



SEPTEMBER 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.



Be Still
And Know
That
I Am God



PSALM 46:10

Fellowship Focus - September 2026 - Beler Watts Jr.



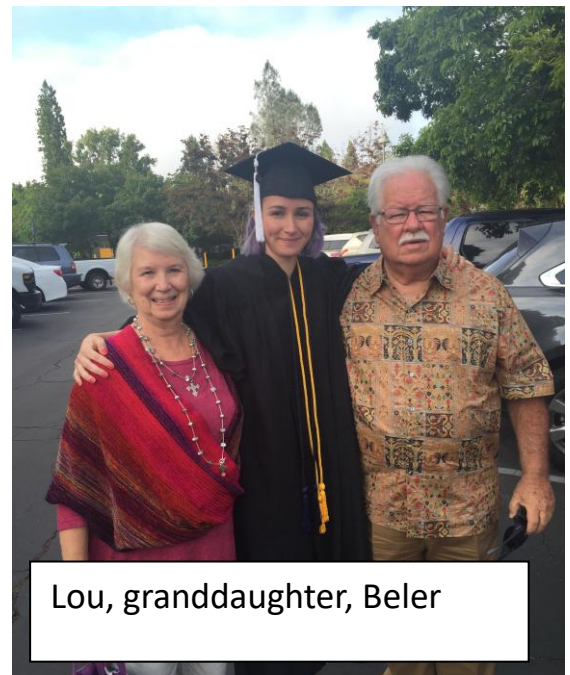
Belers II Grandson Daughter-in-law Beler



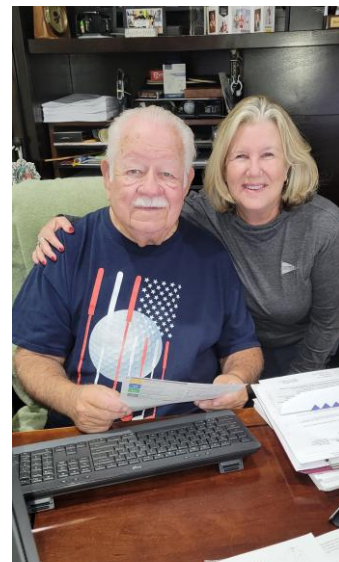
Top pic: Beler, daughter, son
Next down: Beler & Cheryl
Left side: Cheryl & Beler
Bottom: Son, Beler, Daughter



Bel & Cheryl: Walk to Bethlehem



Lou, granddaughter, Bel



Bel III, Bel IV, Bel

Top: Bel & Cheryl-Walk to Bethlehem

Top right: guarding the wedding desserts

Once upon a time a guy was born in Las Vegas, New Mexico (yes, not Nevada) and was given an unusual first name: **Belér**. Since I'm inquisitive, I asked him for the story of its origin. When Belér Watt's grandmother in Arkansas gave birth to his father, the doctor's last name was Beeler and she chose it as a first name, dropping one of the "e's". Years later, in 1941, Belér Watts Jr. was born. The little family soon moved to Paris, Texas (yes, not France) where his father joined the Army and serving overseas, rose up the ranks to Master Sergeant, training with the 155mm Field Gun Howitzer field gun supporting General Patton's missions.

The war ended and in 1945 when Belér was 4, they moved to Tucson, arriving at the local train station and moving in with his grandparents. He attended the Amphitheater Public School system, then consisting of grade school, junior high school as well as high school. He later left Amphi to attend both Catalina Jr. High and High School, where he achieved a Baseball scholarship. While in high school, he became the first person accepted into the Operating Engineers Apprentice Program and 5 months after graduation, the Union went on strike. He enrolled in Pasadena Nazarene College, also working there. He dreamed of going semi-pro in baseball and returned to Tucson to play semi pro which resulted in a severe knee injury, ending his baseball career.

Meanwhile, during those years, a brother, Bryan, (6 years younger) and a sister, Barbara, (13 years younger) were added to the Watts family.

He returned to Pasadena working for JC Penney, where he met Lou Dean, a woman who would be his first wife and the mother of their two wonderful children: Dena Lou, now retired from the Mortgage banking business, has three children and one grandchild and they split their time living between San Diego, CA and Michigan. Their son, Belér III, lives with his wife in Alabama, is retired from the Army and is still working for the Civil Service.

Throughout his career years, Belér has experienced a variety of positions:

Outside collector for SIC Finance in Ontario, CA

Manager and part owner of Ontario Music in Ontario, CA

Catalog credit supervisor for Sears in Tucson, AZ and

Northern California, supervising the credit departments for 31

Catalog stores and then moved into the credit department at the

Sears "A" store on Arden in Sacramento, California. He moved into store

management as the Customer Service Manager and then left Sears to work as the

Credit Manager for Monarch Foods (a wholesale food company) in Sacramento.

He left Monarch Foods to build a house in Rio Linda, CA . on seven acres that included chicken coops. While building the house he drove a 26 ft bobtail truck delivering Home Interiors and Gifts products throughout the Bay Area in California.

He worked briefly as the office manager for Hoigs Marine in Sacramento, that

sold Sea Ray boats, moving from there to working for Littleton Petroleum in Auburn, CA. This was a gasoline bulk plant operation that sold fuel and lubricants to farmers and ranchers in that area.

Mr. Littleton next wanted to own a feed store, so he purchased one about a mile from

Belér's seven acres and Belér managed it for 5 years. During the next few years, he had a small herd of registered Angus cattle, consisting of 30 head and then changed to raising pigs. Counting babies, they would have up to 250 at a time on site.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and golf. In 1985, he and Lou parted ways, but remained friends until her death in 2020.

Belser had started part-time during his Sears days preparing Income Tax Returns and when he left the farm and animals, he started full-time in the Tax Preparation business. His office was in Rancho Cordova, CA and was open there for 26 years. During that time, they were in the top 10 tax preparation firms in the Sacramento area based on the number of returns prepared.

Fifteen years after he and Lou divorced, still in the Sacramento area, he met Cheryl in 1999, a single mom of one daughter and, retired from the California State Assembly and a retired nurse. She was introduced to him by her sister's husband, Belser's best friend. Cheryl's father was a retired Wesleyan Methodist minister and District Superintendent with the Methodist Conference. (Starting at 5 years old, while in Tucson, Belser attended the Northside Church of the Nazarene). His years following while attending the Nazarene Church involved him serving as a church board secretary and Sunday School Superintendent. He also served as the treasurer for the District Sunday School for over 50 years.

After Cheryl and Belser got married in Sacramento they attended a Wesleyan Methodist church there. In 2013, the couple decided to settle in SaddleBrooke Ranch, north of Tucson, where they began attending the Church of the Nazarene in Oro Valley. However, Belser was looking for a church more suited to his current desires and he and Cheryl began driving around the area within distance of their home. Cheryl noticed Vista UMC, in the middle of the desert and suggested they visit. They liked what they saw, began attending, enjoyed the service along with being well received and after careful consideration, joined the church in 2013. Belser joined the SPRC group and today is on the Board of Trustees. Cheryl was active with the Hospitality committee and Sunday refreshment group. Both of them were volunteers with the popular event, "Walk to Bethlehem".

Belser continues his love of golf with a golf repair shop in his garage and now only does some re-gripping of golf clubs and repair (replacing broken shafts or installing new shafts) in golf clubs. He had a fitting shop in California but did not bring any fitting equipment with him to Tucson. Belser noted that he has been doing this for about 25 years, and while just a hobby, he enjoys working with the golf industry.

Sadly, Cheryl passed away September 27, 2022 after a diagnosis of cancer.

For 54 years, Belser has continued his part time tax business during the tax period each year, consisting of 350-400 clients. He visits his daughter and family during their times between their San Diego and Michigan homes, and his son and family in Alabama.

Vista is truly fortunate to count this gentle, quiet man among its members. Throughout his time with the organization, his steady presence and thoughtful approach have left a lasting mark on everyone around him.

By Robin Conner

Chair Yoga on Saturday Mornings

Vista Chair Yoga

Chair Yoga is a gentle, accessible practice designed for all ages, abilities, and fitness levels. Using a chair for support, participants improve balance, strength, flexibility, coordination, posture, and overall mobility while learning simple breathing and relaxation techniques to reduce stress and enhance well-being. Whether you're new to exercise, returning after an injury, or simply looking for a comfortable way to stay active, chair yoga offers a safe, encouraging environment. Beyond the physical benefits, it's also a wonderful opportunity to connect with others, share laughter, build friendships, and enjoy a sense of community while caring for your body, mind, and spirit. Tanya, our instructor, is at Vista every Saturday morning at 10 AM for class. The cost is \$10 per session payable in cash or check. If this class is not within your budget, there is a \$5 scholarship sponsored by the Methodist Men. If interested email Marty Lenzini at mj.aalenzini@gmail.com



at

Vista 90 Years Plus Birthday Club Celebration!

Are you turning 90 or more in 2026? We would like to include you in our celebration on Sunday, September 20, 2026 during the 10:00 am Worship service.

Please contact the church office to get added to the list. 520-825-1985

SAVE THE DATE!!

POTLUCK: "Love One Another"

Sunday, October 11th

After church-St. Elizabeth Room



Community Formation is a new task taken on by Gail Parson and supported by Sharon Scanlan, Mary Berg, Robin Connor, Joan Mayer, Darrell Parson and others who were unable to meet with us. We met on August 5 to explore new interests for our church community.

We began by listing the activities we currently have that draw people together and then moved to new ideas. The new ideas will need leaders/organizers to get them going. The new ideas are listed below. If you would be interested in joining one or more of them, please email (parsong168@gmail.com). Be specific about which activities interest you.

Times and days will be determined by those who are interested.

- Funday
 - Movies, games, puzzles, etc.
- Book Club
 - Members choose books
- Lunch Bunch
 - Group would meet at a restaurant
- Phone chain check-in
 - Organize small groups to text each other daily by a certain time
- Brew & Pub
 - Meet for conversation around life and faith.
- Field Trips
 - Monastery in Florence
 - Visit churches of other faiths to learn
- Church & Society
 - To explore social issues and other current topics such as:
 - LGBTQ and inclusivity
 - Environmental Justice
 - Food and security for all
- Bible Studies
 - Genesis to Revelation
 - Ethiopian Bible and/or other Bibles
 - Books not included in a Protestant Bible
- Movies that make one think – discussion
- Golf event

Dinner for Six

Dinner for Six will resume in October.

You will be automatically included in the Fall session if you were in the Spring session,

New members are always welcome.

Talk to Sandy Schwartz for information or to sign up.

COMMUNION OFFERING FOR SEPTEMBER

SNAK PAK

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!

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.

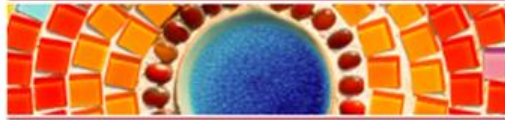
SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 09.01.26	5:00pm	Trustees
Wednesday 09.02.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 09.03.26	7:00am	Landscaping
Saturday 09.05.26	8:00am	Vista Men
Saturday 09.05.26	10:00am	Chair Yoga
Sunday 09.06.26	10:00am	Worship
Tuesday 09.08.26	8:00am	Breakfast with the Pastor – Sunnyside Up Cafe
Wednesday 09.09.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 09.10.26	7:00am	Landscaping
Friday 09.11.26	10:00am	Prayer Beads
Saturday 09.12.26	10:00am	Chair Yoga
Sunday 09.13.26	10:00am	Worship
Monday 09.14.26	1:30pm	SPRC
Tuesday 09.15.26	3:00pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday 09.16.26	11:00am	Work in Progress & Lunch
Wednesday 09.16.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 09.17.26	7:00am	Landscaping
Thursday 09.17.26	1:00pm	Stephen Ministry
Friday 09.18.26	12:00pm	Painting Class - Youth Room
Saturday 09.19.26	10:00am	Chair Yoga
Sunday 09.20.26	10:00am	Worship – 90's Birthday Celebration
Wednesday 09.23.26	11:00am	Work in Progress & Lunch
Wednesday 09.23.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 09.24.26	7:00am	Landscaping
Saturday 09.26.26	10:00am	Chair Yoga
Sunday 09.27.26	10:00am	Worship
Wednesday 09.30.26	11:00am	Work in Progress & Lunch
Wednesday 09.30.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Wednesday 09.30.26	1:00pm	SPRC Meets with District Superintendent
Wednesday 09.30.26	2:00pm	Church Conference

OCTOBER

Thursday 10.01.26	7:00am	Landscaping
Saturday 10.03.26	10:00am	Chair Yoga
Sunday 10.04.26	10:00am	Worship



Prayers for Healing

Pete Rice, Ben Millard, Eileen Carender,
Dottie Lou Colby,
Margaret Overman, Mary Louise Roberson, Marilyn
Rutkowski, Ed Jensen, Linda Phillips
(Jan Bohe's daughter)

Prayers for our South District Churches

Bishop & Staff of the Desert Southwest Conference,
Staff & Churches of the: East District, North District
and West District

Home Bound

Mary Louise Roberson,
Jerry Browning, Orland Burbey, Jan Crown,
Rev. Alan and Kathy Campbell, Lynn Duenkel,
Jerry Eshelman, Bill Gureck, Marsha Hartz,
Jo Ann Hubbard, Ken and Diane Podlasek,
and Sharon Poole

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Admin@vistaUMC.org

Rev. Mary Dotson, Pastor

Pastor@vistaUMC.org

cell:702-786-4985

**Our Church Conference will be Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 at
2:00pm in the Elizabeth Room. (SPRC will meet with the District
Superintendent at 1:00pm the same day)**

ECHOES EMAIL

Please send all Echoes articles, events and photos to

mamayob@gmail.com

Subject line: ECHOES

THANKS!!!

