

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ JULY 2020

TIMELINE FOR PLANS

The Administrative Committee has worked out a timeline for how we will move toward next steps with regard to COVID-19 safety. The Administrative Committee will be finalizing multiple protocol documents and presenting them to the Elders & Deacons, for discussion at their July 12th meeting.

Any revisions agreed upon at that meeting will then be made and the documents will be forwarded to the Board for consideration at the July 22nd meeting. The protocols will be voted on by the Board so that they are official congregational policy. The Board will also discuss how to decide when to implement our re-opening plan, based on public health numbers, and any possible triggers for returning to remote worship.

Plans in Broad Strokes

While our protocols are still being finalized, we want to share just a few general guidelines we know will be part of them, for those who may not have been following the rapidly shifting news about safety precautions. Most these requirements are directly from the state & county health orders.

Those over 65 and/or with health conditions will be strongly encouraged to continue worshipping from home. Everyone will be screened at the door for temperature and other symptoms. Attendance will be limited to 30 people. Spatial distancing from other households and masks will be required at all times. Our service will be shorter, to keep us together indoors for less time, and will include no singing indoors. We will continue to offer and hopefully expand our online worship experiences.

Becoming an Anti-Racist Church

At their June meeting, the Outreach Ministry Committee discussed the need for our congregation to take a more intentional approach to living out the Disciples' mission priority of becoming an anti-racist church. There is a hunger in our congregation, our community, and our world for substantive change in the racist systems that shape all our lives. We will be continuing to brainstorm and plan opportunities for all members of our church family to engage with these conversations. Pastor Rebecca is also in dialogue with some other La Mesa pastors about possibilities for partnerships in learning and action. If you are interested in joining in with these efforts, please speak with Outreach Chair Julie Germain or Pastor Rebecca, or attend the Outreach meeting on Thursday, July 23rd at 6:30 pm on Zoom.

Ministry to Our Tenants

Most of our 12-step group tenants have now resumed their meetings in Bailey Hall. If you see cars and people at the church, that is probably why. They are following very strict guidelines and limitations, which they were required to agree to before resuming their meetings.

While we know that many church members have keys to the building, we do ask that you not come in/ by unless absolutely necessary, especially during these meetings. (See calendar for schedule.)

To re-open for these meetings, we were required to post our Safe Re-Opening Plan and other signage, which you can see on the front door. Masks are required at all times in the building, along with spatial distancing and other precautions.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

We are living in strange and stressful times. I find that it helps to occasionally name that truth, to give ourselves some perspective on why we might be feeling worn out. Even those of us who thrive on adventure need some level of stability and certainty to feel secure. And right now, almost everything is in constant flux, except God's love.

Two weeks ago, when the Administrative Committee settled on a timeline for how we would move toward resuming worship gatherings, it felt enormously relieving to me. August seemed far enough away to feel like a reasonable goal for getting started. But as I write, the COVID-19 numbers in our County have gone up, and slowing down re-opening has become a major topic of debate. August seems a lot sooner now than it did two weeks ago.

Some of you may wonder why we are waiting so long, when the State re-authorized worship gatherings a month ago. To be frank, it seems clear that the State and the County made those allowances because they were pressured into them, not because they considered worship gatherings safe again. Over 1,200 pastors were threatening to worship against regulations on May 31. The State didn't want to deal with the fall-out from such a show-down, so they caved. You can tell, by reading through all the requirements for worship gatherings, that they really don't think it's a good idea at all; they simply couldn't bring themselves to keep saying no. This means that the decision about when to resume relies entirely on our judgment now; we no longer have the benefit of clear mandates from public health authorities.

I am grateful that we will soon have clear protocols, thoroughly considered by multiple lay leaders. I am glad for the wise counsel of all of you who will help us discern when it's time to put them into practice. But I encourage all of us to dig deep into our inner resources as this season shifts from a sprint to a marathon. It's going to last longer than we'd hoped. August might be the moment, but it might not. We could gather again, only to return to remote worship after a short time. May God be our rock and stay whatever may come.

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

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.

ZOOM TIPS

You can use Zoom from a computer or from your telephone. From your phone, you will only be able to hear people. From your computer, you'll be able to see people (but you can choose not to have your video on, if you're "not fit for public" at the moment). If you haven't tried it yet, we hope you will, as it is proving very helpful in keeping our community connected!

There are multiple ways to connect to a Zoom gathering. Contact Pastor Rebecca for the one-click link, the Meeting ID and pass code, and/or the numbers to call in from your phone. The login information can also be found in our weekly emails.

Pro Tip #1: Find "Gallery View" in the top right corner, and use it instead of "Speaker View". You'll see everyone at once, instead of just the person talking at the moment.

Pro Tip #2: It is easiest for everyone to hear if people keep themselves muted when not talking. You can mute yourself by clicking on the microphone icon till there's a red line through it. Clicking again will unmute you. Sometimes the host mutes you if necessary as well.

July 2020 Worship Participants

	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Worship Leader	Larry Knight	Beckie Neely	Michael Martin	Brenda Rorie-Baety
Kids' Moment	Deborah Wilson	Rebecca Littlejohn	Julie Germain	Rebecca Littlejohn
Offering Invite	Michael Kinnamon	Ruth Tiffany	Walter Rorie-Baety	Tim Cliffe
Offering Elder	Ruth Tiffany	Walter Rorie-Baety	Katie Yoder	Karen Cliffe
Comm. Elder	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Tim Cliffe	Mary Jane Fay	Michael Kinnamon

The Women's Lunch & Lunch Bunch will meet on Zoom again this month. Please join us! Anyone is welcome to these times of online fellowship.

Novels Tea

Our Novels Tea group will be discussing "The Parable of the Sower" by Octavia Butler on Sunday, July 26th, at 3:00 pm on Zoom. We would like to welcome any interested newcomers to the group this month. Just read the book, and then join us online with your favorite snacks and beverages handy!

Organizing the New Year

Because of the extra chaotic nature of life right now, we decided to keep our Flocks the same for the new year, as they were in the past year. (See page 4 for the complete list.) We had very little turn-over in Elders & Deacons, so those schedules have just been continued into the new year as well. Elders & Deacons, please be sure to attend our meeting on Sunday, July 12th at 1:00 pm on Zoom.

The Board welcomes new members Larry Knight, Treasurer/Stewardship & Finance Chair; Michael Kinnamon, Elders Chair; Amanda Dohring, Christian Education Chair; and Bob Neely, Property Chair; as well as Susan Peterson in the new position of Trustee. Board Reports are due on Friday, July 10. Our meeting is on Wednesday, July 22nd at 6:00 pm on Zoom. Please watch for the information packet.

Welcome Saturday!

We will be doing breakfast again at Welcome Saturday in July, but still providing all items through the doors while the guests stay in our outside spaces. We welcome your financial contributions, as all the shopping is still being done at once, and we are still trying to keep the number of volunteers to a minimum. If you have any connections that might get us a donated party tent to set up in the parking lot, please be in touch with Pastor Rebecca as soon as possible.

In Our Prayers...

Contact the office for current prayer concerns.

YOUTH NEWS

We will be continuing our bi-weekly Youth Group Zoom meetings throughout the summer.

We hope everyone can join on July 5 & 19 at 3:30 pm. We need to get back to working on the project Teaghan is leading for us.

For the login information, see page 2 of this newsletter.

Happy Birthday!

July 1 - Rosemary Tiffany
July 6 ~ Mary Alynn Fallon
July 9 ~ Teaghan Townsend
July 10 ~ Cheryl Davis-Plotts
July 13 ~ Lisa Martin
July 17 ~ Nancy Knight
July 18 ~ Marques Gurling
July 21 ~ Adrian Morey
July 21 ~ Terry Morris
July 22 ~ Karen Cliffe
July 31 ~ Michael Martin
July 31 ~ Tommy Berry

Happy Anniversary!

July 6 ~ Tim & Ruth
Tiffany
July 18 ~ Christi & Jaime
Neely-Carlson

2020-2021 Flock Lists

Flock 1 – Adam & Airen and Julie Bentley, Cheryl Davis-Plotts, Mary Ann E’Golf, Matt Epler, Mary Alynn & Jim and Jessica & Julie Fallon, Sara & Troy and Marques & Edward Gurling, Embrilly Lopez, Ana Amaro, Ilene Kiser, Bill Kwon, Lisa & Mike Martin, Teaghan & Teannah Townsend, Krissy Frost, Terry Morris, Cathy Mullican, Beckie & Bob Neely, Dick & Noralea Penny, John Sepulvado, Betty Sullivan, Paul Wagner, and Lace Watkins.

Flock 2 – Jenny Angione, Stephanie Cadiero, Karen & Tim Cliffe, Brittany & Micah Cliffe, Glenda Cliffe, Amanda Dohring & Julie Germain, Sandy Hanna, Ginny Hanna and Haylee, Ryan Hanna and Kiley & Harley, Matt & Tesa Hauser, Sally Johnston, Larry Knight, Christine Lind, Donna Morey, Heather Morey, Rebekah Morey & Adrian, Susan Peterson, Abe Sisneros, Eliseo & Helene Sisneros, and Jason, Jayden, Marley & Kainoa, Michaela Stockdall, and Kay Tenison.

Flock 3 – Gene Blumenfeld, Sal & Becky Carranza and Sophia & Emma, Jack Harris, Sr., Patrice Hill, Trinity (Hill) Crumble & Teneia (Hill) Foster, Michael Kinnamon, Nancy Knight, Jennefer & John Lehton, Christine Lind, Brian & Laura McCreanor and Jennings & Tennyson, Wavalea McKee, Rachel & Shayne McKinney and Vivian, Donna Moss, Hannah Moss, Farrie Ann Nichols, Nona Nowlin, Phil Nowlin, Sam Rorie, Brenda & Walter Rorie-Baety, Betty Sinton, Janet Smith, and Ruth & Tim Tiffany.

Flock 4 – Ray & Victoria Adsit, Jerry & Norma Bailey, Francina Berry and Geri, Hannah, Kaylee & Tommy, Amy & Andy Cliffe, Daniel, Mark & Stephen Cliffe, Maree & Xavier Cotton, Maria & Sonny Cusumano, Mary Jane Fay, Daphne & Allan Flores and Himston, Al, & Cher, Editrudes & Winston Mangrobang, Jack Thompson, Grace Van Winkle, Lyn Van Winkle, Deborah Wilson, and Katie Yoder and Kaitlin, Coral & Wolf Yoder.

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/Th 10-1, Fri 9-1

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: **The Members of VLM**
Pastor: **Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn**
Ministerial Assistant: **Tesa Hauser**
Admin & Comm Coord: **Alicia Gervasi**
Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**
Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero & Francina 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