

Vista Grande United Church of Christ

The Vista Views

ARTICLE 44

Sep/Oct/Nov 2020



Waiting. Waiting can be a spiritual practice by Pastor Clare

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise." (Isaiah 43:18-21)

Waiting. I don't know about you, but I've been feeling the heavy weight that comes from just 'waiting'. I'm not talking about the kind of waiting that has an end point, like waiting to go on vacation; or waiting for a delivery; waiting for a diagnosis; waiting for the weekend. These examples of waiting all have an end date to which we are privy. I'm talking about waiting for something for which there is no specified date. Waiting for a loved one to recover from an illness... or not. Waiting for a shift in our world to bring justice for all; waiting for a vaccine for this invisible virus which is decimating the lives of so many in so many ways; waiting for life to return to normal—even if we don't know what normal is anymore. Waiting for God to fix things.

I don't know why but I am always surprised by the seemingly paradoxical nature of life. The same is true for GOD! By now I should expect that whatever it is I think I know about the nature of our Beloved, I am often surprised. Throughout our scriptures we have numerous examples of our expectations of how God should behave in this world—only to be reminded that it is not up to us to tell God how to behave. First testament examples of people expecting The holy One to want great sacrifices only to be told through the prophets that what God wants of us to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly. In the Second testament, one only has to listen to parables to recognize that Jesus is doing the same thing—flipping our expectations of who is our neighbor, who is invited to the banquet, and how one should treat the beggar at the gate. And just in case we missed that, Jesus himself demonstrates that the way of God is about justice for all, the dismantling of empire and the compassion for all creation. And throughout all of these stories, people are waiting. Waiting for liberation. Waiting for a messiah. Waiting for things to be normal. (*continued on page 3.*)

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Special points of interest:

ZOOM

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

Ecclesiastical Council for Mallory Everhart

An Ecclesiastical Council¹ will be held for **Mallory Everhart**, Sunday September 13, 2020; 3pm at La Foret! (Ponderosa Lodge). Mallory is a member at First Congregational Church, Colorado Springs and did a 10-month Internship Ministry at Vista Grande during her seminary education. Mallory also leads *Finding Home* at Vista Grande before COVID and online for now.

La Foret is hosting this event so that those who wish to participate in person can do so safely and because they have the technology to do Zoom participation on a larger scale.

As a quorum is required please plan accordingly. If you wish to do so ‘in person’, please let Clare know ASAP as there will only be space for 20. If you plan to ‘attend online’, the zoom link will be sent out just prior to the date. Since we need a quorum, please indicate if you are planning to participate. Thank you!

Contact Donna at admin@vgcc.org for a copy of Malloy's ordination paper.

¹ An Ecclesiastical Council is the final examination for a ministerial candidate before he/she is approved for ordination.



Vista Grande's Vision Statement - adopted April 13, 2020

"We covenant together to imagine and live into a world where God's Kin-dom vision of human and planetary flourishing comes to pass through the work of love, justice, peace, equality, and extravagant hospitality. We envision nothing less than a world restored to wholeness, wellness, joy, and gratitude for all of God's Creation."

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

Security Specialist—Timotheus Cross

Finding Home Ministry—Mallory Everhart

Lead Pastor's Hours

Office hours are flexible.

If you'd like to meet with Clare,
please call her at **719-351-0168**.

2020 Executive Committee:

Moderator – Kayan Cross; Assistant Moderator – Vacant; Treasurer – Dana Zimmerman; Financial Secretary – John Tinsley; Clerk – Erika Forshee
Members-at-Large – Carol Burbank and Jeannie Harrington

The next newsletter will be the December/January 2020 edition.
Deadline for articles is Nov. 15. E-mail your articles to admin@vgcc.org

Waiting ... Continued from page 1.

And so we wait—for all of this to be realized.

But we forget, in all our expectations, that waiting can be a spiritual practice. It is an imposed time that demands that we stop and reflect, engage in introspection, lament, imagine, and participate in potentialities. To be clear, there are the hard realities that many of us are experiencing with regard to financial hardships because this waiting has imposed the uncertainties of employment. There are those who have to try to balance being parent and teacher and employee and maintain their sanity!! I do not want to diminish those realities or any others. I only wish to offer that in this time of what we call liminal space—in between space—we should realize we are in good company with our ancestors who have been here before us. We are in solidarity with those who have been seeking. We are in community with those who are wanting and waiting for a “new thing”

Perhaps just as we have revisited Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost in August, we should revisit, or rather *Live Into* the season of Advent for a while. The season of waiting, wanting desiring, seeking, longing for what has yet to be. Advent ushers in shorter days, longer nights, and colder weather. For us, right now, the deep dark night of our souls and lives may be more accurate. What comes to mind in these moments is the reminder “Fear not!”...“I am about to do a new thing”

It is without any doubt, my friends, I offer: We are never alone.

For comfort, perspective, direction, or just good reading might I suggest:

“Learning to Walk in the Dark” by Barbara Brown Taylor

“Let Your Life Speak” by Parker Palmer,

“Saint Theresa of Avila, Passionate Mystic”, by Mirabai Starr

“Kitchen Table Wisdom: stories that heal” by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D.

Peace, Clare

ZOOM WORSHIP—Our Sunday morning worship meets at 10 a.m.

Use the Zoom link to join in.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9115878719?
pwd=WXI6RDJVZnRZbTA5YUhSOEVpcjQrZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9115878719?pwd=WXI6RDJVZnRZbTA5YUhSOEVpcjQrZz09)

Meeting ID: 911 587 8719

Password: VGUCC



This link is e-mailed in our Monday weekly e-blast and Thursday worship invite. If you would like to receive these e-mailings, please contact Donna at admin@vgcc.org

News from Mallory ... Finding Home



Finding Home is now online! In this time of separation and anxiety, it becomes even more necessary for people to come together for connection and grounding. All are welcome to join this online gathering. We explore the intersection of art and spirituality, learning to listen for the ways the Divine is still speaking in our lives. Sundays at 6:30pm.

Finding Home has a new link for its online gatherings. Click in on Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

<https://meet.jit.si/FindingHomeCOS>

Faith Formation

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

Percolate is reading Dreaming of Eden-American Religion and Politics in a Wired World by Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite. Susan talks a lot about the seduction of “innocence”, especially the desire to return to the Garden of Eden. She also talks about the danger of innocence – even it’s lethal power. We are almost halfway through the book.

As usual all are welcome, whether or not you’ve read the book. We meet around 8:30 on zoom before the worship service. (You have to “percolate” your own coffee.)



Back to School Blessings

In August, the students and teachers in our congregation received a set of prayer beads as a reminder that the folks at Vista Grande were keeping them in our prayers as they began the 2020 school year during this pandemic.

This is the message sent to all and on Aug. 23 during the worship there was a blessing ritual. Let's continue to keep the families in our thoughts.

Prayer Beads with Fish Symbol



Jesus' disciples and friends created a fun way to identify each other on the road. One would draw half a fish. If the other person was also a follower of Jesus, he would complete the fish.

Why a fish? Well, several of Jesus' disciples were fishermen. But the fish was also a symbol for Jesus. In Greek, the letters ICHTHUS stood for Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior. ICHTHUS also spelled “fish!” A perfect symbol for Jesus' early followers.

Today you are getting a set of prayer beads with a fish symbol. The fish means that you belong to our faith community at Vista Grande. We all pray that school will be safe for you whether you attend in person or virtual school. We hope you will learn a lot and have fun seeing your friends and making new ones. Remember – you are loved by God and by all of us at Vista Grande.

The beads move up and down the ribbon. You can use them to think about people who are important to you, or to remember things and people you are grateful for. You can attach the prayer beads with the fish to your backpack. Have a good year!

Moderator's Message

Hello all, it's been too long since I have thoroughly addressed you all as Moderator. My first time since we last gathered in our church building. There is much going on in the larger world, our community, and our church. And the impact on us all is big and uncertain.

Covid 19 has come into our lives uninvited, unexpected and chosen to stay for now. Racism has been highlighted for what it is, prompted a global movement for change and along with the epidemic invited us all to not only participate in this movement but to discern our individual actions for personal transformation now and as our lives move forward. We have witnessed the lack of organization of our government to sufficiently guide us through this time of a global pandemic, we have felt our hearts bleed and sometimes break for those we love who have died or experienced death. We have given up so much of our familiarity and comfort. We sometimes experience fear and uncertainty due to all that is going on. It is understandable that our feelings of disconnect often overwhelm and confuse us.

And yet, by the Grace of God, so many continue to show up in support of and with love for one another. Pause a minute, see yourself not as a person who is struggling, but; as the one who is participating in and continues to be essential in holding and moving our spiritual family through this time. Not in a hurried fashion; at just the necessary pace, simultaneously, for each of us and all of us. Pause a minute, notice yourself as the benefactor of God's grace.

I want to let you all know that the Executive Council, Pastor Clare, Rev. Deb, Mallory, and Donna are so committed to who Vista Grand UCC is at this time and how to best support our church. Our ability to continue worship, coffee and conversation, and Finding Home are gifts and technological challenges. Our postcards, reminders to senders and receivers of our connections to each other, are also messages of hope and patience as we evolve into a changing church. As I notice all of you and all that we are (becoming) I realize that the focus, ideas and planning regarding ways and needs to stay connected as well as what and who VGUCC is becoming needs continuous thought, planning and more voices.

As I said in the beginning there is much going on. Many decisions are being made regarding our building maintenance, repairs, safety, and expenses. We are also involved in decisions relating to the development of the property immediately south of us and its impact on not only our property but existing neighbors as well. All of this is to say that "normal" and new challenges for our church continue to keep us busy enough that if we are not diligent in our commitment to stay connected and grow together we may miss the opportunities to maintain our spiritual relationships in this family.

So, this is an invitation and expectation for all of us to envision and share ways and ideas for this family to stay strong and be love together. Strong in the face of change, uncertainty, and our commitment to justice. Be love, for each other, to each other and the world that is our responsibility. I truly believe that these are some of the things God requires of us now.

We are in the process of creating a page on the website for Covenantal Partners to access updates and communication regarding the church. The Executive Council meeting minutes will show up here along with other information that we all need to know. Also, it is necessary to have a few of you join in on the discussions of staying connected and moving our spiritual home and family forward during this time . Please call, 719-599-3057 or email the church admin@vgcc.org to let us know that you are available for either of these continuous discussions of growth.

In God's Love and Grace, Kayan

"Go Back and Get It" by Deborah Tinsley

In the Twi language of Ghana there is a word – Sankofa - that translates to "Go back and get it" and refers to an iconic bird symbol called the Bono Adinkra. The bird is shown with its feet facing forward, but its head turned backwards, and usually holding a precious egg in its mouth. The metaphorical symbol expresses the importance of reaching back to knowledge gained in the past and bringing it into the present in order to make positive progress. It was my delight to be able to learn of this from Rev. Traci Blackmon recently on a webinar, aptly called Sankofa. (Rev. Blackmon is the Executive Minister of Justice & Witness Ministries of The United Church of Christ.)



"Go back and get it" is the thread of this article, the story of the people of Vista Grande UCC.*

Recently I took a look back by reading the church history of congregants who have served in the past on committees, or Task Forces, or Team Ministries (as things change names over the years.) I started with Christmas Eve, 1976. This was the day on which a Covenant was entered into by a group of people, a minister, and their God. On that day, Vista Grande Community Church, United Church of Christ was born. Judy Gibson and Jan Morgan are two founding members of the original 60 who took the faithful step, and are with us today. I wondered what kind of a day it was; was it a bright winter's day, or snowy? And what compelled this gathering of individuals to take that faithful and courageous step to become a church? In this installment of "Go back and get it" I will highlight three persons of faith and courage: Future installments will lift up the names of others found in the history of Vista Grande UCC.

Jan Morgan who became a charter member in 1976, took on Christian Education in 1985 - 1987; became Assistant Moderator in 1989; Moderator in 1990 and again 2009-2010; Finance Committee Chair 1999 – 2003; Financial Secretary in 1993 and 2004 – 2007; served on the Renewal and Move Forward Task Force starting in 2004; Secretary of the Council in 2015. Jan became the official Church Agent in 2007 , so it is clear that she knows the ropes... and where they are stored, the last time they were used, and probably what the church paid for them! Jan currently serves not only as Church Agent, but Chair of the Facilities Ministry Team.

Lyn Gunning began to show up in the lay leadership historical record in 1980 as Moderator, as well as in 1991, 2001, 2007-2008; Member at Large in 1995 – 1996 and 2005; Assistant Moderator in 1990, 2000 and 2006. Lyn continues to serve as a greeter, usher, and provides violin music during worship to this day.

Carolyn Gunning took on Assistant Moderator in 1982. She served as Program Chair in 2003; Financial Secretary in 2008 – 2009; Member-at-Large 2010 – 2011 and again 2013 – 2014; and of course has taken on many other roles in the church, especially making sure we have ushers, greeters, worship leaders, and communion set up, to this day.

In 1986, Nancy Morlock-Hollins became Assistant Moderator; Moderator in 1987; Member at Large in 2003, 2005, 2008 - 2009; served on Renewal and Move Forward Task Force in 2004; Treasurer 2013 – 2016. Nancy serves as chair of Adult Faith Formation aka Percolate, co-chair on Mission Ministry Team, as worship leader, usher, greeter and elsewhere in and around the church. (Continued on page 7.)

These are only four of the many who have given of themselves, and this recollection is only of one way they have served. This doesn't lift up their ongoing commitment in time, talent and treasure that Vista Grande might prosper and continue to be a welcoming place to explore one's faith journey as well as being able to serve the greater community of Colorado Springs.

In the spirit of Sankofa, we look back and we "get it"; we bring to mind these three, what they have given, and we honor them in the recalling. Our bird looks back, but steps ever forward. Each of us decides what it is from the past that is of value, and we move into an always uncertain future carrying those values with us.

In spite of believing that the past was more certain, more stable, we realize it seems so only in hindsight. Since 1976 we have experienced armed conflicts, religious and political upheaval, SARS, Swine Flu, and Ebola to name only a few of the epidemics that have touched our shores. Through all of this and so much more Vista Grande UCC has held its values of welcoming everyone on life's journey, serving the community, supporting each other through sorrow, celebrating each other's joy, and gathering weekly to hold faithful the spirit of Jesus in our midst. This hasn't changed. Maybe the manner in which we gather has changed (Zoom church on Sundays), and maybe 'distaining hugs' have replaced actual hugs, but the care, comfort, challenge and covenant have not changed.

In hope, in faith, and in love Vista Grande remains in the people who are the church.

Rev. Deborah



Remember to join us virtually for the **5th Annual Family Promise Walk!**

October 11th-17th 2020

Time: Any

Location: Your neighborhood or favorite trail



All proceeds go to Family Promise's ongoing work for families with children experiencing homelessness. We use this week to walk our neighborhoods and trails to raise awareness and help our community learn more about the difficulties families face living in Colorado Springs.

For more information please contact
our offices at (719) 329-1244 or
andrea@familypromisecos.org



Family Promise—It is that wonderful time of year for us to be preparing for our 5th Annual Family Promise Walk!! We are extremely excited about the event and to announce this year will be virtual and a week-long event! Although we would love to do this in person, conducting the event virtually and for a week opens up people being able to walk in their own neighborhoods and/or favorite trails, on days they are available to do so. . More to come via our weekly e-blast!

Neighbors walking together to empower families with children experiencing homelessness in our community.

Covenantal Partners

September Birthdays

- 1 Roberta Povelite
- 3 Crystal Karr
- 13 Ron Forth
- 17 Jackie Moore
- 18 David Hudson
- 20 Katherine Matzen
- 22 Max Hale
- 26 Tammie Davis

September Anniversaries:

- Sept 1 John and Deborah Tinsley
- Sept. 3 Lyn and Carolyn Gunning
- Sept 4 Dave and Cindy Nath
- Sept. 20 Charlie and Jan Morgan
- Sept 23 Justin and Kelsie Hollins

October Birthdays

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

October Anniversaries:

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

November Birthdays

- 1 Elly Siebert Happy Teen!
- 15 Melissa Bongirno
- 22 Lucille Derr
- 22 Erika Borboa
- 26 Christy McDonald
- 28 Lincoln Spencer
- 29 Maggie Forth



Mission

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.

One Nation Walking Together

We collected a special offering during July and August. \$1350 was received. Thank you from ONWT – “Small things add up to big things and small things come from big hearts. We are most grateful for your big heart and your support. Thank you for your most generous donation of \$1,150. Stay safe!”

Note: an additional \$200 will be sent to ONWT.



Inside-Out Youth Services—

Inside Out has received a \$2,500 medical grant to help Inside-Out safely open up on a limited basis in September. The plan is to have personal protective equipment available for adults and kids, as well as thermometers, etc. Inside Out will open ONLY by appointment for food, clothing and counseling, etc.

Nancy and Bob will be collecting food once they know the specific need.

El Centro de Los Pobres (immigrants & low income) Faye met with Sister Nancy to deliver the King Soopers cards that had been collected along with 10 or so bags of household goods.

At this time, Los Pobres is not taking donations of clothing and household goods. Their Shop is full. They are concentrating on harvesting the fields and feeding a hearty meal to the workers.

One Nation Walking Together - 1st Annual Non-Event Fundraiser

3150 North Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Donate:

\$10 - \$20...I will NOT attend

\$25 - \$45...My dog and I will NOT attend

\$50 - \$95...My family will NOT attend

\$100 - \$245....My family and neighbors will NOT attend

\$250 - up...I will keep everyone in town from NOT attending

Thank you for your support and NOT joining in the fun.

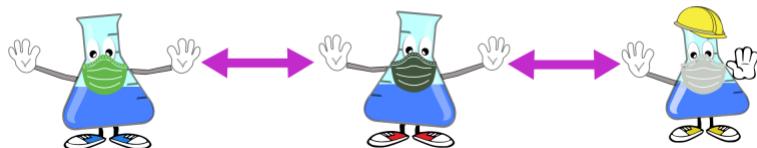
Donations can either be made directly to One Nation Walking Together or through Vista Grande Community Church -- be sure and note in the memo line One Nation Non-Event Fundraiser.

Social Activities

A Social Distance Social—Ice Cream and Concert

We are creating a safe space to gather, see one another, share some refreshment, and listen to good music. Amanda Udis-Kessler and Phoebe Lostroh will broadcast to our cars from the church on our FM radio transmitter! Everyone will meet outside and will be directed as to where to park. Bring chairs, masks, and an appetite for community! (Dairy free/gluten free will be available). Please RSVP to Donna (719-599-3057) by Sept.17 or call Clare (719-351-0168) if you have questions.

Social distance, please



Women's Retreat

Women's Retreat 2020 – The Courage to See

The theme for the Women's Retreat on Oct. 10th is "**The Courage to See**". Our facilitator will be Sara Weatherman. We will explore why it is that what I "see" is so different from what other people "see", and how this impacts relationship and the decisions we each make. We will have some Zoom time for a group presentation, some small group interaction time, and some time for personal reflection (i.e. journaling, coloring, meditating, or other activities that you can do alone for exploring "seeing". The deadline for enrollment and payment will be **September 28th**. Currently we are looking at a cost of \$25.00 that will cover an honorarium for our facilitator and packet of something to "play" with in the mail. We do need 10 people to participate to break even. If more than 10 people register we will be able to reduce this cost. If this is a hardship for anyone please speak to Pastor Clare as we do have some scholarship funds available. We don't want to leave anyone out. Please let Judy Druelinger know by text at 719-322-7124 if you are planning on attending. Let's hold off on payment until we have a little better idea of how many will be joining us for the Retreat. Checks should be made to the VGCC -UCC with Women's Retreat in the memo line. Payment can be mailed to the church; Vista Grande UCC, P.O. Box 26030, Colorado Springs, CO 80936-6030.

Sara would like someone to help handle part of the Zoom aspect of this adventure.



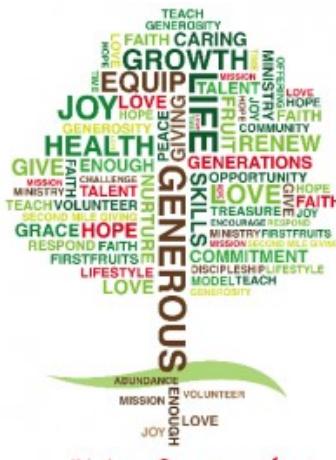
From the Stewardship Team:

In light of these crazy times of Covid-19 we just wanted to give you an update on the status of our 2020 pledged income and general financial situation of VGUCC. As you know, we had a very successful pledge campaign last fall and we started out this year on strong footing. Because we have not been in the building since March we have not been receiving the plate offerings we normally get nor those donations we normally receive from visitors. Also, our pledges have dwindled off a bit recently. Currently general fund pledges are down 4% and mission pledges are down 10%.

We realize there are many factors playing into this scenario. Perhaps you have been financially affected by the pandemic situation and are unable to contribute at the level you pledged. Please know that we understand and offer you grace. Sometimes the situation is just that we forget to send in our pledge when we can't conveniently drop it in the offering plate. If this is the case, please try to catch up on your pledge if you are able. You can simply mail your check to VGUCC (PO Box 26030, Colorado Springs 80936-6030), pay through Tithely by selecting the Donate button on our website (vgcc.org), or set up bill pay through your bank.

Of course, our expenses have been down slightly since we have not been in the building but there are ongoing costs regardless of the building being occupied. Also, our building is in need of some costly repairs, some of which were scheduled for this year. The Executive Committee has been proactive in applying for a PPP loan to help with payroll and we have applied for a couple other grants to help our folks connect on zoom. VGUCC is not in crisis and is far better off than a lot of other churches during these times, however, we wanted you to know that we could use your continued support.

Thank you!
Dana Zimmerman on behalf of the Stewardship Team.



FACILITIES



Facilities has been busy during the restraints of corona virus. We have had 2 outdoor workdays to spray weeds, trim, rake and mow. May 30th and July 2nd to be exact. Air conditioner filters have been replaced.

The Burbanks refinished the balcony wood doors. The Burbanks, John Tinsley, and Dave Bristow refinished the wooden altar steps. We have new sensors coming for our fire alarm system and we are working on getting the cracked windows replaced. Keep in mind that when we get to a place where we are talking about worshiping together again, we will be needing **Everyone** to step up and help with the deep cleaning of our building.

Jan Morgan



United Church of Christ's 5 for 5 is made up of 5 components that Vista Grande supports from our mission givings. The foundation is created by OCWM and there are four special mission offerings.

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) Basic Support provides funding from congregations for Conferences and the national ministries of the United Church of Christ, which are Justice & Local Church Ministries, and the Wider Church Ministries.

UCC Special Mission Offerings comprise of four offerings, which sponsor vital ministries that bring hope to people in the United States and around the world.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response, administered by the Wider Church Ministries.

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the where the UCC does not have a strong presence. It also provides support for existing church's new initiatives.

Neighbors in Need (NiN) supports ministries f justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Local Church Ministries.

The Christmas Fund (CF) helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy families in need, and Christmas checks to hundreds of annuitants, as administered by the Pension Boards

If you didn't have a chance to pledge to missions this year, there's still the opportunity to give to these 5 for 5 missions. Giving is complicated by the fact we are not in our building, however, checks may be sent to Vista Grande UCC, PO Box 26030, Colorado Springs, CO 80936-6030 or you can go to the church's website www.vgcc.org and click on the Donate to VGCC button for online giving. In both cases, please remember to memo which mission you want to support. If you prefer to do a cash gift, we can arrange a time for that to happen too. Call Donna at 719-238-0503.

Vista Grande has supported these 5 missions for over 20 years!



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

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."