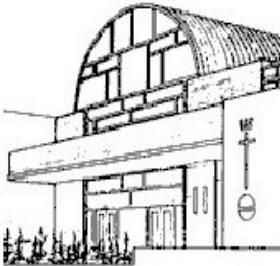


The Vista Views

Inside this issue

Article 42
Aug/Sep 2018



A Note from Rev Clare Twomey

Hello All,

On Sunday August 5th this congregation voted to become a Just Peace church with a 33 to 0 vote (2 abstentions). Not only have we further bonded with the National Church in terms of denominational unity, we have become (only) the sixth church in the Rocky Mountain Conference to achieve this designation at this time. During these overt tumultuous times in our nation, it certainly would have been more comfortable to remain in the shadows and not publicly profess that we desire to live out the call to be disciples of Jesus in a way that is proactive, compassionate, and just seeking for all humanity and creation. I have heard from numerous people, including the pastors of a dozen churches, our coach from the Center for Progressive Renewal and our own Conference minister, Sue Artt, congratulating Vista Grande on this bold decision. I do not share these adulations simply because we should be proud of this decision—pride is only fleeting. I share because the pastors of these churches, our coach and our Conference minister know how critical it is for us to stand up against oppression and injustice. We demonstrate a beacon of hope when we step up and state emphatically that we are willing to follow in the life and teaching of Jesus.

I realize that this is a decision that has come with much thought, discussion and discernment and will require even more as we identify specific ways we will demonstrate our commitments to justice and peace. As Kayan reminded us, that each day will ask of us to choose how we will focus our energies with regards to whatever presents itself. The objective is not that we all get out and protest every single issue and cause but that we agree to support those in our congregation who do. It is about committing ourselves to difficult and even contentious conversations with one another, about our role as a community in the world. It is about committing ourselves to the Divine desire for all to live in abundance and quality. Some things will be realized in our time and most will come to fruition long after we are gone. Our commitment is about recognizing that every gesture, conversation, relationship and action that moves us closer to a Just World For All, is just as vital and transformative as were the gestures, conversations, relationships and actions of those who first followed Jesus.

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Special points of interest:

- *Adult education 8:30 a.m.*
- *Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m.*



Sacred Conversations –

A little over a year ago, a fearless group of 16 completed the White Privilege curriculum provided to UCC churches by our Denominational leaders. The curriculum was designed to introduce the idea of: talking about race; identifying the subtle aspects of racist ideas in our own psyches; confronting some of our embedded ideas about race and privilege. The conversations were rich and challenging. Some of these folks offered a panel discussion during worship so that the congregation could get an idea of the difficult yet profoundly transformative work the group had been doing around racism. And this was just the beginning.

The UCC has introduced a new program called Sacred Conversations to End Racism. Anyone who wishes to be a facilitator in this conversation must participate in a training provided by the national office. I have partnered with our Conference office to have Velda Love, Minister of Racial Justice, to come to Denver in October in order to provide the required training. Anyone and everyone is invited to participate. It will be held on October 12th and 13th with more specific details to follow. On **Sunday October 14th**, Vista Grande will have the privilege of hosting Rev. Dr. Love as our guest preacher. Please mark your calendars as this promises to be a very exciting and relevant weekend for Vista Grande.

(If you are interested in the training please let Clare know so she can get you on the mailing list asap.)

Our Staff

Pastor—Rev Clare Twomey Music Director—David Hudson

Student Intern—Mallory Everhart

Office Administrator—Donna Bristow

Nursery Attendant—Vacant

Pastor's Hours

The hours are flexible.

If you'd like to meet with Clare, please call her at 351-0168

2018 Executive Committee consists of

Moderator – Erin Elkaim; Assistant Moderator – Vacant; Treasurer – Dawn Bechhold-Blueitt; Financial Secretary – John Tinsley; Clerk – Deborah Tinsley; Members-at-Large – Jim Price and Jeannie Harrington

Continued from page 1.

It is also important that just as we say our current community prayer each (Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.), that we also take care of ourselves in this work. Fred Plummer, of Progressive Christianity, offers: "Some people have misinterpreted the teachings of Jesus to presume we are supposed to fix all the injustices, all the wrongs, using all our energy and resources to save the world at the expense of our health, our families, and our financial resources. The universe will always provide plenty of opportunities to make a stand; to help another; to put ourselves at risk when it can make a difference when it counts; even to literally put our life on the line. But we must remind ourselves the teaching is **to love another as we love ourselves.**" In other words, while there may be times we are called to respond to extraordinary circumstances in extraordinary ways, we must also take very good care of ourselves and each other. We must maintain a healthy love for ourselves in order to do this work.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in your willingness to continue wrestling with this what it means to be a Just Peace church. Thank you for your courage and your faith in taking this step towards Justice. Thanks you for your commitment to the Divine Vision that informs and directs us. And thank you for trusting your fellow congregants to be there for support and understanding as we go forward.

Wishing you all much peace as we enjoy the rest of the summer and move into a season of harvest.

Pastor Clare

Worship Team Meeting: August 19th after church (approximately 11:20 a.m.) Yes, this will be held at the picnic.

Are you interested in how worship "works"? Get a behind the scenes look and be a valuable piece of making worship wonderful at VGUCC by joining us after church on August 19 (we gather around 11:20 a.m.). We will look ahead to upcoming liturgical seasons and special days to start brainstorming and preparing. If you have any questions or ideas please contact Crystal Karr at 719-247-0320 or ckarr97@gmail.com

The Choir will be back in September!!
If you'd like to sing on a regular basis,
contact David Hudson, our Music Director.



Introducing Our Student Intern

Greetings, covenantal partners and friends of Vista Grande Community Church!

It is my pleasure and honor to be among you for the next ten months as your intern. I look forward to becoming a part of the VG community and getting to know each of you individually. I have already been made to feel so welcome and supported and I can't wait to see how the Still Speaking God moves among us. Over the months, I am sure that we will have many chances for fellowship as we grow together in the pursuit of peace and justice. As we begin this journey together, I would like to share with you a little bit of my story. If you have further questions, I am more than willing to chat!

My approach to my education and career has always been interdisciplinary. People are whole people - mind, body, and spirit. I've spent my whole adult life serving elderly folks in nursing home and hospice settings. It is in those contexts that I first heard my call to ministry and understood myself to be a spiritual care provider. Currently, I work for a local hospice doing grief support and education. I love working with people and their families, facilitating difficult health care discussions and helping prepare for aging and, eventually, dying well.

As I shared on Sunday, call is a funny thing. I am a third year MDiv student, on track to graduate in June 2019, and a Member in Discernment seeking ordination in the Southeastern Association. I started this journey firmly resolved to become a hospice chaplain. I often joke that they don't call this a period of discernment for nothing! As a first year student, parish ministry was the furthest thing from my mind, yet I feel I have been led to spending my third year in this place and with you! My sense of my call is less to a specific vocation and more to a way of being in the world. The only thing I am required to do is say "Here I am, Lord. Send me." This way of being has required leaps of faith which cause some anxiety, but I have been given gifts and had opportunities to serve beyond anything I could have ever imagined.

Together, I hope we can explore what it means to live a called life. That terminology is often reserved exclusively for those of us engaged in professional ministry but that's way too narrow. Each of you have also been given unique gifts and talents and calls to minister in your own contexts, inside and outside the church. VG as a community is also answering a call to collectively work for peace and justice. I can think of no greater honor than to companion this community through this discernment and be companioned in return.

In sincere joy and gratitude,

Mallory Everhart

**It's not hard to
make decisions ~**
**once you know what
your VALUES are.**
~ Roy E. Disney

VGCC's Guiding Values:

Love, grounded in Faith and Hope;
Acceptance that includes Respect and Welcoming;
Caring Relationships
(Family, Friendship, Children, Community)

Women's Retreat – Sacred Creativity: Spiritual Artistic Expression

Saturday September 8 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Facilitator – Our Student Intern Mallory Everhart. Retreat will be held at La Foret Camp and Retreat Center in the Carriage House, 6145 Shoup Rd. in Black Forest. Cost is \$40 which includes lunch in the dining hall, space rental, honorarium, and supplies. Make checks out to VGUCC and drop in the offering plate; memo Women's Retreat. Deadline – August 26.

Faith Formation

Kids' Faith Formation—Plans are in the works for Kids' Faith Formation Saturdays beginning this fall.



Adult Faith Formation “Percolate”

This summer and fall, Percolate is reading Marcus Borg's Days of Awe and Wonder-How to be a Christian in the 21st Century. This book is a compilation of parts of Marcus' books, some stand-alone essays and some lectures. Some of the chapters are wonderfully familiar and some are new. It is also the kind of book that permits open discussion at any point in it. So even if you have not read all the previous material, you will be able to participate.

We meet each Sunday at about 8:30 a.m. and the coffee will be ready!

Congregations Alive 4! Coming up – Feb. 7-9, 2019

Theme: A Just World for All

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries UCC in Cleveland

Featured Speaker: The Rev. Amanda Henderson, Executive Director of Interfaith Alliance in Denver

Guest Presenter: The Rev. Dr. Ivy Beckwith, Minister of faith Formation Ministries UCC in Cleveland

Worship Leader: The Rev. Chris Gilmore, senior Pastor of Sixth Ave UCC in Denver

There will be 30+ workshops, worship settings, display tables, keynote presentations, and more.

Cost: \$120 per person with discounts for 2 or more from same church.

Watch for more information by visiting the website at www.rmcucc.org



Mission

Vision for Mission

Mission/Outreach is an integral part of VGCC ministries. We will pursue opportunities that are **reflective of Justice and Peace**, denominational and ecumenical, local and global, participatory and financial. Our mission and outreach will make a difference – empowering recipients and inspiring givers to act in the spirit of Christ; exemplifying the 3 Great Loves: Love of Neighbor; Love of Children; Love of Creation.



One Nation Walking Together – we are collecting school supplies that will be sent to the reservations that One Nation serves. The usual supplies are needed: pencils, pens, crayons, scissors, erasers, notebooks, glue sticks, highlighters, as well as backpacks. Bring your donations to Vista Grande and put them on the One Nation table in Fellowship Hall. Deadline Aug 26.

Los Pobres – One Nation continues to support Los Pobres with donations of Men's work clothes. Los Pobres is always in need of cooking oil and flour. You can leave donations in Fellowship Hall.

Family Promise – is holding its 3rd Annual Family Promise Walk on Sunday Sept 16 at 1 p.m. to raise money for Family Promise. Currently we are looking for folks who would like to walk the short route downtown AND folks who will pledge support. There is a 1.3 mile walk within the 3.1 mile walk. Something for everyone. We begin our walk at Grace and St Stephens Church at 601 N Tejon St. and end back at Monument and Tejon. 100% of proceeds directly benefit families with children experiencing homelessness in our community.

\$25 enables a parent to get to and from work for a week.

\$50 enables a family to receive financial and credit literacy

\$190 enables a family to participate in ongoing education and support for 3 months after they move to their new housing.

\$500 enables a family to move into affordable housing with their security deposit.

Inside/Out Youth Services – continues to support LGBTQIA+ youth in Colorado Springs. Jessie Pocock is the new director and she brings enthusiasm, skills, compassion and openness to the job. They have expanded their staff to the executive director, administrative assistant, volunteer coordinator and program director. The staff, the board, the volunteers and the kids are working hard on preparing for the Ally-Up Breakfast. Its Ally-Up Breakfast is on October 3 at the Antlers Hotel from 7 – 8:30 a.m. Keynote speakers are Logan and Laila Ireland who are Transgender Military Activists. We hope to once again sponsor 2 tables.

Also, on Tuesday August 14 the downtown Chipotle (Tejon and Pikes Peak) is donating a portion of its profits to Inside/Out. All you have to do is mention Inside/Out to your server.

Mission

Mission Action Team

(Jeannie Harrington and Nancy Morlock-Hollins, Co-Chairs)

Our Mission Action Team continues to be active in the community and here in church! In July several of us participated in the Pride Day Parade. We decorated a trailer at Bob and Nancy's house. We were joined in that effort with folks from Manitou UCC and Black Forest UCC. On that Sunday folks from Broadmoor UCC joined our three churches.



On August 5th we had our third presentation of films from the Youth Documentary Academy. Joshua Sun showed his film Love Me, AJ Valfiades showed her film Real Mom, and Téa Santos showed her film Surviving. These courageous young people are amazing and led important conversations after each film.

Our Mission Action Team continues to use the 2nd and 4th Sundays for a Mission Reflection. We have been able to raise awareness of missions through these short talks along with our information tables.

Please join us! We meet after church on the last Sunday of the month.

Vista Grande is now a Just Peace Church.
The statement on the back cover was approved on Sunday August 5, 2018.

Pride Day Parade with our float was a huge success. Folks from Vista Grande, Black Forest Community, and Community Congregational of Manitou Springs helped create the float. A couple of folks from Broadmoor UCC joined in on Sunday. We were over 40 walkers strong with our BE YOU, BE BOLD, BE PROUD float. We hope to add more UCC churches next year. Thank you to Kayan and her team!



Covenantal Partners

August Birthdays

1 Carol Burbank
3 Deona Quarles
5 Trish King
7 Kathryn Romberg
19 Lorraine Capps
20 Judy Gibson
20 Gabriel Martin
23 Phil Puterbaugh
24 Grayson Charles Barnes
25 Mary Ellen Kohlhagen
27 Sebastian Bongirno
27 Clare Twomey
28 Jimmy Collins
30 Jacque Bechthold-Blueitt

September Birthdays

1 Roberta Povelite
3 Crystal Karr
9 Aniya Quarles
13 Ron Forth
17 Jackie Moore
18 David Hudson
18 Tim Baptist
18 Melissa Webster
21 Dante Baptist
22 Max Hale
25 Eli Lopez
26 Tammie Davis

Anniversaries:

Aug 2	Crystal and Joel Karr	Sept 1	John and Deborah Tinsley
Aug 17	Kathryn Romberg	Sept 3	Lyn and Carolyn Gunning
Aug 19	Jimmy and Brenda Collins	Sept 20	Charlie and Jan Morgan
Aug 24	Eduardo Martin and Melissa Webster	Sept 23	Cindy and Curly Solomon-Klebba
		Sept 23	Justin and Kelsie Hollins

FACILITIES

The Facilities Team has been busy working on the parking lot. We have almost finished and we are working on the sprinklers too. Quite a big project and thanks to the hands who helped us out!!

Cleaning Schedule

Aug 4 and 11 —Donna and Dave Bristow
Aug 18 and 25 —Jackie and Jerry Moore
Sep 1 and 8 —Carolyn and Lyn Gunning
Sep 15 and 22 —Carol and Phil Puterbaugh
Sep 29 and Oct 6 – Donna and Dave Bristow



The Wider Church – The Rocky Mountain Conference and The Southeastern Association

Oct 21, 2018—The Southeastern Association Annual Gathering will be held at First Congregational UCC in Colorado Springs.
20 East St Vrain, Colorado Springs.



Special Performance by Quaker Songwriter/Activist Carrie Newcomer:

Date: Saturday, October 27th 2018

Location: First Plymouth Congregational Church

Address: 3501 S. Colorado Blvd, Englewood, CO 80113

Doors Open: 7:00 PM **Performance:** 8:00 PM

To purchase tickets for this event visit: www.archwayhousingandservices.org

Ticket Prices: \$50.00 – Reserved Seating Ticket \$30.00 – General Admission Ticket

NEW! You may have noticed, we are using a new e-mail address.

It is admin@vgcc.org We'll be switching over as soon as it looks like we have the message out to members and ministry contacts.

Make the change in your address book now.



Outdoor Worship and Picnic – Sunday August 19

Our Annual Outdoor Worship and Picnic will be held at Fox Run Park, Pavilion 5. Flyers with maps are available at Vista Grande.



Sunday, August 19 at 10:30 a.m. at Fox Run Park—Pavilion 5. (when you enter the park you veer to the left for pavilions 4 and 5)

For the picnic lunch ... bring your own meat to grill; a dish to pass; outdoor games; and extra picnic chairs.

This gathering will take the place of worship at Vista Grande. If you can't attend, we'll see you the next week at Vista Grande

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am MultiGen Worship		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sunday Schedule 1 pm Youth Documentary Series	5 pm Executive Council		8 am Men's Breakfast at Wade's Cafe			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday Schedule 11:30 am Leadership 2.0						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Sunday Schedule						

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am MultiGen Worship						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sunday Schedule Communion			9:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry			9 am Women's Retreat at La Foret
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Sunday Schedule	5 pm Executive Council	SEA Executive Mtg	8 am Men's Breakfast at Wade's Cafe			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Sunday Schedule			9:30 am Prayer Shawl Ministry			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Sunday Schedule						
30						
Sunday Schedule						



VISTA GRANDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

United Church of Christ

Location: 5460 N Union Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO
Mailing: PO Box 26030 COS 80936
Phone: 719-599-3057
Email: admin@vgcc.org

COME, GROW WITH US

We are a caring church for thinking people, an inclusive community of faith, united in our common quest to know God, inspired by the spirit of Jesus, and committed to sharing that love in ways that will make a difference in the world.

We are the Open and Affirming (ONA) Church in Northeast Colorado Springs.

Vista Grande Community UCC is an **Open and Affirming** Church.

"We, the congregation of Vista Grande Community Church United Church of Christ in Colorado Springs, CO declare ourselves to be Open and Affirming. We strive to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender and its expression, marital status, family make-up, age, mental and physical health and ability, racial and cultural identity or background, and educational and socio-economic status. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation's life in Christ.

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

Vista Grande UCC is a **Just Peace** Church. "We, the Covenantal Partners of Vista Grande Community Church United Church of Christ, declare ourselves a Just Peace Church. As a congregation and as individuals, we prayerfully strive to live out Jesus' non-violent words and actions in treating all people and the environment with dignity and respect. With humility, we seek to establish relationships with others through what may be uncomfortable conversations. While calling attention to imbalances of power and privilege, we will promote peacemaking and work to resist and dismantle religious, political, economic and social systems of oppression. We acknowledge that peace and justice work is a dynamic process, and we will need to grow continually in our empathy in order to have a positive impact in our homes, neighborhoods, communities, nation and world."