



The Vista Views

We are now in what is called “ordinary time” in the church calendar – liturgical language which essentially means we don’t have any special church holidays for the next little bit. In the winter and into the spring, the high holidays in the Christian tradition come at us fast and furious, bound “together by periods of deep wrestling and contemplation. In contrast, ordinary time is a long stretch of weeks which gives us space catch our breath, ground into the aspects of our faith that nourish us, and return to those things which are foundational for us individually and as a community. Far from being “ordinary”, this time is sacred and helps us begin our time together on the right foot.

In the spirit of this anything-but-ordinary time, we are doing some stock-taking. Much has changed in our community in the last two and a half years, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic but also in each of our lives. This truth, paired with a change in pastoral leadership, means it’s a good time to reflect on who we are and what we need from this church community. Church historian Phyllis Tickle posits that every 500 years or so, the church is due for what she calls a “rummage sale.” Historically speaking, something seismic happens (maybe like a pandemic? Or embracing new technology...like the printing press! Or Zoom!) that makes the church rethink how it’s doing things. Broadly speaking, but also in our in our local church context, we are being called to discern what is up next for us and how we are going to intentionally meet the challenges before us. What new innovations do we need? What was working before that we want back? What can we lay down? Everything is up for grabs.

Though I have some ideas about that, the reality of our congregational style of decision-making is that it’s up to you to make your voice heard. What do you want from your church family? What is God calling us toward? How do we take the next faithful step in the footprints and spirit of Jesus?

My prayer for us is that we take this “ordinary time” to practice deep listening – to the whispering of wisdom in our own spirits, to each other, to our sacred text, and to cries of a hurting world. Frederick Buechner described vocational call as “where your greatest joy meets the world’s greatest need.” As we chart a course together, I hope we will bear this in mind.

Continued on page 3.

Inside this issue

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Pastor’s Message | Front Page |
| Wider Church | 2 |
| PrideFest | 3 |
| Moderator message | 4-5 |
| Activities | 5 |
| Faith Formation | 6 |
| Mission | 6-7 |
| Stewardship | 7 |
| ONA and Just Peace Statements | 8 |

Special points of interest:
ZOOM

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



Colorado • Utah • Wyoming

RMC Jubilee!! August 15-17, 2022 (Monday-Wednesday)

Join us for 3 days of in-person connection, learning, music, and fun! This event will be held at La Foret Conference & Retreat Center, 6145 Shoup Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80908. Tuesday night we'll rock La Foret with a band and lots of fun!

Workshops include:

- Small Church Symposium: Challenges & Best Practices for Small Churches
- Moving Toward a Culture of Anti-Racism: What's Next for Me and My Church?
- Exploring a Divine Spiritual Consciousness: A Renewal of the Great Commission

Three registration types:

- Full Registration -- includes cabin lodging for Monday & Tuesday nights + 5 meals + all events \$180/person
- Off-site Registration -- Includes Monday dinner and Tuesday lunch & dinner + all events \$90/person
- Day Use Only (no meals) -- All events for all or partial days, no meals, no lodging \$60/person

Financial need? Ask for a scholarship at admin@rmcucc.org

COVID precautions will be taken based on county restrictions at the time of event -- be prepared to bring a mask, show vaccination card.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rmc-jubilee-registration-371715540187>

Registration deadline is August 5.

Our Staff

Pastor — Rev. Mallory Everhart
Office Administrator—Donna Bristow

ZOOM WORSHIP—Our Sunday morning worship meets at 10 a.m. Use the Zoom link to join in.

The best way to get this link is through our website.

<https://zoom.us/j/7130001284>
Meeting ID: 713 000 1284

2022 Executive Committee:

Moderator – Kayan Cross; Assistant Moderator – David Nath; Treasurer – Dana Zimmerman; Financial Secretary – Jerima King; Council Clerk – Erika Forshee.
Members-at-Large – Carol Burbank and YOU!

Watch for the monthly news flash each month.

To that end, we will be creating some spaces for engagement in conversation as a congregation. In addition to our Agape Meal on the first Sunday of the month, we will also be returning to our rhythm of Town Hall Meetings on the third Sunday of every month at 1pm on Zoom. As before, this is a forum where all are welcome to join and bring topics they wish to discuss which are relevant to the life of the church. Additionally, all are welcome to participate in Coffee and Conversation, which takes place every Tuesday morning at 9am on Zoom.

In the last month that I have been your full-time pastor, I have been blown away by the energy present in this congregation in all sorts of arenas – from worship planning to outreach to care of our building and grounds. Where God is present, newness of life can be found and I see the Spirit bringing forward new things practically every day. It is an utter joy to be present to and facilitate.

Blessings, dearhearts, as we embark on this journey together. May we continue as we have arrived at this point – grounded in love of God, each other, and neighbor, and committed to deep, thoughtful engagement. I am thrilled beyond measure to be doing this together.

With abiding love,

Pastor Mallory

Pridefest Parade 2022

For the first time since 2019 Colorado Springs will have Pridefest! Vista Grande will be participating in the parade. We will walk in conjunction with Black Forest Community Church. The parade will take place on Sunday, July 24 at 11:00am.

Worship Service will be at 9:00am. The route is approximately a mile long. Kayan is looking into the possibility of a trailer or a van that can accommodate those wanting to participate and are unable to go the distance on foot.



As exciting as it is to be on the route again, showing our solidarity with our queer siblings, this event will require one or 2 volunteers to assist in coordinating this event with volunteers from Black Forest to come to fruition. Please contact Kayan as soon as possible to let him know if you are participating on foot, needing to ride or volunteering to assist. 719-221-4479;

kayan.kan.do@gmail.com

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."

Welcome to Church – We are called

I invite us all to take the time to sit with the Spirit that guides and drives us to be the participant in this congregation that we are. I want to present to you my thoughts regarding members of this faith, and what we are called to do. Thoughts that developed over time as a member of our church.

Participations of the Church- In the recent past we have been able to make space in our building and find events in the community that allow us to express and do the work that allows and creates positive change. We are a dynamic church in many ways. Regardless of growth and challenges we experience, we must continue to answer the call to do the work required of us by the divine

Love of Church-since we took on the designation of a Just Peace Church much has happened in the world and our community. Many of which require actions and intentions for the purpose of maintaining and restoring justice. We have also experienced a type of freezing of our actions due to Covid. This freezing has impacted our ability to gather collectively and carry out activities that influence Justice. Even in the awareness of this reality justice work must continue because we are true Christians striving to align ourselves with Christ and less and less with Christendom. Our statement says, “we prayerfully strive to live out Jesus’ non-violent words and action”. Many of us have/wear t-shirts that read, “Do Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly”. I recently discovered a phrase, “Put some hustle behind that prayer”. All of these are statements of action. We have had much to pray for amongst us. We have shared many stories of sorrow, success, families, pains and fears. In our desires to be connected we open more and go forward more connected. Our local, national and global community need this as well. With the help of each other and the love of God within our spirits, we are capable of the hustle. I am extending not just an invitation to participate in actions but to participate in the rallying of the spirit of Jesus amongst and within us to lift and liberate us from those places that hold us away from doing justice. I believe we have the Love Mercy and walk Humbly parts figured out. It is now our jobs to collectively support each other to DO Justice. What do you need to do Justice work? How can our congregation support you to continue in creating a Just World for all? I look forward to us creating and acting on a plan of resisting and dismantling systems of oppression as we voted to do.

Care for Church-We are currently witnessing and experiencing the impact of many members of our congregation moving into times in their lives where continually maintaining numerous aspects of our church and its ability to serve us are less and less viable. Based on who we are, Vista Grande UCC; and where we are, in the building on the corner of Union and Montebello; at this time, a time of the decline of less societal interest in joining churches; we must be realistic about the entirety of our covenant when it comes to the responsibility of all. We can not wait for or expect someone else to do it. As we continue to move forward exploring every aspect of thoughts, possibilities and actions presented to us by the Vision team over the last few years we must acknowledge that our church in its entirety needs us to do more today. Our neighbors deserve our property to be maintained today. Our congregation needs and deserves to be represented in our community, association and conference today. Also, the folk that have been pushing beyond themselves get to be cared about enough to know that they can rest in this area of “doing” and the care will still happen.

Moderator's Message (continued from page 4.)

Blessings within the Church- In all that we need done let me not diminish the gratitude for those who have done since this spiritual home of ours has come into existence and continues to be that for us. I am personally grateful because the maintenance of our church; care of each other, property, community relationship, representation, worship service, fellowship, online visibility and much more is what attracted me and has kept me. Thank you to all who have participated in creating and maintaining Vista Grande. Our continued presence is a testament to much of what you have brought via your hands and hearts. Being this church continues to require hustle, a hustle which we can do and are called to do. We must connect with our Vista Grande legs to stand on and run with.

I implore all of us to discern via prayer, meditation, discussion and hustle to find and implement your energy and love for this church in an externally viable way so that we can maintain and grow our collective selves within our physical space and our church in the world. Blessings to each and every one of you, disciples.

Kayan

Activities

1. Date change for the workshop with Nancy Niero - she is coming August 5-7 now, to make sure our community can participate in our Pride festival here.
2. Save the date for CPR/First Aid class with Audrey - August 27th. More details to follow.
3. 1st Sunday Agape Meal; 3rd Sunday town hall at 1pm.
4. Bible Study will return in August, studying the epistle of James. Date/time TBD.

Mark your calendars for August 5 - 7 - we will be participating in a full week-end-long workshop and retreat facilitated by Rev. Nancy Niero as part of her doctoral research on anti-racism in the United Church of Christ. Please plan to participate for the entire weekend. Reach out to Mallory with questions and to RSVP.



As part of Nancy's DMin research, the workshop focuses on understanding the roots of white silence within the UCC and empowering participants through the use of stories of ancestors of faith who have been involved in the struggle for racial justice. It will be taking place at VGCC, I'm thinking a mix of in the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall, but those details aren't worked out yet. We are switching the date to be August 5-7th, so we can participate in Pride. She just got me the schedule, so here's what it looks like - detailed schedule is below.

Schedule: Friday Evening - 7pm-8:30pm; Saturday – 10am-noon, 1:30pm-5pm, 5:30pm-8:30pm (lunch and dinner meals included in the time block)

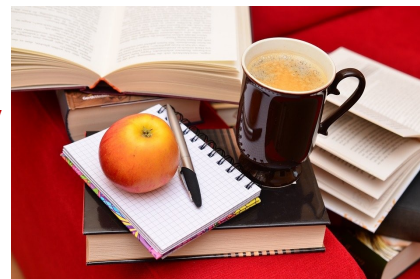
Sunday - worship and lunch conversation (this is for the full congregation and would take place during our normal Agape Meal time)

Men's Breakfast -

Men's Breakfast-Wednesday July 13, 2022. Meet around 8am at: The Omelet Parlor; 900 E Fillmore.

Faith Formation

Percolate – our Sunday morning adult faith formation is choosing a new book to read. Keep checking the e-blasts for more information. You can join in each Sunday 8:30 a.m. for open forum discussion and additional fellowship.



at

Bible Study with Mallory

The study will be held on Thursday evenings in the coming future. Again keep reading the weekly e-blasts for this information. The study will be on the Letter of James.

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.

Family Promise at NEW PROMISE

Family Promise opened the New Promise Shelter in February 2020. One month before COVID 19 hit our community. Since then, Family Promise provided 168 families composed of 622 individuals of which 349 were children with shelter, safety, and support. 36% of these families moved into permanent stable housing.

Like many other nonprofits who are dealing with reduced budgets. Family Promise made the difficult decision to close The New Promise Family Shelter.

Family Promise remains committed to continuing its mission of advocating for and empowering families with children to achieve housing stability.

Family Promise is taking this time to strategize and gather community support to relaunch the New Promise Shelter.

Inside Out Youth Services

Inside Out Youth Services Annual Gay-la

August 26, 2022 (5 p.m. for VIPs and 6 p.m. for guests)

This will be a night of fun and philanthropy to celebrate over 30 years of life-saving work for the LGBTQIA2+ young people. This will be held at Venetucci Farm. Tickets are available. Go to www.insideoutys.org

Mission (continued)

One Nation Walking Together

Visit www.onenationwt.org for a list of activities they offer in the community.

Los Pobres

Los Pobres provides food, shelter, medical, utilities, education and various other types of support to Eastern Colorado migrant workers.

Spreading Sandwiches and Smiles (SS&S)

Vista Grande continues to support this mission on the second Sunday of the month at Dorchester Park. Jerima has more information.

Chinook Center

We support Chinook Center by giving money toward the People's Grocery. The Chinook Center was also the lead team for the protest on the Supreme Court re: the reversal of Roe V Wade. Mallory and Amanda attended the protest.

Stewardship of our Building and Finances

Report for January – June 2022 Thank you for your continued support.

| Funds | Pledged | Received | Difference |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| General Operating | 37,465.00 | 44,791.92 | 7,326.92 |
| Mission Outreach | 11,942.50 | 10,711.72 | (1,230.78) |

We are in need of folks to help with the weekly cleaning and participate in the maintaining of the outside appearance of the church.





**Vista Grande
United Church of Christ**

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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.”