



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 If you send it to another address, it is possible the article will not be published.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

Announcement



Kim Luckman, who heads up Vista's landscape crew, recently completed a 6-week (30 hour) training program titled "Pima Smartscape Series", which was presented by the University of Arizona. He attended classes to learn about maintaining desert-adapted plants, landscape water management, plant selection and installation, plant disorders, desert ecology, and many other topics. Upon completion, Kim received a certificate and was awarded the title of "Landscape Professional". Kim plans to utilize his knowledge to help maintain and improve Vista Church's beautiful landscape while minimizing water usage. Congratulations, Kim, and thank you for putting in the time and effort for the benefit of our church!

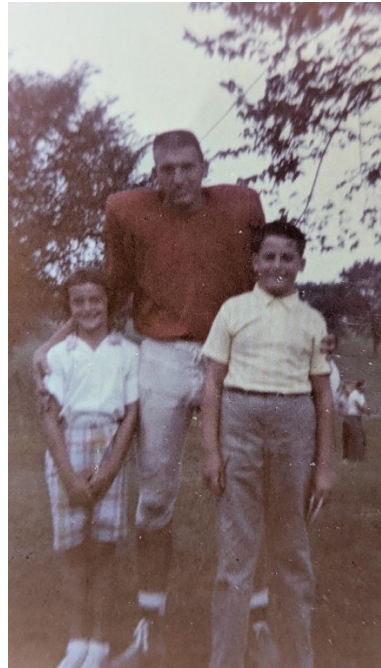
Vista 90 Years Plus Birthday Club Celebration!





Barbara Phillips serving the “90+ Club Birthday Cookies!!!”

FELLOWSHIP FOCUS – JOAN MAYER



Joan with Johnny Unitas



Joan at the National ERA March in

Washington, DC.

A NEWCOMER!!! Most of us who are long time volunteers keep a cautious glimpse during Sunday mornings when a new person appears on our radar. We get hopeful, trying to hide our excitement. So, it came as a pleasant surprise that newcomer Joan Mayer soon offered her services for “whatever” and the Greeting Station on Sundays found itself with a new chairperson! Joan was born in Baltimore, MD, 1954, and grew up in a Jewish community and raised an Episcopalian. There were six family members which included her parents. Joan was the middle sibling of an older brother and younger sister and their grandmother shared their home. It was her grandmother who influenced her love of older folks as did her mother’s mother. Joan was a happy, self-entertaining child who was curious and loved animals and sports. Sports included football as a young girl and where she met Johnny Unitas. She had a full Baltimore Colts uniform. Her parents came from very little means and they had a tremendous determination to give their children what their parents could not provide. Holidays were special times because their mother made them so special for everyone. Joan had two sets of parents; two brothers married two sisters, so she was very close to her aunt and uncle. They were also involved in every aspect of her life. Both parents served in the Armed Services; her father in the Navy on a destroyer escort, while her mother was a Navy nurse. After the war, her father built a lucrative insurance business and her mother was able to stay home, attending all of Joan’s home athletic events in field hockey, basketball and lacrosse. Throughout her life, Joan has been most influenced by her mother, Vonita June Mayer, the Civil Rights Movement, Martin Luther King, Dr. Roy Morrison, Professor of Black Theology and Religion, Feminist Theology and Native American Theology. She was raised with reason, “What do you think is the right thing to do or what is the right thing for you? How can

we do this together?" Her mother was incredibly wise, thoughtful and a remarkable parent with whom she had an extraordinary relationship. She has always been the most exceptional person in Joan's life. She died 15 years ago, September 17, the greatest loss of Joan's life but she shows up in nature for her in very specific ways and Joan knows she is with her always. She is most proud to be her mother's daughter. Her mother told her before she died that she had exceeded all the expectations she could have ever imagined for her and that she was the wind beneath her wings. Joan told her "No, it was the other way around." Joan graduated from high school in 1972 as Female Athlete of the Year. She played nine varsity sports and was president of the Women's Athletic Association. Graduation that year was bittersweet; she was the last Female Athlete of the Year not to receive a scholarship in sports while her male counterparts had for years. Title IX was passed that summer and so female graduates from 1973 on were given scholarships for their athletic accomplishments. Everything she learned about leadership and teamwork she learned in sports. She has always been a great advocate for women's sports as skills learned in sports have carried her throughout her lifetime. She volunteered as a swim coach in high school at a local state hospital with children who had learning disabilities and knew children were not to be her life's work. They took the kids to the Special Olympics in Baltimore, giving them and the staff a memorable experience. Joan went on to graduate from Dickinson College in Carlisle PA, undergrad in Psychology and Religion, went right on to graduate school at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC, where she studied to be a Chaplain and obtained a Masters in Theological Studies and Counseling. She studied at Bryn Mawr College at the Philadelphia Gestalt Institute for three years and went on to create a consulting and coaching business for

several years that assisted individuals and companies in identifying leadership talent and/or problems with staffing. She moved to Philadelphia for her first job out of graduate school with the YWCA. After writing a CETA grant for women on assistance, her team coached them in acquiring their GED, taught typing as a business skill, and placed them in internships to get them started to work. The CETA grant had full-time childcare included. That made all the difference in the world for these women.

She acquired a National Association of Security Dealers (NASD) license and sold mutual funds to learn finance for several years, followed by working the next seven years for a private rehabilitation company representing insurance companies in worker's comp claims. She initially did casework and expert testimony on behalf of the insurance companies and was promoted to Director. She grew the business from one to four offices. She supervised nursing and vocational casework and learned a tremendous amount about medicine, injuries, diseases, and how stress can break down the human body. Her career that followed included selling real estate for 10 years on the Mainline of Philadelphia and General Manager of a Fitness and Country Club for four years. During this time, Joan had the remarkable experience of being a member of the First United Methodist Church of Germantown (FUMCOG) for 15 years. The minister was Dr. Rev. Theodore (Ted) Loder. He was a remarkable man and built a remarkable congregation of black and white folks, gay and straight and folks who were differently abled. He was a poet, prolific writer of books and plays and managed to get in their minds and call for action in his sermons. He was a humble man always wrestling with his own demons and doubts. Joan loved him dearly and has felt a great spiritual void in her life since his retirement. Prior to moving to Tucson, Joan was

hired to update an administrative office of Germantown Unitarian Church and worked closely with the minister to create small groups. Twenty years ago, in August of 2005, Joan came to Tucson with her partner for a visit on the recommendation of a friend. They bought a house and designed a pool and moved here in sixty days. Joan sold real estate here for a year and half until the bottom dropped out of the market and saw an ad for a position in programs at Splendido Retirement Community in Oro Valley. After accepting that position, she became Director of Resident Services within four months and stayed for 15 years. She managed a team of 20 staff members. Her role as Director was to know all 350 residents, their families and pets and was responsible to respond 24/7 to problems residents might be having medically and spiritually and shepherding them through the healthcare levels within Splendido. Joan states “it was the most challenging and fulfilling work I have ever done. It was a privilege to lead a team who brought the highest levels of customer service every day. I worked to model an open and inclusive community for Splendido so that everyone felt cared for and welcomed to the community.” Joan’s personal life is the thread that weaves her history together. Between her senior year of high school and graduate school, she volunteered for the YWCA and realized she was gay. She had been dating a wonderful guy for a couple of years and although they ended their relationship, they still call each other “boyfriend and girlfriend.” Joan has had several wonderful loves in her life, including one relationship lasting for 27 years. She has maintained important relationships with so many great friends. Joan mentioned that she would cherish a new love in her life now and has enjoyed wonderful, new personal friendships and travel adventures since retiring. She is an avid golfer and enjoys all the nature she can see in the desert. Joan has marched in DC and Philly for the passage of the ERA,

against racism and misogyny. She fought for marriage equality for gays, went to Portland, OR to get married only to have the state annul all the gay marriages they had licensed two weeks later in 2004. She did marry one more time but that marriage did not work out and she's now divorced. She continues to be a change agent in a culture that doesn't treat everyone equally. She loves to travel and lived in Jerusalem for a month in 1977 during her Seminary education at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. Her travels have taken her to Egypt, Turkey, the Caribbean, Germany, Austria for the Sound of Music tour, Italy and she took a photographic safari 36 years ago to Tanzania. In the past 10 years, she's traveled to Alaska, took a river tour down the Salmon River in Idaho, visited the Amazon and Galapagos Islands, planned a Civil Rights tour of the South and visited incredible museums and sites dedicated to black history and slavery. Recently, she traveled to Uganda to sit with Chimpanzees and Silverback Gorilla families in their natural habitat. One of the small Silverbacks actually came over and hugged her leg. Her claim to fame is that she was hugged by a Silverback Gorilla baby. She has been searching in the desert for almost 20 years for a spiritual community and has found it in Vista UMC. Joan is so grateful for the opportunity to express her faith and understanding of spirituality in this community. She looks forward to participating in the growth of the community and supporting the new vision of the Church. "Thank you for welcoming me with open arms and hearts." ...Joan

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

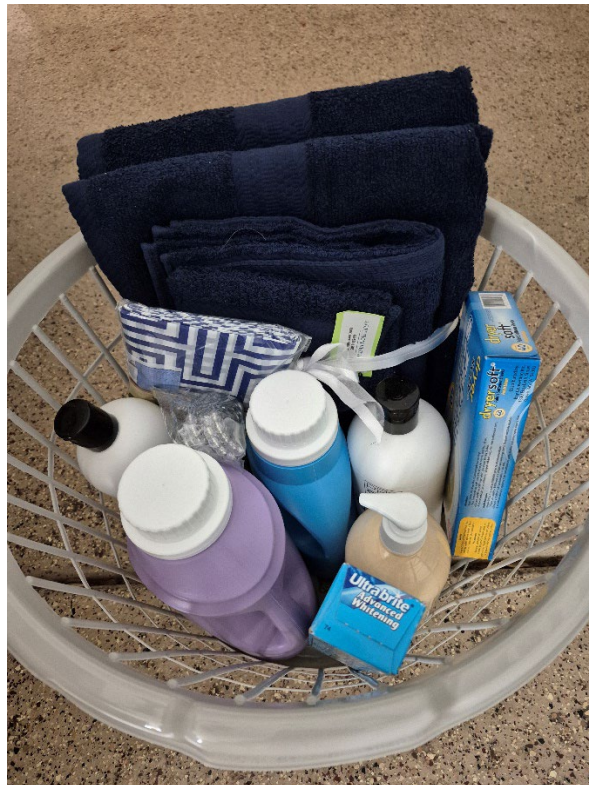
Upcoming Events for United Women in Faith

Meetings:

1. The Tuesday, October 21, meeting will be a tour of Wycliffe Ministries in 1. The Tuesday, September 16, meeting will be a demonstration provided Catalina.

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: Our Loose Change collection in July benefited Emerge. We collected \$59.40. Our August collection benefited Stephen Ministry. We collected \$90.00! Thank you for emptying your pockets! **Save your change!**

Impact Food Needs for October: we will be collecting diced tomatoes this month. Impact prefers the 14.5-ounce size cans.

Impact Donations: Donations in July totaled 105 pounds. That included 68 cans of diced tomatoes. In August 172 pounds of food were collected. That included 23 boxes of cereal, 10 jars of jam or jelly, and 24 jars of peanut butter. Thank you, Vista!

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!

October Communion servers: Peggy Hoeft and Linda Galka.

Charitable Planning Session at Vista de la Montana United Methodist Church

The Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation will be presenting information about wise giving opportunities after the 10:00 AM worship service on October 12, 2025. Plan to attend and learn more about the Foundation and smart ways to be generous. Have you ever wondered what makes something an endowment? And did you know that individuals can create their own endowments with Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation. Learn the details at their presentation after worship on October 12. Do you have a charitable giving budget? If so, you might want to learn more about a Donor Advised Fund. Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation will share information about those funds when they join us after worship on October 12.

Do you need a will or a trust or both? It depends on your circumstances, of course, but for some information that may prove useful, plan to attend a presentation by Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation after services on October 12.

How can you use your IRA wisely? There are several opportunities – from creating a life income gift for yourself to making an income-tax-free contribution. Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation will offer IRA insights at their presentation after worship on Sunday, October 12. If you would like to attend, please register by calling the church office at 520-825- 5367. The presentation is open to anyone who is interested and would like more information.

In Memory of Loni Degan



Many of you know that Loni Degan, one of the pioneers who founded Vista Church, passed away early in April of this year. The Stephen Ministers have chosen to honor her faithful service to the church over many years and in countless ways by placing a memorial brick in the church entryway in her memory. Loni created and was in charge of the prayer shawl ministry, which turned out to be a wonderful gift of comfort and love for the care receivers that the Stephen Ministry serves, as well as hundreds of others in need, whether or not they were members of the church.

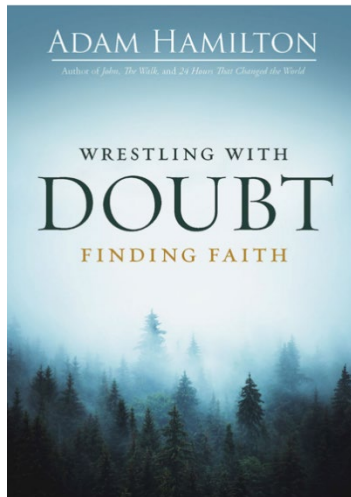
Some highlights of her involvement at all levels of Vista include:

Loni attended church every Sunday, often wearing colorful sweaters themed to the holidays. She was an official and unofficial greeter to all who came in the door, and she sought out soon-to-be best friends with pleasant conversations.

Loni was the president of Vista Women's Fellowship (formerly called Mary Martha Circle) and represented the UMW at the conference level and attended the UMW South District meetings when they were held.

Loni oversaw the background check duties in earlier years, that supported the Safe Sanctuary program.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Starting Wednesday, September 10, at 10:00 AM
“Wrestling With Doubt, Finding Faith”, by Adam Hamilton
Leader: Gail Parson



Our first fall Adult Education Wednesday Adult Christian Education Class begins September 10th and will include 6 sessions. We meet on Wednesdays at 10 AM in the Elizabeth Room in the Education/Administration Building at Vista de la Montana United Methodist Church in Catalina.

We will be discussing the book **Wrestling with Doubt Finding Faith, by Adam Hamilton**. Our class leader will be Gail Parson. Books may be purchased online and are available on-line at Amazon and at off-price book sellers.

Rev. Hamilton's books have been used for many of our classes and he is a very popular author. He is the senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in the Kansas City area.

ALL ARE WELCOME to attend our classes! We encourage members of our community to join us.

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

October 5 th thru 26 th	Stewardship Campaign	
Friday 10.03.25	9:30am	Creative Hands
Friday 10.03.25	10:00am	Prayer Bead Group
Saturday 10.04.25		
Wednesday 10.08.25	10:00am	Adult Education
Wednesday 10.08.25	11:00am	Handbell Practice
Wednesday 10.08.25	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Friday 10.17.25	2:00pm	Church Conference
Sunday 10.19.15	9:00am & 11:00 am	Ministry Faire

**September Communion Offering
Snak Pak**

Without this assistance, many children might risk going hungry on weekends when school breakfast and lunch programs aren't available.

We are encouraging that all members sign up for the prayer chain emails. Its easier to get notifications for prayer/healing updates.

Email  Lou Phillippi at lnphillippi@yahoo.com

Prayers for Healing

Eileen Carender, Dottie Lou Colby, Kay Gragg, 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. James UMC, Tucson, St. John's UMC, Tucson
St. Mark's 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!

SAVE THE DATE

**An Installation Service For
The District Superintendent
Rev. Javier Olivares**

**You are Invited to the
Installation service for
Rev. Javier Olivares**



Oct. 18 2025

**Saturday 3PM St. Mark's UMC
1431 W Magee Rd, Tucson, AZ 85704**

Desert Southwest Annual Conference

You Know of Whom I Speak

Stuart Watkins

When I was walking in the desert
and a thorn from a mesquite tree scratched my arm,
I thought of the one who had a crown of thorns
set upon His head.

You know of whom I speak.

When I climbed the Catalina Mountains
for six and a half long hours up and down
running out of water and praying to make it home,
I thought of the one who spent forty days
in the wilderness.

You know of whom I speak.

A thorn pierced my tennis shoe, not wise to have worn,
and lodged in my big toe; pulling it out was a hurtful act.
I thought of the one who had spikes hammered
into His hands and feet.

You know of whom I speak.

My mountain hike ended in making it home exhausted,
thirsty, tired and weak,
but somehow stronger in faith remembering
Him Who endured it all for you and me.

You know of whom I speak.