



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

We are soon to enter "The After." It is the time of the year after Easter. For many this is a boring, uneventful time of year. Although we are entering the time of the Christian year after Jesus' public ministry, his life, death and resurrection, this time of year is all about us.

The United Methodist Church of Vista has a vision for mission, outreach and service. The last year of finishing the building that was started 20 years ago has been about making space for community engagement. We still have work to do to develop staff and policy for this vision, but this church is closer to the vision we named 8 years ago than ever before.

During the end of April, in worship, pledge cards for service will be shared. These cards are similar to our end of year call to financial giving, except they are an invitation to service. Service is both inside and outside the walls of our church, and although there are many ministries listed, there are many more that could be. When you see the calls to pledge your service, we hope you will take some extra time to prayerfully consider where and how God is calling you to serve during "the after." Between Easter and Christmas 2023, what hours and effort will you give in faith?

Lent has been a time I've given up watching the news. I've listened to KPBS radio and read articles to keep current, but most days I've let the practice of news watching fall aside. My spirit feels both relieved and sad to give up this practice. I have always believed that staying current and mindful of national and global events both as an active member of civil society and a person of faith who prays is important. After Lent I will go back to more regular attention to current events, but I will do so with a deeper clarity about how much anxiety comes from this practice.

The gospel of Matthew, chapter 6: 25-27 teach, "therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?"

Lent reminds us that life is finite. Our days come and go. The time we have to make a difference in this world is limited. There is a meme I've read online that says, "if you can't do anything else, be kind." As we enter the time after Easter, this statement and the teaching of Matthew's gospel about worry are vital to our world and our faith. The good news of our faith is the powerful antidote to the bad news that surrounds us in this world.

The good news of Jesus' love and compassion shreds the bad news of hopelessness and despair. During late Spring and into Summer I encourage you to share good news with your prayers, your presence, your actions and your gifts. Carry the work of Lent forward into the rest of the year, and remember the rest of the year is for us to grow as faithful disciples of Jesus. Our faith happens unevenly. Some days we struggle and others we thrive in the light of God. However you find your faith, let each morning be a new beginning for you to listen for God's call in your heart.

God's calling is born from love for creation. May we each hear in our heart the tender calling to love as we have been loved and to forgive as we've been forgiven.

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

Pennies for Heaven

Help close our ministry gap in 2023. Bring your pennies and add to the decorated penny jar. Our Finance team thanks you for joining in the “fun” to raise our budget for ministry! Check with Sara Baldwin for more on having fun!

Pledge of Service

We are so grateful to Church members serving in our various areas of ministry. On April 2, the ushers will distribute a Pledge of Service Card listing ways and inviting you to serve our church. Please review the committees/ministries listed and prayerfully consider offering your service to one of your choosing. Any time given will be appreciated. If you are already serving, please rededicate your service on April 23. Important dates: April 2: Pledge of Service cards listing our committees and ministries will be handed out for you to review. April 23: Pledge of Service Day – the congregation will be invited to bring their cards forward. Thank you for giving of your time and service.

-Dakota Koenig, Chair, Congregational Care

Palm Sunday, April 2

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 6

Worship Online - 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 9

7:00 a.m. – Sunrise Worship Service

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Egg Hunt following the worship service.

Spring Concert postponed

This is to announce that our Spring Concert “What Wonders” will be postponed. Further details and a new date will be forthcoming!

Medical Health Alert

We continue to monitor the health of our congregation. If you feel like you have a cold or any other symptoms, please stay home warm and safe. Changes have already been made to protect everyone’s health. Please stay tuned to your email, should further changes need to be made.

Happy “April” Birthdays

Felix Fernandez (1)

Ko Kim (6)

Mal Blakeslee (7)

Allan Mejia (8)

James Hill (12)

Cliff Burdick (13)

Edward McGinn (14)

Evelyn Lawson (16)

Bill Rockwell (18)

Toan Dao (19)

Kingsley Escobar (20)

Connor Flanagan (20)

Lauri Arrowsmith (21)

Pat Preston (21)

Heidi Kendall (22)

Kim Hotaling (26)

Annamarie Abutin (28)

Gayla Prociv (28)

Daniel Gubaton (30)

Yolanda Gubaton (30)

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 will be here on Easter Sunday, April 9 (instead of the normal 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, April 19, 2023
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

United Methodist Church of Vista
Outreach Budget 2023
Community Partner Name/Funding Level

Alabaster Jar Project	\$ 5,000.00
Christ UMC Ministry Center	\$15,000.00
El Porvenir	\$ 5,000.00
Global Conservation Force	\$ 6,162.00
Interfaith Action International	
Guatemala Project	\$ 3,200.00
Leap to Success	\$ 5,000.00
Lifewater International	\$ 9,000.00
Neighborhood House of Calexico	\$ 7,500.00
North County Lifeline	\$10,000.00
Operation HOPE North County	\$10,000.00
UMC Missional Giving	
(Apportionments)	\$37,500.00
UMC Missionary Support	\$ 7,500.00
UMC Vista - Congregational Care	\$ 3,880.00
UMCV Outreach Media	\$67,000.00
Vista Community Clinic	\$ 7,500.00
Vista Teen Outreach	\$ 3,000.00
Wounded Warrior Homes, Inc.	\$15,000.00
 Total Amount Funded	 \$217,242.00

Website Renovation

We're currently renovating our website, umcvista.org, to make it even better. As we work on the changes, we would like to hear your feedback on the current version. Please share what you like, find confusing, or would like to see added. Email amandas@umcvista.org or find Amanda after service to share your thoughts!

Thank you for your continued support.

-Amanda Stanaland

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. For questions, call Gary Lamb, President, 760.598.1915.

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, April 6, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Education/Discipleship, April 12, 6 p.m.

Meeting ID: 983 3122 0500

Passcode: 490490

Trustees, April 18, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986

Passcode: 490490

Finance, April 12, 7:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Reconciling Ministries, April 25, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395

Passcode: Welcome

SPRC, May 7 (following worship service), Conference Room

Meet Our New Members...

Leo Domenichetti—Leo was born in Minnesota into the Catholic faith. Meeting his ex-wife, Nancy, in college, the two are best friends. Leo moved out to California to be closer to his four adult children and three grandchildren. Leo, now retired, enjoys walking, movies and reading.

Susan Mason—Suzy, a native Californian, is also a native San Diegan! She has been married to John for 40 years and has two adult children. Retired, Suzy has been a caregiver and continues to help an older lady twice a week. She enjoys biking, swimming, gardening, movies, reading mysteries, researching family history and cooking. Before COVID she also enjoyed cruising.

Again, welcome to Susan, Leo and all our new members. If you wish to join, please call the church office or Barbara (760.390.4196).

Nursery attendant wanted

We are looking for someone who wants to work with babies and toddlers in the nursery. Hours are from 9:45 a.m. till 11:15 a.m. each Sunday. If you are interested or know someone who is, please contact Margene Haase or Melissa Giard by calling the church office.

Candy donations, Easter egg hunt, April 9

The Discipleship/Education Committee is sponsoring the egg hunt following the 10 a.m. Easter worship service. Join us for this fun event for the family with crafts and snowcones. Remember, have your children bring their Easter baskets!

Donations of candies can be brought to the church office or dropped in the donation box in the Narthex on Sundays. For more information, contact Margene Haase.

Please join us on Friday, April 7 to help stuff the Easter eggs!

How to Calendar events and programs:

A reminder: If you are wanting to get a program or event on the church calendar, it must go through the church office. Please call Paula who will follow up with all staff to assure the date is clear. On-going or repetitive programs and events also should be shared and approved by church council.

Our office regularly sends committee and program leaders an email requesting information about your ongoing ministry, what you have planned and how you need any assistance. By responding to this email from our church office, your planning can be shared with Church Council, and upon approval, added to our weekly Spark, monthly Flame and to the worship announcements. (*Be sure to note this request for communication beyond Church Council to Paula.)

Our staff and church family will make every effort to accommodate and support program ministry but in the event there is a memorial service, pastor-led worship event or other gathering requested from the District Superintendent, programs may be asked to move room location or time. During busy times of year such as Advent, Christmas and Easter, your patience is requested to accommodate special events of the season.

Thank you for participating in the ongoing and exciting ministry of our Church family.

-The pastoral and office team

Story of Love...

As a Reconciling Ministries Community, we want to make sure that all feel welcomed in our church, especially those who are marginalized. Our RMC mission statement speaks not only of sexual orientation and gender identity, it also includes race, age, ethnicity, physical or mental capacity, education, economic or marital status. We want to make sure that ALL know they are all of God's family, that ALL are encouraged to become involved in the life and ministry of our church, that ALL have a seat at the grown-ups table, and no one is left out.

For several years a friend attended another church in the denomination where she was raised. The pastor knew that she was gay, and told her every time he saw her that he was praying for her. She was pretty certain that he was praying that God would "save" her from the sin of homosexuality, as he understood it. He was very sincere in his beliefs, and his prayers were no doubt equally as sincere. What my friend needed then, what she needs now, is a church that will pray WITH her, walk WITH her. What marginalized persons need is a church home that will pray WITH them, walk WITH them. That's a big part of what we want UMCV to be.

Why does this matter? Why does it matter how welcoming we are? It matters to the single parent who is working hard to raise their child. It matters to the millennial (22-35 yrs old) who wants to find meaning for their life. It matters to the parent of a trans child who wants desperately to provide healthy spiritual guidance along with love and nurturing. It matters to the person who lives with a disability and needs barriers removed. It matters to the couple who fall in love and need a church family to embrace them and support them. It matters to the couple who have taken in their aging parents. It matters to the person who was kicked out of their church when they came out as LGBTQ, or whose marriage ended in divorce, or who was an alcoholic or drug addict and who all heard words as they were growing up that who they were was an abomination in God's eyes, and have never darkened a church door since, afraid that God really doesn't love them. It matters to the parents who have been told that their child's sexual orientation damns them to hell, and that it is the parent's fault. It matters to all who have been excluded and need desperately to know that they are beloved by the God who created them, and by those who claim the name Christian.

Becoming a reconciling church is a big step towards meeting Jesus' command, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself." God continue to move us forward in faith.

-Barbara Mitchell

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...

Norm and Luene Corwin, Evelyn Lawson, 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 Harold MacDermot.

Harold passed away March 16. Cards may be sent to Betty MacDermot, 225 Paseo Marguerita, Vista, CA 92084. He was a member of our church since 1998 and served on the Cable Foundation.

Memorial service for Marlene Philippi (former member) will be at Doheny State Park in Dana Point on April 8 at 11 a.m. For more information, please call her daughter, Janet, at 559.978.6984.

Return Service Requested

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