



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

"Spiritual Formation and Renewal Leave" is a time to study and reflect on the next six years of ministry and church leadership. I'm so grateful for the support of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, Dakota Koenig, and Melissa Giard and the generosity of this congregation. Thank you for the cards of support and encouragement.

During my time apart, I'm studying pastoral care and starting some writing for the contemporary church. For the last three decades the Church has been convicted that a healthy, fruitful church is the result of strong, managerial leadership. I agree. And, I believe all leadership and visioning must be done with heart. Churches and church leaders must turn back to caring for one another as our central orienting mandate from Christ. People of faith have become more known for who we judge, rather than who we care for. Over my 25 years of appointed leadership in the UMC, I've seen and experienced the results of such conflicting expectations.

I have a lot of reading piled up on various topics. To give you a glimpse of what I'm reading, here are some of the books I'm working with. Check it out.

Book reading list of Pastor Leigh Ann:

- *Numbers Don't Lie: 71 Stories to Help Us Understand the Modern World* by Vaclav Smil
- *The Comfort Book* by Matt Haig
- *Body Connections: Body-Based Spiritual Care* by Michael S. Koppel
- *Practicing Theology: Beliefs and Practices in Christian Life* by Miroslav Volf
- *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Practical Theology* by Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore
- *Being the Church in a Post-Pandemic World: Game Changers for the Post-Pandemic Church* by Kay Kotan
- *The Innovative Church: How Leaders and Their Congregations Can Adapt in an Ever-Changing World* by Scott Cormode
- *Clinical Ethics* by Jonsen, Siegler and Winslade
- *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence* by Diana Butler-Bass
- *Ministry Among God's Queer Folk* by Bernard Schlager
- *Queen Virtue* by Rev. Elizabeth M. Edman
- *Finding Meaning: The Sixth Stage of Grief* by David Kessler
- *Basic Types of Pastoral Care and Counseling* by Howard Clinebell
- *The Practice of Pastoral Care: A Postmodern Approach* by Carrie Doehring

If you are curious, check a few of these out. I'm deeply grateful for the blessings and kindness of our church family and continue to hold you in prayer.

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

Finance Focus

We are now into the second half of the Church year, we want to again celebrate, and thank all of you for your continued generous financial 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. As of end of July, we are meeting our essential ministry budget items, the bills are paid, although our current level of giving leaves us around \$10,000 behind the total dollars needed to meet all our ministry goals for the 2021 budget needs. You are a caring and giving congregation.

Many of you are now giving on-line, and we thank you for your continued support. Now that we are back with regular in-person Worship services, we appreciate your continued generous financial support. See you in Church.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,
Lay Leader

Elements of Worship: Our **Call to Mission** is our time of recognizing and blessing the many offerings we make as a response to God's love. Each week we will highlight an organization, people or group of people, or share a video that is associated with our United Methodist Church. After this recognition and prayer, you are invited to make your offering for the week ahead. If your offering is making a financial contribute to our church's ongoing ministry, you may bring your contribution forward and place it in our offering box, contribute electronically online or mail it in. If you want to support an organization or program connected with our church, please make note of it on the memo line of your check or the notes when you give online.

Lost your badge?

In the past year and a half...the whereabouts of your badge may have gone forgotten...if that's the case, never fear! Please call the office and order a new one. And if the only thing misplaced is the backing....you can (1) check the frame of your car, or (2) let the office know as we have a few extras!! And PLEASE....wear your badge to church! During this time of masks, it's sometimes difficult to know to whom we are speaking... your badge will help!

-Barbara Mitchell/Pat Hotaling/Paula Amaro

Happy "September" Birthdays

Nancy Coker (2)
Anita Maag (2)
Nannette Stamm (2)
Connor Way (2)
Carol Graham (3)
Stan Hamilton (3)
Scott Hansen (3)
Sherry Johnston (3)
Jean Vought (4)
Christen Holder (7)
Dakota Koenig (9)
Jeannie Martinsen (11)
Christopher Tivar (12)
Aiden Amaro (13)
Kathy Kim (14)
Betsy Jean Miller (14)
Jimmy Patton (14)
Tommy Thomson (15)
Phoebe Fraser (17)
Sara Baldwin (18)
Grace Hernandez-Jackson (19)
Gemma Johnson (20)
Phil Balun (21)
Patricia Hotaling (21)
Chloe Johnson (23)
Aaron Amaro (28)
Christian Guffey (29)
Scott Myers (29)
Raub Mathias (30)

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

Welcome! If you are new to the area, or new to our church, we are so glad you are here! If you are interested in learning more about UMC of Vista, check with Paula (in the narthex on Sundays) or call the church office during the week. Or email Barbara Mitchell at bjmitch5122@yahoo.com

Flame Editor
Barbara Mitchell
Flame Production
Paula Amaro
WEB Master
Jim McGlocklin
Next deadline is Wednesday, September 15, 2021
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

Food drive donations

During the last 18 months our church has been supporting a food drive that has provided North Country families with tons of food. In March, 2020, Pastor Leigh Ann asked Brenda and me if we would be willing to sponsor a food drive to help support the North County food bank.

I didn't have any idea what the response would be from everyone, however, the first time we picked up the food donations, I was overwhelmed with pride for our Church with the amount of food that was at the front door of the church office. We were able to fill up the back of my SUV and that continued month after month through this pandemic.

With people being able to get out and get back to work, we have decided to stop our monthly food drive for now. We are planning a large food drive this fall with our church youth. We will notify everyone once we have a date.

For everyone that participated in this almost two year food drive, please take a minute to pat yourself on the back, you fed hundreds of families that needed a helping hand.

-Mike and Brenda Walker

Men's Fellowship Breakfast

The Men's Fellowship breakfast have restarted. They meet on Friday mornings at 7:30 a.m. at Pegah's Kitchen, 945 South Santa Fe Avenue in Vista (phone 760.414.9803).

All interested men and friends of UMC Vista are invited to attend for an hour of food, fellowship and informal social interaction. For more information, contact Tom Humphrey (760.703.2736, cell) or Jim McGlocklin (951.218.6805, cell).

-Don Wirth

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, Sept. 1, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 968 9336 2856

Congregational Care Meeting, Sept. 2, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Education Committee, Sept. 8, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 889 1248 9059

Church Council, Sept. 18, 9:00 a.m.

Meeting ID: 986 7336 5130

Trustees, Sept. 21, 6:30 pm

Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986

Finance, Sept. 22, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Reconciling Ministries, Sept. 28, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395

Heartfelt Thanks

The Education Committee would like to recognize and to thank Suzanne McMurchie for her 15 years of service to our committee. She is taking some time off and we hope that she will rejoin us after a much deserved time to focus on herself.

Margene Haase

To the United Methodist Church of Vista,

Thank you for hosting us! The dinner and breakfast gave us the ability to carry-on to our last stop on this journey (San Diego - Lemon Grove). Without the support of local churches the mission of the Fuller Center would never be possible. You all were gracious hosts and made our second to last day of cycling a joy!

Peace and blessing,

The West Coast Fuller Center Bicycle

Adventure Group of 2021

From SPRC

On behalf of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, I would like to share some good news with the congregation.

During our first in-house worship on July 4th, we celebrated the continuation of Pastor Leigh Ann and Pastor Frank's appointment here at UMC Vista and we look forward to another year of their leadership and counsel.

Throughout their careers, clergy have opportunities to engage in continuing education for ministry, professional development, while holding an appointment in the church. Every six years, clergy are also eligible to take a Renewal Leave for Formation and Spiritual Growth with the purpose of providing dedicated time away from normal duties to study, reflect about ministry, or acquire knowledge about a specific topic or field of study. Some examples include spiritual retreats, participation in seminars or study programs, or enhancement of skills in a particular spiritual or personal growth program.

In May, Pastor Leigh Ann brought a request to take such a leave to study pastoral and congregational care as part of her duties on the Board of Ordained Ministry and church leadership and management. Prior to the pandemic, she was called to write about a contemporary approach to pastoral care, however, her sense of urgency around this topic was heightened during the pandemic as the needs of the church and community were consistently changing, taking a toll on pastors whose role is to care for the spiritual needs of the church community.

In consideration of this request, Staff-Parish acknowledges the challenges a life of ministry can bring in normal times and as we can all appreciate this past year has been uniquely difficult. Now more than ever we also recognize and fully support the importance of self-care for church staff, seeing the necessity for dedicated time to pursue and practice development of the whole person, so that we may continue to operate as a congregation in a healthy environment – meeting the needs of our community emotionally, physically, and spiritually with healthy attitudes, healthy habits, and healthy hearts and minds.

Consideration was also given to the fact of when taking this leave would be best for Leigh Ann and for the church. With many of the important events like returning to in-person worship, and the approval of the building having taken place, we are in a brief period of pause and reflection as a church family. We will continue to learn and adapt to in-person and online worship, we will continue to strengthen our impact and presence within the community, and we will continue to grow stronger as a congregation.

I am happy to announce that the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and the District Superintendent Bishop have approved Leigh Ann's request for three months of renewal leave from August 23rd through mid-November. We appreciate and are thankful for the opportunity to give back to our pastor by allowing time to focus on growth and renewal, not only for her but also for the health of the congregation.

How will needs of the church and worship be covered while Pastor Leigh Ann is away?

Please rest assured that the administrative needs of the church will continue to be met by other members of the staff and committee chairpersons. Pastor Leigh Ann has scheduled guest preachers, Rev. Sandy Olewine, Rev. Mary Scifres, and Rev. Scott Andrews to name a few. Pastor Frank will be preaching on October 31st for All Saints Day as we commemorate those who have returned to their heavenly home.

Does Pastor Leigh Ann want to leave us?

No, Pastor Leigh Ann's expectation and hope is that she will be here for the long term with the Lord's blessing. With the approval of the church building, we are finally turning a page in the book of this church's life and on the path to achieving our goal of having a greater outreach in this community. With that, we all need to focus our energy on defining the passions and convictions that will allow us to begin 2022 with new energy and vigor. Pastor Leigh Ann's goal for this leave is to return to us renewed and reenergized so that she may continue to be fully present and engaged for the next chapter– when the building opens.

When will Pastor Leigh Ann be back?

Pastor Leigh Ann will be back with us in time for Advent so that we may all celebrate the Christmas season together as a church family.

Pastor Leigh Ann, we thank you for your continued leadership and guidance, and pray that this time brings you happiness, energy, and that you come back to us stronger than ever.

If you have any questions or want to know how you can support our senior pastor, contact Melissa Giard, SPRC chairperson by phone 619.729.4033 or email magrd10@gmail.com.

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women will meet on September 14 at 10:00 a.m., for a general meeting, including a business meeting and guest speaker (11:00 a.m.). We will welcome Dana Bristol-Smith, founder of the Leap to Success program. Leap to Success is designed to provide skills for women to become productive members of society after having experienced major life challenges such as domestic violence and homelessness. Classes to educate and empower women have been held in our building for several years. Come and learn how the program goals are achieved. Everyone is invited, old timers or newbies.

At the close of the program you may want to stay for fellowship and enjoy your sack lunch with old and new friends.

Ruth Circle will not meet in September.
Kenworthy Circle will meet on September 7, in Fellowship Hall at 1:30 p.m.

Pray together for...

Susan Hamlin, Marlene Coast, Suzanne McMurchie, Dave Cowles, Nancy Koski, Marie Mounts, Ko and Rosalynn Kim, Sandy Riser, Charlotte Chappell, Olive Harris, Beverly Thomason, Stan Hamilton, Tommy Thomson, Margo and Jim Rogers, Joan Brainerd, Larry and Karen Veysada

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.

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!

Return Service Requested

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