



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

Our Lenten season begins Wednesday, March 1 with Ash Wednesday. This Holy day of the year is a hard stop from the regular time we've been moving through. It is a call to focus, to repentance and to seek forgiveness from others and God. Lent is a time of fasting from things which separate us from God.

For many Christians who would rather live as they choose, this season offers a challenge. We don't like to fast from anything. One year, the first Sunday of Lent, I suggested the congregation fast from alcohol during Lent. I was met with a kind rebuke at the back door from numerous people that particular Sunday. I've since quit suggesting what folks might choose to fast from.

Fasting is not meant to be punitive. It is not meant as a spiritual insult. Fasting isn't meant to make you unhappy or feel discouraged. Fasting is meant to guide your focus to God. Fasting is meant to guide you from yourself toward God. So, this year, I begin by asking you if you desire a closer relationship to God? If the answer is 'no', you do not need to change your life decisions during the season before Easter. But if the answer is 'yes', then keep reading.

What our religion offers are traditions during the year when we fix our focus on one thing or another. During Advent, we focus on waiting for the Christ to be born. During Lent, we focus on the gory pain of living to emerge on Easter and claim the joy of life. Pentecost focuses on the celebration that a long time ago, a bunch of people felt the power of the Holy Spirit and was joined for a common journey. I think the language of the church sometimes gets in our way of understanding that we are just a bunch of people connected and dependent on one another for life.

Fasting means giving something up. The tradition for a time was giving up a particular kind of food. Today fasting means giving up something of your own choosing. Perhaps it is food or drink, but perhaps it is anger or resentment. Perhaps you most need to fast from being a workaholic. But perhaps this Lent you might want to give up fasting for Lent and Feast from something during Lent to draw your attention to God.

Feasting during Lent is a valid spiritual discipline. This is not a suggestion to gluttony, but to feast on something, which is self-enriching. Feast on Joy and celebrate beauty! Feast on Love for nature and take a walk every morning as the sun rises. Feast on Family and make time to have dinner at the dining room table during the week. Feast on sleep and make time to sleep enough for your body to be healthy and rested. Feast on Sabbath time and take a pause from noise or busyness. Yes! Feasting is a perfectly valid means of growing your relationship with God if you are seeking that relationship.

Psalm 51 says 'create in me a new heart, O God, and make me like you in all my ways.' Our God calls us to a holy Feast! We've been invited to a life giving and life sustaining meal through the person of Jesus. God is all about feasting on the beauty and joy of life! God calls us to the same.

Will YOU feast or fast this Lent? It's up to YOU. What is it that you need to be closer to God? Take the time...Open your heart for the journey toward Jesus' darkness hour and greatest triumph!

Peace be with you this Lent!

Rev. Dr. Leigh Ann Shaw

Where does our money go?

Listed below is a copy of the UMC Vista 2017 budget. We tried something NEW with our Stewardship presentation this past Fall. We had Pastor Leigh Ann write personal letters and it seemed to be well received and so we will do it again later this year. Once the final figures were in, your Finance Committee put it together and approved it on January 18 and the Church Council approved it on January 21 - too late to be presented in the February Flame. Please look it over and if you have any questions feel free to call or talk to Tom Humphrey, the Church Treasurer or myself, the Chair of the Finance Committee.

A real thank you to the 108 people that pledge to the budget for what I feel is just about a new HIGH. Last year, 94.4% of our pledged money was paid and we look forward to the same or better this year. Many churches feel lucky to get to the 90% level so “pat” yourselves on the back. Twenty-four of our families use the Electronic Fund Payment System and if you want more information on this system, please see our Financial Secretary, Patricia Avila.

Another thank you to the Church Council for including part of our apportionments in their Outreach Program Request to the Cable Foundation. Most of my articles in the Flame last year were about the different items that make up the apportionment request that starts with the Methodist Department of Finance, then on to the Quadrennial Worldwide Church Conference for approval and then finally passed along to the California-Pacific Conference. It is all about being a connectional church.

If you have any questions, come and see me following the second service by the “cookies”.

-Tommy Thomson

Work Area Committee	\$ 14,875	
Education		\$ 5,000
Mission		\$ 100
Church & Society		\$ 200
Worship		\$ 3,500
Music		\$ 1,000
Condolence		\$ 150
Fellowship		\$ 450
Finance/Stewardship		\$ 1,000
Congregational Care		\$ 175
Membership Care		\$ 900
Stephen Ministry		\$ 400
Staff-Parish Relations		\$ 200
Evangelism		\$ 100
Evangelism Marketing		\$ 500
UM Youth		\$ 700
Lay Delegate Conf.		\$ 500
Church Property	\$107,700	
Custodial Supplies		\$ 1,500
Utilities		\$ 40,000
Upkeep & Maintenance		\$ 8,000
Property Tax		\$ 1,500
Insurance		\$ 16,000
Workers Comp.		\$ 2,200
Service Contracts		\$ 16,000
Credit Card Ser. Chgs.		\$ 500
Landscape Service		\$ 12,000
Janitorial Service		\$ 10,000
Apportionments	\$ 67,742	
Total Projected Expenses	\$501,276	

For questions or for more detailed information, please contact Tommy Thomson, Chair of the Finance Committee, or Tom Humphrey, Church Treasurer.

UMC Vista 2017 Budget

Projected Income

Pledges	\$338,276
Givers of Record	\$ 75,000
Loose plate offering	\$ 7,000
Church school offering	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 7,000
Cable Foundation Grant	\$ 65,000
Special Offerings & Gifts	\$ 9,000

Total Projected Income \$501,276

Projected Expenses

Local Ministry	\$159,501	
Senior Pastor		\$113,296
Assoc. Pastor		\$ 46,205
Lay Personnel	\$144,658	
Church Office	\$ 6,800	

Upcoming Events

March 1 – Ash Wednesday

7:00 to 9:00 am – Drive-Thru Imposition,
Lower Parking Lot
7:00 pm - Worship Service, Sanctuary

Sunday, March 5 – 1st Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 12 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Daylight Saving Time begins

Flame Editors Lenore Averell and Barbara Mitchell Flame Production Paula Amaro WEB Master Jim McGlocklin Next deadline is Wednesday, March 15, 2017 Comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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

Communion Sunday, March 5

The Communion offering on Sunday, March 5 will be UMCOR Sunday (formerly called the One Great Hour of Sharing). Every year one special offering is taken for UMCOR through One Hour of Sharing to defray the costs to run the operation so when any disaster occurs, 100% collected for that disaster goes to the project. UMCOR is usually one of the first to respond to a disaster and one of the last to leave after all is cleaned up. Through this offering, UMCOR can continue the work it has been doing for over 75 years. This offering makes it all possible. Please give generously. -Nancy Winters, World Missions Committee

X-tra giving for March

X-tra giving for March is supporting “and Two Fishes”, our Thursday soup kitchen. We meet every Thursday in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00 pm to begin meal preparation; dinner is served to the hungry at 5:00 pm. There will be grocery bags with lists of needed items placed in the Narthex for your convenience. Please contact Brenda Walker for more information at 760.505.1702.

UMC Vista Foundation, Inc.

The UMC Vista Foundation, Inc. has received several donations toward the cost of a “Tree of Life Manzanita Stone” for former Foundation President, Peggy Watson. A recent donation of \$100 toward the stone in memory of Peggy was received. If you would like to donate toward the cost of the Stone in memory of Peggy, please make your check out to the UMC Vista Foundation, Inc., put in the memo section that it is for Peggy’s stone.

You may also want to give a legacy gift to the UMC Vista Foundation, Inc., so please consider making such a gift in your will. If you have any questions about the work of the UMC Vista Foundation, feel free to contact Foundation President Gary Lamb.

Operation HOPE-Vista goes western!

The 14th Annual Dinner and Auction benefitting Operation HOPE-Vista has taken on a western flavor as ‘Spring into HOPE - Hoedown!’. It will be held on Saturday, April 1, at the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum in Vista. Doors will open at 4:00 pm for auction preview, music is being provided by the Small Batch Ramblers and hayrides around the museum grounds are planned. Dinner buffet will be served at 5:00 pm and will feature barbecue smoked brisket, mashed red potatoes, vegetables, corn muffin and apple pie.

The evening taking shape promises to be a lot of fun as well as benefitting a wonderful organization – live and silent auction items and opportunity baskets will be part of the festivities.

Presale tickets will be available after both services March 5 and 12 for \$45. After March 12 and at the door (limited number) tickets are \$55. Reserved tables for eight are also available for \$500 and include table service.

If you have questions, please contact Sharon Hall at 760-529-9965.

Student Ministry News (Beckie Henselmeier)

- Registration is now open and you can find all the dates, pricing and the registration link at our new website at www.calpacumc.org/summercamp. A \$25.00 deposit is required at the time of registration. Register before March 31 to save \$50 on our week long camps and \$25 on our three day camps. Invite a new camper and get an extra \$25 off with our bring a friend discount. Please return proof of registration to Beckie and the Vista Foundation will provide scholarships for attending camp. For more information, please contact Beckie Henselmeier at the church office.
- The Youth will be attending a “Day Retreat” to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles on Sunday, March 19. Please pray that their trip is safe and fruitful.
- Save the Date for our new event, Easter Walk, Saturday, April 8 and Vacation Bible School 2017, July 24 - 28. Registration for VBS opens on Easter!

United Methodist on contemporary issues

“The United Methodist Church has a long history of concern for social justice. Its members have often taken forthright positions on controversial issues involving Christian principles. Early Methodists expressed their opposition to the slave trade, to smuggling, and to the cruel treatment of prisoners.” “The Social Principles, while not to be considered church law, are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of General Conference to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation as historically demonstrated in UM traditions.” (Book of Discipline, 2016, page 105)

Our Social Principles are broken into six sections and address many issues of our modern world. The six sections are: The Natural World, The Nurturing Community, The Social Community, The Economic Community, The Political Community, and the World Community.

Our statement on *Bullying* from the Nurturing Community, paragraph 161(R) says, ‘Bullying is a growing problem in parts of the connection. It is a contributing factor in suicide and in violence we see in some cultures today. We affirm the right of all people, regardless of gender, socioeconomic status, race, religion, disability, age, physical appearance, sexual orientation and gender identity, to be free of unwanted aggressive behavior and harmful control tactics...We encourage churches to adopt a policy of zero tolerance for bullying, including cyberbullying, within their spheres of influence; stand with persons being bullied; and take a leadership role in working with the schools and community to prevent bullying.’

Happy “March” Birthdays

Leah Henselmeier (2)

David Hendron (3)

Elizabeth O’Toole, Ruth Rockwell, Ken Sheridan (6)

Geneva Christensen, Hope McGinn (9)

Thomas Bakalar, Trent Hamlin, Steve Lambert (10)

Lenore Averell, Diane Biggs, Erin Fraser (12)

Greg Kim (13)

Rollin Grider (16)

Lucy Henselmeier (20)

Olive May Harris (22)

Lance Bodnar, Ruben Choque-Jimenez (23)

Madelyn Knight (24)

Margene Haase, Seana Wheatley, Don Wirth (25)

Ed Christensen, Roger Martinsen (27)

Dottie Nelson, Beverly Wright (29)

Sue Downey (31)

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

Why I joined the Reconciling Ministries Community

Reconciling Ministries is a national ecumenical organization recognizing the full inclusion of all people in God’s kingdom. Within our Vista UMC is a small group of folks that have come together to learn more about how to advocate for inclusion of all people in our church. We have begun this process of learning, and some of our team will be sharing periodically. We hope that you will prayerfully participate in this conversation and share your thoughts with us. UMC Vista is NOT an official member of the Reconciling Ministries Movement, only our small group. We welcome your questions and concerns.

In a world that has become so hostile, antagonistic and uncongenial, we have a church that cares and welcomes the stranger off the street. I am proud to know the Christians of this church and bear witness to the grace that abounds in you.

I am part of the Reconciling Community because I want to be a part of the further discussion and growth of this body as we, with great diligence, make choices that embrace, clasp in our arms, cherish, love, encircle and adopt every individual with the grace and unabashed love Jesus taught us in word and action. I’m part of the Reconciling Community because I want to keep asking myself what I believe, why I believe it, and is there more I can learn to become more like Christ. Not more like an American. Not more like a Methodist. I just want to be more like Christ.

-Deb Forbis

Family Game Night

Game night is Friday, March 10, 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. For questions or for more information, please see Suzanne McMurchie.

Heartfelt Thanks

There is no way to thank you enough for all of your support at First UMC, especially for loaning and then replacing our mics. God is doing such big things, but when things like this happen it’s hard to not feel discouraged. Your support was crucial, not just materially, but in lifting our spirits. Thanks to you, the 80 people who gathered together at First UMC on Christmas eve, could hear and experience the story together. Thank you for your continued support and care—it matters!

Rev. Sara Heath and First UMC Costa Mesa

With gratitude to the Kenworthy Circle for the generous gifts at Christmas to our homeless guests at “and Two Fishes”. So many socks, t-shirts and toiletries to add comfort and care to their days and nights. You are truly good samaritans bringing hope and love from our church to our guests. They were truly surprised and grateful. To you, we give a great big THANK YOU for being friends of “and Two Fishes”. God bless you all.

Martha Treutle for “and Two Fishes” volunteers

Shalom Team

I would like to introduce the kernel of an idea, the Shalom Team. An arm of the Reconciling Ministries Community in our church, the Shalom Team will be an ongoing act of God’s creation. It will be engaged in peace-making activities in our church and in our community.

We already have taken steps, all of which stem from someone’s request or pain or desire to help. First, Lauri Arrowsmith and I reached out to the local Muslim community to let them know we support them. We attended a service at the local mosque, which also was attended by the pastor of Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and some of her congregants. We met a drama teacher from Palomar College, who has invited all of our congregation to attend his upcoming play titled *Ten Acrobats in a Giant Leap of Faith*. A mixture of comedy and drama that addresses concerns of the Muslim community, it will be performed March 17-25 at Palomar. More to come on that.

Second, I have contacted David Hanlon, the teacher of Character Leaders at Vista High School, and we are planning a ceremony to replace the Peace Pole on campus, which had to be removed because of wood rot after nearly 20 years. I also have contacted a Vista City Councilman about a Peace Pole for the city and a citywide Peace Ceremony. More to come on that, too.

Third, Debbie Forbis has proposed that we all meet between services every Sunday at the Peace Pole to pray. We have begun that process, and anyone is welcome to join for as short or as long a time as you wish.

When I said this was a kernel of an idea, I mean that I have about a dozen interested people. I welcome anyone to the Shalom Team, including those who are not members of our church and who may have no religious affiliation. Together, as we act on ideas and passions, we can make a statement of peace and unity in our community.

If you’re interested in joining the team, or at least receiving e-mails about it, please let me know, 760.201.6113 or vistalynb@gmail.com.

-Lyn Berry

United Methodist Women's Corner

- The Circles will meet on Tuesday, March 7: Esther Circle meets in Fellowship Hall at 10:30 am. Ruth Circle will meet at 10:00 am at Queen Califia's Garden in Escondido's Kit Carson Park. Kenworthy Circle meets at 1:30 pm in room 203.
- The UMW leadership meeting is March 21 at 10 am in Fellowship Hall.

Email directory addendum coming later this month!

The Spark is the church's weekly email update. Go to the church website: umcvista.org and click the "Subscribe" button. Complete the form and you will receive an email to confirm your subscription. Be sure to add umcvista@umcvista.org to your list of trusted senders in your email program.

Pray together for...

Loretta Pierce, Richard Frizzell, Louise Foss, June Miklau, Jim Rogers, Lynda Mounts, Maggie/Giorgio Graziano, Barbara Baldrige, Ed Christensen, Bob Hickman, Joan Lindegren, Ron Bradshaw, Bill Peaker, Joan Brainerd, Joan Bearss, Nancy Koski, Carol Yunt, Randie Annin, Russ Townsend, Alice Leclair

Our Worship attendance

	8:45	10:30
02/19	97	83
02/12	83	95
02/05	78	81
01/22	94	89

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!

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Sunday School 9:00 am
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