



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

"If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town." Matthew 10:14

Living in the post-pandemic world, after one virus caused everyone to take a life-pause, we have gained a new appreciation for the value of being together. Our human need to be with one another is undeniable. Relationships and getting together matter to all of us. Friendship and family emerged strong from the pandemic. Desperation for connection is driving both our divisions and our allegiances.

Churches are a place where people can belong and participate in activities, studies and groups that do good in the world. Our congregation is returning to many activities with interest and hope. On Sunday, April 23 we shared an opportunity in worship to dedicate your service to God. Dakota Koenig helped organize and plan this opportunity to engage the various ministry groups in our congregation. There is always time to look around the church, ask questions and find a place to participate whether you are interested in service, fellowship or study. We have been focused on the pandemic and construction the last few years but are turning the corner. If there isn't a ministry you are interested in perhaps you'd like to spark a new opportunity here.

At the same time churches offer friendship, faith and belonging, many churches are in sharp decline. It is projected that 30-40% of all churches in our nation will close in the next decade. Additionally, several studies show that more than 40% of clergy are suffering from burnout and 60% of them have thought about leaving the ministry. Young clergy are experiencing the greatest rates of stress and anxiety. There are many reasons for these challenging statistics from the impact of the pandemic, to the division in our nation mirrored in congregations, to general anxiety and fatigue that continues to plague many people. We are in a time of restructuring and reevaluating what is most important.

Joining a church as a member can be life giving but there are also opportunities and responsibilities to a congregational relationship. Our church membership vows in the United Methodist Church include a commitment to participate through our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. The vows of Christian baptism commit to "renouncing the spiritual forces of wickedness and rejecting the evil powers of this world" and serving Jesus Christ, putting your whole trust in his grace. These are not casual commitments but meant to guide us in individual discipleship, as well as within the community. Our commitments of faith are part of our opportunity and responsibility to God and our community.

A lyricist wrote "there is a crack in everything, and that's where the light gets in." It is clear there are broken places and cracks in faith, in churches and in our community. Some folks have actively and cruelly acted as bullies. Some folks believe there is only one way to be a Christian. Some folks continue to act out of anger and pain. In all that is broken or cracked, there is always an opportunity for healing and renewal. Sometimes it takes a long time to see a light emerge but with faith we know that's God's ultimate gift.

I am not waiting for the Church to fail, but for the Church to be reborn. I am not watching for Christian communities to shut their doors, but for Christian communities to discover new life that heals old wounds. The gospel of Matthew challenges us "to shake off the dust from your feet" if you are not welcome. It is Christ teaching us to move on rather than be stalled by rejection or cruelty. There is light to share in the brokenness of the world, and we are a church on the move. May it be so today and always. Amen.

Pastor Leigh Ann

Finance Focus

The Finance/Stewardship Committee wishes to thank our caring, generous congregation for your contributions to our “Pennies for Heaven” FUNraiser. We began on February 26 and as of April 2, we have received \$506.00 to help close our 2023 Budget gap. We will have an update at the end of April and you can check the barometer in the Narthex for ongoing contributions throughout 2023.

-Sara Baldwin, Chairperson,
Finance/Stewardship Committee

Rummage sale, May 6,

Saturday, May 6 from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. is the Church rummage sale in the upper parking lot. Please drop off your items on May 5 between 3 and 8 p.m. If you need help, please call Scott or Tracy Lyons, 760.696.1185. Or bring items to the church and we can store them downstairs. Volunteers are needed on Friday, May 5 from 3-8 p.m. to organize and price items. Sign-up sheets will be in the Narthex.

Thank you all for your support.

-Scott and Tracy Lyons

Nursery available

The nursery is now available to receive little ones. Karen Felien and Marie Bonner will be staffing the nursery. The cry room will still be available for parents to use. For more information or questions, see Margene Haase.

Scheduling meetings/fundraisers at church

Just a reminder to folks who wish to have in person or ZOOM meetings or fund raisers at the church, there are two steps to this process. You need to check with Paula (who keeps a calendar of all events) to make sure the date does not have a conflict. If it is to be a fund raiser, after checking with Paula, you need to check with the Finance/Stewardship Committee for approval of your request. We are a very busy Church and by not clearing the date, you run the risk of a conflict and not being able to have the date you wish. Thank you for your consideration.

-Sara Baldwin, Chairperson,
Finance/Stewardship Committee

Happy “May” Birthdays

Rosalynn Kim (1)
Tim Arrowsmith (3)
Joann Balardeta (7)
Kevin Guffey (9)
Jeanette Marusak (11)
Gary Felien (14)
Kailey Clarke (17)
John Giard (20)
Adam Way (23)
Paula Amaro (24)
Linda Boyd (24)
Jung Kim (24)
Vic Johnston (26)
Sabrina Leffler Streeter (27)
Traci Wheeler (27)
Nick May (28)
Timothy McGinn (28)
Elese Newman (31)

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 May 7 (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.

Mark your calendar

Baby Shower for Adam and Emily on June 11th after church in the new fellowship hall! It’s a girl! They are registered at Amazon and Target! Come celebrate with us!

-Carol Pence

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Barbara Mitchell
Flame Production
Paula Amaro
WEB Master
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Next deadline is Wednesday, May 17, 2023
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

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.

2023 Camp Cedar Glen dates

Sr. High Camp (9th - Grads) - June 25-July 1
Jr. High Camp (6th - 9th) - July 2-7
Older Elementary (3rd-6th) - July 9-14
Younger Elementary (1st-3rd) - July 9-12
Young Adult Camp (Grads and up) - August 4-6

United Methodists in connection...

John Wesley never intended Methodism to become a separate institutional church. It was, however, a renewal movement characterized by a missional imperative to participate in God's reign and salvation through faith and discipleship, and that has been the basis for our identity. Albert Outler, 20th century theologian and Wesleyan scholar, highlighted Methodism's missional purpose and vocation as our primary characteristics, stating "This business of 'being a church' is really our chief business!" (Lacey C. Warner, *The Method of Our Mission*) As United Methodists that's what we do! Here at UMC of Vista evidence of that includes "and Two Fishes", Cable Outreach funding and close connection to Operation HOPE-Vista.

-Barbara Mitchell

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.

Finance, May 3, 7:00 p.m.
Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Congregational Care, May 4, 1:30 p.m.
Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Education/Discipleship, May 10, 6 p.m.
Meeting ID: 983 3122 0500
Passcode: 490490

Trustees, May 16, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986
Passcode: 490490

In-person...

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

Reconciling Ministries, May 21, 11:15 a.m., new
Ministry Center

Bake Sale at the Farmer's Market!

Get your Mom's Day treats!! UWIF (formerly UMW) will be having its Bake Sale, Saturday, May 13, at the Farmers' Market from 8 a.m. to noon. Any leftovers will be brought back for sale on Sunday, May 14 at the Church! If you are able to help by baking some goods, it will be appreciated. These funds go to help UWIF meet mission pledge responsibilities. Please contact Jacque Howard or Sara Baldwin.

Thank you...

The Education/Discipleship Committee would like to thank all who donated candy for the Easter egg hunt. The children had a good time filling their bags. It was wonderful to see the children looking for the candy filled eggs, eating snowcones and fellowshiping with one another as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

-Margene Haase

Pledge of Service

Thank you to all members serving in our church ministries and turning in your Pledge of Service on April 23.

Under the umbrella of Congregational Care we are starting a new ministry that allows for a very simple opportunity to serve. This new ministry will help organize home cooked meals or gift cards for meals to our congregation when needed due to illness, new baby, surgery or other emergencies. The platform we will use for this is called Meal Train. If you are interested in participating in this new ministry or have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Kathe at katheenright4@gmail.com. Congregational Care is very excited about this and we hope you are as well.

-Kathe Enright, Dakota Koenig, Chair,
Congregational Care

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.

-Your pastoral and office team

Deaf families gathering

On April 29th, families with Deaf children met in our new ministry center. For many this was their first opportunity to meet other parents. Also, this gathering had a Deaf mentor panel. It is so important that parents meet successful Deaf adults. For most families, their own child is the first Deaf person they have ever met.

How blessed we are to provide these families with a caring and loving place to come together and learn about their own child.

“Blindness separates us from things but deafness separates us from people” (Helen Keller)

-Sandy and Skip Harvey

Vista Strawberry Festival

The Annual Vista Strawberry Festival is coming up on Sunday, May 28 and is held in downtown Vista. The streets are closed off and lined by a variety of booths. It is an all day event and always well attended. Last year Reconciling Ministries Committee sponsored a booth and several church members took turns providing information about our church. This year, volunteers are needed to man a booth and provide information to attendees. We have a wonderful church and this event provides a great opportunity for folks to learn about what the United Methodist Church of Vista has to offer people and welcome them to our church family. Please contact Kathy Johnson if you would be interested in doing a 2-hour shift sometime between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

-Kathy Johnson

Mark Your Calendars!

Your Reconciling Ministries Committee will have a booth on Saturday, June 3, 2023 from noon to 6 p.m., at Pride by the Beach in downtown Oceanside. Everyone is welcome. This 16th annual event celebrates the diversity of all God's children. This is a wonderful opportunity for folks to see and hear about our congregation. If you would like to help at this event, please call Gary Lamb, Kathy Johnson or Lyn Berry.

Wish to Join Our Family?

Everyone is welcome to join our church family! If you have been thinking about this, please let Barbara Mitchell (new number: 760.390.4196), Pat McConaughy or the church office know. If you have any questions about what this might mean, please give us a call. We have not set up a new class date as yet. So stay tuned!

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 our Video Team 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...

Judy Gibson, Dolores Sasway, 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

Former member, Ray Simunek, passed away. Prayers for wife, Jenelle, and family

Return Service Requested

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