

The Christian Visitor

MARCH 2020 ~ VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

ONLINE GIVING IS HERE!

We are so excited to announce that we are now offering online giving, through [tithe.ly!](https://tithe.ly/) The platform allows you to give a one-time donation or to set up a recurring gift on your preferred schedule. You can even make donations specifically to our most common designated funds. Learn more and set up a gift by visiting our website at: <https://www.vlmcc.org/ministries/stewardship/>. (If you want to give to a designated fund not listed, please contact Pastor Rebecca.)

Pro tip: the fees are lower for debit cards and bank transfers than they are for credit cards. And if you want to go over and above, click the box to cover the fees, so your entire donation comes to the church! Please consider making online giving a part of your stewardship practice!

Founders Day

Founders Day at Chapman University will feature the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, on Saturday, March 14th. You are invited to attend! Registration is online at <https://www.chapman.edu/campus-life/church-relations/founders-day/index.aspx>.

Our Partnership Youth Group is taking a bus up, and seats may be available for others. Reserve a seat on the bus at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050548a4a62caa8-pygd8>. The bus will leave from Casa de Oracion that morning. Donations toward fuel costs are appreciated.

CROSS POLLINATION

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. The decor in the sanctuary is designed to reflect this idea. See if you can tell how!

Cross Pollination 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 and/or the Disciples and something from their previous faith tradition or background that they cherish, which will enrich VLM as they deepen their connection here.

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 a church member or two with her each time. We hope to learn from Catholicism, Presbyterianism, Islam, Buddhism, and Judaism. Let Pastor Rebecca know if you'd like to come along on one of these visits! Judaism is 3/4 at 2:30; Islam is 3/10 at 2:00; Presbyterianism is tentatively 3/11 at 1:30.

Don't miss all we have to learn from each other, as we explore Cross Pollination this month!

Election Hospitality

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

We like to give our neighbors a warm welcome when they come to vote. Please sign up ASAP in Bailey Hall to bring in snacks or to volunteer as a host that day. We'll need people all day long! This is a great way to show our neighbors the love and joy we experience at our church. See Pastor Rebecca if you have any questions.

Another View From the Table

Dear Church,

You know that I believe in doing Lent well, with full intention and reverence. I do. But something about this year is preventing me from making it too solemn. There is so much life busting out all over. A new urgency has taken hold in our lay leaders, to answer the call God has given us to cultivate vitality in our congregation. The sermon series we're embarking on is helping us remember that we are surrounded by neighbors whose lives and witnesses can enrich our faith journeys. The ministries that we are doing with our neighbors – whether our friends living without shelter, the various folks on recovery journeys who find support in our facility, or the countless other people touched by our congregation – are living signs of God's love being shared. It's hard to contain the excitement!

You will see this burgeoning joy reflected in our Lenten sanctuary adornments this year. We put up different banners than we usually use, with details that reflect the metaphor of cross pollination. Each week, we will move closer to the glory of Easter, learning from our neighbors and one another as we go. Lent is a season of committed honesty. Sometimes the most important thing to be honest about is our blessings!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be attending the District 8 Clergy Bible Study on March 17 at University Christian Church. She will also be meeting her Regional requirement for anti-racism training on Saturday, March 21, up in Claremont. The PSWR requires pastors to attend anti-racism trainings every five years. It is an important spiritual practice for our clergy.

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.

New HVAC!

We give thanks that the installation of our new HVAC system in the sanctuary wing (choir room, sanctuary, library, and storage room) is now complete! We also have new thermostats for the whole facility. The thermostats are on daily schedules for regular weekly activities, but will need manual overrides for other events. If you would like to learn how to operate the thermostats, see Pastor Rebecca. If you need it hotter or colder, text Pastor Rebecca, as she can do it remotely if needed.

Staff Evaluations

We will be doing annual evaluations for our staff, including the pastor, in the coming weeks. If you have relevant observations, negative or positive, please let Personnel Chair Mary Jane Fay know. Please remember that we do not work with anonymous complaints, as they are detrimental to healthy staff relations.

Voices of Victory Service

We will be opening our facility to Voices of Victory Christian Ministry on the evening of Sunday, March 8th, as they celebrate the 20th anniversary of their ministry and their founding pastor. They will be holding a service in the sanctuary at 4:00 pm, followed by a dinner in Bailey Hall. Voices of Victory's usual facility is at 562 N. Second Street in El Cajon, but is not sufficient for this celebration.

Welcome Saturday

God has blessed our Welcome Saturday ministry beyond our expectations! Now it's time for us to catch up with what God is doing. We will be seeking out some new ways to support this life-giving ministry this spring, but most importantly, we need your help! Please check the volunteer and donation sign-ups each month, to see how you can help. If you haven't attended before, consider coming by on the 14th. You will be inspired!

CULTIVATING VITALITY

Some important conversations were held in February, among the Elders and the Deacons, about how to encourage our lay leaders and everyone else to engage more deeply with our ongoing efforts to cultivate vitality and growth. Many wonderful ideas are germinating!

How do you fit into what God is doing at VLM these days? It's time to find out! Much of what was discussed in February will move into the arena of our Ministry Committees this month. Why not attend the Fellowship Committee meeting on March 12 or the Outreach Committee meeting on March 17, so you can get involved?

The growth that we are seeking is not something the Pastor or any number of paid staff can accomplish for us. It must be congregation-wide; all of us need to shift our understanding of what it means to be part of our church. Our goals will not be met with a program or project, but by deepening our understanding of why we do what we're already doing and how to share the joy of those ministries with others. There is a role for everyone! Now is the time to find yours!

Staffing Change

Our secretary, Ellen O'Toole, has announced that she will be stepping down soon, to have time for travel with her soon-to-be-retired husband. We have updated the job description and will be hiring an Administrative & Communications Coordinator sometime in the next month or so. We hope to have the new person start just after Easter.

The Women's
Study Group
will meet
Fridays,
3/13 & 3/27
at 10 am.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

Please check with the pastor for prayer concerns.

WOMEN'S LUNCH

(Former Deaconesses)

Wed., 3/4, 11:30 am

at Black Bear Diner

Hosted by

Katie Yoder

LUNCH BUNCH

Wed., 3/17, 11:30 am

at Black Bear Diner

Hosted by

Katie Yoder

Happy Birthday!

Mar. 1 - Micah Cliffe

Mar. 2 - Kevin Severns, Sr.

Mar. 3 - Brenda Rorie-Baety,
Ruth Tiffany

Mar. 4 - Julie Germain

Mar. 5 - Susan Peterson

Mar. 6 - Indigo Cullumber

Mar. 11 - Jimmie Beatty

Mar. 14 - Andy Cliffe

Mar. 15 - Jeff Cliffe

Mar. 17 - Rachel Bunch

Mar. 19 - Amber Morris

Mar. 22 - Carolyn Gdaniec

Mar. 23 - Nona Nowlin

Mar. 26 - Daniel Cliffe

Mar. 29 - Kara Bunch

Mar. 31 - Amanda Dohring

Happy Anniversary!

Mar. 6 - Sara & Troy Gurling

YOUTH NEWS

Thanks to everyone for your help with our Camp Nite Fundraiser! We raised \$831.05 for our Camp Fund and had a lot of fun!

Our Partnership Youth Group activity this month will be our field trip up to Founders Day at Chapman University on Saturday, March 14. This is your potentially once-in-a-lifetime chance to see the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, a Disciples preacher whom many compare to Martin Luther King Jr. Don't miss it!

We will be going up all together in a bus. We will meet at Casa de Oracion at 7:00 am that day, and be back around 5:00 or 5:30. Please let Pastor Rebecca know ASAP if you are able to go because we need to register everyone so you will get lunch.

CHURCH CAMP DATES

It's not too early to get Church Camp on the calendar! You go to camp based on the grade you will be going into in the fall. VLM has scholarship funds to make sure every kid can attend camp.

Wee (Parent/Child - 3 yo-K) – June 17-19

Mini (1-3) – July 14-17

Junior (4-5) – July 12-17

Chi Rho (6-8) – June 21-26

CYF I (9-10) & CYF II (11-12 & grads) – held concurrently July 26-31

More information and online registration are on the Region's website at www.discipleswr.org/camp.

Spring Forward!

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on

Saturday, March 7.

Daylight Saving Time begins March 8.

Don't be late to Bible Study!

News for the Board

The **Board of VLMCC will meet at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 18** in the Library. Remember that we moved the time back to 6:00, to give you a better chance at parking close to the building. (Our Wednesday night AA group is the biggest one all week.) The Administrative Committee will meet 3/10 at 6:0 pm.

Board Members – Your Reports are due on Friday, March 6th. Consider how the recent conversations in Elders and Deacons meetings might be reflected in your Committee's ministry and share your thoughts with the Board.

We will have a number of important topics to discuss, so please make a point to be present. Also, we hope to send out an electronic vote before the meeting, with appointments for the 2020 Nominating Committee. Please watch for that.

Elders & Deacons Meeting – Mar. 15

The Elders & Deacons will hold their meeting a week later this month. Last year, we made a pact to never again hold this 8 am meeting on the weekend of the time change! As always, we request that you bring breakfast items to share. Thank you!

We will be continuing our conversation about our guiding values regarding worship, so please come prepared to converse thoughtfully and openly about these questions.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Our Holy Thursday service will be on Thursday, April 9th at 6:00 pm. This is your chance to experience the depth of meaning of the story of Jesus.

Welcome Saturday is the day before Easter, so we will need extra help that day, for our morning ministry and then preparing the Sanctuary in the afternoon. Watch for details!

Worship on Easter will begin with a short service in the garden at 10 am, followed by regular worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30.

March 2020 Worship Participants

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Worship Leader	Mary Jane Fay	Michael Kinnamon	Julie Germain	Larry Knight	Beckie Neely
Kid's Moment	Tesa Hauser	Amanda Dohring	Rebecca Littlejohn	Karen Cliffe	Rebecca Littlejohn
Lay Reader	Mike Martin	Ruth Tiffany	Brenda Rorie-Baety	Jennefer Lehton	Tim Tiffany
Offering Invite	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Rebecca Littlejohn	Larry Knight	Tesa Hauser	Julie Germain
Elders	Mike Martin Katie Yoder	Brenda Rorie-Baety Karen Cliffe	Bob Neely Jerry Bailey	Ruth Tiffany Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Walter Rorie-Baety Tim Cliffe
Deacons	Mary Alynn Fallon Bill Kwon Dick Penny Lace Watkins	Amanda Dohring Matt Hauser John Lehton Susan Peterson	Patrice Hill Jennefer Lehton John Lehton Donna Morey	Ray Adsit Al Flores Daphne Flores Lyn Van Winkle	Matt Hauser Jennefer Lehton Susan Peterson Lyn Van Winkle
Comm Prep Comm Set-up Comm Clean-up	Lyn Van Winkle & Team 4	Lyn Van Winkle & Team 4	Lyn. Van Winkle & Team 4	Lyn Van Winkle & Team 4	Lyn Van Winkle & Team 4
CWW	Remain in worship	Helene/Cathy	Cheryl/Helene	Helene Sisneros	Tim & Karen
Greeters	Ray Adsit Larry Knight	Wavalea McKee John Lehton	Larry Knight Jennefer Lehton	Tim Tiffany Ray Adsit	Wavalea McKee Larry Knight
Counters	Mary Alynn Fallon John Lehton	Jerry Bailey Ruth Tiffany	Walter Rorie-Baety Lyn Van Winkle	Donna Morey	John Lehton

Coffee Hour Hosts: Flock 3 (Deacons: Patrice Hill, Jennefer Lehton, John Lehton)

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 & Francia Berry**

Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

Church Tel. (619) 463-9909

Office E-mail: admin@vlmcc.com

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

Church website: www.vlmcc.org