



VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

April 2024

Echoes

Rev. Deborah Christine

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Happy Easter!

Many people think Easter is over... but wait we have six more Sundays in the Easter Season. As most people put away their Easter decorations, we really should be putting ours out. The Christian celebration of Easter doesn't begin until Easter morning and then continues until Pentecost on May 19th! So please continue to sing Easter songs and enjoy Easter candy until we light things on fire on Pentecost!

Living in the Easter Season is wonderful. For the next month my sermons will discuss what it means to still live as followers of Jesus even though Jesus is now the resurrected Christ. Jesus will appear occasionally to reinforce his message and comfort his followers, but the ministry is in the hands of the disciples and of course that means it is up to us to continue spreading the Good News of the Gospel!

We have now reached the halfway point of my time with you. Three months has gone by so fast and the next three will pass quickly. I will begin to talk more about this transition and two books I have used and recommend are *Transitions, Making Sense of Life's Changes* and *Managing Transitions* both written by William Bridges. In the next three months I will be referencing the material in both these books.

There are three basic parts of all transitions, the end, the in-between and the beginning. We have already experienced the end, that is when Pastor Fred retired. Now we are experiencing the in between time, and then in July you will experience a new beginning with Pastor Mary.

Our in-between time is an opportunity to look at the habits, events, traditions, and objects in the church with fresh eyes. We have started asking how all the aspects of church, worship, studies, missions, activities, advertising, buildings, and stuff, serve us or don't serve us. It is a time of examination. The work has begun with new plans for the narthex and our library, updating our website and directory, new advertising, and have you seen how spruced up the office is?

Now is the time for dreaming and imagining what Vista UMC could/will be in the future. What have you always wanted to try? What have you wanted to let go of?

The Easter Season is just perfect for this type of examination and imagination, because we are Easter People!

Blessings!

Pastor Deborah

Vista de la Montaña Prayer Bead Ministry



In February 2022, Vista Adult Education offered the first Protestant Prayer Bead class. Twelve women attended

that class, an informal Prayer Bead Ministry was formed, and we didn't even know it had begun. Many of us made Prayer Beads for our family and friends. As we began using them ourselves and making them for others, we realized what a wonderful tool they were for calming our spirits and connecting us with God. They are helpful, especially when we're feeling fidgety and restless.

A small group met in July 2022 to make small sets of Prayer Beads to give out to members and visitors of Vista. As we were creating and sharing our experiences with the beads, we understood that we wanted – **needed** - to do more. We decided to establish an official Vista de la Montaña Prayer Bead Ministry. Starting the first of September 2022, we placed small sets of Prayer Beads on the Sanctuary entry table for any member to take for themselves or someone they know who has a need for prayer. The beads are packaged with a short description of how to use them. There is no wrong way! The group is also working with Chaplains at Davis-Monthan and the Air National Guard to provide beads for men and women being deployed to various posts.

Full sets of Prayer Beads consist of:

- A cross or other pendant
- One large bead, called the "Invitatory" bead – reminds us that God invites us to a time of prayer. We can use this bead to begin our prayer – like our Call to Worship
- A Resurrection bead to focus on Christ's gift to us of eternal life.
- There are 4 more large beads, called "Cruciform" beads.
- Between each of the Cruciform beads is a set of 7 smaller beads, called "week" beads.

Small sets consist of only two sets of "week" beads, and are easy to carry in a pocket, purse or keep in the car.

The team meets frequently to make prayer beads as a community mission of this church. After the prayer beads are completed, the group prays over them for the future owners. It is their prayer that these beads will bring comfort in times of trouble and help deepen relationships with God.

When the Israelites felt lost and afraid, God gave them a prayer tool of knotted fringe. The fringe helped them stay focused on God. Have you ever felt lost or does your mind wander during prayer? Prayer Beads can help. Join Nancy Yob, on April 12th, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, to explore the history of the beads, and create your own unique set. We will look at ways to use the beads to enrich our prayer time and strengthen our connection with God.

Blessings, Your Vista de la Montaña Prayer Bead Ministry Team

For more information you may contact Nancy Yob at mamayob@gmail.com. You can also read more about the history and use of beads in Kristen E. Vincent's book, "A Bead and A Prayer."

Mission Moments

April 2024

Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life.

Proverbs 22:6 Good News Bible

Agua Prieta School Project

While we may not have the opportunity to be in the classroom every day, we do have the opportunity to make an impact on their education. Through our sponsorship program at our sister church in Mexico, children know that they are supported and loved by Vista Church.

We are looking forward to the 2024-25 Agua Prieta School Project which kicks off in just a few short months. Letters will be sent later this month to those of you who currently sponsor a child. The cost is the same as last year--\$30, which will purchase a backpack and all the supplies needed for the entire year! For those of you who are interested in sponsoring a child, you can select a student from our **Adopt-a-Student Apple Tree on June 16th and 23rd**. Please consider this worthy mission. These students will remember your kindness and generosity all their life!

Sponsor Appreciation Day is Sunday June 9th. Last year we sponsored 90 students. Let's aim higher this year!

Other Updates:

- **Pocket Change Sunday:** Our Pocket Change donations for March totaled \$293.28. Those funds will be used to support the **Family First Pregnancy Care Center and Family Diaper Bank, Inc.** Our next Pocket Change Sunday is April 28. Save your change and small bills! Every penny counts.
- **Impact Food Bank:** Donations totaled 75 pounds for the month of February. Thank you church!
- **Creative Hands:** This talented team continues to sew unique clothing for kids. They represent Vista in such a creative way month after month.
- **Agua Prieta:**
 - The AP School Supplies Sponsors' Appreciation Day is scheduled for Sunday, June 9th. Last year we sponsored 90 students. Let's aim even higher this year!

*Serving Him,
Your Mission Team*

Endowment — Paying It Forward

We all know how important the current-year budget is. Without it we would cease to be. With our history dating back to the last century, we have obviously been successful and diligent in supporting Vista. But there is another way to support Vista and ensure its continuing vitality: Endowment giving. By supporting Endowment we can “pay it forward”. *Current-year* giving is here today and gone tomorrow, as it should and must be. *Endowment giving* is here today and tomorrow and tomorrow’s tomorrow.

When special unbudgeted needs arise (as they always seem to), Endowment funds can help to fill the gap and keep our church functioning at its full ability. In many ways Endowment acts as a shock absorber so that the bumps or potholes in the road do not throw us off track.

Consider giving to the Vista Endowment Fund. Pay it forward. See Jay O’Donald for details (jodonald41@gmail.com).



CHECK OUT VISTA’S WEBSITE: www.vistaumc.org

Did you know Vista’s website is a good resource for updated information? You can review the church calendar in several formats (monthly, weekly, daily); keep up to date with the Bulletin, committee activities, and general information about our church, from its history to recent events. Streaming on Sundays is available on the website and you can access our Facebook page as well. Stay in “the know”!!



Church Office/Education Building Hours Reminder

Open Monday thru Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed for lunch each day from 12 to 1
Closed on Fridays

Christian Education

We are completing this week our Lenten class on Adam Hamilton's Luke taught by Gail Parson and Pastor Deb. The class has met with acclaim from all who are taking it.

April Class

On April 12th we will offer a class from 1 to 3 PM in the Elizabeth Room for all who would like to learn how to make prayer beads of various types. The class is also open to those who need a refresher or would simply like some company while they bead. The class is taught by Nancy Yob

May Class

Beginning on each Wednesday in May at 10 AM, this class gives us a chance to get to know our Vista campus and the many opportunities for self-reflection and meditation it offers. We will have some class time of explanation and then explore the campus. Each week will feature a different aspect of the campus. They will include the labyrinth, the Stations of the Cross, the Meditation Garden, columbarium, and the Sun Wheel. The class will involve some walking.

Congregational Care Committee

We have nine ready, willing, and able church members who can provide several services when needed:

- Transportation to doctor's appointments
- Short term meal preparation
- Visitation
- Family respite

If you have need of any of these services, please contact Sandy Schwartz or the church office.

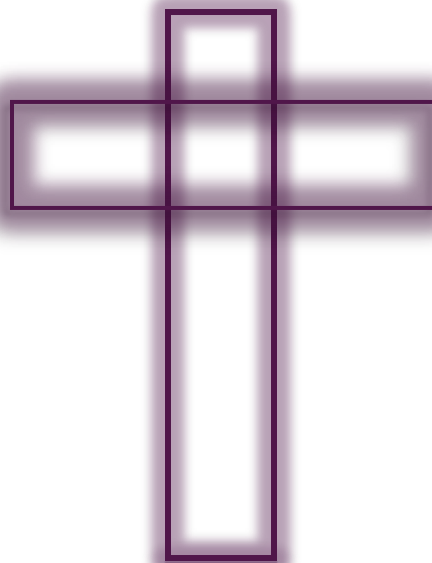
Dinner for Six



Our annual Dinner for Six end of the year party is Sunday, April 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Pete and Sandy's home. Please RSVP with what you will bring (appetizer or dessert). Beverages will be provided.

Join us for Easter services:

- **Maundy Thursday at 3 p.m.**
Taize music and Communion
- **Good Friday at 3 p.m.**
Walk the Stations of the Cross
Followed by service in Sanctuary
- **6 a.m. Easter Sunrise**
- **Pancake Breakfast**
- **10 a.m. Easter**



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
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 Jr, 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 de la Montana Prayer Chain

Contact Lou Phillipi to join.

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.