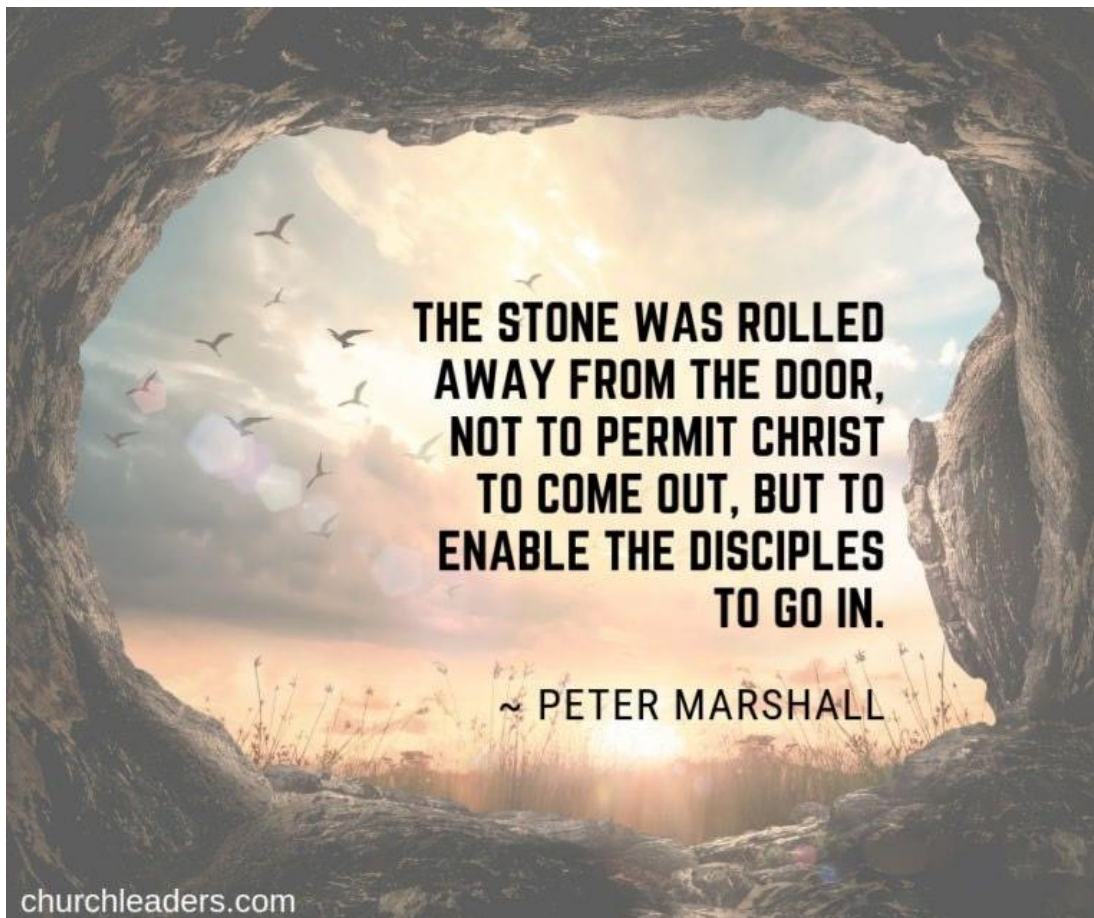




**April 2025**

## **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](http://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](mailto: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 If you send it to another address, it is possible the article will not be published.  
Nancy Yob, [Echoes@vistaumc.org](mailto:Echoes@vistaumc.org)

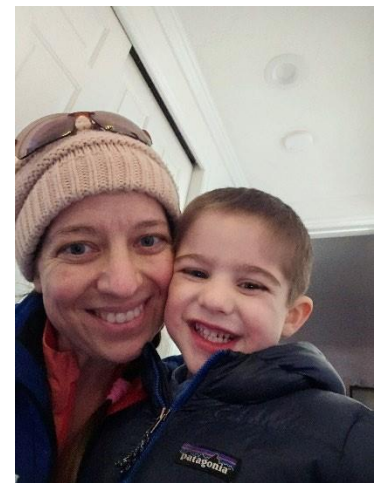
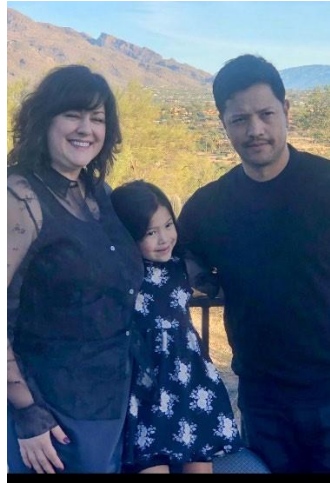
**Thank you, Bill and Mary Bellah for providing us  
with beautiful Special Music!!!**



***Fellowship Focus***



## *Jane and Walt Reifsnyder*



You see them most Sundays before the crowd appears. Walter and Jane Reifsnyder are two energized and motivated volunteers who contribute their time and energy to two causes at Vista United Methodist Church: hospitality and audio visual.

Both Walter and Jane spent most of their lives in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

Walter grew up in a family with one older sister, an identical twin brother and a younger brother. Jane was one of five children with two older sisters, a younger brother, and a younger sister. Their fathers both taught in the local high school. Following graduation from high school, Walter received his bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware and received his military commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. Jane graduated from the same high school, then went on to receive an associate degree at Delaware Technical and Community College as a lab technician.

Although they grew up in the same small town, their paths did not cross until 1978 when Jane returned to Rehoboth Beach on a visit. They met, fell in love, and married in March 1979. When their first daughter Carolyn was born, Jane stopped working to be a stay-at-home Mom. Eventually, they welcomed their second daughter, Sarah. Once the two girls were of schoolage, Jane went back to school and earned her teaching degree and taught middle school for a few years. In 1995, while preparing to be stationed in Hawaii, disaster struck the family when Walter spent four months in the hospital after being diagnosed with an auto immune disease that ended his military career. Jane remained a teacher for the next 10 years and Walter became a stay-at-home Dad.

The Reifsnyders decided to move "West" in 2021 to be geographically closer to their daughters and grandchildren who had moved to California and Utah. Additionally, Walter's mother and

sister were Tucson residents. In their search for a local church, they visited and joined Vista UMC in October 2022.

Thank you, Walter and Jane, for always being there, and assisting where needed without hesitation. You are making a difference at Vista!

Robin Conner

**United Women in Faith** will collate sixty-two back packs on April 15 at 10 AM to be given to the Family First charity at a later date. Each backpack will be filled with school supplies such as a filled pencil pouch, crayons, paper, and markers. Ladies of Vista, come join the fun in filling these backpacks for Family First on April 15.

United Women in Faith will have a fund-raiser **BAKE SALE** on April 13 before and after church. Cookies, bars, cakes, jams and other goodies will be for sale on **APRIL 13**.

United Women in Faith at TMM tour.



Pictured from left to right: Jane Reifsnyder, Jan Cregan, Jan Hopke-Almer, Jan Millard, Amy Butkovich, Sandy Schwartz, Peggy Higgins, and Joy Kirby.

## **DINNER FOR SIX**

DINNER FOR SIX "END OF THE YEAR PARTY" WILL BE ON SUNDAY  
APRIL 27, FROM 3 - 5PM AT PETE AND SANDY'S HOME.

PLEASE CALL SANDY TO RESERVE - AND TELL WHAT YOU WILL  
BRING (APPETIZERS OR DESSERT.

PULLED PORK SLIDERS AND BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED.

## **Two Classes left!!!**

### **The Final Days – Lenten Study**

**Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Mar 6 through Apr 9 in the Elizabeth room.**

This Lent ponders the themes of justice, poverty, freedom, and love.  
The 4 New Testament Gospels aren't the same story, but they offer the same  
Resurrection hope. We will compare/contrast the stories in Matthew, Mark,  
Luke, and John.

Our guide is the book The Last Days by Matt Rawle. We will also be using the DVD  
that goes with the text, so it is optional if you purchase the book.

Please bring a Bible (whatever version you prefer).

Please sign-up through the church office or email Gail ([gailma@comcast.net](mailto:gailma@comcast.net)) Gail  
Parson, Facilitator.



## The Adult Sunday School Lenten Series

The Sunday School Lenten series is "Why Easter Matters," a DVD series by Andy Stanley. Join us at 11:30, after worship in the St. Matthew room. See Dottie Lou Colby if you have any questions.

## Impact FOOD NEEDS

**For April, Impact would like us to focus on canned fruits and vegetables!**

## The APRIL Communion and Loose Change Collections!

Serve the Lord with gladness Psalm 100:2

**Loose Change:** Our Loose Change collection in February benefited Impact of Southern Arizona. Thank you for emptying your pockets! We collected \$55.20! Loose Change collected in March will be donated to our Creative Hands Ministry. Our April collection will benefit our Agua Prieta Student Backpack Ministry.

Save your change!

**Impact Food Needs for April:** During the month of April we have been asked to donate canned fruits and vegetables. Any variety will be welcomed. Our goal is 200 cans for the month. Watch for the weekly totals in the bulletin each week.

**Communion Servers:** If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please contact Linda Galka [lindagalka65@gmail.com](mailto:lindagalka65@gmail.com) or speak with me at church and I will add you to the list. We need three servers the first Sunday of each month to serve bread and juice alongside Pastor Mary and the Liturgist and one server to serve gluten free wafers and juice. No advance training is required!

**April Communion servers are Ben Millard, Jan Millard, and Linda Galka.**

# AGUA PRIENTA SCHOOL SUPPLIES MISSION PROJECT

Vista Mission Outreach is beginning the collection of funds to purchase school supplies and backpacks for students from our sister church in Agua Prieta (AP), Mexico. This program has been a huge success over the past 20+ years. Twenty-two students have graduated from college/technical schools. Based the success of this economic development program, more families are providing school supplies for their own children. Pastor Gela from Fuente de Vida Church recently said the following in her thank you letter to Vista Church members:

***“Donation of backpacks and school supplies:** Thanks to your support, dozens of children were able to start their school year equipped with the tools they need to learn and grow. These backpacks carry not just supplies but also hope and encouragement for a brighter future.”*

*“Your generosity not only meets material needs but also strengthens the faith and hope of those of receive these blessings.”*

*“May God continue to bless your church and each one of you, multiplying all that you do for His Kingdom. On behalf of our community, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!”*

We have new photos of students needing school supplies and backpacks for the 20252026 school year. If you would like to sponsor a student, **please make your check for \$35 per student to Vista UMC with AP school supplies in the memo line.** Vista members may visit our AP student photo display in April. We will record your donation check and you may select your sponsored student(s). Friends not attending church at Vista may return their donation check (made out to Vista UMC) in the envelope provided. We will record your donation check and mail you a photo of your sponsored student(s). Some of these funds will be used for the Celebration of Learning Academic Achievement Awards. Last year 30 students earned a B+ grade average or better and were given academic awards plus \$20 gift certificates! Any donation to support these students is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Jan HopkeAlmer at 520-301-4821 (text or call) or Lisa Richardson at 949-525-5943.

God bless you for your generous support of these needy students! Jan  
Hopke-Almer, Lisa Richardson & Sherri Wyland  
AP School Supplies Mission Project



**The Finance team and Anne Groth provided coffee and delicious goodies for our fellowship time!**







## April Birthdays



NEVINS, Ilene	04/02	COOKE, Lois	04/14
PRESCOTT, Joyce	04/02	WATTS Jr., Beler	04/17
BUKES, Janet	04/03	LUCKMAN, Michael Kim	04/19
BELLAH, Bill	04/05	JACKSON, Jim	04/22
OLSON, Linda	04/07	LANGWIG, Donna	04/22
PHILLIPPI, Nancy	04/07	MILLER, Linda	04/23
ROOKER, Joanie	04/07	MOYER, Michael	04/24
ELLIOTT, Michael	04/08	NOONAN, Iain	04/24
EXTRACT, Clif	04/08	JENSEN, J Edgar	04/26
WARD, Linda	04/09	REYNOLDS, Richard	04/29
ZELLO-MCCOTTER, Linda	04/12		

## 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
PROKOP, Frank & Karen	04/20

## May Birthdays



KRAVITZ, Mike	05/01	BERG, Mary	05/14
MILLARD, Jan	05/03	BROWNING, Jerry	05/17
HERD, Eileen	05/05	FUJITA-HERNANDEZ, Ami	05/23
LUCKMAN, Joyce	05/05	RUTKOWSKI, Marilyn	05/23
O'DONALD, Jay	05/06	CAMPBELL, Kathy	05/24
GRAY, Linda	05/07	ATWOOD, Jan	05/26
ELLIOTT, Bonnie	05/08	ADAMS, Sherry	05/28
HUBBARD, Jo Ann	05/08	NELSON, Ruth	05/28
SPENCER, Tiffany	05/12	GUPTILL, June	05/29
HERNANDEZ, Kiana	05/13		

## May Anniversaries



HIGGINS, Dennis & Peggy	05/08
BIXBY, Dave & Lynn	05/10
MOYER, Michael & Jeana Rae	05/10
PARSON, Darrell & Gail	05/10
ZEBAL, Ken & Liz	05/27
ARTHUR, Bob & Janelle	05/31
PODLASEK, Ken & Diane	05/31

## Compassion Connection

### In Need of Continued Prayers for Healing

Eileen Carender, Loni Degen, Edith (Edey) Gallaher, Kay Gragg, Margaret Overman, Art Schweitzer, Jan Springer, and Carol Wilson.

### Home Bound

Jan Crown, Bill Gureck, Rev. Alan & Kathy Campbell, Fran Hampton, Ken & Diane Podlasek, Sharon Poole, and Karen Prokop.



### **Prayers for Comfort**

For the family of Dana Belya. Dana passed away January 25. His service will be on April 12, 10:00 AM, at Vista UMC.

For the family of Connie Haines. Connie passed away February 17.

For the family of Florence Duckett. Florence passed away February 25.

For the family of Jane Hendrickson. Jane passed away February 26.

For the family of John Crown. John passed away March 14. His service will be on April 2, at 4:00 PM, at Vista UMC.

For the family of Mary-Ann Melhorn. Mary-Ann passed away March 7.

For the family of Thomas Tjossem. Tom and his wife, Susan, were early members of Vista. Tom passed away March 16.

### **Prayers for our South District 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:

El Mesias UMC, Nogales

First UMC, Bisbee

Our sister church, Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico.

## **Opportunities to Connect, Serve & Support**

**FLOWER SIGN UP CHART FOR 2025:** Please consider sponsoring one or more flower arrangements in 2025 to enhance the Sunday worship experience at Vista. The donation is \$50 per arrangement, and the money is not required when you sign up.

**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](http://upperroom.org). It is free to sign up for a daily devotional email.

**A wheelchair** is available during services in the Narthex.

***Service and Volunteer opportunities.***

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

**We're Hiring:** Choir Director, Hand Bell Choir Director, and Media/Tech Manager. If you or someone you know feels called to one of the par-time jobs, please send an email indicating your interest along with your resume to [pastor@vistaUMC.org](mailto:pastor@vistaUMC.org).

**HELP WANTED:** We need someone to lead the WELCOME Committee. The person or couple would schedule greeters to occupy the welcome table weekly, create and maintain welcome bags/kits, and work with the pastor regarding new membership. Contact the office, if interested.

## **Upcoming Events**

4-12-25 John Crown's Memorial

4-12-25 Dana Belyea's Memorial

4-13-25 Palm Sunday

4-13-25 **United Women of Faith Easter Bake Sale**

4-17-25 Maundy Thursday

4-18-25 Good Friday

4-20-25 Easter Sunday

## **How to contribute to the offering 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](https://myvanco.com)
5. Fill in the card, amount, etc.



***Thank you for your donation!***

