

Summer 2025 Edition



2025 Quiet Disciples Honorees

Saturday, June 7, 2025



Escondido First United Methodist Church
341 S Kalmia St., CA 92025



South District United Women in Faith
Quiet Day Apart Program
Honoring Local Units Quiet Disciples
“Whom Shall I Send, Here I am Lord”

REGISTRATION: 9:00 am - 10:00 am

WORSHIP: (10 am to Noon)

Gathering Songs

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

In Faith We Sing 2171

We Are Called

In Faith We Sing 2172

God of Love and God of Power (Verses 1,2,4)

UMC Hymnal 578

Land Acknowledgement:

Kay Guy

As we begin our time together, let us acknowledge that this service is being held on the traditional lands of the Kumeyaay/Diegueño, Luiseno, Cahuilla, and Cupeno peoples. Let us pay our respects to the elders, both past and present.

We remember . . .

That this land has experienced oppression and continues to suffer.

We honor . . .

the legacies of those who have served as the first stewards of this land.

We receive . . .

their wisdom, witness, and courage.

We commit . . .

to never forget, always honor, and be ever mindful of our shared responsibility to honor and respect this land and its stories.

Welcome:

Lynette Hayes

Announcements: UWF Upcoming Events

Polly Petersen

Mission u - July 11 & 12 at Cal State Long Beach

Annual Celebration - September 20, Location TBA

UWF Undesignated Mission Offering will be collected in baskets on the lunch tables.

Opening Prayer:

Marcia Easton

O Lord,

open my eyes that I may see the needs of others;
open my ears that I may hear their cries;
open my heart so that they need not be without succor;
let me not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong;
Nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.
Show me where love and hope and faith are needed,
and use me to bring them to those places,
And so open my eyes and ears
That I may this coming day be able to do some work of peace for thee.

(Alan Paton, South Africa, from UMC Hymnal)

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-14

Judy Edelblute

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **13** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Introduction of the Speaker

Kay Guy

Message from:

Rev. Lisa Petty

Quiet Disciple Presentation:

Lynette Hayes

Song: *Open My Eyes That I May See* - Verse 1 UMC Hymnal #454
First Group of Quiet Disciples Recognition

Song: *Open My Eyes That I May See* - Verse 2
Second Group of Quiet Disciples Recognition

Song: *Open My Eyes That I May See* - Verse 3
Third Group of Quiet Disciples Recognition

Closing Song: *Here I am Lord*

UMC Hymnal #593

Benediction & Grace:

Rev. Lisa Petty

Dismissal & Lunch:

Kay Guy

Quiet Disciple Nominee » Lauren Gabby

Chollas View United Methodist Church



The person we selected this year exemplifies the definition of "Quite Disciple." Her quiet and dedicated demeanor exhibits the qualities of an unassuming leader. She is caring in every sense of the word; she is generous with her time and resources. Her word is her commitment, and she can be relied upon to fulfill her promises. She doesn't wait to be asked; when she sees a need she can help with, she acts. She has seamlessly woven her professional skills and her unwavering dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of those in her path. This special lady is a mother of three; she and her husband raised them from birth to have a solid faith-based understanding of the importance of a Godly life. Two of her children have recently graduated from college, and the third is attending college. Her dedication to having her God light shine goes beyond her immediate family to those in the community. She has shared her professional knowledge to help steer community members to beneficial services. She has been a Godsend for a family that needs a hand up. She has and does stand in the gap for them; her unfailing grace truly blesses them.

This person is currently the Chairperson of the Pastor Parrish Committee. She utilizes her interpersonal skills, along with professional knowledge, to maintain a pleasant working environment. Considering all the things she does exceptionally well, her passion is for children. She was the Sunday School Superintendent, where she helped shape the curriculum best suited for the children. Her dedication to supporting includes coordinating Vacation Bible School, serving as the point of contact for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, and supporting all Community Outreach fairs. Our well-deserving nominee is Lauren Gabby.



Quiet Disciples Nominee » Linda Pohl & Joan Philbin

Community UMC, Huntington Beach,

Sometimes it's just so hard to choose. We at Community United Methodist Church, Huntington Beach, are blessed to have so many people whose quiet ministry benefits us all. The two women we honor today are always willing to answer the call with a smile when help is needed. They have both served as circle leaders and are both very creative, contributing their handiwork to our Craft Marketplace for Mission. Joan has participated in several adult work team trips, helps deliver food to the Southwest Community Center, serves as a liturgist, assists with selling Scrip, and acts as a hostess for memorial services. Her wood carvings are works of art. Linda can be relied upon to help set up for events, including creating centerpieces that beautify the venue, is a fixture at our service projects, and is a faithful kitchen helper at Messy Church. She is a talented watercolorist whose cards are a joy to send and receive and are more likely to be framed than put in a drawer. We are happy to honor Joan Philbin and Linda Pohl, whose service to our congregation and community personifies the true definition of a Quiet Disciple.



LINDA POHL



JOAN PHILBIN

Quiet Disciple Nominee » Kathleen Palmer First United Methodist Church, Escondido



In just four years, Kate Palmer has made a significant impact on our congregation at First United Methodist Church, Escondido. Kate regularly attends our Rise contemporary service with her family, but also often attends the Sanctuary service.

We have discovered that Kate is very skilled at helping others explore our faith. She inspires but also asks the right questions so that we think about our faith in new ways. She is a part of our Common Ground study group, often sharing her creative teaching techniques and guiding the group to great in-depth discussions.

In Escondido United Women in Faith, Kate is a member of the Leah Circle, regularly sharing programs and devotions. She is the Spiritual Growth coordinator for our local organization and, in that capacity, inspires us to see things in new ways. Kate was on the planning committee for our women's retreat and shared a beautiful "ocean devotion" while we stood on Sunset Cliffs in San Diego.

Kate shares her artistic talents with our Craft Circle. Her quilts and tote bags are especially popular items at our annual craft sale.

Her family is very important to her, and, along with everything else she does, Kate manages to homeschool one of her grandsons.

An enthusiastic volunteer, teacher, and source of inspiration, Kate Palmer is our Quiet Disciple of 2025.



Quiet Disciple Nominee » Bekah Palmer First United Methodist Church, Escondido



Bekah is very active, benefiting many, both within and outside the United Women in Faith (UWF) community.

Bekah is a tireless advocate for communication. Whether working with internal or external groups, she actively solicits information from various sources. She ensures the final information is written in a manner easily understood by the reader and disseminated to those who are supposed to receive the final document.

She willingly took on the project of writing the church newsletter, which is published weekly with coordination between ministers, group leaders, and adherence to everyone's timelines. Seeing a need for communication between the women, both within and outside of the Rise service congregation, Bekah created a WhatsApp chat thread. She then created another WhatsApp chat thread for the new UWF Priscilla Circle, in which she is an active member. These chat threads provide a friendly means of communication.

While helping others, she recognized a need for individuals in need of meals and thus created a church meal train. She coordinates with the church's Care Team and schedules the meal train, which involves family, friends, and others delivering home-cooked meals to individuals going through a challenging time in their lives.

Bekah also participates in the UWF Craft Circle. During the Advent season, Bekah took it upon herself to start, assign, and set up an exchange of Jesse Tree ornaments. This fun and educational event involved women of various ages, from all the church services, with a "like" vision of Advent.

Bekah does all of these projects with gusto and determination. She sees the good side of people and encourages others to do the same. She leads by example and does not shy away from tough challenges. Bekah's vision, tact, leadership, decisiveness, and responsibility benefit our entire church.



Quiet Disciple Nominee » Liza Jo Rabina First United Methodist Church of National City



Liza Rabina is a delightful, friendly, and hardworking individual. She is a Military wife and a Nurse. She has two children: Katrina, who is married to Jared Chappelear, also a U.S. Space Force member stationed in Hawaii, and a son, Zenas, who serves as our Church Custodian.

Her husband, Wilfred "Sonny" Rabina, a retired Navy officer, is now serving as our Church Administrative Assistant. Liza is always by his side, working and helping him finish all the work, especially during special occasions.

Her children described their mother as selfless and devoted, consistently prioritizing her family, especially when their father was deployed in the Navy. Their motto is "Family is not only an important thing. It's everything".

As a nurse, she is very passionate about caring for her patients, understanding, and compassionate. She is one of the hospital's Telemetry Unit's best assets.

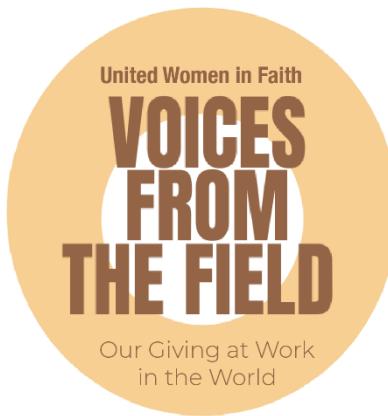
Currently, Liza serves as an Alto in our Choir and our Wedding Coordinator. She is very creative and artistic. She usually makes the women's and men's corsages for special occasions, leis for graduation, and other decorations as needed. She also volunteers for our Vacation Bible School, taking on any tasks assigned to her.

Liza is one of our active volunteers during the Rummage Sale, especially in preparing the Jewelry section – arranging and pricing our merchandise.

The family is a devoted member of our church, and they helped each other to meet the deadlines.

Liza is the type of woman who is caring and does the work voluntarily without being asked. She is always ahead of time, even if she is not being asked. If she knows she can do the job, she will volunteer; if we request it of her, she will do it with open arms.

That is why we selected her to be our "Quiet Disciple for this year.



Quiet Disciple Nominee » Debbie George First United Methodist Church of Orange



The First United Methodist Church of Orange is pleased to nominate Debbie George as our 2025 Quiet Disciple. Debbie has been an active member of our church since the late 1970s. In the early years of her membership in our church, Debbie taught Sunday School and supported the youth acolyte program as an "Acolyte Mom." She has served many years in the Altar Guild and is currently its chairperson. She has not only been involved in preparing our church for the weekly Sunday worship services, but also in the extra effort required to decorate for those high holy days, including Christmas, Palm Sunday, and Easter. And speaking of the extra mile, Debbie and her family moved to Riverside in 1982 and continued to be active weekly members of our church. She helps prepare the monthly communion table and has assisted in serving communion to our homebound members.

Debbie serves as an usher on a monthly schedule and serves weekly as an acolyte. On Monday mornings, she returns to church to help with the counting of Sunday's collection, keeps track of Sunday's attendance records, and is a member of the Worship Design Committee, which meets on Mondays.

Debbie participates in our church's daily Dial-a-Devotion ministry. For this ministry, she prepares and records a monthly devotion. She is a member of the Hospitality Committee and has just recently added Wedding Coordinator to her involvement in the life of our church.

Debbie's contagious laugh, continuous smile, and upbeat spirit are a testament to her love of Jesus and her desire to spread His love to all who worship and work with her. Our church is truly blessed to have Debbie George as a worshiping and serving member, as well as our 2025 Quiet Disciple.



Quiet Disciple Nominee » Mike Sorce First United Methodist Church of San Diego



Mike Sorce served in the Navy for 22 years. He was the Captain of a Submarine. After he retired, he worked for 11 years at the National Laboratory in Idaho. Mike is a constant source of support to our church through weekly prayer team meetings, community gatherings, and supervision of the CREW, a group of members who volunteer to repair and care for the church. Mike has a fun sense of humor. The United Women in Faith Unit at First United Methodist Church of San Diego counts on Mike to MC fun events and keep people laughing and filled with joy. He is greatly appreciated. However, he has not been told how much he means to the church community.

Quiet Disciple Nominee » Linda Parker Foothills United Methodist Church



Linda Parker is a kind and gentle lady who has helped Foothills United Methodist Church in countless ways for years.

Each year, United Women in Faith has a Rummage Sale. This year, Linda worked diligently to recruit volunteers to work on it. She stood near the entrance of our church and recruited volunteers each Sunday, as well as others to help with sign-ups. She also worked very hard during the Rummage Sale, which was very successful this year. Our Foothills United Women in Faith is profoundly grateful to her. Linda has been the chair of our church's Mission Committee. In that capacity, she has organized events to draw attention to the various groups that help in different ways at Foothills. As a result, more people become involved in helping in these areas.

Some of the groups on the Mission Committee include United Women in Faith (of course!), Common Ground, which helps impoverished students, Good Shepherd Ministry Center, which provides food, clothing, and other support to our neighbors in need, Meals on Wheels, Volunteers in Medicine, and many others.

In December, she led "Celebrate Christmas," an opportunity for all of us at Foothills to donate to worthwhile causes. She also helped the Mission Committee determine how to allocate the profits from the Rummage Sale so that they could support many missions.

Linda is truly a "Quiet Disciple" in another way that most people are unaware of. She sends cards and notes of encouragement to people trying to make a difference or facing challenges. She has been "The Wind Beneath My Wings" several times!

We are pleased to announce that Linda Parker has been selected for our 2025 Quiet Disciple Award!



Quiet Disciple Nominee » Bud Lewis La Mesa First United Methodist Church



Bud Lewis was selected as our Quiet Disciple because he embodies the qualities of one who shows love and compassion without expecting to be noticed, thanked, or praised — someone who follows the example of Jesus by serving others where there is a need. Bud was involved in leadership within the church as a lay leader for three years, attending the CalPac annual conference during that time. He also supported fundraising efforts at La Mesa's Oktoberfest carnival, as well as UWF fundraisers. He assisted with the worship services as a communion steward, serving in the church and among the shut-ins. He distinguished himself as one of the most welcoming among the new attendees. Bud's dedication to both the church members and those outside the church was exceptional. He helped with the church's Fresh Start monthly program for the homeless, provided transportation for UWF members to attend our monthly meetings, and enjoyed being part of UWF's activities. Bud lost his beloved wife about a year ago, and now shows his love and caring in grief groups and on the telephone with others who have recently lost a family member or friend. Bud moved to Seal Beach recently, but he continues to serve in a support role and is also an active member of his new church. He is one of the most committed members to the entire church — the general congregation, the women's, and the children's programs - a true blessing for any church.

Quiet Disciple Nominee »Bruce Tunell Laguna Beach United Methodist Church



Our Quiet Disciple for 2025 is Bruce Tunell. Bruce and his lovely wife, Judith, joined our church six years ago. Bruce loved Judith fiercely and stood by her throughout all her health challenges; she passed away several years ago.

Bruce is a well-rounded individual who has a lot to offer. In the past, he was in the military, volunteered, and worked in the banking industry. All of these experiences seem to have made him well-regarded by his peers. He brings all of these life experiences to our church and the congregation.

Bruce was a co-leader with Rev Linda Robinson in a Grief Group, and here is what she shared with us.

About Bruce: "I had the privilege of co-leading an 8-week Grief Recovery group with Bruce shortly after we arrived at LBUMC. His quiet and attentive listening skills were a powerful asset to the group, complemented by his care and compassion for those navigating the journey of grief. His strong faith was a testament to the power of hope and healing following loss, as Bruce had recently lost his beloved wife, Judith, shortly before volunteering to lead the group with me. Since then, he continues to bless others with his ministry of care within our congregation.

He also calls those on the anniversary of their loss. What a caring spirit. If the church is in need, he steps up, asking for anonymity.

If he is your friend, he is your friend for life! He still visits the friends in Phoenix that he and Judith had when they lived there.

Bruce attends church most Sundays unless he is out of town and has kind words for everyone. He interacts with church members on Sundays or via phone, email, and text. He keeps us all connected and reminds us how kindness can spread quickly.

He has shown us how to treat and love people no matter what. He truly is an indispensable Quiet Disciple at Laguna Beach UMC and UWF.



Quiet Disciple Nominee » Kim and Howard Lee Laguna Country United Methodist Church



Laguna Country United Methodist Church is honoring Kim and Howard Lee as our Quiet Disciples.

Kim and Howard have been members of our church since about 2014. We share our facility with a Korean Congregation. Kim and Howard joined our congregation rather than the Korean-speaking church.

Kim and Howard arrive early on Sunday mornings so that Howard can attend choir practice or bell choir practice. Meanwhile, Kim prepares the sanctuary for worship, placing the offering baskets and bulletins out for the ushers, as well as placing name tags and other welcoming items for visitors in the Narthex. Kim is our main greeter, opening the doors, sweeping the walkway, and greeting congregants as they arrive, asking their name. Kim volunteers in the office weekly to help count contributions and help with banking.

Howard had no prior musical experience, but he discovered his musical talents by joining the choir and the handbell ensemble. Howard also serves as a liaison between the Administrative Council and the Korean pastors.

We are grateful to Kim and Howard Lee for their ministry, and we honor them as our Quiet Disciples.

Quiet Disciple Nominee » Nancy Izumoto Lemon Grove United Methodist Church



Our Quiet Disciple is probably the quietest individual in our unit, but that's not why we're honoring her this year.

She is a dedicated servant for our unit and church. She's always looking for ways to give quietly. She often brings gifts to church to keep our various cabinets stocked, especially our hospitality cabinet. We can always count on her to help with setup and cleanup whenever needed. She always does it with a great attitude and a warm smile. She answers all appeals with her generous spirit. She is a wonderful example of how we should live, give, and serve as Christians.

Our honoree often makes sure our members have a ride to church and meetings. She's also willing to be a driver for special events.

Our recipient also serves as our very efficient unit treasurer. We can always count on her to help set up our yard sales before dawn, serve as our cashier, and stay until everything is packed.

Nancy Izumoto is most deserving to be named our Quiet Disciple.



Quiet Disciple Nominee » Jill Stack Mesa Verde United Methodist Church



A quiet disciple is someone whose personal ministry is usually accomplished outside the spotlight...in a quiet, unassuming manner...yet his or her presence is a gift and example which enriches the lives of those he or she touches. Every year, Quiet Disciples from the United Women in Faith organization in the South District (our district) are honored at the Quiet Disciple Service in June.

Not to keep you in suspense, it is my honor to present this award to Jill Stack. She has been active in the Mesa Verde United Methodist Church activities for over 10 years. She has made a definite impact with her quiet, assuming manner in cleaning EVERY closet on the campus to have closet space for any future renters. This was a tremendous undertaking that took many hours and lots of sweat equity. Helping her was Lloyd Harrison, and the two of them, for 18 months, were seen with a checklist in hand

Quiet Disciple Nominee » Faith Galbadores

Nestor United Methodist Church



It is with deep gratitude and admiration that the Nestor United Women in Faith recognize Faith Galbadores as our Quiet Disciple this year. Faith exemplifies the very spirit of quiet, steadfast service— working behind the scenes, never seeking the spotlight, but always making a lasting impact.

For many years, Faith has dedicated herself to the life and ministry of the church in various meaningful ways. She has served with devotion as a communion steward, carefully preparing the Lord's Table so that others may come and receive. Faith has assisted her mother for years in bringing fresh, beautiful flowers each Sunday to adorn the altar. Her voice has also been lifted in praise as a longtime member of the church choir. In addition to her worship roles, Faith has taken part in the administrative life of the church. She has served on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and currently offers her wisdom and guidance as a member of the church's leadership board.

Beyond her church service, Faith is a full-time teacher who has taught several grade levels of elementary school children. Her love of learning and commitment to young minds reflect her calling to serve both God and her community.

Faith Galbadores is truly a quiet disciple—faithful, humble, and unwavering in her commitment to God and others. Today, we honor her heart of service and thank her for being such a blessing to our church family.

Quiet Disciple Nominee » Laura Rafferty

Santee United Methodist Church

Santee UWIF is pleased to name Laura Rafferty our Quiet Disciple for 2025!



Laura is one of our newest members and has instantly become an integral part of the Unit. She participates with enthusiasm and a commitment to doing the job well, as evidenced by her volunteering for various projects and events.

Laura is currently the unit's Publicity co-chair and is working extremely hard to find new ways to communicate with our members, congregation, and potential new members.

Laura is also an incredibly talented musician; she has been playing the violin since she was a child. She met her late husband while teaching violin in a music shop. Currently, Laura is a member of the Santee United Methodist Church choir.

Laura was also an adult leader with both of her children when they participated in a girls' youth organization. Laura has two adult children and two grandchildren.

Laura is the ultimate crafter; she sews, crochets, and can make anything! Laura has shared her crafting skills with the Santee United Women in Faith during our craft days held during the summer months.

Laura is a dedicated team member who efficiently completes tasks with a cheerful outlook.

Thank you, Laura, you truly are an asset to our unit. Congratulations on being Santee.

United Women in Faith's 2025 Quiet Disciple!

Quiet Disciple Nominee » Jeanne Johnson San Carlos United Methodist Church

Our Quiet Disciple Award goes to a woman who supports missions and enriches others' lives with Christ's love.

From a young age, she learned the value and ethics of service. She holds a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in social work. After retiring in 2014, she moved to San Diego, joined our San Carlos congregation—"lucky us"—and has been serving tirelessly ever since.

She volunteers for Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. She is a member of the San Carlos Outreach Committee, often serving as a team leader for "Labor with our Neighbor" projects, delivering weekly donations like food for the Good Neighbor Center and clothing to the Good Shepherd Center in El Cajon.

Her most significant project is the Christ ministry dinners in North Park. Every 4th Thursday of the month, our church serves dinner to up to 80 people. She recruits volunteers each month to prepare and serve the food, and most months, she helps feed the community.

She is a United Women in Faith board member, chairs the Social Justice Committee, and is part of the New Entra Casa Circle. She also helps with memorial services, volunteers for Bible Study dinners, and is a member of the Nature Mandate Book Club. She is a busy woman and a truly quiet disciple.

We thank Jeannie Johnson for her love and dedication to Christ's work at San Carlos. Congratulations!



Quiet Disciple Nominee » Fran Battey San Dieguito United Methodist Church



A Quiet Disciple is someone whose ministry is carried out in a gentle, unassuming way, yet whose presence is a true gift, quietly enriching our fellowship and deeply touching the lives of those around her. Fran embodies this spirit. She steps forward to help whenever she senses a need, without seeking recognition. As a dedicated member of the Martha Circle, she generously contributes to its activities and outreach. Fran partners with Christ Ministry Center, helping to identify needs within the community. She organized a warm coat drive in the fall and regularly delivers essential clothing and supplies for the babies and children served by their programs. Her quiet faith in action is a powerful example to us all.

Quiet Disciple Nominee » Rebecca Tantama Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church



Shepherd of the Hills UWF has chosen to honor Rebecca Tantama as Quiet Disciple. Soft-spoken and gentle-natured, Rebecca does so much for so many in quiet, behind-the-scenes ways.

Born to missionary parents, Rebecca has lived by their example throughout her life. She trained as a nurse, which is its own kind of mission. She served with the Peace Corps in Armenia for two years. When she lived in Florida, she went on many mission trips to many countries with her church.

Rebecca is a harpist and regularly carries her harp to the hospital or a nursing home to bless them with her beautiful music. She sings in our choir and plays for church whenever asked. Rebecca is often the one who notices a visitor and makes sure they meet a few people on the patio, or invites them to whatever is happening that week.

She volunteers at the Community Center, helping serve meals to seniors. Through the Boys and Girls Club, she tutors students in reading. Rebecca said they need more tutors and encourages all of you to consider volunteering.

She has served as our UWF Spiritual Growth Chair for several years and has brought music to our devotions. She also coordinates with our program chair, often finding just the right speaker for a special program. Sometimes she donates the honorarium, so all the funds go to missions.

One member used to call Rebecca their angel, and she is to many people!



Quiet Disciple Nominee » Marie Campolongo St. Mark's United Methodist Church of San Diego



Marie and her husband joined St. Mark's in 1961. Over the years, she has served in a variety of volunteer positions. Marie served as our Church Council secretary for 35 years. She has been a volunteer in the office, answering phones and assisting the staff. She has helped update our membership records and helped with the church rummage sale. She currently serves on the Concert Committee and the Inviting and Welcoming Committee.

Long before we had an Inviting and Welcoming Committee, Marie made it her mission to greet anyone new to our church and ensure they felt welcome. She always took the time to introduce them to other church members during coffee time.

Marie is a blessing to our St. Mark's family, and we are so happy to honor her as our "Quiet Disciple."

Quiet Disciple Nominee » Karen Pierre St. Paul's United Methodist Church of San Diego



This year's honoree, Karen Pierre, is an extraordinary woman. She has served in the Navy as a Commander for 13 years and worked at Kaiser Permanente, where she retired in 2018. She is quiet, soft-spoken, and stands at about 5'1 " or 5'2". She loves plants and fresh flowers in the sanctuary. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she ensured we had them during the taping of the worship services. When we returned to in-person worship in 2020, she decided to apply for a grant to coordinate the Parents of Toddlers' Potty Training Ministry and to encourage families with young children to return to church.

The Parents of Toddlers Ministry's mission is to establish an opportunity for parents of toddlers in our congregation and local community to fellowship in a Christian environment and grow spiritually as they learn parenting skills.

She has conducted Potty Training Classes in 2020, 2021, 2023, and 2024, with an average attendance of 35 families per class. About 90% of our participants are mothers. The classes are conducted at St Paul's UMC of San Diego. A certified potty-training consultant and a Spanish-speaking translator do the presentations. Grants received from the Georgia Lynch Trust have allowed us to provide potty training chairs, toddler step stools, potty training underwear, potty training charts with stickers, baby wipes, Toddler Bibles, backpacks, and pre-K workbooks for each toddler.

The Potty Training Class's objectives are to provide parents with information and equipment necessary for potty training, ensuring the toddler's readiness for kindergarten occurs on time. These classes help decrease the stress and expense for parents with toddlers during their potty-training journey.

Having a toddler who is potty trained allows them to qualify for low- or no-cost pre-K, saving the family hundreds to thousands of dollars in daycare costs. We believe providing the families with Toddler Bibles will help them develop their Christian values. In addition, the Toddler Bibles will enable parents to teach their toddlers stories of Jesus and other bible stories.

Her plan for 2025 is to hold two classes between July and October.

We thank you for allowing us to honor you and show our appreciation for all you have done and continue to do as a Quiet Disciple.

Quiet Disciple Nominee » Jeannie Martinsen

Vista United Methodist Church



Jeannie Martinsen exemplifies the mission of our Congregational Care Committee at UMC/Vista—that of bringing love, connection, and support to our Home Centered Congregation members.

Jeannie Martinisen is a blessing in bringing care to others. As part of the extended Congregational Care Team, she leads card-making workshops, utilizing her beautifully designed creations that are assembled by the workshop team into handmade cards featuring the seasons, get-well wishes, and words of care.

Under her leadership and direction, her team assembles the many patterns and beautiful designs she has created. These are not ordinary cards, but rather cards of extraordinary design and beauty-- ones that have many treasures and frames. When there is a change of season, there is an air of anticipation as receivers patiently await Jeannie's new creations.

There is nothing more joyful than receiving a card of encouragement, remembering that you are not forgotten and continue to be in everyone's prayers. Discovering a special card in the midst of all the advertisements and bills that arrive daily is a delightful rarity--that of a welcomed friend knocking upon your door.

Jeannie Martinsen is not only an artist extraordinaire, but also a person of many talents, ranging from the performing arts to directing plays, as well as a master in the visual arts. But Jeannie is also one of great generosity--as all the supplies, special paper, and equipment used to make the cards have been donated by Jeannie.

But most importantly, Jeannie is an outstanding silent disciple who gives of herself, and her workshops have also included guests and are extended to visitors. Her warmth and welcoming spirit so took these visitors that some are now attending our church. This ministry, which Jeannie so graciously leads, not only comes from the heart but also brings joy to all.