



JANUARY 2025

Our Mission at Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church

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.



“Tuesdays with Pastor Mary”

Remember to tune into Vista’s Facebook page every Tuesday for a message from Pastor Mary. To access Facebook, go to our website: www.vistaumc.org and click on the Facebook icon.

Address for ALL Echoes articles!

The email address for all Echoes articles is Echoes@vistaumc.org

Please make sure that you send your articles to that address only! If you send it to another address it is possible the article will not be published.

Gail Parson, Echoes@vistaumc.org



The 2025 Flower Chart is now posted in the Narthex. Please consider sponsoring one or more flower arrangements in 2025 to enhance the Sunday worship experience at Vista. The donation is still \$50 per arrangement, and the money is not required when you sign up. The flowers are yours to take home after the church service, or you can ask that they be shared with members of the congregation who are homebound. We only ask that you return the flower urn/basket when you are finished enjoying your flowers so that the vessel can be reused. If you are not attending Worship in person on Sundays but would like to sponsor a flower arrangement, please call the church office at 520-825-1985 for more information. Also, the Flower Team builds only one flower arrangement for each Sunday morning service. We apologize, in advance, if your first date choice is not available.

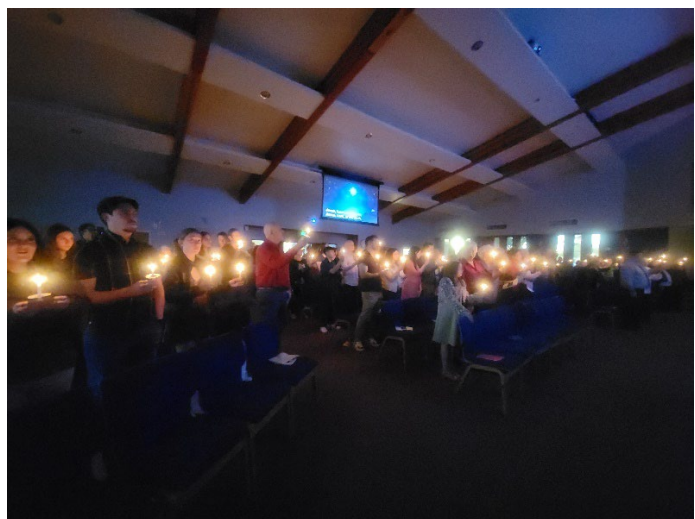
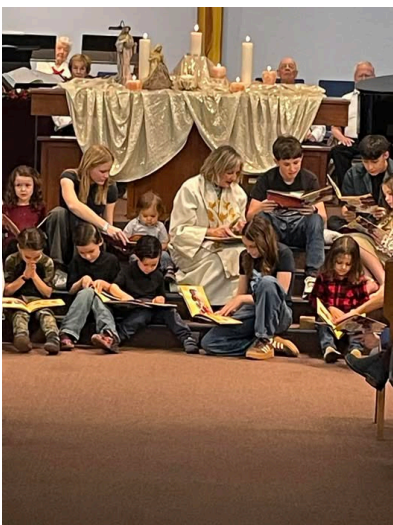
The Flower Team is looking for volunteers. If you’d like to learn more about serving Vista in this capacity, please call the church office.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



Vista welcomed 154 members and guests to the service of “Lessons and Carols” and Communion on Christmas Eve. Thirteen youth and children joined Pastor Mary in the reading of a Christmas Eve Meditation. Everyone enjoyed the music provided by Mary Bellah & Donna Langwig, the Chancel Choir, Bell Choir and a flute solo of “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”, by Carolyn Dwyer.

The service closed with the lighting of the candles and all singing “Silent Night.” If you were unable to attend in person or Live Stream, you may watch a recording on our website, vistaumc.org.



Fellowship Focus



You see her every Sunday, right smack dab in the front row. Her bright smile begs for conversation as evidenced by the folks who approach her after the service. Her name is Dottie Lou Colby. She's been with Vista UMC since 1994, and most parishioners know her as a spiritual soul who loves the Lord. Behind that glowing smile, there is a lifetime of stories. Did you know that Dottie Lou once rode a horse side saddle in one of Tucson's Rodeo parades? While attending Boston University and working in a Work Scholarship program at the library, she checked out an occasional book to Martin Luther King Jr, who was working on his doctorate.

A native of Phoenix, AZ, Dottie Lou spent her early years on a cotton farm purchased by her grandfather. Previously, her mother and her family had moved from Texas in 1921 because she had T.B. and needed a drier climate, thus the purchasing of land farmed to raise cotton and alfalfa. The property was located on Camelback Road close to the Arizona Biltmore. Her mother eventually recovered from T.B. and proceeded to teach school in Jerome, AZ, when it was a vast producing mining town. Her father had moved to Phoenix in 1911 as his parents were already there living close to Dottie Lou's family, eventually meeting them. Dottie Lou's parents married in Flagstaff in 1928 and were given land on the cotton farm to build their house.

Dottie Lou's mother was Methodist, and her father was Catholic. When she went into high school, Dr. Charles Kendall, pastor of Central Methodist, had started a youth group and it was increasing constantly. He began mentoring her and it started to change her life in a different direction. She started at Phoenix College and eventually was accepted at USC in Psychology where she decided to go to seminary. At that time, there were no women ministers. When she was 21 years old, and after WWII, she was on a team being assembled through the Methodist Conference (part of CA Pacific Conference then) to go to Nuremburg, Germany, assisting in rebuilding churches after the war.

In the meantime, her father had passed away at the age of 54. In fulfilling a desire to get her master's in religious education, and at the urging of Dr. Kendall, she applied and was accepted at Boston University where there were only two female students. In one of her classes, she sat in front of Edgar Helms, whose father had successfully started the Good Will Industries. He introduced her to a seminary student, Bill Colby. The two began dating. Dottie Lou was residing in a brownstone living quarters and teaching Sunday School to black kids at Goodwill Industries, an area to which the kids had migrated. During the week, she taught "latchkey" 5th graders and soon realized the curriculum wasn't appropriate, so taught them how to cook spaghetti and introduced them to Fall colored leaves. Yes, those children had never seen a leaf! These years were an eye opener for sure. It was here that she worked in the library and met MLK as he checked out books.

The couple were going to wait for marriage until after graduation; however, Bill was offered a job in East Templeton, MA, and in order to accept the new position they had to be married. On January 30, 1953, they did just that. Four and a half years later, they decided they didn't like living in snow and Dr. Kendall was now a pastor at the First Church in Hollywood and encouraged them to move West. By now, they had started a family; Rob (17 mos.) and Beth (2 mos.) and the progression of pastoring various churches had begun for the Colbys. The First Sunnyside Methodist Church in Los Angeles term went 4 years, followed by 10 years at Christ Church in Tucson. Their third child, Matthew, was born while they served Sunnyside Methodist in 1967, just 4 months prior to moving to Tucson. In 1971 Bill became District Superintendent for Northern AZ, all of Phoenix and two small churches in CA.

While fulfilling the position of D.S., Bill and Dottie Lou became a "team". After Bill completed his time as a D.S. to Bishop Golden (the first Black Bishop for the Methodist Church), he was appointed to Escondido UMC. Dotti Lou was asked to start a college age youth group which she did. Eventually the group grew to 50 young adults out of which 30 became ministers, including their son, Matthew, who was one of this group and their now son-in-law Fred Steinberg, who married their daughter, Beth. (Fred is the Senior Pastor at Gold Canyon UMC, in Gold Canyon, AZ). (Matthew served at Vista UMC as an Associate Pastor with Jon Leonard and Monte Baker). Bill's term in Escondido ended in 1985 and the couple moved to Green Valley where Bill retired in 1993.

While in Green Valley, Bill met a man named Don Cooke who was raising money to build a new Methodist Church in Catalina, northwest of Tucson. They raised \$40,000 and eventually moved to Catalina, where, in 1994, made it official; they joined Vista de

la Montaña United Methodist Church. Their son, Matt, recently retired as the Associate Pastor of Catalina UMC in Tucson.

At Vista UMC, Dottie and Bill were exemplary members, eventually serving wherever needed including church leadership roles for various committees. Bill passed away in April 2007. Dottie Lou continues to be an active member in the Bell Choir and is Adult Sunday School facilitator. She is also a member of the Council for Children and Youth.



The staff at Vista UMC with Pastor Monte Baker (2005)

Back Row, L to R: Monte Baker, Cathy & Matt Colby, Mary and Bill Bellah

Front Row, L to R: Amy Burroughs, Jan

Spring Dinner for Six

Our Spring session for DF6 begins in January. Remember, if you were part of our Fall session, you are automatically included in the Spring session unless you let Sandy Schwartz know you want out.

Our “end of the year party” will be held at the Schwartzes’ at the end of April.

We welcome new members. Call Sandy for information.



Calling All Beaders!

Starting in January, the Vista Prayer Bead Ministry Team will be meeting the first Friday of each month to make prayer beads for Vista, the local community and various military groups. **ALL** are invited to join us. If you don't know how to bead, no problem, we will be happy to teach you. Beads and other supplies will be provided.

**Due to the holiday, our first meeting will be the second Friday,
January 10th, 2025!!!**

WHERE: Patio Room

WHEN: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Ministry Teams

“Share the Warmth” Clothing and Bedding Drive started on Sunday, December 15, 2024, and goes through January 26, 2025. Please consider supporting this cause with donations of gently used (or new) clothing and/or bedding. All donated items are regularly taken to IMPACT in Catalina, where they are distributed to neighbors in need in our community. Socks, sweaters, jackets, gloves and head coverings are especially appreciated, as are blankets and quilts. A clearly identified box in the narthex is available for your donations. Thank you in advance for your support during this season of giving (cash donations also gratefully accepted). Contact Benith MacPherson (benithmac@aol.com) with questions.

IMPACT of Southern Arizona

It is more blessed to give than receive

Acts 20:35

Thank you church for your enthusiastic support of our Impact Food Ministry. We have been working in partnership with Cody and Perla, the directors of Food Programs and Shut-In Seniors, in an effort to help meet the immediate needs of their clients. These needs change each month. In December you generously donated over 132 cans of diced tomatoes in just two weeks.

Also, your monetary donations of \$126 in November allowed us to purchase a mini pumpkin pie and a mini apple pie for each of the forty seniors receiving meals five days a week through Impact Foods.

In December, using the remainder of the money donated in November, we assembled forty treat bags containing a cherry pie, a small box of chocolate covered cherries, a few peppermint candies, and an Agua Prieta Christmas card. Each card included a hand written message, "Merry Christmas from your friends at Vista Methodist Church."

Vista church, you truly are the hands and feet of Jesus in our community!

Happy New Year!

Linda Galka



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith appreciates the support of the congregation during the December 15 bake sale, and our Christmas stocking project.

United Women of Faith and Mission Outreach actively worked together on local mission projects throughout 2024. Last February we had our semi-annual **Family First Baby Shower & Ladies Luncheon**. This event provided Family First with over 1,200 baby diapers and 142 baby layette items. These items are provided to parents through **Family First's Earn While You Learn** Christian based parent education program. Funds from mission donations and our ladies circle, support Jan Bohe's **Creative Hands** sewing group. Family First received additional donations of clothing made by **Creative Hands** totaling 243 items including pajamas and toddler shorts sets and dresses. An equal number of **Creative Hands** clothes were donated to the **Impact Clothing Bank**. Last year Vista ladies collected and put together hygiene toiletries bags for ladies served by **Tucson Metro Ministries (TMM)** and **EMERGE Center Against Domestic Abuse**. Our children's Christmas project was creating Art Gift Bags as follows: EMERGE (30 art bags), TMM (30 art bags) and Fuente de Vida Church (53 art bags). Infants and toddlers at our sister church in Mexico were given gifts of a pillow/pillow sham, fleece blanket, stuffed animal and M&M filled candy cane (15 gifts). Vista ladies filled a record total of 102 Christmas Stockings with gifts! Twenty were given to mothers at **Family First**, 40 and 42 Christmas stockings to women served by **Eagles Wings of Grace** and **TMM** respectively. The stockings were stuffed with toiletry and personal care items. TMM will distribute the stockings during their Christmas party on December 20. Vista's youth made many keychains that were inserted into each stocking. Thank you, Vista youth, for the beautiful, hand-made key chains.

Thank you for your generous donations to support these projects! Ladies in the United Women of Faith and Vista look forward to God blessing us with continued opportunities to serve our community in 2025. United Women of Faith will be meeting on Tuesday, January 21st at 9:30 AM in the Elizabeth Room. Sherri Wyland will tell us the story of the birth of the Golden Goose or "How the Gooden Goose Laid It's First Golden Egg".

Keychains made by the Youth and Ironwood High School Key Club

Stockings filled by Vista members



Caregivers - Should I Get Hospice Care?

The hospital bed gets delivered to the room in the house where it will bring comfort to a loved one with whom one has shared a bed for most of their life. It's called Hospice. The decision has been made and this seems to be the "next step". At least, you tell yourself, it's better to be close and at home, where we all want to be. But is it really the best solution? It's a decision we're seeing on a regular basis at Vista UMC. What do we do as caregivers when there is a decision to be made?

The following was recently given to me by one of our Vista members, who is very experienced with Hospice and the benefits. I wanted to share this with those of you struggling with what to do in this next phase of your caregiving process in your lives.

"When should I consider Hospice?"

"Are you stressed, frustrated and exhausted, caring for your loved one? Has your physician and family suggested you should consider hospice care for your loved one? You are having a difficult time in making that decision because no one can care for your loved one like you? And that is true. But you need to take care of yourself so you can continue to give that tender loving care to your loved one.

Hospice can help you. Don't let the fear of the 'Hospice connotation' scare you. Only God knows when it is time for your loved one to go to their eternal home. Maybe it could be 6 months, a year or 2 years that your loved one could benefit from the care of a hospice nurse, chaplain or a social worker.


Hospice staff are very dedicated special people that can give you some relief from your worries about your loved one. Talk to your friends that have used a hospice service. Most people will say 'I wish I hadn't waited so long to connect with them.' Don't hesitate. Don't wait. Be good to yourself and to your loved one. It doesn't cost you anything if you are Medicare eligible. You can always cancel the service if it doesn't meet your expectations".


On another note, I recently asked one of our members how she was dealing with being a challenged caregiver, and she without hesitation, said: "Well, honey, when you love someone, that's what you do." Our caregiver group can provide you with resources to possibly make this all easier for you.

Delores Brindle

Robin Conner

Arizona 3-day Academy for Spiritual Formation

 April 22 – 25, 2025


 Singing Earth's Song: Lament, Praise, Prayer

- “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof; the world, and they who dwell therein.” Ps. 24:1. The environmental crisis demands a response from the faith community, because the problem is not just a scientific or political problem; it’s a spiritual problem. Materialism dictates our value system; we’re short-sighted about the use of the earth’s resources. Local churches have often chosen denial or complacency rather than hope and engagement, even though the environment is often the number one concern of our young people. This retreat is a journey into the heart of our faith tradition and the scientific community as together we find ways to respond.

 FOR MORE INFORMATION and TO REGISTER, go to <https://dscumc.org/3-day-academy-for-spiritual-formation-april-22-25-2025/>.

 REDEMPTORIST RENEWAL CENTER (<https://desertrenewal.org>) – here in Tucson.

 Faculty Presenter – Rev. Molly Vetter

 Science Consultant – Dr Gary Paul Nabhan

 RETREAT TEAM

- Rev. Jerry Haas, Retreat Leader jndhaas@gmail.com
- Rev. Susan Morgan, Theologian
- Rev. Tweedy Sombrero, Spiritual Guide
- Gail Parson, Hospitality
- Joe Hill, Worship Coordinator
- Derrick, Accompanist

Gail Parson – please feel free to contact me with any questions you have about this event.

Call or text (520) 275-7117 email gailma@comcast.net

January Birthdays



HOLDEN, Larry	01/02
HERNANDEZ, Antonio (AJ)	01/03
REIFSNYDER, Walter	01/05
AUTHUR, Janelle	01/07
HIGGINS, Dennis	01/07
PRICE, Ursula	01/08
DEVRIES, Shirley	01/12
TONGA, Mia	01/14
COLEMAN, Diane	01/15
MEISE, Stan	01/16
CONNER, Robin	01/17
REIFSNYDER, Jane	01/18
FOWLER, Valarie	01/21
DAVIS, Linda	01/22
YOB, Nancy	01/23
CHRISTINE, Deborah	01/25
AGUIRRE, Michelle	01/28
THOMPSON, Sara	01/29
HARWICK, Rebecca	01/30

January Anniversaries



SMITH, Don & Pat 01/01

February Birthdays



SCANLAN, Sharon	02/01
BIXBY, Lynn	02/02
BELLAH, Mary	02/04
CAMPBELL, Alan	02/07
OVERMAN, Margaret	02/10
HERD, Robert	02/11
KIMMEL, Nancy	02/11
BARBER LUBACH, Kay	02/13
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

February Anniversaries



JACKSON, Jim & Ginny 02/01

Compassion Connection

In Need of Continued Prayers for Healing

Marlin Bolar, Eileen Carender, Loni Degen, Edith (Edey) Gallaher, Kay Gragg, Bob & Jane Hendrickson, Bob & Eileen Herd, Ken & Sharon Hunt, Betty Little, Allen & Barbara Phillips, Art Schweitzer, and Carol Wilson.

Home Bound

John & Jan Crown, Florence Duckett, Bill Gureck, Fran Hampton, Margaret Overman, Ken & Diane Podlasek, Sharon Poole, Walt & Mary Louise Roberson, and Howard & Mary Lou Young.

Prayers for our Churches

Each month churches in the South District pray with and for each other. This month we pray for the pastors, congregation, and community of the following:
Chaplains & Counselors in the South District,
The Inn Project, Tucson
TMM Family Services-Peoples served and staff, Tucson
Our sister church, Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico.

Agua Prieta greeting cards are available for 50¢ each in the Library during office hours.

Complimentary Prayer Beads are available in the Narthex and in the Library.

Upper Room booklets are available in the Narthex and the church office for \$2.00 each or online at upperroom.org. It is free to sign up for a daily devotional email.

The church has purchased a **Wheelchair** to be used during worship if needed. The wheelchair will be kept in the Narthex.

Service and Volunteer opportunities.

- AV Booth members needed
- Shepards needed (contact Robin Conner)

How to contribute to the offering if online:

1. Open the camera app on your cell phone.
2. Focus the camera on the QR code by gently tapping the code as it
3. Appears on your camera.
4. Tap on the yellow button—myvanco.com
5. Fill in the card, amount, etc.



Thank you for your donation!

