

Issue 120
12/01/22



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

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; a light has dawned on those living in the land of darkness. You have enlarged the nation and increased its joy. The people have rejoiced before you as they rejoice at harvest time and as they rejoice when dividing spoils." From Isaiah 9:2-3

We began Advent on November 27. The world knows Advent as a countdown to Christmas. The world watches for sales and gifts and materials that light the darkness with light bulbs and tinsel. The world will put up decorated trees, but what will we do to observe Advent?

This year, watch for the Savior. Our Savior will show up as a baby, born to a poor woman who wasn't yet married. Our Savior's earthly Dad will step up in faith. Our Savior will speak out against injustice, advocate for compassion and offer mercy. Our Savior will talk to those the world believes are unworthy and unredeemable. Our Savior will shine a light on the needs of the neighbor as a friend.

A savior is the one who saves and redeems. As people of the Christian faith we claim Jesus of Nazareth as our savior. We will spend Advent reading the story of anticipation and waiting, hoping for the prince of peace who comes in love. The bible passages will be familiar and some weeks it will be easy to tune them out, but I hope we won't. The darkness of our times demands that we look for the light. The challenge of our days needs our bold belief that something can, and does, change with God's nearness.

The people do walk in darkness and many have seen the light of grace but many don't. The Advent season isn't merely paying attention to the story of Jesus, it is also showing the world the nature of Jesus' love through OUR living. The Advent season challenges us to give a little more to good works, pray faithfully for those who grieve and are in pain and spend some extra time when we are feeling tired. As you start your season of waiting and watching, counting down to the birth of Jesus, I hope you will let your life show your faith that God still loves.

I'm reading a devotional from Kate Bowler through Advent and praying for those who suffer regular pain and struggle to feel joy. It is free online and just needs you to download it through e-mail. If you want to read along with me, go to katebowler.com/advent2022 and download the material yourself. I'll mention this during worship and look forward to hearing from you.

Advent blessings to you,
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

Finance Focus

Thank you for your generous support of the Ministry Action Plan of our Church with your pledges and support of the Stewardship Campaign for the 2023 budget. Pledges are still coming in supporting the 2023 budget. We currently have 60 pledges returned for \$192,528 pledged for the 2023 budget. If you still wish to make a pledge or estimate of giving for 2023, pledge cards are available from the Church office, and you may mail or return them to the Church office. If you are behind in your 2022 giving you may still mail your contributions or drop them off at the Church locked mailbox at the office or give online. With our Thanksgiving and Christmas Offerings we hope to raise the necessary funds to balance the budget for 2022 with all financial obligations met. 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, please feel to contact Rollin Grider.

-Rollin Grider, Finance/Stewardship Chair,
Lay Leader

Christmas gifts for our staff

As we prepare our Christmas gift list, let us remember our staff. This is an opportunity for us to say, “thank you” for all the support they provide our church throughout the year. We invite your gifts of cash donations or checks (made out to UMC Vista; write in the memo, “Staff Gift”) and place your gift in the Present Box at the end of each service, which will be available in the Narthex, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, or you may place it in the offering plate. We will present your gifts to the staff on Dec. 19. If you have any questions, please see Melissa Giard, Staff-Parish Chair.

Peace Vigil, Dec. 4

Reconciling Ministries is hosting the fourth annual Peace Vigil on Sunday, December 4 at 4:00 p.m. It will be a program of music, songs, poems, taiko drummers, brief talk and beautiful dancing ending with candlelight and song at the Peace Pole. Please come to this fun and uplifting event.

-Kathy Johnson

Christmas Caroling, December 11

Join us on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2:00 p.m. for Christmas caroling. Please plan to participate in this wonderful holiday tradition. This heartwarming and fun event is filled with Christmas spirit for the home bound and for us, the carolers. If you have questions, please call Kathy Johnson at 760.560.7150.

Happy “December” Birthdays

Chris Amaro (1)
Donna Richard (2)
Merry Nickerson (4)
Susan Hernandez (7)
Nayeli Cargill (8)
Robert Myers (8)
Alan Mathias (10)
Bob Graham (11)
Janet Hughes (13)
Katie Pierce (14)
Keira Pierce (14)
Carl Treutle (16)
Lucas Choque-Jimenez (17)
Trudy McClure (17)
Valerie Balun (18)
Beverly Thomason (19)
Michael Trail (19)
Martha Treutle (20)
Jeff Montgomery (21)
Kent Richard (21)
Jeannie Jackson (22)
Juna Spitz (24)
Kaye Van Nevel (24)
Jim Balardeta (25)
Darryl Wood (25)
Beth Brainerd Hallock (28)
Andrea Maniti (28)
Megan Burdick (31)

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

Christmas Eve Services – Saturday, Dec. 24

5:00 p.m. – Family Candlelight Service

7:00 p.m. – Traditional Worship with Choir
and Candlelighting

Christmas Day - Sunday, Dec. 25

Online worship service at 10:00 a.m.

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

Next deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 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

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!)

Music Ministry Announces

Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert will be on Sunday, December 18th at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Chancel Choir, Anderson Handbells, Chamber Orchestra and Praise Band will combine to offer a varied and wonderful selection of music for the Christmas Season. We have again invited Christoph Rayburn to join us with his orchestral composition, “A Christmas Medley”. The Choir will be joined by the orchestra for several beautiful anthems, and the Handbells will return to ring in the season.

A Director’s Conversation will be offered at 3:15 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

There is no charge for the concert but a free-will offering will be taken to offset concert expenses and in support of the ministry of the church. We hope to see you there!

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.

SPRC, Dec. 7, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 968 9336 2856

Passcode: 490490

Congregational Care, December 1, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Education/Discipleship, Dec. 14, 6 p.m.

Meeting ID: 983 3122 0500

Passcode: 490490

Trustees, Dec. 20, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986

Passcode: 490490

Finance, Dec. 7, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Reconciling Ministries, Dec. 27, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395

Passcode: Welcome

Interpreter for the Deaf

An interpreter for the Deaf/and hard-of-hearing will be here on Dec. 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.

Approximately more than a half-million people throughout the United States use American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate as their native language. ASL is the third most commonly used language in the U.S., after English and Spanish.

ASL is a real language with its own grammar and syntax. It is a beautiful visual language. It is not English on the hand!

An interpreter is one way to bridge the gap when sharing information and communication between a Deaf person and a hearing person.

-Sandy Harvey

United Women In Faith

- Kenworthy and Ruth Circle will meet on Dec. 6, at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.
- All the women in the congregation are invited to a Holiday Luncheon (as guests) on December 13 at 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Lunch catered by El Pollo Loco Restaurant. Entertainment provided by the Sunset Strummers Ukelete Group. Please RSVP by December 7 to Jacque Howard or Sara Baldwin or call Paula at the church office.
- Christmas Bake Sale on Dec. 18 at the church. Homemade goodies to give to neighbors, co-workers, friends and Christmas guests. All items will be boxed and ready to deliver to a lucky recipient. Funds raised will support missions through United Women in Faith. Persons who would like to bake for the sale may call Sara Baldwin at 760.724.1859.

-Jacque Howard, President, UWIF

Time to Sweeten the Holidays!

We are inviting you to participate in our Annual Sees Candy Fundraiser! You have two opportunities to participate. As we have done for many years, we would like to offer the small candy boxes to the Veterans who live at Veterans Village in San Diego. That order will need to be placed at the table in the Narthex over the next few weeks.

For your own gifting and even for yourself, we have a Winter Fundraising Storefront online! You can browse our store and order whatever you wish. Every purchase generates a donation, there is no minimum order for your church to receive funds! Just follow the link below and Happy Holiday Shopping! If you have questions, please contact Pastor Frank at musicmanfh@hotmail.com.

Here's the link:

https://www.yumraising.com/secure/umcv_umc_vista_winter_fundraiser25/Fra_Hal9345/candy

and Two Fishes

It's time for our yearly blanket and jacket drive which benefits our less fortunate. We accept new or gently used items. Please place your items in the large container that has been placed in the Narthex or drop off your donations downstairs in the fellowship hall on Thursdays, between 2 and 5 p.m.. We are also collecting men and women's clothing again. We appreciate all the support we receive from our congregation, we couldn't exist without your help. Please contact Brenda Walker for more information or questions, 760.726.0442 (church office).

Food Handler Cards

We are just about done with our new addition and many of you are planning on using the kitchen for fellowship on Sundays and other events. Because this is a commercial kitchen, we do need to have Food Handler cards. If you haven't gotten a card yet or need information, see Mike Walker or call him at 760.505.1703.

Advanced Leadership Training for Laity

Did you know the United Methodist Church offers advanced leadership training for laity? Lay Servants and Certified Lay Ministers study beyond the local congregation to advance their skills and grow their discipleship. Ask Barbara Mitchell or Beth Hallock about being a Lay Servant. Ask Dakota Koenig about Certified Lay Ministry. Or go to CalPacUMC.org for more information.

Heartfelt Thanks

To my church family,

Words can't express just how deeply your love and support has been appreciated. Thank you so very much for the beautiful flower arrangement. It meant so much to me and Roger's family.

Love Jeannie Martinsen

To all our Veterans and their families,

Although November has quickly passed us by, we truly do thank each and every one for your sacrifices. Thank you, Veterans, and your families that have supported you, for being there for our country. Many of us cannot even imagine what you have endured.

Thanks also to all those law enforcement officers, fire fighters, doctors, nurses, support staff and your families for all you do to protect us. It has, and continues to be a long and challenging road.

We cannot thank each of you enough for all you do for us, your fellow human beings. Blessings be yours this holiday season.

-Barbara Mitchell, on behalf of a grateful congregation

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...

Andrea Shaw, 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 Roger Martinsen on Saturday, December 3 at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Return Service Requested

United Methodist Church of Vista
490 S. Melrose Drive
Vista, CA 92081
Phone: (760) 726-0442
Web: www.umcvista.org