



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes

December

Connect & Grow 2022

Pastor's Pen

Dear members and friends of Vista Church, as we go from the season of our finance campaign and Thanksgiving to the seasons of Advent and Christmas I have been struck once again about the importance of us being together with one another and all the forces conspiring to keep us apart. We are in a time of testing. In times like this I go back to the phrase in the Lord's Prayer which we pray asking God, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." This is a deepfelt pray to God asking that "we not be led into a time in which there is hard testing or trial in our life," but if God in his providence or simply the evil of this world we find ourselves there. We ask that "we not fall to abandoning our faith and practice" but stand strong in our faith despite all that might come. There are several layers to this phrase in this prayer. One is to simply be protected from evil. The second, deeper prayer is "but if not to resist the evil and hold onto our faith."

Covid, the lockdowns, politics, our denominational issues all seek to divide us and to abandon the most basic expression of our faith and that is meeting with each other. These and more seek to drag us from each other's presence and the presence of the Lord in worship. Resist these forces with all your being and the power of praying that phrase of the Lord's prayer over and over. "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

Seek to live in faith over fear. Seek to live in love over hate. Seek to live with open hearts not hearts filled with suspicion and division. Seek to live like the Lord who though persecuted never stopped living in love for us. Seek to live in hope and peace.

Jesus said, "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." Jn. 14:27 and "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Jn. 14:33

My friends, in this season of Advent and Christmas let us all be overcomers. Let us all seek to meet with each other as often as we can. Let us love one another and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

With sincere determination and love,

Pastor Fred

*The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world.*



Compassion Connection

Orland Burbey, Rev. Alan Campbell, Dr. Chuck Crown,
Jan Crown, Slim Crowson, Steven Extract, Alexis Extract,
Kay Gragg, Bill Gureck, Jack Groenier Sr., Bill Gureck,
Fran Hampton, Anne Hilton, Peggy Hoeft, Jackie Holden,
Pam Holder, Jim Holman, Jan Hopke-Almer, Allen Phillips,
Ken & Sharon Hunt, Dottie McIntyre, Margaret Overman,
Sharon Poole, Karen Rice, Art Schweitzer, Leo Smith,
Marilyn Waldo

Home Bound

Rev. John Davies, Florence Duckett,
Bob & Eileen Herd, Barbara Horton,
Don & Betty Little



Hospice Care

Dorothy Conner, Jeanne Farnum, Barry Shuman

In Memorium

Jo Anne Besch and Paul Hampton

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:

December 2022

Chaplains & Counselors in the South District

The Inn Project, Tucson
TMM Family Services—people served & staff, Tucson

And

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

Notes From Members

PASTOR FRED and ALL of VISTA -

Out, I so appreciate our continuing close connection -
THANK YOU!!

We would also appreciate your thoughts & prayers for my Art! He is in REHAB in a Los Rios Hospital - He had a fall in Jun 23rd even after Church with you!! We are praying & praying for his discharge 11-11-22!!

Our Best -
Dorothy

11-1-22
Pastor Fred,
It is with sadness that we have to cancel our membership to Vista VMC. We have sold our home in Oro Valley - and also our camper - so we will not be spending our winters in Arizona. We will miss you all - your wonderful sermons, Pastor Fred, being in the chair under the direction of Marshall (S. Bill) and the wonderful fellowship of the church. Thank you!

Love and Blessings,

Bernie & Diane Mada

P.S. If any of you get to Co. stop by - would love to see you!

Supporting Worship Opportunities



Christmas Poinsettias

As in Christmases past, Vista again offers you the opportunity to make memorial donations to purchase poinsettias which will be added to our sanctuary decorations beginning on Sunday December 18th. Names of those honored by these contributions will be printed in the bulletin. Envelopes in which to place these order forms and your payment will be available in a basket in the back of the sanctuary on Sunday December 4th – 11th. Wednesday December 14th will be the very last Sunday to place your order.

Order Form

Name: _____ Contact Info: _____

_____ # of poinsettias @ \$10 Each = Total Amount of \$ _____

Given in honor of: _____

Given in memory of: _____

Payment must accompany your order. Please make checks payable to Vista UMC.

If you wish to take your poinsettia home, please wait until after the Christmas Service on Sunday the 25th.



2023 FLOWER DONATIONS

The 2022 Flower Chart is in the Narthex. If there is an occasion for which you would like to celebrate (Birthday, Anniversary, In Honor of, In Memory of, or in Celebration of an event) please let us help you announce it by ordering a flower arrangement to be displayed at the Altar on Sunday. Sign up in the Narthex or contact Janet Arnett at 719-323-4806, or the church office at 520-825-1985. Thank you!



FROM THE FLOWER GUILD



We are asking that all glass and basket containers that have been taken home while you enjoyed your flowers, please be returned to the Church Kitchen this month. We need them for preparing our Fall and Winter arrangements. We only desire these vessels, so please, no donation containers at this time are requested. We know that the COVID months hindered the return of these items, but we need them as soon as possible.

Stephen Ministry

Blue Christmas Service

Not feeling "in the Christmas Spirit this year?"

The Blue Christmas service is for those who feel at odds with or estranged from the general feeling of joy and happiness typically associated with this time of year.

Perhaps you are facing a holiday after the death of a loved one, after a divorce or you feel pressured and overwhelmed by holiday preparations.

The Blue Christmas Worship Service will be in the sanctuary on
Wednesday, December 14th at 3:00 PM



Adult Education

Adult Classes

BEFORE CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday 8:45 AM—9:45 AM St Matthew Room

The Wired Word will be offered before church Sunday morning. The Wired Word 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 11:20 AM—12:45 PM St Matthew Room

This class has been meeting for some 20 yrs. There have been a variety of teachers. Currently, Linda Whittington is the teacher now for over 8 yrs. The class has a wonderful opportunity to pray, watch a meaningful video study with discussion following & fellowship.

Sunday, Nov. 27, we will be starting a 4 week study for Advent called "Who Needs Christmas" by Andy Stanley. It will conclude Dec. 18. This ongoing class provides a welcoming atmosphere for everyone and especially enjoys including new members.

To join, please contact Donna Boring. For questions, please contact Linda Whittington.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN Thursdays 10:00 AM

This class has been in weekly session for over 2 years. It uses the Upper Room Lectionary study entitled Disciplines, A Book of Daily Devotions. The class includes daily Bible and devotional readings which are discussed during the class.

THE REDEMPTION OF SCROOGE *DECEMBER 7, 14, & 21*

Wednesdays 10:00 AM Elizabeth Room

This Advent class takes the familiar story of Scrooge and applies it to our Christian Faith. Is the redemption possible for Scrooge? The book by Max Rawle is available at both Amazon and Cokesbury for \$9.79. Be sure to buy the book and not the leader's guide because the guide doesn't have the material you will need.

Children, Youth & Young Adult

WOW (Worship on Wednesday)



Wednesday nights have been filled with our families with children. Such an amazing blessing to be in ministry and worship with these incredible families!

For more information see Valerie Hammons or Peggy Jo Harwick

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays 10:00 AM St John Room

JR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays 10:00 AM St Luke Room

SR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays 10:00 AM St Mark Room



Dates to Remember

WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS (WOW)

Families of Vista—join us on Wednesdays at 6PM in the Elizabeth Room.

Activities for all family members.

YOUTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE Summer 2023

CONFIRMATION 2023

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP TIME

Our next meeting will be Sunday December 4th.

We meet 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.



Contact Valerie or Peggy Jo
for more information

Opportunities

Women in Faith Fundraiser Jewelry Boutique

Sunday, December 4th before and after church for a jewelry boutique, Christmas gifting opportunity for children and grandchildren and the sale of Christmas decorations and homemade cookies. This sale is sponsored by Vista's United Women in Faith/United Methodist Women. Come prepared to shop at our fabulous sale.

Vista's Remembrance Garden

Please consider ordering a personalized brick honoring a spouse, child, parent, family, and/or pets. The engraved bricks are \$125.

Please complete one of the forms located either in the Narthex or the Church Office, and then deliver it to the church office with your check.

Help Needed Landscaping

Our amazing Landscape Crew is in need of helpers—Contact Leo Smith for more information.



Join Us on Thursday mornings from 7-9 AM.

Thank you for keeping up the landscaping and the beauty of our desert campus. We look forward to working with you!

Family Game Night

Tuesday December 27th 6:00 PM Elizabeth Room

We are looking forward to sharing this time with you and your family. Join us for this fun monthly event in the Elizabeth Room. 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.



Sunday Morning Coffee & Fellowship

Thanks to our great volunteers who made and served coffee or cookies after church in November: Alice Ann Lenzini, Benith MacPherson, Kathy Isaac, Sue Hedrick, Linda Whittington, Anne Groth and Leslie Hawkins. You are much appreciated!

We are looking for someone to coordinate volunteers for Sunday refreshments. If you can help in this capacity, Please call the church office or Anne Hilton.



Eyeglasses+ Collection



HOW DO I
DONATE MY
SPECS?

Thank you for all your donations of old and unwanted hearing aides, eyeglasses, cases & cell phones.

There are a couple donation boxes on the church campus—in the Narthex and the Main Office.

... And More Connection Opportunities

Online Calendar

Please check our website for an up to date calendar and for more details on meetings and events.



Scan here
for online
calendar

United Women in Faith United Methodist Women

United Women in Faith/United Methodist Women Christmas stockings will be distributed on Sunday December 4th. Pick up a stocking or two and fill with personal items for women. Please return the filled stocking by Sunday, December 18th. These stockings will be given to the women at Eagles Wings of Grace. Thank you!



Merry Christmas

District Office New Number

602.798.8236

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.

Thank you for your continued support!



Missions Ministry

The Grocery Cart will be back out on the patio to collect your food donations for

Impact's Catalina Food Bank

Every Sunday in December

This is an important service to our community as our Food Bank distributes more than 460 bags monthly, totaling nearly 4,000 lbs. of food, along with an additional 1,300 lbs. of pantry goods, and thousands of pounds of produce, meat and dairy each month. So let's give thanks for our blessings and share them with others, to prevent hunger. If you prefer to donate funds, please put "Food Bank" in the memo line of your check.



Did You Know?

YOU CAN GET THE ECHOES BY EMAIL?

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT
VISTAUMC.ORG@GMAIL.COM

Article Deadlines

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

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

Missions Ministry

Mission Outreach Ministry December '22

You crown the year with your abundance. Your carts overflow with abundance.

Psalms 65:11

Impact Food Bank still needs our help! Supplies are critically low as more and more families are in need of assistance. Impact needs our help in meeting the food needs of our community for the remainder of the year, they were very grateful for our increased donations in November.

Please consider purchasing one or two of these items each week throughout the month of December. The grocery carts will be in the courtyard each Sunday—let's fill them up. Thank you for responding to the needs of neighbors in our community.

Food Needs

Rice Peanut Butter Tuna Pasta Boxed Dinners
Canned goods Dried Beans Shelf Stable Items

Mission Outreach Ministry

I want to wish all of you a very Happy Advent Season as we once again celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. My what a year it has been, as we all attempt to get back to what we thought was once a normal life! These past 3 years have been a challenge but God has been with us and helped us to carry on with our Mission Program at Vista. Thank you so much for all the support you have given us across this time.

Once again, we were able to return to our sister church Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta Mexico, for the Celebration of Learning Festival. We were blessed to have 35 passengers on our touring bus as it made its way thru Douglas AZ. to Agua Prieta. The border crossings were challenging but it was a very small and a short example of what this experience might be like for the thousands of immigrants who come to our border each month. We had the right passes that got us across both sides, but so many wait months to try to cross into our land. It was such a joy to see all our brothers & sisters as well as the youth of our sister church, and to see all the improvements that have been made to the campus. The vast majority of our passengers were going for the 1st time and we were so pleased to have them aboard and have them meet some of their sponsored students. A lovely program was prepared for us with a local Folkloric dance troop, who did 3 beautiful numbers. Pastor Fred gave words of greeting from Vista and we handed out 24 framed Certificates of Achievement and also supplied their mothers with a lovely gift bag, in recognition of their efforts to keep their children in school. Following the program and all the picture taking, we were treated to a nice lunch made by the Women's Co-op. And then the fun began as we started all the games and opened the prize room. What joy to see the kids picking out a prize for a winning game. Within an hour the prize room was just about empty and the kids had their hands full of cool things. This event has become a main stay in these students lives, so you can just imagine how much they had anticipated our return for the annual festival. Many of you have asked me about sending your student a Christmas gift. It is our hope that Pastor Gela will join us for the Cantada on Dec. 11th. If you wish to send a gift, please have it at Vista before that date so she can deliver your package to Agua Prieta. Any questions, please give me a call.

While we were there, we were given a box of 60 dozen new cards to sell at Vista. I will be in the narthex for the next few weeks to offer them to you for only 50 cents. Please stop by and take a look at their lovely handywork. We have cards for Christmas as well as All Occasions. This card money makes a big difference in the lives of these women who share their artistic skills with us.

Cont'd

Mission Outreach Ministry

Cont'd

For those of you who did not get to go this year, get your passports up to date and plan to join us on October 28th 2023.

Esperanza en Escalante, a housing facility for homeless military Vets and their families, need help with replacing some of the old stoves and appliances. We want to help those who have served our country and now need some help themselves. Please see Paul Arnette or Peggy Smith for information, and if you have appliances that are in good working order that can replace some of the older worn out ones at Escalante.

In Dec. and Jan., we begin the "Warm Winter" collection of bedding, sweaters, coats etc. as well as socks for the Clothing Bank at Impact. We will have a box in the Narthex to receive your contributions to this local cause. See Benith MacPherson for further information.

We are looking for some of our good Vista folks who have sewing machines to join Jan Bohe and the Creative Hands group to help make children's clothes for Family 1st as well as the clothing bank at Impact. Jan will be happy to teach you how to cut out the patterns etc. She is really in need of some help. This is a fun thing to do and you can take some of this work home with you and work on it there. So, ladies; dust off your sewing machines and join in this very creative & fun experience.

We are asking for the donation of socks, and women's clean underwear, as well as closed sturdy shoes in good condition, for the women of Sister Jose Homeless Women's Center. These Women live on the streets and good tennis shoes or closed shoes will be a big help for them as they navigate the streets of Tucson. Please contact Gene & Diane Bywater for further information.

We thank you for your continued support of the Food Bank at Impact. Your contribution is a real blessing to our community as we try to help the needy. Please see Benith MacPherson or Linda Galka for further information as to how you might help. A special "thank you" goes out to Leslie Hawkins who is our food carrier to the Impact Food Bank in Catalina.

I want to thank you for your support for the food needs in our community thru your giving to the Thanksgiving offering. Your support helps us assist the Snak Pak program at Coronado school for 60 children. Please see Diane Coleman for further information.

The Family 1st Diaper Center in Oracle needs diapers, not only for babies & toddlers, but also adults. If you are interested in helping, please see Glenna Snider for further information.

To our Vista Family, I have given you a number of ways to help our Mission Outreach Ministry not only by your resources, but also your time, as Volunteers are always needed to carry on these various missions. This year you might want to make a gift to a family member by making a donation to any of these programs as a Christmas gift in their names. The Roach Scholarship Program for Secondary Education for the University or Tech School students in Agua Prieta would be a great idea as a way to honor a family member. Helping others in their name just might be a real blessing to them, and at the same time be a blessing to one in need.

In January Linda Galka will begin the job of being your Chairman of Vista's Mission Outreach Ministry. I know she will do an outstanding job. Please lift her up in your prayers as she undertakes this new job. It has truly been my privilege to chair this program for the last 20 years. I don't have the words to ever thank you enough for all your support across these years. "May God have the glory". I will still be helping with our ministry to Agua Prieta and the Memorial Day fund for the Hearts Apart program at Davis Monthan AFB in Tucson.

Our last Mission meeting of the year, will be on Wed. the 14th of Dec. at 1:30 PM in the St. Matthew Room. As always, all our meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend. It is our prayer that those whom we serve, will see the face of Jesus thru us. Thank you for making that happen!

Merry Christmas Yours in Mission Service: Dee Berman Tompkins.....Chairman



Finance

December 2022 Finance Committee Report

Month: October Income was \$1,051 over budget. Expenses were (\$184) under budget. Income was (\$4,497) less than last year and expenses were \$2,098 more than last year. General Fund Net Income after our mortgage payment was (\$6,294), which was \$684 over budget. There are 3 payroll periods in October so payroll expenses are about \$10,000 higher than the average month. This happens twice a year since we pay every two weeks. Our income was (\$1,208) less than 2021 and our expenses were (\$1,252) less than last year.

YTD: Through the first 10 months, we continue to be very close to our income and expense budgets. Year-to-date we are \$2,489 over our income budget and (\$33,797) less than last year. Expenses plus mortgage payments are (\$1,964) under budget resulting in a YTD General Fund Net Income that is \$4,453 over budget, but (\$21,750) less than last year.

We now owe \$290,741 on our mortgage!!!! As of mid-November 2022, we have received \$41,575 or 92.3% of our \$45,000 Lenten Challenge. If you would like to donate to the Mortgage Reduction Fund, please click the Donate link on our website to charge a gift, or write a check to Vista and indicate Mortgage Reduction on the Memo line.

We are in the process of preparing the 2023 Expense budget. It will be finalized in early December after the completion of the Stewardship Campaign. Thanks to Jim Galka for chairing the Stewardship campaign and all of his committee members!!

Finance Team: Sharon Scanlan, Darrell Parson, Dennis Kimmel and Mary Berg

Scan here
for online
donations



How To Make The Most Of Year End Giving

The landscape for charitable giving has undergone a lot of changes in recent years. At this time of year, people are usually considering Charitable giving as part of their tax strategy. It provides support to our churches so they can continue to operate and respond to emergencies and at the same time ensures that their charitable dollars are aligned with the donors' personal values and missions.

Here are four strategies when you consider a Vista Endowment contribution:

Qualified Charitable Distributions: Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) must be taken in 2022. If you haven't taken the RMD in 2022, you may consider using your RMD as a donation to Endowment. For donors taking a standard deduction, a qualified charitable distribution is a possible option. If you are age 70-1/2 and over, you can donate up to \$100,000 from an IRA. This satisfies the RMD, as long as the gift goes directly to a charity, not a Donor Advised Fund.

Contributions of Appreciated Stock: To make a gift in the most tax-efficient way possible, a donation of appreciated stock is a wise move. Donors receive a charitable income tax deduction and avoid a capital gains tax.

Charitable Bequests: Many have made Endowment part of their estate plan. The uncertainty around income tax reform includes estate taxes, and pro-active individuals are now reviewing their estate plans with their attorneys for any needed updates.

December Celebrations

Birthdays

Bill Daniels	12/01	Curtis Hotchkiss	12/01	Shirley Miller	12/01
Jerry Koelling	12/05	Alice Ann Lenzini	12/05	William Powers	12/06
Marilyn Waldo	12/08	Stuart Watkins	12/09	Marlin Bolar	12/10
Kathleen Smith	12/10	Jean Agnew	12/16	Paul Miller	12/17
Carol Curtis	12/18	Cynthis Karcher	12/19	Fred Bull	12/21
Charlotte De Windt	12/22	Linda Griffin	12/23	Von Ceil Bleess	12/24
Don August	12/25	Marvin Rupe	12/25	Glenda McFarland	12/28
Betty Little	12/30	George Smith	12/30		

Anniversaries

Jay & Louise O'Donald	12/01	Lisa & Justin Sinohui	12/01
Dick & Ilene Nevins	12/08	Curtis & Michelle Hotchkiss	12/15
Gene & Diane Bywater	12/18	Tom & Linda Floyd	12/28

January Celebrations

Birthdays

Dr. Larry Holden	01/02	AJ Hernandez	01/03	Walter Reifsnyder	01/05
Janelle Arthur	01/07	Dennis Higgins	01/07	Kourtney Hotchkiss	01/07
Ursula Price	01/08	Shirley Devries	01/12	Thomas Wittkoski	01/13
Mia Tonga	01/14	Roman Aguirre	01/15	Diane Coleman	01/15
Robin Conner	01/17	Joyce Holman	01/17	Char Dedrick	01/18
Jane Reifsnyder	01/18	Lori Campbell	01/20	Valerie Fowler	01/21
Linda Davis	01/22	Nancy Yob	01/23	Norm Williams	01/24
Michelle Aguirre	01/28	Donna Goins	01/29	Sara Thompson	01/29
Rebecca Harwick	01/30				

Anniversaries

Don & Pat Smith	01/01	Pam & Craig Holder	01/06
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VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC
3001 EAST MIRAVISTA LANE
TUCSON, AZ 85739

MONDAY - THURSDAY
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



December 2022

NON PROFIT ORG

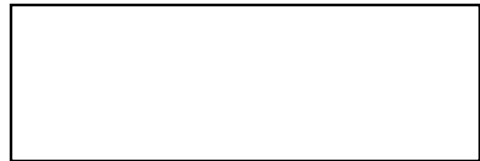
U.S. POSTAGE

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TUCSON, AZ

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Celebrate the Christmas Season with us!



Christmas Cantata

December
11th

10:00 AM

(During Worship)

"Touched by a
Child"

Vista Chancel
Choir, Bell Choir,
and Chamber
Orchestra
Children's
Performance

Blue Christmas

December 14th
3:00 PM

A special holiday
service designed for
those for whom the
holidays might be
difficult. If you
have undergone a
difficult loss,
transition, or life
change, Vista
Church cares about
you and invites you
to a special time of
music and worship.

Christmas Eve December 24th

3:00 PM
Carols &
Communion

7:00 PM
Carols, Com-
munion &
Candlelight

Christmas Morning Worship

10:00 AM

Join us as
we joyfully
celebrate
the baby
Jesus.

For more details contact The Church Office @ 520-825-1985 Or email: vistaumc.org@gmail.com

The Church Office Will Be **CLOSED** — Monday December 26th & Monday January 2nd