



November 2024

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”

New! Tune into Vista’s Facebook page every Tuesday for our new recurring post, with a message from Pastor Mary. To access Facebook, go to our website: www.vistaumc.org and click on the Facebook icon.

Blessing of the Animals

October 5, 2024



Ministry Faire

October 23, 2024





Coronado Trunk or Treat –THANKS to all who donated to the Coronado Outreach project. We (with Ivan’s help!) made two deliveries of candy to Coronado to help with their Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 25th.



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 If you send it to another address it is possible the article will not be published.

Gail Parson, Echoes@vistaumc.org

Vista UMC Sends Helps from the Desert to Hurricane Victims!

By Sherri Wyland



With the encouragement of Vista UMC's new pastor, Rev. Mary Dotson, the Vista congregation made monetary donations to help the victims of the recent storms in the Southern parts of our country through UMCOR – the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

The donation helps purchase materials that are used to make cleaning kits that are then transported in containers to areas where they are needed. In this case, the kits are made and sent from the UMCOR Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana. Teams of volunteers several days of their time to help.

Requests are sent from various conferences in the areas of need. There will be thousands of requests filled. These kits are received by Early Response Teams (ERTs) that are on site. These teams have the training that gives them the ability to serve as "boots on the ground" in support of affected areas.

Vista members are very grateful they can help through UMCOR, which is a 501(c)3 that has no overhead. 100% of the donations go directly for relief.

Robin Conner's Stewardship Sharing during October 13th service:

Good morning! I have been a Vista UMC member for 10 years. I love this church now as much as I loved it when I first began.

Before that, we'd been retired for 5 years, spent a considerable amount of time traveling, and settled down here in Catalina. I was restless. It had become a habit to get up with the sunrise, when the desert was quiet and wildlife was stirring. I reflected on how God had outdone himself when he created his creatures...God. I hadn't thought much about God in a very long time and felt the missing spirituality inside my heart. Our neighbors, Howard and Mary Lou Young, invited me to attend Vista de la Montaña UMC where they were charter members and I decided to go. As I slowly drove up East Miravista Lane towards the white oasis on the hill, a sense of calm and serenity came over me. I arrived through the blue gates with the white doves and some anticipation, but soon was welcomed by the friendliest of greeters who seemed happy to see me. After a while I realized this is a part of Vista: "friendly". Mary Lou quickly "assigned" me to my seat, "row 4, seat 3". And I kept going back.

I learned Church is a community where we can support each other as well as socialize. You can make friends, feel a sense of belonging, and build a support network that you can rely on.

It means a place to pray, share your faith and beliefs as well as your hopes for your church without judgement or criticism. Together, we support each other and are able to look outside of ourselves and to be of service to others in our church and community. For me, I found purpose in giving my time, care, love, and ESPECIALLY service. At first, I volunteered to bring cookies for hospitality. That was easy so next I called folks to bring those cookies. Not one person said no. And I discovered when you make calls, you meet new friends. And I continued to do those things that bring me joy. I pledged money when the campaign came around. No one insisted and for me, it was the thing to do. Giving in all the ways I can means making a difference. And being able to feel serenity and calm each time I drive back up East Miravista Lane reinforces my belief that we are blessed by God so we can bless others

Nancy Yob's Stewardship Sharing during October 20th service:

Good morning,

When Pastor Mary asked me to say a few words about why Vista is so important to our family and why and how we have supported this church for over 34 years. I immediately said Yes because I love sharing our story.

If you read our letter that you received this week, we gave a real quick history of Vista. We began meeting in the Coronado gymnasiums across the street. We met in the large gym, had adult and children Sunday School classes in opposite corners of the gym. We also met in the Cafenadium – at lunch it was a cafeteria and the rest of the time it was a gymnasium. In both places, we had to come in and set up 60-80 chairs, put out hymnals, the pulpit and a small altar. Then after service we put it all back.

When we started to look for property our pastor, Rev. Don Cooke, was drawn to this old missile site. We purchased the property, brought in two modulars to serve as our worship center, classrooms and offices. 34 years later we have a Sanctuary, the Administration/Education building, Labyrinth, Sun Wheel, Ways of the Cross, Remembrance Garden and a Meditation Garden.

David and I share 4 sons. When we started at Vista, Wyatt, Morgan were 10, Jason was 11, and Jeff was 12, They were all involved in sports year-round. At one time, David and I could tell you where every park was in Pima County! Fortunately, at that time, the games rarely were played on Sunday mornings. So, Wyatt and Morgan joined us for church every Sunday.

Getting from meeting at the school to where we are today, was not always easy and required a lot of “giving” from our members. As you can imagine, having 4 boys in sports did not leave us with much extra money every week. For a long time, although we tithed and pledged an amount every year, we never felt it was enough. So, we did our best to give in other ways.

My favorite memory of giving is of the three years we put luminarias up the road – both sides - from Oracle to where the admin building is today. On Christmas Eve, David and I, with the help of the 4 boys, put out over 100 paper bags, with sand and real candles – lit them, put the candles out after the service and picked them up the next day. It was beautiful.

Fortunately, we realized Vista needed support in many ways, not just financially. So, I taught Adult School for 13 years, supported the Audio/Visual needs for 22 years, and we volunteered for and supported many of the committees.

David and the boys set up a basketball and volleyball area for the youth.

Our family has always been available when there were projects and other needs for volunteers. At Roger Salava's Memorial, Howard Young mentioned that he and Roger must have taken down and set up these chairs over 1,000 times. That usually meant there were also 20 tables being put up and taken down. The Vista family all helped when needed.

So, as we look back, money was not always our major contribution to Vista. Our family gave of ourselves. Like most families, things are not always perfect, we have seen so many changes at Vista. Some we agreed with, some we didn't, but we never gave up on the dream of this church.

When David and I were talking about what I was going to say today, we started to laugh - we realized that when Vista started, we were almost the youngest members – with lots of energy. Now we are among the senior members, and not so much energy. So, now that our sons are grown with families of their own, we are able to do more financially to support Vista. This past year we lost 20 members to death, and another 30 to either moving to be with their families or deciding to leave the church. That has had a tremendous impact on our financial situation. We always say that God's timing is perfect. In the early years, Vista needed our energy and volunteering. Now it needs our financial commitment.

Vista is our family. We have fond memories of those members who helped start and grow this church. As I look out at all of you, I think of memories that include many of you. Some of you have been here from almost the beginning, many of you have joined us over the past 20 years and some are fairly new. It is because of those who came before us and ALL of you, that Vista survives.

We will continue making memories together as we all support Vista to ensure that those who come after us will know they have a home.

A church family is defined as a community of believers who are connected by shared values, commitments, and actions. Our family is blessed to be a part of this family. Thank you.

Mission Moments - November 2024

IMPACT of Southern Arizona

IMPACT is one of Vista's primary Mission Projects. In 2024, we have pledged \$300 per month to **IMPACT's Food Bank Program**. This is in addition to the hundreds of pounds of food donated by generous members of our congregation.

We also help to meet the **clothing needs** of the more than 600 clients served by IMPACT. Beginning in mid-December and running through January, Vista will collect gently used (and new!) warm clothing and bedding for clients of IMPACT. Watch for the large box in the Narthex in the weeks ahead!

Other Ways to Support IMPACT!

IMPACT has identified families with high needs who would appreciate being remembered at Christmas. Persons wanting to "adopt a family" can stop by IMPACT and select a family that matches their interests (i.e., a family with young children, or a teenager, or a lonely elder), then select gifts that will help meet that family's needs – sizes and ages will be provided..

Do you have hours to spare in your week? IMPACT has an ongoing need for volunteers to fill a range of positions, including clothing sorter, food packager or distributor, driver, meal deliverer, etc.

First Step – Pull up IMPACT's website (impactsoaz.org), or Call – **520-825-0009** and ask to speak to the volunteer coordinator. or stop by IMPACT –**3535 E. Hawser St**, just northeast of Basha's. (I would love to know of your interest!

Benith MacPherson, Vista liaison for IMPACT

NEWS FLASH! Vista members and friends are invited to help IMPACT of Southern Arizona celebrate 25 years of service in the community. They are hosting a **FREE Community Birthday Party in the Oro Valley Marketplace on FRIDAY, November 8th, from 4 – 9 PM**. There will be Music and Dancing, Games and Prizes, Food Trucks, a Silent Auction, and more! If you have a chance, stop by and introduce yourself as a member of Vista. (Free Birthday Dessert will also be served!)

November Mission and Outreach

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

With the reformatting of the mission/ outreach programs, you'll notice a change in the Echoes articles. Each team leader will submit updates about the specific mission project they coordinate.

Loose Change Ministry

This monthly mission project began in 2023. It's really quite simple. The last Sunday of the month Vista is asked to donate any loose change or small bills to supplement our local mission project. Since the inception of this outreach, we have collected \$1133.40. October donations will support Creative Hands, November will support Snack Pak at Coronado School, and December will support Impact Food Bank. Every penny really does count! Thank you Vista!

Here's an update on some ongoing projects:

Impact Food Bank: Your monthly donations make a huge difference! Thank you church for your continued support of our local food bank. Last month 32 lbs of food was donated.

Loose Change Ministry: This end of the month collection of loose change and small bills really makes a difference. In September, \$212.25 was collected and donated to the Coronado Teacher's Appreciation Fund. With your generous donations we were able to supply candy for their annual Trunk or Treat event.

Our October collection will be added to the Creative Hands fund. November's collection will support Snack Pak at Coronado School and December's collection will support Impact Food Bank.

SNAK PAK PROGRAM AT THE CORONADO K-8 SCHOOL

Vista UMC is answering the call to feed hungry tummies through our SNAK PAK Program at the Coronado K-8 School here in Catalina. In concert with the Santa Catalina Catholic Church, we help to provide weekly weekend meals/snacks to 60 students who might otherwise have limited or no foodstuffs to eat while away from the school environment. Volunteers from both churches and local neighborhoods gather at the school at the last Wednesday of each month to pack 240 bags to cover these 60 students for the course of one month. These students have been selected by the school social worker based on eligibility and greatest need.

Contained in each plastic bag, which is tagged with a sticker indicating these are gifts from the two churches, are carefully selected, nutritionally appropriate and nonperishable items. These include one macaroni and cheese or ravioli cup/can; a tuna or chicken salad with crackers; 3 packages of instant oatmeal; 3 Nutrigrain fruit and cereal bars; 2 fruit snacks; 2 packages of peanut butter crackers; 2 chewy granola bars; one Ramen noodle; and, 1 Smartfood popcorn snack.

The greatest area of need, for the continuation of this valuable program, is monetary gifts. It is no secret that food costs continue to soar, making it much more difficult to stretch a dollar to fund what is needed. In addition to monies budgeted to fund the program, special fundraisers and special offerings in the churches support the ongoing funding of the SNAK PAK Program. The Thanksgiving offering, coming up in the latter part of November, is a wonderful opportunity to give as you are led so that SNAK PAK can continue to address children's hunger. In the near future you will be provided with Thanksgiving offering envelopes which can then be used for any donations.

You can't imagine how very thankful the children are who benefit from this program. Vista has always faithfully and heartily supported this program with monies, providing volunteers to serve this ministry and, most importantly, has kept the program in prayers that young people might be fed, nutritionally and spiritually. Thank you, everyone, for lighting up a child's face and feeding hungry tummies!!

Vista UMC Advent Class - Cards from the Characters of Christmas

SHARON SCANLAN & DONNA BORING




Advent is almost upon us. And yet our world, like that of the world in Jesus' time, is fraught with problems, worries and anxieties. Into this web of issues came Saint Luke the Evangelist's magical story of the birth of Christ. Chapter 2 of the Book of Luke tells us the story of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Our class will focus on the characters of Christmas, and what their stories might have been like. What characters you ask? Besides Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus, we have the shepherds, innkeepers, citizens of Bethlehem, the wisemen, Caesar Augustus, Quirinius, the Angel of the Lord, Simeon, and Anna. All have a part to play in the coming of the long-promised Messiah. After 400 years of silence God delivers on his promise.


This Advent Study uses several sources to imagine what these people may have been like. Each class will include letters and stories that the characters could have written but didn't, in order to facilitate group discussion on Luke Chapter 2 and its significance to the world. The class promises to be entertaining, as well as thought provoking.

All are welcome to attend. The class is offered at 10:00 AM on Wednesdays during Advent at the Vista United Methodist Church at 3001 East Miravista Lane, Tucson Arizona 85739 in the Saint Elizabeth Room of the Administrative and Education Building. Classes start on November 20th, skip November 27th for Thanksgiving and resume on Wednesdays until the last class on December 18th. If you wish to attend, please call 520-825 -985 and leave your name and how to get ahold of you. Ask the receptionist to deliver the message to Donna Boring.

Vista UMC's classes are open to everyone! The church is located on the west side of Oracle Rd., just south of the Golder Ranch stoplight.

Arizona 3-day Academy for Spiritual Formation

 April 22 – 25, 2025


 Singing Earth's Song: Lament, Praise, Prayer

- “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof; the world, and they who dwell therein.” Ps. 24:1. The environmental crisis demands a response from the faith community, because the problem is not just a scientific or political problem; it’s a spiritual problem. Materialism dictates our value system; we’re short-sighted about the use of the earth’s resources. Local churches have often chosen denial or complacency rather than hope and engagement, even though the environment is often the number one concern of our young people. This retreat is a journey into the heart of our faith tradition and the scientific community as together we find ways to respond.

 FOR MORE INFORMATION and TO REGISTER, go to <https://dscumc.org/3-day-academy-for-spiritual-formation-april-22-25-2025/>.

 REDEMPTORIST RENEWAL CENTER (<https://desertrenewal.org>) – here in Tucson.

 Faculty Presenter – Rev. Molly Vetter

 Science Consultant – Dr Gary Paul Nabhan

 RETREAT TEAM

- Rev. Jerry Haas, Retreat Leader jndhaas@gmail.com
- Rev. Susan Morgan, Theologian
- Rev. Tweedy Sombrero, Spiritual Guide
- Gail Parson, Hospitality
- Joe Hill, Worship Coordinator
- Derrick, Accompanist

Gail Parson – please feel free to contact me with any questions you have about this event.

Call or text (520) 275-7117 email gailma@comcast.net

Catalinas Community Chorus Invites our Vista friends...

...To our annual salute of America's veterans. Once again, we are honoring all veterans in music, words, and ceremony. Since November 10, 2024, is the 249th birthday of the United States Marine Corps, and the 80th anniversary of D-Day, we have special video presentations honoring all who served. Join us as we share the stories of two Vietnam veterans, one from Vista, and the honor of them being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The Chorus will present many of our annual favorites, plus a new musical segment of songs popular during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Of course, we will all join in singing our musical "Salute to the Patriots". Don't miss this program as it will be a time of remembrance and gratitude. The program will be held Sunday, November 10th at 3:00 pm at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 11575 N. 1st Ave. Oro Valley, Arizona. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, youth and children under 12 are free. There are no online sales. For additional information: contact CCC at ccchorusaz@gmail.com or www.catalinascommunitychorus.org, call at 520-303-6474 or see CCC members Marilyn Rutkowski Jan Atwood, Dottie Shaw, Mary Bellah or Bill Bellah for additional information.

Endowment

Gifts to Vista de la Montaña's Endowment Fund are pooled and invested to provide Vista with the resources to grow and meet future church needs. Vista's Endowment Fund returns produce income to be used for current and future church purposes.

When funds are available, they are distributed for support of approved projects which are above and beyond normal budgeted items. Funds availability is based upon the recent market performance and the performance of the Vista investment portfolio within that market environment. That said, the most current performance information is for the month of September during which the portfolio value increased 1.56% for a 2024 cumulative increase of 11.30%. The committee recently followed some recommendations from the investment adviser and added some new investment funds to further improve the portfolio performance.

The Endowment Committee has distributed all its approved funds for 2024. Our distribution amounts for 2025 will be determined in January once the 2024 yearly fund performance is available.

Please consider Vista's Endowment Fund in your charity giving plan. Thank you!



Our worship series continues in November, focusing on Jesus' words, "Do Unto Others" as we learn how to be Kind, Compassionate, Humble, Respectful and Love one another during this election period. Sundays, Oct 6, through Nov 3, 10:00 am.

Keep an eye out for emails during the next 6 weeks. Check your SPAM and JUNK folder.



November Anniversaries

HOAGLUND, Larry & Coralyn	11/01
LUCKMAN, Kim & Joyce	11/17
SCHWARTZ, Pete & Sandy	11/26
MILLARD, Ben & Jan	11/27
CONNER, Robin & Mike	11/28

November Birthdays

MEHLHORN, Mary-Ann	11/01
WHITE, Logan	11/02
VAKERICS, Molly	11/03
BOERDING, Sue	11/04
STEGINK, David 1	1/06
WILSON, Carol	11/06
WILSON, Syd	11/06
HARWICK, PeggyJo	11/07
CROWN, Jan	11/09

LAFLEUR, Joyce	11/12
RADKE, Carla	11/12
FLOYD, Cialyn	11/13
HAUCK, Phil	11/15
GALKA, Jim	11/16
HILLMANN, Mary Jane	11/17
HOAGLUND, Larry	11/18
TRIBOULET, Linda	11/18
PODLASEK, Diane	11/19
AYERS, Dixie	11/21
PARSON, Gail	11/21
HOLDER, Pamela	11/22
ANDERSON, Maureen	11/25
WINKLER, Sallie	11/25
BONNEAU, Mary	11/30

Compassion Connection

In Need of Continued Prayers for Healing

Eileen Carender, Edith (Edey) Gallaher, Kay Gragg, Bob & Eileen Herd, Pam Holder, Ken & Sharon Hunt, Betty Little, Allen & Barbara Phillips, Tricia Pohnert, and Art Schweitzer.
Home Bound

Dr. Chuck Crown, John & Jan Crown, Florence Duckett, Bill Gureck, Fran Hampton, Margaret Overman, Ken & Diane Podlasek, Sharon Poole, Pete Rice, Mary Louise & Walt Roberson, and Howard & Mary Lou Young.

Prayers for Comfort

***For the family of Cynthia Karcher.** Cynthia's service will be Today, at Vistoso Funeral Home.

***For the family of Christine Marie Berman Billesbach.** Christine's service will be held Saturday November 2, at 10:00 am in the Chapel at Canyon Del Oro Bible Church, 9200 N. Oracle Rd. Tucson AZ 85704, Rev. Fred Baum will be officiating.

***For the family of Richard Nevins** who passed away October 20, 2024.

Prayers for our 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:

St. Paul's UMC, Tucson

Trinity UMC, Bisbee

Vista de la Montana UMC, Tucson

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

Agua Prieta greeting cards are available for 50¢ each on the Patio before and after the service, and 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.

The church has purchased a **Wheelchair** to be used during worship if need be. The wheelchair will be kept in the Narthex.

Handbell and Chancel Choirs have begun Wednesday rehearsals. **Handbell Choir** meets at 11:00 am and **Chancel Choir** meets at 1:00 pm. Come and be musical with one or both great groups of people! Contact Carolyn Dwyer, Director of Music Ministries, if you have questions.

Vista AV Donations of Expertise, Time, and Money are Needed.

Seriously, our live streaming services on Sunday often have 200 listeners who watch the service, listen to the service, and pray with us as we pray. Many of the folks are long time members of Vista who can no longer attend. To continue providing live streaming we need to purchase some upgraded equipment. Also, we will need additional help in the booth on Sundays. Your time, money, and prayer will be greatly appreciated. If you choose to donate by check (be sure to note AV fund in memo space).

Thanks in advance;
The Vista AV Crew.

How to contribute to the offering if 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!



Together, we lift hearts.