



# The Vista Views

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## Did you know that next month will mark my fifth year at Vista Grande?? ~ Clare Twomey

Did you know that next month will mark my fifth year at Vista Grande?? I know I can hardly believe it! It feels more like 20—kidding!!

It actually feels like I just got here. But then I think of all that has been accomplished in that short time and I am once again, amazed. I won't enumerate here because then I won't have anything to report at annual meeting! But given the persistent uncertainty, until recently, as to where we would land geographically, it would have been easy to sit back and take a 'wait and see stance'. We didn't do that. Instead we explored who we are and who we want to be in the world and took steps to work towards that grand goal. We took the steps to be a relevant presence in our community, an important presence of God at work in the world.

Still, I can't help wondering if we have felt a bit constrained if not a somewhat worried about what our future would look like. And if so, have we been holding back in how we invest in the work in which Vista Grande is capable? When I returned from my vacation, I was met by some interesting things. The garden was prepped and ready for the finishing touches—the bricks we are selling to raise money. The front doors were re-finished to a fine shine, presenting a care and love for our sacred space. New drains have been completed in order to assure the safety of our congregants and visitors. The fellowship hall had been cleaned and the dividers which have been cluttering the space for years, removed. *Finding Home's* space as well as my own, have been rejuvenated by either the relocation of plants or a good trim, making those spaces more invitational. Plans are in the works to complete the wall outside the sanctuary with our statements of inclusion and justice. Additional plans have been made to remove the damaged desk in the sacristy making room for faith formation and worship paraphernalia, as well as a plan to improve the presentations of our mission tables. All of these changes spoke to me of a renewed enthusiasm for the life and mission of the church. As we find security in the knowledge of our staying put, we can become more invested in our identity and purpose. Makes sense. *(continued on page 3.)*

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### Special points of interest:

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



**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 Support at Vista Grande UCC. Reception to follow.

**As fall kicks off and the holiday season quickly approaches, we invite you to consider participating in something NEW this year. . .**

The Rocky Mountain Conference is challenging all of our churches to participate in our new **“Socksgiving”** campaign. We have partnered with the Sock It To Em Sock Campaign, a 501c3 Public Charity begun by First Plymouth Congregational, Englewood, church members Sue Lee and Phillis Shimamoto. Socks are the #1 clothing need of those experiencing homelessness. Socksgiving offers your congregation the opportunity to donate new socks for men, women, children, and infants to any shelter or organization you choose. You can make a great social impact, one pair of socks at a time!

### Our Staff

Lead Pastor—Rev. Clare Twomey

Minister of Vision and 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 **719-351-0168**.

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

The next newsletter will be the December/January edition.  
Deadline for articles is November 15. E-mail your articles to [admin@vgcc.org](mailto:admin@vgcc.org)

The other impression I had upon my return is 'the converse is probably also true'. While we have been able to sustain ourselves over these years, I again can't help wondering if we've also held back. When I first came to Vista Grande, when we first attempted to implement programs, missions, etc., I was often met with "why should we bother when we won't be here in a few years?", or "we've done all that and it never works and besides if we have to move it will have been a waste of time", or "I used to give money or more money" or "I used to do this or that" but since we don't know our future...you get the picture. In other words, I think it is critical that we challenge ourselves to ask, "Where have I been holding back in fear that my efforts are for naught?"

Now as a pastor I would suggest that whenever we do the work of our Beloved it is never a waste--but I understand the hesitancy. But now, NOW, we must re-examine those initial questions of who we are and how we wish to be known, and then use our security as leverage to be bolder and more engaged in this work. I am asking that we all take a good long look at where we have been hesitant, insecure, or just plain unconvinced of our future as a church community. I'm asking in what ways we now feel more comfortable in our surroundings to be more involved in our work. I am asking out right for all of us to make a more intentional investment in Vista Grande so that our future remains sustainable and relevant.

Here's a secret: I was told before I took this job (from those outside of this church) that Vista Grande was on its last leg and not to expect too much from this small church. I was told that this was a church headed for hospice care. Well, if that was the case, then what we have here is the greatest example of resurrection I have ever witnessed!! For the record, rather than dying, we have at least doubled our Covenantal Partners in these past five years which pretty much negates that sentiment! Because even in the fog of uncertainty, the fear of the future, the exhaustion of trying, and the resignation of the possible end, this church has done more than any UCC church in which I served or of which I was a part!! I am so proud to be a part of this family! And I can't wait to see what comes next!!!

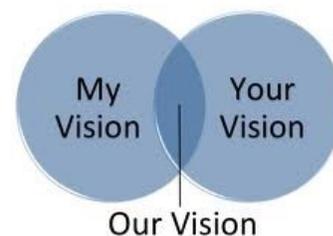
### **Vision Task Force submitted by Rev. Deborah Tinsley**

The Vision Task Force met September 5<sup>th</sup> for a potluck and to put their collective thoughts to a Vision Statement. Seems a fairly straight forward task... and yet.....

Vista Grande is a church on the move; we now have the decision on staying or selling (staying!) and that brings renewed vigor to envisioning what we can accomplish, how we can together tilt the arch of the universe toward justice, peace, respect and inclusion. How to capture that energy, that vision of us engaged in that work, clearly, concisely, and theologically grounded?

The evening's work resulted in a statement that was presented to the Executive Council, and their feedback was helpful. We will continue to develop the Vision Statement, as this will be the statement that charts the future for Vista Grande: It will encompass the dreams we live into, and will be the statement to the larger community of what we as a sacred community are called to as followers of Jesus.

Vision meets the first Thursday of the month at Vista Grande, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., starting with a simple potluck dinner. All Covenantal Partners, Affiliates and Friends of the church are invited to take part in this time together. All voices, dreams and visions gratefully included... (and chocolate wouldn't go amiss).



## News from Mallory ...

On Friday, Finding Home hosted a special event in conjunction with a local poetry organization. About 30 people from many different walks of life gathered to eat dinner, sing, pray, read poetry, and journey together for a little while. It was an incredible evening and was exactly what the hope for the space was when it was started back in January! For many, it was especially necessary that it happen at this point in time because of the grief, loss, and pain which has struck Colorado Springs due to gun violence and police brutality. Tears were shed but healing and community was found, too. Special thanks to Ashley Cornelius and Chris Beasley from Poetry719, who made it possible. We are planning another one in October in conjunction with Poetry719's poetry festival, so keep your eyes peeled for a date! If you're curious what Finding Home is about, join us on some Friday night - dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. You can also reach out to Mallory at [findinghomecos@gmail.com](mailto:findinghomecos@gmail.com). Love to you all!

### Poetry 719 & Finding Home present An Evening of Spiritual Poetry

Friday October 18 at 6:30 p.m.—Facilitator Mallory Everhart

[Poetry 719](#) 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 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

### Themes for October and November

Oct 6 – Free to Grieve: World Communion Sunday

Dedication of the Outdoor Patio Garden

Oct 13 – Blessing of the Animals

Oct 20 – Kids' Sabbath

Oct 27 – 3-way Covenant with our retired clergy

And an afternoon installation of Rev Deborah Tinsley as Minister of Vision and Support

Nov 3 – The Beatitudes

Nov 10 –

Nov 17 – Stewardship Sunday

Nov 24 – Thanksgiving Sunday



### Adult Faith Formation “Percolate” 8:30 a.m.

Percolate is wrapping up our study of Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God by theologian Kelly Brown Douglas. This book has indeed proved to open our eyes to our own privilege and has challenged us to live out our calling and commitment to being Just Peace individuals and a Just Peace church.

Upon completing Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God, we will tackle Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others by Barbara Brown Taylor. After she left the pastorate, Taylor taught Religion 101 at Piedmont College, a small Georgia institution, for 20 years. This book arose from what she learned about other religions – and about her own, Christianity – by engaging with faith in an academic setting and taking her students on field trips to mosques, temples, and so on. The title phrase comes from a biblical scholar named Krister Stendahl who served as the Lutheran bishop of Stockholm. At a press conference prior to the dedication of a controversial Mormon temple, he gave a few rules for interfaith dialogue:

“1. When trying to understand another religion, you should ask the adherents of that religion and not its enemies.

2. Don’t compare your best to their worst.

3. Leave room for holy envy.”

Taylor emphasizes that appreciating other religions is not about flattening their uniqueness or looking for some lowest common denominator. Neither is it about picking out the aspects that affirm your own tradition and ignoring the rest.. This book counsels becoming comfortable with not being right, or even knowing who is right. We will seek to be up to this challenge.



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.

The **Facilities Team** and many extra hands have been working hard on our building and grounds.

The Bob Howard Memorial Garden is coming along nicely. On October 6, the garden will be blessed during the worship service. The red patio brick patio is a work in progress as all those bricks will be replaced with engraved bricks as the orders come in.



Also, notice how beautiful the front doors and patio doors look after they were refinished.

A downspout channel drain was installed so we won’t have to worry about that area freezing up this winter.

Several busy beavers have been tackling the physical appearance of Fellowship Hall and the entryway.

**THANK YOU TO THE MANY HANDS!**

## Meet Our New Covenantal Partners

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### Jane Andresano

Jane is retired widow.  
She loves to sew, quilt, and read.  
Contact info: 520-429-1985  
[Dsrjtjane@msn.com](mailto:Dsrjtjane@msn.com)

### Samantha Toale

Sammie is a counselor in the community and working to open her own practice. She is a PhD student looking to work with the terminally ill. She has 2 dogs who are the light of her life. She loves to read, travel, learn as much as possible. She is dedicated to helping others and making the small part of her footprint in the world a better place.

Contact info: 520-429-6886  
[SamanthaToale@gmail.com](mailto:SamanthaToale@gmail.com)

### John and Linda Allen

John and Linda were both born in Iowa and met in Missouri in 1999.

John spent 40 years as a chemical engineer. After retiring, he trained as a marriage, family, and child therapist.

Most of Linda's professional years were in education.

They moved back to Colorado Springs from Las Vegas and now reside with their daughter's family. Their passion is complete to volunteer with National Mill Dog Rescue.

Contact info: 719-639-6534;  
[riffmom@gmail.com](mailto:riffmom@gmail.com)

### Cindy and David Nath

Cindy was born and raised in Minnesota in the Swedish Baptist Church, affiliated with the Baptist General Conference. After college, life's journey took me to Southern Minnesota, Virginia, Maryland, and Colorado. Along the way, she married David in a UCC church and had 2 daughters, Kiara and Allana. They both graduated from Coronado High School and completed undergraduate college.

Cindy has been knitting hats, gators, and prayer shawls for several years. She sings with Abendmusik and with other choirs and quartets in Colorado Springs. For several years she has been practicing gardening, composting, and soil mitigation.

Since April, she has been learning to spin animal fibers. Along with David and Kiara, she is raising 6 lovely chickens.

Contact information:

Cindy: 719-231-7867 [cknath@msn.com](mailto:cknath@msn.com); David: 719-205-0244 [dmnath@msn.com](mailto:dmnath@msn.com)

### Sara Weatherman

Sara Weatherman has served in church education and music since 1967, in 4 denominations and the "General Protestant Chapel" in Stuttgart, Germany. She has a degree in Christian Education from Trinity University in San Antonio, and became a Commissioned Minister of Christian Education in 1993. She served on the Rocky Mountain Conference staff for several years, working in youth ministry, summer camps, and educational support for local churches. Since retiring from full time paid ministry in 2011, she has served as Platte Valley Association Registrar, helped plan Congregations Alive events, and served in several interim positions, during which she learned to appreciate smaller congregations. Sara (with Sadie the cat) moved to Colorado Springs in May to be near daughter Karen, Ezra and 6-year-old Emma. Daughter Amy and Matt live in Longmont. She loves to read and "do lunch" with friends.

Contact Information: 719-374-4960; [saraweatherman@comcast.net](mailto:saraweatherman@comcast.net)

## From the Stewardship Ministry Team

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The newly organized Stewardship Ministry Team met on Wednesday evening, September 11th, and reviewed all the accomplishments Vista Grande United Church of Christ has achieved over the last year. From this, emerged an exciting idea of "How Big Can We Dream?". Everyone is invited to be part of this theme for the year 2020. We'll be hearing more about this in the coming weeks as we approach Stewardship Sunday on November 17th, but for now we'd like to share how far we've come and how much we've accomplished.

The decision about our physical presence was resolved in July and we are, for the foreseeable future, remaining in our present location. With that determined, we've begun the efforts toward maintenance issues, upgrades, and basically giving the church a facelift.

The cottonwood tree that was an insurance liability has been removed.

Channel drains have been installed so the rainwater and melting snow will not create an ice issue on the sidewalk.

The front door has been re-stained (isn't it beautiful!)

The Bob Howard Memorial Garden is nearing completion, with only the pathway and pergola yet to complete. (Consider buying a brick to memorialize or honor a loved one as part of the garden.)

A vision for new signage and improved mission displays is underway.

Our focus on missions and outreach continue to be a priority.

We maintain our status as a 5 for 5 church with the UCC denomination which means we give to all 5 areas of mission: Our Church's Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund.

We continue to offer hands-on and financial support of our local missions: Los Pobres, Inside Out Youth Services, Family Promise, and One Nation Walking Together.

VGUCC directly supports coffee growers in Mexico through our Café Justo connection by using their coffee for our fellowship hour as well as selling directly to the congregation.

Finding Home is a new LGBTQ+ and 12-step ministry that meets on Friday nights, offering an alternative spiritual experience to Sunday morning worship.

Our Just Peace team is actively pursuing avenues to make a difference in the areas of homelessness and mental health as directed by the congregation. Additionally, we are well represented at local protests and walks in our new VGUCC blue T-shirts.

We were delighted this year to call retired Rev. Deborah Tinsley to active ministry as our *Minister of Vision and Support*.

VGUCC offers relevant Christian faith formation through the adult "Percolate" group which studies a variety of issues and books Sunday mornings at 8:30. We also offer a community wide study called "Sacred Conversations to End Racism", with Pastor Clare as facilitator. Plans are in the works for the children to be intentionally included in the Sunday service.

Lastly, but most importantly, we encounter inspiring, dynamic, relevant sermons and worship services every Sunday, where we experience the Divine and have the opportunity to connect as community. Our choir and special music selections add an important element to our worship experience. This sense of community continues downstairs at fellowship time where we are excited to extend an extravagant welcome to visitors.

We have much to celebrate. The Stewardship Ministry Team recognizes that none of this could be accomplished without the loving, supportive, and generous efforts on the part of each person in our sacred community. We are to be commended for all that has been done, and all are invited to DREAM BIG on how we as a community of faith can expand our reach further in the coming year.

Your Stewardship Ministry Team

Dana Zimmerman	Jeanne Harrington	Deborah Tinsley	Sandy Gates
John Tinsley	Dave Bristow	Chad Siebert	Clare Twomey

### Vision for Mission

Mission/Outreach is an integral part of VGUCC 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.

### Just Peace—Kayan Cross

Moving Justice and Peace Forward: The beginnings

In June, The Executive Council approved a design for church T-shirts. The Just Peace committee proposed this idea so we would be a visible and unified presence at rallies, marches, picnics and other gatherings. Which we have been doing with Pride! The front reads: VISTA GRANDE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST with the comma logo. The back reads: DO JUSTICE LOVE MERCY WALK HUMBLY NOW! The shirts are sapphire blue with white lettering. If you are interested in obtaining a T-shirt contact Dana Zimmerman at 719-313-0120 or [treasurer@vgcc.org](mailto:treasurer@vgcc.org). The production timing for the shirts was perfect for Colorado Springs Pridefest weekend considering we participated in the Parade and had a booth.



On July 14, Vista Grande marched in the Parade as part of a UCC contingent of churches that included, Black Forest Community Church, Broadmoor Community Church and First Congregational Church. This was the first time that four UCC Churches in Colorado Springs organized and collectively participated in Pridefest together! We also partnered with the TRUE Center, a program of Children's Hospital Colorado, currently located in Denver; to sponsor a booth informing the Colorado Springs community of services provided by the TRUE Center. One of the primary focuses they have, is to provide health care to Gender Diverse young people and their families. Care that includes, but is not limited to, endocrine care, hormonal therapy, social services, psychological services and referral services as necessary. Vista Grande continues to work with the TRUE Center, UCCS, Inside Out Youth Services and a few of Colorado Springs pediatric health care providers to make these services available in our community. It seems more likely that these services will come to fruition in Colorado Springs.

Also, in June we conducted a congregational survey regarding importance of current justice issues. The results of the survey indicated that Housing and Mental Health are the top concerns of the congregation at this time. As a result of this, the Just Peace Team has dedicated itself to begin participation in the meetings of the Coalition of Homeless Advocates and Providers (CHAP). This will provide us with much needed awareness of activities, resources, legislation and needs in our community. In regard to Mental Health, the decision was made to get in touch with the local National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) chapter and Rev. Amy the Wise Congregations for UCC facilitator. NAMI can help us navigate through our individual experiences and facilitate educational components for Vista Grande Covenantal Partners to participate in and possibly host. Rev Amy will be good at helping us learn to utilize and discern the various resources available to us. We see this as an opportunity for increased awareness and execution of our intentions to be Christ-like as we endeavor in our welcoming, acceptance and inclusion of ALL people. Thank you to all who completed the Survey. You have been heard and we are moving us forward to action for us all.

Lastly, we would like to extend an invitation to each of you to join us at our new meeting time. beginning Sunday, October, 20 at 11:45am; the 3rd Sunday of each month.

### **Los Pobres—submitted by Faye Gallegos**

The Summer of 2019 has been a truly HARD summer.

Los Pobres had to post signs of "No funds for rent or utilities" (this was extremely painful with all the need). There have been a large number of serious illness cases (with funds cut there is no \$ to get medications). Because everything requires a Social Security number medications available are at a standstill.

Farmers are crying for workers in the fields. (Families are trying to work but without SS cards are not permitted). The elderly are trying to work to bring in funds (ICE shows up in unexpected places and times); they removed 7 workers from one field and generally we do not hear from these people again. (These people are not taking jobs - no one will do the work).

Children are living in fear and worry; (parents are taken which leaves the children to what-----?).

Seems every week there are new mandates from government positions; (this is Land of the Free?)

Our Los Pobres financial situation is truly bad because funds are being taken away or stopped on a regular basis....we never know what will be cut from one day to the next.

PLEASE PRAY for Sister Nancy, our brothers and sisters, the children, the farmers, all

### **Inside/Out Youth Services—Submitted by Nancy Morlock-Hollins**

The next big event at Inside-Out is the Ally-Up breakfast – Our major fundraiser of the year. It's on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Antlers. Doors open at 7:00 AM with the breakfast and program from 7:30-8:30. This year's speaker is Roz Keith who is a noted activist for transgender rights.

The latest addition to the Inside-Out staff is Alexander Wamboldt. He is the school outreach coordinator and in that capacity works with schools to create inclusive and comprehensive sex-ed programs and to tackle bullying head on.

The plan to have a "True Center for Gender Diversity" is on track to becoming a reality. It is set to open in the summer of 2020.

Together all of us- staff and volunteers, are creating a safe LGBTIQ1A community where kids are accepted and loved.

### **Family Promise– Submitted by Donna Bristow**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Promise Walk was held on Sunday Sept 8 downtown Colorado Springs. The purpose was to increase awareness in the community of this mission. It also was very educational for the walkers as we stopped at various host churches and learned about the extension programs from the original Family Shelter program which provides shelter in a home-like environment using space in congregations.

Vista Grande walkers were: Kayan Cross, Rosemary and Maggie McBride, and Donna Bristow. We raised \$315.

Promise Walk Statistics: 112 walkers; 12 congregations; and the goal of \$10,000 was reached.

## Covenantal Partners

### October Birthdays:

- 5 Evelyn Cherney
- 7 Carol Lawson
- 9 Xachary Martin
- 10 Jud Jusell
- 11 Richard King
- 14 Ethan Elkaim
- 15 Nora Barnes
- 19 Carrie Barnes
- 20 Jeffrey Kolm
- 22 Kayan Cross

### October Anniversaries:

- Oct 1 Doug and Lorraine Capps
- Oct 1 David and Chia Hudson



### November Birthdays:

- 1 Patience (PJ) Bechthold -Blueitt
- 1 Elly Siebert
- 15 Meghan Harrison
- 15 Melissa Bongirno
- 22 Lucille Derr
- 22 Erika Borboa
- 26 Christy McDonald
- 29 Maggie Forth

### Cleaning Schedule

- 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
- Nov 9 and Nov 16 –Rosemary McBride
- Nov 23 and Nov 30 –Jerry and Jackie Moore
- Dec 7 and Dec 14 –Lyn and Carolyn Gunning





# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Purpose, Vision, and Mission of the United Church of Christ

These statements were overwhelmingly affirmed by the UCC Board of Directors at their fall business meeting, October 20-22, 2016.

**Purpose Statement (from the Gospel of Matthew):**

*To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.*

**Vision Statement:**

*United in Christ's love, a just world for all.*

**PLEGGED GIVING for January – September 2019**

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

<b>Funds</b>	<b>Pledged (Jan-Sep)</b>	<b>Received (Jan-Sep)</b>	<b>Difference</b>
General Operating	44,559.00	45,957.00	1,398.00
Mission/Outreach	10,600.50	11,178.00	577.50

Patio Garden Dedication—Sunday Oct 6

Blessing of the Animals—Sunday Oct 13

Covenantal relationships with our clergy—  
Sunday Oct 27 at 10 a.m.

Installation of Rev. Deborah Tinsley as  
Minister of Vision and Support—Sunday Oct 27 at 3 p.m.

Stewardship Sunday—November 17

Thanksgiving Dinner—Sunday November 24

First Sunday of Advent—Sunday December 1

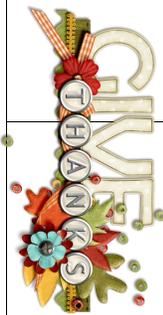
Las Posadas—Sunday December 15



# October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9 am—Coffee and Conversation 10 am—Staff Mtg	2 7 pm Choir	3 7:30 am AllyUp Breakfast 5:30 pm Vision Mtg	4 6:30 pm Finding Home	5
6 Sunday Schedule Communion 1 pm—SC2ER—phase 2	7	8 9 am—Coffee and Conversation	9 8 am Men's Breakfast 7 pm Choir	10	11 6:30 pm Finding Home	12
13 Sunday Schedule Blessing of the Animals 1 pm—SC2ER—phase 2	14 4 pm Worship Team Mtg 5 pm Executive Council Mtg	15 9 am—Coffee and Conversation 10 am—Staff Mtg	16 7 pm Choir	17	18 6:30 pm Finding Home	19 SEA Annual My at Buena Vista 10 am—2 pm
20 Sunday Schedule 11:45 am Just Peace Mtg 1 pm—SC2ER—phase 2	21	22 9 am—Coffee and Conversation	23 7 pm Choir	24	25 6:30 pm Finding Home	26
27 Sunday Schedule Covenantal Relationships 3 pm Installation of Rev Deborah Tinsley	28	29 9 am—Coffee and Conversation	30 7 pm Choir	31 		

# November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:30 pm Finding Home	2
3 Sunday Schedule Communion 1 pm—SC2ER—phase 2	4	5 9 am—Coffee and Conversation 10 am—Staff Mtg	6 7 pm Choir	7 5:30 pm Vision Mtg	8 6:30 pm Finding Home	9
10 Sunday Schedule 1 pm—SC2ER—phase 2	11 4 pm Worship Team Mtg 5 pm Executive Council Mtg	12 9 am—Coffee and Conversation	13 8 am Men's Breakfast 7 pm Choir	14	15 6:30 pm Finding Home	16
17 Sunday Schedule Stewardship Sunday 11:45 am Just Peace Mtg 1 pm—SC2ER—phase 2	18 Family Promise	19 9 am—Coffee and Conversation 10 am—Staff Mtg	20 7 pm Choir	21	22 6:30 pm Finding Home	23
24 Sunday Schedule Thanksgiving Sunday	25	26 9 am—Coffee and Conversation	27 7 pm Choir	28 	29 6:30 pm Finding Home	30 Decorating for Advent



**Vista Grande  
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](mailto:admin@vgcc.org)

[www.vgcc.org](http://www.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 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.”