



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

Take your time.

There was a solar eclipse a few weeks ago. I don't always take the time to experience these miracles of the universe, but I did this time. The light shifts and the air feels different and I used special glasses to watch the eclipse. It was beautiful.

It is so easy to skip over moments of joy and wonder. I'm guilty most of the time. I've missed high school reunions and family gatherings and special weekend events because there was something 'critical' on my to-do list. There are many reasons to be responsible, but there are also times not to miss out.

The writer of Ecclesiastes offers great wisdom about taking time and making the most of our time. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says, "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end." (New International Version) There is beauty to be found in our living, but life has a beginning and an ending. And we do not know the length of our days on earth.

When we take time to dwell on scripture, it is clear that we do not control the calendar; we only live each day, one day at a time. It is not for us to know the beginning or ending of time, but to take pleasure as we are living. Over and over the words of those who wrote the Bible testify to this fact. Anyone who tells you they know the end of time is wrong.

I pray for you as we enter November. I pray for your spirit and your heart and that you will take time to tend your joy. There are many among us who are struggling and grieving. Take time for rest when you can and reach out to each other. We never know the hours or the days of our life but in faith we are called to live in love.

Special thanks to all those who reach out in love and concern. Your compassion, prayers and love are such a blessing.

Grace and peace to you,
Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

New Member Class on Sunday, November 5 following the service. Recent transferring members are welcome to attend to ask any questions. Please contact the office or Barbara Mitchell, 760.726.0442.

Annual Charge Conference

Annual Charge Conference is Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2:30 p.m. in the Ministry Center. Remember, reports due by November 22. Questions? Please call Paula at 760.726.0442.

The Flame

Finance Focus

October was a very busy and gratifying month for the Finance/Stewardship Committee. We want to thank our church members who shared their faith stories and why they attend the United Methodist Church of Vista. Each person who spoke during the Stewardship moment was so uplifting and inspiring. Kathe Enright, Sandra Peters, Juna Spitz, Darryl Wood and Joann Balardeta have our admiration and appreciation for their wonderful words. As of Oct. 29, we have collected \$1,563 for our Pennies from Heaven fundraiser! Thanks for your contributions!

The Sizzler restaurant had a fundraiser during the month of September featuring their Cheese Toast Sandwiches and stated if they sold over 250 of these sandwiches in September, they would donate \$2,000 to our church's general fund. Guess what! We were notified a couple of weeks ago, that we would receive \$2,000! This is all due to Tom Humphrey, who works diligently with the local restaurants to arrange fundraisers that benefit our church and these amounts go to our general fund to help close our budget gap. When you see Tom at church, please thank him for his efforts.

The Finance/Stewardship Committee wish to thank our caring, generous congregation who support our church with their monetary donations and their work and time devoted to our ministry in the name of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessings to you all.

-Sara Baldwin, Chairperson,
Finance/Stewardship Committee

UWIF sponsoring food drive

The United Women in Faith are sponsoring a food drive for two of our community partners, Vista Teen Outreach and Deaf Community Services.

The list of items will be available on the events table in the Narthex. We are asking for the food to be brought to the Church on Sundays, Nov. 5 and 12. We will be distributing the items by November 17.

We are so excited to be able to work and support our community partners in this manner prior to the holidays, we thank you in advance for your support.

Happy "November" Birthdays

Shirley Moscevsky (2)
Dick Muir (2)
Colleen Guffey (3)
Hector Hernandez (3)
Pam Montoya (3)
Margaret Woodman (3)
Grace Wheeler (5)
Louise Clarke (8)
Janet Ahrens (9)
Nancy Montgomery (10)
Kathe Enright (11)
Miriam Tivar (12)
Jane Arrowsmith (13)
Norman Corwin (13)
Beverly Duncan (13)
Tim Frazier (13)
Susan Lenker (13)
Charlotte Chappel (14)
Greg Rye (15)
Teresa Flanagan (16)
Emma Hernandez-Jackson (17)
Martha Phillips (17)
Kathy Johnson (19)
Madison Smith (19)
Beth Schmeiser (21)
Kenn Bing (22)
Al Amaro (23)
Suzanne McMurchie (25)
Sandy Peters (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 November 5 (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, November 15, 2023 Comments or suggestions, please let us know.
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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.

Nominations Committee, Nov. 1, 8 and 15, 6 p.m.
Meeting ID: 865 6059 4963

Congregational Care, November 2, 1:30 p.m.
Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939
Passcode: 490490

Finance, Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m.
Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Education/Discipleship, Nov. 8, 6 p.m.
Meeting ID: 983 3122 0500

Reconciling Ministries, Nov. 7 and 28, 6:30 p.m.
Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395
Passcode: Welcome

Trustees, Nov. 21, 6:00 p.m.
Meeting ID: 949 2569 3986
Passcode: 490490

In-person...

Church Council, Saturday, Nov. 4, 9 a.m., Ministry Center

SPRC, Sunday, Nov. 5 (following worship service), Conference Room

All Church Thanksgiving Potluck

Please join us Sunday, November 19 (following the worship service) for our All Church Thanksgiving Potluck co-sponsored by the Education Committee and “and Two Fishes”. Turkey, potatoes, dressing and rolls will be provided. Please bring your own table setting and drinks. Potluck sign up sheets are in the narthex. Questions? Call Margene Haase at 760.726.0442.

Lost and Found

Please be sure to check for lost and found in the Narthex (near the Scrip table) in a marked cabinet for anything you might be missing! We now have a cell phone, glasses, hair barrette, keys to name a few items.

Blankets, jackets needed

As the weather turns cooler, “and Two Fishes” would appreciate any donations of blankets or warm jackets. We will set up a container in the Narthex. Men’s clothing is also in short supply, but all donations are needed. Anything that you can provide will be appreciated. We understand that the needs are great for many outreaches and we are blessed when you choose to help “and Two Fishes.”

Heartfelt Thanks...

- Amanda Stanaland, for all her work on our website. It has a new bright look and we appreciate Amanda’s hard work. Check it out! If you see something that you believe needs tweaking, please let her know. Thanks so much, Amanda! You are amazing.
- And speaking of Laity, thanks also to Gayla Prociv for her faithful dedication to setup for memorials and other events. Gayla, along with Tracy Lyons and others, is often the first and last one in the building when it comes to setting up and cleanup. Thanks, Congregational Care, for finding these treasures.

We honor all our Laity for their generosity and heartfelt work in whatever way they are able. We wouldn’t be here in mission without all of us!

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.

Sunday Worship Tip: If you see someone you don’t recognize, please introduce yourself and say “welcome”!

About Laity...a little history

As Pastor Frank said on October 14, Laity includes “all y’all!” Since the time of Wesley in the new world, laypersons co-partnering with clergy, have been the backbone of the religion. In the early days of American Methodism, the laity served and maintained congregations between visits of the circuit riders. Today, lay people are the front line of daily ministry at the workplace, in the home and within the community. The first recorded observance of “Laymen’s Day” was in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1929. (Remember that in those early times, the focus was only on the ministry of men.) It took until the 1972 Book of Discipline to become the gender-neutral Laity Sunday and is celebrated on the third Sunday of October. Laity Sunday is a celebration of YOU! and all you do for the church, whether it’s paying a pledge; participating on various committees, events or ministries; attendance at services, bringing needed supplies, or simply praying each and every day. ALL are important to the health of the church and all are about the work of laity as we continue to serve and to seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. (*Discipleship Ministries, UMC*)

-Barbara Mitchell

Thanks from our Community Partners...

These are excerpts from the letters.

Thank you for your generous support of the Canine Companions mission in 2022. Together we earned groundbreaking “wins” in all areas of our organization. However our work continues.

We placed 413 service and facility dogs with children, adults and professionals, as well as therapy dogs providing support to our communities. One in four of our client placements were those returning for their next Canine Companions dog. And together, we raised over \$40 million to enhance independence.

With the ever-growing need for expertly trained service dogs, Canine Companions is leading the way for more people to experience greater independence through the highest-quality service dogs in the field. The unwavering commitment of...all our donors help open more doors, bring more happy, healthy future service dogs into the world, keeps our research ahead of the curve and empowers independence for years to come.

Thank you for ongoing support. You are making the world more accessible, one team at a time. We truly appreciate your generosity.

With gratitude,

Paige Mazzoni, Chief Executive Officer

Christ United Methodist Ministry Center (CUMMC) has continued to support immigrants and people in our community due to the generosity of the United Methodist Church of Vista’s grant. Your grant helped save lives, protect, and build a better future for refugees. Your support meant that CUMMC could reach more children, women, and men in need when the world’s forcibly displaced population is at a record high.

People forced to flee their homes appear at CUMMC and SHN (Safe Harbor Network) without essential survival items. When they finally reach safety, they arrive with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. CUMMC and SHN provide each family with a Welcome Kit, including blankets, cooking utensils, food, towels, and hygiene products.

We are fortunate to have added two additional apartments to the Safe Harbors Network, which provide sixteen immigrants and asylum seekers with temporary shelter. UMC of Vista grant enables (sic) to furnish the apartments in April 2023.

With the continued funding from the United Methodist Church of Vista, we can maintain our current level of support to asylum seekers, refugees, and our community with plans to expand our bed capacity.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Donald Owens, Executive Director

Troop 709 Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Troop 709 will be having a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday, November 12 from 8 to noon in the Ministry Center.. Price is \$12. Please email or call Dan (Troop 709), dwilbers@cox.net or 858.344.6837 for tickets or to RSVP.

Please remember to wear your badges...it helps all of us! Need a new one or some replacement parts - we have a few. Please let the office or Barbara know. New badge is \$10. Replacement magnet back is \$2.

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...

Paul Lange, Sheryl Lyons, Janice Myers, 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

South District Prayer Session, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 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

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