



*A Monthly Newsletter of the United Methodist Church of Vista*

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We are called to be an authentic, accessible and inclusive community  
in Christ, celebrating and extending God's love into the world.

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### **Pastor's Ponderings**

Belonging; Believing; Becoming.

The original conclusion of the Gospel of John says, "Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and through believing you may have life." (John 20:30-31, NRSV) The focus of all of John's gospel is for the followers of Jesus to believe in his life and ministry because that brings us life.

The first Christians were Jews, who thought Jesus would come back in their life-time. Many thought the world would end soon and were planning for the end of time. The work of converting the unbeliever was critical and bold. Saving someone's soul was a pressing matter. There was an urgency about early Christianity that has fallen away these two thousand years later. Every now and then someone takes up this work, even in our time, usually resulting in a tragic ending.

It is largely to the Apostle Paul that we still follow Jesus and know his life. It is also true that some politicians have also helped Christianity get rooted in human civilization over the years. Constantine was a Western Roman emperor and first emperor to adhere to Christianity. During his reign, he issued an edict that protected Christians in his empire. He was baptized on his deathbed, a common practice at the time, to assure that he was forgiven of all sin at his time of death.

Although the powerful Constantine encouraged the Christian faith, Christianity did not initially flourish by taking its message to the great and powerful, or the mighty elite of the world. The earliest followers of Jesus were a part of a grassroots movement. Followers of Jesus were a small group to begin with and they shared their message, and their hope, and their experience passing it along one at a time. They never had a viral social media moment that solidified the presence of the Christian faith to the people of the world. They just shared encouragement and an eternal message person by person. No billboards. No massive ad campaign. No internet. Just one person at a time, one family at a time passing along the grace of Jesus.

Today the Christian church is in decline. Every study or research poll tells the same story. Being a member of a church congregation isn't the important personal reference that it used to be. When my great uncle was the church lay leader in a small town in southwest Texas, church membership was an important way to build relationships and assure that your family had a good meal and some support in times of hardship or grief. Church membership meant that you had ethics and values and were a good person. Church membership was like having an affirmation from Jesus about your personal character. Today participating in a church or being a church member causes people to be suspicious of your character and cautious about how you might judge them.

A faithful follower of Jesus includes three things: belonging, believing and becoming. Each one is vital to strong faith. Each one of these is supported by scripture and Christian tradition. The work of a congregation, or gathered group of people who study Jesus, is to help others learn, feel connected and belong to the community. The work of a congregation is to share the story of Jesus in word and action, believing that Jesus offers life. The work of a congregation is to help people and a community become who God is calling us to be. A congregation isn't a place to judge who is worthy or unworthy. That is God's responsibility. A congregation is a place for all to experience life giving love and saving grace.

You belong to the family of faith at the Vista United Methodist Church. Do you believe in the hope and truth of Jesus? Are you becoming the person God made you to be? Together we take this journey!

God bless you today and always.

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

## Finance Focus

As we head into the second half of the Church year, we want to again celebrate and thank you for your generous support to the many important ministries and outreach programs of our Church. Your support of our general fund budget is essential to keep your church and ministry programs up and running. Together we are participating in ministry to serve Jesus Christ in our community and around the world. To date we are meeting our essential ministry budget items, the bills are paid, although our current level of giving leaves us more than \$10,000 behind the total dollars needed to meet our ministry goals for the 2021 budget needs. You are a giving and caring congregation. We are planning events during the summer and fall to help us close the budget gap.

Regular giving is easy and helps us do more intentional ministry. You may wish to consider on-line giving as a convenient way for you to make regular contributions to our Church budget. You may go to your local bank and sign up for regular online giving. You may also go to our Website at [www.umcvista.org](http://www.umcvista.org). Open the website and click on giving to register or log in and make your gift. Again, thank you for your generous financial support of the ministries of our Church.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,  
Lay Leader

## Calling All Ladies to a Meet and Greet

Ladies, meet new friends and greet old ones! It's a new beginning and we are ready to fellowship. It has been too long since we have gathered and we have a lot of catching up to do, as well as share hopes for the future. Come to a NO HOST luncheon at the church on Tuesday, July 13 at 11:30 a.m. Bring a sack lunch (just the way you like it), including your own beverage if you want something beside water, and come to break the dry spell of lack of fellowship. It's not a meeting - no agenda, no minutes, etc. You could take the opportunity to help make hygiene kits for the border or you may just visit and enjoy the good company. Also, feel free to bring mother, sister, daughter or a friend. See you there.

-Jacque Howard

## 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. Please click on this link: <http://specialeventslides.umcvista.org/> to fill out a form in order to request the flowers.

**Relaunching in-person gatherings and worship, July 4. Worship at 10 am for one service.** We will adhere to CDC guidelines and encourage wearing a mask while in the building. Children and young people are welcome to begin in worship and will be dismissed to Sunday School and activities.

## Happy "July" Birthdays

Mary Ann Maniti (1)  
Terry Lenker (3)  
James McGlocklin (4)  
Nancy Koski (5)  
Noah Wheeler (5)  
Marlize Clarke (6)  
Justin Felien (6)  
Bob Schmeiser (6)  
Angelina Maniti (7)  
Tom Humphrey (8)  
Ruth Lloyd (8)  
Amy Pierce (8)  
Debbie Forbis (12)  
Kendall Guffey (12)  
Richard Miklau (12)  
Lanny Arrowsmith (13)  
Kim Johnson (15)  
Julie Tambur (16)  
Nancy Winters (17)  
Jacob Clarke (18)  
Niall Cargill (21)  
Jim Wright (21)  
Rolita Cargill (23)  
Adam Ferrara (23)  
Jim Rogers (23)  
Tim Smith (23)  
Carol Ganoe (27)  
Ruth Hamilton (28)  
Carter Guffey (29)  
Cindy Anske (30)  
Larry Veysada (31)

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

Flame Editor  
Barbara Mitchell  
Flame Production  
Paula Amaro  
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Jim McGlocklin

Next deadline is Wednesday, July 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

## Purpose of Church Council

The next Church Council meeting is August 21 at 9:00 a.m. Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/98673365130>

The purpose of Church Council is to provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources to the local church. It is to provide administration, envision and plan future ministry and be amenable to and function as the administrative agency of the charge conference. This is according to the 2016 Book of Discipline, paragraph 252.

The purpose of the whole church is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” To align our committee work with our purpose, we are focusing the number of church council meetings we have, reducing them to four to six times a year based on ministry need, inviting committee leaders to provide three to five sentence monthly updates that will be requested and emailed out to the whole committee.

We recognize that many church leaders are also working people struggling to balance work and faith and family. We are looking for ways to support you and not add to your already overflowing calendar. We recognize that many church members are wishing for more fellowship time, longing to just sit and talk over coffee, or have a meal together. We are looking for ways to support you and encourage convenient gatherings. We recognize the need for more study and prayer and uniquely Christian expression. We are working to make time for both staff and church members to offer courageous opportunities for growth.

Finding new ways to be God’s church in the world is our ultimate goal. We are called to provide spirit-filled, faithful worship to inspire and reflect God’s grace. We are called to empower you to serve every week through acts of caring and service. We are called to pray for one another without seeking, and let every word reflect our faith.

Thank you for your continued ministry and service to God at the Vista UMC.

Pastor Leigh Ann Shaw  
Beth Brainerd Hallock

## 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.

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

**Meeting ID: 613 081 197**

**SPRC, July 7, 6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting ID: 968 9336 2856**

**Congregational Care Meeting, July 1, 1:30 p.m.**

**Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939**

**Education Committee, July 14, 6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting ID: 889 1248 9059**

**Trustees, July 20, 6:30 pm**

**Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986**

**Finance, July 28, 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468**

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

**Meeting ID: 918 1565 0180**

**Reconciling Ministries, August 24, 6:00 p.m.**

**Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395**

## Giving Update

In the spirit of giving that is the mission of our church, the following funds were dispersed in the month of May to a few of our favorite charitable organizations:

UMCOR Disasters	\$4,912
Operation HOPE-North County	\$1,140
Christ Ministries	\$ 360

Most of these funds were donated in 2020 and also come in part from 2021 Easter giving. Thanks to our congregation for their continued generosity and heart.

-Joann Balardeta, Bookkeeper

## **SPRC Staff Spotlight – Rev. Frank Hallock**

It was such a joy to meet with and “interview” Pastor Frank Hallock for the Flame. I know you will find his responses and experiences very interesting. Pastor Frank’s journey of faith, his passion for music, zest for life and endless thirst for knowledge is both uplifting and inspiring.

So step right up and join me on this special train ride of getting to know our Pastor Frank...all aboard!

### **When did Music become so important to you?**

Music was in my life from the beginning as my family loved to sing around the piano and background music was always on, mostly due to my brother Don because he also loved opera, and I grew up thinking everyone listened to the Met Opera Broadcast on full volume on Sundays!

However, as I began high school, science was a passion and I planned to work in archeology or teach science. But in 11th grade I still needed an arts credit to graduate so I chose to audition for choir and made it. On the day of the first rehearsal my best friend and I came into the choir room, took our seats and the director began warm-ups. I loved that sound immediately and when we sang a four-part song, I was utterly captivated. I paused at the doorway and said to my friend, pointing to the director, if I can do that for a living, then that’s what I want to do...my life seemed to change in that instant.

### **What has influenced your compelling and beautiful compositions?**

I think there are many influences behind my compositions, and I find that certain genres are fundamental to my writing. Classical music, traditional folk music and especially Celtic music. If I were to select one composer that has inspired me the most it would likely be John Rutter. His music is wonderfully crafted and yet completely approachable for amateur choirs and general audiences. My goal as a composer is to write music that is meaningful to the hearer.

### **When did you receive a call to Ministry?**

My call to Ministry evolved over time, and music was at the heart of my calling. Rev. William Stephenson, who was Pastor at Lemon Grove, was instrumental in steering me towards ministry. The doors opened rapidly, and within 90 days I had a part-time job as a choir director and youth director at Tujung UMC, and a scholarship to attend Fuller Seminary in the Pasadena area. I have been in music and associated ministry as a Diaconal and then a Deacon ever since.

### **What has been some of the biggest challenges you have faced this year?**

Coping with all the readjustments. It is my calling to meet with people on a regular basis, singing, choir, working with children, bell ringers, visiting with folks at home and in care facilities. When that went away it was difficult to take... (but)...I am driven by learning new things...(so)... becoming a virtual choir creator,...Zooming with folks in Congregational Care,... (and)... viewing the challenge of supporting the staff as an opportunity, which hopefully I was able to do successfully, helped me make it through this time.

### **What do you have planned for the music program as we begin in-church worship?**

We will begin gently, with choir meetings that are distanced and masked in the Sanctuary, and bells in the Narthex to ensure safety... Pastor Leigh Ann and I have discussed the choir singing twice a month, either special music (an anthem) or leading hymns chorally. Handbells will also ring as we are able...(and)...we will likely offer a special concert three times a year, plus...(I’m)... hoping to revive Kids Summer Musicals in 2022.

As Pastor Frank concluded this interview, he shared from the heart that, “The life we have been given is more precious than we seem to believe. If I in some way can continue to raise that up in as many folks as I can, with my music, words or presence, then I am fulfilled.” For which I believe all of us who have ridden on your train of service can attest!

Thank you, Pastor Frank, for your service and dedication to Christ and this congregation. Our blessings and thanks to you!

-Dakota Koenig

## **Annual Conference 2021**

Annual Conference this year, once again on Zoom, began with a beautifully moving worship service led by youth and young adults. The theme for this year was “Restoration: Parables of the Pandemic.” Familiar parables from scriptures were retold in new ways with real examples from the past year spent in pandemic. An emphasis on what was broken could be made anew, and we saw examples of that...i.e. churches merging for new purposes.

Much of the first day focused on laity. In the United Methodist Church, laity have been valuable partners in what the church can and does accomplish. Since 1908 the laity have pushed to codify their social convictions into a social creed over workers’ rights, child labor, safety standards, and fair wage among other progressive ideas. Over the years we have experienced what our own congregational laity can do with our own service to our church, our community and our world. But there is more that we can do...because there is always more to do.

God, through Christ, is calling us to get involved. We recognize that each person is in a different place with a variety of responsibilities, obligations, stage of life or even ideologies that might make commitments difficult. But while we are here on earth, God continues to call on us to love our neighbors—all our neighbors—as ourselves, whether we agree or disagree with them. Christ doesn’t give or allow us exclusions. It’s our job to open our hearts and minds to what we are being called. At the very least we can pray for our church and those who think differently, praying for understanding. We can also pray for our church’s ministries, and volunteer whenever able and possible. We give thanks for all those laity who continue to do the work. We want our church to survive and grow...we must be a strong laity working together to make it so.

Thanks for the opportunity to represent you once more at Annual Conference. It is an honor.

-Barbara Mitchell

## 2021 UMW Quiet Disciple

Every year United Methodist Women of Vista select a person or persons to honor as Quiet Disciple. A "Quiet Disciple" enriches the lives of others with the love of Christ through their ministry that may be behind the scenes quiet, or more outwardly visible. UMW is proud to announce that for 2021 we have three Quiet Disciples in the persons of our Praise Band: Jimmy Patton, Greg Rye and Roy Good.

In this pandemic time of the past year, our Praise Band has continued to serve during services along with Praise Band Leader and organist, Adam Ferrara. Their music together has brightened our worship times. Over the years they have continued to be conscientious and active supporters of our music programs participating in worship, concerts, special services and programs. They are, and have been, gracious in sharing their time and talents with UMC Vista.

Greg, our drummer, has been playing for over 50 years. He came on board UMC Vista when we were at Breeze Hill, joining Rik Ogden and Dan Mahin. Greg also started a non-profit called "Healing Arts of Music" which provides live music to assisted and active seniors and those in need of live music to make their lives a little better. According to Greg, "It is not just that music therapy works for the elderly, it is the profound nature of the reaction in some seniors that is the most heartwarming. Many people recollect moments of their past through music." Greg, too, has plays with various local bands in the area. Check out their website.

Now retired, Roy spent many years working as a manager for Giacoletti's of Carlsbad teaching music including ukulele. He willingly has shared his love of the ukulele with folk, several of them from this church, over the years. Roy came on board UMC Vista after we moved into the "new" building, playing the bass. A longtime surfer, Roy now works part-time at Offshore Surf Shop. He continues to play in a surf music band.

Jimmy is a nationally acclaimed guitarist renowned for his ability to play two separate guitars at the same time, playing both melody and accompaniment parts simultaneously. He performs his own arrangements of popular and jazz tunes, along with many of his own compositions (many of which he has shared with us over the years). Pre-pandemic and now, once again, Jimmy can be heard and seen at a variety of venues around the tri-state area. More on Jimmy's website. Jimmy came on board UMC Vista when George Hooper was our pastor.

UMW gives thanks and praise for the gifts and talents of these men.

## All Church Charge Conference, June 26

Presided over by our soon-to-be D.S., Rev. Sandra Olewine greeted members attending on Zoom and in person. The Building Committee shared where we have been, what the plans for the new addition could look like, and how we might get there. There were two votes following information and questions on various points. The first question was on whether or not to move ahead with building the new section of the facility. This passed. The second question was on how to pay for it. There was more discussion and ideas. This also passed based upon the committee's recommendation because of the requirements from the District that stipulate all funds must be ready upon start of a project. There was an amendment to the funds coming from Cable, that was accepted, that the monies be meted out as needed and not all at once. More to come.

-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, July 7**. 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](mailto: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.

The **July/August Upper Room** daily devotionals are available. Please contact Paula so arrangements can be made for you to come by the church and pick one up.

### Note:

- **Pastor Leigh Ann's Sunday Coffee Chat** (via Zoom) on Sundays has been postponed until further notice.
- **Book Conversation** (via Zoom) on hold, alternate day and time to be determined.

## 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!

## UMW Corner

Thank you, thank you. The No Tea Party invitation response was a generous gift to the call to give support to women, children and youth served by United Methodist Women. The past year was one of frustration as many activities of mission action were put on hold, so to know that our congregation is a community that is willing to put faith into action in a big way is a true blessing. May we all continue to give financially as we are able and to pray for those that are in need of UMW support locally and world-wide.

-Jacque Howard, UMW President

## Stay connected

E-mail: [umcvista@umcvista.org](mailto:umcvista@umcvista.org)

Website: [www.umcvista.org](http://www.umcvista.org)

Facebook: United Methodist Church of Vista

Be sure to check us out on Yelp!

## Pray together for...

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

Our **sympathy is extended to the family of Lilia Victa** upon her passing on June 12. Please continue her family in your prayers at this time.

## A Celebration of Life

**Lorraine Bradshaw**

**July 31, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m**

**at 4967 Nighthawk Way in Oceanside**

**(hosted by the Bradshaw family)**

Please come and share your special memories and stories about Lorraine. There will be sandwiches and beverages. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to UMC of Vista.

Return Service Requested

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