



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

On the near horizon....

The past nine years have proven that UMC Vista is vital, visionary and faithful!! I've walked with you through some valleys and some mountains. We've faced a variety of crises including a once in a lifetime pandemic, a couple contentious presidential election cycles, and a years-in-the-making denominational season of disaffiliations and structural change. (The UMC recently lost 25% of its national membership during the split that felt like a divorce.)

Beyond those Grand Canyon-sized valleys, we've also levied all our time, talents and treasures to hike great mountains of ministry. The time of pandemic demonstrated that our church can adapt, change, be flexible in worship, leadership, and ministry. We adapted to the moment, moved rapidly to sharing worship online. What may have taken years to learn, we learned in days. We found ways of gathering and never lost momentum.

The dream of finishing the church as a community ministry center is accomplished. It expanded our capacity to serve, connect, reach out and have a meal together. We've already hosted many events for our congregation and the community. But this isn't the only way you've thrived in ministry. We've continued to utilize the foundation to support community partners and even now, offer space and gathering drives for food and supplies. Classes, musical programs, outreach, justice events and more is all ramping back up because of our dedication to live faithfully.

And WELCOME to our newest visitors, guests and members. If you have arrived at UMC Vista in the last few years, we are delighted you found us, whether you are online or come in person. You have been so encouraging as you've joined the food ministry on Thursdays, shared worship, looked at the facility and asked questions, shared news about your family and offered prayers for the world.

The mountain peaks are glorious. They allow us to see where we've come from and celebrate the opportunities and unexpected openings. AND I want to share with you that there is another crisis on the horizon. Something will happen. I don't have a crystal ball or anything like that. Change and crisis are just the nature of our world. It is not just a possibility, but it is a probability. Before that looming thing happens, here are four reasons we have persevered and grown over the last nine years.

The four reasons we never succumb to adversity? First, we prioritized our relationships. We remembered our family, friends, congregation members and reached out to one another. We never lost connection. Second, we reframed the negativity and claimed healthy boundaries. When the naysayers talked down your vision, we held to hope. We remembered our dreams and took time to encourage each another. Third, we built new strengths and learned new skills. When things got literally and spiritually messy, we reached deep, let some things go and held on to our experience, memory, and convictions. Lastly, you owned this time. Rather than giving up or giving in to the circumstances of our day, we found a way forward and trusted that we could do it. There will always be those who complain and worse, but together we have cultivated resilience and strong leadership.

You may have heard that I will be appointed to a new church on July 1, 2024. As we meet this moment of transition, we do so from a place of conviction and calling. God is leading us on! Amen!

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

The Flame

Corn Hole is Coming!!!

The Finance/Stewardship Committee is constantly thinking of ways to close the church's budget gap, while at the same time, having fundraisers that the entire congregation will enjoy and support. So, we are having a Corn Hole Tournament that the congregation can participate in or sponsor a team.

Corn Hole is played with teams of three. Two players and one substitute who will also be the scorekeeper. There will be a \$25.00 entrance fee for each team member. The sponsors support the teams by paying their entrance fees. We will also be selling hot dogs, chips and drinks for \$2.00 at the tournament. The tournament will be held on Sunday, April 28 right after church. On April 21, we will have a practice for the teams after church. A sign up sheet will be available in the Narthex on April 14. Entrance fees will be paid on April 21. Corn Hole is a fun way to have fellowship and all ages can participate. There will be gift certificates for the winners which they can redeem at the Scrip table. Blessings to you all.

-Sara Baldwin, Chairperson,
Finance/Stewardship Committee

Pennies For Heaven update

Our Pennies For Heaven donations collected through March 24 is \$357. Thank you for your contributions.

-Sara Baldwin, Chairperson,
Finance/Stewardship Committee

Badge Box

Check out our new Badge Box (on wall across from Hospitality Station) - no lost badges or parts if you leave it in there! AND...it'll be right there when you come back the following Sunday!

Can't find your badge or need a replacement? You can let the church office, Paula or Barbara know.

Happy "April" Birthdays

Felix Fernandez (1)
Tom Jewell (4)
Ko Kim (6)
Mal Blakeslee (7)
Allan Mejia (8)
James Hill (12)
Cliff Burdick (13)
Edward McGinn (14)
Evelyn Lawson (16)
Robin Lee (16)
Toan Dao (19)
Kingsley Escobar (20)
Connor Flanagan (20)
Lauri Arrowsmith (21)
Pat Preston (21)
Heidi Kendall (22)
Rose Dunavant (23)
Annamarie Abutin (28)
Gayla Prociv (28)
Daniel Gubaton (30)
Yolanda Gubaton (30)

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

ONLINE Worship, Sunday, April 7, at 10 am. Celebrate the Resurrection! Rest, Renew, Reconnect on the Sunday after Easter. We will be online only for worship, and we encourage us all to take time for a service opportunity, to do a visiting worship with a Community Partner church or take time with family.

Interpreter for the Deaf

An interpreter for the Deaf/and hard-of-hearing will be here on May 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, April 17, 2024 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.

Congregational Care, April 4, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Passcode: 490490

Finance, April 10, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Education/Discipleship, April 10, 6 p.m.

Meeting ID: 983 3122 0500

Reconciling Ministries, April 23, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395

Passcode: Welcome

Game Night, April 20

Game night will be on Saturday, April 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the upper social hall. We begin at 6:00 p.m. and end around 8:30 p.m. Bring a new game or a snack if you like.

A big thanks to all of those who came in March. We had lots of fun, great snacks, and learned a new card game. I appreciate your participation and help in making this a fun time for all. Invite your family and friends. All are welcome.

-Loretta Pierce

Mark your calendar

- **Rummage Sale, Saturday, May 25**

Heartfelt Thanks...

I would like to thank Dakota and Heidi for hosting my send off luncheon at Chili's on February 29. Also, I would like to say thank you to all those who attended (total of 31 persons). It was a glorious time of fellowship, love and sharing. I appreciate all the cards and gifts. I can't wait to see you all upon my return in May. God bless you all!

Love,

Gayla Procriv

To Tracy and Scott Lyons for our beautiful new “Badge Box”. Although I have long envisioned some place at the church where folks could keep their badges safe, Scott and Tracy came up with the “how to get it done!” This is beautiful and perfect! Now everyone can know exactly where their badge is! Thank you again, Scott and Tracy! You are awesome! Blessings to all our church family.

Barb Mitchell

My sister, Lillian, and I want to thank everyone who sent cards or condolences to us, as we grieved our sister Patricia's passing.

Loretta Pierce

Welcome to our New Members

Kimberly Fraker was born in Salt Lake City, Utah. Eventually her family settled in Escondido where she was active as a youth (handbells, Youth Choir and Theater, Sunday School and Church camp) in the First UMC of Escondido. She enjoys dancing, walking, crochet, reading, playing piano, guitar, dancing and writing. She currently tutors and is a balloon artist!

Alyse Dunavant-Jones was born in San Diego, although she grew up in northern Virginia. She is married to David Dunavant and they have baby Rose. Alyse and David are high school sweethearts where they met through marching band! Alyse enjoys being a stay-at-home mom, and has a background in Librarianship.

Robin Lee was born in Bethesda, Maryland. She was raised in the United Methodist tradition and attended Redondo Beach UMC and North Coast UMC where she was involved in her congregation. Robin, now retired, has been a mechanical engineer as well as a Grounds Supervisor for the Vista Unified School District at San Onofre. She has an adult son. She enjoys pro motorcycle racing, sailboat racing, sewing, concerts, photography and travel.

Sandra Peters was born in La Jolla and raised in the United Methodist tradition having attended both Redondo Beach UMC and North Coast UMC. She was married to Terry Peters, recently passed, for 37 years meeting through their children. She has five adult children (including Jeffrey who attends church with her) and eight grandchildren. She is retired now, and camping, off road riding, quilting, travel and cruising, along with reading, history and ancestry research are her interests! She helps out at “And Two Fishes.”

Rita Wall was born and raised on a ranch in Fresno, California. Rita was raised Presbyterian, but also attended UMC of Canoga Park. Since her husband’s passing, she has become even more involved in “And Two Fishes” frequently bringing friends to help prepare and serve meals. Rita can be seen with Helen Robinson as their families are interrelated! Rita has two adult children and four grandchildren. She is interested in crafts and reading. Her background was as an Accounts Payable Supervisor.

We welcome all of these folks to our church family!

-Barbara Mitchell

Community invite...Organist Dr. Seth Bott in Concert, Friday, April 12, 7 p.m.

Organist Dr. Seth Bott will perform at St. Thomas More Catholic Church (1450 S. Melrose in Oceanside). Works by Bach, Brahms, Elgar and others. Dr. Bott is an active recitalist with recent appearances in New York, San Francisco and Europe. Currently Director of Music at St. James Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City. Sponsored by the Palomar Chapter, American Guild of Organists.

-Carol Graham

Sanctuary temperature

Too hot? Too cold...in the sanctuary for you? Try moving forward or back a pew or two—and look up for the vent! The sanctuary definitely has some warmer, some cooler spots—you might have to experiment a little to find yours. The sanctuary is kept at 72 degrees but it is a BIG place!

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...

Jim McGlocklin, Bill Rockwell, 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, April 9, 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 including regular church folks, leaders and pastors.

Zoom Meeting ID: 842 2413 4406

Passcode: 786330

Return Service Requested

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