



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

A legacy is planting seeds in a garden you never get to see. What seeds is your life planting?

A couple weeks ago was my family reunion with my Texas family. Lots of cousins, uncles and aunts, my parents and lots of folks who've married into the family over the years attended. The common ancestor we all share is my great grandmother, Alta. It is grounding to have these relationships that last over generations.

The story goes that my great grandmother and my great grandfather got married when they borrowed a four-wheel cart pulled by a horse to go to the local justice of the peace to get married. No special clothes or invitations were sent out. They just went and then Alta moved in with James and they began their life together. I remember visiting Alta and how she put out a loaf of wonder bread at every meal and took great joy in cooking for family. This last family reunion, I heard about the "switches" that she'd send my Dad out to the yard to get when a cousin got in trouble. The memories are a source of strength and our family legacy.

The story of Exodus is of Moses and his journey following God and leading God's people. Exodus 20:5-6 says, "You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments." The teaching of God through Moses is generational. The words of God in Exodus are seeds that are planted that Moses never saw. God visits the faithful over generations bringing blessing and judgement.

It's only a few weeks before phase two of our building is complete. The noise and dust and mess is stressful and interrupts everything, but the building itself is an inheritance this church has received from those who went before us. Rev. Lanny Arrowsmith, Rev. Lynne Austin, and Rev. George Hooper were your senior pastors over the 17 years before I was appointed to you in 2015. Every day I give thanks for each of these leaders and the many church members who sat in meetings, argued about the space and this ministry and always held a vision of service and outreach to the world and with our youngest generations. Larry and Lenore Averell, Jean Cole and Tommy Thomson were among the first people I visited when I arrived. Each of these has left a powerful, visionary and bold vision for God's work. Each one is now a part of the communion of saints, but their memories will always be a blessing in this place and a seed that grows into faith.

The building is no small thing. In order to do the ministry we are called by God to do, people and money, vision and prayer, witness and service all need to happen. Coming out of the pandemic has been a challenge. So much has changed but our call from God to care for the needy, the poor, the lost, lonely and dispirited remains. There is never a time our work in faith can go on cruise control and coast. All of us have a role to play now and into the future. Join a committee and do some work. Pray for the staff, our children and youth. Make an extra offering and help our budget. Start a study group or a book group. Look to take a group of faithful to do a mission project. Tell people we are looking for a Children's Ministry Coordinator. Everyone can do something in God's church.

You are my inspiration! I give thanks for you everyday! Keep your eyes open! God is revealed by those who came before us and by our neighbors around us! Thanks be to God. Amen.

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 keeping your church and ministry programs up and running. As of the end of July, we are meeting our essential ministry budget items, the bills are paid, although our current level of giving leaves us considerably behind the total dollars needed to meet all our ministry goals for the 2022 budget. We anticipate that with the extra giving for Thanksgiving and Christmas we will be able to complete the 2022 year with all of our financial obligations met. You are a caring and giving congregation.

Many of you are now giving on-line, and we thank you for all of your financial support. With our continued regular in-person as well as online Worship services, we appreciate your continued generous financial support. See you in Church.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,
Lay Leader

UMCV Making a Difference in Our World!

Each year we're blessed to partner with community organizations that are doing amazing work by funding grants made possible through our UMCVista Cable Outreach Foundation. This year we have 30 applications representing work done in our local, national and global community.

Our next step is for UMCVista congregation members to take on the role of "Shepherd" for one of these Community Partners. Shepherds read the grant proposal, make personal contact with the Partner and "dive deep" into the work that is involved. Shepherds ask the question, "How or what, along with funding, can UMCVista do to be part of their amazing work?" And, as Shepherd, it is up to you to decide if God is calling UMCV to partner with this organization for this next year.

To see a list of those requesting to be our Community Partners, please check in the narthex. If you would like to be a Shepherd for one of these organizations, please see or call Beth Brainerd Hallock, 760-458-8571. Everyone is asked to pray for our Community Partners and their work to make our world a better place. Please pray also with our Shepherds and the Church Council as they discern God's call for our Outreach Program 2023

Happy "August" Birthdays

Beverly Hopkins (1)
Manuel Tivar (1)
Paul Lange (2)
Betty Anne Kreutziger (3)
Taylor Lyons (3)
Alfred Chappell (4)
Bob Harlow (4)
Mary Nixon (4)
Trevor Leffler Streeter (5)
Sue Humphrey (6)
Marlene Philippi (6)
Debra Leffler Streeter (7)
Ranae Mathias (9)
Carson Way (10)
Helen Robertson (12)
Bernie Weisberg (12)
Andrew Mathias (13)
Tim Biggs (14)
Margo Rogers (14)
Adam Amaro (15)
Lucille Baumann (15)
Fred Gano (15)
Bonnie Lambert (16)
John Haase (19)
Andrea Shaw (20)
Brice Spitz (21)
David Felien (23)
Skip Harvey (23)
Barbara Mitchell (23)
Mark Wheeler (23)
Destiny Smith (25)
Gerald Williams (28)
Donna Hill (29)
Helena Maniti (29)
Patricia Rose (29)
Harold MacDermot (30)

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

Flame Editor
Barbara Mitchell
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Paula Amaro
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Next deadline is Wednesday, August 17, 2022
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

Annual Conference 2022: Highlights

The theme for this year's Annual Conference was Ending Spiritual and Physical Hunger – the clear and overriding message: to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

For those of you who may not know, the California Pacific Conference is composed of 50,000 members in almost 350 churches and ranges from Southern California to Hawaii, and also includes the Pacific Islands of Guam and Saipan.

As one of your lay members representing UMC of Vista, it was inspiring and uplifting to attend presentations about the missional work and accomplishments of so many churches throughout our conference. Hurdles and challenges, were met with innovation, creativity and resourcefulness. Churches extended pathways of ministry through exciting outreach programs and hands-on ministry to meet the needs of their respective communities. For example, a community garden was created to support LGBTQ, and several programs engaging youth were established. We also learned of the increased capacity of a broad spectrum of churches to offer online services.

It is important to note that throughout the conference presentations and business sessions, one point became abundantly clear—that the work and support of laity is vital.

In the words of Bishop Hagiya: “Be the Hope.”

-Heidi Kendall

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.

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.

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, August 3, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting ID: 968 9336 2856
Passcode: 490490

Congregational Care, August 4, 1:30 p.m.
Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Education/Discipleship, August 10, 6 p.m.
Meeting ID: 983 3122 0500
Passcode: 490490

Trustees, August 16, 6:30 p.m.
Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986
Passcode: 490490

Finance, August 24, 7:00 p.m.
Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Reconciling Ministries, August 23, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395
Passcode: Welcome

Appreciation for the Ukraine Refugee Donations

The congregation's response to the call for donations for Ukraine Refugee resettlement FILLED five cars with personal and household items. Each Sunday we had volunteers load their car and deliver the goods to Christ UMC Ministry Center. Many thanks to everyone who donated and to those who made the deliveries to the Center.

To make further donations to the refugee needs, contact Christ UMC Ministry Center at (619) 284-9205 or mail to 3295 Meade Avenue, San Diego, CA 92116.

-Jacque Howard

Reminder...

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

News from our Community Partners....

Vista Community Clinic

Medical Assistant Training Program

Within the second quarter of the grant cycle, 12 program participants were awarded tuition scholarships totaling \$8,000. All scholarships were distributed on a need basis varying between \$250 - \$1,500.

- a. 1 recipient of \$250
- b. 5 recipients of \$500
- c. 5 recipients of \$750
- d. 1 recipient of \$1,500

Total awarded Scholarships: \$8,000

One participant in particular was awarded \$1,500 who was financially needier than most applicants with a household size of 5 and only one income. This is also her second attempt to become a medical assistant. More than ten years ago she nearly completed the MA program offered through the Escondido Adult School. However, due to personal reasons, she was unable to complete the program and has worked as a caregiver since then. The majority of UMC scholarship recipients (7) have some experience in a variety of healthcare settings; although only half have any formal higher education.

This is our 12th cohort and we've seen the highest number of Neighborhood Healthcare (NHC) applicants since the program started in 2016. Similar to VCC, NHC is a community health center based in Escondido with a mission to provide healthcare to the underserved. Of NHC staff who applied, three are recipients of the 2022 UMC grant donation. It's not uncommon for the healthcare industry to be saturated with females; however one male employee of NHC was offered a seat in the program and awarded a \$750 scholarship.

The UMC's generous donation has made it possible for nearly half of 30 participants in cohort 12 to afford going back to school and entering a career in the medical field.

-Nannette Stamm & Tanya Douglas, MATP Coord.

Christ United Methodist Ministry Center

I want to personally thank you for your donation of laundry supplies, sheets, diapers, and clothing items to Christ United Methodist Ministry Center. We are honored that UMC of Vista would bless us with your generosity. Donations like yours make a big difference in the work our charity is doing to assist refugees in our community.

Without donors like you, we would not be able to care for as many refugees as we do. With your support, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of more refugees fleeing disasters, famine, droughts, criminal activity, violence, wars, poverty or other unbearable circumstances.

Bless you and thank you again for supporting Christ United Methodist Ministry Center with your humanitarian gift of brotherly love.

-Rev. Dr. Donald Owens, Associate Director,
Christ United Methodist Ministry Center

Global Conservation Force update

I just wanted to drop an update on some of the amazing work that's happening across the world, all thanks to your support. For 2022, Global Conservation Force was granted yet another year of support for our Wildhand education programs in Vietnam.

This year we were able to support MULTIPLE schools, which in total has reached more than 1,000 students. This program, based largely in Hanoi focuses on:

1. giving students a basic understanding about the local wildlife and ecosystem;
2. training students to become wildlife protectors;
3. giving students hands-on experiences in protecting and rescuing wildlife.

There are about 15 active members of WildWarriors including 6 core team members and 9 volunteers. As their outreach grows, so does the size of their team, which has proven to be effective!

They plan upon completion of this program (projected to be in the next few months) that the outreach will cover up to 10 schools.

If you have any questions about our programs, or would like more information. Please don't hesitate to let me know.

-Lauren, Education Outreach Coordinator

Stressed

Feeling stressed or anxious? Try this:

Use your 5 senses.... Take a deep breath. Pause. Begin by noticing 5 things you hear. Say them outloud. "I can hear the air conditioner, the cars outside, the clock ticking, my fingers typing and Frank talking outside my door." Notice 4 things you can see. "I can see the bible, the door, the computer and my cell phone." Notice 3 things you can touch. "I can touch the desk, the chair seat, and my mouse." Notice 2 things you can smell. "It smells like recycled air and cleaning supplies." Lastly, notice one thing you can taste. "I can taste toothpaste." And now... take another breath and continue on about your day.

Recap: 5 things you can hear. 4 things you can see. 3 things you can touch. 2 things you can smell. 1 thing you can taste.

Pray together for...

Richard Miklau, Marilyn Mathias, Andrea Shaw, Ko and Rosalynn Kim, Charlotte Chappell, Beverly Thomason, Stan Hamilton, Margo and Jim Rogers (hospice care), Joan Brainerd

Our sympathy is extended to the Mathias family upon the passing of Raub Mathias on July 6. A memorial service will be held September 10th at 1:00 p.m., to celebrate Raub's life. Family requests no phone calls but cards are welcome. Send cards to Al/Ranae Mathias, 1759 Wolverine Way, Vista, CA 92084.

Prayers for the family of Nancy Koski on her passing on July 22. She just celebrated her 74th birthday on July 5. Nancy lived with stage IV metastatic breast cancer for almost 10 years. A celebration of life is planned in San Diego later in the year. Send cards to her daughter: Beth Juncal, 5217 Alamosa Park Drive, Oceanside, CA 92057.

Prayers for Miriam and Manny Tivar and family on the passing of Miriam's mother, Carolina Cacha. Carolina use to attend UMC Vista when she was in the US. Prayers for Miriam and Manny for safe travels back to US from the Philippines in August.

“and Two Fishes” is looking forward to moving into our new kitchen. We are very excited to be able to offer our friends in need a place to have a hot sit down meal, coffee and donuts and a sack lunch. **Volunteers are also needed.** We will be having two shifts, 1 pm to prepare the meal and 4 pm to serve and clean up. Please contact Brenda Walker at 760.505.1702 or Mike Walker at 760.505.1703 if interested. We will also have a sign up table in the Narthex, starting August 7th and be able to answer any of your questions.

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!

Return Service Requested

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