



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes



The Rev. Deborah Christine

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A few things to look for on Sunday morning

- Acolytes will be wearing robes most Sundays.
- UMC hymnals and In Faith We Sings books have been placed in all rows.
- Communion serving will be simplified - watch for it on Feb 4th.
- Bring your Bible if you wish to read along with the liturgist.
- Please wear your name tags to help Pastor Deb learn our names.

Be still

And aware of God's presence

Within and all around.

February

Anniversaries

JACKSON, Jim & Ginny 02/01

Birthdays

SCANLAN, Sharon 02/01
BAUM, Deede 02/02
BIXBY, Lynn 02/02
BELLAH, Mary 02/04
BYWATER, Diane 02/04
CAMPBELL, Alan 02/07
OVERMAN, Margaret 02/10
HERD, Robert 02/11
KIMMEL, Nancy 02/11
BARBER LUBACH, Kay 02/13
BLEESS, Jim 02/16
RADTKE, Paula 02/17
LARMOUR, Margaret 02/19
REMPEL, Barbara 02/19
LUBACH, James Louis 02/24
HILTON, Anne 02/25
HOMAN, Lila 02/26
BAUDER, Kathleen 02/28
HOLDER, Craig 02/28

March

Anniversaries

REIFSNYDER, Walter & Jane 03/10
OLSON, Ron & Linda 03/15
KELLEY, Ed & Lynn 03/18

Birthdays

ALLIGOOD, David 03/01
ZEBAL, Liz 03/05
HEDRICK, Jim 03/06
BIXBY, Dave 03/07
BRETZ, Linda 03/09
LOGAN, Bob 03/09
PHILLIPPI, Lou 03/11
HAMPTON, Fran 03/13
GROTH, Anne 03/14
ROBERSON, Walt 03/17
HILTON, Robert 03/19
RICE, Pete 03/19
ADAMS, John 03/20
LENZINI, Marty 03/23
CROWN, John 03/24
EXTRACT, Alexis 03/24
BAUM, Fred 03/25
ALLEN, Marge 03/27
COLBY, Dottie Lou 03/27
POWERS, Barbara 03/28
SCHWARTZ, Pete 03/28
SPENCER, Phyllis 03/29



United Women in Faith is sponsoring a baby and diaper shower and lunch for the Family First charity. The shower will be Tuesday, February 20, at 10 AM in the Elizabeth Room. Attendees are asked to bring a baby/layette item sizes newborn to 5T to the shower. Registration to attend the shower begins on Sunday, January 28, and February 4 and 11 before and after church.

Thanks, Amy Butkovich



Lent begins Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday, Feb 14. Drive through imposition of ashes will be from 8 a.m. 1 p.m. in church parking lot. There will be short worship service at 3 p.m.

Lenten study of Luke will begin at 10 a.m. Wednesday February 14, through March 20 in Elizabeth room.



Endowment Funds Available in 2024

We saw a nice rally in the market during the last two months of the year, and our fund benefitted from that rally. With positive gains in the 4th quarter of the year, the fund was up 14.02% for the year.

During the reporting period, a small change was made to the allocations in the fund based on advice from our Schwab advisor. Our investment in the Schwab US Aggregate Bond ETF was reduced and a small position was taken in the Pimco Income Instl, a multisector bond fund.

Going into the new year, we again evaluated if any funds from Endowment would be available in 2024. The amount is determined by taking 50% of the average yearly return of the previous 3 years. I am pleased to announce that Endowment will make \$4,500 available for approved projects during the year. While this is not a significant amount, it does represent a change for the funding moratorium that has been in place since mid-2022.

Should you have a project funding requirement, please use the [request form](#) found on the Vista website.

Vista UMC Finance Committee

	Revenue	Expense	Net Income
Dec. 2023 Actual	\$34,274	\$42,434	(\$943)
Dec. 2023 Budget	\$40,800	\$39,121	\$8,696
Dec. YTD Actual	\$401,743	\$471,251	(\$23,900)
Dec. YTD Budget	\$420,500	\$460,558	\$5,551
Last Year YTD Actual	\$475,940	\$441,290	\$34,650

Note: Income includes the Apportionment Reserve Fund transfer, and Expenses include the Mortgage Principal payments. Both were in the 2023 budget.

Delayed Pre-Paid Mail

The Post Office held up our pre-paid envelope mailings from mid-December until early January, and they were not received until January 11. Included were 3 pledges and several December offering checks that were posted in December. There were some Love Offerings and Christmas Offerings included. All have been recorded and deposited, but in January.

December 2023:

December was a very disappointing month! Our revenue (plus apportionment reserve) was (\$7,521) less than last year, and less than the budget. It was the second lowest income in December in 10 years. (2021 was a little bit lower.) Expenses, plus mortgage payments were \$3,113 over budget. Our General Fund Net Income was a loss of (\$943).

December 2023 Year-to-Date:

- Year-to-date Revenue is (\$18,757) under the budget, and (\$28,589) less than last year due to the inclusion of the apportionment reserve. Expenses are \$10,694 over budget, and \$29,962 higher than 2022 due to salary increases. We have a Year-to-date General Fund Net Income Loss of (\$25,700). General Fund Net Income is (\$60,350) less than last year.

Mortgage:

Ending December, we now owe \$99,847 on our mortgage!!!! The mortgage principal will be paid off in January!! We have been blessed to have an amazing, generous benefactor!!

2024 Stewardship Campaign

Final 2024 pledges are 97 pledges for \$297,464 vs. 131 pledges for \$362,697 in 2023. We have 36 less pledges. The average pledge for 2024 is \$3,067 vs \$2,769 in 2023. We need more pledges and more new members!!

Revised 2024 Budget

Due to the reduced number of pledges, we needed to revise the budget approved on Dec. 12, 2023. The income budget was reduced by \$24,903.63 to \$357,271.66. Expenses were reduced by \$25,431.76, mostly in SPRC and Trustee expense. The General Fund Net Income remains at \$500. The Finance Committee and Church Council approved the amended budget on January 16.

2024 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are available at the front desk. You can pick yours up anytime.

ACH Giving

If you changed your ACH offering, you need to contact Finance at financevistaucmc@gmail.com so that we can change your gift with the bank.

Mission Moments February 2024

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD and he will repay him for his deed. Proverbs 19:17

Thank you church for your amazing generosity in 2023! Darrell reported that the Mission Projects received \$38,000 in donations last year. In addition, you also donated 887 pounds of food to Impact Food bank! We are blessed by your continued support of our varied missions and will strive to use your monies wisely in the coming year.

Souper Bowl Sunday—Tackling Hunger One Bowl of Soup at a Time February 4 and February 11

Join the fun! Support Impact Food Bank! Bring cans of soup to church on these two “Souper Sundays”. Each can of soup is a vote for the team you think will win the big game. Vote often!! The cans of soup will benefit our local food bank and help feed hungry families in our community. The results of the competition will be announced after church on game day. 2023 “Souper Sunday” donations totaled 153 pounds! **Let’s beat that total in 2024! Go Team Impact!**

- **Pocket Change Sunday**

Our Pocket Change donations this month will be used to support the **Creative Hands** mission project. Fabric and sewing notions will be purchased so that our team of talented seamstresses, led by Jan Bohe, can continue their amazing work. Their handmade made items are donated to Family First and Impact Clothing Bank. At our January meeting Jan brought all of the items sewn in the month of December. These women are a blessing to our church and community.

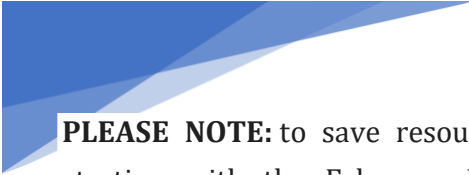
- **Celebration of Learning**

Our annual trip to Agua Prieta was held December 18th. Thirteen Vista members participated. Members of our sister church turned out in full force, with approximately 70 -80 children in attendance! A wonderful, traditional lunch was served and mariachi dancers provided the entertainment! By all accounts, it was a wonderful day. Look for a detailed report from Dee.

- **Family First:** Women of Faith have invited the mission team to join them in hosting a Baby Shower for clients of Family First. The brunch will be held in the Elizabeth room on Tuesday, February 20. While the brunch is free, all women are asked to bring a gift suitable for a baby or toddler. The mission team also approved a donation of \$335 to Family First for the purchase of diapers.
- **Impact Food Bank: *Food donations remain at low level.*** Unfortunately, the need still remains high. Many of our neighbors are struggling to make ends meet. Shelf stable items of all kinds are needed. Donations totaled 75 pounds for the month of December.
- **Sister José/ St. John’s Methodist Church:** As agreed upon previously, Vista will no longer continue its relationship with Sister José. In 2023 Sister José has secured numerous corporate sponsorships and no longer needs our assistance. St. John’s Methodist Church has been suggested as a “replacement” for this charity. We will limit our involvement to donated items rather than cash. Ron Olsen and Gene Bywater will be the contact persons.

Our next meeting is February 14 at 3 PM in the St. Matthew room. We would love for you to be part of the mission team. Consider joining us as we serve our neighbors in Oro Valley, Tucson, and the world.

*In His name,
Linda Galke*



PLEASE NOTE: to save resources and costs, starting with the February ECHOES, paper copies will no longer be mailed. Instead, they will be sent via email and be available on the website, with hard copies available in the Narthex.

If you are unable to receive ECHOES by email, please notify the office at 520-825-1985 or email: vistaumc.org@gmail.com.

[\[Cite your source here.\]](#)

New office hours for Vista:

Monday through Thursday, 9 to 4