

VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC ECHOES March

Connect & Grow 2022



Pastor's Pen

As I write this February is almost over and it is just days to Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. Drive Thru Ashes are a way to meet and minister to our community and begin a season of invitation spiritual growth. Where O Where did February go? In just 7 weeks it will be Holy Week and Easter.

During Lent many people give up something in honor and memory of Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the wilderness. For many it is a great spiritual reminder of Jesus' suffering on our behalf if what is selected is something they normally use every day. Every time they reach for it they are reminded of Jesus. It is a great way of practicing the presence of Jesus.

For others their best spiritual practice is not giving something up but adding something to their daily routine to deepen their faith. Often what is added is special prayer times, Bible reading or service. For some even witnessing.

This Lenten season I would encourage you to pick up this discipline and that is the study and practice of Prayer. I am going to be starting a series on the Lord's Prayer and the Prayers of Jesus up through his crucifixion on Good Friday. This would be a great discipline to make sure you did not miss one worship service either in person or by Livestream, which is live of course, and also recorded, so it you are out on a Sunday you can go back and view it.

Another opportunity is the Lord's Prayer study led by Gail Parson which starts meeting at 10am starting on March 9th. This class will be looking at the prayer through a different facet with room for questions and discussion.

Both the sermon series and the class study are great places to invite people to come learn about prayer. I have found that as disconnected as some are from the church they still pray and are interested in prayer. This sermon series and class are opportunities to say to someone, "Hey, you want to learn more about prayer from someone who prayed a lot (Jesus)," and invite them to come with you to learn. For those reading this I also encourage you to set a daily time (if you already haven't) to pray. I pray when I walk. Some have taken to prayer at stoplights, or breakfast time. Pick something that you do every day and use that as a prompt to pray. One day it will seem awkward to do that activity without praying. Now I feel something is missing if I walk and don't pray.

Tune in to learn more in thru the sermon series and Bible study.

In Christ's service.

Pastor Fred

Let our prayers be heard

Compassion Connection

In Need of Continued Prayers for Healing

Gerry Alberts, Marlin Bolar, Frank Buck, Dr. Chuck Crown, Slim Crowson, Suzanne Ewing, Steven Extract, Tom Floyd, Shane Gallo, Kay Gragg, Bill Gureck, Fran & Paul Hampton, Carolyn Leonard, Stephen McCotter, Paul Oelrich, Margaret Overman, Barbara & Allen Phillips, Dr Bill Pohnert, Ray Repinski, Karen Rice, Joan Robinson, Rosetta Schemenauer, Barry Shuman, Meagan Spencer, Marilyn Waldo,



Home Bound

John & Joan Davies **Bob & Eileen Herd**

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:

March 2022

St. Mark's UMC, Tucson St. Paul's UMC, Tucson Wilcox UMC And

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

Prayers for Ukraine

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27



. . . "We stand with the United Methodists in Ukraine in prayer for protection, reconciliation and peace. We pray for pastors, leaders and congregations in the United Methodist Church in Ukraine; may God grant that their witness of reconciliation and peace will bring strength and hope to the Ukrainian peoples.

We pray for Bishop Eduard Khegay, bishop of both Russia and Ukraine, may God give him the wisdom and grace that he needs in his ministry and leadership under these challenging circumstances."... **

** excerpts taken from a letter written by Bishop Christian Alsted , Nordic and Baltic Episcopal Area The United Methodist Church, published 02.24.2022

Let our prayers for peace be heard as we unite in prayer.

Join Together In Prayer With Vista Church

As we intentionally seek connection by praying for our Congregation, Church Leaders, Community and our Country!

May our prayers as a community be heard and our church grow in the Love of God and impact our community in miraculous ways.

Vista's Shepherds

Vista's Shepherds are Connecting and Growing in 2022! This committee is a dedicated group of callers, who will be calling their groups several times in 2022, just to see how you are doing and to be sure we are up to date with your latest contact information. If you have any concerns or joys you want communicated, this is your opportunity.

We are always looking for additional callers, so if this is something meaningful for which you wish to participate, please contact



DISCIPLESHIP CONNECT AND GROW 2022

The Mission of the Church is to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

Serving allows us to experience the joy and peace that comes from obedience. 1Peter 4:10-11 says, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

What Transferable Skills Can You Pass On By Church Volunteering?

The following Committees are currently welcoming volunteers:

Evangelism Discipleship Shepherds Missions

United Methodist Men United Methodist Women

Stephen Ministers

Welcome Booth/Greeters

Choice of 17 Outreach projects
Family Ministry (formally CYFM)
Walk to Bethlehem-/Dec 2022
Hospitality:* Snacks, Coffee

Worship Committee**

Acolytes Liturgists
Ushers Altar Flowers
Choir Audio Visual

Communion Servers Communion Stewards

To express interest, please contact: Robin Conner or Valerie Hammons

*Hospitality: Anne Hilton

**Worship Committee groups: Gail Parson



Mission Outreach Ministry March 2022

Dear Vista Family:

Winter is passing and Spring is on its way. Hurray!!! We rejoice that, thru your gracious support, we have been able in carry on the Mission Ministry at Vista. This past Saturday the 18th of Feb. we celebrated a lovely Baby Shower for Family 1st in the Elizabeth room. There were 25 participants and we all shared a great time together. Mission partnered the project with Vista's UMW and we were all able to cover a number of tables with diapers and baby and children's clothes. Please see the attached pictures. Thank you to all the great folks who made this very successful event happen. We learned some troubling stats about children below the poverty level, one in every 4 children live below the poverty level in Arizona and up the copper trail area, where they work, it is 2 out of every 4 children who live in poverty. Directors Frank & Claire Grochacke gave us a very interesting talk about their work helping needy families in our area, all the way up to their office in Winkelman. They are truly a blessing to our community.

We are pleased to continue our partnership with the Sun Lakes Methodist Church in the Phoenix area, in sponsorships for the schooling of our High School students at our sister church Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico. Public High School Education costs \$350.00 a year and we are so pleased to be able to make it possible for 11 students to attend High School with their help. We will be starting our Scholarships for school supplies and backpacks for some 160 students at all levels of education this next April. We have a number of new students so if you do not have a student to sponsor, please let us know and we can make it happen. More info will follow in the April Echoes.

We are looking for your support to help with the food shortage at the Food Bank at Impact in Catalina. There are so many families who need our help. We will collect your checks and food donations on the 1st SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

We were so happy to be able to give your donation of \$3500.00 to the Sank Pac Program at Coronado K to 8 school in Catalina in partnership with the Catalina Catholic Church congregation. 60 needy children receive a weekly bag of food to take home for their meals over the weekend.

A \$1200.00 Contribution was made to Esperanza en Escalante Veterans Housing project to up date a cottage for a homeless vet family.

That cute little new shed up on the hill is now our new space to store our mission items. It got delivered last week and we will be adding shelving and filling it up with items that we share with the needy that we serve. I want to thank the Memorials fund for the resources to buy this shed that was so much in need. Thank You, Thank You!!!!

Our next Mission Committee meeting will be on the 2nd Wed of March, the 9th at 1:30 PM in the St Matthews room (Please note the new location). Our Mission work belongs to all of us a Vista and you are always welcome to join our team and our meetings as we try to show the face of God's love and care to those in need. We all count it a privilege to do this God's work with your loving support!!

Yours in Mission service: Dee Berman ... Chairman



March Opportunities, Updates . . .

Let's Fill Old Mother Hubbard's Cupboard!

IMPACT of Southern Arizona's food bank distributes more than 500 bags (4,000 pounds) of food to income eligible families each month. An additional 1,300 pounds of pantry goods AND thousands of pounds of fresh produce, dairy and meat products are also distributed monthly. Peanut butter, cereal

and canned meats ensure children and older adults can eat easily if and when they cannot cook for themselves. Rice and pasta round out a filling meal.

Vista UMC's Mission Team is sponsoring a "Fill the Cupboard" drive to replenish IMPACT's food bank. Please look for the Cupboard Display on the patio on March 27th and April 3rd. On these two Sun-



days, we are asking for <u>MONETARY DONATIONS</u> to enable IMPACT to get the **most "value for the dollar" out of food purchases.**

"Share the Warmth" warm bedding & clothing drive – A Huge Success!

Members and Friends of Vista once again responded to the church's annual Share the Warmth Drive with literally HUNDREDS of clothing and bedding items! Items donated this year were of exceptionally high quality, many of which still had their original price tag. Thanks to you, many needy Catalina area residents have remained comfortable during the desert's chilly evenings and mornings. Items taken to IMPACT's Clothing Bank during the past two months included 14 blankets and comforters, 17 lap robes, 23 women's sweaters, eight women's sweatshirts and nine women's jackets and coats, 17 men's coats and jackets, 11 men's sweaters and 9 pairs of men's dress slacks and jeans. Many other clothing items rounded out the contributions from Vista. Thank you all, for your enthusiastic support of this program!



AGUA PRIETA SCHOOLS PROJECT CONNECT AND GROW-2022



The Agua Prieta 2022 Schools Project is beginning once more at Vistal

Last summer Vista church members provided school supplies and backpacks for over 150 children including University students at our sister church Fuente de Vida (Fountain of Life). The School Supplies Mission Project is part of our Mission Committee's Economic Development Program in Aqua Prieta (AP), Mexico.

A donation of \$25 per student buys the long list of school supplies and backpacks required for students to attend the public schools.

Letters are being sent in April to past student sponsors giving them an opportunity to keep their same student(s) for the 2022-2023 school year. Newly interested sponsors will be given a chance to sign up during Sponsor Appreciation Day.

Mark your calendars:

April 22: Letters mailed to current sponsors

June 5: Sponsor Appreciation Day and deadline to submit sponsor fee (\$25 pp)

June 12: New sponsor signup begins

July 12: Fundraising ends; shopping for supplies begins

October 29: Celebration of Learning (Agua Prieta bus trip). Depending on Covid

Thank you for your generous support of these needy students and families from our sister church! Blessings, Jan Hopke-Almer, Robin Conner, Peggy Smith

AP School Supplies Mission Project Coordinators

... Classes, Activities and More

Pancakes First Sunday of March

United Methodist Men's Church/Community Event

Sunday morning, March 6th, the Vista Untied Methodist Men (UMM) will be serving a "free pancake breakfast" to our congregation from 8:30 until 9:30 AM in the Elizabeth room. The



menu will be pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee. All Vista members and supporters are invited. Please feel free to bring a friend.



March 22nd!

6:00 PM

We are looking forward to sharing this time with you and your family. Join us for this fun monthly event. Games will be provided, or you can bring your favorite one to share. At this time there will be no food sharing, so make sure to bring a snack and beverage for yourself.

Please contact the Church office at 520.825.1985 with any questions.

Adult Classes

UP FROM THE ASHES BIBLE STUDY

Thursday 1:30 PM St John Room

Led by Jim Bleess CLM, this Bible Study has been meeting since 2021 and follows this pattern. Class members take turns reading aloud the Bible passages for the week, then have time for questions and a brief discussion period. They are beginning the Book of Acts. At the completion of these two books of the Bible, the class votes on the next book to read. The class has an open enrollment policy and welcomes new members. The class meets on Thursdays at 1:00 PM in the St Johns Room If you would like to join, contact Donna Boring. If you have questions, contact Jim Bleess.

LENTEN STUDY

This year's Lenten study is based on the Adam Hamilton book on the <u>Lord's Prayer</u> "The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught". It will be taught by Gail Parson, Worship Chair. Pastor Fred will be doing accompanying sermons on the Lord's Prayer as well. Wednesdays March 9th—April 13th in the Elizabeth Room at 10:00 AM

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday 1:30 PM St Luke Room Pastor & G Alberts

In the safety of a group and in an atmosphere of acceptance and understanding you will learn coping skills as you connect with others who are experiencing some of the same things you are. Contact the Church office at 520.825.1985 or vistaumc.org@gmail.com to Sign Up.

BEFORE CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday 9:00—9:40 AM St Matthew Room

Mel and Dottie McIntyre are offering this new before church Sunday morning class, using the Wired Word curriculum which applies Biblical principles to current events. Mid-week you will be emailed the lesson including- In the News, Confronting the News With Scripture and Hope with Discussion Questions. Check out the wiredword.com for more information and a sample lesson.

AFTER CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday 11:15 AM—12:45 PM St Matthew Room

The After Church Sunday School Class led by Linda Whittington has a long history of successful discussion and fellowship together in a combination in person and on zoom membership. Their class includes prayer, a video study with discussion following and fellowship. The current video study is on forgiveness. They provide a welcoming atmosphere for everyone and especially enjoy including new members. To join, please contact Donna Boring. For questions, please contact Linda Whittington.

Connection Opportunities

Help Wanted Landscaping Crew

Thursday mornings at 8am Join us as we unite to keep up the landscaping and the beauty of our desert campus.

No experience necessary, dress ready to work and bring water to stay hydrated. We look forward to working with you.

Eyeglasses+ Collection

Thank you for all your donations of old and unwanted hearing aides, eyeglasses, cases & cell phones. As you Spring clean in '22 remember that there are a couple donation boxes on the church campus—in the Narthex and the Main Office.

NEW MEMBER LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

If you are curious about what membership in Vista Church is all about or have already decided to join our church, please sign up for lunch with the pastor and other church members, Sunday March 13th, immediately after church service in the Elizabeth room (in our new Education and Admin. Building).

Walk To Bethlehem '22

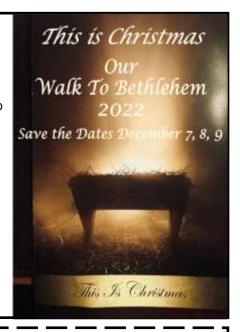
This is Christmas (REALLY?) and the planning for our exciting 2022 Walk To Bethlehem has begun. We plan on expanding our Walk into the New Building, and are adding Music to improve our Hospitality Experience.

New to the Walk? We want you to join; we need you! Save December 7,8,9 Event Evenings

and the entire week for Set Build.

Come Connect and Grow with Vista UMC.

Robin Conner & Nancy Yob



Online Calendar

Please check our website for an up to date calendar and for more details on meetings & events. www.vistaumc.org/ calendar/

Thank You Shoppers

Thank you to all the Vista Shoppers. If you haven't yet, please go to the Fry's website and link your card to Vista de la Montaña.



AND you can also link your

Amazon Smile Account to the church.

amazonsmile

Thank you for your continued support!

Did You Know?

YOU CAN GET THE ECHOES BY EMAIL? CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT VISTAUMC ORG@GMAIL COM TO SIGN UP.

Article Deadlines

Echoes—the 20th of each month for the following Month's publication

Bulletin—Wednesdays at Noon for the following Week's publication

Children, Youth & Young Adult



ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays 10:00 AM St John Room

Join us as we DIG IN Sunday school with deeper Bible experiences for kids. Designed to help kids understand Biblical concepts that guide them every day. These Sunday school lessons allow children to create experiences where they make discoveries, helping them to take ownership of their faith. And, DIG IN offers Bible lessons for kids that present the Bible as real and relevant, packed with rich meaning that applies to their lives today. We are ready to LEARN together, Are *YOU* ready to **DIG IN**?



JR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays 10:00 AM St Luke Room

BE BOLD Sunday school curriculum gives your preteens exactly what they need—validation of their faith questions, and a place to connect as they explore those questions together. And we'll guide you every step of the way as you become their conversation guide...and fellow explorer. Bible lessons that are relevant, packed with rich meaning that applies to their lives today. We are ready to LEARN together and BE BOLD for Christ!

SR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sundays 10:00 AM

St Mark Room

We will be working the Group's LIVE curriculum, engaging teens where they are in the world today. And

today's teenagers are starving for "more of Jesus"—not just more information, but a deeper, richer, truer encounter of him. LIVE Jesus-Centered Life unlocks the door to deeper conversations and explorations that satisfy this hunger.

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP TIME

Our next meeting **Sunday March 6th** after church at Basha's Food Court at 11:40 – Contact

Valerie Hammons or Peggy Jo Harwick for more information. We would love to see you and share where we have seen the hand of God in our lives.



Dates to Remember

SALSA FUNDRAISER EVENT

Saturday April 30th Prep Day EVENT on Sunday May 1st, After Church

CONFIRMATION

Coming Soon

MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSIONS TRIP

May 31—June 3

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the Dates June 12-17 & Sunday June 19th



Please save your Southwest decorations for us

Contact Valerie or Peggy Jo for more information or to Sign Up

Explore the Many Ways to Give to the Church

There are many ways to give to the Church that make it easier for you, as well as helping the church finance team reduce their workload. Please consider one of the following:

Online Giving Using 3 Easy Methods Using Your Credit or Debit Card

Vista UMC Website:

On our Vista UMC website click the "**Donate**" link. You can set-up regular payments or do one-time gifts with your credit card through Vanco, which is a very safe site used by more than 25,000 churches nationally and recommended by the UMC. We have used it for many years. You can donate to the General Fund or the Mortgage Reduction Fund.

Cash Giving Through Your Bank and Investment Accounts

Automatic Clearing House - ACH

Another option is to set up an ACH transfer between your bank and the church's bank. Contact our Assistant Financial Secretary Mary Berg.

Bank Bill Pay

You can set up paying a gift directly to Vista through your bank. Contact your banker for further information. (The church uses this method for all reoccurring monthly bills.)

IRA Gift From Your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)

Retirees ages 70 ½ or older can transfer money *tax free* directly from their IRA to a charity such as Vista UMC and it can count towards your RMD (Required Minimum Distribution). It is important to consult your Financial Adviser to set this up properly. *Please contact Dennis Kimmel, Financial Secretary*

Stock Gifts

Please contact Dennis Kimmel, Financial Secretary, for the process.

Church Contact Info

Office Hours Monday-Friday 9-5, Closed 12-1 for lunch. Phone: 520-825-1985 vistaumc.org@gmail.com

March 2022 Finance Committee Report

January Income was \$613 over budget, but \$1,832 less than last year. Expenses plus mortgage payment were -\$924 under budget. General Fund Net Income after our mortgage payment was \$9,430. Our General Fund Net Income was \$8,238 over budget. Our General Operating Fund is \$114,857 due to many prepaid pledges and annual pledges completed in January.

We now owe \$396,243 on our mortgage!!!! At the end of February, it will be under \$350,000!

Attendance was 601 in person and a total of 1,755 with Live Streaming and Facebook views. This is an average of 351 weekly.

Sharon Scanlan, Finance Chair

March Celebrations

Birthdays

David Alligood	03.01 Jim Holman		03.02	Liz Zebal	03.05
Jim Hedrick	03.06	Dave Bixby	03.07	Linda Bretz	03.09
Bob Logan	0309	Nancy Brackett	03.10	Cayla Kelly	03.11
Lou Phillippi	Lou Phillippi 03.11		03.12	Fran Hampton	03.13
Anne Groth 03.14		Walt Roberson	03.17	Susan Ruff <mark>i</mark> ni	03.18
Robert Hilton 03.19		Pete Rice	03.19	Marty Lenzini	03.23
Marshall Sanders 03.23		John Crown	03.24	Alexis Extract	03.24
Pastor Fred Baum 03.25		Marge Allen	03.27	Oliv <mark>ia A</mark> llen	03.27
Dottie Lou Colby	03.27	Barbara Powers	03.27	Pete Schwartz	03.28
Phyllis Spencer	03.29	Alice August	03.31		

Anniversaries

Ronald & Juan Venhuizen	03.06	Boyd & Karon Carpenter	03.10
Ron & Linda Olson	03.15	Ed & Lynn Kelley	03.18
Linda & Stephen Zello-McCotter	03.27	Paul & Janet Arnett	03.28

VISTA 90 YEARS PLUS CLUB

Are you turning 90 years old in 2022? If so, you are eligible to join the "Vista 90 Years Plus Club"!! If you are already 90 or older, feel free to join the fun!

We will need a recent picture of you. If you have a picture in the church directory, let us know if you want to use it. If not, arrangements can be made to take a picture after a Sunday church service. If you have a good picture, you want used, please email it to Delores.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 18, 2022, for celebrating this special occasion! Your picture will be shown on a poster and slide show during the service.

Invitations will be mailed out closer to the date; however, we will need your correct birth date and picture for the master listing by August 1st, whether you plan to attend.

Interested folks should contact Delores Brindle (see church directory for info).

Blessings, Delores Brindle









April Celebrations

Birthdays

Ilene Nevins	04/02	Janet Bukes	04/03	Leo Smith	04/06
Joanne Bes <mark>ch</mark>	04/07	Linda Olson	04/07	Nancy Phillipi	04/07
Clif Extract	04/08	Linda Ward	04/09	Jim Simon	04/11
L <mark>inda Ze</mark> llo	04/12	Lois Cooke	04/14	Jane Rytter	04/17
Beler Watts	04/17	Cliff Terry	04/18	Kim Luckman	04/19
Jim Jackson	04/22	Donna Langwig	04/22	Linda Miller	04/23
Michael Moyer	04/24	lain Noonan	04/24	Edgar Jensen	04/26
Fern Salava	04/27	Denny Iceman	04/29	Richard Reynolds	04/26

Anniversaries

Marvin & Jean Rupe	04/03	Charles & Sandra Crown	04/06
Ken & Sharon Hunt	04/09	Delores & Kermit Brindle	04/13
Harry & Sharon Poole	04/13	Mike & Pam Kravitz	04/15
Lou & Nancy Phillipi	04/20	Joe & June Young	04/21
Don & Betty Little	04/29		

Rodeo Sunday Celebration!

Cowgirls, cowboys, and cowkids came together on Sunday, February 20th, to celebrate Vista's Rodeo Sunday.

The congregation was greeted by coordinated ushers, dressed in their Western best attire. In no time, our sanctuary was filled up with western hats, clothing including belt buckles and a wide variety of boots.

Outside, Vista's energetic youth from the Family Ministries group, under the watchful eyes of Pastoral Minister, Valerie, and Office Manager, Peggy Jo, were busy getting ready for a Spudbuild it yourself buffet. As the crowd was dismissed from the service, the tables outside in the patio quickly filled up with enthusiastic guests.

However, the event wasn't quite over! An excited group of children greeted "Charlie", a beautiful white horse and his owner, Ron Olson, also from Vista's membership. Charlie loved the attention as each child got their ride, making a beautiful ending to a wonderful occasion.











VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

3001 EAST MIRAVISTA LANE TUCSON, AZ 85739

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM Closed 12-1 for Lunch PHONE 520-825-1985

E-mail: VistaUMC.org@gmail.com

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AND AT OUR WEBSITE: www.Vistaumc.org



March 2022

NON PROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE

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TUCSON, AZ

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Connect & Grow 2022

Lenten Mortgage Challenge is Here!

Starting **Ash Wednesday March 2nd**, we will begin our 2nd Annual challenge.

Our donor is putting up \$45,000.00 this year as a challenge for matching gifts. Praise God for her faithfulness and love of our Church. Her hope is that we soon pay off this mortgage so we can redirect money to the ministry and mission of Vista Church. For more information see the mailer sent out last week.

Wednesday March 2nd
from 8am to 1pm
in front of the
Education & Administration building

We are doing this to connect with our members and neighbors in the immediate area of Vista Church. The last time we did this over 100 people came thru

With Vista UMC