



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes

Connect & Grow 2023

Pastor's Pen—March 9, 2023

Dear members and friends of Vista Church,

THE STARFISH

A story is told of a little girl walking down the beach at low tide. As the tide went out it stranded 1000s of starfish on the beach. As the girl walked she would pick up one starfish after another and toss it back into the ocean. Her friend who was walking with her looked up and down the beach with the 1000s of stranded starfish that were slowly dying in the sun. It seemed they were lined up for miles. The friend then said to the little girl as she was about to pitch another starfish into the ocean, "What does it matter. There's so many of them." The little girl replied "It matters to this one as she tossed it back into the water."

My last look at the numbers of Ukrainians that have fled the Russian invasion of their country was 4 million. 1.5 million of those who have fled are children. It seems like throwing starfish back at low tide helping any of them, but we as a church are in the process of helping three. Their names are Maksym (the dad), Kateryna (the wife) and Oleksandra (the 18 year old daughter who fled the second semester of her freshman year). Sometime in the next several months, these three will arrive and we will help them get a new start in life, arriving with just a couple of suitcases. Some indeed in our congregation know what it is to flee a war torn country for the safety of America. I asked for volunteers to step up last Sunday and 35 people stepped forward. Do we know exactly what we are going to do? No. Will it be expensive and time-consuming? I think so but I believe when we stand before the Judgement seat of Jesus we will hear these words: "Well done good and faithful servants for I was a stranger and you welcomed me!"

Watch the bulletin for more opportunities to help and give to support this family's new start in America. The Mission Committee is sponsoring this and has set up an account to receive donations. Last year our congregation gave over \$18,000.00 to help in Ukraine. We are going to need about \$3000.00 for the first three months of their arrival. They want to come to America and work and they are already researching jobs here in the Tucson area. They want to be productive, contributing members of our society, because they are probably never going home. Their hometown was shelled and occupied the first day of the Russian invasion and it is still under occupation. No last names will be given for they still have relatives in that area in Ukraine.

Thank you all for joining in this journey of faith!

In Christ's service,

Pastor Fred

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

United in Prayer

Compassion Connection

In Need of Continued Prayers for Healing

Orland Burbey, Rev. Alan Campbell, Jan Crown, Dr. Chuck Crown, Slim Crowson, Steven Extract, Alexis Extract, Kay Gragg, Bill Gureck, Fran Hampton, Peggy Hoeft, Jackie Holden, Pam Holder, Jim Holman, Ken & Sharon Hunt, Margaret Overman, Allen Phillips, Sharon Poole, Karen Rice, Fern Salava, Art Schweitzer, Leo Smith, Tricia Pohnert

Home Bound

George & Kat Bauder, Rev. John Davies, Florence Duckett, Bob & Eileen Herd, Barbara Horton, Don & Betty Little, Marilyn Waldo, Meagan and Tiffany Spencer and Walt Roberson

Hospice Care

Dorothy Conner, Barry Shuman

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, 2023

El Mesias UMC, Nogales

First UMC, Bowie

First UMC, Eloy

And our sister church, Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico

2023 FLOWER DONATIONS

The 2023 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 Sundays. Sign up in the Narthex, or contact Diane Coleman, or the church office at

520-825-1985. Thank you!



Please enjoy your arrangement! Once the container provided is no longer in use, it can be returned here at Vista Church for re-use.

Children, Youth & Young Adult



(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!

Join us for fellowship, fun and learning.

For more information see Valerie Hammons



Church Potluck

Join us Sunday, March 26th (after Worship in the Elizabeth Room) as we celebrate!

Pastor Fred's Birthday and meet our Ukrainian Family.

A-L Please bring a main dish

M - Z Please bring a salad or side



Youth 2023 Homemade Salsa and Chips Sunday for the Vista youth trip. Donation Board available.

April 30th

Come get hooked!
Join us for Crochet 101 and Potholder Looming. All ages. 2nd Sunday each month

After Worship in the Luke Room. (through the Elizabeth room)

PB and Jelly Sandwiches included.



Facilitated by Vista's Young Adults.

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



SPRING BAKE SALE—Sunday, March 19, 1012 in the breezeway—Vista Women's Fellowship sponsored before and after church. All funds received will benefit our local charity.

Contact Valerie
for more information

Opportunities

Online Calendar

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

www.vistaumc.org/calendar/

Scan here
for online
calendar



Family Game Night

Every fourth Wednesday of each Month in the
Elizabeth Room!

We are looking forward to sharing this time with you and your family. Join us for this fun monthly event that occurs every fourth Tuesday of each month 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. Or, feel free to talk with Loni on Sundays.

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 still hard at work and always looking for more helpers—Please Contact Leo Smith or Ron Olson for more information.



Join Us on Thursday
mornings from 8-10 AM.

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

Sunday Morning Coffee and Fellowship

Thanks to our great volunteers who made and served coffee or cookies after church. Thank you to all who have assisted and provided these items. You are much appreciated!

Our new coordinator for this event is Lisa Sinohui. If you can help us, please call the Church and ask for Lisa!

Passion Musical Drama to be Presented Sunday, April 2 at 10:00am

We have started our choir rehearsals for "Followers of the Lamb" to be presented on Palm Sunday, April 2. **It is not too late to join the Cantata Choir.** We are also looking for actors....If you were a part of the Walk to Bethlehem and enjoyed the experience, please speak to Jane Anderson—we need you!! vistaUMCmusic@gmail.com

... And More Connection Opportunities

Shepherd's of Vista

I love a new year, full of unknowns, new beginnings and chances to "get it right". Vista's brand slogan, "Connect and Grow" will continue for 2023.

Vista has a small group of folks who are making a difference and helping Vista connect to the Congregation. It is a small, but rewarding, commitment and involves calling a short list of the same folks several times per year. We're beginning our third year and while I'm hearing positive thoughts from the Committee, we still need more Shepherds to call those currently without an assigned Shepherd.

This is a perfect way for those who want to get involved quietly, and perhaps, make a new friend or two...or three....I talked to one parishioner who is the recipient of such calls and she stated how much it means to her to be remembered and cared for. That is what Vista is all about.

We will have a meeting at a later date to kick off our plans for the remainder of the year and discuss new possibilities. We would love to add you to our team!

Blessings, Robin Conner, Shepherd's Chair.

(Contact me from the church directory or call the office: 520-825-1985)



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

Mission Moments

I was without clothes, and you gave me something to wear...Matthew 25:36 NCV

Creative Hands Ministry

Hats off to Jan Bohe and her creative dedication to children in need in our community. On January 27, 2023 she delivered 6 sets of P.J.'s, six burp cloths, six fleece hats and four pairs of pants to Impact's Loving Threads Clothing Bank—hand made in just one month! Family First, recently featured Jan and Jan Hopke-Almer highlighting Vista's generous donations of these items and other much needed items such as diapers, which are eagerly purchased in their "Earn While You Learn" Store. Thank you Vista for your continuing generosity. Later this month, during coffee hour, you will have an opportunity to see some of these items and talk with Jan. Please consider joining her in this vital mission in our plans and sponsorship of our Ukrainian family. Vista's commitment is to provide \$1,000 per month for a three month period. Thanks to Paul Arnett for his dedication to Esperanza de Escalante. He is stepping down after years of volunteering. Thank you Paul! Peggy Smith will assume the role of contact person. Dee reported that the Roach Fund currently supports four University students (\$1750) and seven High School students (\$1400) in Agua Prieta. **to all!**

ARIZONA SINGS

Catalinas Community Chorus Presents "**ARIZONA SINGS**" with Special Musical Guest **BILL GANZ**. A musical program about Arizona and its music. Sunday, March 26, 2023 @ 3:00 p.m. — Resurrection Lutheran Church, 11575 North First Avenue, Tucson, Arizona

Please see chorus members for additional information: Jan Atwood, Mary or Bill Bellah, Gene Bywater or Marilyn Rutkowski.

Article Deadlines

Echoes—the 20th of each month for the following Month's publication
Bulletin—Tuesdays at Noon for the following Week's publication

Adult Education

To Sign UP Contact Donna Boring

LENTEN STUDY: "THE GRACE OF LES MISERABLES"

Wednesdays 10:00 AM Led by Rev. Lubach March 1—April 5, 2023

This six week Lenten study is based on Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables". Author Reverend Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story -grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love and hope. Each is represented by a character in Hugo's story. The focus is drawing parallels between the story and musical and our Christian calling. The book is available at Amazon, Cokesbury and Abingdon Press.

BEFORE CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday 8:45 AM—9:45 AM Led by Mel McIntyre 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

Sundays 11:20 AM—12:45 PM Led by Linda Whittington 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.

This ongoing class provides a welcoming atmosphere for everyone and especially enjoys including new members.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN

Thursdays 10:00 AM Via ZOOM

This class has been in weekly session for over two 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.

VISTA 90-PLUS CLUB CELEBRATION!

Are you turning 90 years old this year? The Vista Church family would like to include you in the 90- Years Plus Birthday Club celebration on 9/17/2023 at 10 AM. Please call the church office and leave a message for Delores Brindle @ 520-907-5706 with your name and phone number. Delores will call you back and discuss the event with you. Thank You!!

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

—Many people who are grieving wonder if they would benefit from joining a support group. Each individual grieves in their own way but many have found that learning about grief and what to expect and discovering that others have the same feelings they do helps them gain insight into their own grief and learn ways of coping. Most people find that besides receiving support, giving support to others benefits them as they go through their own grief journey. Meetings at Vista Church occur on Thursdays each week @ 1:30 p.m. in the St. Matthews Room.

Missions Ministry

Mission Outreach Ministry

You crown the year with your abundance. Your carts overflow with abundance.
Psalm 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 last year and to date for 2023.

Please consider purchasing one or two of these items. 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 Moments

Behold, I am doing a new thing! Isaiah 43:19

2023! A new year with new possibilities, new challenges, and endless new opportunities for service at Vista Church.

But first, let me introduce myself. I'm Linda, the new facilitator of your mission committee. A daunting responsibility for anyone, let alone someone rather new to Vista. Our beloved Dee Berman-Tompkins has stepped down after 20+ years of tirelessly serving our church, our community, and our sister church in Agua Prieta. But thankfully, she will remain on the committee focusing on our mission outreach at Fuente de Vida.

So, as we begin a new chapter in missions, I'm asking for your input. How can we better serve our community? How would you like to be involved? How do you see our church moving forward in mission outreach?

My email is lindagalka65@gmail.com

Together, let's move boldly into 2023, imagining the new things God has planned for us.

In His name,

Linda

Finance

March 2023 Finance Committee Report

January 2023 Financial Results: We exceeded our revenue budget by \$2,342 but income was \$14,921 less than last year. Prepaid pledges were \$18,400 vs. \$23,087 in 2022. Expenses plus mortgage payments were \$340 under budget, resulting in a General Fund Net Income that is \$2,682 over budget but \$15,159 less than last year.

January Facebook and In-person attendance increased in 2023. We do not have Boxcast attendance yet.

Mortgage: As of December we owed \$283,039 on our mortgage!!!! As of December 31, we have received \$45,054 or 100.1% 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.

As of January 31, we owe \$234,169 on the Mortgage. Our generous donor made their gift in January.

Stewardship Campaign: As of January 31, 2023 we have 130 pledges for \$358,094, which is \$22,130 less than last year. The average pledge is \$2,7556 vs \$2,832 in 2022. In 2022 we had 136 pledges for \$385,200.

Audits: Dan Boring completed the 2021 Audit. His recommendation is to have two team members who serve in alternating years so that one member will have experience. Dan also recommended an Assistant Treasurer for Succession planning, since all of the knowledge of practices and procedures resides with only the Finance Chair and Treasurer. Additionally, he recommended that when only one counter is available, the deposit should wait until two persons are available. This only occurs during very slow times. There were no procedural recommendations. All of his recommendations have been completed. Anne Hilton was elected Assistant Finance Officer/Treasurer at the February 14, 2023 Church Council meeting and both began the 2022 Audit in February, 2023.

Vista UMC Giving Options

Vista UMC Website or Using the QR Code:

On our Vista UMC website click the ***Donate*** link, or use the QR code on the bulletin. 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.

Cash Giving Through Your Bank and Investment Accounts

Bank Bill Pay

You can set up paying a gift directly to Vista through your bank. Visit your bank's website or contact your broker.

Automatic Clearing House - ACH

Another option is to set up an ACH transfer between your bank and the church's bank. *Please contact Mary Berg, Co-Financial Secretary, gil-martucson@aol.com*

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 Mary Berg, Co-Financial Secretary

Scan here
for online
donations



April, 2023 Celebrations

Anniversaries

KIMMEL, Dennis (1)	04/03	KRAVITZ, Mike & Pam (45)	04/15
RUPE, Marvin & Jean (52)	04/03	PHILLIPPI, Lou & Nancy (43)	04/20
CROWN, Charles & Sandra	04/06	YOUNG, Joe & June (56)	04/21
HUNT, Ken & Sharon	04/09	PROKOP, Frank and KAREN	04/22
BRINDLE, Delores (60)	04/13	LITTLE, Don & Betty (72)	04/29
POOLE, Sharon (12)	04/13		

Birthdays

NEVINS, Ilene	04/02	WATTS, Beler	04/17
BUKES, Janet	04/03	TERRY, Cliff (90)	04/18
BELLAH, Bill	04/05	LUCKMAN, Michael K	04/19
SMITH, Leo	04/06	JACKSON, Jim	04/22
OLSON, Linda	04/07	LANGWIG, Donna	04/22
PHILLIPPI, Nancy	04/07	MILLER, Linda	04/23
ROOKER, Joanie	04/07	MOYER, Michael	04/24
EXTRACT, Clif	04/08	NOONAN, Iain	04/24
WARD, Linda	04/09	JENSEN, J Edgar	04/26
SIMON, Jim	04/11	SALAVA, Fern	04/27
ZELLO-MCCOTTER, Linda Eva	04/12	ICEMAN, Denny	04/29
COOKE, Lois	04/14	REYNOLDS, Richard	04/29
RYTTER, Jane	04/17		



UMM

UMM just had a new solar light system put on the flagpole a little bit ago and the Golder Ranch Fire Department put it up. The Woodburne Fire House did the job for us—small thank you from the UMM was a cake delivered to them to make sure they new how appreciative Vista Church was. They are a really nice group of people!

A 🎵 NOTE FROM JANE

As we move into the Lenten Season, your church musicians are busy preparing special music and programs for you and your friends.

Sunday, April 2, 2023 10:00am Worship Service

"Followers of the Lamb" by Lee and Susan Naus Dengler

You will witness visitors from Jesus' time, describing what they saw and felt as they help us trace the footsteps that led our Savior to the Cross. The choir and orchestra will provide music to help you to identify with Jesus' anguish, pain and sacrifice.

Sunday, April 9, 2023 - Easter Sunday

Worship with us as we sing and ring the Alleluias loud and strong!

Sunday, April 16, 2023 - 3:30pm in the Sanctuary

Join us for a concert presented by Sonoran Bells, the premier Handbell Choir in the Tucson area.

This ensemble is directed by Shannon Casey - Jane Anderson rings with this group and hopes you will support this important musical offering. You will experience different styles and genres of music. The concert is free.

A love offering will be received.

The choir is always looking for new members. Show up in the Elizabeth Room on Wednesdays at 1:00 or speak to Jane Anderson after church.

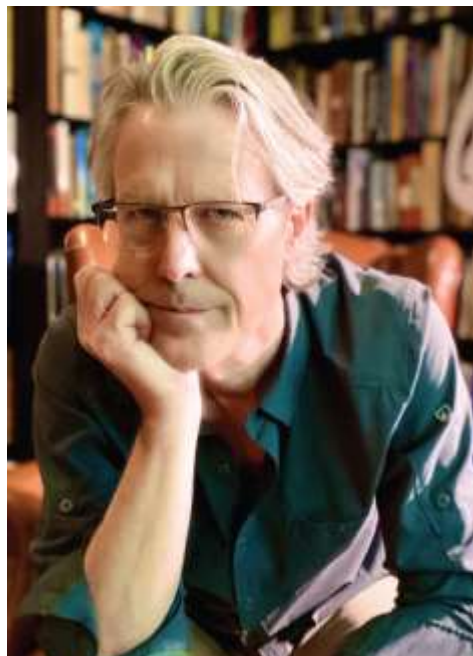
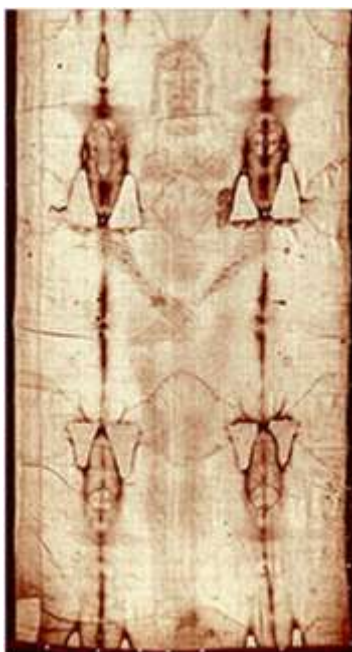
Blessings, Jane

Please contact our Director of Music Ministries, Jane Anderson at vistaumcmusic@gmail.com

**Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church
Presents**

***An Encounter with the Shroud of Turin and the Sudarium of
Oviedo***

Is this the image of Jesus Christ??? That is the question that will be addressed by Doug Powell, an apologist and author from Nashville, Tennessee. The presentation will feature an exact replica of the Shroud of Turin and discuss evidence for and against its authenticity.



**Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. March 19th
Vista de la Montana United Methodist Church
3001 E. Miravista Lane, Tucson Az, 85739
www.vistaumc.org**

RECEPTION FOLLOWING

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



March, 2023

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TUCSON, AZ

PERMIT #648

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



We're a Family
Come Join Us!

Vista Church Easter Services

3001 E Miravista Ln.
@ 15000 N. Oracle Rd

Cantata Sunday (April 2) 10am

Holy Thursday (April 6) 7pm

Good Friday (April 7) 3pm

Easter Sunday (April 9)

6:30am (Outside/Sunrise) & 10:00am

(Live and available at Vistaumc.org and on Facebook)

www.vistaumc.org or 520-825-1985

