



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

March 2024

Echoes



Rev. Deborah Christine

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We have celebrated 8 Sundays together! It is so wonderful to get to know all of you!

Have you noticed the changes we have made in worship?

- Reduced the size and number of pages in the bulletin.
- Printing only in black and white, unless there is a special reason to use color.
- We have changed the order of worship.
- Increased the readings and participation for the liturgist.
- Changed the prayers of the people to be a more general and spontaneous prayer.
- Removed the meet and greet at the beginning of the service.
- Simplified communion
- Incorporated the prayer cards into staff prayer and the prayer chain.

It is always my hope that our Sunday worship is a time of fellowship, praise, learning, participation and most especially a sacred time with God.

Being an Interim pastor I like to ask a lot of questions. By asking questions, I find out what is important to you as individuals and as a church. I invite you to also ask yourself:

- Why is Vista de la Montana my home church?
- What makes Vista my home?
- What might be attractive at Vista to those people who don't have a home church?
- Are there changes that might be made?
- What unmet needs does the community surrounding Vista have that the church might serve?

We have just entered Lent. Some of you may have heard me say that Lent is my favorite season of the Church. Lent calls us to take time to examine our lives, what we hold

dear, what we might like to be free of. On Ash Wednesday I invited you to release or take up something in your life, as a reminder of Jesus's ministry and sacrifice.

Joan Chittister, a Benedictine Sister, is one of my favorite spiritual leaders. She writes this about Lent:

*Lent is a call to weep for what we could have been and are not.
Lent is the grace to grieve for what we should have done and did not.
Lent is the opportunity to change what we ought to change but have not.
Lent is not about penance.
Lent is about becoming, doing and changing whatever it
is that is blocking the fullness of life in us right now.
Lent is a summons to live anew.*

I hope you will join us at the following Lenten/Easter Services

Maundy Thursday

- Service 3pm

Good Friday

- Service 3pm

Easter Sunday

- Sunrise Service – 6am- Youth will help lead service.
- 10am Service

*Blessings,
Pastor Deb*



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

APRIL

Anniversaries

KIMMEL, Dennis & Nancy	04/03
RUPE, Marvin & Jean	04/03
CROWN, Charles & Sandra	04/06
HUNT, Ken & Sharon	04/09
KRAVITZ, Mike & Pam	04/15
PHILLIPPI, Lou & Nancy	04/20
YOUNG, Joe & June	04/21
PROKOP, Karen & Frank	04/22
LITTLE, Don & Betty	04/29

Birthdays

NEVINS, Ilene	04/02
PRESCOTT, Joyce	04/02
BUKES, Janet	04/03
BELLAH, Bill	04/05
SMITH, Leo	04/06
OLSON, Linda	04/07
PHILLIPPI, Nancy	04/07
ROOKER, Joanie	04/07
EXTRACT, Clif	04/08
WARD, Linda	04/09
SIMON, Jim	04/11
ZELLO-MCCOTTER, Linda Eva	04/12
COOKE, Lois	04/14
RYTTER, Jane	04/17
WATTS, Beler	04/17
TERRY, Cliff	04/18
LUCKMAN, Michael Kim	04/19
JACKSON, Jim	04/22
LANGWIG, Donna	04/22
MILLER, Linda	04/23
MOYER, Michael	04/24
NOONAN, Iain	04/24
JENSEN, J Edgar	04/26
ICEMAN, Denny	04/29
REYNOLDS, Richard	04/29



"VISTA'S GOT TALENT"

Our congregation consists of many folks who spent their lives in careers that could benefit Vista UMC.

If you have/had a career in Graphic Design, Media Experience, Public Relations, and/or Websites, **we are looking for you!** Volunteers are needed for a short-term task force to develop plans for keeping the community and members informed on what is available and happening at Vista.

This is your opportunity to share your talents and help Vista ... *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world and to reach out to others, help them, welcome them into our family of faith as we gather for worship, fellowship, education, and service.*

Please contact the office at 520-825-1985 or email Robin at membership@vistaumc.org.

A big THANKS to the landscape crew for months of hard work on the Stations of the Cross project which is almost completed! Be sure to join us as we walk the Stations at the end of the Good Friday Service March 29.



Gene Bywater, Ron Olson, Kim Luckman, Phil Hauck, Rob Coleman, David Yob not pictured,

A bake sale, sponsored by United Women in Faith, is planned for March 24 (Palm Sunday) before and after church. Come and buy cookies, cakes, and other food items for your Easter celebration.

Thank you, Amy Butkovich



MOVING??? Please help us to keep our records up to date with address changes, transfers in or out, etc. Call or email the office:

admin@vistaumc.org

520-825-1985

They Were Not Born Blind

John Stuart

Watkins

*They were not born blind,
but became blind.*

*They are atheists,
non-believers,
wandering,
wondering,*

confused,

troubled.

O, that they could see.

Need Transportation?

What happens if you cannot drive anymore? How does one get to the doctor's office or do errands without being able to drive? There are private businesses in the Oro Valley community that offer non-emergency transportation for a fee. All the non-emergency transportation companies require to be pre-registered with them before making an advance reservation. Here is a list of private non-emergency transportation options:

1. First call is your health insurance company. Check to see if your policy provides non-emergency transportation.
2. Sun Shuttle bus service provides non-emergency transportation "Dail-a-ride" to your front door. The "Dail-a-ride" contact number is 520-229-4990 or their website is www.orovalleyaz.gov. At this time senior riders can ride the bus for free. If you are using a walker and/or wheelchair then you need another type of transportation that can accommodate your needs. The "Dail-a-Ride" requires you to apply for an American Disability Certificate. The contact number for the "American Disability Act" (ADA) office is 520-791-5409. The certificate holder can call the "Dail-a-Ride." The "Dail-a-Ride" will send out a special vehicle for you to be pick you up at your front door.
3. B & B Transportation is a private non-emergency transporter. Their contact number is 520-883-0384 and the website is: www.bnbtransportation.com. They can provide wheelchairs and/or stretcher transportation. Reservations needed. You do not need the American Disability Certificate to use them.
4. Western Medical Transportation Service: contact at: 520-460-6925 or website: www.westmedtransport.com. This non-emergency service provides for the ambulatory, wheelchair and/or stretcher transportation. They offer also (for a charge) a caregiver/attendant (upon request) to go with the individual to their appointment. They do "Compassionate Hospice" transportation. The service can do extended journeys.
5. Handicar is another private non-emergency transporter. Their contact number to make a reservation is 520-464-6872 ext. 26648 or the

website is www.myhandicar.com. They do offer services that can accommodate walkers/wheelchairs.

6. GoGo Grandparents Transportation is another private service that is available. Their contact number is 1(855)464-6872 ext. 95033 or the website is www.gogograndparent.com Call and check them out. They will even pick up your prescriptions.
7. Veteran Transportation Program (VTP). Need a ride? Use the DAV hospital service (HSC) coordinator Directory to contact the nearest ride needs.
www.dav.org/get-help-now/medical-transportation/
8. Uber Health offers non-emergency transportation. They do not have a telephone number but do have a website to use. The website is www.uberhealth.com. They offer two different options in transportation. The first option is "UberX" option is for ambulatory person who does not need extra time to get to the vehicle. The second option is "Uber Comfort." This service allows extra time for the person to get to and from their front door and place of business. Another transportation is "UberWAV" which is for wheelchair service.
7. Lyft Pass for healthcare transportation. There is only a website to contact at www.lyft.com/healthcare.
8. Angel Med Flight is a medical air transportation service. The contact number is 1(877)639-4896 or the website is www.angelmedflight.com

Yes, I have provided you with non-emergency transportation options because everyone's needs are different. I needed a non-emergency transportation last year to take me to an appointment. I called my insurance company, and my policy offered me 12 one-way transportations for free. I decided to take this option instead of calling a friend to take me to the medical appointment and all went well. I have done the work for you, so keep it in a place you can pull out to use it later.

Written by Delores Brindle

Blessings. Linda Ward and family.



Beloved Vista Family,

Deede and I would like to thank you for the wonderful retirement send-off in December. We also want to thank you for the generous Love Gift. Most of all we want to thank you for being you! You blessed Deede and I for the 8 1/2 years we served you. You left us with some very precious memories and relationships of love.

Deede and I are adjusting to being retired. I especially am seeking a new rhythm in life that doesn't revolve around worship and sermon preparation and committee meetings. On occasion you will see us at a memorial service as we remember those relationships of love that we shared that will go with us from this world to the next.

Stay strong in Christ! Stay deeply committed to each other!

And as some of my old charismatic friends used to say, "See you there or in the air!"

In Christ's love

Pastor Fred and Deede

Heartfelt thank you.

Many thanks for the prayers, cards, flowers, calls, and hugs during Dillis's illness and passing. Your kindness and thoughtfulness were so greatly appreciated.

The Finance Team
requests your help!

If you write checks to Vista, please use only **BLACK** or **DARK BLUE** ink. Our bank's check scanner does not recognize red, purple, green or many other pretty ink colors and we are seeing an increase in checks that cannot be processed. Thanks for your understanding!

Mary & Linda



Easter cards will be available
March 10, 17, and 24
for 50 cents.

Did They Die for a Lie

Stuart Watkins

In *More Than a Carpenter*, by Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell, the deaths of these followers of Jesus Christ are outlined as follows:

1. Peter, originally called Simon, was crucified.
2. Andrew was crucified.
3. James, son of Zebedee, was killed by the sword.
4. John, son of Zebedee, died a natural death.
5. Philip was crucified.
6. Bartholomew was crucified.
7. Thomas was killed by a spear.
8. Mathew was killed by the sword.
9. James, son of Alphaeus, was crucified.
10. Thaddaeus was killed by arrows.
11. Simon, the zealot, was crucified.

The authors then state, "It would be hard to find a group of men anywhere in history who would die for a lie if they knew it was a lie."

In my opinion, these men died because they believed in the truth that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. When someone questions whether Jesus was the Son of God, ask them if they would die for a lie if they knew it was a lie, and wait for their answer.

Moments Remembered

Webster defines nostalgia as: "A sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past, typically for a specific period or place with happy personal associations."

The Catalinas Community Chorus is presenting "Moments Remembered" a fun program of music and memories. It will be presented only on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at 3:00 pm at Vista de la Montana United Methodist Church, 3001 E. Miravista Lane, Tucson, Arizona.

Remember those "Magic Moments", when your team won the Big Game, your first car, that time you walked the streets of your town with "Those Dear Hearts and Gentle People," or your first visit to the Magic Kingdom when you "Wished Upon a Star"? We also have a fun segment devoted to radio jingles that we grew up with, including the very first jingle for "Wheaties" in 1926. And, for you coffee drinkers we have some "Chock Full 'O' Nuts," and "Java Jive", too.

This program promises to be a lively blend of the old and the new guaranteed to bring a smile to the face, a song to the lips, and the realization that life has been, and continues to be good. Don't miss this delightful trip down Memory Lane.

For more information regarding program, call at (520) 303-6474, visit the CCC website, www.catalinascommunitychorus.org, or email ccchorusaz@gmail.com. Please join us as we strive to achieve our mission of supporting children and youth music programs in Tucson. To date, CCC has donated \$20,000 to youth and school music programs in the greater Tucson



area. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. For tickets and information, please see chorus members Gene Bywater, Diane Bywater, Dr. Jan Atwood, Marilyn Rutkowski, Mary Bellah, or Bill Bellah.

History, Concept, and Goals of the E-mail Prayer Chain

Lou Phillippi

The email prayer chain came into being 20 years ago, when Nancy and I lived in a remote mountain area in Northern California. Our church, the Sierra City United Methodist Church, was at the end of a three-church circuit which covered three scattered mountain villages.

Even though we were widely separated, we were all part of the same church family, and although we rarely got together in worship, we wanted to stay connected with each other in faith and in prayer. In response to that need, the North Gold Circuit email prayer chain was formed, linking us all together. It grew to include other congregations and denominations as well.

When Nancy and I moved to Arizona 12 years ago and joined Vista church, I was asked by the then pastor, what I could do for the church. Knowing that, although Vista had a large congregation, a significant number were snowbirds and went elsewhere during the hot summer months. It occurred to me that this yearly occurrence, in many respects, mirrored the separation of the three churches in the North Gold Circuit, and that the same email prayer chain concept had the potential of keeping us all connected.

The concept is quite simple. Prayer requests are sent to me by individuals who have signed up to be part of the prayer chain, by the pastor, and any individual, whether a member of the church prayer chain or not, who wishes a prayer to be lifted up. I then either write up a prayer request

and send it out or forward an existing emailed prayer request to prayer chain members, using B.C.C. so that no one can see anyone else's email address.

Even though we currently have 42 active members, the goal would be to have all or most of the congregation linked in this fashion, so that no matter where a person may be at any time, he or she can always remain in contact and in joined prayer with other members of our church family.



Lenten Prayer beads are available in the bead basket.

Note the colors:

Red represents the blood of Christ.

Purple or other dark colors the passion.

White we remember the risen Christ.

Vista Prayer Beaders



Catalina has a Sun Wheel

Stuart Watkins and James (Jim) Bleess

Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church is on land previously owned by the U.S. Government. These ten acres were once a Titan 2 missile site complete with a silo, missile, and warhead (now deactivated, removed, and backfilled).

According to the National Park Service, the piles of rocks often found on hiking trails are called Bates Cairns. They are named after Waldron Bates, the lead author of the hiking maps still referenced to create today's trail maps. The cairn found in Catalina at Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church should possibly be named after Jim Bleess. He built it in the center of the Sun Wheel he constructed at the South end of the Church parking lot.

The Sun Wheel was two years in the making. Underneath the cairn is where the base of the radio antenna for the Titan Ballistic Missile used to be. The antenna was to receive the signal to launch, not direct the flight of the missile, to its eventual location in the event of war. All the Titan Ballistic Missile sites around Tucson have been dismantled and the silos filled with rocks and concrete. There

remains one that is kept as a museum for visitors. It is located just South of Tucson. (The Titan Missile Museum is at 1580 W Duval Mine Rd, Green Valley, AZ 85614).

Jim Bleess said it took twenty-eight tons of rocks to complete the Sun Wheel. There are seven viewing stations. One points to the equinox, and one station points to Kitt Peak. Viewing stations point to the Vernal Equinox on March 20th, the Summer Solstice on June 21st, the Autumnal Equinox on September 23rd, and the Winter Solstice on December 21st.

All are welcome from first light until twilight hours. No overnight camping, tenting, or RV parking. Check-in at the church office, if open, as a courtesy. Please stay on the gravel path.

