



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.

Pastoral Report from Annual Conference

Called to FLOURISH:

Our Annual Conference has been called by our Bishop to a season of flourishing. To flourish is to grow and expand and delight in our faith and share that in the world. To flourish feels like a heavy-lift right now. Amidst an overwhelming amount of change, flourishing as a vision is bold and expectant.

We are in an unsettling season somewhere between harvesting the ministries of our last nine years and planting new vision, and new goals for the next season. To each season there is a time says the wisdom writer of Ecclesiastes. Some of us know that nothing lasts forever despite our deepest desire. The older you get the more you are aware of how fleeting our living days are.

How do we flourish with time being so fickle? How do we flourish as we move from one season of life and ministries and vision to the next? How do we flourish when we are saying "good-bye" and "hello?" How do we flourish when we are still trying to find our way in this new post-covid, post-trust, post-truth, post-come-together-in-dark-hours kind of world? The vision of our flourishing as individuals, and families, and a church seems audacious.

The best vision seems impossible until it becomes the reality. Our Bishop offers a few ideas for flourishing in our churches. She invited us to lean in and go deep with each other. Our relationships are the core to healthy living and joy. "Go deep," she suggests, even when you know you may and likely will, get hurt sometimes. Loosen what shackles you, and trust that God is leading you forward. Prioritize family and do not over-schedule your days to the point of resentment and poor health. Tell the stories of Jesus to children and grandchildren. And plant a garden or plant a tree or use the land that is available to you for God's work.

To flourish is not a once and done vision, but a vision to pass from generation to generation. Sit in a quiet space and ask your heart what you need to flourish in this world. Do you need more fun? Do you need to reconnect with friends? Do you need more grounding in faith and God? Do you need a new health plan to care for your body? WHAT do YOU need to flourish and how can you begin that journey today?

Our California Pacific Annual Conference and community of faith cannot flourish without YOU. We have come this far together and look forward to what comes next. Stay tuned and keep on reaching out in faith to make a difference wherever you can.

Amen.

Pastoral reflection on Annual Conference 2024

SPRC Update:

We are excited to introduce Pastor Broghan Hunt, who will be leading our congregation starting on Sunday, July 7. As part of our warm welcome, we invite you to contribute to a special gift basket—a collection of our favorite spots in Vista—to help Pastor Broghan "Get to Know Vista UMC."

Gift Basket Ideas:

- Gift Cards/Certificates: Share your favorite restaurant or local hot spot.
- Local Recommendations: Include a card with a list of places to visit or things to do around town.
- Personal Touch: Feel free to add any small token that reflects the spirit of our congregation and community.

Pastor Broghan enjoys coffee, loves animals, and appreciates the sights and sounds of our local area. Let's come together to make her feel at home!

The basket is in the narthex and will be presented to Pastor Broghan on July 7th. If you'd like to contribute virtually, please reach out to Kathe Enright or Dakota Koenig for guidance.

Please also join us in the social hall after the service on July 7th for a sweet treat and the opportunity to personally welcome Pastor Broghan.

Thank you for your support!

Blessings, Melissa

The Flame

Finance/Stewardship Committee

We made it through June with all bills paid. Halleluiah and Praise the Lord! Thank you congregation for your steadfast financial support each month. The Finance Committee just want to assure you that the United Methodist Church of Vista would never even consider suggesting a set amount of monetary giving from the members of the congregation. We know you all give from your loving hearts, not only in your monetary giving, but in your time and talents. We will continue to keep you updated each month and if you have any questions regarding our church's financial matters, Joann Balardeta, our Treasurer/Bookkeeper welcomes you.

We welcome Pastor Broghan and look forward to working with her in any way we can.

Blessings to you all.

-Sara Baldwin, Chairperson,
Finance/Stewardship Committee

Pennies For Heaven update

Our Pennies For Heaven donations collected through June 24 is \$758. Thank you for your contributions.

No Sunday School in July

There will be no Sunday School during the month of July. Children are encourage to stay with their parents during the service. -Margene Haase

Pastor Frank Hallock Retires

After serving UMC Vista for nearly 30 years, SPRC is announcing that our beloved Pastor Frank will be retiring August 1, 2024. During the course of his ministry here at UMC Vista, Pastor Frank has blessed us with his many talents, currently serving as Associate Pastor of Music and Visitation.

His inspiring music, sermons and overall ministry have touched the lives of each and every one of us. Pastor Frank leaves with us a legacy of ministerial service for which we will be forever grateful. There will be more information forthcoming regarding celebrating Pastor Frank's ministry and service to UMC Vista.

Blessings and Love,
Staff Parish Relations Committee

Game Night, July 20

PLEASE join us for GAME NIGHT on Saturday, July 20th at 6:00 p.m. More attendees would be welcomed. We are there for YOU. Laugh, have fun, eat, drink and be merry! Bring a new game or a snack if you like. All are welcome.

Happy "July" Birthdays

Amanda Stanaland (1)
Terry Lenker (3)
James McGlocklin (4)
Noah Wheeler (5)
Marlize Clarke (6)
Justin Felien (6)
Mick Hilling (6)
Bob Schmeiser (6)
Tom Humphrey (8)
Frank Purcell (10)
Kendall Guffey (12)
Richard Miklau (12)
Lanny Arrowsmith (13)
Kim Johnson (15)
Leonie Lavine-Hall (15)
Nancy Winters (17)
Jacob Clarke (18)
Niall Cargill (21)
Jim Wright (21)
Rolita Cargill (23)
Adam Ferrara (23)
Tim Smith (23)
Ruth Hamilton (28)
Carter Guffey (29)
Marilyn Elliott (31)

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 July 7 (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.

Mark your calendar

- Sunday, August 11, Bibles will be given out to our third graders.

Flame Editor
Barbara Mitchell
Flame Production
Paula Amaro
WEB Master
Jim McGlocklin

Next deadline is Wednesday, July 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, August 1, 1:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 921 7026 9939

Passcode: 490490

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

Meeting ID: 963 4459 7468

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

Meeting ID: 983 3122 0500

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

Meeting ID: 995 8164 7395

Passcode: Welcome

In-person:

Trustees, July 21, following worship service in the conference room

Pizza Party/Karaoke Fundraiser

Mark your calendar for August 25 for an after-service pizza party/karaoke fundraiser for the church. The Young Whippersnappers (25 and under) will challenge the Wise Elders (25 and up) to a karaoke challenge. Audience will vote with noise and dollars. It doesn't matter if you can sing. Just come out for some pizza and a good time! Sponsored by Reconciling Ministries.

Heartfelt Thanks

Dear Friends,

What a delightful and humbling moment I had at the end of the South District Breakfast at Annual Conference when I was presented with a beautiful celebration quilt. Members of your congregation took the time to create a square for it. I am deeply grateful for their creativity and the time they put into it. Eighteen churches surround the middle square naming the whole South District, an area that I have had the honor to serve these last three years. To those who did the square of your church, thank you from the bottom of my heart. This is a gift I will long treasure.

In gratitude,

Rev. Sandy Olewine

South District Superintendent

July 2021-June 2024

In Honor of Jean Cole

The Vista Hall of Fame was established in 1999 as part of Vista Heritage Week to honor community members who made significant contributions to the city's history. This year our very own Jean Cole (mom to Tracy Cole Lyons) is one of nine inductees. Jean, who passed in 2016, was the volunteer CEO and driver for beginning Operation HOPE-North County, getting a building for the nonprofit homeless shelter for families with children and single women. She received several awards for her work including Soroptimist International Vista and Inland North County's Ruby Award for Women Helping Women in 2012. She also received an award from the Vista mayor for her leadership. Jean worked for the City of Vista Dept. of Parks and Community Services running and starting several programs over the years including Culture Caravan program, Fourth of July celebrations and others as well as the Vista Soccer Club and Men's Senior Softball League. Jean Cole, the very definition of hands and feet of Christ, was a wonderful motivator as well as a role model for all of us here at UMC Vista.

Outreach Community Partner

(Letter from Wounded Warrior Homes, dated 02/26/24)

Dear UMC of Vista,

As we celebrate the anniversary of your first donation, Feb. 22, 2020, to Wounded Warrior Homes, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your ongoing support of over \$75,000. Your generosity has been instrumental in driving positive change for our wounded warriors, making you a true change agent in their lives. Your contributions directly impacted many veterans, serving as a catalyst for transformation and empowerment in their lives.

Thank you for being a dedicated member of our community and for your role as a change agent in our mission. We hope to have your continued support as we move forward so we may continue making meaningful differences in the lives of our wounded warriors, guiding them toward healing and independence.

Once again, thank you for your incredible generosity and for being a vital change agent within the Wounded Warrior Homes family,

Mia Roseberry, Executive Director and

Co-Founder

Wounded Warrior Homes

Annual Conference 2024

With a theme of “Flourish,” Annual Conference 2024 was one of the most poignant that several of your delegates have attended (Heidi Kendall, Dakota Koenig, Beth Brainerd Hallock (alternate) and Barbara Mitchell). This is the most diverse conference in our denomination, and because it is, there are difficult struggles for cultures trying to meet the ideas from General Conference. Every day we heard some new aspect of what came out of General Conference, a milestone in every way, some of it was food for thought, some we approved and some we approved to actually be sent off to other authorities (i.e. the President or the Bishop’s Council) as affirmations for change.

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank hit upon her theme of ending physical and spiritual hunger, however that looks. She asked pointblank, “What if we do the work?” She shared building relationships, to go deep even if and when we suffer hurt. To this God calls us, as well as to change (which we’ve heard a lot about lately): change to help people, to feed children, to help our environment with a garden or a tree, to use God’s words to actually do something creative and new.

Thursday, we met Rev. Jenny Phillips, Director of Environmental Sustainability, who spoke about the creation story and how today we over-consume the gifts God has provided us. She spoke about how we enjoy our lives, even while telling ourselves we need to admit that over time we have generated some of the problems by our perceived needs. She reflected that the stages of grief apply as we deny climate change exists; get angry and point blame at others; bargain new ways to be sustainable--i.e. “recycling” when much of recycling, particularly plastics still end up in our oceans; hopelessness; acceptance where we know it’s happening and recognize our need to work together. There is a need for us to recognize that much of what we have was built on the backs of indigenous, slaves and migrants—many of whom were colonized and exploited. Where is UMCVista in this?

Friday we heard from Dr. Frank Rogers of Claremont School of Theology, on Flourishing in the midst of Trauma. Dr. Rogers shared that trauma has always been with us, but that we are now living and immersed in extraordinarily traumatic times! His recognition of his ongoing journey with childhood trauma saw him in a mental institution struggling with his symptoms until finally he had to face what was inside himself. Jesus, himself, suffered trauma as he was insulted and accused by his detractors as the “Son of Mary,” was affirmed by God at his baptism. He encouraged us to become trauma-informed and to become compassionate companions walking alongside those suffering from abuse or exploitation.

Other moments included: Act of Repentance for Hawaii where past wrongs have compounded today’s problems. There are few native Hawaiians (20% of population) and they suffer from poverty, homelessness, incarceration (at a rate of 40%) the result being they are sent away from their homeland to Arizona, Texas and California to serve their time. There are over 2,000 residents of Lahaina that have had to leave their homes after the fires as Hawaii becomes the playground for the wealthy. Plastics and spillage from naval fuel tanks are harming the coastlines.

Two resolutions addressed the human rights violations and exploitation being suffered by the Filipino people within the Philippines targeted by their own rulers; assassinations and lack of accountability, wages from outside-the-country jobs heavily assessed not for the benefit of families, but for the government and the companies that place the 4,000 Filipinos who feel they need to leave their country each day to find sustenance.

Among the retirees this year are folks who have touched UMC Vista over the years: Rev. John Farley, Rev. Brian Kent and Rev. Rick Malec. Retiring too is Rev. Frank Schaefer who many years ago was defrocked by the Pennsylvania Conference for performing a marriage for his gay son. Rev. Schaefer was welcomed by the Cal-Pac Annual Conference and invited to come where he ministered for 27 of his 30 years of service.

We experienced joy in ordinations including two elders having to move from their respective ACs, and reinstatement of orders for Rev. Deanna Smitha and Rev. Israel Isidorio Alvaran (Izzy), for work with the LGBTQIA community. So much more was packed into the four days!

So...questions were asked: what if we do the work? What can I do differently so that UMC Vista can flourish? What does a flourishing UMC Vista look like to you? Let’s have those discussions!

Grace and Peace, Your delegates: Heidi, Dakota, Beth and Barb

Update on Covenant Missionaries

Deaconess Joy Prim, our covenant missionary in Hong Kong sent out a newsletter following Cal-Pac Annual Conference. It is posted on the mission bulletin board across from the scrip table. If you would like a copy to have at home, let me know and I will email you a copy complete with many pictures. Jacque Howard, (760) 734 -3932.

Rev. Krista Givens, our covenant missionary in Spain, has completed her assignment in Spain and has returned to the states. Her new assignment has not been published yet, but as soon as I get that information, I will pass it on.

Rev. Claudia Genung, our covenant missionary in Japan is very active on Facebook. You can keep up with her many activities and the missions her church is involved with in Yokohama by following her on Facebook.

-Jacque Howard

A little Wild One is on his way!

Please join us for a baby shower honoring Sarah Felien and Xavier Serrato

You are invited to Sarah’s baby shower on Saturday, August 3 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. in the upper social hall. Sarah is registered at babylist.com. Please RSVP to Karen Felien at 760.613.5565 by July 14. Sarah is expecting a “boy” around September 30.

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...

Family of Dolores Sasway, Family of Jim Rogers, Virginia and Frank Purcell, Jim McGlocklin, Norm and Luene Corwin, Paul Lange, Janice Myers, Stu Gibson, Evelyn Lawson, Erin Fraser, Ko and Rosalynn Kim, Charlotte Chappell, Beverly Thomason, Stan Hamilton, Joan Brainerd

Prayers for the family of Delores Sasway, a long-time member. She passed away on June 18. Cards can be sent to her daughter, Jodie Reyes, 4949 Avila Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92008

South District Prayer Session, July 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

Return Service Requested

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