



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC
Echoes

Connect & Grow 2023

Pastor's Pen

July, 2023

Dear members and friends of Vista Church,

In July, as I get older, my thoughts turn more to thoughts of freedom than to fireworks, family and apple pie as they did when I was much younger. I have come more and more to understand how fragile freedom is and how it has to be constantly defended. It needs to be defended from those who want to take it away in their striving for power over others, and in the harsh application of laws. It also needs to be defended from those who would turn freedom into a license to sin. This is an ancient battle for Christians that goes all the way back to the writing of the book of Galatians and is as old as this Nation we call home. It is as present as the chaos we see on the streets of many of our large cities.

Paul put it this way, which is one of the most famous verses in the book of Galatians: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." The yoke of slavery was both an over application of the Law and an under application of the Law from some who said: "Since I am free in Christ from the consequences of sin and the Law which points out those sins, I can do whatever I want to do. I can 'sin' however I want to. Jesus will forgive me."

Paul makes a pointed reply to this, "¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God." And then he points out what life looks like living by the Law of Love, "²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." The joy of the "Fruits of the Spirit" is that we can grow in them throughout our lifetime blessing others and ourselves as we practice them.

One final Scriptural thought on freedom comes from 2 Corinthians 3:17, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

I pray we live by the Spirit and thus enjoy the Spirit's freedom and I pray that we as a Nation may welcome the Spirit of God so we can continue to be free.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Fred

**4th OF JULY, 2023 HOLIDAY – THE
CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**



OUR LORD, GOD BLESS AMERICA!!

United in Prayer

Compassion Connection

In Need of Continued Prayers for Healing

Orland Burbey, Rev. Alan Campbell, Paul Arnett, Jan Crown,
Dr. Chuck Crown, Steven Extract, Alexis Extract, Kay Gragg,
Bill Gureck, Fran Hampton, Peggy Hoeft, Pam Holder, Jim
Holman, Ken & Sharon Hunt, Margaret Overman, Allen and
Barbara Phillips, Sharon Poole, John Witt, Art Schweitzer,
Matthew Mutz, Tricia Pohnert, Diane Podlasek,
Joyce Holman and Pete Rice

Home Bound

Florence Duckett, Bob & Eileen Herd, Barbara Horton, Don &
Betty Little, Marilyn Waldo, Meagan and Tiffany
Spencer and Walt Roberson

Hospice Care

Barry Shuman and Rev. John Davies

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:

July, 2023

New Hope UMC, Tucson
Grace UMC, Douglas
Sierra Vista UMC
Camping Program, South District

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 Every Other Wednesday
during the Summer Months***

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, please see Valerie Hammons

If you have a loved one (or know of a congregation member/friend) who is in the hospital, please let Vista know.

Please call the church at: 520-825-1985 or email the office at vistaumc.org@gmail.com.

If you leave a message, please be sure to leave the person's name, the hospital they are in, as well as, your name and phone number (in case we need to clarify the information for visitation purposes, etc.).

Thank you!

Contact Valerie for more information



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

Meals/Donations Needed

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

Meals for 25—30 with three (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



◇ Adult Studies

◇ Children’s Music

◇ Confirmation Class

◇ Love and Logic

◇ Parenting Classes (with Childcare)

◇ Intergenerational GAME NIGHT every 4th Wed

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.



Did you know? Our Stephen Ministers are available to take communion to anyone who wants to be served. The request for communion can be made directly to any of our Stephen Ministers:

Giff Tompkins
Dr. Larry Holden
Lisa Richardson
Louise O'Donald

Dennis Kimmel
Marv Rupe
Joyce Luckman
Dottie McIntyre

Mary Louise Roberson, Stephen Leader Emeritus, is not available at this time.



Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide **one-to-one** care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation.

Using resources from Stephen Ministries St. Louis, Stephen Minister training equips them to provide high-quality care to people who are hurting. Initial Stephen Minister Training is 50 hours of classroom training followed by continuing education, support and guidance.

After being matched with a person experiencing a life crisis, the Stephen Minister meets with that person on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. The caring relationship lasts as long as the need for care exists and is totally confidential.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry visit stephenministries.org or contact Dottie McIntyre or Valerie Hammons.

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.

Early Morning Vista Volunteers





Borderlands
Produce Rescue

FEEDING FAMILIES
& OUR ENVIRONMENT ONE
VEGETABLE
AT A TIME

28

Years Helping the Community

750

Million Pounds of Produce Rescued

273

Million Pounds of Meals Supplemented

53

Million Pounds of Methane Gas Diverted

Vista's Family Ministries and our
United Methodist Men's Group are excited to help with
this new ministry that will serve our local community of
Catalina and the Copper Corridor!

We need volunteers to help!

More information coming soon.

Please see Lisa Sinohui or Dan Boring to sign up!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Thanks to Memorial funds given to Stephen Ministry: we are beginning the process to establish a "Stations of the Cross" around the Labyrinth. The landscape crew has been hard at work smoothing the path and clearing away brush and cactus.

The fourteen crosses will each be unique: about 5 feet tall or can be mounted on a 5 foot pole, and must be made of a medium that can withstand the desert heat and insects.

Roger Salava has already donated a cross and Ron Olson has made a cross out of horseshoes. Thank you gentlemen!!!



We are also looking for old outdoor umbrella stands

Please contact Valerie Hammons or Dottie McIntyre with any questions.

July 2023 Echoes - Vista UMC Finance Committee

May 2023 YTD

Income is \$432 under the budget, and \$9,046 less than last year, due to less pre-paid pledges. Expenses are on budget and higher than 2022. General Fund Net Income is on budget, but less than last year. We are achieving our General Offering budget and the Collection Plate Income is ahead of budget and last year.

May 2023

We were under our revenue budget in May by \$1,602 and \$8,233 less than last year. Expenses plus mortgage payments were over budget, resulting in a General Fund Net Income that is under budget, and less than last year. The May income results were very concerning.

Mortgage

Ending May, we now owe \$181,408 on our mortgage!!!! The May gifts to the new “2023 \$45,000 Challenge” were \$2,051.

Attendance

Attendance was 1129 vs. 1397 last year.

Mid-year Statements

We will be sending out mid-year statements in July.

Finance Inquiries

All inquiries about Finance issues, including contributions or expense reimbursements should be sent to Finance-vistaumc@gmail.com and the appropriate officer will contact you.

Explore the Many Ways to Give to Our Church

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.

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.

ACH – Automated Clearing House

Many of our members give through ACH – Automated Clearing House, which is a monthly direct deposit to the Church from your checking account. If you would like to do this, please email Financevistaumc@gmail.com.

Non-cash Gifts to the Church – Stocks or Property

Anytime you wish to make a non-cash gift to the Church (i.e., stocks or property), it is critical that you email Financevistaumc@gmail.com for the proper procedures. You can complete your general pledge or building pledge through a stock gift, which may provide a tax incentive if you donate appreciated stock.

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. Choose the Charitable Organization tab and find/select Vista de la Montana UMC. Start shopping!!!

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



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 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!



HELP WANTED! At their June meeting, the Church Council approved a revised security plan for our Church facilities that includes periodic monitoring of the Church parking lot and the Administration building during Sunday Worship Services. Nothing more than observing and reporting is required. If you are willing to help with this task, please see Darrell Parson or Dan Boring.



1054861 FreeArt

... And More Connection Opportunities

Demand for food at our local Food Bank is outstripping available supplies. Please consider a monetary (or food) donations to this worthy cause. A grocery cart on the patio is the depository for your food donation. Checks made out to Vista UMC or cash donations will be accepted at any time with IMPACT FOOD BANK designated as the intended recipient of your donation. As always, staples with a future expiration date are always needed – rice, peanut butter, cereal, beans, fruit and vegetables, soups, etc. May donations totaled 46 pounds. Thank you all!!!!

IMPACT can also use volunteers for both their Food Bank and Clothing Bank. (The Clothing Bank is especially in need of volunteers on Thursday and Friday afternoons). Please Google IMPACT of Southern Arizona for more detailed information and to leave your contact information for a return call if this is a volunteer activity you would like to pursue.

VISTA 90-PLUS CLUB CELEBRATION!

- ◇ There is an age requirement to join. You must be turning 90 sometime this year.
- ◇ Are there club dues? No club dues.
- ◇ Are there monthly meetings to attend? We ask if you can go to the third September Sunday service each year.
- ◇ Who can I bring with me to the church service? You can bring your family and friends. We also invite all the Vista church family to come.
- ◇ Are there any other requirements? Yes, you must join by August 17, 2023.
- ◇ We need a portrait of yourself.
- ◇ Is there anyone that can take a current portrait of me? If there is a portrait of you in the church directory, you can use that portrait.
- ◇ I do not have a portrait of myself, is there anyone to take one? Yes, Delores Brindle will take your picture at no cost.
- ◇ I still have some questions: who can I contact to answer my questions? Delores Brindle contact information can be found in the Vista church directory.
- ◇ I want to join, what is the next step? Contact Delores Brindle to sign up before August 17th. She will sign you up. Her contact information is in the Vista church directory or call the Vista church office at 520-825-1985.
- ◇ Looking forward to signing you up for the "Vista 90 Years Plus

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 Moments

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

Back to School - July 16th—Blessing of the Backpacks

Through your mission fund contributions we purchased and filled 112 backpacks for students from Oracle to Winkelman served by **Family First**, 40 backpacks with supplies for **Emerge** students in Tucson, and 10 backpacks with supplies for **Vista Church** kids. Thank you to Iain Noonan for his assistance with this project.

Pocket Change for Ukraine

The mission committee thanks you for supporting our short term mission project, Pocket Change for Ukraine. A total of \$326.50 was donated in May. The total amount collected for three months was \$1,109.19. Thank you!!!

Pocket Change Sunday

The committee voted to continue the Pocket Change Ministry project through the summer months with donations supporting **Snak Pak** at Coronado School. These weekend take home bags provide good, nutritious food to approximately 60 students. Save your pocket change and donate the last Sunday of the month! Our local kids need help.

Highlights from May and June

Fuente de Vida: Sponsor Appreciation Day, June 4 was a huge success resulting in sponsorship of 95 students. Each will receive a backpack filled with all of the required supplies for the coming year. The Celebration of Learning bus trip to Agua Prieta is scheduled for October 28, 2023.

Emerge

Please save those hotel toiletries and donate them this summer. Fifty toiletry bags will be assembled and distributed in September. Full sized products are also appreciated!

Our next meeting is on August 9th. 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.

In His name, Linda Galka

Vista Women's Fellowship (UMW) & Mission Outreach EMERGE Project

Donations of personal care products are needed for women and children being served by the EMERGE Center Against Domestic Violence in Tucson. Vista Women's Fellowship (formerly UMW's Susanna Wesley & Mary Martha Circles) are collaborating with Mission Outreach to collect donations over the next months (June – September) to fill 50 bags with the following personal care items: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, comb, hairbrush, Kleenex, washcloths). EMERGE requests regular, full-size products and we can use donated hotel sample sizes for AP Celebration of Learning prizes. Donations may be placed in the mission basket in the church narthex. These items will be bagged together at the September 19th Vista Women's Fellowship Meeting. Questions: Contact Jan Hopke-Almer at 520-825.1985.

Adult Education

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.

To join, please contact Donna Boring.

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.

NEW ADULT EDUCATION CLASS—Starting July 12, 2023

Teachers: Linda and Jim Galka

Time: 10:00 AM Wednesdays

FIRST PERSONS

Fictional Accounts of people who witnessed incidents in the life of Jesus

By Ronn Kerr

First person narratives have a unique power in teaching. These six fictional stories are grounded in the Gospel teachings of the Bible. Join them to be introduced to The Wine Merchant, The Potter's Wife The Zealot, The Cloth Maker, The Centurion and The Street Woman. The preparation for this entertaining and insightful class will be all from the Gospels as follows:

Week 1: The Wine Merchant: Matt 3:1-17, Mark 1: 1-11, Luke 3: 1-22, John 1: 15-34

Week 2: The Potter's Wife: Matt 13: 54-58, Mark 6: 1-6, Luke 4: 16-30

Week 3: The Zealot: Matt 26:17—29, Mark 14: 12-26, Luke 22: 7-23, John 13: 1-30

Week 4: The Cloth Maker: Matt 21: 1-13, Mark 11: 1-11, 15-19, Luke 19: 29-48, John 2 13-17, 12: 12-19.

Week 5: The Centurion Matt 27:11-37, Mark 15: 1-26, Luke 23 1-34, John 18: 28-19:34

Week 6: The Street Woman: Matt 27: 38-61, Mark 15: 27-47, Luke 23: 35-56, John 8: 2-11. 19: 25-42.

Each week is taught independently to accommodate those of us who travel more during the summer. Sign up with Donna Boring in person, on email or by phone / text message.

To Sign UP Contact Donna Boring

July 2023 Celebrations

ANNIVERSARIES

ALLEN, Marge	07/01
MACPHERSON, Craig & Benith	07/02
HILLMANN, Bill & Mary Jane	07/11
HERD, Bob & Eileen	07/21
GROTH, William	07/24
ROCHE, AJ & Eryn	07/26
BERMAN-TOMPKINS, Dee and Gifford	07/31

BIRTHDAYS

CROWSON, Betty	07/02	LECORNU, Yvonne	07/19
GURECK, William	07/02	NELSON, Lance	07/20
EXTRACT, Laurie	07/03	WHITLATCH, Linda	07/21
HUNT, Sharon	07/04	MARKS, Peggy	07/22
BOHE, Janice	07/06	POOLE, Sharon	07/22
TOM, Loretta	07/06	LEONARD, Carolyn	07/25
RADKE, Dan	07/07	ROBINSON, Joan	07/26
SALCEDO, Jose	07/07	YOUNG, Joe	07/26
ELSON, Polly	07/08	EXTRACT, Steven	07/27
OELRICH, Shawn	07/08	ODELL, Carol	07/27
MACPHERSON, Craig	07/11	MARQUARDT, John	07/28
PERAKIS, Alex	07/11	NEVINS, Dick	07/28
GRAGG, Kay	07/12		
MARQUARDT, Carla	07/13		
SPRINGER, Jan	07/14		
UPDEGROVE, Virginia	07/15		
GROTH, William	07/16		

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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