

# Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Easter

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021



## “Pandemic Pruning”

### **United Methodist Church Mission**

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

### **OUR MISSION**

Our Mission is to reach out to others to help them meet their needs and to welcome them into our family of faith as we gather for worship, fellowship, education and service.

# Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church

(Please email [vistaumc@aol.com](mailto:vistaumc@aol.com) or text 520-349-9216 in your Celebrations and Concerns.

*These will be read and prayed for during the Pastoral Prayer.)*

COUNTDOWN

“This Is Love”

WELCOME & GREETING

Rev. Fred C. Baum

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

1 John 4:16-19

**So, we know and believe the love God has for us.**

**God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

**In this is love perfected with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.**

**There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.**

**For fear has to do with punishment, and he who fears is not perfected in love.**

**We love, because he first loved us.**

\*OPENING HYMN

No. 154

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” (1,4,6)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON (NIV)

Acts 8:26-40

<sup>26</sup> But an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert road. <sup>27</sup> And he rose and went. And behold, an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a minister of the Can’dace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of all her treasure, had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup> And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture which he was reading was this:

“As a sheep led to the slaughter  
or a lamb before its shearer is dumb,  
so he opens not his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken up from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup> And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, pray, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this scripture he told him the good news of Jesus. <sup>36</sup> And as they went along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized?" <sup>38</sup> And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup> And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught up Philip; and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip was found at Azo'tus, and passing on he preached the gospel to all the towns till he came to Caesare'a.

## PREPARATION FOR PRAYER

No. 175

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" (1,2)

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Psalm 51:1-7, 10

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so, you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.**

**Surely, I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

## SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**All: Glory to God! Amen!**

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Fred C. Baum

## PRAYER RESPONSE

No. 175

"Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" (4)

OFFERTORY                    “Prelude in C Major” (*J.S. Bach*)                    Mary Bellah

GOSPEL LESSON (NIV)                    John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

SOLO                    “Come, Christians Join to Sing” (*arr. Jason Krug*)                    Shannon Casey

SERMON                    “Pandemic Pruning”                    Rev. Fred C. Baum

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” (*J.S. Bach*)                    Mary Bellah

LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN                    “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord” (*1,2,5*)                    No. 540

BENEDICTION (Unison)                    Rev. Fred Baum

**We love because God first loved us. Go in the love and peace of God and bring God’s love to others.**

POSTLUDE                    “Fugue in C Major” (*J.S. Bach*)                    Mary Bellah

## ***Prayers for Our Members & Visitors***

Please use a Prayer Card so we may give praises to God and/or lift up your concerns. See an usher for the Prayer Card.

## ***Compassion Connection***

### ***In Need of Continued Prayers for Healing***

Marshall Sanders, Barry and Gale Shuman, Paul & Fran Hampton,  
Steven Extract, Frank Buck and Linda Gray, Bill Goins,  
Margaret Overman, Bob Sherman, Alex Perakis  
Bill Gureck, Megan Spencer, Boyd & Karon Carpenter  
Jackie Holden, Al Isaac, Suzanne Ewing, Slim and Betty Crowson

### ***Home Bound***

John & Joan Davies, Bob & Eileen Herd,  
Betty Jean Emberton and Sharon Poole

## ***Prayers for Our Churches***

Each month churches in the South District pray with and for each other.  
Please pray for the pastors, congregation, and community of the following:

**May 2021**

Community UMC, Bowie  
Desert Skies UMC, Tucson  
Duncan UMC, Duncan

And

Our sister church, Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico.

# *Announcements*

## **MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup> at 1PM in the Elizabeth Room. See Dee Burman with questions.

## **PENTACOST SUNDAY MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>**

Join us in wearing RED to church on Sunday May 23rd - celebrated on the 50th day from Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles.

**Stick around after service so we can get a picture of everyone in RED.**

## **NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY COMING THIS SUMMER**

Its that time again, where we update our church family photos and print a new Church Directory. Virginia Updegrove has graciously taken on the role of photographer and will begin taking pictures on Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Watch the bulletin and/or your email for more information.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**IMPACT** needs volunteers to ensure smooth functioning in both their Clothing Bank and Food Bank in Catalina. Please contact Christina Micek, Volunteer Coordinator, at 520-825-0009 or email [volunteer@impactsoaz.org](mailto:volunteer@impactsoaz.org). for more information about specific areas of need. As you know, IMPACT is one of the primary charities that Vista members support with their time, finances, talents and energies. Please let Vista's Mission Team know if you respond to this request! Benith MacPherson - [benithmac@aol.com](mailto:benithmac@aol.com) - is Vista's liaison for this mission project.

## **SHEPHERDS ARE CALLING**

Our "Shepherds" continue to make calls to their respective folks. If you haven't received a call (especially new worshippers) and want to be contacted, please contact Robin Conner: 520-818-1177 [robin.mikeconner@gmail.com](mailto:robin.mikeconner@gmail.com) or Pam Holder: 520-343-1225 [pholder45@gmail.com](mailto:pholder45@gmail.com) Thank you, Shepherds!!

# The UPPER ROOM

## “WHY, GOD?”

Read Judges 6:11-20

Sun  
May 2  
2021

*“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?”*

--Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

As I write, the COVID-19 quarantine is in place, and my husband, who is in a skilled-nursing facility, is close to death. Thankfully, I was allowed in to see him one last time. Needless to say, life seems very difficult right now. Further, once he passes on, I know it will be too risky to even consider having friends and family

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

God understands my frailty  
and my fears.

gather to comfort and support me. I will be alone – and yet not alone. God is with me, though I must admit I occasionally share Gideon’s sentiments. When I came upon that scripture during my daily quiet tie, I laughed out loud.

I suspect I’m not the only believer who has asked this question in times of trial. Reassuringly, God didn’t condemn Gideon but continually worked with him, increasing and building Gideon’s faith. Gideon, to his credit, also went forward trusting God despite his doubts and thereby triumphed.

In times of doubt, we can feel free to be honest with God, knowing God understands. However, we can also bravely follow where God leads, trusting in spite of our fears.

*Prayer:* Dear Father, sustain us when we question you and have doubts about situations we do not understand. Give us the faith and courage to follow you anyway. Amen.

**Sandra Still** (North Carolina, USA)

*Prayer Focus:* FAMILIES UNABLE TO GATHER IN TIMES OF GRIEF

**Thank you for joining us in the sanctuary or Livestream worship.  
Go and live the lives of love God has given you!**

## **Welcome to Our Visitors!!**

**All visitors are invited and encouraged to explore  
membership in Vista's Congregation.**

If you are interested in membership, please contact the church office  
at 825-1985 and Pastor Fred or Valerie will call you.

**Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church  
3001 E. Miravista Lane, Tucson, AZ 85739  
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Sunday Worship 10:00 am  
Visit our website: [www.vistaumc.org](http://www.vistaumc.org)**

## ***Assisting Our Worship Today***

Liturgist	Dee Berman
Acolyte	Kailyn Harwick
Audio & Video	Teresa Sanders: slide show producer and house sound Paul Oelrich: live stream camera Pam Holder: live stream audio
Organist	Mary Bellah
Ushers	Leo Smith and Sharon Scanlan
Volunteers	Al & Jacquie Garcia, Leslie Hawkins, Loni Degen, and Ron & Linda Olson
Flowers	given today for the celebration of Allen Phillips birthday by Barbara Phillips, with the Arrangement created by Lue Satterfield