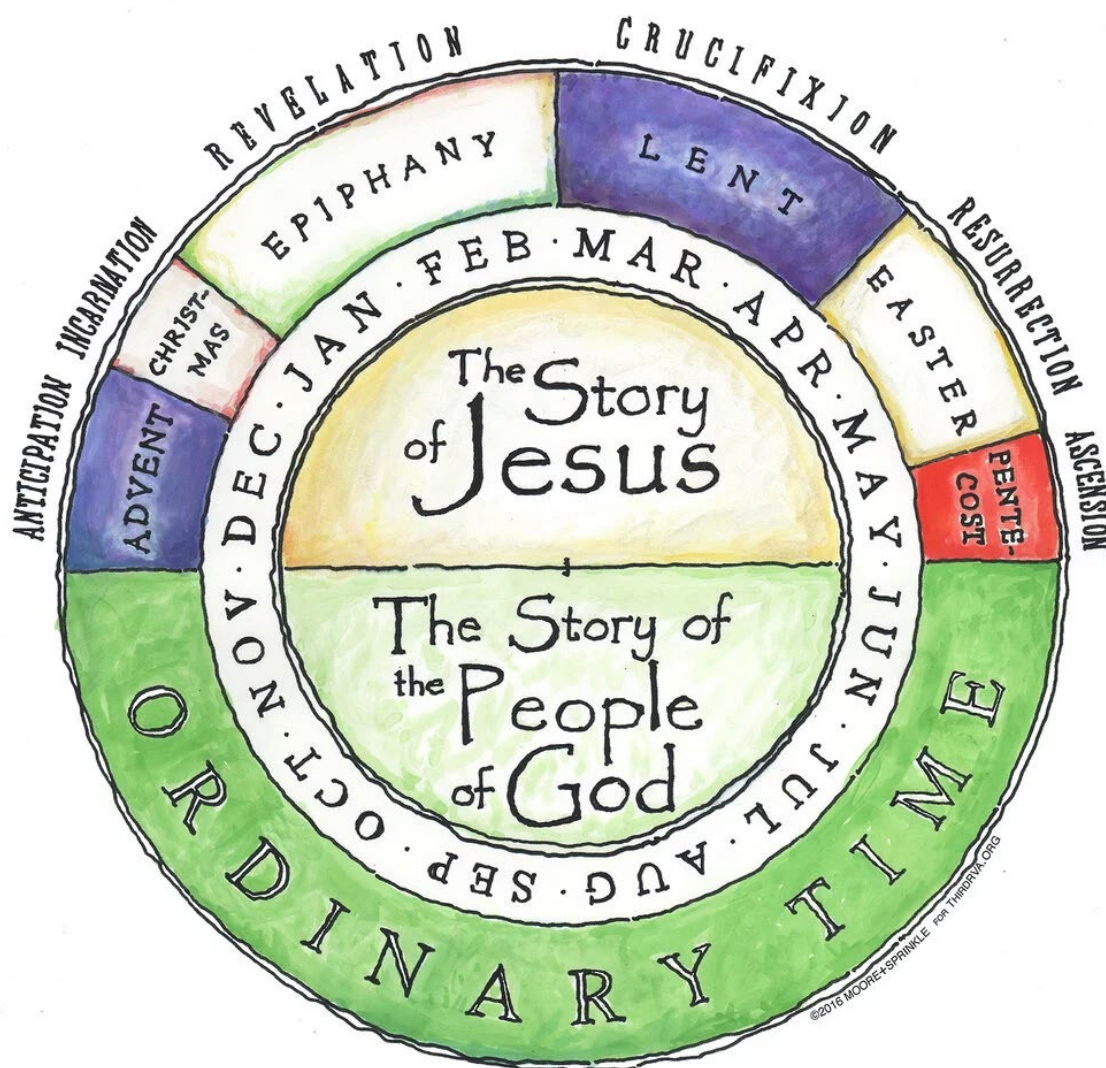




DECEMBER 2025

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 If you send it to another address, it is possible the article will not be published.

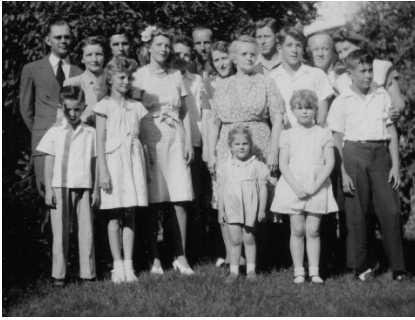
Nancy Yob, Echoes@vistaumc.org

ECHOS

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.

FELLOWSHIP FOCUS – Pete Rice



This narrative outlines the life journey of Pete Rice, a study in human resilience and adaptability in the face of significant life challenges, primarily stemming from a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy (CP) at an early age.

Pete was born in Stanford, CT, on March 19, 1940 and three years later his sister, Virginia, completed the Rice family. At age three, he received his CP diagnosis. Guided by a supportive family environment, his mother proactively sought specialized treatment in Douglaston, Queens, New York, leading the family to relocate there. Treatments included wearing a brace on his right foot. The family eventually settled in Glen Cove, Long Island, New York, where Pete completed his formative education.

Pete attended school in Douglaston until the end of the third grade when the family moved to Glen Cove, Long Island, NY, where Pete lived through high school in 1958.

Pete's childhood offered a series of seasonal nostalgic memories from early years spent in Glen Cove. He recalls summers filled with sports, adventures with friends, and outdoor activities like swimming and fishing. Winter memories include sledding and ice skating. Family life was also a central theme, with Pete's dad's building projects around the house and their mom's small playschool run from the basement. Those impressionable years include connections to notable baseball players who lived in the area (Whitey Ford and Roy Campanella). Baseball was a big part of his youth as he played on the Rotary Club, Queens Men's Shop, and Miller Homes Little League teams. His teenage years also included socializing and dance parties with friends.

Pete pursued higher education at the New York Institute of Technology, earning a degree in Applied Science focused on Radio and TV Production. His professional life showcased a versatile approach to employment, often holding multiple positions simultaneously:

- **Primary Career:** Secured a position as a Watchman at the Courthouse in Mineola, Long Island. His consistent 12 midnight to 8 am shift allowed for diverse supplementary employment.
- **Early Roles:** Worked in photo engraving (Powers Chamco) and various day jobs (Haines Underwear, Merrill Lynch, Abilities Incorporated, known for hiring disabled workers, hired him as a receiving clerk.
- **Civil Service:** In 1972, he passed the Civil Service test and transitioned to a 40-year career as a Computer Operator I in Rockville Centre, Long Island, a role he held until his 2004 retirement.

In 1973, Pete purchased his own home in Freeport, Long Island. His personal life evolved with marriage to Lorainne on October 12, 1976. They welcomed a son, Shawn, a year later. (Shawn now lives in Vermont, with his wife, Suzy and their three sons: Jack, 16, Eric, 12, and Luke, 7.

Upon retirement in 2004, Pete and Lorainne relocated to the SaddleBrooke community near Tucson, Arizona, drawn by the climate and lifestyle opportunities of the Southwest.

God had a plan for Pete and Lorainne for a church. Pete, a life long Christian, was raised as a Christian Scientist and had attended several denominations: in addition to Christian Scientist, he attended Unity Congregational Church in Rockville Centre before they retired.

Pete, after an invitation from Vista UMC member as well as his neighbor, Don Little, quickly integrated into the local community at Vista UMC in Catalina, Arizona. He engaged actively in church activities, including:

- United Methodist Men projects (rummage sales, highway cleanup).
- Serving as the "Children's Shepherd" and a greeter.
- Documenting church life through photography.

Pete experienced a profound personal loss when his first partner, Lorainne, passed away in 2011. He later found connection through "Seniors for Seniors" online dating, where he met Karen, an auditor for AZ State, during a lunch date. Pete and Karen married in 2013 and shared a decade together before Karen sadly passed away in 2023. Karen is survived by her son, Karl, and his wife, Louise, along with their two grandchildren who live in England: Clayton (14) and Hollie (10).

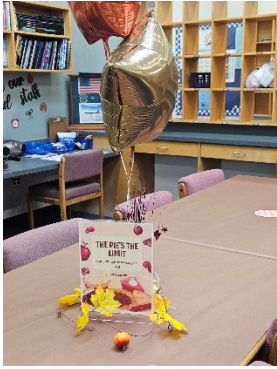
This story would not be complete without going back to the opening sentence about Pete's 'life challenges'. After Karen passed away, Pete continued living in their SaddleBrooke home. After a fall at home, he remained on the floor for four days, unable to reach help until a concerned friend from church located him. The result was for him to move to an Assisted Living facility. While recovering in assisted living, he broke his leg again during exercise.

When asked how he navigated the extreme isolation during his four-day entrapment, Pete attributed his survival to his faith, continuously reciting "The Lord's Prayer, the 23rd Psalm, and the "Unity Prayer of Protection," illustrating a profound reliance on spiritual grounding throughout his life's challenges.

Despite relying on a wheelchair currently, he remains determined to maintain his independence and community connections, utilizing the Sun Shuttle to attend church services.

-Robin Conner

THANK YOU FROM CORONADO TEACHERS!!!



Your Communion and Loose Change Donations provided 22!!!! Pies for the Coronado Teachers' Thanksgiving Party!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR AMAZING TEACHERS!!!



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER PROJECTS

November, United Women in Faith wrapped Christmas gifts for children at TMM. (Tucson Metropolitan Ministries) Also in November, Christmas stockings will be distributed before and after church to be filled with supplies for women such as toiletries, socks, nail supplies and notebooks. United Women in Faith will distribute the filled Christmas stockings to Gospel Rescue Mission, Eagles Wings of Grace, and TMM.

Our BAKE SALE will be before and after church on Sunday, December 14. Our fundraisers are important, which helps the organization purchase items for our charity projects. We thank you for your support of United Women in Faith.

Tucson Metropolitan Ministries (TMM)

United Methodist Women received a Thrivent Action Team grant for our TMM Christmas gift project. We wrapped over 200 presents for the 54 low-income children living in the TMM Tucson apartments. They will open the gifts at the TMM Family Services Christmas party on December 19th.



Barbara Phillips and Linda Zello
were happy Elves!



Amy Butkovich and Anne Groth
Were happy wrappers!



Jane was a star wrapper!



Sherri Wyland and Jan Bohe
were God's hands in action!

Dinner for Six

The Dinner for Six Spring session will begin in January. If you participated in the fall session, you are automatically included in the spring meetings unless you notify Sandy Schwartz to cancel.

Please note that these get-togethers are not always dinners; brunch and lunch are also common options for socializing. Participants do not have to host meals in their homes; dining out is a great alternative.

After more than 25 years of dinners, Pete and Sandy still enjoy spending time with other church members.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Sandy Schwartz.

MISSION OUTREACH

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

Impact Christmas Emergency 911

During the month of December, you are encouraged to donate to Impact Foods in Catalina. To help offset this food scarcity emergency, please bring:

9 canned items such as diced tomatoes, peanut butter, soup, chili

1 box or bag of pasta, rice, or dried beans

1 bag/box of flour, sugar, or baking mix.

Two Dollar Buy a Pie: **Thank you** for supporting our annual “Two Dollar Buy a Pie”. We delivered forty apple pies and forty pumpkin/sweet potato pies to Impact. These pies were included in the Thanksgiving meals provided for the forty shut in seniors Impact serves on a weekly basis.

Loose Change: Our Loose Change collection in October benefited Emerge. We collected \$25. **Our December collection will support Snack Pak at Coronado School.** Thank you for emptying your pockets! Save your change!

Impact Donations: Donations in October totaled 72 pounds. We also collected 152 pounds of food the first two weeks of November. 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. All elements are gluten free! No advance training is required!

December Communion servers: Jim Lubach and Kay Barber.

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!

"Share the Warmth" Clothing Drive

A long-standing tradition at Vista is its' annual "Share the Warmth" Clothing Drive. We are asking that members donate gently used (or new!) clothing for the winter months to this cause. Socks, sweaters, jackets and sweatshirts (both men and women), pants, long-sleeved shirts, etc. will be gratefully received and taken to IMPACT of Southern AZ weekly for low income members of our community. This drive will run from December 14, 2025 through January 25, 2026. A box in the narthex will be available for your convenience.

Thank you in advance for helping to "Share the Warmth" among

our area neighbors.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Education Advent Study
Wednesday Mornings at 10:00 am – 11:00 am
in the Elizabeth Room

First Persons—Christmas Edition
Based on the book, Season's Greetings
by Ruth L. Boling
Facilitated by Jim and Linda Galka



Each week you will meet a little known character in the Christmas story who will answer the question, "What does Christmas mean to you?" Join us for a unique look at the Christmas story.

December 3 The Innkeepers, Tobias and Abidah
December 10 The Midwife, Giah
December 17 The Shepherd, Hushai

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

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 lnphillippi@yahoo.com

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

Prayers for our South District Churches
UMC of the Good Shepherd, Kearny,
UMC of Green Valley, Green Valley,
Willcox UMC, Willcox

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS!