



*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**

### **The Essentials**

What is YOUR essential? What are the essentials of the church? What grounds us individually and together?

The United Methodist Church is the result of many divisions and mergers among Christians over many years. We have in our roots ancestors from England, with both highly ritualized faith and faith that takes a street-level view of the world. We place a high value on education, and thoughtful study. On our best days we bring faith that clings to the lively Holy Spirit and faith that cares for our neighbors.

Our Book of Discipline contains all our history, beliefs and values, social principles and how we organize every committee of the local congregation. The word "discipline" conveys our orderly and organized method of faith and living faithfully. The earliest students and disciples of John Wesley were mocked as they were called "Methodist." It was meant unkindly, but the attention to process and focus has served us over time.

That same methodical process has held us in a long, and often heartbreaking, conversation about homosexuality and human intimacy. For decades we've considered the biblical and social nature of sexuality, reflecting on our experience and tradition. We've talk to each other, about each other and sometimes even listened to one another. It appears that the church is no longer willing to live in conversation but is nearing a dramatic restructuring. You will hear that some churches are "disaffiliating" from the United Methodist Church. You may hear about a new group called the Global Methodist Church. There is a lot of misinformation and even intentional deception surrounding this pivotal moment.

The essential I circle back to is from John Wesley's sermon 39 on the spirit of faith. He preaches, "though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences. Hold you fast that which you believe is most acceptable to God, and I will do the same."

The United Methodist Church continues to be most aligned with my faith and my understanding of faith as our mandate for caring for one another and the world. Even though I do not agree with every position of our church, our structure, tradition and process, I understand we are a people who trust in the ever creating work of God through the Holy Spirit and that humility leads us forward. I long for the day that our denomination fully includes all persons, celebrating love, and commitment. Where one person is lost, all the community loses.

May we find together the deepest truth of God's gracious love for all. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

## Finance Focus

Thank you for your generosity towards our Church Ministry Action Plan by supporting the 2023 budget through your pledges and support by returning your 2023 pledge card. The 2023 theme is “God’s Promise Always Brings US Home”. God’s spirit is clearly at work here at UMC Vista! You may return your pledge card by mail, in person at Church, or drop it off at the secure drop box by the office at Church. We will conclude our 2023 pledge drive on Sunday, November 6. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PLEDGES!** If you have not taken the opportunity to turn in your pledge or estimate of giving for 2023, please do so at your earliest convenience. If you haven’t received your pledge card in the mail, please call the church office. You may also consider giving online by going through your bank, or through our Church website. 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, feel free to contact Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,  
Lay Leader

## All Church/Charge Conference, Nov. 20 (set by our District Superintendent)

All Church/Charge Conference is coming up on Nov. 20 at 2 p.m. It is a review of our annual ministry, to affirm the pastors’ salary packages, to affirm our slate of leadership, including renewing our support for our Lay Servant and Certified Lay Minister. If you are submitting a report to share your appreciation of your ministry team, want to share about what your team has done this year, and want to share the many hours and people you’ve impacted and cared for please submit your brief report to Paula Amaro in the office by Nov. 8. The Outreach budget will be approved at a later charge conference in December.

## United Women In Faith

- Kenworthy Circle - Nov. 1, will meet at the church at 9:30 a.m..
- Ruth Circle - Nov. 1, will meet at the home of Dakota and Heidi at 11:00 am.

-Jacque Howard, President, UWIF

## Happy “November” Birthdays

Dick Muir (2)  
Colleen Guffey (3)  
Hector Hernandez (3)  
Pam Montoya (3)  
Margaret Woodman (3)  
Grace Wheeler (5)  
Louise Clarke (8)  
Janet Ahrens (9)  
Nancy Montgomery (10)  
Kathe Enright (11)  
Miriam Tivar (12)  
Jane Arrowsmith (13)  
Norman Corwin (13)  
Beverly Duncan (13)  
Tim Frazier (13)  
Susan Lenker (13)  
Charlotte Chappel (14)  
Greg Rye (15)  
Teresa Flanagan (16)  
Emma Hernandez-Jackson (17)  
Martha Phillips (17)  
Kathy Johnson (19)  
Beth Schmeiser (21)  
Michael Beu (22)  
Kenn Bing (22)  
Al Amaro (23)  
Suzanne McMurchie (25)

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

## Interpreter for the Deaf

An interpreter for the Deaf/and hard-of-hearing here on Nov. 6, 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.

Flame Editor Barbara Mitchell Flame Production Paula Amaro WEB Master Jim McGlocklin Next deadline is Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2022 Comments or suggestions, please let us know.
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<b>The Flame (monthly newsletter)</b> <b>United Methodist Church of Vista</b> 490 S. Melrose Drive Vista, CA 92081
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## Sharing our world experiences

On January 27, 2023, United Methodist Church of Vista members will again share their experiences in different locations as part of “Around the World in 80 Minutes”. Anyone who has 10 photos of places they have traveled or lived may submit photos on CDs or flash drives. Please share those great memories you have with others in our congregation. Your photos can be left in the church office. (Include your name so your photos can be returned.)

Phil Biggs has volunteered to assemble the slide show again this year. Alice Robeson will be helping. If you have questions, see us in church or call Luene Corwin, 760.704.1242 or Phil at 760.598.8022 or Alice at 760.806.9092 or e-mail to lhcorwin1@gmail.com or pebiggs@gmail.com or alicerobeson@cox.net.

All church members and friends are invited to attend the event. A potluck will start at 6 p.m. At 7 p.m. we will start our trip around the world and it will end 80 minutes later. (Not the 80 days that it took in Jules Verne’s novel!)

## Church Council Celebrations from October

- Outreach: The Church Council is meeting to review and prioritize the 31 Outreach Applications received for 2023. In November, award amounts will be decided.
- Music: The Music Ministry is now in preparation for our annual Christmas Concert. We will be offering a full concert on Sunday, December 18 at 4 p.m. There are upcoming repairs scheduled for our organ, which had an electronic failure.
- United Women in Faith (formerly UMW): UWIF was pleased to make the arrangements for the League of Women Voters presentation on October 11. Members and guests had a very helpful review of the ballot measures. Circles will meet Nov. 1 and begin planning for the Christmas Bake Sale on Dec. 18 and a Christmas program on Dec. 13.
- Reconciling Ministries: Preparation for the Peace Vigil on December 4th continues to go well. We also continue to focus on being a fully inclusive congregation through distributing a FAQ sheet and other activities about becoming a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network.
- SPRC: October was Pastor appreciation month.
- UMCV Cable Foundation had a Sept. balance of \$8,306,943.88. Alfred Chappell was elected president and Phil Biggs was elected treasurer.

## 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, Nov. 2, 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 968 9336 2856  
Passcode: 490490

Congregational Care, Nov. 3, 1:30 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Education/Discipleship, Nov. 9, 6 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 983 3122 0500  
Passcode: 490490

Trustees, Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986  
Passcode: 490490

Finance, Nov. 2 and 23, 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Reconciling Ministries, Nov. 16, 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395  
Passcode: Welcome

## North County anti-Human Trafficking

Kaye Van Nevel invites all who are interested to the North County anti-Human Trafficking Collaborative meeting Thursday, November 3 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Speaker Don Meredith will share his story about developing The Sign. This is a hand signal, a simple maneuver by a victim of human trafficking to alert aware bystanders of impending danger. Learn what it is, and share with your friends and family members, coffee and pastries!

## News from our Community Partners....

### Grace Children's Hospital (GCH) (Haiti)

A recent letter from the director or ICC that oversees Grace Children's Hospital tells us the following. While they continue to be very grateful for the 2022 grant from UMC Vista, she writes: "GCH has been closed these past weeks due to increasing kidnapping, crime and civil unrest in the area. Protests, demonstrations, and roadblocks are frequent, and can turn violent. On top of that there is a new outbreak of cholera in Port-au-Prince."

In a recent news article, the UN has described Haiti and Port-au-Prince in particular as a humanitarian catastrophe with gang violence across the country and over 25,000 driven from their homes, most of them women and children.

In the 55 years since Grace Children's Hospital has been in existence, there has been only one other time when the hospital closed and that was for a short period. So the situation is pretty dire. Your prayers are urgently needed.

-Kathy Johnson

### Boys & Girls Club of Vista

#### **"Smark Moves" Program Update**

SMART Moves is a nationally recognized Boys & Girls Club program that focuses conflict resolution while building self-esteem and resiliency. The funding received truly helped propel character development among our club members and increase social-emotional skills. We achieved our participant goals of 60 Club members; 61% of Club members reported that the Club was optimally safe and positive; 81% of participants surveyed reported that they had not been involved in any fighting the past year which is 4% higher than the national average; 92% of participants expected to graduate high school; and 100% of teen Club members surveyed abstained from drinking, smoking and sexual activity. No Club members were in trouble with the law.

Raul Castillo and Naomi Wade are dedicated to Smart Moves programs by grade level at the Boys & Girls Club of Vista and Nora Pozos at our Raintreet Learning Center Site. We also collaborated with another nonprofit, the Changing Tides Foundation, to provide SMART Moves classes for middle-school aged girls along with weekly surfing lessons.

We appreciate your incredible generosity in helping us inspire more great futures for our Club members.

-Matt Koumara, President & CEO

## Being a Reconciling Congregation

Reconciling Ministries is a group within our church committed to encouraging full inclusion of our LGBTQ folks in all aspects of church life. A Reconciling Church is one in which the church as a whole is committed to being fully inclusive of everyone, including our LGBTQ folks. Currently the United Methodist Church's *Book of Discipline* specifically bars these people from becoming ordained ministers or having a same-sex marriage. While becoming a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network would not change the *Book of Discipline* in any way, it would allow us to join the growing group of churches taking a stand in changing the wording.

You may have noticed members of our church handing out FAQ sheets about becoming a fully reconciling church. Reconciling Ministries supports justice for all groups, including people of color and women. It is the goal of the Reconciling Ministries group to encourage our church to become fully reconciling in all ways. This can be done by a vote at our upcoming Charge Conference on November 20. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

-Kathy Johnson and Lyn Berry

## **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...**

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

Prayers for the family of Roger Martinsen who passed away on October 27.

Return Service Requested

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