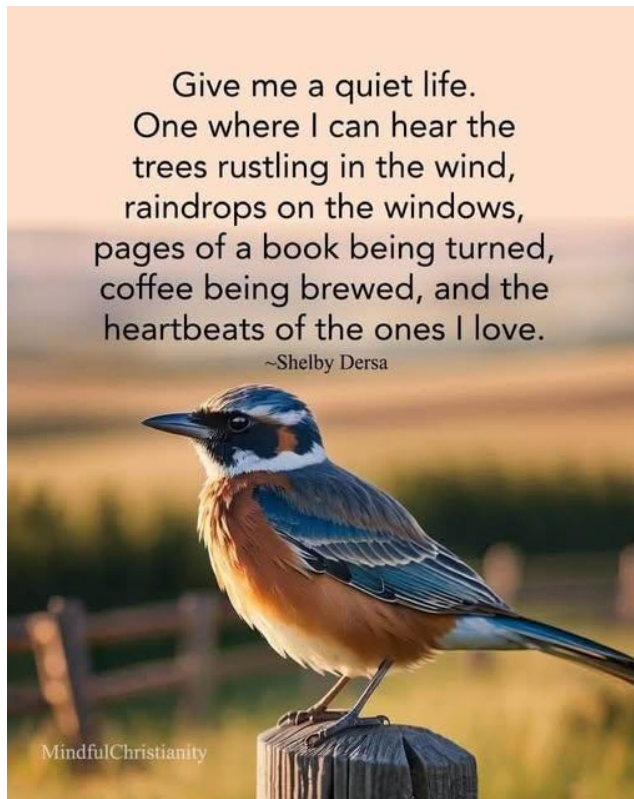




March 2025

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 If you send it to another address, it is possible the article will not be published.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

To My Vista Family

I want to sincerely thank you all for the cards, phone calls and wonderful food you have so generously gifted us with while I have been incapacitated. And thank you to the Prayer Shawl Ladies for the lovely handmade shawl! I will cherish it always and remember the love and care that went into the making of it. What a wonderful ministry you are providing. Thank you so much, and God Bless you for the work you do.

Linda Olson

Ash Wednesday at Vista de la Montaña

Every year we mark the beginning of Lent with the imposition of ashes on the day the church calls Ash Wednesday. Lent is a period of 40 days. These days represent the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness enduring the temptations of Satan. In spite of the stress and strain of temptation, the Holy Spirit provided Jesus with clarity and strength for his ministry. Lent is an opportunity for us to intentionally go into the “wilderness” in order to make space within our spirits to hear the heart of God. These 40 days give us time to re-focus our lives, to become mindful and intentional about what it means to follow Jesus. During this these 40 days I invite you to consider what is cluttering your life, hindering you from being in communion with God and with one another. This year, on Wednesday March 5th, I invite you to begin Lent by participating in a contemplative practice of praying through the Lord’s Prayer from 9:00-4:00 in the Narthex. Nine prayer stations will be set up where you can reflect on the 9 phrases of the Lord’s Prayer. This is a self-meaningful. At the end of the prayer, I will be present to place the traditional marking of the cross on your hand or forehead with ash. It’s a visible reminder that we are dust and yet, God makes beautiful things out of dust. May we be able to grasp a bit more who we are in Christ and who Christ is guided prayer experience that many have found calling us to become.

Because of Jesus,

Pastor Mary



Fellowship Focus

Barbara and Allen Phillips



June 19, 2025 marks the 60th wedding anniversary for Vista members, Barbara and Allen Phillips.

Barbara was born in Madison, WI where she resided through high school graduation, followed by attending nursing school at Methodist Hospital School of Nursing and the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Upon graduating, she worked at Methodist Hospital for two years in the operating room. It was through a roommate's fiancé in nursing school that she met Allen while on a date with someone else. At the roommate's wedding, she connected with Allen and the next day he knocked on her door and asked her to go sailing. It was too windy, but the couple kept their date anyway....at the Milwaukee Zoo.

The couple were married by the notable Rev. J. Ellsworth Kalas, who was a United Methodist pastor, a professor and president of Asbury Theological Seminary, and the author of over 45 books. The next day, June 20th, they moved to Leadville, CO (elevation 10,200') where Allen had a job at the Climax Molybdenum Company in Climax, CO (elevation 11,000'). Barbara began working at the infirmary at the Climax mine (Industrial nursing which is a big change from operating room nursing). She worked for two years until their first son, Scott, was born (Climax did not allow both parents in management to work with a child under the age of two). In 1974, Allen and Barbara bought a redi-mix concrete company in Leadville. Barbara coached Little

League Baseball; and worked as a band assistant in Lake County Middle School in Leadville. She was involved in Republican politics in Lake County both as Treasurer and Chairman of the 5th Congressional District in Colorado, spanning 10 counties.

Allen was born in Milwaukee, WI and moved to Madison when he was 12 years old. His family was in the automotive parts business (Napa) and as a teenager, he delivered automotive parts and was also a mechanic. He's worked for Hires Bottling Company, and Wisconsin Power and Light, building sub-stations. Allen was employed with Wisconsin Oil Burner and worked for Wisotto Fiber Craft building boats. In addition, he worked for Climax Molybdenum as a miner to the general mine foreman and worked for Amax doing a multitude of jobs. Eventually, he started Lake County Concrete with Barbara doing redi-mix concrete. Their youngest son, Erik, runs the business today that also includes the surrounding areas. Middle son, Thomas, has a concrete pumping company in Leadville. Scott is Director of Outpatient Admissions at Common Spirit Hospital in Denver.

In the meantime, Barbara, an operating room director, went searching for a change and interviewed for a job at St. Mary's Hospital in Tucson and was immediately hired. The couple moved to Tucson in 2008. They were attending St. Mark's Methodist Church in Oro Valley when Barbara's best friend from childhood connected with her during one of her visits here. She mentioned seeing Vista on the hill in the desert and Barbara went to a Sunday service and found the congregation very friendly. The rest is history.

At Vista, Barbara has been involved in a variety of committees, including the Finance Committee; always going the extra mile to help. She belongs to United Women in Faith, Bell Choir, sends postcards to new visitors, has fed the cast for several Walks to Bethlehem and is always on hand to help wherever needed.

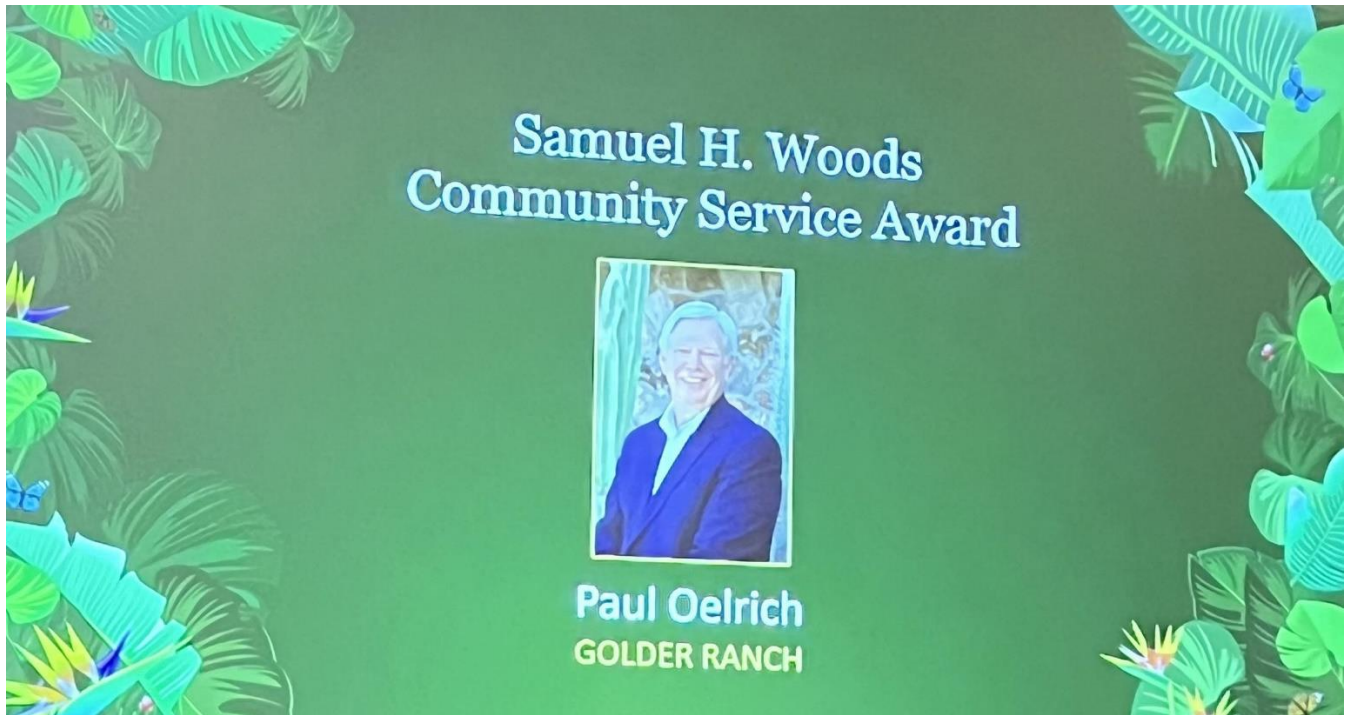
In Arizona, Allen went back to school (Pima Community College) and has a degree in engineering (mechanical, civil and mining). He was a transport category structural repairman and is a licensed aircraft mechanic with an inspection authorization. He is a pilot, sailed sailboats, is a trapper (beavers), sharp shooter, and pistol marksman.

Vista involvement for Allen includes the Landscaping committee, Board of Trustees and Walk to Bethlehem events.

In addition to their three sons and wives, they boast of 6 grandchildren and 5 great-great grandchildren.

Robin Conner

CONGRATULATIONS, PAUL OELRICH!!!
WINNER OF THE SAMUEL H. WOODS COMMUNITY
SERVICE AWARD



Good morning everyone. We're here this morning to celebrate an individual whose dedication to our community truly shines: Paul Oelrich. Paul's generosity and commitment to service have touched countless lives, and it's an honor to present him with the Samuel H. Woods Community Service Award.

Paul's involvement with Impact of Southern Arizona speaks volumes about his commitment. For four years, he served on their Board of Directors, helping to broaden their reach and make a real difference in the lives of many. He was also instrumental in securing Platinum Level sponsorship for Long Golder Ranch benefitting their Golf Classic – a testament to his ability to rally support for important causes.

His leadership continued with Long Cares, where he joined as a board member in 2016, then served as Treasurer for five years and today serves as Vice President. As a Champion Level Donor, he truly leads by example. Paul is a cornerstone of Long Cares, always ready to lend a hand and share his resources.

Paul's impact extends to SaddleBrooke Community Outreach, where he's an Enrich Level contributor. SBCO's work supporting children and families in our surrounding communities, from SaddleBrooke to Miami, AZ, including the San Carlos Reservation, is vital, and Paul's support makes a real difference. He's always there for our Long Golder Ranch Shred Events benefiting SBCO and Beacon, further demonstrating his commitment. And let's not forget his support for organizations like the TMC Cancer Center, Arizona Oncology, Ben's Bells, Beads of Courage, and Bald Beauties – organizations that provide crucial services and support to those facing difficult challenges.

Even closer to home, Paul's dedication shines. At his church, he records services for members who can no longer attend in person. This simple act of kindness speaks volumes about his character and his understanding of the importance of community connection.

Paul, your tireless dedication, your leadership, and your generosity make you a truly deserving recipient of the Samuel H. Woods Community Service Award. Thank you for all that you do. Please join me in congratulating Paul!

CREATIVE HANDS

Creative Hands started out as *Mt. View Crafters* in 1997. We had many women who made lovely things for Bazaars at Vista to earn money to give to the church for various projects. In 2002 we decided to stop the Bazaars as the number of women participating dwindled down. The decision was made to concentrate on quilt and lap robes, hospital smocks, baby layettes and children's clothes. In 2003 we came under the umbrella of Mission Outreach with a new name of *Creative Hands*. We concentrated on children's clothes for Catalina Community Services, later known as Impact of Southern Arizona. We also gave items to the Family First Pregnancy Care Center (FFPCC) in Oracle and to the Barnabas Project (a military family charity). Our church provides the money for fabrics, thread, elastic, patterns and Vista's label for each item. We usually meet on the first Friday of the months of September through May. Impact and FFPCC are always delighted to receive our hand-made clothes from our group, both in the past and present. I thank all who have contributed in the past as well as this last year's group: Linda Miller, Dee Berisha, Holly Nash, Delores Brindle, Sharon Ingle, Jan Hopke-Almer and Joy Kirby.

Here is a list of things we contributed: Baby burpee pads, bibs, quilts, receiving blankets, blouses, capri/top sets, capris, dresses, fleece hats, long pants, p.j. pants/t-shirt sets, pillowcases, shorts, short/t-shirt sets, sundress/short sets, sundresses, t-shirts, jumper/t-shirt sets, sweatshirts, skirts, blouse/legging sets.

The following shows the yearly count since we started:

2002 - 46 plus 5 quilts	2014 - 232
2003 - 125 plus 14 quilts	2015 - 667
2004 - 251 plus 60 quilts	2016 - 507 plus 62 to Barnabas Project
2005 - 295 plus some quilts	2017 - 246
2006 - 234	2018 - 457
2007 - 388	2019 - 389
2008 - 310	2020 - 297
2009 - 445	2021 - 221
2010 - 563	2022 - 320
2011 - 523	2023 - 516
2012 - 372	2024 - 601
2013 - 212	

Jan Bohe, President

The Final Days – Lenten Study

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Mar 6 through Apr 9 in the Elizabeth room.

This Lent ponders the themes of justice, poverty, freedom, and love. The 4 New Testament Gospels aren't the same story, but they offer the same Resurrection hope. We will compare/contrast the stories in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Our guide is the book *The Last Days* by Matt Rawle. We will also be using the DVD that goes with the text, so it is optional if you purchase the book.

Please bring a Bible (whatever version you prefer).

Please sign-up through the church office or email Gail (gailma@comcast.net)
Gail Parson, Facilitator.

Vista Methodist Men

The Vista Methodist Men meet the first Saturday of each month starting with breakfast at Sunny Side Up Café at 8am and move to the church for a short meeting. We have become a fellowship group that enjoys spending a short period of time together. The men are looking at doing visitations to Methodist men that would enjoy and appreciate a visit from one or two men from the group, please send an e-mail (admin@vistaumc.org) to the church office or call (520-825-1985) the office for you requests. We welcome any and all men that would be interested in joining us for fellowship and friendship, please send an e-mail to Darrell at darrellj@comcast.net or call me at 520-275-8114.



Prayer Bead Experiences

Sharon Scanlan:

In the last four years, I have given over 50 beads to family, friends and others.

- If someone is having surgery, I ask if they would like some beads. Even though they aren't regular church attendees; they always want them.
- When we travel on a tour, I take a few sets and give them to new friends that I think would appreciate them. Several have started a similar ministry at their home church.
- My Jewish friend asked for a set that she carries with her. It has a Star of David. Once she was in a doctor's office and there was a very distraught young mother. She asked her if she would like to hold the beads while her child was being treated. The beads calmed her.
- Friends around the country ask for sets to give to their friends who are having major health challenges.
- I now carry a set with me in case I run into someone that I can offer the beads to if they appear to be someone who would like them.

Nancy Yob:

In the past two months, we have sent batches (10-15 sets) to Texas and to a local Caregiver organization. Several visitors also asked to take multiple sets to friends and family in their hometowns. Let us know if you need extra beads to pass on to others.

If you would like to join us in making Prayer Beads, the Vista Prayer Bead Ministry Team meets the first Friday of each month to make sets for Vista, the local community and various military groups. **ALL** are invited to join us. If you don't know how to bead, no problem, we will be happy to teach you. Beads and other supplies will be provided.

WHERE: St. Matthew

WHEN: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Impact FOOD NEEDS

For March, Impact would like us to focus on diced tomatoes. They need 800 cans per month.

Fry's Community Rewards

Vista de la Montana UMC is enrolled as a member of Fry's Community Rewards Program. Our Member Number is 22553. Our church receives a cash rebate quarterly, calculated on how much our members have purchased at Fry's or any Kroger affiliate.

Fry's/Kroger's goal is to build stronger communities through local organizations. If you are a Fry's V.I.P. member, consider enrolling.

PLEASE NOTE: Before you can link your Fry's V.I.P card to an organization, you must have an email address and an on-line account.

Basha's and Safeway do not have similar programs. Amazon has ended theirs.

Coronado Teacher's Valentine's Day Treat



Vista provided Strawberry Shortcake for the Coronado Teachers Valentine's Day treat! BIG thanks to Jan Millard, Bonnie Elliott, Robin Conner and Linda Galka for making 100!!! Angel Food Cupcakes! Thanks to your kind monetary donations, we had enough to provide 100+ shortcakes – with LOTS of whipped cream. It was a big hit!

The teachers send their THANKS!!!

AGUA PRIENTA SCHOOL SUPPLIES MISSION PROJECT

This APRIL the Vista Mission Outreach Program will begin collecting funds to purchase school supplies and backpacks for students from our sister church in Agua Prieta, Mexico. This program has been a huge success over the past 20+ years. We began by sponsoring 62 students, growing to our maximum of 160 students in 2017. Twenty-two students have graduated from college and four are currently enrolled in college with scholarships from the Roche Fund. Other adult students have completed their GED and/or graduated from technical college. Based on the success of this program, more families are providing school supplies for their children. Last year we received 50 elementary age students' photos for school supplies sponsorship. We had enough funds to provide school supplies and backpacks for an additional 28 students in junior/senior high schools or adults attending college/technical schools. **Pastor Gela from Fuente de Vida Church said the following in her thank you letter to Vista Church members:**

“Donation of backpacks and school supplies: Thanks to your support, dozens of children were able to start their school year equipped with the tools they need to learn and grow. These backpacks carry not just supplies but also hope and encouragement for a brighter future.”

“Your generosity not only meets material needs but also strengthens the faith and hope of those of receive these blessings.”

“May God continue to bless your church and each one of you, multiplying all that you do for His Kingdom. On behalf of our community, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!”

We have requested new photos of students needing school supplies and backpacks for the 2025-2026 school year. If you would like to make a donation for the purchase of school supplies/backpacks, **please make your check for \$35 per student to Vista UMC with AP school supplies in the memo line.** We hope to set up a display with the new student photos beginning in April. Any amount of donation is greatly appreciated to support these students. If you have any questions please contact Jan Hopke-Almer at 520-818-2504 or Lisa Richardson at 949-525-5943.

March Birthdays



ALLIGOOD, David	03/01
ZEBAL, Liz	03/05
HEDRICK, Jim	03/06
BRETZ, Linda	03/09
LOGAN, Bob	03/09
PHILLIPPI, Lou	03/11
HAMPTON, Fran	03/13
GROTH, Anne	03/14
ROBERSON, Walt	03/17
HILTON, Robert	03/19
RICE, Pete	03/19
ADAMS, John	03/20
LENZINI, Marty	03/23
CROWN, John	03/24
EXTRACT, Alexis	03/24
COLBY, Dottie Lou	03/27
SCHWARTZ, Pete	03/28
SPENCER, Phyllis	03/29

March Anniversaries



REIFSNYDER, Walter & Jane	03/10
OLSON, Ron & Linda	03/15

April Birthdays



NEVINS, Ilene	04/02
PRESCOTT, Joyce	04/02
BUKES, Janet	04/03
BELLAH, Bill	04/05
OLSON, Linda	04/07
PHILLIPPI, Nancy	04/07
ELLIOTT, Michael	04/08
EXTRACT, Clif	04/08
WARD, Linda	04/09
ZELLO-MCCOTTER, Linda	04/12
COOKE, Lois	04/14
WATTS Jr., Beler	04/17
LUCKMAN, Michael Kim	04/19
JACKSON, Jim	04/22
LANGWIG, Donna	04/22
MILLER, Linda	04/23
MOYER, Michael	04/24
JENSEN, J Edgar	04/26
REYNOLDS, Richard	04/29

April Anniversaries



KIMMEL, Dennis & Nancy	04/03
RUPE, Marvin & Jean	04/03
HUNT, Ken & Sharon	04/09
KRAVITZ, Mike & Pam	04/15
PHILLIPPI, Lou & Nancy	04/20
PROKOP, Frank & Karen	04/20

Compassion Connection

In Need of Continued Prayers for Healing

Eileen Carender, Loni Degen, Edith (Edey) Gallaher, Kay Gragg,
Bob & Jane Hendrickson, Bob & Eileen Herd, Ken & Sharon Hunt, Betty Little,
Linda Olson, Margaret Overman, Allen & Barbara Phillips, Art Schweitzer,
Jan Springer, and Carol Wilson.

Home Bound

John & Jan Crown, Florence Duckett, Bill Gureck, Fran Hampton, Ken & Diane Podlasek,
Sharon Poole, Walt & Mary Louise Roberson.

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:

Christ Church UMC, Tucson
Bowie UMC, Bowie

Duncan UMC, Duncan
South District Fresh Expressions
Our sister church, Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico.

Prayers for Comfort

For the family of Mary Lou Young. Mary Lou passed away January 14. Her service will be on March 8, 10:00 AM, at Vista UMC. *In lieu of flowers the Young family is asking that you make contributions to Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church general fund.*

For the family of Dana Belyea. Dana passed away January 25. His service will be On April 12, 10:00 AM, at Vista UMC.

FLOWER SIGN UP CHART FOR 2025: Please consider sponsoring one or more flower arrangements in 2025 to enhance the Sunday worship experience at Vista. The donation is \$50 per arrangement, and the money is not required when you sign up.

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.

Service and Volunteer opportunities.

- AV Booth members needed
- Shepards needed (contact Robin Conner)

We're Hiring: Choir Director, Hand Bell Choir Director, and Media/Tech Manager. If you or someone you know feels called to one of the par-time jobs, please send an email indicating your interest along with your resume to pastor@vistaUMC.org.

The MARCH Communion and Loose Change Collections! March's collections will benefit **Creative Hands**. Thank you for your generosity! Every penny counts!

Mardi Gras Potluck March 3-2-25 After church in the Elizabeth Room.

Fried Chicken provided by Vista UMC. A-K Sides/Salads and L-Z Desserts. Please drop off all food in the Elizabeth room before church. Volunteers are still needed. Please sign up with the church office staff.

Upcoming Events

3-02-25 Mardi Gras Potluck after church

3-05-25 Ash Wednesday 9-4 PM Prayer stations and Ashes in Sanctuary

3-08-25 Mary Lou Young's Memorial.

4-12-25 Dana Belyea's Memorial

4-13-25 Palm Sunday

4-13-25 United Women of Faith Easter Bake Sale

4-18-25 Good Friday

4-20-25 Easter Sunday

Opportunities to Connect, Serve & Support

Impact Food Needs—for **March**, Impact would like us to focus on diced tomatoes. They need **800** cans per month.

New Lectionary Class information

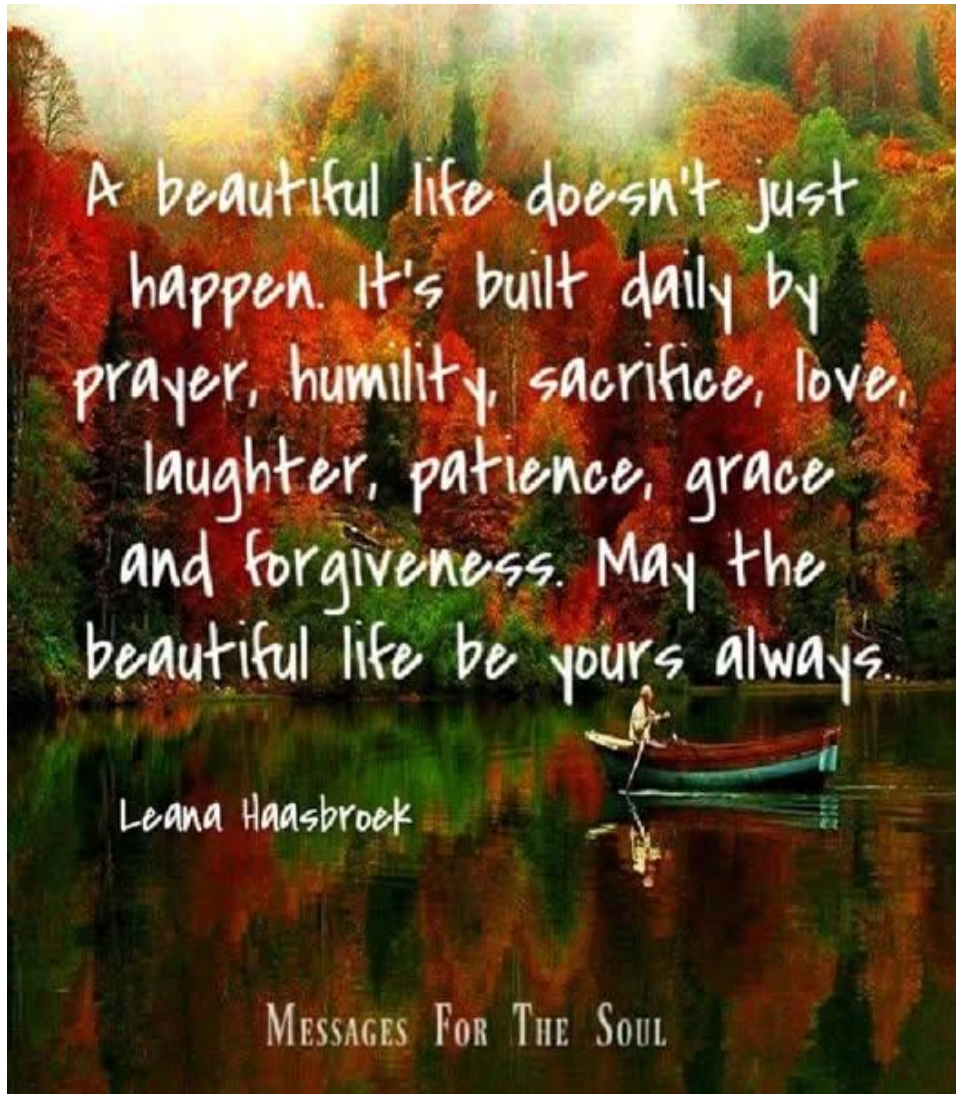
Vista UMC has had a successful weekly spiritual class for 5 years based on the Upper Room Disciplines; daily devotionals based on each week's four Lectionary scripture passages. The new group will select when, where and how they will meet – in-person or on Zoom. This is a meaningful way to build your relationship with God and with new friends. If you are interested in joining a new group, contact Donna Boring.

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 beautiful life doesn't just happen. It's built daily by prayer, humility, sacrifice, love, laughter, patience, grace and forgiveness. May the beautiful life be yours always.

Leana Haasbroek

MESSAGES FOR THE SOUL

