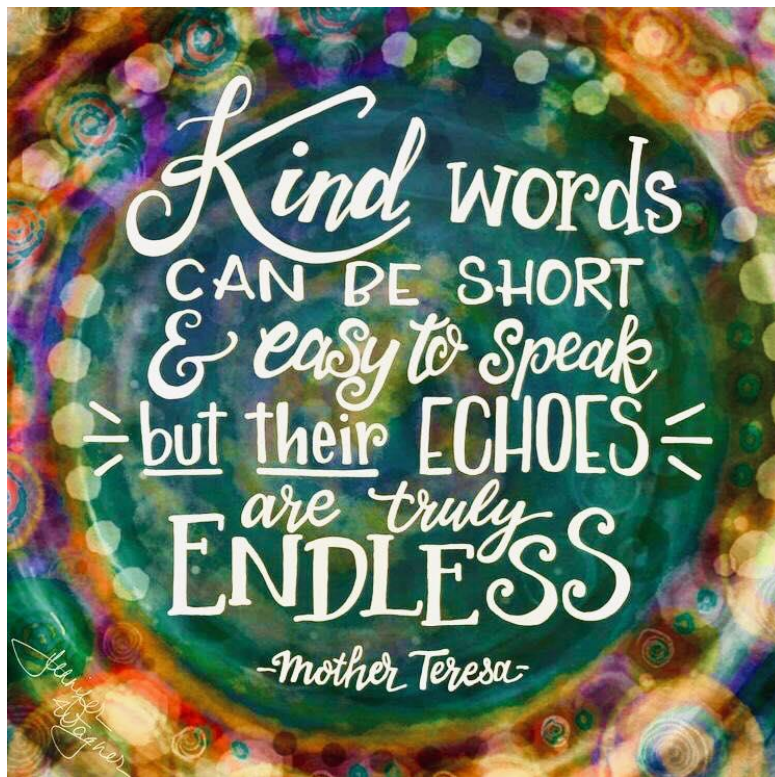




July 2025

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.



**NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Thursday
9:00am until 2:00pm**

“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 If you send it to another address, it is possible the article will not be published.

Nancy Yob, Echoes@vistaumc.org

Vista 90 Years Plus Birthday Club Celebration!

Are you turning 90 during 2025? I would like to include you in the Vista 90 Years Plus Birthday Club celebration on

September 14, 2025, at 10 AM. Please contact Delores Brindle, 520-907-5706 or email: deloresjb@gmail.com

Thanks! Delores Brindle

WELCOME JAMES PERDUE!!!



We would like to welcome Vista's newest employee, James Perdue, who accepted the recently vacant role of A/V Media Technician. James is a freelance illustrator with experience in creative programs, troubleshooting computers and network devices. James moved to Arizona in 2021 from Monterey, California, where he was born and raised. He adopted his cute little rescue dog, Lucy, a month after arriving. James loves art and technology, and looks for ways to combine the two, such as digital illustration or 3D printing. James will be working during every Sunday's service, and a few hours during each week on special projects.

FELLOWSHIP FOCUS – Linda & Dillis Ward

Meet Linda and Dillis Ward





The loss of a spouse is a deeply painful experience, leading to a shift in social dynamics, and can be overwhelming, especially in the “loneliness” category. However, it is possible to find a new purpose in life and to live beyond grief. Just ask Linda Ward, a life-long Methodist and longtime Vista member, who lost her husband, Dillis, in January of 2024 to Alzheimer’s. In the months following his death, Linda has found coping with loneliness a big challenge. For years, she scheduled her life’s activities around someone else; her spouse, their children, their families. Even quiet evenings then without even talking to each other brought comfort. He was there. He was her sounding board for basketball games, annoying television news, and whatever they were watching at the time. The house is silent now. Linda, on the other hand, is not. Socializing with friends keeps her healthy and occupied, even, as she states: “sometimes you must push yourself to get out of the house, whether it is church, a show, or sharing a meal with a friend”.

Linda was born in the “Windy City” of Chicago, Illinois and grew up in a very small town, North Webster (on the lake), Indiana, with a population of approximately 500. In high school, she was active in music, played several instruments, taught baton twirling and was the drum majorette all 4 years. After graduation, she went on to nursing school to become a registered nurse and a few years later she received a Bachelor’s Degree in Health Care Administration from Ottawa University in Phoenix, AZ, followed by a Master’s in Counseling at NAU in Flagstaff, AZ.

In the meantime, her parents retired in Bisbee, AZ and Linda went to visit them. At the time (1964), the mines were still open and a shortness of nurses was prominent. She decided to stay and began working at Copper Queen Hospital. A friend introduced her to a blind date. It was a Saturday night when she met Dillis Ward. They met again on Sunday and enjoyed the day together and on Monday, they decided to get married! Three months later, on June 12, 1965, they were married. Linda feels blessed to have had such a wonderful life partner for almost 60 years: "He was always upbeat, kind, caring, loving and generous, besides having a terrific sense of humor. Our recipe for a happy marriage was mutual respect and understanding towards each other."

Dillis was born in his grandparents' house in Western Kentucky where he spent his childhood and adolescent years. Upon graduating from high school, he attended Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green for one year, then transferred to the UofA in Tucson. Adair Mortuary in downtown Tucson was newly completed and Dillis was their first employee. It was there that he felt the calling of making the mortuary business his career. He attended Mortuary Science College in Los Angeles and as a student worked at Forest Lawn Mortuary. His first call for picking up a deceased was that of Errol Flynn; a call that came in the middle of the night and Dillis, thinking it was a joke, hung up on the caller. It was no joke! After he finished school in LA, he enlisted in the Air Force, (which was during the Vietnam War), and spent 15 months in Pakistan. His 4 years in the Air Force ended and Dillis returned to Tucson. Shortly thereafter, the couple was introduced.

Their first year, they lived in Tucson, then moved to the Phoenix/Glendale area where Linda worked at Samaritan Hospital, (now Banner) as head nurse in labor and delivery, followed by serving in Nursing Administration for a total of 24 years at Thunderbird Samaritan Hospital (also now Banner). Dillis became a partner for a mortuary in Glendale which eventually sold to an international company where he became a division lead. This latest career move resulted in the couple moving to Connecticut, Washington (state) and California. While in California, Dillis became CEO for Rose Hills Mortuary in Whittier which is the largest cemetery/mortuary in the U.S.

The couple retired in Tucson in 2002 and at the same time, joined Vista UMC. By this time, Dillis had been a licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer for over 50 years; Linda had been in nursing for almost 40 years. Linda served two terms as a Trustee and chaired the Gifts and Memorials Project. Dillis was Council Chair as well as SPRC, serving two terms. He oversaw the Columbarium, spending many hours perfecting it. He was on the landscape committee, an usher and both were greeters and served communion

They enjoyed traveling, including Linda's dream trip to Norway, where her grandparents were born. They cruised several times and visited Mexico and the Caribbean.

Completing their family tree are their two children; a son, Scott (Showlow, AZ), a daughter, Laura (Glendale, AZ), five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Robin Connor

PENTECOST PICTURES

Thank You Stuart Watkins





HOW MANY CAN YOU IDENTIFY???

VISTA'S LANDSCAPING CREW pre-2019



DID YOU KNOW???

Did you know that Vista de la Montaña UMC was built on a former Titan Missile site?

Check out AZPM's: The Buzz: Southern Arizona's role in "Peace Through Deterrence"

<https://news.azpm.org/p/news-articles/2025/5/9/224761-the-buzz-southern-arizonas-role-in-peace-through-deterrence/>

by Christopher Conover and Zac Ziegler

Speakers: Doug Sanders, Nicole Cox, Brad Elliott, Tanya Mosely, Christopher Conover (New reel announcer) and **Vista Charter Member, Nancy Yob**

VISTA OUTREACH

Serve the Lord with gladness Psalm 100:2

LOOSE CHANGE AND COMMUNION COLLECTIONS:

Family First Pregnancy Care Center & Diaper Bank

July is Family First's School Supply Drive Time

Vista UMC provides support to Family First through the collaborative efforts of the United Methodist Women and Mission Outreach. In the month of June, Jan Bohe and Jan Hopke-Almer delivered baby/toddler size clothing, layette items and four large boxes of baby diapers to Family First. All the clothing items were sewn by volunteers in Jan Bohe's **Creative Hands** mission group. These items included beautiful dresses sizes 2 – 5, short sets, summer pajamas and burp clothes. **Thank you to the dedicated ladies that sew for Creative Hands!** Family First is also always in need of infant and adult diapers for their Community Diaper Bank.

During the month of July Vista will be collecting donations for Family First's School Supplies Drive. Checks may be written to Vista UMC with Family First in the memo line. It is our goal to donate 82 backpacks filled with school supplies. Family First serves students from Oracle to Winkelman all up the "Copper Corridor". Since the end of mining in that area, most of the families are living in poverty. ALL packages of diapers or monetary donations to purchase school supplies are GREATLY APPRECIATED! Family First provides Christian based parenting education using a program called "Earn While You Learn", weekly preschool story times and programs for teens.

July Birthdays



Gureck, William	07/02
Extract, Laurie	07/03
Hunt, Sharon	07/04
Bohe, Janice	07/06
Radke, Dan	07/07
Salcedo, Jose	07/07
Oelrich, Shawn	07/08
Macpherson, Craig	07/11
Perakis, Alex	07/11
Gragg, Kay	07/12
Marquardt, Carla	07/13
Springer, Jan	07/14
Groth, William	07/16
Lecornu, Yvonne	07/19
Adams, Lynn	07/20
Marks, Peggy	07/22
Poole, Sharon	07/22
Leonard, Carolyn	07/25
Wyland, Sharon	07/25
Robinson, Joan	07/26
Young, Joe	07/26
Extract, Steven	07/27
Odell, Carol	07/27
Marquardt, John	07/28

July Anniversaries



Macpherson, Craig & Benith	07/02
Herd, Bob & Eileen	07/21
Groth, William & Anne	07/24
Roche, AJ & Eryn	07/26

August Birthdays



TONGA, Sela	08/05
HIGGINS, Peggy	08/06
PETERSON, Shirley	08/06
PODLASEK, Ken	08/08
MOYER, JennaRae	08/12
OELRICH, Paul	08/12
TEWART, Caitlin Gail	08/12
HARWICK, Kailyn	08/13
RICHARDSON, Lisa	08/13
SNIDER, Glenna	08/13
INGLE, Sharon	08/14
ALLIGOOD, Edna	08/15
HOLDEN, Jackie	08/15
BORING, Daniel	08/19
KRAVITZ, Pam	08/19
OLSON, Ron	08/20
ISAAC, Kathleen	08/21

ROBERSON, Mary Louise	08/22
WHITE, Natassja	08/23
YOUNG, Howard	08/23
ALBERTS, Gerry	08/27
PROKOP, Frank	08/31
RUPE, Jean	08/31

August Anniversaries



SPENCER, Phyllis & Dan
EXTRACT, Clif & Laurie
ROBERSON, Walt & Mary Louise
BELLAH, Bill & Mary
BUKES, Milt & Jan
WILSON, Syd & Carol
POWERS, Barbara & William

Compassion Connection

In Need of Continued Prayers for Healing

Eileen Carender, Edith (Edey) Gallaher, Kay Gragg, Margaret Overman, Carol Wilson and Lou Phillippi.

Home Bound

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

Prayers for our South District Churches

This month we pray for the pastors, congregation, and community of the following:

Grace UMC, Douglas

Huachuca UMC, Huachuca

Menlo Park UMC, Tucson

Our sister church, Fuente de Vida in Auga Prieta, Mexico

Opportunities to Connect, Serve & Support

LANDSCAPING

The Landscaping crew are now meeting on Thursdays at 7:00 instead of 8:00, due to the increase in temperatures. The guys are always seeking others to join them, and sometimes there are even donuts provided for those who show up, such a deal!

USHERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER

The Ushering team are asking for extra help throughout the summer, since a few of the “regulars” have left the area over the summer months. Please notify Kim Luckman if you’d like to add your name to the list.

Communion & Loose Change Offerings for June: Supporting the FAMILY FIRST in Oracle!

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.

A wheelchair is available during services in the Narthex.

Upcoming Events

PASTOR MARY'S BIRTHDAY – JULY 4TH!!!

9-20-2025 10:30 AM - Celebration of life for Mary-Ann Mehlhorn

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
5. Fill in the card, amount, etc.



Thank you for your donation!



A Little Sermon
Stuart Watkins

A Little Bit of God Goes a Long Way.

A Little Bit of Hatred Erodes.

God Blessed Us So We Can Bless Others.

God Is With Us In Silence And In Chaos.