our church team. If you would like to know more about the work of SPRC or have an idea about supporting our staff, email me at magrd10@gmail.com.

-Melissa Giard

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, June 9**. 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...

Nancy Koski, Marie Mounts, Ko and Rosalynn Kim, Pat Hotaling, Sandy Riser, Charlotte Chappell, Betty Ann Kreutziger, Olive Harris, Lilia Victa, Beverly Thomason, Stan Hamilton, Tommy Thomson, Margo and Jim Rogers, Joan Brainerd, Larry and Karen Veysada

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/

Return Service Requested

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