



OCTOBER 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.



Fellowship Focus - October 2026 - Edna & David Alligood



Edna & David – Easter



David – Air Force



Matt Nico-Grandson David



Granddaughter Paige and Edna



Niece Tara and Lauri



Matt's wife, Patti with daughter Elise

By Robin Conner

Growing up in South rural Georgia presented challenges for both David and Edna. Edna is from a family consisting of two brothers and one sister and David had one brother and five sisters. David states that the early years were much like many others struggling through depression times. His father passed away just as he turned six years of age and he always felt "cheated"; not having a dad to grow up with. His high school years were not spent in sports, but working at a local movie theatre as a projectionist, a job that was enviable to others as it was the only entertainment in the rural agricultural community. He loved it so much that he continued after graduation; the most enjoyable, carefree years of his life.

College beckoned him and he graduated from Cal State LA with a degree in Engineering.

After graduating from high school, Edna continued her education at various colleges.

Movies in the 40's were thoughtfully made with top-notch entertainment until television spoiled that. David met Edna at the movie house where she was the "pretty popcorn girl." They married in 1954, 72 years ago. Those 72 years have seen military service in the Air Force for David and Edna worked for the Air Force in Civil Service. Various careers continued while raising a family and as David states, "generally trying to get ahead". A good break for David came with an offer to work for Welded Tube Company of America in Philadelphia, PA. He was the second person hired to engage in the design and building of a structural steel plant in Chicago, IL. It consisted of 500,000 sq. ft. under the roof to begin with and additional sq. footage later on. David's efforts "to get ahead" were accomplished as he began as Manager of Engineering, and ended as Vice President, Engineering and Planning.

The position offered extensive travel for which he was eternally grateful. One trip from Italy and France included flying home on a Concorde from Paris to New York. That ill-fated trip however ended when the plane lost an engine on takeoff, aborting the flight. They flew around Paris jettisoning the international fuel load, finally returning to the terminal where another plane was being made ready for the anxious passengers, including David, who says they deplaned and went to the bar for a "stiff drink". Back on board, they flew to New York at over 1,400 mph (Mach 2) and 60,000 ft. He points out that at that altitude one can begin to see the curvature of the earth. In no time at all, they were "letting down" over Newfoundland to land in New York, USA, warming his heart. Work and years passed.....Three children joined the Alligood family: Laura, the oldest, lives in Tucson and works for Raytheon. She frequently joins her parents on Sundays at Vista. Their middle daughter, Candi, sadly passed away from an accident several years ago. The youngest, Matt, lives in Chicago with his wife and two daughters; one in college and her sister will join the ranks of college in a year.

The Alligoods retired in earnest in 1999 in Tucson where their present home in SaddleBrooke was just completed and David satisfied his lifelong dream of "being a cowboy." Tucson fit his idea of Out West and they both love their retirement years and having time to enjoy square dancing. Edna got involved in SaddleBrooke by joining a meditation group as well as a book club. Prior to retiring in Tucson, Edna was involved in Real Estate for 15 years, an occupation she thoroughly enjoyed.

And why have they been members at Vista UMC for the past 28 years? After trying several other churches, they were drawn by Vista's friendliness, beginning with the greeter at the door. Edna eventually joined the ranks of Usher and was a Stephen Minister for 16 years. David served his time with the Columbarium duties.

Thank you, Alligoods for your many years at Vista UMC!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The fall schedule of United Women in Faith is a busy one. The September meeting included a program about Gospel Rescue Mission, and the October 20 meeting will include a program given by an Oro Valley police officer discussing senior safety and scams. In November United Women in Faith will assemble backpacks for Gospel Rescue Mission.

Can you help us with items for Gospel Rescue Mission? Items needed are:

1. Socks - men's women's and children's
2. Non-perishable items such as bars (protein and granola) cheese and peanut butter crackers, fruit cups, all individually wrapped

3. Hygiene items such as toothpaste, deodorant, and hand sanitizer

Please deposit your GRM items in the basket located in the breezeway at church.

Upcoming events for United Women in Faith

November 17 - assemble backpacks for Gospel Rescue Mission

December 13 - BAKE SALE before and after church

November 22, 29, December 6 - distribute Christmas stockings to be filled with hygiene products for two Tucson charities. Return stockings to church no later than December 13.

Vista 90 Years Plus Birthday Club Celebration!

September 20th marked a truly special milestone as we celebrated our annual **90s Plus event**. This cherished tradition brings inspiration each year, inviting us all to live fully, let go freely, and love deeply while we can.

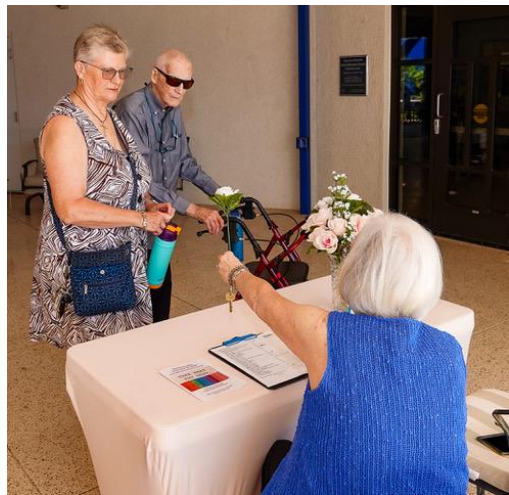
Delores Brindle started this beautiful tradition eight years ago. After realizing one of her birthday card recipients was turning 90, she began reflecting on the countless moments and memories that make up a long, meaningful life, and suggested that this group of special individuals should be formally recognized.

To honor them, each honoree was presented with a rose upon entering the sanctuary. They also enjoyed a PowerPoint presentation showcasing their photos, followed by a wonderful luncheon hosted by members of the **Church Council**.

Congratulations to all of our incredible honorees!

— Delores Brindle and Robin Conner





SAVE THE DATE!!

POTLUCK: "Love One Another"

Sunday, October 11th

After church—St. Elizabeth Room



2026 Stewardship Series ————— Love One Another
OCTOBER 4th — NOVEMBER 1st

“We live in _____ times.” How would you fill in the blank? I have looked at that opening sentence repeatedly over the past month, and my answer shifts depending on the day. Some days, I am overwhelmed by cynicism about humanity. On those hard days, the word that comes to mind is disturbing, or disheartening, or even despairing. I find myself wondering if there is a realistic way through or out of this particular cultural moment.

But then, as your pastor, another thought takes root: Have we simply forgotten the tools God has provided to transform the suffering and injustice that plague our world?

It is remarkably easy to stay hooked on what is wrong around us that we forget that we are called to take part in transforming our world. Instead we remain glued to the news cycle or scroll numbingly through social media, commenting on posts that validate our opinions or trigger our anxieties. This constant attachment to the negative fuels a destructive habit: it moves us to "othering" one another over our differences, whether those traits are visible or merely perceived.

"Othering" builds an invisible "us versus them" barrier that amplifies division rather than highlighting our shared humanity. But God—who is the very essence of Love—calls us away from "othering" and invites us into "neighboring." If "othering" creates distance, "neighboring" bridges the gap. "Neighboring" means deepening our understanding of love from the realm of abstract ideals and into concrete, everyday action.

This year's Stewardship emphasis invites us to use the gifts God has given us to build bridges with our neighbors, fostering connection rather than division. Our ultimate reference point for this way of life is Jesus. At the meal, we call the Last Supper, Jesus gathered a deeply flawed, divided group — including those who would betray him and deny him and others who did not agree with his message. By washing their feet and sharing the meal, Jesus replaced sentiment with service. His clear commandment to "love one another" demonstrates that true love actively reaches out to the person across the table, especially when staying apart feels easier.

So, beginning **Sunday, October 4th at 10:00 AM we will begin a series called: LOVE ONE ANOTHER: Replacing "Othering" with "Neighboring."** Together, we will explore how Jesus modeled radical hospitality and how we can apply those same tools in our daily lives today. If you are tired of the division, if you are seeking a way through the cynicism, or if you simply long to practice a faith that heals rather than divides, there is a place at the table for you. Come as you are, and let us learn together how to transform our community through active, neighborly love.

Because of Jesus,
Rev. Mary Dotson, Pastor



MINISTRY FAIR - OCTOBER 18TH BEFORE AND AFTER SERVICE

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.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Congregational Care Committee is here you if you need short-term meals, rides to the doctor or other appointments, or visitations.

Please let the church office know or call Sandy Schwartz

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.

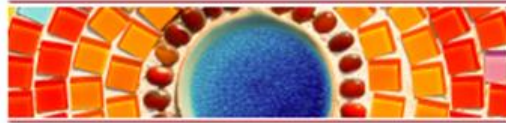
Upper Room booklets are available in the Narthex and the church office for \$2.00 each or online at upperroom.org. It is free to sign up for a daily devotional email.

A wheelchair is available during services in the Narthex.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

OCTOBER

Thursday 10.01.26	7:00am	Landscaping
Friday 10.02.2026	10:00am	Prayer Beads
Saturday 10.03.26	8:00am	Vista Men
Saturday 10.03.26	10:00am	Chair Yoga
Sunday 10.04.26	10:00am	Worship
Tuesday 10.06.26	5:00pm	Trustees
Wednesday 10.07.26	11:00am-2:00pm	Craft & Crunch
Wednesday 10.07.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 10.08.26	7:00am	Landscaping
Saturday 10.10.26	10:00am	Chair Yoga
Saturday 10.10.26	11:30-2:00pm	Potluck Set-up
Sunday 10.11.26	10:00am	Worship & POTLUCK
Tuesday 10.13.26	8:00am	Breakfast with Pastor – Sunnyside Café
Wednesday 10.14.26	10:00am	Adult Education
Wednesday 10.14.26	11:00am	Crafts & Crunch
Wednesday 10.14.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 10.15.26	7:00am	Landscaping
Thursday 10.15.26	1:00pm	Stephen Ministry
Saturday 10.17.26	10:00am	Chair Yoga
Sunday 10.18.26	10:00am	Worship & MINISTRY FAIR
Tuesday 10.20.26	10:00-11:00am	UWF Meeting
Tuesday 10.20.26	2:00pm	Finance Meeting
Tuesday 10.20.26	3:00pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday 10.21.26	11:00am	Crafts & Crunch
Wednesday 10.21.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 10.22.26	7:00am	Landscaping
Saturday 10.24.26	10:00am	Chair Yoga
Sunday 10.25.26	10:00am	Worship
Wednesday 10.28.26	10:00am	Adult Education
Wednesday 10.28.26	11:00am	Crafts & Crunch
Wednesday 10.28.26	1:00pm	Choir Practice
Thursday 10.29.26	7:00am	Landscaping
Saturday 10.31.26	10:00am	Chair Yoga



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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ECHOES EMAIL

Please send all Echoes articles, events and photos to:

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Subject line: ECHOES

THANKS!!!

