



*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**

Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21, NRSV.

The Fall ahead has a lot going on. Things are returning to all of our calendars. The active fellowship and events of the church of Vista are unfolding and growing day by day. We are looking at where and when to put our end-of-year classes and committee meetings to accomplish our required work and our activities of faith development. It is both exciting and overwhelming!

Even as the Fall calendar unfolds, we are also working on our vision for 2024. Just a few things that are on our church's to-do list is re-envisioning our community outreach project, reviewing our organizational structure and accessing and engaging our facility for community use and fund raising. Any one of these to-do list items could, and may, take more than a year's effort but is a part of the Ministry Action Plan we've developed, and been working on, since I've been appointed to Vista UMC.

Over the last decade our local congregation has transitioned and adapted as a congregational family, but we are also a part of a larger church experience. The Christian faith in the United States has been declining with individuals experiencing increased distrust of the church, and families having many more choices about enrichment activities and pursuits. In our own denomination we saw the highest engagement and membership in the 1950's and 1960's with a numeric decline since the 1970's according to the General Commission on Archives and History ([gcah.org](http://gcah.org) for more information).

Even as there are stresses and struggles all around us, we are a congregation working against the trends. You have shared a vision that cares for the least, the last and the lonely. Even as there are days our efforts intersect the conflict of the world, we continue to push forward with God's unique calling for this congregation.

In October we will be talking about how to fund our ministry for 2024. Special thanks to Sara Baldwin and the finance/stewardship team for managing our financial resources. We are all very concerned with how we will pay for our ministry in 2024 and beyond. Our giving is down and our work is increasing daily. I hope that you will begin praying about how you might support the ministry of this church. We know that every budget has tightened in the last year. The cost of electricity, gasoline, food, and housing has been on the rise which means that so many people are hurting. If you are able, perhaps you might begin giving \$40.00 a month, or perhaps you are able to make a second-mile gift or perhaps a larger one-time financial contribution.

Our church family is committed to care for those within our congregation, as well as those beyond our walls. It is only through your contributions that ministry is possible. Where your treasures go, Jesus says, there your heart is also.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and courage to care. Each day feels a little rough to me and perhaps you are experiencing the same. I know together we can make a different and share a little more light. Amen.

Pastor Leigh Ann

**All Church Work Day with Trustees**

**Saturday, Oct. 7**

**from 7 a.m. to 12 noon**

## Finance Focus

October is Stewardship month, a time when the congregation is sent letters with pledge cards enclosed to renew and make new pledges to the General Fund for our 2024 budget. Giving to the General Fund keeps our church daily operations funded, such as paying our monthly utility bills; our staff's salaries; live streaming our Sunday Services to people who are unable to attend in person; providing space to "and 2 Fishes" for their ministry to homeless persons; keeping our Praise Band performing and making many other activities possible in our building. In other words, the General Fund keeps our church doors open. Our theme for Stewardship month is "Generosity Of Our Hearts". Matthew 6:21 says, "For where your treasures are, there your heart will be also." October 29 will be Pledge Sunday, when all of our pledges will be blessed. Our Pennies For Heaven Campaign through September is now \$1,423, which helps close our budget gap in our General Fund. The Finance/Stewardship Committee wishes to thank our caring Congregation for your generosity.

-Sara Baldwin, Chairperson,  
Finance/Stewardship Committee

## Preparing for Advent and Christmas

Pastor Leigh Ann is inviting members of the congregation to donate one piece of the Nativity scene for use during worship in December. The piece you donate will not be returned to you and so should not be out of your family heirloom set or of high sentimental value. These pieces will be gathered together to tell the messy story of God bringing new life to creation. God puts the unexpected together and so will we. Drop your piece off at church anytime during November and be sure to include your name with the piece.

## Nepal Missionary Program and Lunch

Nepal comes to UMC Vista on October 31. Meet Katherine Parker, a missionary in Nepal with United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM). She will share her experiences as a missionary and describe programs in Nepal. For the past 15 years UMC Vista has had a covenant relationship with Katherine through GBGM. She spoke here several years ago.

Please join us at 11:00 a.m. in the Ministry Center where Katherine will share information about her mission assignment, activities during the pandemic, and ongoing and new projects in Nepal. Following her presentation, lunch will be provided.

Those planning on staying for lunch will need to sign-up by October 23, so there can be adequate food. The lunch is free to the attendees, but there will be an opportunity to donate toward Katherine's itineration travel expenses. The sign-up sheet will be in the narthex on Sundays, Oct. 8, 15 and 22. For more information, contact Jacque Howard, 760.734.3932.

## Happy "October" Birthdays

Suzy Mason (3)  
Randie Annin (4)  
Eric Johnson (4)  
Marie Bonner (10)  
Sharon Pease (10)  
Jeffrey Peters (11)  
Dominic "Nico" Chappell (12)  
Heather Clarke (12)  
Rae Ann Wirth (12)  
Patrick O'Connor (14)  
Lynda Mounts (15)  
Philip Biggs (16)  
Sarah Felien (18)  
Mike Bollinger (20)  
Scott Lyons (20)  
Brenda Merritt (20)  
Alice Robeson (20)  
Gerri Schoening (20)  
Virginia Purcell (22)  
Carol Pence (24)  
Patricia Avila (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 October 1 (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.

## Luau for Lahaina update

Mahalo nui—many thanks—to everyone who attended and supported the "Luau for Lahaina." Initial count is \$5,780 raised for UMCOR! May the rebuilding begin! Thank you to all those providing the entertainment (visitors and congregation members) and to the many helpers: decoration, set-up, kitchen, serving and clean-up crews! It takes a village! We truly had a wonderful time.

-Lyn Berry

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Next deadline is Wednesday, October 18, 2023  
Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

## **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, October 11, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Education/Discipleship, Oct. 11, 6 p.m.

Meeting ID: 983 3122 0500

Reconciling Ministries, October 24, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395

Passcode: Welcome

### **In-person...**

Congregational Care, October 5, 1 p.m. (meeting for lunch)

SPRC, Sunday, Oct. 8 (following worship service),  
Conference Room

Trustees, Sunday, Oct. 15 (following worship service), Conference Room

## **Trunk or Treat, October 28**

Join us in celebrating the fall season with an All-Church Trunk or Treat. Costumed kids (and adults) will be treated to games, crafts and candy. This event will take place on Saturday, October 28 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. on the upper level. Everyone is welcome.

Donations of candy can be placed in the container in the Narthex. Sign-up sheets will be available Oct. 1 for volunteers to help and/or decorate your car trunk for this event. Contact Margene Haase for more information.

-Discipleship and Education Committee

## **Sunday School teacher needed**

We are looking for an energetic person who would like to help work with our youth during Sunday School. Please contact Margene Haase (m.haase46@icloud.com or call 760.402.9802) for more information.

## **Mark your calendars**

- All Church Thanksgiving Potluck on Sunday, November 19.

## **Meet our Newest Members...**

Jeannine Huffman, a transfer from San Dieguito UMC, was born in Houston, Texas and raised in the Southern Baptist tradition. Jeannine, now a widow, was married for 30 years. She has two adult children, Naomi and Jon, and has been blessed with four grandchildren. She was a former teacher of K-1 and reading. She's also an artist. There are a variety of activities she can no longer participate in, but she still enjoys games, movies and concerts.

Shirley Moscevsy is also a transfer from San Dieguito UMC! Baptized as an adult, she too was born in Texas in Waller! Now retired, Shirley enjoys playing bocce ball and bowling, gardening and indoor plants. She enjoys traveling, particularly on river cruises. She has an adult son, Yuri.

Tom and Carolyn Jewell are transferring their membership from Central UMC in Linwood, New Jersey. Carolyn and Tom have been married 59 years, and have two adult children, Tony and Chris and two grandchildren, Jackson and Cooper. When they lived in New Jersey, the Jewells raised Seeing Eye puppies! Tom is a retired police officer, shopping center management consultant and swim coach. Carolyn is a retired Special Ed Teacher. They enjoy watching sports, particularly football and basketball, and travel. They enjoy walks as well as participation in a variety of groups.

Please welcome and introduce yourself to all our new members. We will also have a New Members class in November for folks who might like to join.

## **AGO concert, October 22**

The Palomar Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will hold their Annual Student Scholarship Fund Concert featuring 10 organists and The San Luis Rey Chorale with flute, clarinet, accordion, violin and trumpet.

The theme of the program this year is “Transcriptions” including works by Bach, Holst, Piazzolla, Handel, Strauss, Albinoni, Sousa and Rachmaninoff.

The concert is on Sunday, October 22, 4:00 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church (845 Chestnut in Escondido). There is a suggested donation of \$20.00 at the door...no advance tickets available. A wine and cheese reception follows the program. For more information call David Lewis at 619.537.9040.

-Carol Graham

## **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](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...**

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 Gerald Wall on his passing.

Prayers for the family of Gerald Williams. He passed away on Sept. 8. Memorial service is scheduled for October 14 at 1 p.m.

Memorial service for Merry Nickerson is on Sunday, October 22 at 2 p.m.

## **South District Prayer Session, Tuesday, October 3, 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

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