



MAY 2026

Our Mission at Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, and to reach out to others, help them, welcome them into our family of faith as we gather for worship, fellowship, education, and service.



ECHOES EMAIL CHANGE!!!

Please send all Echoes articles, events and photos to

mamayob@gmail.com

Subject line: ECHOES

THANKS!!!

FELLOWSHIP FOCUS

GLENNA AND BOB SNIDER



Glenna and Bob



Grandkids!!!

“The Cross and the Flame” is on a solitary hill, just off Oracle Road near Catalina, AZ. Bob & Glenna Snider moved to Oro Valley in 2003, and soon after, saw the cross and the flame on that hill welcoming folks to Vista de la Montaña United Methodist Church. One visit convinced them it should be their church home and they were warmly welcomed by the pastor, Jon Leonard, & the congregation!

They remained active in numerous groups and committees over the years, with a special focus on Missions.

Glenna was born in Cincinnati, OH, and grew up in Morgantown, WV, as did Bob. They met and were friends from the 9th grade until Senior year, when they became "more than friends".

They both graduated from WVU; he as a Chemical Engineer, and she as a teacher. They were married two days after Glenna's graduation in August of 1957. She taught 2nd grade, while he finished classwork, & ROTC. Four years as an Air Force officer followed---all in Madison, WI. Their sons, Steve and Greg, were born there. The next several years consisted of moves with chemical companies, finally settling in Midland, MI, where a 3rd son, Eric, was born, and where they lived for more than 50 years. Four of those years were spent in Wales, U.K., as Bob supervised the construction of a newly acquired plant. The boys attended local schools, and Steve & Greg became enthusiastic rugby players as teenagers. When rugby season ended, they were active in track &

field. The family spent much time "exploring" many playing fields all over Wales and Southern England. It was an unforgettable time.

Upon returning to the U.S., the family was active in Midland First United Methodist Church, Boy Scouts, League of Women Voters, high school sports, etc. Glenna owned two retail businesses in town for 16 years, as Bob continued his career with Dow Corning Corp. Then in retirement, they began exploring the country with a travel trailer. The Desert Southwest was discovered, and they fell in love with Arizona and especially the Tucson area.

There are now three amazing daughters-in-law, 10 grandkids, plus 8 of their spouses/SO's. It's wonderful to see this legacy grow with a one-year-old great grandbaby, Ellie, and the newest addition to the Snider family, baby boy Miller, due in June!!

Sadly, Bob passed in 2020, and he is greatly missed.

Glenna has found a wonderful new chapter at Vista! Transitioning from a lifetime of mission teams and Church in Society work to the "novice" ranks of a choir member is a brave and joyful leap.

Her story is a great testament to how choir director Kryste's leadership is creating a welcoming space for everyone, regardless of experience level. While it has been clear that mission work has been her and Bob's long-term passion, this new musical challenge is adding a fresh layer of spiritual joy to her journey.

Glenna comments that "this has been a good life, with a close and loving family. Dear friends in Midland, and here at Vista have been a wonderful blessing as well".

Robin Conner

MISSION OUTREACH

FOR MAY

Celebrating 20 Years of Partnership: Fuente de Vida

Pastor Mary... This month, we celebrate a beautiful milestone as we close a significant chapter of ministry alongside the Fuente de Vida Church in Agua Prieta. For two decades, Vista UMC—together with several other churches in our conference—has walked with Pastor Gela, supporting her and the congregation as they rebuilt following the passing of her husband, the church's founding pastor. Today, we celebrate that Fuente de Vida is flourishing independently. To honor your years of faithful support, this month's Echoes will feature a photo collage highlighting our twenty-year journey together. We also invite you to join us on Sunday, May 17th, for a special celebration with cake. Because of your generosity, children who grew up in this ministry are now attending school and serving as leaders in the church. We hope you will join us in honoring this legacy

A bit of history...

Roach Scholarship Program

The Roach Scholarship Program was established in 2012 upon the passing of Dee Berman's Aunt Marion Roach. Dee's aunt moved to Tucson after her retirement and became familiar with Vista's economic development work at Fuente de Vida Church in Agua Prieta, Mexico. Upon establishment of the church in this very poor neighborhood, the average level of education of the adults was third grade. In Mexico, students are required to provide their own school supplies, backpacks, school uniforms and shoes. Many children are unable to attend public schools due to poverty. A program to provide school supplies and backpacks began in 2005. Sun Lakes UMC provided the required \$350 scholarships for students attending high school. By 2012 students were beginning to graduate from high school but had no funds for higher education programs. After Aunt Marion's death, Dee was given \$50,000 to use as she wished. Dee chose to use the \$50,000 to establish a scholarship program for high school students wanting to attend technical or university programs. The program was able to continue these past 14 years with additional donations from Vista church members.

Thanks to the generosity of Dee Berman-Tompkins and church members, 25 students graduated from post-secondary programs working in music ministry, teaching, business, law, industrial psychology and as Methodist ministers. We are currently sponsoring the last three university students as this life changing program comes to an end.

Loved, Vista de la Montana UMC

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Vista de la Montana United Methodist Church in Oro Valley for their unwavering generosity and support throughout the years.

Your continuous commitment to blessing the students of the Fuente de Vida Methodist Church in Agua Prieta through the annual donation of school supplies has made a meaningful and lasting impact in their lives. Because of your kindness, many children have been encouraged and equipped to pursue their education with confidence and hope. Your acts of love and compassion truly reflect the spirit of service and unity in Christ. We deeply appreciate your dedication and generosity, and we pray that God continues to bless your church abundantly for all that you do.

With sincere gratitude,
Gela Villicaña / Fuente de Vida, Agua Prieta, Sonora



Ken Almer, Karen Amador, Jan Hopke-Almer, Pastor Gela, Nancy Yob, Mitzvha Villicaña, David Yob

Mitzvha Yaritza Pérez Villicaña has shown dedication and perseverance throughout her life. After completing her studies, she began working as a kindergarten teacher, a role she has faithfully carried out ever since. Her commitment to shaping young minds reflects her caring and responsible character. Although she experienced the loss of her father a few years ago, she has remained a joyful and healthy young woman. Her strength and positive spirit have allowed her to continue moving forward with hope and determination. At this time, she is not yet married, but she is in a serious

relationship with a young man from the United States. She has been part of the Fuente de Vida Methodist Church, where she previously served as an assistant. While she is not currently active in a ministry role, she has remained faithful and continues to be part of the church community.

Karen Amador has a story that carries both meaningful moments and certain challenges. After completing her studies, she left the home of Pastor Gela, where she had lived for many years and had been cared for as a daughter. The underlying reason for her departure was related to some signs of rebellion in her character at that time. Since then, there has been limited information about her current situation. It is known that she worked in different places for a period of time, although she did not remain long in any particular job. There have also been mentions that she may have moved to Hermosillo; however, this has not been confirmed and remains uncertain.

Despite the lack of clear information, she is remembered as someone who was once part of the community, and there remains hope that she is doing well in her personal journey. Thank you for taking the time to review this information. Please feel free to reach out if any additional details are needed.

Sincerely,
Armando Jauregui.



Dee with Pastor Gela



Dee and two Roach graduates



Glenna and Bob Snider



The Vista Visitors to Agua Prieta



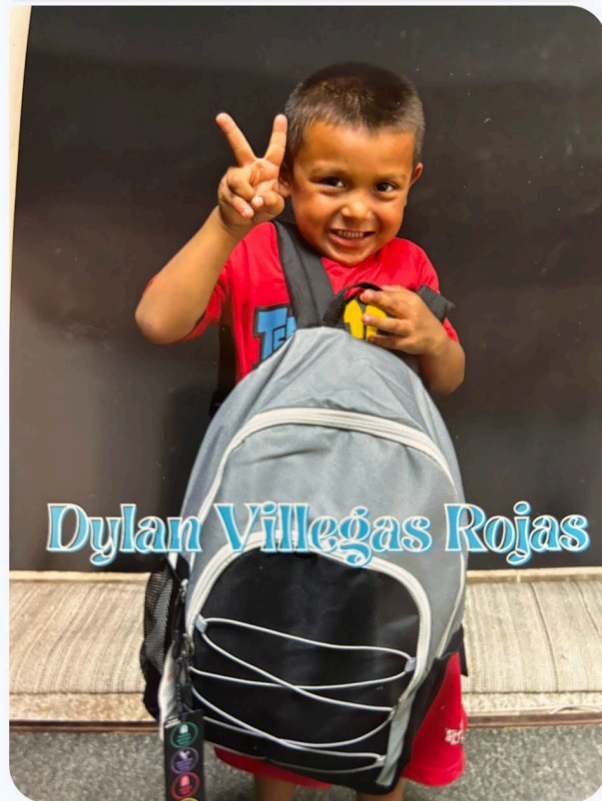
Our Entertainment



Nancy Yob and Paola (& sister)



Preschoolers to University students
happy to get a backpack with
school supplies!



WOMEN OF FAITH

March was a busy month for United Women in Faith. The fund-raising luncheon for Creative Hands on St. Patrick's Day was quite successful with donations totaling \$1352.00. Thank you for your donations and support for Creative Hands.

Also, United Women in Faith had a Bake Sale on Palm Sunday earning \$452.00. Thank you for supporting United Women in Faith.



Upcoming Events:

Sherri Wyland will present a program on her mission work at the April meeting.

United Women in Faith will distribute 142 backpacks to students through Family First, TMM (Tucson Metropolitan Ministries), and EMERGE charities. Donations will be greatly appreciated in helping United Women in Faith continue our work with Tucson charities.

Landscaping Update for Vista Church

Written by Kim Luckman

The Landscape crew has been “digging in” on making some improvements to the grounds around the church, beginning with the development of a 4-year plan and budget which was approved by the Trustees. The “Smart Scape” program includes replacing some older plants with those that are more water tolerant, adding a few trees for shade, and bringing in more color along with natural vegetation. Another critical factor of the plan is to set up environmental zones to match plants with water needs for conservation purposes. An interesting fact: In our Arizona desert climate, you can nourish plants with water, and you can also kill plants with water - the trick is knowing the difference!

During the landscaping plan review it was determined that Vista’s large high performance commercial-style John Deere riding mower will no longer be needed and it is currently up for sale. (See photo below.) If you know of anyone or a business that would be interested in purchasing the mower, please have them contact Kim Luckman, head landscaper. The profits from selling it will be used to purchase a smaller tractor and additional plants.

On March 28th a large group of church volunteers joined the landscape crew to participate in the annual clean-up day. Special thanks to all who helped clear the weeds and debris away from the Stations of the Cross area, so that it looked beautiful for the Easter Sunrise Service, which was attended and enjoyed by nearly 50 people.

On a regular basis, the landscaping team members meet on Thursdays at 8:00 am (7:00 am during the hot summer) and do yard work on the grounds according to their abilities, which could be as simple as hosing down walkways. It’s a great way to spend some worthwhile outdoor time with co-workers while contributing to maintaining Vista’s beautiful campus. We are always looking for additional people to join our friendly crew! Also, before or after church, be sure to look around the grounds to see how the project is taking “roots.

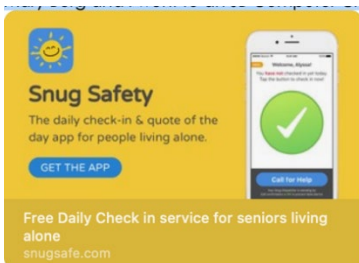


Just a reminder!!! Cell Phone/Tablet Application for Anyone Living Alone

by Sharon Scanlan and Mary Berg

We recently went to a SaddleBrooke Computer Club class and heard about a great idea. A man in our class, who has been a widower for many years, lives alone. He told us about an app called SNUGSAFE:

<https://www.snugsafe.com/>



The app is free. Once you set it up, you check-in daily by a designated time. You can pay a fee monthly for more checks during the day. If you don't check in, the Fire Department is alerted. The man shared that he had a seizure, didn't check in by his selected time and the fire department was contacted. He had a lockbox, so the Fire Department came into his house and took him by ambulance to the hospital.

This could be a great app for anyone who live alone!! Also, everyone should have a lockbox so that the Fire Department can enter your home without breaking down your front door! (Senior Village in SaddleBrooke installs them.) Contact your Fire Department to acquire one.

Vista UMC 2025 Finance Update

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT, SERVE & SUPPORT

Communion Servers: If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please contact Linda Galka lindagalka65@gmail.com or speak with me at church and I will add you to the list. We need two servers the first Sunday of each month to serve bread and juice alongside Pastor Mary and the Liturgist. All elements are gluten free! No advance training is required!

Landscaping

The Landscaping crew are now meeting on Thursdays at 7:00 instead of 8:00, due to the increase in temperatures. The guys are always seeking others to join them, and sometimes there are even donuts provided for those who show up, such a deal!

Agua Prieta greeting cards are available for 50¢ each in the Library during office hours.

Complimentary Prayer Beads are available in the Narthex and in the Library.

Upper Room booklets are available in the Narthex and the church office for \$2.00 each or online at upperroom.org. It is free to sign up for a daily devotional email.

A wheelchair is available during services in the Narthex.

WE THINK THE CHURCH'S PURPOSE IS...

- Fellowship
- Spiritual growth
- Serving our community-those in need
- Love
- Work peacefully together with all people
- Renew our faith
- See how they love one another
- Give us peace through God and Christ
- To lead people to Jesus and God
- Hear and accept God's grace through Jesus Christ
- To bring all people together as one in and through Jesus Christ
- Belonging
- Compassion
- Inspiration for living the coming week
- Loving and helping everyone throughout the world
- Helping others in need
- Following in the footsteps of Christ
- Hope for the world through the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Support and caring for parishioners and community
- To be an example of God's love in the world
- Be the hands and feet of Jesus
- Transformation
- Bringing people to church
- Unity
- Love all; Serve all
- Lead people to love one another
- Live the way of Jesus; follow by example with honesty, compassion, and humility
- Keep us centered in God's love
- Serve others as we love others; love and serve
- Charity; Grace
- To reflect Christ in our love and service to all
- Move forward lovingly, joyfully, and courageously; not leaning on the past, but thinking outside the box and find ways to serve outside our church and neighbors
- To help as we can in the community and world
- A caring community of friends with shared values
- Service to those who need
- Fellowship
- Community and fellowship
- To provide a safe place for all
- A peaceful sanctuary for all
- Lead us to Jesus
- A framework for living our lives in accordance with God's will
- Bring people together to love, serve, lead, help others
- Preach, teach, serve locally and internationally. Lead in community with no apology but guided by God's love
- To lead people in ethical behavior in government courageously

Upcoming Events

Saturday 05.02.26	8:00am	Vista Men's Meeting
Sunday 05.03.26	6:30am	Sunrise Service
Wednesday 05.06.26	11:00am	Handbell Practice
Wednesday 05.06.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 05.07.26	8:00am	Landscaping
Sunday 05.10.26	10:00am	Worship
Wednesday 05.13.26	11:00am	Handbell Practice
Wednesday 05.13.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 05.14.26	8:00am	Landscaping
Sunday 05.17.26	10:00am	Worship
Tuesday 05.18.26	9:30am	Women of Faith Meeting
Tuesday 05.19.26	3:00pm	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday 05.20.26	11:00am	Handbell Practice
Wednesday 05.20.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Sunday 05.24.26	10:00am	Worship
Monday 05.25.2026		Memorial Day – Office Closed
Wednesday 05.27.26	11:00am	Handbell Practice
Wednesday 05.27.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 05.28.26	8:00am	Landscaping
Sunday 05.31.26	10:00am	Worship

Breakfast with the Pastor

2nd Tuesday, of the month, 8:00 AM Sunny side Up Cafe

