



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

Hello September!

I love September. It reminds me of going back to school, fresh starts and the cooling off from summer. It doesn't have any particular holiday that causes any stress. Fall has been my favorite season since I was a child.

At the entry way of fall, there are a few things we start to look forward to at church. Visioning our ministry for the rest of the year. Looking toward the following year. The long year end paperwork and then Advent. There is a lot to get through on the way to the "singiest" season of the year.

In addition to preparing for the end of the year, September is a month for preparation at your home. In Southern California we often see dangerous wildfires. We've just seen devastating fires in Maui and a summer of extreme heat. There is good reason to take a few hours and review your plans and supplies.

There are three areas I think of to prepare at home: evacuation list/plan, emergency kit and food/water resources.

Evacuation list and plan includes what I need to take with me. What and where is my essential paperwork including personal identification, and insurance documents? Do I have a medication list or supply for a few days to a week that I can easily access and pack? Where did I last store my cats' carriers? Don't forget those electric cords for charging phones or other electronic devices that keep you connected. Who will I notify if I have to evacuate and where will I go? These are my basics for evacuation.

My emergency kit is from the store and has basic bandages and a bottle of Tylenol. I have a fire extinguisher in my garage. There are at least 6 flashlights around my home space since I'm not always great at checking batteries. We have a basic kit and many fire extinguishers around the church too. I still have some N95 masks that will be useful if there is a fire and an extra pair of glasses.

If the electricity goes out I have resources to last about three days in water and food. That is what the online planning suggests. I used to have camping food when I went camping, but those days are gone and so is that resource. Planning ahead includes checking expiration dates and knowing what you do and do not have at home.

Lastly, consider your own spiritual and physical comfort needs. In times of stress, disaster, and loss, taking care of your own well-being should not be an after thought. Your favorite blanket, a special picture, or a coffee mug that you use every morning are essential too. Don't leave your family Bible or special book behind or forget how much a small treasure can ease your heart. It may seem obvious, but stay rested and hydrated.

Fall is a time of looking at the rest of the year and getting ready. Fall is a time of starting again. Jesus says, "Let not your heart be troubled and do not be afraid." He spoke encouragement regularly to disciples who were facing plenty of challenge and a world that was unjust and temperamental. As we get a few things in order, we do it knowing that Jesus is with us through every event of our lives. Take good care as we shift to the end of the year.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Leigh Ann

The Flame

Finance Focus

The Finance/Stewardship Committee wish to thank our caring, generous congregation for your faithful ongoing giving each month. Although we still have a budget gap, so far we are paying our bills, thanks to you all. There will be an update to Pennies For Heaven the first week of September. Through August 27, you have contributed \$1,190.00. Thankful prayers of gratitude to you all for your faithful giving.

-Sara Baldwin, Chairperson,
Finance/Stewardship Committee

Christmas Stockings in September !!??

Dust off your sewing machine and join us for an afternoon of making Christmas stockings. Make a gift for someone special or for yourself.

Join us Saturday, Sept. 23 from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Anyone can do this — kids, bring your Mom or Dad or grandparent! Supplies will be provided, all pre-cut and ready to go.

For more information, contact Juna Spitz at junaspitz@hotmail.com

Luau fundraiser for Lahaina, Sept. 24

Luau for Lahaina will be held Sunday, September 24, after church to raise money to send to UMCOR to help the Lahaina wildfire victims. Please come, invite a friend, and enjoy food and entertainment. Sign-ups in the narthex to plan for food. Let's spread the aloha. Question, see Lyn Berry.

Save the Date: Tuesday, October 31

Lunch with Missionary Katherine Parker

Who is Katherine Parker? She is a missionary with whom our church has had a Covenant Relationship with since 2015. And, where does she serve? She has been and still serves in Napal. Most of us know very little about Napal and even less about what Katherine has been doing recently in Napal. All of that will change when you greet and hear her talk about programs she is working with in Napal.

Please join us Tuesday, October 31, 11:00 a.m. in the Ministry Center where Katherine will share information about her mission assignment. Following her presentation, lunch will be provided.

In October, you will have an opportunity to sign up for the luncheon (a head count is needed for food preparation). Please see Jacque Howard if you have any questions.

-Jacque Howard

Happy "September" Birthdays

Nancy Coker (2)
Anita Maag (2)
Nannette Stamm (2)
Connor Way (2)
Carol Graham (3)
Stan Hamilton (3)
Scott Hansen (3)
Sherry Johnston (3)
Jean Vought (4)
Dakota Koenig (9)
Jeannie Martinsen (11)
Christopher Tivar (12)
Aiden Amaro (13)
Kathy Kim (14)
Betsy Jean Miller (14)
Jimmy Patton (14)
Phoebe Fraser (17)
Sara Baldwin (18)
Grace Hernandez-Jackson (19)
Gemma Johnson (20)
Phil Balun (21)
Patricia Hotaling (21)
Chloe Johnson (23)
Aaron Amaro (28)
Christian Guffey (29)
Scott Myers (29)

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 September 3 (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, September 20, 2023
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

Introducing New Covenant

Missionaries

From Vista to the Mexico/U.S. border, it is only 45 miles, according to Google Maps.

Since my arrival at UMC Vista 25 years ago, the church has supported Methodist churches in the Tijuana area with funds and service to repair buildings and provide necessities to the people. During the last couple years, we have made personal hygiene kits and had them delivered across the border by Rev. Hortiales, Director of Hispanic/Latino Ministry and Border Concerns in the Cal-Pac Annual Conference.

Dr. Rev. Joel Hortiales is now one of our Covenant Missionaries. (In last month's Flame there was an explanation of the Covenant Relationship between a congregation and a missionary.) Much of Rev. Hortiales experience and training points toward mission service. He was born in Mexico City and began Biblical and evangelism studies at Cliff College of Sheffield University and studied theology at Westminster College, Oxford, in England. He earned a MA degree from Claremont School of Theology in 2010, and in 2018 the Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Seminary. In 1998, he was ordained as an elder in the Methodist Church of Mexico and became an elder in the Cal-Pac Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2011. His work experience includes serving churches in Mexico and the Cal-Pac Conference.

On the Global Ministries website he is quoted as saying, "I'm sure that God has called me to build his kingdom with the mind of a missional leader." By being supportive of Rev. Hortiales's work we are answering the call to help build God's Kingdom.

Now travel in your mind to a completely different part of the world to meet another dedicated missionary.

Deaconess Joy Prim serves as a welfare case officer for migrant domestic workers. She received her training and experience as a mission intern with Mission for Migrant Workers (MFMW). Deaconess Prim worked in the Los Angeles and the San Francisco areas providing direct services and advocacy for Filipino migrant workers, before her present assignment in Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, she works with the MFMW who operate a walk-in center for migrant domestic workers who have experienced issues with abusive work issues. They also partner with a shelter organization, Bethune House Migrant Women's Refuge.

Much of her work is coordinating community outreach programs and work and life skills training sessions. As a missionary, Joy provides stability and continuity to the mission's social justice work. I recently received her latest newsletter and I would gladly forward your email address to her so more of us will learn about her work through the newsletter. If you are interested, please, let me know by emailing me at gramajacque@gmail.com.

Joy grew up in North Carolina where her faith journey was nurtured by her mother and grandmother, who were members of United Methodist Women. The foundation they laid for caring about issues of women, children and youth sparked her yearning for mission work. As a member of the California Pacific Conference, she was welcomed into the order of Deaconess and Home Missioner in 2020, and consecrated as a deaconess in May 2022.

-Jacque Howard

Helping Hands

Helping Hands is an outreach that works in conjunction with "and Two Fishes" soup kitchen. We provide toiletries, hygiene items, seasonal warmth items such as blankets, sleeping bags, hats, gloves, tarps, and donated clothes to our "and Two Fishes" clients who come in for basic food and other needs. Any of us who have been to the store to buy needed necessities know how expensive things are. Now, just imagine what it is like if you are living on a very limited income, and that income may have been reduced even further over this past year. We provide over 40 different items and the list continues to grow.

We sincerely thank all of our church members who so generously respond to our call for special items. Your generosity and compassionate heart is a blessing to all of us, and we thank and appreciate each of you. Thanks to all of the volunteers who help with this outreach on Thursdays, and most of all, thanks to our United Methodist Church of Vista for providing the physical space and needed support, as we try to meet the basic needs of people in our community.

-Loretta Pierce

UWIF meets Sept. 5

United Women in Faith will meet Tuesday, September 5 at 11:00 a.m. downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch. Dessert, coffee, tea and water will be provided.

Wounded Warrior Homes Update

Wounded Warrior Homes (WWH) is one of the our community partners. They work with veterans that are dealing with Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, giving them a place to live and helping them work their way back into a productive life.

Up until this year they were only able to offer housing to male veterans, however with the help of our church, WWH has opened a house in Escondido to female veterans and able to hire staff members that have training and knowledge to work with female veterans.

Executive Director Mia Roseberry is so grateful for our support.

-Mike Walker

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, September 6, 7:00 p.m.
Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Congregational Care, September 7, 1:30 p.m.
Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Education/Discipleship, Sept. 13, 6 p.m.
Meeting ID: 983 3122 0500

Trustees, September 19, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986
Passcode: 490490

Reconciling Ministries, September 26, 6:30 p.m.
Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395
Passcode: Welcome

In-person...

SPRC, Sunday, Sept. 10 (following worship service),
Conference Room

“and Two Fishes” Update

This last year has been filled with many challenges, changes, and partnerships for “and Two Fishes.”

We are so grateful and excited to finally be in our new commercial kitchen as of March. This new expanded area, which includes a state-of-the-art kitchen, a new social hall, multiple storage areas, bathrooms with a single shower, an area for Helping Hands outreach and other needed storage.

The new kitchen comes with additional requirements for each of our volunteers who come in contact with the food. They each had to study and take a Food Handlers Test in order to work in the kitchen. May we just say that we have the most knowledgeable, hard-working, and dedicated volunteers that anyone could ask for, and we thank God for each one of you.

We have recently partnered with T-Mobile and Humanity Showers. T Mobile has made it possible to get our clients a free cell phone, and Humanity Showers are now available on Thursdays between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

We have joined with North County Food Bank to establish membership for both us and our clients. This can open up the food bank for our clients to get food directly from them. This gives “and Two Fishes” the opportunity to expand our menu and save money.

Over this past year, we have gone from providing approximately 15-20 meals per week, on Thursdays, to upwards of 35-40 or more, each week. The word is definitely spreading about our new facility, and we are seeing new people almost every week.

We extend God’s love to those in need, with the hope that it will lessen their anxieties and worries for a little while. Our beautiful new social hall offers a place of solitude, camaraderie, and a chance to renew one’s spirit.

Many thanks to all of our volunteers who have offered their help in countless ways, and without whom, an outreach of this size and scope would not be possible .

Our church has worked for over 20 years to provide this community outreach for people that are in need. I can tell you that the people that are enjoying this wonderful outreach are truly appreciative.

-Mike Walker

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...

Stu Gibson, Jeanette Marusak, 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

Prayers for the family of Merry Nickerson. She passed away on August 11. Merry was a long-time member of our congregation.

South District Prayer Session, Tuesday, September 5, 7 p.m.

South District Lay Leader, Michael Mitchell, hosts an on-going monthly prayer Zoom meeting the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. This is open to everyone from regular church folks, leaders and pastors.

Zoom Meeting ID: 842 2413 4406

Passcode: 786330

Return Service Requested

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