

VISTA de la MONTAÑA UMC

May 2024

Echoes

"Once a Missile Site . . . Now a Church with a Mission"

*Rev Deborah Christine
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Happy Easter (yep it is still Easter)

Until May 19 my sermons will have us thinking about being sheep, branches, and all we need is love. On May 12 we will celebrate Ascension of the Lord where Jesus goes up into the clouds and then on May 19, we will celebrate Pentecost when the Spirit comes flying down. Gail Parson and the Worship Committee have some wonderful things planned for Pentecost. Get out your red clothes!

Also, on May 19, immediately following the 10am church service, we will hold a Welcome Reception. Robin Connor has invited every visitor since January that has shared their contact information. It will be an informal time of conversation and sharing. I am inviting a representative from the following committees and ministry areas to attend and give a short talk about the wonderful things they do at Vista.

- Worship
- Youth
- Mission
- Evangelism
- Labyrinth
- Sun Circle
- Stations of the Cross

Once we have had the opportunity to talk to our visitors, and if there is interest, Robin and I will plan a Methodist 101 class for June.

I am honored and excited to be asked to discuss sacred spaces at the May 1st Wednesday Study Group. The class will also feature all the sacred spaces we have at Vista. I will discuss how you might create sacred spaces in your home or in the other places you find the Spirit. I also want to know if you already have a sacred space and what makes it special?

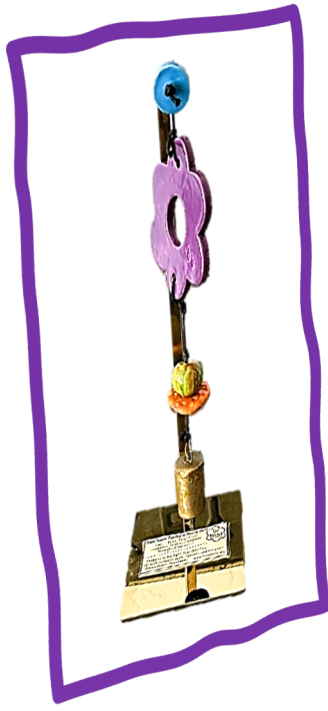
Our Task Team has been very busy examining and planning for the very best use of shared space at Vista. Here is what is happening:

- Reorganizing/cleaning/repurposing rooms and storage areas
- Connecting with other non-profits to giveaway excess materials
- Interacting with each committee and interest area about room usage, materials, storage

I asked you this last month, but I think it bears repeating! 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's Ben's Bell

I found this bell hung on a bush near the labyrinth and the crosses. It is now on display in the narthex. Gail

What are Ben's Bells?

If you have been in Tucson area for sometime you may have heard of Ben's Bells or you may have seen the *Be Kind* logo (especially on schools). This organization came to life in 2002. Following is the story from the website: bensbells.org.

In 2002, Jeannette Maré's life changed forever when her son, Ben, died suddenly just before his third birthday. In the months following his death, Jeannette and her friends and family began making ceramic wind chimes - the first Ben's Bells - in her backyard studio. Being surrounded by supportive people and working with clay toward a common goal was therapeutic for her family and their healing.

During this time, Jeannette learned how a small act of kindness could make such a difference in a person's life, no matter their background. She wanted to find a way to teach others about the impact of intentional acts of kindness, and so the idea for the Bell came to life. Jeannette and her friends made four hundred Bells and randomly distributed them in the Tucson community on the first anniversary of Ben's death. Through these Bells, she had found a way to pay forward the kindnesses that had been shown to her.

This started a powerful ripple effect. People who found the Bells shared their own stories of grief and healing and hope. The local newspaper printed the story on the front page. School groups and businesses and individuals started calling to see how they could get involved and soon, thousands of Tucsonans were helping to craft Ben's Bells.

Since 2003, Ben's Bells has been operating as a nonprofit, growing kindness education programs and continuing to distribute thousands of Bells every year. Today Bells are found all over the world and our free kindness education programming has reached over 1.6 million students.

Ben's Bells are colorful ceramic ornaments hung in communities throughout the world as symbols of kindness for people to find and take home. Thousands of volunteers visit our studios and help us make Bells each year. By the time each Bell is hung, many hands have had a part in its journey, and it represents the efforts of an entire community coming together to make one person's day a little kinder.

But that's not all we do!

Ben's Bells educates communities about the benefits of kindness and the skills we need to make kindness part of our daily lives. Kindness can be easy, or it can require great skill, and when we practice regularly our small actions make a larger impact than a single random act. Our programs are designed to help us understand the human brain so we can develop our awareness and compassion – both for ourselves and others.

INTENTIONAL KINDNESS

Ben's Bells teaches individuals and communities about the positive impacts of intentional kindness and inspires people to practice kindness as a way of life.

KIND PRACTICES

Ben's Bells programs are based on the belief that everyone has the capacity to be kind and that kindness can be cultivated through education, visual reminders, and ongoing practice.

CHANGE THE WORLD

By recognizing, valuing, and practicing intentional kindness, we can change the world.

Check out more:

[Home - Ben's Bells \(bensbells.org\)](http://bensbells.org)

Ben's Bells – 40 W Broadway Blvd – Tucson 85701

ALSO – ask our Kianna about her experience with Ben's Bells 😊

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**LIFT UP THE WORD
LIGHT UP THE WORLD**
2 SAMUEL 22:29-31
THE 73RD ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024



**May 2
10:30 - noon**

Once again, the Stephen Ministry is sponsoring an observance of the National Day of Prayer, May 2, 2024. Stop by the sanctuary anytime between 10:30 and noon. There will be stations and printed prayer guides to assist you during your period of personal prayer.



SaddleBrooke Winds and Strings presented a special concert at Vista UMC on Sunday, April 14th at our facility. This wonderful presentation was held in honor of Leo Smith, our beloved member who recently passed away. The band performed two remembrance pieces as well as a selection of pieces from their upcoming "Spring Fling" concert to be held at Desert View Performing Arts Center in Saddlebrooke.

SaddleBrooke Winds & Strings (SBWS) started as a "garage band" in 2013 and has evolved into a community group consisting of amateur and professional musicians from SaddleBrooke and surrounding areas. SBWS's Music Director, Jesus Jacquez, is an active musician, an experienced band and orchestra teacher, and will be pursuing graduate studies in conducting in the fall.

The program was most enjoyable, and we look forward to more concerts from this special group!



Vista Music!

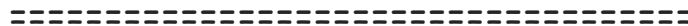
Do you want to learn how to sing? Or sing better?

Our Summer Vocal Workshop with Sharon Stohrer (resume available) will be held Wednesday, August 7th from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm in the Vista de la Montaña UMC sanctuary, [3001 E. Miravista Ln](http://www.vistaumc.org) in Catalina, AZ. The cost will be \$10 per person and is open to any member of the congregation and/or Catalina community who is interested in learning more about singing. Please call the church office at 520.825.1985 or email Carolyn Dwyer at music@vistaumc.org to register.



Devin Gardner will be our pianist for the summer.

Devin Gardner has 35 years experience within the field of music , beginning piano studies at age 6, and adding oboe several years later. In 1997, Devin was awarded a fellowship with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington DC, allowing him to gain further experience while working closely with principal players within the NSO, as well as visiting guest artists. Along with principal spots in the American Youth Philharmonic, Devin studied and performed chamber music at the Levine School of Music, where he had the opportunity to work alongside guest artists such as Itzhak Perlman and Leon Fleisher. Attending Cincinnati Conservatory of Music on scholarship, Mr. Gardner went on to further obtain degrees with full tuition scholarships from George Mason University and the University of Arizona. Devin currently maintains a private piano and oboe studio, and serves as an accompanist for the woodwind department at the UofA. He is especially fond of modern French flute repertoire, with Dutilleux, Bozza, and Jolivet being some of his favorite composers. In addition, Mr. Gardner performs throughout Arizona and Texas with the Arizona Opera, Sierra Vista Symphony, El Paso Symphony, and St. Philips in the Hills. Living in the scenic Foothills with his two beautiful dogs Venkman and Zeddemore--named after two of his favorite Ghostbusters--he is also an avid participant in bowling, pool, and darts, and enjoys walking with his dogs all over Oro Valley and Marana.



Christian Education

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Spiritual Opportunities on Vista Campus

Our church campus is full of possibilities for us to find spaces to pray, to meditate, to contemplate and to think and yet there is so much we don't know about our buildings and grounds. This class will take the 5 Wednesdays in May at 10 AM and acquaint you with all of the possibilities Vista offers. We will look at the labyrinth, the Sun Wheel, the Stations of the Cross, the Memorial Garden and ways in which you can use the church as a Sacred Space for you. Each class includes some instruction and explanation and some exploration of the opportunities on campus. Please sign up by calling the Church Office.

First Persons

Wednesday 10 AM in the Elizabeth Room

Dates: Part 1

June 5, 12, and 19

Part 2

July 10, 17, 24 and 31

Our summer sessions this year are a continuation of the very popular class held last year. It is based on the study by well-known theologian, Matt Rawle entitled "First Persons". Each class is based on his idea of the type of people who might have attended the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Each week the new role is defined, historical data about these careers is discussed and what might have been their attitudes about Jesus and his crucifixion. Though the author has created these characters, the reenactment facilitates interesting class discussions about this culmination of Jesus' time on earth. You may sign up for Part 1, Part 2 or both. Call the church office to register.

stephen
MINISTRY

Vista's Stephen Ministry group hosted a "Thank You Breakfast" on April 11th for the Landscape crew and donors participating in the Stations of the Cross project. Approximately 35 people attended and enjoyed a wonderful breakfast.

Vista de la Montaña's Stations of the Cross project has been several years in the making. It began in 2022 with funds given to Vista's Stephen Ministry in memory of Dr. Bill Pohnert, a Vista Stephen Minister. When the Stephen Ministry group began mulling over the possible use of these funds, Stephen Leader, emeritus, Mary Louise Roberson proposed Stations of the Cross. In the intervening time, many individuals have contributed gifts of time, money, and skills to this project.

Landscape design and work were contributed by:

Ron Olson	David Yob
Gene Bywater	Kim Luckman
Phil Hauck	Rob Coleman
Leo Smith	

Crosses were contributed by:

Ron Olson	David Yob
Roger Salava	Kim and Joyce Luckman
Valerie Hammons	Dottie and Mel McIntyre
Women's Lectionary Group from Vista de la Montaña UMC	

Special thank-you to:

Kathleen Wallace Greer, for creating the tiles and arranging for the lettering
Sue Hedrick, for creating the ceramic crosses mounted on the letter boxes

Additional donors:

Alfredo Ramirez owner JDS General Remodeling LLC
Vista de la Montaña UMC Memorial Fund
Vista's youth and children's ministry

Fran Hampton
Vista de la Montaña UMC Permanent Endowment Fund
Stephen Ministry at Vista de la Montaña UMC



Great buffet!



Ron Olson with some of crew



Fred Baum & Mary Louise

Mission Moments May 2024

*Thanks be to Christ Jesus who strengthens me, that he has found me faithful, appointing me to his service.
1 Tim 1:12*

Easter Offering

Thank you church for your generosity to our Easter offering. As of this week, donations totaled \$2680. Your mission committee is extremely grateful! As stated in our recent letter, the monies donated will be used to continue funding two of our ongoing mission projects right here in Catalina. Snak Pak and Impact Food Bank both serve families in our neighborhood and your contributions really do impact the day to day lives of our neighbors. Just last week a team of 5 from Vista partnered with Santa Catalina Catholic Church to pack 240 weekend snack bags for students at Coronado School. Each bag contains 11 nutritious food items. Thank you volunteers and thank you again Church, for your financial support!

Other Updates:

- **Pocket Change Sunday:** Our next collection is April 28. The collected donations will be forwarded to Tucson Metropolitan Ministries, TMM. Thank you to Vista Women of Faith for your timely suggestion! Remember to save your loose change!
- **Agua Prieta:** Letters will be mailed soon regarding our annual Backpack project and Sponsor Recognition Day is June 9. Consider making a small investment in the life of a student in Mexico.
- **Impact Food Bank:** Donations totaled 56 pounds for the month of March. This is typically the time of year when donations drop off but, as you know, the need remains high. Please pick up a few additional shelf stable items the next time you shop.
- **Creative Hands:** Numerous handmade items for infants and toddlers were delivered to Family First and Impact. This group continues to represent Vista through their creativity.

- **Catalina Senior Club:** We will pursue ways to connect with this newly formed outreach in our community. More information next month!

Serving Him,
Your Mission Team

We have received the good news that our sister church Fuente de Vida is, growing and prospering. Pastor Gela has reported that many new people have been baptized and received into membership.

At the present time, they have five college students in the University or tech school, thanks to Vista's Roach Scholarship fund. This past week Pastor Gela attended a conference for all the pastors in the Agua Prieta area. They all enjoyed the participation and fellowship that was shared together.

Palm Sunday they celebrate their 23rd year of ministry in the Colonia (started in 2001). God has truly blessed this mission project and caused it to grow to what it is today. Pastor Gela sends her gratitude to all of us at Vista that have been such a big part of their growing ministry.

On July 10 thru the 14th, Fuente de Vida has been chosen to host the Annual Conference. This Conference includes all the Methodist churches in three states (Sinaloa, Sonora, and Baja). Many of these Methodist churches are small and are unable to pay a living wage to their pastors. That means those pastors must hold a second job in order to support their families. We have been asked to make a collection of clothing, suitable for church gatherings, for these pastors for both male and female. This would include accessories like neck ties and jeweler. A clothing rack will be placed in the nursery, starting the first Sunday in May, for you to bring in clothing items on hangers and place them on the rack. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our sister church in Mexico. Any questions call me at 520-496-6898

Yours in Mission Service:

Dee Berman Tompkins

Chairman of Vista's Mexico Ministry

Anniversaries

SMITH, Al & Kathleen 05/07
HIGGINS, Dennis & Peggy 05/08
BIXBY, Dave & Lynn 05/10
MOYER, Michael & Jenna Rae 05/10
PARSON, Gail & Darrell 05/10
BLEESS, Jim & Von Ceil 05/11
ZEBAL, Ken & Liz 05/27
DANIELS, Bill & Becki 05/28
AUTHUR, Bob & Janelle 05/31
PODLASEK, Ken & Diane 05/31

Birthdays

KRAVITZ, Mike 05/01
BYWATER, Gene 05/03
MILLARD, Jan 05/03
HERD, Eileen 05/05
LUCKMAN, Joyce 05/05
MEISE, Pat 05/05
O'DONALD, Jay 05/06
SMITH, Don 05/06
GRAY, Linda 05/07
HUBBARD, Jo Ann 05/08
JOHNSON, Pat 05/10
PHILLIPS, Allen 05/10
HERNANDEZ, Kiana 05/13
BERG, Mary 05/14
YOUNG, Mary Lou 05/16
BROWNING, Jerry 05/17
FUJITA-HERNANDEZ, Ami 05/23
RUTKOWSKI, Marilyn 05/23
CAMPBELL, Kathy 05/24
ATWOOD, Jan 05/26
CROWN, Charles 05/28
NELSON, Ruth 05/28
GUPTILL, June 05/29
COFFMAN, Anne 05/31