

The Christian Visitor

FEBRUARY 2020 ~ VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

CAMP NITE - FEB 22!

We hope you'll join us for our fourth annual "Camp Nite" breakfast-for-dinner-and-talent-show fundraiser. It has become a highlight of the year, with fellowship and fun for all ages!

On Saturday, February 22nd, at 5:30 pm, we will be serving breakfast for dinner, Loch Leven-style, complete with cinnamon rolls. Then we'll head to the sanctuary for a camp-style Talent Show! Tickets for dinner are \$5 and a free will offering will be collected during the show. All proceeds will go to our Camp Fund, which helps our kids attend summer & winter camps at Loch Leven. If you would like to perform for the show, please let Pastor Rebecca know asap.

Invest in Futures!

We will be celebrating and supporting the ministry of Week of Compassion this month, on Feb. 16 & 23. Week of Compassion is our denominational disaster relief and humanitarian development fund. The theme this year is "Invest in Futures", inspired by 1 Corinthians 3:9. When we hear about terrible disasters happening around the world, we can "be there" through our gifts to Week of Compassion.

Both of these Sundays, we will be receiving a special offering to support the ministries of Week of Compassion, which will also be featured throughout the service in a variety of ways.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 26th this year. We invite you to join us as we usher in the season at our Ash Wednesday Service that evening at 6:00. This is an important part of our worship life as a congregation. Your presence makes a difference!

CROSS POLLINATION 2020

The word "Lent" is related to the word "lengthen", making reference to how the days get longer during the spring. At VLMCC this year, we'll be using another spring idea, "cross-pollination" as our guiding metaphor.

Cross Pollination 2020 has two parts. Our Ministerial Intern Tesa Hauser is facilitating a Faith Story series featuring some of our newer members. They will be sharing about something they love about VLM or the Disciples and something from their previous faith tradition or background that they cherish, which will enrich what VLM is becoming.

The second part is a sermon series exploring the purposes and practices of Lent, as they compare to similar or related practices in other faith traditions. Pastor Rebecca will be meeting with representatives of the other traditions and taking one church member with her each time. We hope to learn from Catholicism, Presbyterianism, Islam, Baha'i or Buddhism, and Judaism. Let Pastor Rebecca know if you'd like to come along on one of these visits!

A Candidate Forum for the 53rd Congressional District, focused on climate change and climate injustice, will be held in the VLM Sanctuary on Monday, February 3rd at 6:30 pm. All are welcome!

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

Your presence and participation at Vista La Mesa make a difference! Showing up regularly for worship on Sunday is the most important thing you can do for your church, not to mention your own spiritual growth. We just finished up our Worship/Life series, in which we talked about why being in worship is so vital to our efforts to cultivate vitality and growth in ministry and membership. Sometimes, we all need a little help keeping our focus though, so three of those sermons explored the main parts of worship and how to engage with them more effectively. If you would like to review any of that information, you can read the sermons on our website at <https://www.vlmcc.org/worship/sermons/>.

How has VLM's journey toward vitality and growth compared to your own journey toward spiritual maturity? Have you found a small group to join or considered attending Sunday Bible Study? Have you thought about how you could practice faithful stewardship more intentionally? How are you serving people in need? What about joining in our Wednesday prayer practice? If each of us prayed daily for God to show us who it is that needs our invitation to come check out VLM, the people God is preparing to join us here would find us faster! If we want God's vision for our church to unfold, we need to do everything we can to allow the Holy Spirit to work through us. What would a 2020 Vision for your own life and your church's look like? We are the church together!

grace & peace,
Pastor Rebecca

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca and Todd are in Germany & Czechia until the evening of Feb. 13th, visiting friends and family.

OUR MISSION

To share the joy of God's love.

To nurture one another to wholeness.

To motivate each other to Christian witness.

To effect healing in a hurting world.

Sunday Bible Study

Starting February 9th, we will begin a two-month study of the New Testament book, The Acts of the Apostles. This study is unusual in that it will be jointly led by the two of us, Tesa and Michael. We hope many of you will join us for what promises to be an exciting discussion of a very exciting text. No background is required! Just a love of scripture and a desire to study it with good friends. Meet us in the Library, Sundays at 9.

-Tesa Hauser & Michael Kinnamon

Novels Tea

Novels Tea is our small group for working women that meets to discuss a book and pray for one another.

At our next gathering, on Sunday, March 1st we will be discussing the book, "The Scent of Water" by Elizabeth Goudge. We will meet in Classroom 4 at 3:00 pm.

Please bring a "fancy" snack to share and a tea cup and/or tea, as you are able. See Pastor Rebecca if you have any questions.

THANK YOU!

Once again this year, the love of Jesus was generously shared with our guests during Interfaith Shelter. HUGE THANKS to Amy Cliffe, our Shelter Coordinator, and to everyone else who helped make it happen! We can't do it without you!

Offering Envelopes

If you would like to have personalized envelopes for your offering, please see Larry Knight this month. You can get weekly or monthly envelopes. We will be making the order for the 2020-2021 year soon. Your personalized envelopes will begin with the first Sunday in July.

Election Hospitality

Vista La Mesa serves as the polling place for the voting precinct we're located in, so we will be hosting the polling place on Tuesday, March 3rd for the primary election.

We like to give our neighbors a warm welcome when they come to vote. Please visit the clipboards in Bailey Hall to sign up to bring in snacks or volunteer to host that day. We'll need people all day long! See Pastor Rebecca if you have any questions.

Elders Breakfast Meeting Sunday, 2/16, 8 am

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Deacons Meeting Wed., 2/19, 7 pm

Our meetings are separate this month, so it's extra important for you to show up!

Women's Study Group
Fridays at 10 am
February 14 & 28
in the Library

Women's Lunch
WED., FEB. 5,
11:30 am
Beckie Neely, hosting
at Patty's Cafe

Rev. Barber at Founders Day at Chapman!

Founders Day 2020 at Chapman University will feature Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, a prominent Disciples preacher and activist. Rev. Barber will be the teacher and preacher for the event, on Saturday, March 14, in Orange. We are planning to send our Partnership Youth Group up on a bus, and there may be seats available with them. But we encourage others to make the trip on your own. Online registration and more information is available at <https://www.chapman.edu/campus-life/church-relations/founders-day/index.aspx>. Regular registration is \$25. The event begins at 9:00 am, with the first session starting at 10. Lunch is included in the registration price, along with two lectures and the closing worship service featuring Rev. Barber and the Chapman University Singers. The link above also includes information about hotels, for those who want to travel up the night before.

LUNCH BUNCH

WED., FEB. 19,
11:30 am
Grace & Lyn
Van Winkle, hosts
at Filippi's in Jamul

IN OUR PRAYERS...

PLEASE CHECK WITH THE OFFICE FOR PRAYER UPDATES.

Happy Birthday!

- FEB. 4 ~ Berna Cliffe
- FEB. 8 ~ John Hanna II
- FEB. 9 ~ Jason Sisneros, Sr.
- FEB. 11 ~ Scott Tiemann
- FEB. 12 ~ Ralph Ayer
- FEB. 13 ~ Sal Carranza,
- FEB. 13 ~ Sandy Hanna
- FEB. 14 ~ RJ Lucchesi
- FEB. 21 ~ Amy Cliffe
- FEB. 22 ~ Jayden Sisneros
- FEB. 23 ~ Tim Cliffe
- FEB. 25 ~ Beckie Neely

Happy Anniversary!

FEB. 2 ~ Mark & Kim Reagles

YOUTH NEWS

Partnership Youth Group will meet at MissionGathering Christian Church on Sunday, **February 23rd**, after worship. Please make sure to let Pastor Rebecca know if you are coming or not.

In March, we have a very exciting opportunity! Rev. William Barber, a famous Disciples preacher, who started the recent Poor People's Movement, will be speaking at Founders Day at Chapman University on **Saturday, March 14th**. We are hoping to take as many PYG youth up on a bus as we can. We are making arrangements with Casa de Oracion to borrow one of their busses, so we can all drive up to Orange together. Mark the date on your calendar now! You will not want to miss this opportunity!

VLM will be hosting PYG on Sunday, **April 19th**, so make sure to be here!

We also want to make sure everyone sets aside **May 1-2** on your schedule, because we're going to have our final PYG lock-in up at the De Luz Retreat Center in Fallbrook. This will be a great chance to get to know this new facility. Stay tuned for more information.

Summer Camp is coming soon! Starting June 17 thru July 31, 2020. For age specific weeks, please check out the website at disciplesPSWR.org/camp.

Online Giving at VLMCC!

We are so excited to announce that we are now offering online giving, through tithely.com! There will be more information on our website very soon, but you can visit the tithely.com site now to set up an account and download the app. Pro tip: the fees are lower for debit cards and bank transfers than they are for credit cards.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

At their regular meeting in January, the General Board received numerous reports and discussed the need to replace the HVAC system. The decision was made to use Memorial Endowment Funds to fund this upgrade.

The Board also decided to move the Board meeting time back to 6:00, starting in March to ensure that Board members have a better shot at finding parking before the sizable AA meeting using Bailey Hall on Wednesday evenings. Board members, watch for an email with information about an electronic vote on Nominating Committee appointments. While we did not have these names for the January meeting, we want to get them approved before we meet on March 19th.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

It's been a little chilly in the sanctuary lately! Over the past couple months, our HVAC system has given up the ghost, again. This system has been in place for a very long time, and the Board has decided that it was time for an upgrade, rather than continuing to pay for expensive repairs as we have been for years now.

Fire & Ice HVAC has been contracted to replace the system, and work began on Jan. 27. They are taking the old system out and replacing it with smaller units that will allow us to have a zoned system. That will mean we will be able to heat (or cool) just the choir room or the library without running the system in the entire sanctuary at the same time. This will greatly improve our efficiency! We will also have greater control over our thermostats with the new system.

The system re-design involves installing new HVAC units in the attic, which requires some duct work through the attic floor/old flat roof. The total project will use around \$65,000 of our Memorial Endowment Funds. We are very grateful for the legacy gifts of those who have gone on before us that make this investment in our facility possible.

While we are so glad not to have to turn to you to raise funds to fix the heating, we also need our current members to step up and match the generosity of our legacy donors. We ended 2019 over \$3000 in the red. We anticipate having to pull at least another \$5000 from the MEF for operating expenses by May. We invite everyone to consider how you might find a way to increase your giving so we can cover our deficit and honor the investment we have just made in our future. Please pray about how you can help!

February 2020 Worship Participants

	Feb 2	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23
Worship Leader	Karen Cliffe	Jerry Bailey	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Tim Cliffe
Kids' Moment	Deborah Wilson	Karen Cliffe	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn
Lay Reader	Katie Yoder	Teannah Townsend	Tracy Stockdall	Daphne Flores
Offering Invite	Tim Cliffe	Mary Jane Fay	Tesa Hauser	Ruth Tiffany
Elders	Bob Neely Brenda Rorie-Baety	Julie Germain Bob Neely	Larry Knight Ruth Tiffany	Beckie Neely Walter Rorie-Baety
Deacons	Mary Alynn Fallon Bill Kwon Dick Penny Lace Watkins	Amanda Dohring Matt Hauser John Lehton Susan Peterson	Patrice Hill Jennefer Lehton Donna Morey Christine Lind	Ray Adsit Al Flores Daphne Flores Lyn Van Winkle
Comm Prep Comm Set-up Comm Clean-up	Jennefer Lehton John Lehton John Lehton	Jennefer Lehton John Lehton John Lehton	Jennefer Lehton John Lehton John Lehton	Jennefer Lehton John Lehton John Lehton
CWW	Remain in worship	Helene Sisneros Cathy Mullican	Helene Sisneros Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Helene Sisneros
Greeters	Jerry & Norma Bailey	John Lehton Wavalea McKee	Larry Knight Jennefer Lehton	Ray Adsit Tim Tiffany
Counters	Mary Alynn Fallon John Lehton	Jerry Bailey Ruth Tiffany	Walter Rorie-Baety Lyn Van Winkle	Donna Morey John Lehton

Coffee Hour Hosts: Flock 2 (Deacons: Matt Hauser, Amanda Dohring, Donna Morey, Susan Peterson)

WHO AND WHERE WE ARE

We are a congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We are part of the Christian Church in the Pacific Southwest Region.

We are located at 4210 Massachusetts Ave. (at Boulevard Dr.), one block South of University Ave. in La Mesa, conveniently situated between Interstate 8 (exit at 70th St.) and the 94 Freeway (exit at Massachusetts), and very near the #852 bus line.

Sundays: Bible Study @ 9:00 – Worship @ 10:30

Secretary's Hours: M-T 9-12, W 10-1, F 8-12

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: **The Members of VLM**

Pastor: **Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn**

Ministerial Intern: **Tesa Hauser**

Church Secretary: **Ellen O'Toole**

Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**

Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero & Francina Berry**

Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

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Pastor's E-mail: pastor@vlmcc.com

Church website: www.vlmcc.org