



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

February is a shorter month. The days are still colder and darker, and this year we are likely to have more rain coming our way. Please stay safe.

Mid-month challenges us to reflect on Lent as everything around us is filled with pink and red and heart shaped items. Valentine's day and Ash Wednesday converge on one day. It is a day of love and a day of somber reflection. It is a day to announce your affection for friends and family and a day to announce your intention to reorient your life.

Lent is a season of repentance and making offerings to God for your life. Lent is a season to anticipate Jesus' death and resurrection. Despite the heaviness of heart that can be our Lenten season, it is also a season for love. The God of love meets us all throughout the time of Lent, and Jesus' journey to the cross.

Philippians 4:6 says, "be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." The walk to the cross and the most challenging moments of the Christian life are filled with tension but also filled with hope. The God of all grace meets us in our days and carries us through the most difficult of times.

You are invited to join Pastor Frank, Dakota or me for ashes during the day on February 14. We will be outside in the parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and noon. And we will offer a somber Ash Wednesday worship service at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. This will be our entrance into Lent.

Watch for more special opportunities during February and March to reflect, pray, and join Jesus on the journey of faith. May God bless you in this special time leading us to Easter.

Pastor Leigh Ann

Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 13

Shrove Tuesday is February 13. We will meet at Denny's on West Vista Way (across from St. Francis Church) on this date from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Denny's has reserved the back room for our group. This is the same place we gathered in 2023 and everyone attending enjoyed the evening of fellowship. Hope to see you all there again.

The Flame

Finance Focus

Can you believe how January 2024 has sped by? We are now entering February 2024 with the Lenten season fast approaching. Our committee is working on the 2024 church budget and will keep you all updated as we progress. Pennies for Heaven 2024 as of January 28 is \$75. Total collected for 2023 was \$2,255.08. Thank you congregation for your financial support. Our committee is in the progress of making plans for fundraisers that will be fun and enjoyable and involve the entire church family. More on this as plans finalize. Blessings to you all.

-Sara Baldwin, Chairperson,
Finance/Stewardship Committee

United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith thanks the congregation for their wonderful support of our Christmas Bake Sale. It is one of our major annual fund raisers for our mission. The ladies are great bakers and it is a privilege to make the goodies for the congregation to enjoy and to know that we are providing for women, children and youth with the monetary gifts from the congregation. Thank you!

Covenant Missionary Update

Our covenant missionary, Claudia Genung-Yamamoto, has been reassigned from Kobi, Japan to serve as senior pastor at Yokohama. She has a very active Facebook page showing pictures of her activities and she can be contacted her by using her email address reverendclaudia@gmail.com This summer she will be in our conference for a few months so we may have the opportunity to hear about her experiences in person. Claudia recently sent us a beautiful Japanese calendar that you can enjoy on the mission bulletin board, in the hall near the Scrip table. The artist is a Japanese Christian artist, Sasao Watanabe, and you can google him to learn more. The other calendar on the mission bulletin board is from our covenant missionary, Katherine Parker. The calendar has a picture about a Nepal mission for each month. Katherine visited us, in November, and talked about the mission in Nepal

Interpreter for the Deaf

An interpreter for the Deaf/and hard-of-hearing will be here on February 4 (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.

Happy "February" Birthdays

Carlie McClure (2)
Carolyn Jewell (2)
Suzy Harlow (5)
Robbie Pierce (7)
Gary Lamb (9)
Janice Myers (9)
Julianna Bodnar (14)
Warren "Scot" Spitz (15)
Paul Hernandez (15)
Loretta Pierce (17)
Sarah Klahn (19)
Nicole Burns (21)
Jacque Howard (22)
Chloe McClure (22)
Mike Walker (22)
Tim Clarke (23)
Tim Smith (23)
Keona Christian (25)
Nadine Kaina (26)
Lyn Berry (27)
Karen Canfield-Marquez (27)
Sophie Stempson (28)

Note: If your birthday is not listed, please call Paula at the church office.

UWIF meets on Feb. 6 at 11 a.m.

On Tuesday, February 6, United Women in Faith will affirm the call for climate change action with their recognition of the Call to Prayer and Self Denial support. A stone soup lunch will follow the meeting. Each attendee will bring a canned vegetable to add to a common pot of broth. The meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. in the upper fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to stop for a bowl of soup.

Flame Editor Barbara Mitchell Flame Production Paula Amaro WEB Master Jim McGlocklin Next deadline is Wednesday, February 21, 2024 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.

Congregational Care, Feb. 1, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Passcode: 490490

Finance, February 7, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Education/Discipleship, Feb. 7, 6 p.m.

Meeting ID: 983 3122 0500

Reconciling Ministries, Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395

Passcode: Welcome

In-person...

SPRC, Sunday, Feb. 4 (following worship service),
Conference Room

Church Council, Saturday, Feb. 10, 9 a.m., upper
social hall

Trustees, Feb. 25 (following worship service),
Conference room

Game Night, Feb. 24

For February only, we are switching game night to the fourth Saturday, Feb. 24. Going forward, it will be the third week of the month. Based on attendance, we will see whether it will be on Friday or Saturday. Thanks for your input and participation. We look forward to seeing you at 6:00 p.m. in the upper social hall. Let's have some fun!

-Loretta Pierce

Senior Safety

Are you concerned about senior safety, maybe for your parents or yourself?

United Women in Faith are hosting a special program, on March 5, about Senior Safety. George Hernandez, a Crime Prevention Specialist from the San Diego Sheriff's Department will talk about protection from crime for seniors. The program will begin at 11:00 a.m. in the Community Room. Men and women are welcome to come and hear about this important area of crime prevention.

Guest preacher, Feb. 18

We welcome to the pulpit, Dr. Kimberly Rassaw, on February 18. She is a professor of the Old Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. We will also host a one-day workshop on Tuesday, February 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in our upper social hall. Light snacks provided; all are welcome!

Mission Recognition Sunday, Jan. 28

The United Women In Faith awarded two special ladies, Karen Felien and Loretta Pierce, with the Mission Recognition pin on January 28.

This person has been a member of this congregation since Oct. 1988, and, along with her husband, raised their children in this church. Over the years, she has been a VBS and Camp Committee volunteer. On her own, she has been a strong advocate for looking after our homebound—taking the time to make phone calls, visitations, and sending notes while working full time. She has also participated on various committees and for several years she was chair and then co-chair of Congregational Care. Still working, she volunteers to help at various functions including Memorials, and makes a point to help in any way she can at other functions. And for several years now she has been the lead child care attendant in our Nursery. We want to congratulate and thank Karen Felien for her faithful service and discipleship to this congregation.

This amazing woman and faithful servant to our church has been a member of UMC Vista since December 2012.

You have met her at the front door as she welcomes you, she has provided refreshments at our Hospitality Cart; more importantly, she has been a tireless advocate for our homeless population over the years, providing time and open heartedness to our underserved/homeless population in Vista by working tirelessly in our “and Two Fishes” program and our Helping Hands outreach.

She shares her thoughts and insights willingly to enhance the workings of our Church, and it is with delight presenting this Special Recognition Award to Loretta Pierce.

Please congratulate Karen and Loretta next time you see them.

Hopes for 2024

More hopes and dreams for us to pray for this year...

- Sue and Terry Lenker: Happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!
- Traci Wheeler: I hope that people work hard to treat each other with respect and understanding and try to listen when they have another point of view. We can learn so much by just listening to each other.
- Grace Wheeler: hopes that her Concordia University Stunt Team makes it to Nationals.
- Colleen Guffey: I hope for myself and others to focus more on the good acts, the progress made and to lift those up more than the critiques and judgments of shortcomings of ourselves and others. I recently read a book on the magic of thinking big. Among the ideas were 1) "Action is the cure for fear;" 2) be cured of "excusitus; the practice of making excuses for why you can't or won't, haven't or aren't." I also hope for a productive and civil election year; for our church to see a way to invite more community and families in; more quality time with family and friends and a new job.
- Kendall Guffey: hopes to try new things; new foods, new hobbies, new ways to be healthy.
- Cameron Guffey: hopes the wars end.
- Christian Guffey: hopes to reconnect with past friendships.
- Beth Brainerd Hallock: May 2024 bring us together to work for a kinder and more fair world. My hope for 2024 is that as individuals, as a congregation and as a society we can relearn how to offer each other grace. We don't have to agree but the grace to listen is essential for a welcoming and peaceful world. Only in honest relationships that seek understanding, rather than judgment, can we truly offer the light and grace of Christ. I hope to be a person who offers kindness, compassion and grace to all.
- Dan, Jessi, Ernie and Bing Fisher: Hope your days are overflowing with more joy, peace, GoGurt and Band-aids than you could ever need.

And my hope for 2024? Research shows that even one kind act creates a positive change. Whether it's kindness to yourself, a friend, or someone you pass on the street, we each have the power to change the world. So let's BE the change we want to see! You can learn more about kindness at kindness.org.

Here's to a healthy, hopeful, kind and blessed 2024! Keep praying, Family! Happy New Year, Church Family!
-Barbara Mitchell

Deaf Ministries Program, February 3

On Saturday, February 3, from 10:00 am to 12 noon, our Deaf Ministries program and Deaf Community Services will sponsor a San Diego County Blue Envelope workshop in the upper social hall. The goal of the program, presented by the local Sheriff's department, is to promote positive, safe, and effective interactions between law enforcement and the Deaf community. Individuals can do this by utilizing the blue envelope products with the special logo. The program serves as an opportunity for law enforcement officers to be aware that varied communication methods may be needed to effectively interact with the person which may require accommodations. The presence of the Blue Envelope logo does not make the participant immune to law enforcement action but enhances communication. We are proud to host this important workshop.

-Sandy Harvey

Lenten Book Study beginning Feb. 11

Suzanne McMurchie and Lyn Berry will co-lead a Lenten book study on Ann Lamott's "Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace" starting Sunday, February 11, and running six weeks. The class will meet in the chapel after the regular worship service. You can buy the book online or pick it up at Barnes and Noble or Wal-Mart. Contact Suzanne or Lyn for additional information.

Heartfelt Thanks...

Dear Friends in Mission,
Thank you!

The dear people you just helped with your gift of \$5,563 to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be - thank you!

Since 1940, UMCOR has served as the humanitarian agency of the United Methodist Church, providing disaster response and relief to areas impacted by natural and man-made disasters around the world. And through your financial support, you are serving within a vital network of interactive relationships as UMCOR responds to increasingly-frequent and destructive storms - sharing 100% of donated funds with those in need!

Together, may we continue to reveal the love of God for men, women, and children of all ethnic, racial, cultural, and national backgrounds and to demonstrate genuine love for our neighbors.

Grace and Peace,
Roland Fernandes, General Secretary

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...

Rae Ann Wirth, Leo Domenichetti, Norm and Luene Corwin, Paul Lange, Sheryl Lyons, Janice Myers, Stu Gibson, Jeanette Marusak, Dolores Sasway, Evelyn Lawson, 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, Feb. 6, 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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