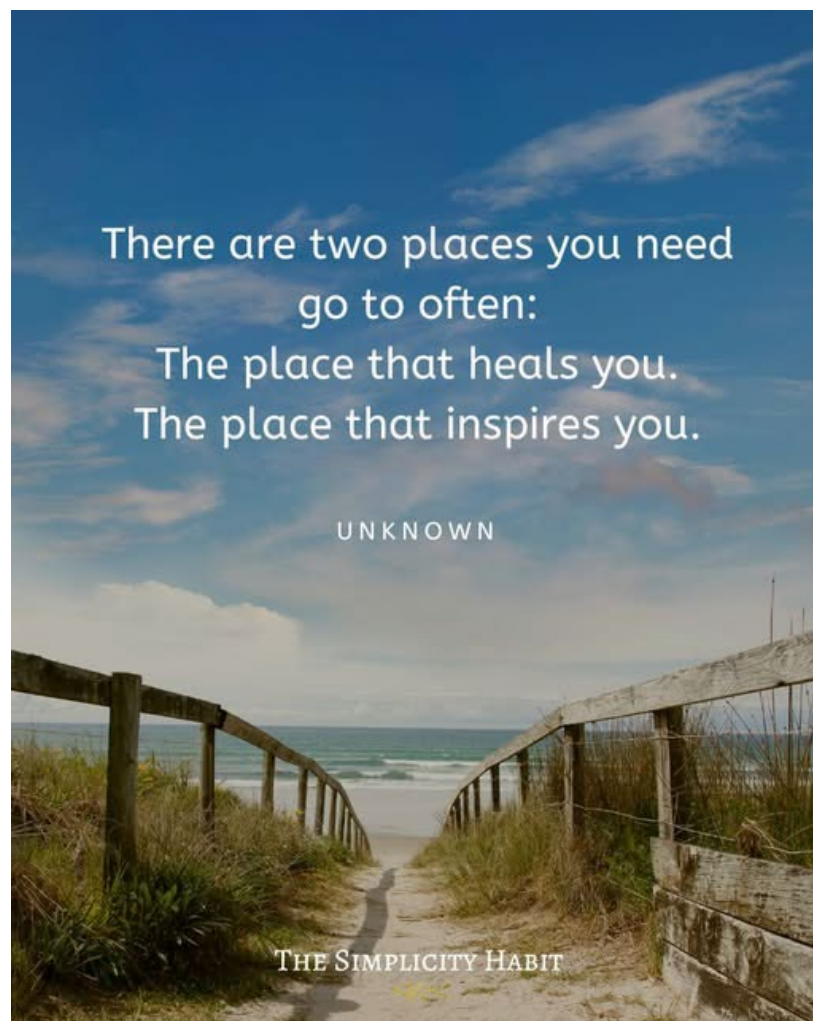




NOVEMBER 2025

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.



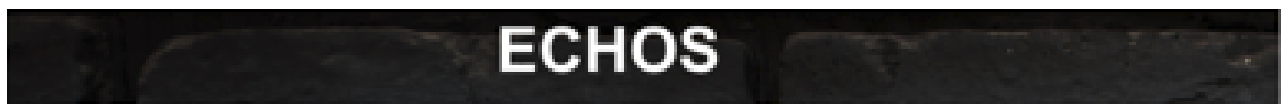
“Tuesdays with Pastor Mary”

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 If you send it to another address, it is possible the article will not be published.

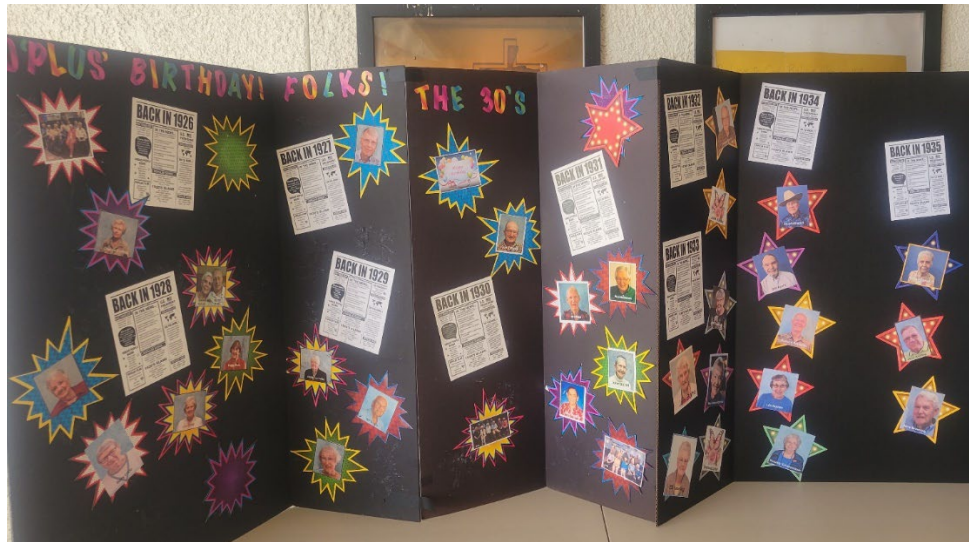
Nancy Yob, Echoes@vistaumc.org



OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS THERE WILL BE AN AVAILABILITY TO GET THE ECHOS NEWSLETTER TEXTED DIRECTLY TO YOUR PHONE SO THAT THE ECHOS CAN BE DISPLAYED WITH EASE.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING A TEXT WITH THE ECHOS DISPLAYED VIA A ONE CLICK LINK CALL THE OFFICE TO BE PUT ON THE LIST.

Vista 90 Years Plus Birthday Club Celebration!



Your Echoes Editor missed the 90+ Birthday article for last month's Echoes. My apologies to Robin Conner and Delores Brindle.

September 21st was a special day for celebrating our annual 90s Plus event. This special day we celebrate each year brings us inspiration inviting us to live fully, let go freely, and love deeply while we can.

Delores Brindell started it 7 years ago when she realized one of her birthday card recipients were turning 90 and she thought of all the moments and memories that had made up her life and suggested this group of special folks should be recognized.

Honorees were presented with a rose upon entering the sanctuary, enjoyed a PowerPoint containing their pictures, followed by a luncheon hosted by Church Council members.

Congratulations to you all!
Delores Brindell and Robin Conner



FELLOWSHIP FOCUS — Gail and Darrell Parson



As you settle into your places every Sunday, you cannot help noticing the Chancel area with its coordinated banners and altar coverings, thanks to the efforts of Worship Chair, Gail Parson. The Liturgical Calendar assists her as she chooses the color scheme each season.

Gail and her husband, Darrell (“Shorty”) were born and raised in Willmar, Minnesota. The Thonvold family siblings consisted of Gail and her two younger brothers, Bradley and Lyle. Darrell has one sister, Ginny Howes, who is also a Vista UMC member.

Their church affiliations were separate: Gail was: baptized, confirmed in Vinje Lutheran Church while Darrell was baptized and confirmed in the United Methodist Church.

Both graduated from Willmar Senior High School in 1965. They were in 4th grade together but Darrell says, “he does not remember her”. They officially met after high school at his cousin’s house where the two girls were good friends. After graduating from high school, Gail enrolled

at Willmar Community College for one year and studied bookkeeping, boosting her secretarial career from 1967 until 1974:

- Augsburg Publishing House – Minneapolis, MN
- Central Allied/Ready Mix – Willmar, MN
- American Optical Safety Equipment, Denver, CO
- Fitzsimmons Army Hospital – Insurance, Denver, CO
- Department of Defense – Hahn Air Base West Germany – Security Police

On May 10, 1969 the couple were married at Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar. Since Darrell was in the Air Force they left one week later for his assignment at Buckley Air National Guard Base in Aurora, Colorado and began his career as an Air Force Weather Forecaster and Aircraft Briefer for the next 10 years. He became an Environmental Engineer in charge of air quality for a copper smelter for the next 20 years. Until his retirement in 2017, he traveled extensively as a salesman, providing environmental monitors to various industries.

In 1974, Gail became a stay-at-home mom, a decision that redefined the role and took her life in a new direction. Dylan James was born October 10, 1974, at Hahn Air Base in West Germany. Robert Jay was born June 1, 1978, in Bellevue, Nebraska.

In 1983 when their youngest started kindergarten, Gail went to Pima CC and graduated from the U of A in 1988 with a BS in Mathematics. She went on to achieve her Masters in Math Education in 1996. With her Masters in hand, she pursued another career as a Mathematics Instructor from 1988 to 2014:

- Pima Community College, Tucson
- Esperero Canyon Middle School, Tucson
- Mountain View High School, Tucson
- Hennipen County Technical School, Bloomington, MN
- Clear Horizons Early College High School, Clear Creek, TX
- Clear Path Discipline School, Clear Creek, TX

Since getting married, the Parson family has called many different places home:

- Willmar, Minnesota until 1969
- Rantoul, Illinois – Chanute Air Force Base
- Aurora, Colorado – Buckley Air Base
- Sohren, West Germany – Hahn Air Force Base
- Bellevue, Nebraska – Offutt Air Force Base

- San Manuel, Arizona
- Tucson, Arizona – Magma Copper Company
- Bloomington, Minnesota – SICK
- League City, Texas – CAI
- Oro Valley (Sun City), Arizona – retired volunteers

Their lives have been enriched by 3 Grandsons:

- Denin James was born February 1, 1999 in Tucson, Arizona to Dylan and Shana Parson
- Hayden Alexander was born September 25, 2002 in Tucson, Arizona to Dylan and Shana Parson
(Sadly, their son Dylan suddenly passed away in 2016.)
- Alexander James was born August 24, 2003 at Dyess AFB to Robert and Summer Parson

Church History

The first church the couple joined together was St. James UMC in Bellevue, NE. Gail taught Sunday School to two-year-olds for a year. When they moved to Tucson, they joined St. Mark's UMC and were members there from 1983 to 2017. During part of that time they lived in League City, Texas for about 6 years (2008 to 2014). At St. Mark's, Gail held several volunteer jobs including: SS superintendent, SS teacher, Youth Council Chair, Wedding Coordinator, Co-Chair of Church and Society, member of the Education Committee, led and attended several classes, etc. When they moved back to Tucson from Texas and bought their house in Sun City they decided to visit Vista UMC, resulting in transferring their membership. Gail's spiritual growth has also been enhanced by the Upper Room Academy for Spiritual Formation by attending several 5-day events and the 2-year Academy #41.

Their volunteer opportunities at Vista were many:

- Darrell
 - Church Treasurer
 - Vista Men's President, Secretary/Treasurer
 - Worked to gather items for rummage sales which involved picking up furniture and other items, setting up area for sale and salvage items.
 - Walked parking lot during church every 3rd Sunday
- Gail
 - Altar designs and sanctuary decor
 - Worship Committee Coordinator

- Leader of several Adult classes
- Lay member to Annual Conference

As a couple they have always enjoyed entertaining people at their home.

They both have participated in The Senior Olympics Bocce competition sponsored by the Pima County Parks and Recreation Dept. A Veteran, “Shorty” is a member of the Sun City Oro Valley Veterans Club.

Their greatest joy comes from their family. Both of their sons and all three of their grandsons graduated from Mt. View High School in Tucson where Gail taught mathematics for 20 years. Over the years, they were a constant presence at the boys' band and football activities.

The Vista community is richer for having this couple among its members.

--Robin Conner

Agua Prieta Celebration of Learning

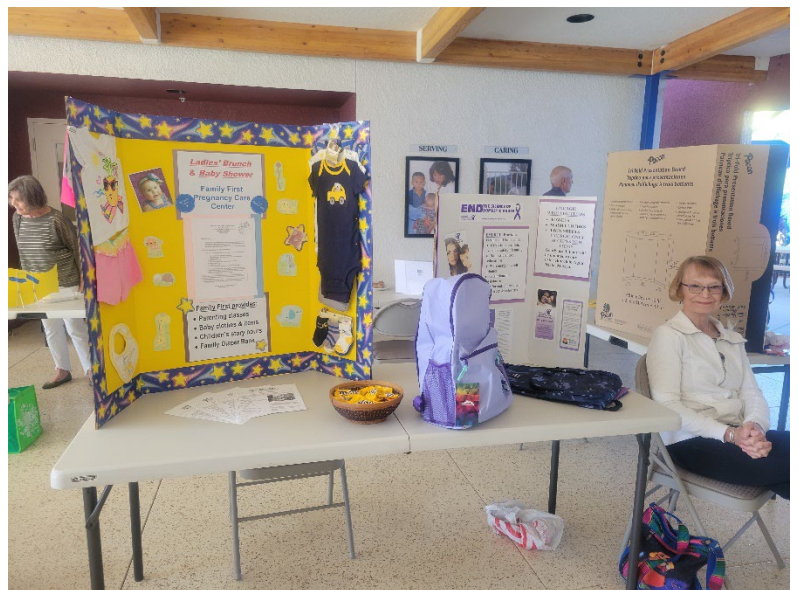


Imer Lopez Perez graduated with a degree in Business Administration this past summer. He is one of more than 26 college graduates funded by Vista's school supplies/backpack and Roach Scholarship programs. Imer has been receiving our school supplies program support and encouragement since kindergarten. **Bless you all for supporting this economic development mission project.**



This year, for the Celebration of Learning, Vista provided 56 sweatshirts, 24 Mother's gift bags, and numerous student prizes and bags of donated clothing.

Vista Ministry Faire 2025





UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER PROJECTS

In November we will fill baskets with laundry supplies for TMM, Tucson Metropolitan Ministries. Included in the basket are items such as laundry soap, shower curtain and hooks, shampoo, toothpaste, conditioner, soap, dryer sheets, and bath towel sets. **MOST NEEDED** items are towel sets consisting of two bath towels, two hand towels, and two wash cloths. The filled baskets are helpful and beneficial to new residents at TMM. TMM is a housing project for veterans, seniors, and single mothers.



Also in November, we will assemble thirty backpacks with school and art supplies for the TMM and Emerge charities. Items needed are adult coloring books and sketch pads.

November 23, 30, and December 7 United Women in Faith will distribute Christmas stockings to be filled with toiletry items. The stockings will be given to various Tucson charities.

December 14 is BAKE SALE Sunday before and after church. Our fund-raisers are important, which helps us purchase supplies for our charity projects.

Thank you for your continued support of United Women in Faith. (formerly United Methodist Women)

VISTA OUTREACH

Always giving thanks to God for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:20

Loose Change and Communion Offerings for November:

UMCOR

UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the world.



Thank you for emptying your pockets! **Save your change!**

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

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

An Advent Study will be announced soon.

Advent always contains four Sundays, beginning on the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (November 30) and continuing until December 24. In 2025, Advent begins on November 30 and ends on December 24 (Christmas Eve), as the Mass of the Lord's Nativity begins.

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!

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

Wednesday 11.05.25	11:00am	Handbell Practice
Wednesday 11.05.25	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Friday 11.07.25	9:30am	Creative Hands
Friday 11.07.25	10:00am	Prayer Bead Group
Tuesday 11.11.25	2:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Thursday 11.27.25		Thanksgiving, Office Closed

YOU'RE INVITED.....



November 16, 2025

**Voices in the Oaks is
having a concert:
Rhythm of Life**

3pm in the Sanctuary

Everyone is invited!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Are you looking for a way to serve?
We have several opportunities for you.**



WWW.VISTAUMC.ORG



**CHECK OUT THE
UPDATED WEBSITE
WITH NEW
CHANGES
HAPPENING
WEEKLY**

We encourage all members to sign up for the prayer chain emails. It's easier to get notifications for prayer/healing updates.

Email Lou Phillippi at Inphillippi@yahoo.com

Prayers for Healing

Eileen Carender, Dottie Lou Colby, Kay, Fran Hampton, Margaret Overman, Pete Rice, Marilyn Rutkowski, and Carol Wilson

Home Bound

Marlin Bolar, Jerry Browning, Orland Burbey, Rev. Alan and Kathy Campbell, Lynn Duenkel, Jerry Eshelman, Bill Gureck, Marsha Hartz, Jo Ann Hubbard, Ken and Diane Podlasek, Sharon Poole, Barb Rempel

Prayers for our South District Churches

St. Paul's UMC Tucson, Trinity UMC Bisbee, and Vista de la Montaña UMC Tucson

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!

Vista de la Montaña UMC
2025/2026 Lay Leadership Contact List

Church Council	Marty Lenzini
Finance Committee	Sharon Scanlan
Nominations/Lay Leadership Development	Pastor Mary Dotson
Staff Parish Relations	Pam Kravitz
Board of Trustees	Ken Zebal
Stephen Ministry	Lisa Richardson
Email Prayer Chain	Lou and Nancy Phillippi
Congregational Care	Sandy Schwartz
Adult Education	Donna Boring
Children/Youth Ministry	Suspended until further notice
Worship Team	Gail Parson, Chair
Altar	Gail Parson
Communion Servers	Linda Galka
Communion Steward	Gail Parson
Flowers	Diane Coleman & Pam Kravitz
Greeters	Joan Mayer
Ushers	Kim Luckman
Hospitality	Open Position
Mission and Outreach Teams	Nancy Yob, Liaison to Council
Aqua Prieta	Jan Hopke-Almer
Coronado Teachers	Linda Galka & Nancy Yob
Creative Hands	Jan Bohe
EMERGE	Jan Hopke-Almer
Family First	Jan Hopke-Almer &
	Glenna Snider
Impact of Southern Arizona	Benith MacPherson & Linda
	Galka
Snak Pak	Diane Coleman
Souper Sunday L	Linda Galka
United Women in Faith	Jan Hopke-Almer & Amy
	Butkovitch
Vista Methodist Men	Darrell Parson



HAPPY THANKSGIVING