



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

Echoes

The Rev. Deborah Christine

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Personal Call Statement

I am called by my faith in God to be in service to the church and the world. I desire to be the face of God that is inclusive, welcoming, loving and committed to others. Being in relationship with God is challenging in our present world. I endeavor to represent that inclusive, graced filled God through preaching, teaching, study, spiritual practices, and social activism. Although I have discerned that my focus is working within the UMC I believe that it is through social, community and ecumenical work that church can be fully present in the world.

Leadership Style

I am collaborative in my leadership style, believing that a variety of voices create the strongest and most effective ideas and programs. I am a sensitive, intentional listener, who works to synthesize what is expressed. As a leader I want to help remind the church that our best practices include our spiritual disciplines as we make decisions for the church. It is exciting for me to empower others in the ways they see God working in their lives, in the church and in the community. I enjoy being in leadership. Whether planning worship, leading studies, attending committees or the management of staff I find problem solving, conflict resolution and visioning strategy rewarding. I am confident in my skills and my calling and excited at the prospect of working together to understand how God is leading us in congregational ministry and in service to the world.

Personal Life

I am a cradle born Methodist. Born in 1955 in Greeley CO, my family moved in 1960 to Tempe, AZ so that my father could teach at the Tempe Normal School. Tempe was my home, and my father continued his education and employment at ASU and became a Professor of Elementary Education. My first college degree was from ASU, a Bachelor of Arts in Education. I taught one year in Phoenix and then moved to Tucson to help open a brand-new school in Catalina Foothills District, Manzanita Elementary School. I spent 10 wonderful years as their Art Teacher and then left to form CRIZMAC, an arts and cultural education company. After several years of building this business, I sold it to my partner so that I might become a full-time mom to my twins, Matthew and Katherine who were born in 1990.

In 2002 we purchased a small in-town ranch on the far east edge of Tucson and the twins started school in the Tanque Verde School District. We lived there until 2008 sharing our home with all kinds of animals, horses, dogs, cats, and birds. It was an amazing place to raise my children and deepen our love of nature and animals, not to mention our passion for horses that continues today. I no longer have a horse of my own, but my daughter has two, one retired and one very active in the national AQHA showing circuits.

It was in 2008, when both of my children were in college, that I answered my call to ordained ministry and moved to Denver, CO to start a three-year Master of Divinity program. After graduating I was appointed to Westcliffe, CO to serve a 115-member church; Community UMC. It was a beautiful place to live and a wonderful community to serve and I spent five years there until I was appointed to Bozeman UMC in MT. What a change from a small rural church to a large city one. This appointment was also a two-year Intentional Interim appointment. I took the training for such a specific ministry and then worked with this church community that had previously had the same pastor for 20 years, never had a women pastor and was grieving the retirement of their beloved pastor. It was two years of hard work that was so fulfilling.

In those two years I became acquainted with our Bishop, Karen Oliveto, and she requested that when I finished at Bozeman I serve as the District Superintendent of Montana East. I moved to Billings and served 40 churches that covered 400 miles.

During my time as a District Superintendent, I learned so much about the variety of people and congregations that make up the UMC. From tiny churches of a handful of people to the largest churches in the state, I realized how important the church is to people and how their relationship with the church is expressed in many ways. These churches included people from all walks of life, but one thing was constant, they loved their churches. I learned a great deal about conflict, anxiety, fear, and joy as I helped churches through their most difficult and most celebratory times. It was an honor and privilege to serve!

In 2021 when I decide to retire, I knew that I would come home to Tucson. My daughter had moved back after receiving her master's at Texas Tech and now worked at Roche Pharmaceuticals in cancer research. I purchased a home only five streets away from hers. My son continues to live in Boston where in 2007 he moved to attend Berkely School of Music. He now is the CEO of a non-profit recording studio the Record-CO.

I loved retirement! However, after 15 months I realized that I was missing a deeper connection with the church and when DS Matt Ashely called and asked me about serving at Vista de la Montana, I realized I wasn't finished being a pastor. Interim work was my favorite type of pastoral position and so I said yes, and I am so grateful that you affirmed me as your new pastor.

Blessings,

Pastor Deb

Happy Trails Potluck for Pastor Fred and Deede

We had a wonderful turnout for Pastor Fred's Retirement Potluck, over 90 members, friends and family attended. The wonderful food and fellowship were truly a blessing for all who attended. The potluck would not have been a success without the help of our amazing volunteers: Diane & Rob Coleman, Nancy & David Yob, Jane & Walt Reifsnyder, Delores Brindle, Kathy Isaacs and Ron Olsen. A special thank you to Kiana Hernandez and all our youth!!! They helped members with their food trays, served coffee, iced tea and water, and helped whenever we asked. We are grateful for the time and effort put into this activity to celebrate Pastor Fred's eight plus years at Vista and to wish him and Deede well in starting their new adventure.



Our church will NOT survive without volunteers

What is God asking of you and what are you going to do for Vista UMC in 2024?

Look around you on Sundays while you are enjoying church. **Volunteers** have done their part all week to bring the service to life.

... greeters, ushers, flowers, liturgist, acolyte, music, sound booth, communion, refreshments ...

And there are many other places we need people.
Please say yes if you are asked to help!

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men is group dedicated to supporting and advancing the goals of Vista de la Montana Methodist Church. Our objectives focus on “Fellowship”, “Spiritual Growth” and “Community Service”. We meet on the first Saturday of each month, usually starting with an early breakfast at 8:00AM at the Sunny Side Up Café, followed by our regular meeting here at Vista at 9:00AM. Our meetings usually include prayer, a devotional from our chaplain, a program, and a business meeting. Generally, we have completed the agenda by 10:00 so that everyone has the remainder of their Saturday to share with family and friends. I would note that over the past few years, the Methodist Men have donated several thousand dollars for scholarships for Vista youth, and to help pay for painting, curtains, window screens, landscaping equipment, and other projects that support our church’s buildings and grounds. To each gentleman in our congregation who has not been with us recently, and to their friends and neighbors, I extend an invitation to come join us for good fun, fellowship, spiritual growth, and community service. We look forward to seeing you soon.

P.O.W.W.O.W.

On behalf of our Methodist Men’s group, I want to speak briefly about Vista’s newest ministry, the Borderlands P.O.W.W.O.W. Food Distribution Program. P.O.W.W.O.W. stands for “Produce On Wheels With Out Waste”. The focus of this program is twofold. First, it diverts unsold food products, mostly vegetables and fruit, from being disposed of in landfills and giving off noxious gases and odors. Second, and more importantly, it provides a large quantity of food to folks that might otherwise not have access to it. Starting yesterday and continuing monthly on the second Saturday of each month, in return for a fifteen-dollar contribution, up to 70 lbs. of produce is distributed by Vista members and other volunteers to community residents. Anyone who is not able to contribute the fifteen dollars will still receive the seventy pounds of food. Volunteers receive a free box of produce and drinks are provided. Set up begins at 6:30 AM here at Vista and we distribute the produce from 08:00 to 11:00 or until we run out of food, which is what happened yesterday, when we distributed nearly 20,000 lbs. of produce before 10:30.

I want to say that while the Methodist Men are sort of the tip of the spear for this mission, it is truly an “all-hands-on-deck” effort. Yesterday we had more than forty volunteers participating, including ladies, children, our Catholic neighbors, and folks that we met for the very first time. Also, we handed out a couple hundred **brochures** that speak to who we are here at Vista, as well as giving out fifty or sixty prayer cards, some of which have already been returned and included in this morning’s worship service. So, as we move into the holiday season, and you are thinking about what you can do to give back to your community, please consider joining us on the second Saturday of each month. As a side note, I want to assure you that no one is expected to lift a seventy-pound box of produce, me included. Rather, the food is placed in a number of boxes and placed in the client’s car or truck as they drive through the parking lot. So, if you can put a few peppers in a bag or a dozen eggplants in a box, you can help. Finally, let me offer my sincere, personal thanks to everyone who helped make yesterday such a success.

The **“SHARE THE WARMTH”** Warm Clothing and Bedding Drive benefitting Catalina area residents is in full swing. Look for the red collection box in the Narthex through January 21st!! All donated items will be taken to the Clothing Bank at IMPACT for distribution in a timely manner. And Thank You, for your thoughtfulness in “sharing the warmth”.

Vista Women’s Fellowship (formerly UMW)

Christmas Stocking Project: Thank you to all the ladies that donated gift items to fill Christmas stockings for women served by ***Eagles Wings of Grace*** in Tucson. We delivered 72 stockings to this organization. Eagle Wings helps women transition from homelessness and/or unemployment to finding a job and housing. Some of these ladies have expressed never receiving any Christmas gifts in their adult lives. What a blessing to share our joy of Christ and Christmas with these women. We also gave 21 Christmas stockings to the mothers being served by ***Family First Pregnancy Care Center*** in Oracle and Winkleman. In total 21 mothers, 2 teens, 3 elementary children, 13 preschoolers and 16 infants received Christmas stockings and gifts with your generous donations and the additional help of a Thrivent Action Team Grant.

Next Meeting: Join us on Tuesday, January 16th at 9:30 AM in the Elizabeth Room for our next meeting. Our guest speaker will be Carolyn Dwyer, Vista’s choir director. Carolyn will share her spiritual and musical journey prior to arriving at Vista. We will introduce ourselves and share the name of our favorite hymn.

Mark Your Calendar: All ladies and friends are invited to a Baby Shower and Brunch for ***Family First Pregnancy Care Center*** on Tuesday, February 20th at 10:00 AM in the Elizabeth Room. Join the fun and learn about how God’s love is being shared with the new mothers, fathers and children served by Family First. Please bring a baby layette item as your donation. There will be no charge for this event.

From your Vista Flower Guild

The new flower calendar for 2024 is located in the Narthex and you may now sign up for any Sunday for which you would like to honor a special occasion, special person or persons. Please, only one signup per date. Arrangements will continue to be \$50 as in the past year, payable to Vista UMC. Please be reminded to return all flower arrangement vessels to the church after the flowers have faded so they can be reused.

Finance Committee

	Nov. 2023	Budget	Difference	Nov. YTD	Nov. YTD Budget	Difference
Income + Apport. Fund	\$27,291	\$38,908	-\$11,617	\$406,049	\$418,280	-\$12,231
Expense+ Mortgage	35,249	38,178	-\$2,929	425,855	420,251	5,604
Net Income	-\$7,957	\$730	-\$8,688	-\$19,806	-\$1,971	-\$17,835

November Income was -\$11,617 under budget. Expenses plus our mortgage payment were \$2,929 under budget. General Fund Net Income after our mortgage payment was -\$7,957.

YTD our income is \$55,433 less than 2022 and \$12,231 less than budget. Expenses + mortgage are \$24,661 more than last year, and \$5,602 over budget. General Fund Net Income is \$41,515 less than 2022.

We now owe \$149,677 on our mortgage and it will be under \$100,000 at the end of December. Attendance was 531 in person and a total of 1441 with Live Streaming and Facebook views, which is an average of 360 vs. 300 weekly last year.

At the December 12 meeting the Finance Committee approved recommending the 2024 budget to the Church Council who approved the balanced budget. Income is planned at \$374,416, which is \$46,650 less than the 2023 budgeted income. Pledges are budgeted at \$320,000 vs. \$353,000 in 2023. We have dramatically reduced our expenses. which are planned at \$382,770. This is \$51,253, less than the 2023 budget. Reductions are in staff, plant expense and apportionments, as well as no mortgage payment. Increases are planned in Worship, Youth, and Evangelism to encourage membership growth.

Vista Finance Team

Sharon Scanlan

Darrell Parson

Anne Hilton

Mary Berg

Linda Davis

Explore the Many Ways to Give to the Church

1. Monthly Bill Payment through your bank – NO COST TO YOU OR TO VISTA

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

2. ACH – Automated Clearing House – NO COST TO YOU OR VISTA

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. A form is required to begin the process.

3. Weekly, Monthly Giving Using Pledge Envelopes – NO COST TO YOU OR VISTA

If desired, 2024 envelopes are available for all members for giving in-person or to be mailed to the Church.

4. Non-cash Gifts to the Church – Stocks or Property – NO COST TO YOU OR VISTA

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 annual pledge through a stock gift, which may provide a tax incentive if you donate appreciated stock.

5. IRA Gift from your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) – NO COST TO YOU OR VISTA

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.

6. Credit Card and Automatic Bank Giving Using the Vista UMC Website or the QR Code

THERE IS NO COST TO VISTA IF THE MEMBER COVERS THE 3% FEE. OTHERWISE, A 3% FEE IS CHARGED TO VISTA

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.

Rev. October 1, 2023

Mission Moments January 2024

Do not call to mind the former things or ponder things of the past. Behold I will do something new. Now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? Isaiah 43: 18-19 NASB

Happy 2024 Church Family! We have begun a new chapter in the life of Vista. It's an exciting time for us! Let's get to work!

But first and foremost, thank you for your financial support of the mission work of Vista Church in 2023. Your generous giving at Thanksgiving and Christmas will enable us to continue serving and supporting our neighbors near and far through our varied mission projects. Without your support, Vista missions would not be possible. **Thank You Church!**

Highlights

- **Agua Prieta:** Our annual trip to Mexico was December 18. After two postponed trips, a small, but energetic group spent the day with at our sister church Fuente de Vida. The day was a tremendous success! Look for a detailed article from Dee in next month's Echoes.
- **Pocket Change:** Our November donations totaled \$33.69. We did not have a December collection since it was New Year's Eve. Our next collection will be the last Sunday of the month, January 28. Please save your loose change and small bills. Donations will be used to support **Creative Hands**.
- **Impact Food Bank:** November donations totaled 74 pounds. Thank you Church! A great effort! January is usually a difficult month for families in need. Please help fill our grocery cart! Pantry staples such as beans, pasta, rice, and peanut butter are in great demand. Also, during the winter months, remember chicken noodle soup; it's cold and flu season!
- **Impact Clothing Bank:** Our annual "Share the Warmth" clothing and bedding drive begins this month and continues through January. Warm weather clothing for all ages is needed. Blankets and bedding are also welcome.
- **Creative Hands:** In December Jan Bohe delivered 10 sets of pajamas, 10 dresses and jumpers, along with burp cloths and hats, to both **Impact and Family First**. That's a lot of sewing!
- **Emerge:** In partnership with Methodist women, 21 Christmas stockings were donated to Emerge and 60+ stockings were donated to Eagle's Wings of Grace. There were gifts for mothers, babies, kids, and teens. Thank you Jan Hopke-Almer and Amy Butkovich for your efforts on behalf of women and children in n need of assistance in our city.
- **Family First:** Glenna Snider continues her tireless work for Family First delivering numerous boxes of adult diapers. She is also working on securing a grant from Walmart to assist in this much needed project.

In this New Year and new season for Vista, we are excited to see where God leads us as we serve our neighbors in Oro Valley, Tucson, and the world.

In His name,

Linda Galka

AGUA PRIETA

In spite of a last-minute schedule change from November to December due to border crossing issues, the 2023 Agua Prieta “celebration of learning” event took place on Monday, December 18th. The fourteen Vista representatives enjoyed a scenic bus ride that included a quiz, prizes, and more snacks than we could consume. Once across the border, we were warmly welcomed by dozens of children, young adults, and mothers, as well as Pastor Hela’s family, who always serve as event hosts and coordinators. Numerous students received certificates of achievements for their academic accomplishments and their mothers received gifts acknowledging the sacrifice and support required to ensure their children’s participation in Mexico’s limited educational opportunities. After the presentation of certificates, we watched a video prepared by former Roache Scholarship recipients who spoke to their opportunities and accomplishments as benefactors of this support. This was followed by a young couple performing traditional dance numbers while wearing brightly colored costumes. And there was still more, as everyone enjoyed a traditional Mexican meal served by the ladies of the church. This was followed by game time in which all of the children competed in a variety of games with the winners (every child was a winner) receiving toys and other gifts. As always, the event was a huge success—mission and yet another demonstration of Vista’s strong commitment to its community service and programs.

Anniversaries

SMITH, Don & Pat 01/01

Birthdays

HOLDEN, Larry 01/02

HERNANDEZ, Antonio (AJ) 01/03

REIFSNYDER, Walter 01/05

AUTHUR, Janelle 01/07

HIGGINS, Dennis 01/07

HOTCHKISS, Kourtney 01/07

PRICE, Ursula 01/08

DEVRIES, Shirley 01/12

WITTKOSKI, Thomas 01/13

TONGA, Mia 01/14

COLEMAN, Diane 01/15

CONNER, Robin 01/17

HOLMAN, Joyce 01/17

REIFSNYDER, Jane 01/18

CAMPBELL, Lori 01/20

FOWLER, Valarie 01/21

DAVIS, Linda 01/22

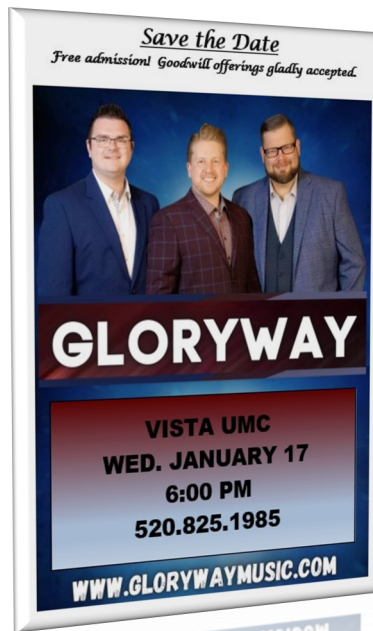
YOB, Nancy 01/23

AGUIREE, Michelle 01/28

GOINS, Donna 01/29

THOMPSON, Sara 01/29

HARWICK, Rebecca 01/30



Raised on good old-fashioned gospel music, GloryWay founder, Justin Crank developed a love for four-part harmony. What began as four friends singing around town was blessed by God and has blossomed into a powerful full-time ministry. GloryWay travels over 65,000 miles annually, all across the United States, sometimes booking engagements over a year in advance.

In addition to participating in numerous showcases at the National Quartet Convention, GloryWay has also been named Southern Gospel Artist of the Year by Southern Gospel New York. GloryWay has been honored to perform at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee many times over the years.

GloryWay is made up of owner/lead singer Justin Crank, tenor Bryan Langley, and newest member, Philip Kolb who put on a unique and versatile performance that blends classic harmonies with exciting and inspiring new sounds and styles.

January 17th's performance is hosted by Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church in Catalina: 3001 E. Miravista Road. Call the office at 520-825-1985 for more information.

VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC
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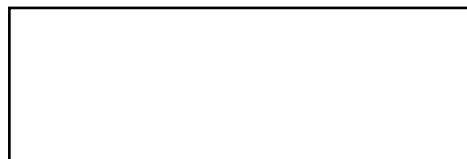
MONDAY - THURSDAY

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



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.