



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC
Echoes

Connect & Grow 2023

Pastor's Pen

September 2023

Dear Friends and Members of Vista Church,

This month I want to give you a word of hope and encouragement. You all, by now, have heard that I am retiring at the end of December, 2023, and many wonder what impact that will have on them and Vista Church. In response I want to lift up a famous passage of Scripture that we have all heard at one time or another and was originally part of the Word of God to the Israelites God had sent into exile for 70 years. Those who first heard these words must have been discouraged and without much hope but here is what God said and also what he eventually did.

Jeremiah 29:11-13, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

The takeaway from this is that indeed, God has good plans for you and the future of Vista Church. The key is seeking God in prayer and faithfulness. It is fulfilling your membership vows. Many times, in my preaching, I have said that our vows not only strengthen the Church, they strengthen us in our personal spiritual lives as we practice them. We are blessed as we faithfully seek the Lord and others are blessed through our faithfulness.

I want to let you know that people believe in you, and the good that you are doing in Catalina and across this State, and even the World as our mission stretches into Agua Prieta Mexico. The person who is our benefactor in our Mortgage Challenge believes so much in the Ministry and mission of the Church that she has stated that she will pay off the remaining balance of the Mortgage in January, 2024 if the balance by that time is down to \$150,000!!!! What a blessing!!!! Our current principal is \$169,000. What this means is that the ongoing budget of Vista Church will be freed up of \$40,000 of payments every year stretching into the future. It means our 25-year mortgage will have been paid off in four years!!!! This person believes so deeply in you and what God is doing through you that she has made this commitment. Believe in yourselves and invite others to join in your Ministry and mission.

She said if the members of the Church will take care of the ongoing budget in our upcoming Stewardship Campaign she will take care of the mortgage.

God has plans for you to give you a hope and a future. God is going to bless you so that you can continue to be a blessing here in the Catalina area. Believe in God's calling!!!! Believe in yourselves!!!! Step out in Faith and see the blessings God will perform through you.

In Christ's Love

Pastor Fred

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

Prayers for Our Members & Guests

Please see an usher for a Prayer Card or contact our office with your prayer request at 520.825.1985 so we may give praises to God and/or to lift up your concerns.

Compassion Connection

In Need of Continued Prayers for Healing

Orland Burbey, Paul Arnett, Jan Crown, Steven Extract, Alexis Extract, Kay Gragg, Bill Gureck, Fran Hampton, Peggy Hoeft, Pam Holder, Jim and Joyce Holman, Ken & Sharon Hunt, Matthew Mutz, Margaret Overman, Allen and Barbara Phillips, Diane Podlasek, Tricia Pohnert, Sharon Poole, Art Schweitzer, Milt and Jan Bukes, Dillis and Linda Ward and John Witt

Home Bound

Florence Duckett, Bob & Eileen Herd, Barbara Horton, Don & Betty Little, Marilyn Waldo, Walt Roberson, Pete Rice and Dr. Chuck Crown

Hospice Care

Rev. John Davies and 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:

September 2023

St. James UMC, Tucson; St. John's UMC, Tucson
St. Mark's UMC, Tucson; and our sister church, Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico

The Catalina-Oro Valley Lions Club collects unneeded prescription glasses, loose lenses, contact lenses, hearing aids, and cell phones. The glasses and lenses are cleaned, sorted and delivered to a collection site. From there, teams of vision specialists go to remote villages in Mexico and fit them to those without the money or means to get prescription glasses. Collection boxes can be found in the church office and in the sanctuary.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES – UPCOMING

Labyrinths – **Beginning September 20, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Elizabeth Room by Sharon Scanlan**

Vista is blessed to have its own Labyrinth on our property. This two class session includes a brief history of Labyrinths in general and Vista's Labyrinth in particular. The first week discusses the uses of Labyrinths and how they can add to your sense of well-being with special emphasis on Christian practices. The second week we will walk the Vista Labyrinth with the practices we learned in week one.

STUDY OF THE TORAH

The first five books of the Old Testament

Beginning on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, for six Wednesdays and the study will be read by Rev. Dr. James Lubach using the study guide: "Reading the Old Testament through Jewish Eyes," written by Rabbi Evan Moffic.

Discover how the Torah can be a source of wisdom, truth and transformation of your life. Please sign up with Donna Boring.

"Dear Pastor Fred, My wife has been a Christian for more than eighty years. I have been, for the most part, an observer. Often finding my faith stronger upon entering church than leaving. First attending your church some five years ago Christmas time, I felt invited. And we began attending Sunday services, though infrequently. Along with our restrictive physical maladies came covid and with it online church. Since then we have seldom missed your Sunday service. With your words, I now find that my faith in the Lord had been refreshed.

Signed: A Friend

NEW: VISTA FAMILY CAREGIVER GROUP



Caregiving takes a toll on both your physical and mental well-being. Even something simple like texting or emailing updates to family and friends is one too many tasks. Vista's newly formed Family Caregiver group's co-leaders are encouraging members of our congregation to sign up for the group email list in order to receive references to help ease the stress in doing it themselves, saving time, energy, hassle and peace of mind that they are not alone. We are working with Pima Council of Aging (PCOA) and Pinal-Gila County for Senior Citizens (PGCSC) in assisting us to provide references and plan a future on-site support group at Vista including informational classes. Note: if you are looking for immediate help, we recommend you contact the appropriate organization for help:

Pima County: PCOA Hotline: 520-790-7262 Website: www.pcoa.org

Pinal / Gila County: PGCSC Hotline: 800-293-9393 or 520-836-2758 / Website: www.pgcsc.org

Saddlebrooke Residents: Senior Village at Saddlebrooke (Fee Based, so check them out before you need them.)
<https://seniorvillage.org/> 520-314-1042

It is important for you to call your respective county organizations as each county receives Federal money for their council to serve their county residents. Each county can apply for grants for their residents and must be used for that county resident.

We welcome anyone wanting to join our new group and will be emailing updates in the near future. For more information, please contact the office at 520-825-1985 and leave a message for either Robin Conner or Delores Brindle, co-chairs. Our contact info is also listed in the church directory.

Children, Youth & Young Adult

Vista's Family Ministry Department is back from summer hiatus with new plans! Family Ministry means children, youth, adults, parents, guardians, or whoever is active in their faith and growing together. It also means you could be one person or a family of eight or more! You are always welcome to come and see what this multi-generational Family Ministry is all about! **WOW!!!** Come and join us for dinner, then fun and games. Fall plans are in the works for this event, now back to weekly times. If you want to inquire about more information, please contact the Vista office at 520-825-1985 and leave a message for Valerie.



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

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

VISTA 90 YEARS PLUS BIRTHDAY CLUB CELEBRATION COMING

As the Rabbit said in The Alice in Wonderland Story, "hurry, hurry I am going to be late to meet the Queen of Hearts." This is the last chance to call Delores to tell her you have turned 90 or you will be turning 90 later this year. Why call her? Because we want you to join the "Vista 90 Years Plus Birthday Club" as the Vista Church Family will be celebrating all the folks who are in the Club. If you can't come and/or watch the live stream on Sunday, September 17 at 10 AM, please visit our website when you have the time to view the service. It is a fun club to join because there are only two things, we need from you now and that is: (1) Date of Birth and (2) A current picture of you. If you would like, Delores can take your picture just let her know when you call. We need your picture by no later than Wednesday, September 6. Your picture will be shown on a poster and a slide show during the service.

If you already belong to the "Vista 90 Years Plus Birthday Club" you do not need to call again.

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

Contact Valerie for more information

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.

Make A Joyful Noise Unto The Lord!

*Weekly rehearsals begin
September 6, 2023 in the
Sanctuary:*

*Chancel Choir
(ages 14 and up)*

1:00-3:00 pm

6:30— 8:30 pm

(Dinner at 6:00 pm)

Come to one or both!

*Vista Handbell Choir
(adults)*

11:00 am

Questions? Contact Carolyn

Dwyer at 520.825.1985

**LOOK AND SEE EVEN THE
COWS KNOW THERE ARE GREENER
PASTURES HERE!! PLEASE VISIT OUR
CHURCH AND GET TO KNOW US AND
ALL OF OUR ACTIVITIES, AND
PERHAPS COME AND JOIN US!!!!**



September 2023 Echoes - Vista UMC Finance Committee

July 2023:

Revenue was \$26,268. We exceeded our revenue budget by \$1,768, but revenue was \$6,631 less than last year. Expenses plus mortgage payments were \$34,986, which was on budget and slightly less than last year. Our General Fund Net Income was a loss of (\$8,718), and less than last year, which was \$579.

July 2023 Year-to-Date:

Year-to-date Income is \$2,626 under the budget, and \$22,587 less than last year. Expenses are on budget, and but higher than 2022. We have a Year-to-date General Fund Net Income Loss of (\$17,094). General Fund Net Income is (\$8,220) under budget, and (\$40,839) less than last year. In the last 3 months we have had a (\$42,112) Net Income Loss, which reduced the Operating Reserve by \$32,946.

Mortgage:

Ending June, we now owe \$169,408 on our mortgage!!!! The July gifts to the new "2023 \$45,000 Challenge" were \$649

Reimbursements, Checks and Contribution Inquiries:

Darrell, Anne and Sharon process reimbursement checks only on Monday morning. Any check requests should be in the Finance mailbox before 9:00 AM on Monday morning. Reimbursement requests must include a completed yellow sheet and the invoice/receipt. Mary and Linda process deposits only on Tuesday mornings. Any inquiries should be sent to the Finance email address **Financevistaumc@gmail.com** prior to Tuesday morning and they will be responded to at that time.

Attendance:

Total Attendance was 1591 vs 1561 last year. In-person attendance was 601 vs. 550 last year. Facebook attendance increased from 278 to 482 and Live Stream decreased from 733 to 508. The Stewardship Committee has begun work on the 2024 campaign.

Finance Inquiries:

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



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!

AGUA PRIETA VISTA BUS SIGN UPS

Our sign ups will begin Sunday, September 24, 2023 for our Agua Prieta Celebration of Learning that occurs on October 28, 2023. Please be sure your passports are current!! We look forward to all of the support and the trip!!!

MISSION MOMENTS

September 2023

Serve the Lord with gladness... Psalm 100:2

Pocket Change for Snak Pak Sunday

Our Pocket Change for **Snak Pak** Sunday will continue through the month of September. Our neighborhood school kids often go hungry on the weekends and we can help! Please give generously in support of the 60 kids who rely on us and our partnership with the Catholic Church to meet this ongoing need. Our July collection totaled \$114.09. **Look for the buckets the last Sunday of every month.**

Celebration of Learning

Our annual trip to Agua Prieta is scheduled for Saturday, October 28, 2023. This one day Mission trip is an amazing opportunity to see, first hand, the results of your financial support. Kids with a B+ or higher GPA will receive special recognition awards. A day of games, food and entertainment will be enjoyed by all of the kids who received backpacks at the beginning of the school year. The sign-up sheet and necessary information will be available later this month. Space is limited!

Highlights from August

Emerge: Please continue to donate bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and other hygiene products for women. Missions and the Methodist Women partner for this much needed Emerge project. Fifty toiletry bags will be assembled and distributed in late September. Contact Jan Hopke-Almer for additional details.

Creative Hands: The Creative Hands team, led by Jan Bohe, have been extremely productive this summer. Together they have sewn a total of 98 clothing items! Thank you Sharon Ingle, Joy Kirby, Jan Hopke-Almer, Linda Miller, Dee Berisha, Ginny Updegrove, Jan Bohe!

Impact Food Bank: Food donations are at a critically low level. July's donations totaled 45 pounds. We have recorded a steady decline since March.

Ukrainian Family: We assisted the family with car repairs before sending them on their way to Chicago where they will live near family and friends from their homeland. What a blessing they have been to us! We wish them Godspeed!

Our next meeting is September 13 at 2 PM. 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*

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



Vista's Remembrance Garden

Please consider ordering a personalized brick honoring a spouse, child, parent, family, and / or pets. The engraved bricks are \$125.00.

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 7:00 to 9:00 A.M.

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

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 Wednesday 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.

Sunday Morning Fellowship

Thanks to our great volunteers who make and serve 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 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.

Article Deadlines

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

As our Ukrainian family and friends take their next adventure, we wish them all the best and will miss them. But trust in the Lord, we will always be connected and friends and will continue to stay in touch.



Blessed!
It's a Boy



Come join Vista and The Women In Faith

Sunday, September 10, 2023

A BABY SHOWER "FILL THE TRUNK" FOR ANTONIO AND AMANDA SOLAZZI'S BABY BOY

IAN

Registered at Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/amanda-solazzi-november-2023-tucson/2LC3927PNG854>

Adult Education

AFTER CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL Sundays 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. 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.

DINNER FOR SIX

Are ready for some good food, fun and fellowship? Our DF6 is ready for you!!!! Our 2023 Fall Season will begin in October 2023. DF5 is ready for you!!!! Our Fall 2023 will begin in October. If you were part of Spring Season, you are automatically singed up (unless you cancel with Sandy).

We welcome all Vista Friends to join in—Singles or Couples. Call Sandy to sing up by Sunday, September 17, 2023. ON September 24, 2023, we will have our annual "Kickoff" Desert Party at Church from 1:00—3:00 p.m. At that time you will receive your new partner assignments. We are looking forward to another great fun-filled season.

Women in Faith

In case you are not aware, all women in Vista membership are invited to join the newly formed "Vista Women's Fellowship" group which was combined at the beginning of this year of two former Circle groups with one common goal.: **We are women with a purpose!** The organized United 'Women in Faith' is a community of women whose purpose is to know God and experience the freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative supportive fellowship and expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. The Legacy of the United Methodist Women was started in 1869 by vowing to help all women world-wide and then a Doctor and a Teacher traveled to India and Africa where they each spent many years applying their knowledge to develop a better life for women and their children. Here at Vista we had many years of fundraising events (before Covid struck), which we like to continue with "themed" dinner events and bake-sales, as well as auctions and gift baskets.

To get started with some of the same and new ideas, we need additional help and hope to find them mainly with members that have joined Vista recently so please consider checking us out and join in the fun that we have in preparations while getting to know you a little better. Our monthly meetings will resume on September 19, 2023 as we do not meet in the hot summer month. We'll be meeting in the large 'Elizabeth Room' at 9:30 AM, having 30 Minute social time before getting down to "Business."

In His Grace, Peace, Joy and Love, your friend and sister in Christ - Please contact Loni Degen at 520.825.1985 or by email @ vistaumc.org@gmail.com.

To Sign UP Contact Donna Boring

September 2023 Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

CARPENTER, Karon	09/02
FLOYD, Thomas	09/02
PARRISH, Jeanne	09/02
PENUELAS, Sinai	09/03
TOMPKINS, Gifford	09/03
CROWN, Sandra	09/06
O'DONALD, Louise	09/06
COLEMAN, Rob	09/07
HOPKE-ALMER, Janice	09/07
BRINDLE, Delores	09/10
LITTLE, Don	09/11
STAKER, Sue	09/11
WILLIAMS, Andrea	09/11
LOGAN, Joan	09/14
STEVENSON, Jean	09/14
VENHUIZEN, Juan	09/15
INGLE, Tony	09/16
ESHELMAN, Gerald	09/20
DUENKEL, Lynn	09/21
RYTTER, Noel	09/22
BILLS, Morgan	09/23
BILLS, Wyatt	09/23
GURECK, Sandra	09/23
ODELL, Gordon	09/23
HOEFT, Peggy	09/25
STAKER, Joe	09/27
ZEBAL, Ken	09/27
GALKA, Linda	09/29

ANNIVERSARIES

HOLDEN, Larry & Jackie (11)	09/02
RADTKE, Gene & Paula (62)	09/02
ALLIGOOD, David & Edna	09/03
GURECK, Bill & Sandy (12)	09/10
HOLMAN, SR., Jim & Joyce (51)	09/16
OELRICH, Paul & Shawn	09/17
SANDERS, Marshall & Teresa (26)	09/20
RICHARDSON, Lowell & Lisa (39)	09/22
YOB, David & Nancy (39)	09/22
STAKER, Joe & Sue (57)	09/25



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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