



*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**

Lent begins February 22, 2023 on Ash Wednesday. As we consider the path before us, here are some helps.

The cornerstone of our Wesleyan faith is grace. Grace is an undeserved gift from God. Grace is more than a prayer or a song. Grace is the spirit of God that works on your heart even when you aren't paying attention.

We are approaching a season of wilderness in the Christian year, Lent. Lent leads to Jesus on the cross and to Easter. Easter is the celebration of God overcoming the greatest pain and violence of humanity. Easter is the discovery that death is not the final answer to life. But before we jump to that Easter celebration, we walk the path of Lent.

Most often Lent is a time of prayer and fasting. Some give up chocolate or coffee or even alcohol. Early Christians gave extra financial support to their church family by saving money. It is not meant for us to suffer in Lent, but to reflect on what separates us from God. Some families plan "family days" on Sundays during Lent to grow together.

As you look toward some scriptures for your Lenten walk, consider Psalm 51. Psalm 51 calls upon God's mercy in our life. We all fall short of God's plan for us. We fall short of our own hope for doing good. Even as we intend to do our best, we just slip up sometimes. From our own best intentions, the author of the psalm asks God to bring renewal and healing.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit." Psalm 51:10-12, NRSV

My prayer for our church and your life is renewal and healing from the struggles walked over the last few years. I hope you will take time to commit to a spiritual practice during Lent to reconnect with God's love for you. Maybe read Psalm 51 once a week or offer a daily prayer for those in our church directory or fast from negativity. Let God bring you home to remembering how wonderful, compassionate and beloved you are.

See you on the Lenten journey. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

## **Shrove Tuesday**

Please join us for Shrove Tuesday dinner on February 21, 2023. We will meet at Denny's Restaurant in Vista (540 W. Vista Way, across from St. Francis) from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. You may purchase Denny's gift cards at the Scrip table on Sundays. After three years, we finally can get together to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Any questions, please call Sara Baldwin, 760.726.0442.

The Flame

## Finance Focus

Thank you for your generous support of the Ministry Action Plan of our church with your pledges and financial support for the 2023 budget. As of January 2023, we have 63 pledges totaling \$197,988.00. If you still wish to make a pledge or estimate of giving, pledge cards are available from the church office, and you may mail, return them to the church office or place them in the offering box on Sunday. Pledges can also be paid using your credit card at the Scrip table. We are making an impact not only in our community, but the world by spreading the love of Jesus Christ to all. If you have any questions, please feel to contact Sara Baldwin. Blessings to you all.

-Sara Baldwin, Finance/Stewardship Chair

## Interpreter for the Deaf

An interpreter for the Deaf/and hard-of-hearing will be here on February 5, 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.

## United Women In Faith

- Kenworthy and Ruth Circle will not meet in February.

-Jacque Howard, President, UWIF

## Academic Scholarships Available

The UMC Vista Endowment Fund is offering 2023 academic scholarships to active members or family members of active UMC Vista members. Application packets, completed by the student, are due to the Endowment mailbox by May 31 (12 p.m.). Applications and more information can be found on [www.umcvista.org](http://www.umcvista.org). For questions, call Gary Lamb, President, 760.598.1915.

## Adjourned Charge Conference, Feb. 5

On February 5, 2023 we will hold an adjourned charge conference after worship. The agenda includes voting on the church's Outreach Grant Budget for 2023, a motion to dissolve the building committee and refer all remaining items to the Trustees, a motion from the Reconciling Ministries Committee to join the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) (which requires a 75% or more vote to approve).

## Happy "February" Birthdays

Chloe McClure (2)  
Suzy Harlow (5)  
Robbie Pierce (7)  
Gary Lamb (9)  
Janice Myers (9)  
Julianna Bodnar (14)  
Warren "Scot" Spitz (15)  
Paul Hernandez (15)  
Loretta Pierce (17)  
Sarah Klahn (19)  
Nicole Burns (21)  
Jacque Howard (22)  
Mike Walker (22)  
Tim Clarke (23)  
Tim Smith (23)  
Keona Christian (25)  
Nadine Kaina (26)  
Lyn Berry (27)  
Karen Canfield-Marquez (27)  
Sophie Stempson (28)

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

## New Member Class and Luncheon

Are YOU interested in officially joining our fellowship and becoming a part of this church family? You are invited to attend our New Member Class, Feb. 19 at 11:15 a.m. in the conference room; and join us Feb. 26 for a New Member Luncheon. Please RSVP by Feb. 15 to Paula Amaro, 760.726.0442. Note: Committee Chairs are welcome to join the New Member Luncheon.

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

Next deadline is Wednesday, February 15, 2023  
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

## **Lent begins on February 22, 2023**

**Ash Wednesday** worship is available online at 5:00 p.m. on February 22 and after. A worship link will be emailed on Wednesday with the worship bulletin. Watch your inbox.

**Imposition of Ashes “Drive-thru”** available in-person by reservation in advance at 7 a.m., noon and 4 p.m. in the church parking lot. A pastor will be near the mailbox for you to drive-thru and share in this holy tradition to remember and share in Jesus’ journey to the cross. See Paula on Sunday to sign up or email her during the week. Pastors will be wearing a face mask to support public health precautions and your health.

Lent is a season of spiritual discipline, fasting and prayer.

## **Lenten Study**

A Lenten study, “The Walk” by Adam Hamilton will begin February 28, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The class will be taught by Beth Brainerd Hallock and Barbara Mitchell. Signups will begin February 5 in the Narthex. More information coming in the March Flame.

## **Watch for other Lenten events**

A Lenten mission project for the entire church! More information coming in the March Flame.

## **Important info for anyone who plans to use new kitchen**

Anyone who plans to handle food in any capacity, whether preparing, cooking, serving, or clean up, must have a Food Handler’s License, because we now have a Commercial Kitchen. See Mike Walker for a study guide and when you’re ready to take the test, he can administer it at church on Thursdays. We do not know when the official opening of the new “kitchen” will be as yet. There are still issues of insurance and protocols that need to be in place. If you saw an earlier email about beginning in the new kitchen on February 2nd, please disregard it for now. When we know the opening date, we will notify you.

Also, we appreciate all of your donations of clothing and other items. We are still in need of men and women’s clothing or shoes, but the greatest need is for men. If you need a receipt for tax purposes, just let us know.

If you have any questions, please contact Brenda or Mike Walker or Loretta Pierce.

## **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.

Congregational Care, Feb. 2, 1:30 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Education/Discipleship, February 8, 6 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 983 3122 0500  
Passcode: 490490

Trustees, February 28, 6:00 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986  
Passcode: 490490

Finance, February 1, 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

NOTE: SPRC meets Sunday, Feb. 12, following worship service in the conference room.

## **Welcome New Members**

It is with joy that we welcome all our new members! Please take time to meet and greet them.

In December we had 12 youth confirmed to join the church.

Kingsley Escobar  
Nico Chappell  
Phoebe Fraser  
Jordyn Fraser  
Carter Guffey  
Kendall Guffey

Christian Guffey  
Alyssa Coker  
Blake Johnson  
Drew Stempson  
Sophie Stempson  
Gracie Stempson

We also welcome Jeff Pickéll, Shirley Barr and Marilyn Elliott.

Shirley Barr was born in Pennsylvania. A widow, she has two adult children, Sheryl Greiner who attends church with her, and Richard, who sometimes helps with “and Two Fishes.” She enjoys sewing, movie nights and concerts, traveling and reading. She is a retired RN.

Marilyn Elliott was born in Wisconsin, has attended several UMC churches. Her daughter, Robin Hause, attends with her and she has two other adult children, Todd and Julie. She also was an RN, and also done sales of window and floor coverings!

## **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...**

Margene Haase, Marilyn Mathias, Traci Wheeler, Erin Fraser, Ko and Rosalynn Kim, Charlotte Chappell, Beverly Thomason, Stan Hamilton, Jim Rogers (hospice care), Joan Brainerd

Prayers for the family of Sharon Hall. She passed away January 12. Memorial service TBA. Cards can be sent to sons,

Walt and Greg Hall

3621-17 Vista Campana South

Oceanside, CA 92057

**Valentine’s Sunday** - Share YOUR love on Valentine’s Sunday by uploading one picture of your love for a friend, family, pet or place. Be sure to share your name and the name for “your love” with any expression of love you’d like to share. We will share them in worship on Feb 12. Upload your picture or love note by February 6 to [videoupload.umcvista.org](http://videoupload.umcvista.org). Contact Michael Beu for more information.

Return Service Requested

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