



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

# *Echoes*

Connect & Grow 2023

## **Pastor's Pen—April 3, 2023**

Dear members and friends of Vista Church, Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

This is a very appropriate verse for our April Echoes, as within this month we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead which is the basis and validation for all we believe in him. Now this phrase may be taken as “Pie in the sky by and by” statement but one phrase that needs careful attention is “whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.” This focuses our attention away from the Last Judgment and the Resurrection of the dead at which time we get our new eternal bodies; to the here and now on this earth.

Jesus elsewhere says that he came to give us life and life abundantly. We can and do receive new life, resurrected lives in the here and now, and can offer this new life to others as we believe and share our beliefs in word and deed. I have been thinking a lot about our Ukrainian family that we are sponsoring for months and even more so now that they are living in our home, which for a short while, also has become their home. They are a very motivated family with a very good work ethic who very much want to become contributing people in our society. Maksym, whenever he sees an American flag takes a picture and says, “Proud!” They are feeling so blessed to be able to start over their new lives here in America. They come from a family of believers in the Ukraine who are now under occupation. Their parents prayed for their safety and new life, and we as a congregation, are an answer to that prayer.

We are God's hands, arms, voices, and love as we sponsor this family here in America. They are living a new life with the outpouring of your support. I have been blessed to the core of my being by Vista Church's outpouring of love and support. Vista has not only stepped forward in a great way but as they have shared with others what we are doing here, other people, from all sorts of places have volunteered to step up and help as they can.

On behalf of Jesus, I want to say, “Well done good and faithful servants” of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In this season in which we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus you have participated in the offering of new life. And part of the beauty of it is that you will be able to see that lived out in our midst.

In Jesus service and love,

*Rev. Fred C. Baum*

***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***

Kath 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:

**April, 2023**

First UMC, Safford

First UMC, Tucson

Campus Ministry, University  
of Arizona

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

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

April 30th



## 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



### **DINNER FOR SIX**

The Dinner for Six End of the Year Party will be on Sunday, April 30, 2023 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Schwarzes' residence. Please contact Sandy at 520.818.9792 if you plan to attend.

### **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

Vista Women's Fellowship will have our next meeting on April 18, 2023 at 10AM at the church.

Judi Nibbelink will be the guest speaker. Our organization is a community of women whose purpose is to know God, develop a supportive fellowship and support local missions.

We would love to have more women participate in our organization so COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!!

Contact Valerie  
for more information

## **February 2023 YTD**

Income is \$5,444 more than the budget, but \$16,007 less than last year due to less pre-paid pledges. Expenses are \$1,053 over budget and \$6,904 more than 2022. General Fund Net Income is \$1,692 better than our budget but \$24,224 less than last year.

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### **Mortgage:**

We now owe \$229,980 on our mortgage!!!! The Lenten Challenge has begun!!

### **Account Updates:**

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### **Finance Inquiries:**

*All inquiries about Finance issues, including contributions or expense reimbursements should be sent to*

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## **Explore the Many Ways to Give to the Church – Rev. Jan. 19, 2023**

### **Monthly Bill Payment through your bank**

Simply go to your bank's website and schedule a monthly check to Vista. This is the most convenient way to donate and there are no fees involved. Your bank will mail the check to Vista. If you have any questions, please email [Financevistaumc@gmail.com](mailto:Financevistaumc@gmail.com) or ask Mary Berg or Linda Davis on Sunday.

### **Credit Card and Automatic Bank Giving Using the Vista UMC Website or 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. If you have any questions, please email [Financevistaumc@gmail.com](mailto:Financevistaumc@gmail.com).

### **ACH – Automated Clearing House**

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### **Non-cash Gifts to the Church – Stocks or Property**

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### **IRA Gift from your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)**

Retirees ages 73 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.

### **Fry's Community Rewards**

Vista de la Montana UMC is enrolled as a member of Fry's Community Rewards Program. Our Member Number is 22553. Our church will receive a quarterly rebate.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Before you can link your Fry's V.I.P card to an organization, you must have an email address and an on-line account. Then, Choose the Charitable Organization tab and find/select Vista de la Montana UMC and start shopping! Basha's does not have a similar program and Amazon Smile has been discontinued.

**Funding a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF):** A DAF allows donors to contribute assets to a tax-free investment account from which they can direct gifts to charities of their choice. The contribution to the fund provides a charitable income tax deduction in the year it's made.

# YOUTH NEWS

We are excited to have signed up EIGHT youth and adults to attend  
YOUTH 2023 this July in Florida.

The youth have already held a successful Rodeo luncheon and thanks to your  
support, they raised \$561 towards their trip.

The total for our trip is approximately ... \$14,500. Our parents have put a small  
deposit down and will continue to make monthly payments through June.

We need your HELP!

We will be hosting another fundraiser this month on the 30th.

SALSA SUNDAY. Homemade salsa by our youth and their families!

We will also have an envelope fundraiser where you will be given the  
opportunity to choose an envelope with a dollar amount written on it and  
donate that amount to our travel fund.

We will have amounts starting at \$1.00.



**Every four years, youth from throughout The United Methodist Church have gathered for  
four days of discipleship, fun, and fellowship.**

The event is filled with interactive learning, worship, Bible Study,  
service opportunities, and fellowship time.

It is an amazing time for our youth to meet other Methodist youth from all over the world!

**We thank you in advance for your prayers and support!**





Family ministry connects parents and children with the church so that they can develop lasting relationships with Jesus.

VISTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS  
**LOVE + LOGIC PARENTING**

Join us for a FREE 6-week class on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 beginning Wednesday, April 12th!

3001 E. MIRAVISTA LANE  
 CATALINA, AZ

Childcare provided!

WEDNESDAYS  
 6:30PM-8:15PM  
 6-WEEK COURSE

GREAT FOR TEACHERS AND GRANDPARENTS TOO!

To register email [rosalind.prather@gmail.com](mailto:rosalind.prather@gmail.com)

### Meals/Donations Needed

Volunteers are needed to cook a family friendly meal on Wednesday nights and help with the clean up.

Meals for 25—30 with 3 of those being Gluten Free. We can help you with ideas!

Any donations will go towards food, paperware and children's music supplies.

Please contact Valerie in the office for more information.

520-825-1985

[valerievistaumc@gmail.com](mailto:valerievistaumc@gmail.com)

### Welcome Kiana!

Family Ministries wishes to welcome Kiana Hernandez as our new Sunday School Director. Kiana and her family have been worshipping with Vista for many years. Kiana was confirmed at Vista and is now an active young adult. She has been a blessing to our Sunday school program and Wednesday Nights! Please welcome her!

### CROCHET

Vista's Young Adults welcome you to come and learn how to crochet with them! The first class in March had 16 children, moms, dads, and grandparents.

It was a fun day for all!

Usually 2nd Sunday after worship.

In April we will meet on the 16th !





Family ministry **connects parents and children with the church** so that they can develop lasting relationships with Jesus.

### **Confirmation Classes**

Three Vista Youth are attending classes every  
Wednesday night!

Please include these youth and their  
families in your prayers.

*Confirmation* seeks to give the youth a systematic overview of the faith - our identity, our history and heritage, our practices, and our beliefs. This will include both our heritage and practices as a Christian community and as a United Methodist Family, as well as our basic beliefs and commitments. In addition, youth will learn what it means to live the Christian life and be involved in the mission of the church in the world. The other thing that needs to happen in a confirmation program is spiritual formation. Our faith is not just about information. It is about formation – being molded, shaped, or transformed into the image of Christ. This takes time and experiences, not just data. A comprehensive confirmation program is more than just a class. It seeks to provide experiences and opportunities in which the child can be shaped as a Christian (i.e., worship, relationships with peers and mentors, small group experiences, mission and ministry opportunities, etc.). These experiences make young people aware of how God is working in their lives and how they respond to God's call to them.



*Worship on Wednesdays  
with us!*

- ◇ Dinner and Devotions
- ◇ Adult Studies
- ◇ Children's Music
- ◇ Confirmation Class
- ◇ Love and Logic
- Parenting Classes  
(with Childcare)
- ◇ Intergenerational GAME  
NIGHT every 4th Wed

# 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/](http://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.

## **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!

## ***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!



fa54861 FreeArt



# ... And More Connection Opportunities



God places gifts inside each of us, seeds that can grow into skills and abilities for serving others. A seed will only grow into what it was designed to be when it's planted in the right environment. You'll discover your unique contribution when you start serving! There are many reasons why it's important to get involved as a church in community service. God has called us to serve Him by serving others. Serving can mean so many things: working as a greeter, making calls through Shepherds, helping with Hospitality, being involved with the many other committees at Vista or even just visiting a sick friend in the hospital. Serving doesn't have to be hard. If we do all things with love, serving others is a joyful experience.

**Volunteering** provides personal benefits including social, emotional, and physical perks. Donating your time and energy can be just as rewarding for you as for those you help.

- Volunteering at Vista has given my life better purpose
- Volunteering at Vista has given me broader perspective
- Volunteering at Vista has given me lifelong friendships
- Volunteering at Vista has given me a healthier self-image
- Volunteering at Vista helps others

Vista depends on its many volunteers on a regular basis. If you want help deciding where you'll fit best and which areas need volunteers, contact Robin Conner: 916-549-4939



## 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!**



### **Article Deadlines**

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

## **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**

*I was a stranger and you invited me in...Matthew 25:35b NIV*

### **Ukrainian Family Outreach Ministry**

March was a very exciting month for the Vista Family! On March 16<sup>th</sup> our Ukrainian family arrived in Tucson. To say that it was emotional and exhilarating would be an understatement! Pastor Fred and a small group from the Mission committee met them at the airport with hugs, tears, flowers, and gifts. Now the work for us as a church begins. The Mission committee voted to move \$1000 from the General Mission Fund to the Ukrainian Family Mission Fund. We also approved a short term fundraising event, **Pocket Change for Ukraine**. The idea is simple, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, just donate the loose change or small bills that you have in your wallet or pocket. The money will then be added to the Ukrainian Family Fund to assist with their expenses. Our combined small donations will make a huge difference in their lives. This short-term mission will continue for 3-6 months. Please join us in welcoming this family!

### Highlights from February

- **Fuente de Vida:** Peggy Smith and Jan Hopke-Almer reported that plans are underway for our annual student sponsorship and school supply distribution in Agua Prieta.
- **Creative Hands:** One Sunday in April we will feature a display of children's clothing made by Jan Bohe. These outfits are all donated to *Impact Clothing Bank*.
- **Sister José:** Thanks to Gene and Diane Bywater for their ongoing donations of fresh citrus. It is greatly appreciated.
- **Impact Food Bank:** Cody reports that overall supplies at the food bank remain low. The need in our community continues to rise. Look for the grocery cart in the breezeway each week.

### **Looking ahead**

- Pastor Fred will keep us updated on the needs of our Ukrainian family. Please join us in praying for Maxim, Kateryna, and Olexandra. We would love for you to Connect and Grow with us in 2023 as we serve our neighbors in Oro Valley, Tucson, and the world.

# 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](http://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.

# Finance

## Vista UMC Giving Options

### Vista Finance Committee Echoes: April, 2023

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Start shopping!



# May 2023 Celebrations

## ANNIVERSARIES

HIGGINS, Dennis & Peggy (52)	05/08	AUGUST, Don & Alice (56)	05/27
BIXBY, Dave & Lynn (9)	05/10	WILLIAMS, Norm & Andrea (45)	05/27
MOYER, Michael & Jenna Rae (8)	05/10	ZEBAL, Ken & Liz	05/27
PARSON, Gail & Darrell (54)	05/10	DANIELS, Bill & Becki (55)	05/28
BLEESS, Jim & Von Ceil (39)	05/11	AUTHUR, Bob & Janelle	05/31
ADAMS, Wayne & Judy (45)	05/16	PODLASEK, Ken & Diane 31)	05/31
BULL, Fred & Kim (10)	05/25		

## BIRTHDAYS

KRAVITZ, Mike	05/01	BILLS, Harper	05/21
BYWATER, Gene	05/03	MILLER, Robert	05/21
MILLARD, Jan	05/03	FUJITA-HERNANDEZ, Ami	05/23
HERD, Eileen	05/05	RUTKOWSKI, Marilyn	05/23
LUCKMAN, Joyce	05/05	CAMPBELL, Kathy	05/24
MEISE, Pat	05/05	ATWOOD, Jan	05/26
O'DONALD, Jay	05/06	BAHOS, Rita	05/26
SMITH, Don	05/06	BULL, Kim	05/26
GRAY, Linda	05/07	BROWNING, Jerry	05/17
PRESTON, Mary	05/07	STODDARD STODDARD,	05/17
HUBBARD, Jo Ann	05/08	, Bud Bud	
JOHNSON, Pat	05/10	BROWNING, Jerry	05/17
PHILLIPS, Allen	05/10	STODDARD, Bud	05/17
SPENCER, Tiffany	05/12	BROWNING, Jerry	05/17
HERNANDEZ, Kiana	05/13	STODDARD, Bud	05/17
BERG, Mary	05/14	CROWN, Charles	05/28
MAWHINNEY, Susan	05/15	NELSON, Ruth	05/28
TRYON, Denny	05/16	AGUIRRE, Jasmine	05/31
YOUNG, Mary Lou	05/16	COFFMAN, Anne	05/31
BROWNING, Jerry	05/17		
STODDARD, Bud	05/17		
BROWNING, Jerry	05/17		
STODDARD, Bud	05/17		



## AGUA PRIETA SCHOOLS PROJECT



The Agua Prieta 2023-2024 Schools Project is beginning once more at Vista!

Last summer Vista church members provided school supplies and backpacks for over 100 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 Agua Prieta (AP), Mexico.

A donation of \$30 per student buys the long list of school supplies and backpacks required for students to attend the public schools.

Letters are being sent in May to past student sponsors giving them an opportunity to keep their same student (if the student is still in Agua Prieta) for the 2023-2024 school year. Newly interested sponsors will be given a chance to sign up June 11 and 18.

Mark your calendars:

May 1: Letters mailed to current sponsors

June 4: Sponsor Appreciation Day and deadline to submit sponsor fee (\$30 pp)

June 11 & 18: New sponsor signup begins

July: Fundraising ends; shopping for supplies begins

October 28: SAVE THE DATE: Celebration of Learning (Agua Prieta bus trip).

Thank you for your generous support of these needy students and families from our sister church!

Blessings, Peggy Smith, Robin Conner, Dee Berman Tompkins, Jan Hopke-Almer  
AP School Supplies Mission Project Coordinators  
Linda Galka, Mission Chair

**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](mailto:VistaUMC.org@gmail.com)**

**VISIT US ON FACEBOOK**

**AND AT OUR WEBSITE: [www.Vistaumc.org](http://www.Vistaumc.org)**



March, 2023

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**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](http://Vistaumc.org) and on Facebook)**

**[www.vistaumc.org](http://www.vistaumc.org) or 520-825-1985**

