

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ JUNE 2020

WELCOME, ALICIA!

We are excited to introduce Alicia Gervasi, our new Administrative & Communications Coordinator, who will be replacing our secretary, Ellen O'Toole, who has retired with plans to travel. Alicia (whose name is pronounced "A-lish-a" with short "i") will start on June 2nd. The office will continue to be closed to the public, but she and Pastor Rebecca will be there while she is being trained. Alicia's normal hours will be 10-1 on Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, and 9-1 on Fridays. Church members with questions or needs are encouraged to call rather than stop by the office.

Alicia has a long background in managing small companies. She is looking forward to a lower-key position where she can meet new kinds of challenges. A native of Ohio, Alicia lives in San Diego, with her young adult son and their dog.

Congregational Meeting

All members are asked to attend our annual congregational meeting, which will be held on Zoom at 12:30 pm on Sunday, June 14th. The information packets for this meeting will be distributed electronically to all members with email the first week of June. You may vote by emailing Mary Alynn Fallon or in the meeting. Instructions for participation will be included in the packet.

The packet this year includes the minutes of last year's congregational meeting, the proposed slate of lay leaders, and the proposed budget for 2020-2021. Hard copies are available by request and will be mailed to those without email.

Announcing:

Tesa Hauser, Ministerial Assistant!

During their meeting on May 20, the General Board of VLMCC approved a new position and hired Tesa Hauser to fill it. The position of Ministerial Assistant is underwritten by the Scholarship Fund. Tesa will be working approximately 12 hours per week.

The job summary for this position reads "to serve in a general ministerial capacity, with particular responsibility for enhancing the church's social media presence and working with youth. This position is an investment in the congregation's commitment to cultivating growth and vitality in ministry and membership." Tesa will take part in worship leadership and work closely with our Ministry Committees as well.

We are happy to be able to hire Tesa in this capacity now that she has graduated with her Master of Divinity degree and continuing to pursue ordination with the Pacific Southwest Region.

Virtual Service of Installation

We will be holding a special Service of Installation for all our lay leaders for 2020-2021 on Zoom, at 11:30 am on Sunday, June 28th. If you will be serving in any elected or appointed capacity in the coming ministry year, please try to participate. We would also love to have others join us, to support these leaders with your presence and prayers.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

As we continue our journey through this season of stressful uncertainty, it is important to recall what we know with assurance: God is love. God is with us. The good news of Pentecost is upon us: the Church is anywhere and everywhere!

As you have heard, the Governor and the County have now allowed churches to gather for worship, with some strict safety guidelines. Our leaders have been discussing the process of re-opening extensively and have decided to move slowly for now. We want to see what happens and which best practices emerge as most effective. We do not want to gather again before a good slice of the congregation is ready to come. We want to be as prepared with plans and procedures as possible and take enough time to communicate them to everyone before we open up.

Our Board also clarified that we want to prioritize immediate usage of the building for the 12-step groups that usually meet at VLM. Their need to gather is more important than our desire to be together again. We will be sharing careful guidelines with them in the next few days, to welcome them back with some practical adjustments. Some of our small groups may begin meeting at the church again as well, often outside.

Worship, however, is our most risky activity, with the most people breathing a lot in one room. We want to protect our most vulnerable members. I recognize that it is a spiritual challenge to self-identify as “vulnerable”, but it is something all of us will face sooner or later. Please let me know if you are feeling pressured to show up before you are comfortable doing so. We will be sending out a survey soon, aiming to get a sense of your feelings and choices regarding the many questions involved with re-opening.

In the meantime, we will be scheduling some pick-up days very soon, for you to come by the church to get a VLM care package. Home deliveries will also be available. We hope everyone will get one. Watch for more information!

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!

If you haven't already updated your computer with Zoom 5.0, you will need to do that before you'll be able to join our gatherings after May 30. Go to zoom.us/download to get the update. If you try to join a meeting after 5/30, you will be prompted to get the update; just follow the instructions as they appear.

There are multiple ways to connect to a Zoom gathering. Contact Pastor Rebecca for the one-click link, if that is easiest for you.

Or click “Join a Meeting” at zoom.us and enter our Meeting ID and our password. Or call 720-707-2699 or 669-900-9128 on your phone and enter the Meeting ID when prompted, followed by the # sign. Contact Pastor Rebecca for the Meeting ID and the password, if you need them.

Pro Tip: 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.

Guest Preacher

On Sunday, June 21st, Rev. Brian McCreanor will be preaching for us, with input from some of his friends/colleagues. Michael Kinnamon will be leading the other portions of the service.

Pastor Rebecca will be on vacation the week of June 15-22. Please contact an Elder if you have a pastoral need.

Happy Birthday!

Jack Harris Sr. is turning 100 YEARS OLD on June 14th! Please help us celebrate him by sending a card to him!

Senior Men's Coffee, Women's Lunch & Lunch Bunch will meet in our main Zoom room at their regular days/times. Bring your own coffee/lunch!

Modified Welcome Saturday

We had a small but successful Welcome Saturday in May, with our normal practices heavily modified to accommodate safe practices and spatial distancing. We welcomed our guests in the parking lot and provided bags with sandwiches and lots of snacks, along with hygiene kits, masks, and socks & underwear as needed. We only had about 15 folks show up, but we hope they will spread the word so we can serve more people in June. For now, the shopping is being done all at once, so monetary donations are the best way to help. Many thanks to all those who helped build up a healthy balance in our Welcome Saturday fund.

We hope to return to providing breakfast soon, but showers and hanging out inside will be farther in the future.

CONGRATS!

Two of our youth group members are graduating from 8th grade this month!

Cher Flores graduates from La Mesa Arts Academy on June 15th.

Lianne Joy Alforque graduates from Lemon Grove Academy Middle School on June 10th.

Both girls also received their Girl Scout Silver Awards while they were in middle school, helping to restore Lemon Grove's centennial pillars.

Way to go, you two! We are proud of you!

Happy Birthday!

- 6/1 - Teannah Townsend
- 6/9 - Carmen Bunch, Walter Rorie-Baety, Coral Yoder
- 6/14 - Jack Harris, Sr., Mary Ann E'Golf
- 6/17 - Jason Sisneros, Jr.
- 6/19 - Christi Neely Carlson
- 6/23 - Jim Fallon
- 6/24 - Adam Bentley
- 6/27 - Kaylee Berry
- 6/28 - Marley Sisneros
- 6/29 - Heather Morey
- 6/30 - Rebekah Morey

Happy Anniversary!

JUNE 7
Christopher & Rachel Bunch

JUNE 20
Jim & Mary Alynn Fallon

JUNE 21
Dick & Noralea Penny
Rebecca & Todd
Littlejohn-Lesh

JUNE 22
Tim & Karen Cliffe

In Our Prayers...

Check with Pastor Rebecca for prayer concerns & joys.

YOUTH NEWS

Our VLM youth are meeting every other week or so on Zoom, to check in and pray. This month, we will meet on June 7th & June 21st at 3:30 pm. The login information is the same as other church meetings.

If you haven't sent your contribution to Pastor Rebecca for the project Teaghan is coordinating for us, please do so ASAP. Thanks!

June 2020 Worship Participants

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Worship Leader	Tim Cliffe	Mary Jane Fay	Julie Germain	Michael Kinnamon
Kids' Moment	Rebecca Littlejohn	Karen Cliffe	Mandy Dohring	Rebecca Littlejohn
Offering Invite	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Larry Knight	Mary Jane Fay	Julie Germain
Offering Elder	Beckie Neely	Michael Martin	Brenda Rorie-Baety	Bob Neely
Comm. Elder	Walter Rorie-Baety	Katie Yoder	Karen Cliffe	Jerry Bailey

WONDERFUL NEWS!

We found out in late May that the application we had submitted for a Payroll Protection Program loan was accepted! This program will provide approximately 2 & 1/2 months worth of our payroll expenses, just over \$23,000. As long as we use this loan only for payroll, pensions or utilities, we will not have to pay it back. This infusion of funds will mean that we can end our fiscal year without a deficit. Our thanks to Phil Fowler, our outside accountant who is a member of MissionGathering Christian Church, who did all the work to get our application through successfully!

Thank You, Ellen!

Our secretary, Ellen O'Toole, will be completing her time with us this month, as our new ACC, Alicia Gervasi, takes over. Since we can't thank Ellen in person, we encourage you to send her a card.

Mail to Church Campers

Church Camp at Loch Leven is canceled this summer, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't send a note of love & encouragement to our young people. Kids who might have been at camp this summer include Lianne Joy Alforque, Adrian Morey Barragan, Julie Bentley, Kaylee & Hannah Berry, Sophia & Emma Carranza, Cher & Al Flores, Jennings & Tennyson McCreanor, Jason & Jayden Sisneros, and Teaghan & Teannah Townsend.

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/ F 9-1 (off Wed)

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: **The Members of VLM**
 Pastor: **Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn**
 Admin & Comm Coord.: **Alicia Gervasi**
 Church Secretary: **Ellen O'Toole**
 Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**
 Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero & Francia Berry**
 Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

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 Office E-mail: admin@vlmcc.com
 Pastor's E-mail: pastor@vlmcc.com
 Church website: www.vlmcc.org