



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

As people with hope-infused faith, we are called to embrace change with a spirit of openness and courage. Yet, even with our steadfast belief in the transformative power of love and grace, transitions can often stir feelings of uncertainty and doubt within us. Whether it's a change in leadership, a shift in personal circumstances, or a larger upheaval in society, navigating transitions requires courage, resilience, and above all, faith.

In the face of uncertainty, we are reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Our faith is not merely a passive acceptance of the status quo but an active trust in the promises of God, even when those promises seem distant or obscured by the clouds of change.

Journeying through transition, it is crucial that we lean on the pillars of our faith community for support and guidance. Our church community is a source of strength, compassion, and solidarity, offering a safe space where we can share our joys, fears, and uncertainties. Together, we remind each other of the enduring presence of God's love, which sustains us through every trial and tribulation.

Moreover, as Protestant Christians, we are called to view transitions not as disruptions to be feared but as opportunities for growth, renewal, and transformation. Just as the caterpillar undergoes a metamorphosis in the cocoon before emerging as a beautiful butterfly, so too can we emerge from times of transition with a renewed sense of purpose, clarity, and vision. Our Easter life testifies to transitions as times of dynamic growth.

In the words of the theologian, Howard Thurman, "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." If we can approach this time of transition with a sense of curiosity and wonder, trusting God's ever-present grace guiding us, we discover bold possibilities.

Looking into the Summer, there is a lot happening. I have already begun packing and changing my home residence, as well as finishing the packing of my office that began with our building process. It seems to me we've been headed toward this season of change for years and have finally made it through the long desert. What has sustained me, and I hope you in this time, are encouraging friends and faith values of inclusivity, justice and love that abides. We are a resilient community always held in the loving embrace of our Creator.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

P.S. Get comfortable for worship! Summer is coming soon and along with it, the warmer weather. We have a lot going on and you won't want to miss a Sunday! Whether you wear shorts and a Hawaiian shirt or your closet's best attire, join us in worship!! We just love to be together, sing and live our faith!

Finance/Stewardship Committee

The Finance/Stewardship Committee wish to thank everyone who made the Corn Hole Tournament Fundraiser a huge success. Eleven teams played (33 people). The winners were: First Place - Brown Team (Colleen, Kevin and Cameron Guffey), Second Place - Purple Team (Tracy Lyons, Gayla Prociw and Richard Greiner) and Third Place - Blue Team (Melissa Giard, John Giard and Ed Simpson). The SCRIP Table underwrote all the prizes. Thank you Tom Humphery. Scott Lyons did a wonderful job as referee and announcer. Special thanks to Jeannette Marusak, Joann Balardeta, Beth Brainerd Hallock, Bonnie Berumen, Gayla Prociw, Margene Haase, John Haase, Suzanne McMurchie, Tracy Lyons, Juna Spitz, Scot Spitz and Rollin Grider.. They helped with preparation and selling all the food, kept score, set up and clean up and most of them played in the tournament as well. Without all their help, this fundraiser would not have happened. Everyone seemed to have a good time. There were cheers for the teams and much laughter and friendly competition. There was food, fun and fellowship. It looks like this will be an annual event. All monies raised goes to the General Fund of the Church to help the budget. Total raised was \$1,338. A special thanks to Juna Spitz who made the special Gnome bean bags for the winners. And a special thanks to the sponsors for team support. What a wonderful giving congregation. Blessings to you all.

-Sara Baldwin, Chairperson,
Finance/Stewardship Committee

Pennies For Heaven update

Our Pennies For Heaven donations collected through April 28 is \$460. Thank you for your contributions.

Baptism

On Mother's Day, May 12, we will be celebrating baptism! Pastor Leigh Ann will be meeting with families about baptism on May 5 following worship in her office.

New Member's Orientation, May 5

New Member's Orientation will be Sunday, May 5 in the Chapel, following the worship service, with vows in service on May 19. Join us! Please call the church office, 760.726.0442, for any questions or for more information.

Happy "May" Birthdays

Rosalynn Kim (1)
Tim Arrowsmith (3)
Joann Balardeta (7)
Kevin Guffey (9)
Jeanette Marusak (11)
Gary Felien (14)
Kailey Clarke (17)
John Giard (20)
Chris Lockman (21)
Adam Way (23)
Paula Amaro (24)
Linda Boyd (24)
Vic Johnston (26)
Sabrina Leffler Streeter (27)
Traci Wheeler (27)
Timothy McGinn (28)
Elese Newman (31)

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

Rummage Sale, May 25

Attention all spring cleaners. Clean out your closet and drawer's, drop off your donations on Friday, May 24 from noon to midnight at the church.

The Rummage Sale will be on Saturday, May 25 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If you would like to help, please contact Tracy Lyons at 760.696.1185.

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, May 15, 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, May 2, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Passcode: 490490

Finance, May 8, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

Education/Discipleship, May 8, 6 p.m.

Meeting ID: 983 3122 0500

Reconciling Ministries, May 28, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395

Passcode: Welcome

In-person:

SPRC, May 5, following worship service in the conference room

Trustees, May 19, following worship service in the conference room

United Women in Faith, May 7

Do you want to know more about the Vista Teen Outreach program, organized to assist students with food pantries on campuses? Margot Hodgkinson, a board member of the organization, will be the speaker at the United Women in Faith meeting. Any and all are invited to come at 11:30 a.m. in the upper social hall to hear about the Vista Teen Outreach program. Bring a sack lunch, if you would like to stay afterwards for fellowship.

-Jacque Howard

Game Night, May 18

Game night will be on Saturday, May 18 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. All are welcome.

-Loretta Pierce

South District Prayer Session, May 2, 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

Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA)

What or who is MFSA? It is an intersectional social justice nonprofit that mobilizes Justice-Seeking People of Faith to take action on issues of peace, poverty and people’s rights within the church, the nation, and the world. It is a network of chapters, communities, churches, and individuals that believe our Christian faith calls us to work toward a more justice-filled church, nation, and world.

Originally known as the Methodist Federation for Social Service, the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) was founded in 1907 by several Methodist Episcopal clergy (including Frank Mason North, author of “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”) to direct church attention to the enormous human suffering among the working class. Immediately the Federation became Methodism’s unofficial rallying point for the Social Gospel and achieved the adoption of the first denominational social creed in 1908.

With over 100 years of service, MFSA has quite a storied history and more can be found at “mfsaweb.org”. Ahead of this year’s General Conference MFSA has made various proposals to bring our Book of Discipline into this century including around the issues of Climate Justice, Economic Justice, Gender Justice, LGBTQ+ Justice, Peace Building, Racial Justice and Reproductive Justice.

Justice in all things has been a part of the DNA of Methodism from its very inception. Some of the above information is taken from “mfsaweb.org.”

-Barbara Mitchell

Lending Library of Medical Equipment

As more and more of us have health issues, we just want to take a moment to remind you that we do have some medical equipment to loan you. It is housed downstairs in the storeroom and available to anyone. There is a clipboard to sign the equipment in and out upon. Better still.....stay healthy! You can check with the church office or Barb Mitchell.

Heartfelt Thanks...

And Two Fishes, would like to thank everyone who participated in making the Easter Breakfast such a huge success. We raised almost \$1,500 for the church budget. We couldn’t have done this without the church’s participation and a big thank you to all you volunteers.

-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...

Jim McGlocklin, 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

Prayers for:

- Carol and family of Jim Pence. Jim passed away on April 18. Carol’s address: 345 Chase Drive, Clarksville, TN 37043
- Family of Rae Ann Wirth. She passed away on April 15. Memorial service on April 30 at 1 p.m.
- Prayers for Ruth Rockwell and family as Bill Rockwell passed April 24. The Rockwells were former longtime members of UMC Vista. Ruth’s address is 2200 Morrow Ct. NW, Salem, OR 97304.

Return Service Requested

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