



*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**

*"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'" John 11:25-26*

Faith is not a magic trick but this scripture from the Gospel of John may sound confusing or like a riddle. What is unfolding is that Jesus is speaking to a sister who is grieving for her brother. Jesus words are meant to bring comfort and assurance. Death is not the final end. Jesus is always leading the way to life.

Resurrection is a word that means to come back to life. Resurrection is a word that means God resuscitates Jesus and puts breath back into his body. Today we know that medical science can sometimes use CPR to restore breathing when our body has had a traumatic event. In the case of Easter, God restores Jesus' breath in his body. The Resurrection is like heavenly and holy CPR to restore life. Jesus is God's audio visual aid to see how life defeats hate and violence.

Easter is the most sacred holy day of the Christian life. Easter celebrates new life, Spring, cocoons that release butterflies, love that never fails and Jesus that is our brother ambassador to life. Many people treat belief and unbelief as opposites. They are not. The heart of one who is touched by God is always curious and asking questions about faith. God gives faith and God stirs our heart to wonder. The sacredness of Easter can never be eclipsed by healthy curiosity.

As we turn the calendar and move toward Easter, trust that God is in the mix. When things look dark, God usually shows up as star light. When things seem hopeless, God usually shows up as a surprise at the last minute. When things have become exhausting and empty, God sits beside us with compassion. The Story of Easter is when the worst things happens, God can still turn every thing around.

Open your eyes and wait. Trust. Easter is coming. Do you believe this?

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Palm Sunday, April 10 - Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Holy Thursday, April 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Online Worship (prerecorded) with Communion

Good Friday, April 15 - Worship at 7:00 p.m. in Sanctuary and Live-streamed

Easter, April 17

7:00 a.m. - Online Worship (prerecorded)

10:00 a.m. - Worship in Sanctuary and Live-streamed - with Brass, Band and Choir

Sunday, April 24

After Easter All-Music Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in Sanctuary and Live-streamed with all music styles

## Finance Focus

As we are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter in new ways, many of you continue making generous extra giving to our regular budget and special causes to benefit a variety of ministry programs in our Church, the community, and the world. Thank you for your continued generous support. You are a giving and caring congregation. Our weekly in person Worship numbers continue to grow as we celebrate Worship together. We continue to pray and support each other as we inch out of this world-wide Coronavirus pandemic.

If you have not made a financial commitment to the ministries of our church, we invite you to prayerfully consider the blessings of this congregation to your family in faith. In this time of the Coronavirus pandemic, it is especially important to continue your regular giving so that we may continue to carry on our ministry goals in the community and the world. We would encourage you to continue to make your donations via check, or by online giving, or in-person donations. You may mail your check to the Church or drop by the office with your gift Monday through Friday from 7:30 to noon. Online giving is also available on our website at [www.umcvista.org](http://www.umcvista.org). Open the website and click on giving to register or log in. You may also go to your bank and arrange for direct monthly online giving from your account. This is the best way to accomplish online giving to the Church, as you determine the amount to be given and the date during the month of the giving. Again, thank you for your generous financial support of the ministries of our Church.

If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to call or email me.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,  
Lay Leader

## Easter Festival, April 16

The Education Committee will be offering to the community an Easter Festival on Saturday, April 16 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. We are asking for candy donations to be handed out. Please drop your donations in the box located in the Narthex marked "Easter Candy" by April 13. Goodie bags will be made with your donations. Thank you!

-Education Committee

## Happy "April" Birthdays

Felix Fernandez (1)  
Ko Kim (6)  
Mal Blakeslee (7)  
Allan Mejia (8)  
James Hill (12)  
Cliff Burdick (13)  
Lorelei Clarke (14)  
Edward McGinn (14)  
Evelyn Lawson (16)  
Bill Rockwell (18)  
Toan Dao (19)  
Kingsley Escobar (20)  
Connor Flanagan (20)  
Lauri Arrowsmith (21)  
Pat Preston (21)  
Heidi Kendall (22)  
Kim Hotaling (26)  
Annamarie Abutin (28)  
Tom Johnston (28)  
Daniel Gubaton (30)  
Yolanda Gubaton (30)

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

## In Celebration of our Mothers

May 9th is Mother's Day! In honor of our moms, we will be sharing special pictures during worship and the whole month of May! Submit your pictures of you and your mother, or the women of your life who love you like a mom through this link:

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

Be sure to mark them "Mother's Day" and include your name and your "mom's" name. For more help, contact Michael Beu at [MichaelB@umcvista.org](mailto:MichaelB@umcvista.org). The last day to submit photos is Sunday, May 1st!

Flame Editor  
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Next deadline is Wednesday, April 20, 2022  
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

## **United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith going to the Carlsbad Flower Fields**

What a great way to greet spring and each other after two years of little socialization for many of us. On Tuesday, April 5, we will meet at the entrance gate at 10:00 a.m. To carpool, please meet at the church by 9:30 a.m. or if driving yourself, be at the entrance gate by 10:00 a.m. Bring your water and sack lunch to enjoy fellowship in the shady picnic area. Admission is free for the group and you may bring guests but we need to know how many to expect at the gate at 10:00 a.m. Please RSVP to Sara Baldwin, 760.724.1859 or sarabaldwin1@cox.net.

## **Toiletry Kits for The Border**

During April, except on Easter, April 17th, United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith will be collecting items in the narthex for toiletry kits for the border. There will be a list of items needed on or near the plastic bin that will be used for the depository of the items. Hotel size items are welcomed (from anyone fortunate enough to have traveled the last two years). These kits are not as specific as UMCOR standards but please, provide only new items. Thank you for your generous support.

-Jacque Howard

## **Celebrations from Church Council**

- Finance: The “Carol Pence Challenge” has brought in over \$5,000! Nice work? Can still participate, just write Pence Challenge on your check or envelope.
- Youth: New Youth Ministry Coordinator, John Giard, has been hard at work getting activities planned for our Youth.
- Building: Be sure to check Facebook as well as look for yourself! It’s exciting!
- Education: Planning an Easter Festival for April 16th from 3 to 5 p.m. Asking for candy donations. Come join the fun!
- United Women in Faith (formerly UMW): Planning a trip to the Carlsbad Flower Fields, April 5, 9:30 to carpool from the church, 10:00 at the fields. Bring water and a sack lunch. Very fun AND a free bouquet of flowers! All are welcome. RSVP to Sara Baldwin
- BSA Troop 709: have been busy reorganizing for upcoming trips.

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

SPRC, April 6, 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 968 9336 2856  
Passcode: 490490

Congregational Care Meeting, April 7, 1:30 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Education/Discipleship, April 13, 6 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 983 3122 0500  
Passcode: 490490

Trustees, April 19, 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986  
Passcode: 490490

Church Council, April 30, 9:00 a.m.  
Meeting ID: 959 0726 4821

Finance, April 27, 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

## **Badges**

Please wear your badges to church! It helps all of us after being gone for so long. Badges can be ordered by speaking or emailing Pat McConaughy-Hotaling or Paula Amaro or Barb. Mitchell. Your first badge on joining the church is “on the church” after that the cost has gone up slightly to \$9.00. If you’ve lost pieces/parts to your badge, we have some parts, just let us know what you are missing and we’ll see what we can do. TIP: If it’s the magnet that’s missing? Check the undercarriage of your car seat!

## Update from a Community Partner

We are so grateful for your continued support for women who are rebuilding their lives from domestic violence, homelessness, and other major life challenges here in North County. Since the pandemic started, we have missed providing our Leap to Confidence program at the church. However, we figured out how to create the same kind of dynamic program experience online on Zoom and have continued operating and changing women's lives! This past year we served more than 300 women.

Here's a quote from one of our recent graduates: "I believe in myself. I let go of negative self-talk. I no longer live in fear, and I am confident! I also got offered a position in the field I wanted. This class gave me the confidence to nail the interviews!" M, Graduate, Leap to Confidence

Your generous support allows women to attend the six-week Leap to Confidence program at no cost. Women recovering from trauma are referred by their therapists or case managers from local social service organizations. These are a sampling of the 20+ North County agencies that referred women this past year: Alabaster Jar Project, Community Resource Center, Interfaith Community Services, Mental Health Systems, North County Lifeline, Operation Hope - North County, Tribal TANF Program, Vista Adult School, Vista Community Clinic and Women's Resource Center (WRC).

Pre-pandemic, we offered a monthly follow up class to our graduates called the Empowerment Circle—we'd usually have anywhere from 6 – 12 women attend. Because of the isolation and anxiety that so many women felt from the pandemic, we increased this to a weekly session on Zoom. We had more than 100 women attend last year for a total of over 1100 visits! Women felt connected and supported when they needed it the most. We are continuing to offer this much needed support.

What's on the horizon?

- We plan to be back in person during the summer and will hopefully have a full class at the church! We can't wait!
- We will be launching our first Trainer Certification program this summer to teach others around the country how to empower the women they serve by conducting the Leap to Confidence program!

Please know how much we appreciate your support! Together, we are changing the world, one empowered woman at a time.

With love and appreciation,  
Dana Bristol-Smith, Executive Director

## Social Justice

This is my reflection on lesbian-gay-bi-sexual-transgender-queer (often abbreviated as LGBTQ) justice and inclusion.

At one time, in the 1950s or 60s women were not allowed to become ordained ministers in the Methodist Church. That is within the lifetime of many in our church. Women are smart and capable as well as compassionate and many other outstanding qualities, but that was not the issues of the time. Thankfully, now we have many wonderful and qualified women pastors, including our current pastor. Discrimination against women is not right, not fair, and not just. Black Americans have certainly also had a challenging and difficult path, maybe even worse. Although we continue to work toward justice for women and people of color, there are still justice issues that need to be dealt with by the church. The Book of Discipline states that LGBTQ are people of sacred worth, but restricts their access to ordained leadership and marriage. This effectively undermines LGBTQ persons in our denomination.

Recently, Bishop Grant J. Hagiya said: "the California-Pacific Annual Conference continues our commitment to inclusion across the wide diversity of our area and peoples, including LGBTQ+ people. This commitment runs deep in our conference and is increasingly widespread in our United Methodist connection. More than 1,000 people have already signed on to a statement calling us, the church, to resist harm against LGBTQ+ people and supporters, especially in this time as we continue to await General Conference..."

With General Conference being postponed again to 2024, all business has been continued until then, including the issues surrounding LGBTQ+. Our Western Jurisdiction continues to work towards full inclusion. (Note that the last General Conference was held in 2019.)

There is still much that needs to be done within our denomination to promote full inclusion of LGBTQ including basic rights such as the right to feel comfortable and open about sexual orientation, to marry with the full blessing of the church, or even to become ordained. We are each one of us a child of God and we all want unconditional love and acceptance. These are matters of the heart. My hope is that unlike the continuing issues surrounding women and persons of color, that LGBTQ, justice issues might progress sooner rather than later.

Your comments and thoughts are welcome.

—Kathy Johnson

## **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.

## **Chimes**

Cameron and Chloe are enjoying playing chimes and would like to invite others to join them on Wednesdays from 3:15 to 4:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. For questions, please contact Carol Pence or call the church office at 760.726.0442.

## **Pray together for...**

Tom Johnston, Raub and Marilyn Mathias, Ed Simpson, Traci Wheeler, Erin Fraser, Andrea Shaw, Rae Ann Wirth, Karen Veysada, Nancy Koski, Ko and Rosalynn Kim, Charlotte Chappell, Olive Harris, Beverly Thomason, Stan Hamilton, Margo and Jim Rogers (hospice care), Joan Brainerd

Prayers for the family of Mary Jane Bode. She passed away in early March. Mary Jane was a member of our church since 1999.

Former member, Nate Goode, passed away on March 11. He was 98. He and his late wife, Sue, moved to Utah some years back.

## **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!

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