



*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**

September is here and with it, warm days and nights. I confess I don't appreciate this hot weather but know it is as fleeting as the rest of our days. "Nothing lasts forever" is the expression and the truth of it is humbling.

Your vision has made ministry happen and finished phase two of your building. It is 20 years in the making with so many people involved. As I have walked through the construction and watched the concrete pours to the walls erected to the plumbing and electrical being installed, I've thought of all the people who've made this happen. Tommy and Margie Thomson and Larry and Lenore Averall are regularly on my heart. I feel blessed by these relationships but there are so many more people you may know who's heart and soul has lived and flourished in Vista.

Where do we go now? With the completion of Phase 2, we enter a new time and must have a new and renewed vision of God's Kingdom-work among us. To say that we are tired is an understatement. I know many of us are exhausted and weary with our efforts. The Sabbath mandate and example of God demands we rest, but not for too long. Rest for your soul and take time to give thanks to God and those whose effort brought our work across the finish line. Rest and let the grace of God fill you up.

Our Outreach Grant process is underway and Shepherds are reviewing requests. Day One Ministries is planning several events to celebrate our new building, those who brought the vision and to provide all our community partners and congregation a time of Open House. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Sandra Olewine, was with us on August 28th to share in worship and dedicate our new space. I hope you came for that. But beyond these ministry efforts, there is so much more happening and we continue to have our list of goals and vision to work on.

Senior Adult Ministries and Children's Ministries are both on our vision list. I'm excited to offer outdoor patio worship in the fall and we are looking at a time to do an orientation for Fellowship Group leaders early in 2023. I'm working with Rev. Mary Scifres to prioritize the many things on my ministry list and am thankful for her support. I'm also grateful to the Staff Parish Committee and their support throughout the last three years for staff during the pandemic and through this time of building.

Special thanks to all who worked on the building project and brought it home...Billy Stempson, Suzanne McMurchie, Mike and Brenda Walker, Rollin Grider, Jacque Howard, Martha Phillips, Margo Rogers, and Beth Hallock.

Special thanks to those who worked on the GAP team...Dakota Koenig, Barbara Mitchell, Lyn Berry, Margene Haase, Mike and Brenda Walker, Rollin Grider, Beth Hallock, and Rob Pierce.

Special thanks to all who opened their homes for conversations when we were working on our Vision. And thanks to those who serve on the Cable Foundation of the United Methodist Church of Vista.

The end of the year is close and our ministry is beginning again!

Grace and peace, Friends,  
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

## Finance Focus

As we head into the last four months of the church year many things have changed. Important and exciting things continue to be happening in the life of our church. We are happy to be able to return to in-person worship services. We thank you for your continued generous support of the financial requirements of our Church budget. The good news is that currently our financial obligations are being met and ministry plans are ongoing. The other side of the coin is that we are behind for our total giving to fully fund the 2022 budget. Additional giving opportunities to close this shortfall are under way with the Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings.

Plans are underway for the October stewardship campaign to raise the funds necessary to meet our 2023 budget obligations. You will hear more about these plans in the coming weeks. Your support of our general fund budget is essential to keep your Church and ministry programs up and running. You are a caring and giving congregation. If you are behind in your giving or wish to make additional gifts to help your church reduce our budget shortfall for 2022, please prayerfully consider doing so.

Regular giving is easy and helps us do more intentional ministry. 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. Many of you have arranged for regular direct giving from your bank account to the Church. You can also drop it off in our secure lockable mailbox by the church office or by mail. Also, payment via credit card is available at the Scrip table on Sundays. Again, thank you for your generous financial support of the ministries of our church.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,  
Lay Leader

## United Women In Faith

- Kenworthy Circle - September 6, 1:30 pm at the Church, contact Beverly Hopkins for more information.
- Ruth Circle - September 6, 11 am at the home of Louise Clarke, contact Sara Baldwin for more information.
- General Meeting for all - September 13 - We will pack border kits on September 13th at 11:00 in the new Ministry Center. All are welcome and needed. There will be an opportunity for Fellowship during the lunch hour. Bring a sack lunch and the hostesses will provide dessert.

-Jacque Howard, President, UWIF

## Ringers and Singers begin rehearsals

Ringers and Singers rehearse at 3:15 pm in the choir room on Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 21. We welcome first through middle schoolers. Questions for the Ringers and Singers may be directed to Carol Pence by calling, texting or emailing 760.689.8024 or [cnjpence@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cnjpence@sbcglobal.net).

## Happy "September" Birthdays

Nancy Coker (2)  
Anita Maag (2)  
Nannette Stamm (2)  
Connor Way (2)  
Carol Graham (3)  
Stan Hamilton (3)  
Scott Hansen (3)  
Sherry Johnston (3)  
Jean Vought (4)  
Dakota Koenig (9)  
Christopher Tivar (12)  
Aiden Amaro (13)  
Kathy Kim (14)  
Betsy Jean Miller (14)  
Jimmy Patton (14)  
Phoebe Fraser (17)  
Sara Baldwin (18)  
Grace Hernandez-Jackson (19)  
Gemma Johnson (20)  
Phil Balun (21)  
Patricia Hotaling (21)  
Chloe Johnson (23)  
Aaron Amaro (28)  
Christian Guffey (29)  
Scott Myers (29)

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

## Save the date

On **Sunday, September 25**, we are having our Open House and hope that you will join us in celebrating the opening of our new Ministry Center. Our worship service begins at 10:00 a.m. followed by tours of our facility at approximately 11:00 am. Our Community Partners, who provide services for those in need, will be joining us with information about the great work that we do together in Vista and surrounding areas.

Flame Editor  
Barbara Mitchell  
Flame Production  
Paula Amaro  
WEB Master  
Jim McGlocklin

Next deadline is Wednesday, September 21, 2022  
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

## **Continue prayers for our Community Partners for 2022**

During 2021 our congregation received outreach grant requests, studied and prayed over all the grants, voted to prioritize the grants based on our call to vision, and allocated the funds. This is a lot of work and just the beginning of these relationships in ministry. It is our hope that these organizations and groups become a list of opportunities to serve and prayers to offer.

Alabaster Jar Project  
Boys and Girls Club of Vista  
Canine Companions  
Casa de Amparo  
Christ Ministry Center  
El Porvenir  
Global Conservation Force  
Guatemala Project  
ICC Grace Children's Hospital  
Interfaith Community Services  
Leap to Success  
Lifewater International  
North County LGBTQ Resource Center  
North County Lifeline  
Operation HOPE NC  
Shepherd of the Hills UMC – Community Table  
Sierra Service Project  
Solutions for Change  
Survivors of Suicide Loss  
UMC of Vista Missions (around the world)  
UMC of Vista Technology and Communications  
Outreach  
UMC of Vista Apportionments and Connectional  
Giving  
Vista Community Clinic  
Vista Teen Outreach  
Womens Resource Center  
Wounded Warrior Homes, Inc.

## **Thank you, volunteers!**

It was wonderful to see the folks arrive to help clean and move items into the new space on August 20! And although there was much that couldn't be done due to the building being not quite ready, a lot was accomplished anyway! So thank you all again. This is our long-awaited expansion, may God bless us as we continue to work and do ministry.

-Building Committee and Trustees,  
Beth Hallock, Chair of Church Council

## **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, September 7, 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 968 9336 2856  
Passcode: 490490

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

Education/Discipleship, September 14, 6 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 983 3122 0500  
Passcode: 490490

Trustees, September 20, 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986  
Passcode: 490490

Finance, September 28, 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Reconciling Ministries, September 27, 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395  
Passcode: Welcome

## ***Heartfelt Thanks***

Thank you all for the sympathy cards and kind words during this sad time after the passing of Al's mother. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

-Trudy, Al, and the McClure Family

I want to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and cards following the death of my husband Lou – they meant so much! We were married 52 years and I would certainly do it all over again! This is such a wonderful congregation. I have missed seeing everyone in person and participating with the choir. I have had to stay away from gatherings with my lung vulnerability but look for all of you on the live-stream service every week to help me stay connected. Our son lives nearby and has been very faithful in providing company, transportation and outings. Bless you all, and again, heartfelt thanks for everything.

-Sharon Hall

## News from our Community Partners....

### El Porvenir

In July, my family and I had the pleasure of visiting El Porvenir staff and projects in 5 of the 6 regions where we work. Of course it was a valuable experience for me to meet coworkers in person and get a more in-depth understanding of our work in the communities. It was also an invaluable experience for my teenage daughters to see the ways the communities work together to address some of the challenges of living in rural Nicaragua.

For example, in the village of La Mesa, Camoapa, some beneficiaries of a drilled well project gathered to share their experience. It was so meaningful to hear how this older woman still didn't quite believe she finally had access to water close to her home. The woman behind her had broken her leg in the mud while carrying back a full bucket of water, and became the instigator in bringing the community together, requesting the project and raising the community contribution toward it. And the young woman was full of gratitude, sharing how she sent a video of when the driller hit water to community members who were away, shouting, "There's water!" That, of course, is exactly the mission of El Porvenir: Partner with rural Nicaraguans to develop and implement lasting projects and educational programs that increase access to clean water.

One thing that impressed me across all of our visits was the real sense of ownership in the projects among the community members. More than once, the phrase "mano a mano" (hand in hand) was used when they described working with El Porvenir. And the ownership is financial as well; one community with a 10-year old water system in El Sauce told us their bank balance is over \$5,000 (US) to cover any needed maintenance or replacement costs.

One last memorable example is when a community member in Terrabona was demonstrating how to conduct a water test, and my daughter leaned over and whispered, "Wait, does she work with El Porvenir too?" Nope! She was just so well trained by our actual employee that it seemed like it!

It was very rewarding to see the lasting impact of projects funded years ago, and to see the ongoing work that our dedicated staff (and trained community volunteers!) are able to accomplish "mano a mano" with the communities.

Thank you for your support of this important work! As always, please let me know if you have any questions about how we are putting your funding to work, or if you have any additional funding sources that could support even more work like this. *For additional information and donation opportunities for El Porvenir, please check out their website: [www.elporvenir.org/](http://www.elporvenir.org/)*

Susan Burkholder, Grant Writer

El Porvenir: Water. Life. Future

### Soroptimist Int'l of Vista and North County Inland

The North County anti-Human Trafficking Collaborative will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., Thursday, September 1st. Kaye Van Nevel and members will share event updates, media coverage, law enforcement and legislation. She invites everyone interested in education, awareness and action on this challenging topic. Our guest speaker, Brooke Tafreshi will speak about the newly opened One Safe Place in San Marcos which provides free support services under one roof to anyone who has experienced family violence, child abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, hate crimes, elder abuse, human trafficking, violent loss of other crimes.

For more information, please call Kaye, 760.224.1223.

### **Sermon Series: Reclaiming the Table began August 14**

The Gospel of Luke has a distinct emphasis upon the table. Jesus shares fellowship at the table with sinners, a tax collector, sisters, Zacchaeus, the Disciples and more. As we open our new space with blessing and joy, we know that fellowship around tables will be a great part of all we do. You are welcome to read ahead for worship as I preach on the meals that define Jesus journey and teaching in Luke.

—Pastor Leigh Ann

August 28: Luke 9:10-17, You. Give. Them. All.

(D.S. Rev. Sandra Olewine)

September 4: Luke 10:38-44, A Meal of Hospitality

September 18: Luke 14:1-24, Honor and Eats

September 25: Luke 19:1-10, A Meal of Transformation

October 2: Luke 22:14-38, A Meal for All the World

October 9: Luke 24:28-32, A Meal of Revelation

October 16: Luke 24:36-43, Something Fishy

### **Interpreter for the Deaf**

An interpreter for the Deaf/and hard-of-hearing will be here on September 4, the first Sunday of the month. We are striving to ensure that God's Word is accessible to all. Please invite anyone you feel could benefit from this service.

### *Reminder...*

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



## 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](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...

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

**Memorial Service for Raub Mathias** will be held September 10th at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

### Church Council Celebrations from July!

- Children’s Ministry: SPRC is actively seeking candidates for the Children’s Ministry position.
- Reconciling Ministries: sponsored tables at Vista Strawberry Festival and Oceanside Pride Events. Keep the date of Dec. 4 open for the Annual Peace Vigil!
- United Women in Faith: will begin programs again in September
- BSA Troop 709: celebrates their new Eagle Scouts! The troop also participated in the Scottish Highland Games in June, a camp in Kernville, CA and a trip to Sea Base, Florida!

Return Service Requested

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