



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

"Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." Romans 5:5, NRSV

A famous author (some credit Leonardo da Vinci) said, "Art is never finished, only abandoned." The same can be said for hope. Hope is never lost, only abandoned. Hope is the energy of the faithful. Hope is the antidote to pessimism and lost dreams. Hope brings us home from being lost.

As we look into November and the end of the year, it is hope that fills me up. I'm so grateful for this time apart and count it as a generous gift for ministry and perspective. I've been reading so much on caring and compassion. I've been praying for you by name. "To each in their own need and concern, Gracious God, uplift and bring assurance." Paula printed me a directory and I read your names daily to God.

Last year, November looked so bleak. There was so much that was on our minds as we faced an election, the expanding global pandemic and no clarity about our future. This year, although we face a lot of challenges, I feel a renewed sense of hopefulness. Perhaps it's the time to pray and reflect that has brought me this renewed hope. Perhaps it's how fiercely you've met all the challenges we faced.

Unkindness and cruelty tear people down. Accusations stop meaningful conversation but curiosity leads to new hope. Carl Rogers used the term "unconditional positive regard" to describe caring for another person, and giving them permission to have their own feelings and experiences without judgement. This is an attitude of grace that meets another person where they are and not where you think they should be.

Thanksgiving is almost here. Advent is almost here. The end of the year is ripe for hope and generosity. I feel the deepest gratitude for you and all that we are called to do together. I'll be back in a couple weeks and looking forward to seeing you. I look forward to celebrating the birth of the Christ child, our Prince of Peace, our eternal Hope!

God bless you today and always,
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Finance Focus

Thank you for your generosity towards our Church Ministry Action Plan by supporting the 2022 budget through your pledges and support by returning your 2022 pledge card. God's spirit is clearly at work here at UMC Vista! As of October 20, we have 36 pledge cards returned for a total of \$111,700 for the 2022 budget, THANK YOU FOR YOUR PLEDGES! If you have not taken the opportunity to turn in your pledge or estimate of giving for 2022 by returning or mailing it to the Church office, please do so at your earliest convenience. You may also consider giving online by going through your bank, or through our Church website. We are making an impact in our community and the world by spreading the love of Jesus Christ to all people. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,
Lay Leader

Blanket and Coat Drive

It's that time of year again. Please donate your lightly worn jackets and used blankets to our less fortunate at AND TWO FISHES. These items can be placed in the container that is placed in the Narthex. We are now accepting all types of clothing and shoes. Thank you for your continued support. Questions, please contact Brenda Walker at 760-505-1702.

Peace Vigil

Reconciling Ministries is sponsoring the third annual Community Peace Vigil at 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 5th in the church sanctuary. The varied program will see several churches as well as members of our church family participating, concluding with a candlelight service at the Peace Pole. Come and join us at this fun and meaningful family event!

All Church/Charge Conference, Dec. 5

All Church/Charge Conference is coming up on December 5, 1:00 p.m. It is a review of our annual ministry, and to affirm our outreach ministry budget for 2022, to affirm the pastors' salary packages, to affirm our slate of leadership, including renewing our support for our lay servant ministers and certified lay minister. If you are submitting a report sharing your appreciation of your ministry team or about what your team has done this year, or many hours and people you've impacted and cared for, please submit your brief report to Paula Amaro in the office by November 18.

Happy "November" Birthdays

Colleen Guffey (3)
Hector Hernandez (3)
Pam Montoya (3)
Grace Wheeler (5)
Stacy Hansen (6)
Louise Clarke (8)
Janet Ahrens (9)
Leonidas Clarke (9)
Nancy Montgomery (10)
Kathe Enright (11)
Josh Clarke (12)
Miriam Tivar (12)
Jane Arrowsmith (13)
Norman Corwin (13)
Beverly Duncan (13)
Tim Frazier (13)
Susan Lenker (13)
Charlotte Chappel (14)
Greg Rye (15)
Teresa Flanagan (16)
Emma Hernandez-Jackson (17)
Martha Phillips (17)
Kathy Johnson (19)
Beth Schmeiser (21)
Michael Beu (22)
Kenn Bing (22)
Al Amaro (23)
Suzanne McMurchie (25)
Abbie Bowlin (26)

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

The November/December Upper Room daily devotionals are available in the Narthex.

<p>Flame Editor Barbara Mitchell Flame Production Paula Amaro WEB Master Jim McGlocklin Next deadline is Wednesday, November 17, 2021 Comments or suggestions, please let us know.</p>
<p>The Flame (monthly newsletter) United Methodist Church of Vista 490 S. Melrose Drive Vista, CA 92081</p>

The World Thank Offering

The goal of The World Thank Offering is to raise funds to impact the lives of women, children and youth. It is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundant grace and become part of the good work that God is doing in the world. When we share our gifts and they are combined with the gifts of others, our contributions make possible the support of national and international work to meet the physical and social needs of women, children, and youth in our neighborhood and around the world. Read about The World Thank Offering at unitedmethodistwomen.org/worldthank.

To contribute to The World Thank Offering indicate on your check or envelope that it is for The World Thank Offering. Please drop it in the Sunday offering collection box or mail it to the church. Thank you!

-Jacque Howard, President, UMW

Heartfelt Thanks

This congregation is blessed to have so many wonderful folk in this church who volunteer many, many hours. But we also have an Office Manager in Paula Amaro who is truly amazing! Paula, for over 30 years, has done a masterful job of meeting and greeting folks in and out of the office. She is the face of the United Methodist Church of Vista...and it is always one that is smiling, welcoming and encouraging and supportive. Over the years Paula's duties have been added to, and she has conscientiously taken classes and spent time learning new ways, new programs, new machines. She sends notecards, makes phone calls, attends meetings, gets out communications including the Flame and Spark and in general keeps tabs on all our records and necessary appointments for maintaining the facility as well as being responsive to staff needs. Paula, we are fortunate to have you, and I, for one, am extremely grateful for you and your friendship over the years. You are a blessing for us all. Thank you, my friend!

-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.

Conversation with Pastor Frank, Sundays, 1:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 261 442 6112

Passcode: 490490

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

Meeting ID: 613 081 197

SPRC, November 3, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 968 9336 2856

Congregational Care Meeting, Nov. 4, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Education Committee, Nov. 10, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 889 1248 9059

Trustees, Nov. 16, 6:30 pm

Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986

Finance, Nov. 17, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

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.

Staff-Parish Spotlight: UMC Vista Video and Audio Technology Team

Michael S Beu: Lead Technology Coordinator

Michael was hired in August of 2020 during the coronavirus pandemic to lead our church into a new era of worship service online with video technology. This was a very challenging position to fill for our church future and to find the right fit for the job. Michael has a degree in Cinema and Television Arts from Cal State Northridge and graduated in the fall of 2019. Michael is the son of two pastors and has been involved with church activities all his life in the Orange County area. His mother is a UMC pastor and influenced his passion in high school to consider a career path in media productions. During his spiritual journey he crossed paths with many church pastors and people who encouraged and have mentored him along this professional path. His passion in media technology has only grown and allowed him more ways to connect with the church and his career ambitions. This has proven to be a very spiritually fulfilling outlet for him. His position at UMCV is still evolving as he continues to develop more ways to improve our worship experience into the future of the church. I think it was fate for him to connect with UMCV thru his contact with Pastor Leighann Shaw. He has proven to be a wonderful asset to our church staff and the future growth of our church services. As a congregation, please welcome him to our staff. Michael is open to new ideas and feedback about our online services.

Joseph Smith: Audio & Video Assistant

Joseph was hired to assist in the Video and online worship technology at UMCV in the fall of 2020. He is a graduate of Carlsbad High School and Cal State Northridge with a degree in cinematic and television arts with emphasis on cinematography. He was also a great school friend of Michael Beu, and has lived in North County most of his life. He sees technology in the church worship area as a way to spread the words of peace and love to people. He is helping Michael to develop new ways to enhance our worship experiences online. He feels very honored to be in our church and watch it grow into the future. Please welcome him to the staff of our church.

As part of SPRC, I wanted to introduce this great team of our technology staff as they are a big part of building our worship experience online, so that all our members can enjoy our Sunday services at any time. Please welcome this team to our church. They both believe this is a great congregation and church to be involved in.

-Bev Hopkins, SPRC Committee Member

From Leap to Success

Dana shared: “I’ve heard it said there are no coincidences and I have come to believe that is true. On Sunday, I stopped at the office on the way to a fundraising event that was being hosted by two...Board members.

I picked up an envelope from our mailbox that said, ‘Attn: Leap to Success.’ ...there was no address or stamp, no letter, no note, no nothing—just a check for \$2,000! Written at the bottom was a woman’s name, phone number and email address.

I was so curious that I had to call right then to find out more about this mystery check.”

Dana did get in touch with Tanya who shared her story about troubles in her own life including the sudden loss of her single parent mom who had worked so hard and given up her own dreams of becoming a lawyer advocating for women and women’s rights. Being new to the real estate field and needing to find ways to move ahead, Tanya would sign up for free workshops or networking meetings. She went to an event put on by Leap to Success where she met some powerful ladies (who were transitioning out of domestic violence, the penal system and addiction) that had graduated the Leap to Success program. Tanya went home inspired that day—if these ladies could do it, so could she! She wrote an amount on her vision board that she wanted to give to Leap.

Dana shared: “What I learned from Tanya is that we never know the power of our words and how they can change someone’s day, week, or even their life. I shared with Tanya that the event that I was on my way to at that moment, was being given by the very same woman who gave the event 5 years before that set this whole story in motion. Coincidence? I don’t think so! At Leap to Success, we help women find their voices. What I know is that our voices have the power to change the world!

Thank you for being part of our community of support.”

Dana Bristol-Smith
Executive Director

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 Winters, Suzanne McMurchie, Nancy Koski, Pat Rose, Ko and Rosalynn Kim, Charlotte Chappell, Olive Harris, Beverly Thomason, Stan Hamilton, Tommy Thomson, Margo and Jim Rogers, Joan Brainerd, Larry and Karen Veysada

Note: Marie Mounts passed away in December 2020. Prior to her passing, she was taken home to South Carolina to be with family.

Return Service Requested

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