

The Christian Visitor

SEPTEMBER 2020 ~ VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Zoom Coffee Hour 9/20

We had a great time at our Coffee Hour at the beginning of August, and we hope you'll join us for the next one. We will be doing it again on Sunday, September 20th at 12:30 pm.

Because Zoom is a difficult place to have casual conversations within a big group, we use a special tool called "breakout rooms" to split into groups of 3 or 4 people each. Last month, we split up three different times, which we will play be ear, depending on participation. We will have some "ice breaker" questions for small groups to discuss, but you are, of course, welcome to chat about whatever you like. We'd love to have you join the conversation! It's Bring-Your-Own-Donut!

Bible Study Begins 9/13

We are excited to announce that Bible study will be back this month, adapted for corona times! Michael Kinnamon will begin a study of the book of Hebrews, on Sunday, Sept. 13th, at 9:00 am on Zoom. We are keeping it at the "regular" time, on the chance we might be able to resume some form of worship gathering this fall.

We will also be offering "catch-up" sessions, led by Tesa Hauser, once or twice a month on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm, for those for whom the Sunday classes don't work as well. Tesa will lead the first of these sessions on Wednesday, Sept. 30th, and then again Oct. 14th & 28th (also on Zoom).

This is a great opportunity to re-connect with your VLM friends and with scripture! If you haven't participated in Bible study before, consider this your personal invitation. You will be blessed!

Reconciliation Offering

We will be celebrating **Reconciliation Ministry on Sept. 20 & 27**. This is a chance for us to reflect on our church's commitment to ending racism, and to commit financially to that work. The theme this year is "The Rocks are Crying Out: Show Up, Stand Up, Speak Up," based on Luke 19:39-40.

We are delighted to announce that the **Rev. Sheila Spencer**, Acting President of Disciples Home Missions and a PSWR native, will be our guest (video) preacher for the first Sunday of our Reconciliation emphasis. Tesa Hauser will then wrap it up for us by preaching on Sept. 27. This is a pivotal moment for the church to respond to the call to dismantle racism. Please give as you are able to this over-and-above special offering.

Trunk or Treat 2020

The thought of abandoning Trunk-or-Treat completely because of the coronavirus made us too sad, so the Fellowship Committee is making plans for a modified event! We want to make sure our neighbors know that we still love them. We will be holding a drive-through Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, October 24th from 3-6 pm. We will be collecting donations of Halloween candy to make up goody bags, which we will pass out to those who come. We will also have some festive picture frames for Polaroid pictures we'll take of trick-or-treaters (in car windows). We're hoping to also have 4-6 folks dressed up in costumes to greet families as they drive through.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

Well, it's official: we're settling in for the long haul. It is entirely possible that within days or even hours of my writing this that the Governor and our County will allow churches to hold indoor gatherings again. But it is just as likely, if not more, that once those restrictions and others that will be relaxed now that we're off the State's watchlist are removed, our infection rates will rise again. Through numerous conversations with various groups of leaders within our congregation, it has become clear that Vista La Mesa wants to take a cautious approach. We will not resume gatherings simply because we are allowed to; we will resume when the situation has shifted, whether because of an available vaccine or other changes that lower risk. While that isn't a fun place to be, it's a bit relieving not to be wondering if things could change every couple of weeks.

Because we are committed to continue worship as a mostly virtual experience (with the occasional outdoor service), we want to make sure it's reaching as many people as possible. It's clear that many of you aren't fully engaging with our worship kit. We need to hear from you. Can you imagine something else working better for you? Are you getting what you need? What could we improve? Over the next few weeks, we will be trying to find ways to connect more of our congregation more effectively to our weekly worship opportunities.

It's hard to be church without being able to gather. It's hard to stay connected when we can't see each other face to face. But there are countless ways to do this differently. They will take some getting used to, but it will be worth it, so that we'll still have this amazing church family to reunite with once we get together again some day!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be taking a couple days away from the office/ phone this month to synthesize the material from the course she took in August, and hopefully, a couple additional days off (perhaps around her birthday) just to relax.

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.

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.

Novels Tea

Our Novels Tea is thriving on Zoom, even though we can't share our "fancy snacks" with each other. Our next book is "Pride" by Ibi Zoboi, a Brooklyn remix of "Pride and Prejudice". Anyone who wants to read and discuss the book is welcome to join us!

We will meet on Zoom to discuss the book on Sunday, September 6th, at 3:00 pm. Bring your own tea and fancy snacks!

Regional Assembly

Our Pacific Southwest Regional Assembly will be entirely online this year, on Friday & Saturday, October 16-17. The theme this year is "The New and Living Way" based on Hebrews 10:20 (aligning nicely with our Sunday morning Bible study). Rev. Yolanda Norton of Vanderbilt University is the featured speaker. VLM is allotted 3 voting delegates, which need to be appointed soon. Registration is free and opens on September 1st at www.disciplespswr.org. If you're interested in serving as a voting delegate, please let Pastor Rebecca know as soon as you can.

Happy Birthday!

- Sept. 1 - Victoria Adsit
Kiley Hanna
Walt Morris
- Sept. 5 - Christopher Bunch
- Sept. 6 - Al Flores
Rachel McKinney
- Sept. 8 - Emma Carranza
- Sept. 9 - Julie Bentley
- Sept. 10 - Mark Cliffe
- Sept. 13 - Kevin Severns, Jr.
- Sept. 14 - Edward Gurling
Francia Berry
- Sept. 16 - Shirley Gleason,
Emilio Vasquez Jr.
- Sept. 17 - Dick Penny
- Sept. 18 - Rebecca Littlejohn
- Sept. 20 - Kainoa (Sisneros)
- Sept. 21 - Julie Fallon
- Sept. 22 - Donna Morey
- Sept. 23 - Gene Blumenfeld
- Sept. 25 - Donna Moss
Cynthia Wright
Kelly Yoder
- Sept. 27 - Cathy Mullican
- Sept. 28 - Joshua Tiffany
- Sept. 29 - Betty Sinton
- Sept. 30 - Trinity Crumble

Welcome Saturday

We are so grateful for your continued support of our Covid-modified Welcome Saturday. We are working on a way to add showers back in, since they are such an important need for our guests. Contact Outreach Chair Julie Germain if you're interested in volunteering. Welcome Saturday is Saturday the 12th this month.

Lunches on Hiatus

Due to lack of interest, we have decided to stop making space in our Zoom schedule for the First Wednesday Women's Lunch and the Third Wednesday Lunch Bunch. We hope that you will join in other opportunities for online fellowship, such as the Coffee Hour on Sunday, Sept. 20th.

In Our Prayers...

Contact the office for current prayer concerns.

Happy Anniversary!

- Sept. 6 - Adam & Aileen
Bentley
- Sept. 29 - John & Brandie
Neely

YOUTH NEWS

We will be getting organized for a new year of Youth Group by holding a Youth & Parents meeting on Zoom, on Sunday, September 6th at 12:00 pm. We hope that all youth and parents/guardians will be able to join us so we can hear from everyone about what might work best for youth group this fall. We hope to have an online gathering with our partner youth groups sometime later in the month as well. Stay tuned!

September 2020 Worship Participants

	Sept 6	Sept 13	Sept 20	Sept 27
Worship Leader	Jerry Bailey	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Tim Cliffe	Mary Jane Fay
Kids' Moment	Rebecca Littlejohn	Deborah Wilson	Rebecca Littlejohn	Julie Germain
Offering Invite	Walter Rorie-Baety	Rebecca Littlejohn	Michael Kinnamon	Ruth Tiffany
Offering Elder	Julie Germain	Larry Knight	Beckie Neely	Mike Martin
Comm. Elder	Bob Neely	Ruth Tiffany	Walter Rorie-Baety	Katie Yoder

VLMCC Board

Board members, your **reports are due on Friday, Sept. 11th**. The Board meeting will be **Wednesday, Sept. 23rd at 6:00 pm on Zoom**. Please make sure to review your meeting information packet before the meeting. The Administrative Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 15th at 4:30 pm to prepare the agenda.

Please make sure to turn in your reports on time, with as much detail as possible, so that all Board members will be informed about the ministry your committee is carrying out.

Pastor Support Committees

Pastor Rebecca's Pastoral Relations Committee will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 15th at 6:00 pm. The PRC this year includes Cheryl Davis-Plotts (chair), Julie Germain, Jennefer Lehton, Bob Neely, Brenda Rorie-Baety, and Tim Tiffany. Their role is to listen to and support our Pastor in all of the various stresses and complications of her job.

Our Ministerial Assistant Tesa Hauser has a support committee as well. Her Teaching Placement Committee from her internship has switched over into this new role. The Ministerial Assistant Support Committee includes Michael Kinnamon (chair), Karen Cliffe, Mandy Dohring, Mary Jane Fay, and Eliseo Sisneros. They will meet with Tesa occasionally for support and eventually help plan our celebration of her ordination!

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: Mon/Tues/Thur 10-1, Fri 9-1

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: **The Members of VLMCC**

Pastor: **Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn**

Ministerial Assistant: **Tesa Hauser**

Admin/Comm Coord.: **Alicia M. Gervasi**

Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**

Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero & Francia Berry**

Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

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

Church website: www.vlmcc.org