



The Vista Views

Inside this issue

Well, now we know *by Rev. Clare Twomey*

PHEEEWW!! Well, now we know. We are staying put, moving only if we decide whether we want to or not. So, now what?

When I arrived at Vista Grande as designated pastor, just shy of 5 years now, there were a lot of unknowns. How long would we be staying? Should we just get a jump on moving and sell now (now was 4 years ago)? Should we collaborate with another church and try to combine our resources and become an interfaith collaboration (3 years ago, good attempt but no go)? Should we just wait to see what happens (never an option!)? So many unknowns which could have left us immobilized, just waiting around while the world went by...

But the questions which carried even more import for us, the questions which assured us that we wouldn't stagnate and become irrelevant, the questions which demanded that we firm up our identity as a church in and for the 21st century, ruled the day. Those questions: Who are we? Who do we wish to be in the community and the larger world? And how will we live into this identity-that of being the church in this place and time?

And here is some of what you decided:

We are a congregation who will not let the anxiety of the unknown interfere with our mission of being the presence of our Beloved in the world.

We are a congregation who embraces the notion that all of creation is sacred.

We are a congregation who is defined by our radical hospitality which is exemplified and embodied by Jesus.

We are a congregation who believes that open and affirming is an expansive invitation of belonging to all.

We are a congregation who is willing to confront injustices and work toward dismantling those systems which oppress others.

We are a congregation willing to be in sacred conversations with one another, recognizing the holy in every part of our diversity.

We are a congregation whose missions insist on active relationships where all participants are transformed.

We are a congregation whose invitation included the understanding that each new person creates a transformed sacred community.

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Special points of interest:

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



Sunday September 8 at 3:30 p.m. The Rev. Logan Bennett will be installed as Director for Transformational Programming at La Foret, Black Forest.

Join in for Logan's installation, followed by a great party. There will be a local RMC band, barbecue, s'mores and other camp-style fun!

Sunday September 22 at 2:30 p.m. Mary Williams will be installed as Licensed Pastor of First Congregational UCC, Pueblo.

Saturday October 19 at 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Southeastern Association will hold its Annual Meeting at The Congregational UCC of Buena Vista, CO.

Sunday October 27 at 3 p.m. The Rev. Deborah Tinsley will be installed as Minister for Vision and Pastoral Support at Vista Grande UCC. Reception to follow.

Our Staff

Lead Pastor—Rev. Clare Twomey

Minister of Vision and Pastoral Support—Rev. Deborah Tinsley

Music Director—David Hudson

Office Administrator—Donna Bristow

Nursery Attendant—Valerie Karr

Lead Pastor's Hours

Office hours are flexible.

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

2019 Executive Committee:

Moderator – Kayan Cross; Assistant Moderator – Brian Sojourner; Treasurer – Dana Zimmerman; Financial Secretary – John Tinsley; Clerk – Deborah Tinsley; Members-at-Large – Carol Burbank and Jeannie Harrington

UCC Member in Discernment—Brian Sojourner

Note: Due to conflicts in Brian's work schedule, Brian and Kayan have switched roles as of July 28, 2019.

You could probably add even more identifiers of who we are and who we want to be. One of the many ways we have and continue to define ourselves is by seeking innovative ways to do ministry. Having Mallory begin and continue a ministry which reaches out to those who have been neglected or rejected by traditional 'church' is one example. Calling Deborah Tinsley as Minister of Vision and Pastoral support is another. Very soon, we will invite those retired clergy who continue to do ministry, to enter into a three way covenant thus recognizing their continued call and commitment to participating in the work of our Beloved.

We have a vibrant facilities group working on the practical and necessary repairs and upgrades of our property. And they have set forth to create a beautiful and sacred space in our garden so that it can be used for both celebration and contemplation.

So many things happening and so many possibilities pending.

And of course, we all have some work to do. We will have to be more intentional about our resources. This upcoming year we will need to raise more money to make our budget. The Church renewal grant, which gave us the opportunity to expand our ministries, is complete and as such we begin the 2020 year needing \$8000 in order to meet pastor benefits which had been covered by the grant. Our Justice and Peace ministry has been operating without a budget and has been supported by the missions Team. We are in need of dedicated individuals to lead and participate on a Stewardship Team. We need a few committed folks to use their creative gifts to plan and execute fundraisers to ensure the sustainability of Vista Grande.

Every week you hear me say that we are able to do what we do because of the gifts we all bring. **It is imperative that we all understand how true this is.** We need money to function, of course. We also need folks to commit their time and talents to ministry teams: missions, facilities, worship/choir, stewardship/fundraising, and hospitality/fellowship. This church has done so much and has the potential to remain a driving force of 'being church' in the 21st century. I do not believe for one minute that we are a church that is at risk for 'dying', as has been the case for so many. I have seen what we are capable of doing. I have faith in our potential to be the active presence of the Divine in this world. I am asking you to have this same faith. I am asking you to stretch yourselves, to find ways to be involved in ways that allow us to be a vibrant and relevant force in our community. We are the church! And what a church we have been and will continue to be with all of us committed to answering our God's call.



Vista Grande is offering an opportunity to support our church and its ministries, and for you to have a permanent presence in the **Rev. Bob Howard Memorial Garden**. We are excited to invited you to purchase a brick for our garden either memorializing or honoring a loved one, celebrating an occasion, or identifying yourselves as a VG supporter. The order form is on the website and also available at church on Sunday. 4x8 bricks are \$100; 8x8 bricks are \$200. Clipart is available for an additional \$25.

Response to The Call to Minister of Vision and Pastoral Support

Personal words of response to the call to *Minister of Vision and Pastoral Support* – by Rev. Deborah Tinsley - July 21, 2019

Two thoughts came to mind as the Executive Council presented the idea of offering me a call to the Associate position: First was a very Jimmy Stewart feeling of “Ah, shucks”. Having no horse nearby to hug, I blushed. I took this as an honor, a validation of the work I’d been doing for Vista Grande, and a recognition that my experience, training and education was being utilized for the greater good. I was both delighted and very, very humbled. Second thought was that once again, Vista Grande leads the denomination with innovation and thinking outside the literal boxes a clergy person is currently forced to check. Rather than delegating retired or ‘inactive’ clergy to peripheral roles, Vista Grande is taking stewardship of all the church’s resources seriously, by offering a call to this ‘retired’ clergy into active ministry. This will rewrite the Manual on Ministry for the denomination. Polity wonks will appreciate the scope of this. I am just so proud of this step out of the past and into a new vision of the future that my church is doing, and again very humbled that I am a recipient of this effort.

I am very proud of my church and have been for a long time. This is where I’ve had both the space and the support to develop my faith. This is where I have known something of the love of God because of the way I have been both loved as well as called to accountability. Together, we have experienced a lot of life’s joys and losses; we have been there for each other and have occasionally failed to be the people we are called to be for each other. And in forgiving, we have lived our faith. This is how love grows strong and sure. My joy and passion are invested in Vista Grande for this, and many other reasons. This experience is what I want to share with others who do not yet know the community, connection and relationships Vista Grande offers in abundance.

I do understand that this call encompasses both authority to act with and for the church, and great responsibility to get it right. Should the body vote for this in the Congregational meeting, you will be endorsing the work I’ve done, calling me to continue the work as well as represent you, and most moving and deeply touching to me, giving me your blessing.

Gotta take a minute to hug my horse, guys.

Poetry 719 & Finding Home present An Evening of Spiritual Poetry

Friday August 9 at 6:30 p.m.—Facilitator Mallory Everhart

[Poetry 719 Page](#) and Finding Home are pairing up to hold a space for community, spirituality, and poetry. We will gather around the dinner table, practice meditation, and share poems in an intimate setting. You and your story are welcome, whether or not you are connected to organized religion or are on your own path.

Poetry 719 is a poetry organization in Colorado Springs committed to lifting up the voices of the marginalized, especially people of color.

Finding Home is a spiritual community dedicated to accessibility and is explicitly affirming to both LGBTQ people and those who identify as being in recovery.

[Vista Grande Community Church United Church of Christ](#) is an open and affirming (LGBTQ inclusive) United Church of Christ dedicated to radical hospitality, service, and anti-racism organizing.

Worship



The Worship Team is looking for YOU! We've been on a summer hiatus but as summer ends we have a lot of work to do! The great news is that this work is wonderful and it's not unusual to hear laughter floating from our meetings! As Fall approaches we have lots to cover and would love to have YOU join us in planning and preparing for

Outdoor Worship Sunday

Country Western Worship

Blessing of the Animals

And much, much more!

We also prepare the altar and communion, change banners to go with the seasons of the church. We love creative ideas and are willing to put the work in to try new things. If this sounds like something God just might be calling you to do please connect with Crystal Karr at 719-247-0320 (text or call) or ckarr97@gmail.com We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 4pm; our next meeting will be August 12 at 4pm. We hope to see you there!

Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic Sunday August 25 at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday August 25 Pavilion 4 at Fox Run Regional Park.

This replaces the worship service at the church building.

Bring your beverage of choice, meat to grill, and a side dish to share buffet style. The grill will be set up and ready to go. Bring outdoor games and outdoor chairs. We have a great pavilion setting.



Faith Formation



Adult Faith Formation "Percolate" 8:30 a.m.

Percolate is continuing to read and discuss Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God by theologian Kelly Brown Douglas. Douglas argues that the climate in our society that makes killing unarmed black people inevitable and even permissible has roots in the myth of Anglo-Saxon superiority and American exceptionalism.

We are in the second part of the book that gives us a fresh look at how we view our own concept of faith. It continues to be an extension of our study of White Privilege and serves us well in living out our calling and commitment to being Just Peace individuals and a Just Peace church.

As usual all are welcome, whether or not you've read the book. We meet around 8:30 before the worship service and the coffee will be percolating.

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.

Mission Action Team

We continue to be in relationship with our four local missions: Family Promise, Inside-Out Youth Services, Los Pobres and One Nation Walking Together. We are also continuing to sponsor Community Conversations with the Youth Documentary Academy. We also are on track to continue to be a 5 for 5 church of the United Church of Christ, with our financial contributions to: Our Church's Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need and the Christmas Fund.



Inside/Out Youth Services

Pride Fest was a huge success. Vista Grande had a booth on both Saturday and Sunday to support the creation of a TRUE Center for Gender Diversity in Colorado Springs, (A big thank you to Dana for the fabulous banner!). Having a Center here in the Springs is getting closer to reality. Dr. Reirden at the Denver TRUE Center has received a grant to expand the services and hiring is proceeding. Inside-Out also had a booth, the kids had a great time! Vista Grande was also well represented in the parade on Sunday.

Inside-Out has three new staff members: Pricilla has moved back to the east coast and she will be missed, but we have a new Youth Program Manager – Candace Woods, Joseph Shelton is our Program Assistant and Alexander Wombolt our School Coordinator. We continue to create a safe LGBTIQ1A community where kids are accepted and loved and have fun!

Family Promise

Our last **Family Promise** dinner went well. We are on board to provide a meal on Nov. 18 unless we get asked to fill a void during another church's schedule.

Set your calendar for the 4th annual Family Promise Walk on September 8th, 2019 @ 1:00PM – 3:30 PM @ Grace & St. Stephens.

New Focus of Walk: Our primary aim with this year's FP Walk is to equip our participants (vital members of our network) with an inside look into the plight facing families in the midst of homelessness, here in our city. We also hope to highlight the ways in which we, Family Promise, are answering and preparing to answer the call to expansive care.

In August, you can sign up to walk the 1.5 or 3 mile walk or financially support a walker. (In 2018, Vista Grande raised \$555.)

Mission

One Nation Walking Together—we just completed a Back to School campaign to collect school supplies for the reservations. Thank you for your generous support.

Los Pobres—We have our ongoing plea for flour, cooking oil, good used work clothes for the migrant workers, clothing for children and diapers. Thank you for your donations and also for the monetary support for a DACA scholarship.

Just Peace

The Just Peace Team meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Drop in!

Pride Weekend was a huge success. Over 20 VG folks were involved in greeting at our booth and/or walking in the parade.

Our VGUCC shirts were amazing. Thanks Dana for spearheading that project.

Changing Lives ...That's Our Church's Wider Mission

Never place a period where God has placed a comma,

Because we believe in transformation, we believe the church's mission is changing lives - individually, systemically and globally...

We support, encourage and uplift local churches where lives are being changed through worship, education, fellowship, mission, and justice advocacy.

We identify, recruit, educate and support leaders who inspire others.

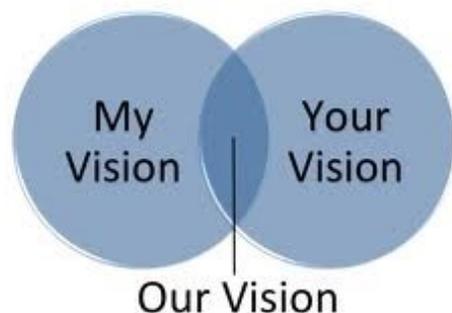
We support churches and plant new churches as vital places of worship, learning, and justice advocacy.

We change lives through our global partnerships, missionaries and advocacy.

Gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission benefit the full range of the United Church of Christ mission across the country and around the globe.

Find more information at ucc.org/ocwm

Vision Team



"Due to scheduling conflicts, the **Vision Team** will not meet in August. The next meeting of the Vision Group, and all persons who are interested in contributing to the ongoing vision for VGUCC, will be September 5th, 5:30 p.m. at VG and will be a light Pot Luck. See the Vision Board for further details" or Contact: Deborah Tinsley dtinsley12@gmail.com or (719) 439 2321

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 Barnes
27	Sebastian Bongirno
27	Clare Twomey
28	Jimmy Collins
30	Jacque Bechthold-Blueitt

August Anniversaries:

August 2	Crystal and Joel Karr
Aug. 17	Kathryn Romberg
Aug. 19	Jimmy and Brenda Collins
Aug. 24	Eduardo Martin/Melissa Webster
Aug. 29	Mel and Judy Druelinger

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	Elijah
26	Tammie Davis

September Anniversaries:

Sept 1	John and Deborah Tinsley
Sept. 3	Lyn and Carolyn Gunning
Sept. 20	Charlie and Jan Morgan
Sept. 23	Cindy and Curly Solomon-Klebba
Sept 23	Justin and Kelsie Hollins

Cleaning Schedule

Aug 3 and Aug 10 – Rosemary McBride/Kathy Romberg
Aug 17 and Aug 24 – Jerry and Jackie Moore
Aug 31 and Sept 7 – Lyn and Carolyn
Sept 14 and 21 - Dave and Donna Bristow
Sept 28 and Oct 5 – Richard and Carol Burbank
Oct 12 and Oct 19 —Jan Morgan/Erin Elkaim
Oct 26 and Nov 2 —Bob, Nancy, and Julia Hollins



Women's Retreat

Healing Our World – Healing Ourselves: Reflections on the Body of Christ

Saturday September 7 (9 – 3 p.m.)

La Foret Conference and Retreat Center

Cost \$40 Includes lunch Facilitator: Rev. Deborah Tinsley

Payment due by August 18. Make checks out to VGCC and Memo: retreat.



The **Facilities Team** has been working hard on the garden space (on the lower level accessed by Fellowship Hal) and that work will continue into the fall. The lawn mower is now repaired and we still have the sprinkler to fix and get running. We plan to refinish the front doors and tackle the weed problem along the sidewalks of Montebello and Union. Please consider attending a church workday to help us with these ongoing projects.

Church yard work day. 9-noon Sat August 17th.

Please bring a fertilizer spreader if you have one. We will apply fertilizer and weed killer to our lawn areas. Also need to cut off low hanging tree branches so the mowers can get under the trees. Weed mitigation along Union and Montebello is also on the to do list along with sprinkler repairs!! Hope to see you there!

PLEGGED GIVING for January – July 2019

Thank you for keeping your pledges up-to-date.

Funds	Pledged (Jan-July)	Received (Jan-July)	Difference
General Operating	34,841.00	36,000.00	1,159.00
Mission/Outreach	8,539.00	8,544.00	5.00

Save These Dates

Blessing of the Animals—Sunday Oct 13

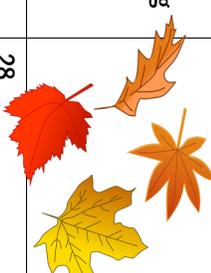
Covenantal relationships with our clergy—Sunday Oct 27

Wider Church Events—see page 2.

August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am MultiGen Worship 11:15 am Fellowship				1 5:30 pm Vision Mtg	2 6:30 pm Finding Home	3
4 Sunday Schedule Communion	5 4:30 pm Inquires' Class	6 9 am—Coffee and Conversation 6:30 pm Scouts	7	8	9 6:30 pm Finding Home and Poetry	10
11 Sunday Schedule	12 4 pm Worship Team Mtg 5 pm Executive Council Mtg	13 9 am—Coffee and Conversation 4:30 pm Inquires' Class	14 8 am Men's Breakfast Village Inn (Austin Bluffs & N Academy)	15 5:30 pm Just Peace Mtg	16 6:30 pm Finding Home	17 9 am Outdoor Workday
18 Sunday Schedule	19	20	21	22	23 6:30 pm Finding Home	24
25 Outdoor Worship and Picnic Fox Run Park Pavilion 4	26	27	28	29	30 6:30 pm Finding Home	31 9 am Outdoor Workday

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday Schedule Communion	2 HAPPY LABOR DAY!	3 9 am—Coffee and Conversation	4 7 pm Choir	5 5:30 pm Vision Mtg And Potluck	6 6:30 pm Finding Home	7 9 am Women's Retreat at La Foret
8 Sunday Schedule Family Promise Walk SEA Installation/La Foret 3:30 pm	9 4 pm Worship Team Mtg 5 pm Executive Council Mtg	10 9 am—Coffee and Conversation 6:30 pm Scouts	11 8 am Men's Breakfast 7 pm Choir	12	13 6:30 pm Finding Home	14
15 Sunday Schedule Covenantal Partner Reception	16	17 9 am—Coffee and Conversation 6:30 pm Scouts	18 7 pm Choir	19 5:30 pm Just Peace Mtg	20 6:30 pm Finding Home	21 
22 Sunday Schedule Mission Mtg SEA Installation/Pueblo 2:30 pm	23	24 9 am—Coffee and Conversation 6:30 pm Scouts	25 7 pm Choir	26	27 6:30 pm Finding Home	28
29 Sunday Schedule 1 pm—SC2ER—phase 2	30				31 Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am MultGen Worship 11:15 am Fellowship	



**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.”