



*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**

We, human beings, are accustomed to resting in the darkness and seldom greet a new day. We are accustomed to closing our eyes and laying down and letting days and nights flow automatically without ever thinking that we don't do anything to make it happen. It is comforting that the universe runs without our intervention. Perhaps remembering that might be our first gratitude in the new year.

As we begin a new year, I am thinking about clocks and how we experience time. I remember my first alarm clock that I had to wind up every night and set to wake me up in the morning. I was in early grade school and it was one of those alarms that clangggged and rangggg and startled me awake every morning. Our relationship with time isn't always an easy one when our clocks become our keepers.

The wisdom author of Ecclesiastes says, "for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." The scriptures offer a subtle warning about time in the subtext. We have no control over time. Our days cannot be lengthened by our bartering or productivity. Just as the day and night return again and again without our participation, the time of our life passes too.

As the new year begins, it begins in the darkness. I appreciate the easy way days come and go and the noisy clocks of old are gone. When we wake up on January 1st, we assume that we will have 12 months or 365 days (if you prefer) ahead of us. I won't be setting a resolution this year, but I will be considering how to add more joy to the year. The last two years have disturbed the regular pace of living and made joy in life more precious than ever.

Paul writes to the Philippians, "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice." Our faith encourages us to joy and rejoicing. Joy is important and valuable and the beloved children of God are worthy of Joy!

Rather than being sad that our days are fleeting, a new year is a time to celebrate that a new time has begun. Rather than being sad for what is behind us, there is infinite joy in what is ahead of us. God's heaven on earth is a play-box of delight and compassion and kindness and love. We have no control over days and nights, but we do have a say over whether we will love life and celebrate each moment.

Looking into 2022, I celebrate YOU! I celebrate the faithfulness of this congregation coming out of a very difficult time and building a new space for ministry and mission and fellowship and friends and fun! I celebrate the opportunities that we haven't even thought of yet! When so many others are lamenting in hopelessness and criticism, we are looking forward in truth and confidence of the Lord.

In Joy and thanksgiving,  
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

## Finance Focus

Thank you for your generous support of the Ministry Action Plan of our Church with your pledges and support of the Stewardship Campaign for the 2022 budget. Pledges are still coming in supporting the 2022 budget. As of the middle of December, we have 74 pledges returned for over \$203,920 pledged for the 2022 budget. If you still wish to make a pledge or estimate of giving for 2022, pledge cards are available from the Church office, and you may mail or return them to the Church office. If you are behind in your 2021 giving you may still mail your contributions or drop them off at the Church locked mailbox at the office or give online. With our Christmas offerings, we hoped to raise the necessary funds to balance the budget for 2021 and to complete 2021 with all financial obligations met. 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, please free to contact Rollin Grider.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,  
Lay Leader

## Happy "January" Birthdays

Phyllis Buvel (1)  
Jane Fischer (1)  
Ray Coast (2)  
Sean Flanagan (3)  
Jordyn Fraser (4)  
Sheridan Blakeslee (7)  
Sabrinrose Mejia (7)  
Dan Gubaton (9)  
Cassandra Levardo (9)  
Elizabeth Choque-Jimenez (10)  
Mary Jane Bode (11)  
Marilyn Butterstein (12)  
Shawn Johnson (13)  
Frank Hallock (15)  
Stephanie May (15)  
Alan Feder (18)  
Gracie Morgan (18)  
Betty MacDermot (19)  
Roy Good (20)  
Kai Graziano (21)  
Jim Pence (21)  
Bonnie Berumen (22)  
Karen Felien (22)  
Karen Veysada (23)  
Stu Gibson (24)  
Alline Piercy (24)  
Victor Avila (25)  
Leila Fernandez (25)  
Jalyn Phillips (25)  
Taylor Hansen (26)  
Ben Selinger (26)  
Nancy Feder (28)  
Judy Gibson (29)  
Andres Maniti (29)

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

Flame Editor  
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Next deadline is Wednesday, January 19, 2022  
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

## Reconciling Moment from the Vatican

On Dec. 12, 2021 an official at the Vatican's Synod office issued an apology to New Ways Ministry (a Catholic organization building bridges between the LGBTQ community and the Catholic Church since 1977) and LGBTQ Catholics after removing a video relating to church matters. The link has since been restored.

Theirry Bonaventura, Communication Manager of the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops, issued the apology on Sunday. New Ways Ministry organization "warmly" accepted the apology recognizing that apologies are never easy to make. New Ways Ministry had not requested one, making this gesture all the more authentic. Vatican officials rarely apologize, and they almost certainly have never apologized to LGBTQ people or an LGBTQ Catholic ministry. This action signals that Vatican officials are becoming aware of how their decisions impact LGBTQ lives...an example of amazing grace which can be brought to life when one practices honesty and humility, and is concerned about how one's actions may harm other people. This unprecedented apology from a Vatican office amplifies the welcome that Pope Francis has extended to LGBTQ people. God indeed works in mysterious ways, turning what could have been great harm into an instrument of greater connection.

To find out more, you can go to the website [newwaysministry.org](http://newwaysministry.org). This article is a synopsis of an email from Robert Shine, New Ways Ministry, Director.

## Christmas Caroling

Many thanks to the 13 Christmas Carolers (Carol & Jim Pence, Karen & Gary Felien, Tom & Sue Humphrey, Chico & Martha Treutle, Melissa Giard, Bev Hopkins, Andrea Shaw, Kathy Johnson and her granddaughter Sophie, who volunteered to spend their afternoon on Sunday, December 12th singing to 14 homebound folk of our church family. Each one received a beautiful poinsettia and a couple of origami paper peace cranes. Everyone had a wonderful time, carolers and listeners both! Also many thanks to Dakota for organizing and purchasing the beautiful poinsettias!

## 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 a.m.  
Meeting ID: 613 081 197

Congregational Care Meeting, Jan. 20, 1:30 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

SPRC, January 12, 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 968 9336 2856

Education, January 12, 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 889 1248 9059

Trustees, January 18, 6:30 pm  
Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986

Finance, January 26, 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

## Did You Know...?

- UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is responding to the deadly tornadoes moving through several states, along with international efforts as well? They ask for prayers and there is always a need for financial support. You can find out more by going to [umcmission.org](http://umcmission.org).

## *Heartfelt Thanks*

In November, our Sunday School put together four shoe boxes that were sent to children who won't have had Christmas otherwise. It is one way our children can show God's love.

-Margene Haase and Colleen Guffey, Co-chairs

## Peace Vigil

On Sunday, December 5, our church had its third annual Community Peace Vigil, sponsored by Reconciling Ministries. It was a beautiful service with participation from several churches in our community, including the Vista Buddhist Temple, St. Francis Catholic Church, All Saints Episcopal Church, and Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Five of our youth sang songs, played the drums, read a poem and talked about the legend of 1,000 cranes. We gave origami peace cranes made by church members to each person who attended. A lovely hula interpreted the story of the Christ child's birth. The vigil opened with a wonderful prayer of peace by Pastor Leigh Ann and closed with a candle lighting and a meaningful prayer by Pastor Frank at the peace pole, where the service concluded with everyone singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth." Many people commented on how much the service meant to them. We're hoping for a full house next year!

-Kathy Johnson

## UMW

United Methodist Women want to thank everyone who helped make the Christmas bake sale successful. The expression "it takes a village" becomes "it takes a congregation" from the bakers to the consumers, to pull off a successful mission support event. Many thanks to everyone who participated in UMW's first in-person mission fundraiser for the past two years.

-Jacque Howard, President, UMW

## Outreach Budget 2022 Update

Our Outreach Budget for 2022 was approved at the All Church Charge Conference on December 5. We approved 26 grant requests for community partners for mission, ministry and service and the total amount funded was \$463,800! Thank you for your support!

Alabaster Jar Project	\$10,000.00
Boys and Girls Club of Vista	\$ 7,500.00
Canine Companions for Independence	\$10,000.00
Southwest Regional Training Center	
Casa de Amparo	\$20,000.00
Christ Ministry Center	24,000.00
El Porvenir	\$ 8,000.00
Global Conservation Force	\$ 8,000.00
Guatemala Project	\$ 8,400.00
ICC Grace Children's Hospital	\$20,000.00
Interfaith Community Services, Inc.	\$25,000.00
Leap to Success	\$15,000.00
Lifewater International	\$18,000.00
North County LGBTQ Resource Center	\$10,000.00
North County Lifeline	\$25,000.00
Operation HOPE North County	\$25,000.00
Shepherd of the Hills UMC – Community Table	\$10,000.00
Sierra Service Project	\$ 6,580.00
Solutions for Change	\$24,000.00
SOSL – Survivors of Suicide Loss	\$13,000.00
UMC Vista Missions	\$15,000.00
UMC (Media Outreach)	\$61,820.00
UMC of Vista	\$50,000.00
Vista Community Clinic	\$12,000.00
Vista Teen Outreach	\$ 5,000.00
Women's Resource Center	\$ 7,500.00
Wounded Warrior Homes, Inc.	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
	<b>\$463,800.00</b>

# Christmas Poinsettias for 2021

Given in honor of Richard and Eva Jane Biggs  
and in memory of Evelyn Veevaert  
from Diane and Phil Biggs

Given in memory of Terry Boyd  
from Linda Boyd

Given in memory of Michele C. Kelley (Karen's mom)  
from Karen and Gary Felien

Given in memory of parents, Don and Phyllis Williams  
from Sharon Hall

Given in honor of friends and family  
from Frank and Beth Brainerd Hallock

Given in memory of parents, William and Norma Kitchen  
from Bev Hopkins

Given in memory and honor of son, James,  
and dear friend Rev. Lynne Austin  
from Kathy Johnson

Given in honor and celebration of family –  
grandchildren, children and husband  
from Kathy Johnson

Given in memory of her parents,  
Rev. William A. and Elsa Kendall  
from Heidi Kendall

Given in memory of Charles Erb  
from Dakota Koenig

Given in honor of Sherry Lyons and  
in memory of Jean Cole and Bill Cole.  
from Scott, Tracy and Taylor Lyons

Given in honor and memory of  
John Mitchell, family and church family  
from Barbara Mitchell

Given in honor of parents, Dona and Bill Shaw.  
from Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Given in loving memory of dads, John Shepard and  
Bart Spitz; and Merry Christmas  
from Scot, Juna and Brice Spitz

Given in memory of husband, Raife Woodman -  
love always  
from Margaret Woodman

Given in memory of Tommy and Margie Thomson  
and in honor of our committee chairs/members  
and volunteers  
from UMC Vista's Staff

## 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](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...

Karen Veysada, Mary Nixon, Louise Clarke, Nancy Winters, Suzanne McMurchie, Nancy Koski, Ko and Rosalynn Kim, Charlotte Chappell, Olive Harris, Beverly Thomason, Stan Hamilton, Margo and Jim Rogers, Joan Brainerd, Larry and Karen Veysada

Our sympathy is extended to:

- The Catling family upon the passing of Paula Catling.
- The Nixon family upon the passing of Elton Nixon on December 3.
- The Veysada family upon the passing of Larry Veysada on December 18.

Return Service Requested

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