



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

1 Timothy 3:9 speaks about the role of a bishop in the faith community as it says, "They must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience." The mystery of faith is our own personal humility that submits our life before God, and allows us to be open to God's ongoing unfolding creative actions.

We will be getting a new bishop appointed to our region on January 1, 2023. With the challenges of the pandemic, the process for electing bishops was postponed, but is now moving forward. Ordained elders in our conference and around our west coast jurisdiction have already been nominated and have submitted a biographical statement. If you are more focused on our local congregation and our ministry together, you may have missed that we are electing new bishops. If you are new to the United Methodist church or don't know the process of our connectional leadership, you may not even know we have a bishop or what they do.

In addition to "holding fast to the mystery of faith" a United Methodist bishop has a specific and particular role in our denomination and church. If you think of the organization of the United States government, the bishop of our church is part of the executive branch of the church. They preside over a geographic area, known as an annual conference, and supervise the appointment of clergy persons and leaders and ministry of that area. Bishops are elected every four years by each of our five jurisdictional conferences in the United States. Once elected as bishop, they hold that office for life. These are some basics, but with the changing nature of church in America, and the changing nature of our church, the role of the bishop also demands visionary and dynamic leadership.

The Bishop preaches and teaches and attends regional, national and global events to keep our Christian cohort connected. This affords each bishop an opportunity to relationship and influence. When I traveled to Africa University, in Zimbabwe, in 2017, I traveled with six bishops and was privileged to meet the Bishop of the Zimbabwe Area, Bishop Eben Nhwitiwa. There is no way to explain our United Methodist connection without saying that it is like meeting family members all over the world. Because I'm a United Methodist, every Bishop greeted me as a sister in Christ. This is the nature of our connection and the role of the Bishop.

Thank you for your patience as I share a little about what is happening in our broader church. The near future is going to bring dramatic shifts as we shed some old ways and seek new paths. Our role as United Methodists in the world is still guided by grace. God's unfolding in our lives always comes to us before we are worthy and amid our greatest struggles. The mystery of our faith meets us when we are and leads us forward.

Your sister in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Finance Focus

As we head into the second half of 2022 in this unique time in the life of our Church, we want to thank all of you for your continued faithful financial support of our 2022 Church Ministry budget. While we are behind in our total projected giving for the first six months of the year, we are currently meeting all our financial obligations. Many of you have continued to support our Church by mailing in or by dropping off your regular offerings on a weekly or monthly basis. Pastor Leigh Ann and staff continue to work hard to connect with all of us through our online and in-person worship services. More of you have signed up for regular online giving, thank you. These are challenging times, and our weekly in-person and online worship services continue to be outstanding and are being viewed by a growing number of people within and outside our community. If you have not made a financial commitment to the ministries of our Church, we invite you to prayerfully consider the blessings of these ministries to you, your Church in faith, our community, and the world. Regular giving is easy and helps us do more intentional ministry. You can use the secure drop mailbox next to the office, or online giving on our website at www.umcvista.org. Open the website and click on “giving” to register or log in. Again, thank you for your continued generous financial support of the ministries of our Church.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,
Lay Leader

Education Committee collecting school supplies

The Education Committee invites you to bring school supplies for Breeze Hill Elementary students. Please bring your donations to church by August 14. Items needed are backpacks, pencils, glue, scissors, paper, crayons, white board pens and erasers. These supplies will be greatly appreciated by the students. Contact Colleen Guffey or Margene Haase for more information.

Reminder...

Please wear your badges on Sunday. Need a new one?
Please let the church office know.

One last request

Pray everyday for our visioning, mission and ministry for the glory of God in our present and new space.

Happy “July” Birthdays

Mary Ann Maniti (1)
Amanda Stanaland (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)

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

Flame Editor
Barbara Mitchell
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Paula Amaro
WEB Master
Jim McGlocklin

Next deadline is Wednesday, July 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

News from our Lay Minister, Dakota Koenig

Congregational Care/Interpreters for the Deaf

The overall ministry of Congregational Care is to be resourceful and creative in finding ways for all our members and visitors to stay connected in worship, be it in person or online. Some of the Ministry goals of the Congregational Care Committee are:

- to offer comfort, devotions and conversation to our members;
- to connect members with needed resources;
- to provide cards for birthdays and get well wishes;
- provide Lift tickets to those who may need transportation support;
- contact and welcome visitors to our church.

You may recall, at our Easter worship service, we had an interpreter for the Deaf. We wish to make the word of God accessible to all by continuing to offer this service to members and visitors who attend our services. After this worship experience in April, Pastor Leigh Ann, Pastor Frank, Sandy Harvey, Suzanne McMurchie and Dakota Koenig began exploring possibilities of how this service could be continued. Noting there are very few churches in North County that offer interpreters for Worship, our goal was, and is, to make the Word of God accessible to all who come to our church or view us online.

Therefore, Congregational Care is currently planning a pilot program to fund interpreters for future worship services. It is hoped this will enhance outreach for those in the deaf and hard-of-hearing community who wish to know Christ and his teachings through the worship service experience.

We currently have funds in the Congregational Care Budget to begin this pilot program. Again, Interpreters will be seen online as well. An Interpreter will be present at the first service of each month beginning August 7th, September 4th, October 2nd, November 6th and December 4th. Please invite anyone to church on these dates that might benefit from these services.

We are also exploring other options for future funding to continue and expand this ministry.

Just as an informational item, it is interesting to note, the deaf/hard-of-hearing population in San Diego County is between 500,000 and 600,000 people. This includes late-deafened people.

These are a few FAQ's. What is the best term to describe a person with hearing loss? People who are Deaf prefer Deaf not the term "hearing impaired". To many the term "impaired" makes them feel as if something is wrong with them as a person rather than an individual with a hearing loss. Another question that often surfaces: is American Sign Language English? Simply stated, it is not.

Thank you to each of you for your caring ministry, faith and for seeking justice for all as we continue to strive to bring the word of Christ to everyone.

-Dakota M. Koenig, Certified Lay Minister

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

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

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

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

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

Reconciling Ministries, July 26, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395
Passcode: Welcome

Ministries Support

Our Church, even in the midst of the upheaval of building our new addition, never loses sight of the ministries that we want and need to support. This month our Church is reaching out to the following ministries with monetary gifts.

- UMCOR (funds for Ukraine) - \$1,000. These funds from our congregation generously giving to this war torn country.
- Christ Ministries (Ukraine) - \$140. These funds have been given by our United Women of Faith (formerly UMW) and our congregation as well as clothing and items for Ukrainian refugees.
- Guatemala Project - \$800. These funds were donated by folks for the produce that Tom Humphrey generously brings for free at the Scrip table.

Thank you, Friends!

Bishop Haglya's June Letter

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." [Galatians 3:28, CEB]

Recently members of the committee who crafted together the "Protocol Of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation" announced that the "once-promising Protocol Agreement no longer offers a viable path forward, particularly given the long delays, the changing circumstances within the United Methodist Church, and the formal launch of the Global Methodist Church in May of this year." This protocol included an abeyance on charges on our LGBTQIA+ clergy. The removal of support of the protocol makes these clergy more vulnerable and at risk of harm.

In addition, the actions of the clergy executive session at the Florida Conference's Annual Conference to not approve an entire class of those approved by their Board of Ordained Ministry for commissioning because two members of that class identify as LGBTQIA+ has resulted in further harm, anxiety, and frustration for many of us.

In February of 2019, following the Special Called General Conference, the Western Jurisdiction Bishops made the following statement.

"We intend to provide safe harbor for clergy under our care who may be at risk under the new provisions, prohibitions, and punishments... We do not believe that The United Methodist Church has the authority or the power to impose limits on the movement of God's Holy Spirit in the lives of God's beloved LGBTQ+ children. We intend to exercise our authority as bishops of The United Methodist Church to encourage and protect the full participation of LGBTQ+ persons as beloved children of God, embraced in God's reign of grace. We do not intend to withhold or challenge ordination based solely on a person's gender identity or sexual orientation. We are unwilling to punish clergy who celebrate the marriage of two adults of any gender or sexual orientation seeking the blessing of God and the Church for their covenanted life together."

As I wrote in March this year, "The California-Pacific Annual Conference continues our commitment to inclusion across the wide diversity of our area and peoples, including LGBTQ+ siblings. This commitment runs deep in our conference and is increasingly widespread in our United Methodist connection. The commitment to doing no harm remains a deep value that will be upheld as we fulfill our mission."

I want to reaffirm my personal commitment to care for and protect all people of our annual conference. If anyone feels at risk, we must do everything to provide the psychological and even physical safety of our LGBTQ+ community. As the Cabinet, staff, and leadership of the Annual Conference, we pledge to stand behind you.

Nothing has changed for us here. We will continue to love and support all God's beloved children and the myriad ways they are called to serve. We will continue to work towards an inclusive church that ministers to and with all regardless of race, color, ethnicity, age, economic status, gender identity, sexuality, and ability.

May we all be the Hope!

Bishop Grant J. Hagiya
Los Angeles Area Resident Bishop

Volunteers for "and Two Fishes"

We as a church are in exciting times. Every week we can see our new building become closer and closer to being finished. I am sure each of you has a vision of how the new classroom, kitchen and fellowship hall will be used for our church community and the Vista community.

As most of you know, UMC of Vista has supported "and Two Fishes" for close to 20 years, with the use of the church, money and volunteers. Even without a kitchen and through the last two years of COVID-19 we have continued to feed the homeless and working poor with our Thursday evening meals. The church has also supported Helping Hands, which provides a pantry of personal items for those attending our dinner. We have been able to do this with a small volunteer group. However, with having a kitchen for the first time in years, we are anticipating not only a larger population of people coming for dinner, but a larger responsibility of a cleanup after the dinner.

When we had our kitchen at the old UMC and then All Saints we averaged about 70 to 80 people at our dinners. We had volunteers that came in early to help prepare the meal, others that came in later to serve and help cleanup. I anticipate that once we open our new addition, we are going to need more volunteers for both "and Two Fishes" and Helping Hands.

This is an important mission for Vista, and one of the few direct missions that our church has that serves the community. This would be an excellent opportunity for the different church groups or individuals to directly effect our community.

Please let me know if you would like to be part of this great mission.

-Mike Walker

Ending Spiritual and Physical Hunger, Annual Conference 2022

This year's 38th annual session of the California-Pacific Conference was done as a hybrid model! Some of it was done online and some of it was done on site. Much of the legislation, as well as the voting, was done online. There was a new voting system which worked fairly well—although, as usual, there were still a few bugs! But overall? Well done!

One piece of legislation that surprised me was RES 22-05 Rescind Support of the Separation Protocol (due to LGBTQ&I issues). In this resolution it stated that the negotiated settlement Protocol of Grace and Reconciliation through Separation had been designed to allow more conservative denominations to separate minimizing harm to all. Instead of waiting, however, for the next General Conference, conservative groups launched the Global Methodist Church in May, 2022, actively recruiting bishops, clergy and laity from the body. The group bringing this resolution were feeling that GBM has undermined and disrupted connectional ties both in the U.S. and around the world—the very foundation of the United Methodist Church, although the Separation Protocol is still a viable way forward with those churches that chose to wait. Following discussion, this was passed. There is no doubt that there will be more angst to come on how we go about being a diverse people while we “Do no harm. Do good. Stay in Love with God.”

Another piece of business that I absolutely love was the nomination of bishops. The slate offered reflected the full complement of diversity that is found in this conference. Each of the persons nominated have done amazing work for God in their careers and will make amazing bishops should they be elected.

One final piece of legislation that always brings us a measure of grief is the dissolution of churches. The work done over several years by the cabinet, however, is meant to help these congregations find new paths and new ministries. The COVID pandemic added extra burden to this job.

Thank you again for allowing me to be one of your delegates to Annual Conference. It is always an affirming event showing us just how many ways God calls us to be in partnership with him.

-Barbara Mitchell

2022 Vista Quiet Disciple Tom Humphrey

A “Quiet Disciple” is a person whose ministry is accomplished in a quiet unassuming manner; while the influence of her/his presence is a gift and an example which enriches our fellowship.

A Quiet Disciple is a woman/man who inspires others with her/his inner strength, going about her/his daily life in an unassuming but powerful manner. Her/His faith and good deeds are a blessing to everyone she/he touches. She/He is a treasure to all who know her/him.

The Vista United Women in Faith have chosen Tom Humphrey as our Quiet Disciple for 2022. His gracious spirit and commitment to service is a blessing to our church and community. He has been part of UMC Vista for almost 50 years and has roots in Methodism and in the community that go back to his childhood.

Tom is the poster child of radiating warmth, as he welcomes folks old and new as they step through the doors of our church. Tom has been a real force with finance as a tireless advocate and cheerleader for ways to fundraise for our Choir, our children, our outreach missions and for the church in general. He is the manager of the Concierge Table in the Narthex where he sells Scrip to provide funds for our children's ministries. He generously provides produce from “Tom's Ranch” that reaps donations that go toward the Guatemala project. Tom, enjoying a good time while adding financial support, is the driving force behind arranging and selling tickets to Moonlight Amphitheater performances to benefit our Choir Fund. He is a longtime choir member. We can't forget his support of the Methodist camps in the Julian area.

Tom, now retired, has been a professor at Palomar Community College teaching Economics, Accounting, Finance and Business Math. For many years, he lent his expertise to folks who needed help with taxes or investments. Tom continues to share his many talents with the California Retired Teachers' Association. One of Tom and Sue's (his best friend and partner in life) favorite things to do is to travel by train to new places; and of course, they spend time in Texas and Florida seeing their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In love and gratitude for his faithful service, Vista United Women in Faith is proud to honor Tom Humphrey as our 2022 Quiet Disciple.

-Jacque Howard, President,
Vista United Women in Faith

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.

Please...

Do not drop off your donation of clothes, etc. when the church office is closed. The church office is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 12 noon.

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...

Richard Miklau, Raub and Marilyn Mathias, Traci Wheeler, Erin Fraser, Andrea Shaw, Nancy Koski, Ko and Rosalynn Kim, Charlotte Chappell, Beverly Thomason, Stan Hamilton, Margo and Jim Rogers (hospice care), Joan Brainerd

Member Olive May Harris passed away on May 16. Absent from the body and present to the Lord. We are blessed to learn of her passing and to have known her in living. Her Memorial program is on the narthex bulletin board. Cards may be sent to her son and daughter-in-law, Tom and Lorena Harris, 504 Catalpa Lane, Fallbrook, CA 92028.

Memorial service for Tommy Thomson will be July 23 at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Prayers for Rev. Doug Bobbitt (former pastor) who lost his wife, Judith, on April 12th, from a stroke. Doug's address is Watermark Assisted Living @ Continental Ranch, 8689 N. Silverball, Tucson, AZ 85743

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