

The Christian Visitor

OCTOBER 2020 – VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

World Communion Sunday

So much has changed in the last 7 months, but our celebration of World Communion Sunday will still happen on the first Sunday of October as it does every year. For us as Disciples, this occasion when we celebrate the unity of Christ's church at the communion table is a big deal.

For the sermon time on Oct. 4th, we will be hearing from fellow Christians from four continents – South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. If you have the chance, why not pick up something out of the ordinary to use as your communion bread that day? A Mexican pastry or Middle Eastern flat bread would not be hard to find, and the leftovers would be tasty!

Drive-thru Halloween: Circus Showcase!

We are so excited to announce our plans for our covid-modified Trunk-or-Treat! On Saturday, Oct. 24th, from 3-6 pm, we will be inviting our neighbors to drive through a short course in our parking lot, where they'll have photos taken and get a treat bag, while watching circus performers!

We need your help with candy donations, so our treat bags can be adequately sugar-filled! Please bring in bags of individually-wrapped candy by Oct. 19th. There is a box on the counter in the kitchen for your donations. If you don't have a key, please call ahead to make sure someone is here to let you in.

Help us spread the word by sharing the Facebook event which you can find on the church's page: <https://www.facebook.com/VistaLaMesaChristianChurch>.

Worship Moving to Zoom

It's been a long, weird year, being church during a global pandemic. When this started, most of the congregation hadn't heard of Zoom. Now, many of us are regular users, for meetings and fellowship gatherings. We've been maintaining our worship practice with our hybrid email worship kit, and we appreciate everyone who had engaged with those.

But now it's time for a change! We will be moving Sunday morning worship to Zoom, as of October 11th. We will gather in our regular Zoom room (see links & numbers on page 2) at 10:30. Pastor Rebecca will be in the sanctuary, and other worship leaders will participate from their homes. It may take a few weeks for us to get the hang of it, but we believe you will love the added feeling of connection as we worship together!

We will also be starting a new sermon series that Sunday, all about how we treat others. "Friend, Neighbor, Stranger, Enemy" will last for five weeks, 10/11 through 11/15 (with a break for All Saints on 11/1). We hope to "zee" you all in our new worship space over the next few weeks!

ALL SAINTS OUTDOOR WORSHIP

On Sunday, November 1st, at 10:30 am, we will be having another outdoor service at Harry Griffen Park (9550 Milden St.), for our annual All Saints Memorial Service. Please bring your own chair, something to use for communion, and shade if you like. We will have a special ritual during the service to remember those we've lost in the last year and throughout the years. Consider whether you know someone who would be blessed by attending this special service. (Watch for information about a couple birthday parades after the service.)

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

You may have heard people talking about the pandemic we're living through using the word "apocalyptic". When we look at all the curve balls 2020 has thrown our way, it can certainly feel like an apocalypse! But it's important to remember that apocalypse doesn't just mean "the end of the world". An earlier, less used meaning of apocalypse is "revealing". And this pandemic has definitely revealed a lot!

One of the things that has become very clear over the last 10 months – something we already knew but often forget the significance of – is how closely connected we are to fellow human beings all around the world. When the virus first emerged, we tried to close borders, as if that could contain the illness. We soon learned more than most of us ever wanted to know about global supply chains.

Given all of that and the political turmoil our nation is experiencing, we thought it was a good time to remind ourselves of what our faith says about how we are to treat others. Every other person in the world fits into one or more of the following categories in relation to you: family, friend, neighbor, stranger, and/or enemy. The Bible has something to say about how we treat all of these different kinds of people. In our fall sermon series (10/11-11/15), we will be exploring how Christian faith teaches us to deal with all of them. I hope you will tune in every week!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca is working from home on Wednesdays most weeks at the moment. Feel free to call or text her cell phone, if you don't reach her at the church. Remember that Mondays are her day off (starting Sunday evening). Emails sent on Monday will be addressed on Tuesday, except for emergencies. (For emergencies, it's best to text.)

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.

WE WANT TO ZEE YOU ON ZOOM!

Now that we're going to move worship to Zoom, it's even more important that everyone learn how to use it! If you would like assistance getting Zoom set up on your computer, please let Pastor Rebecca know, and she or Tesa will come to your house, with safety precautions, to help you get started.

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).

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.

For worship, we will be controlling the experience a little more than we do in meetings and other gatherings. Those who are not speaking will be muted, and the person speaking will be "spotlighted" so they are the focus on everyone's screen.

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

Pro Tip #2: It is easiest to hear if we all mute ourselves when not talking. Click 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.

BIBLE STUDY

Our Zoom Bible study on the book of Hebrews continues this month. Michael Kinnamon is leading sessions every Sunday at 9 am. There are also occasional “recap” sessions, led by Tesa Hauser, on Wednesdays at 6 pm (9/30, 10/14 & 10/28).

We are learning that the concerns of the writer of Hebrews are often quite different than ours, but that we can learn a lot from considering our faith from this perspective. The discussions are rich and interesting, and they will be even better with you there! Join us!

PSW Regional Assembly October 16-17, 2020

This might be the year YOU can attend the Pacific Southwest Regional Assembly, because the whole event will be held online! The theme this year is “The New & Living Way,” and speakers include Rev. Chanhee Heo and Rev. Yolanda Norton, scholars from Stanford and Vanderbilt respectively.

Our voting delegates – Karen Cliffe, Tesa Hauser & Brenda Rorie-Baety – were appointed by the Board in September, but there’s so much more to a Regional Assembly than voting! There is no registration fee this year, so check it out and register today!

You can find the online registration and more information at the Region’s website, www.disciplespswr.org.

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will be meeting on Sunday, October 11th, at 3:00 pm, on Zoom. We will be discussing “The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek” by Kim Michele Richardson. Inspired by history, the book highlights the Kentucky Pack Horse library service of the 1930s and the plight of the “blue people” of Kentucky.

Elders Meeting Sunday, Oct. 11th 1:00 pm on Zoom

All-Church Zoom Coffee Hour

We are having a good time at our monthly Zoom Coffee Hours! If you haven’t logged in yet, this is your chance. We will gather again on Sunday, Oct. 18th at 12:30 pm. (See login info on page 2.)

In case you haven’t joined us yet, here’s how it works. We gather gradually, and once we have a good group, we use special Zoom tools to split up into groups of 3 or 4, for easier conversation. There are discussion questions offered, which you can talk about or ignore as you choose! We have been enjoying the chance to re-connect and have fun together.

In Our Prayers...

Contact the office for current prayer concerns.

Happy Birthday!

- Oct. 1 - Cher Flores
- Oct. 4 - Jerry Bailey, Haylee Hanna
- Oct. 5 - Jenny Angione
- Oct. 9 - Josie Hahn
- Oct. 10 - Betty Sullivan
- Oct. 11 - Sara Gurling
- Oct. 13 - Isabelle Grimm
- Oct. 17 - Mark Reagles
- Oct. 22 - Bob Neely
- Oct. 31 - Alexander Reagles

Happy Anniversary!

- Oct. 11 - Ron & Cheryl Davis-Plotts

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group will be meeting on Zoom the first and third Sundays of the month at 3:00 pm. We hope to connect with our partner youth groups soon. We're also getting more involved with volunteering with Welcome Saturday and this month's Drive-thru Halloween. If you need volunteer hours for school, please bring your forms for Pastor Rebecca to sign.

If you'd like to invite a friend to youth group, please let Tesa or Pastor Rebecca know and we can get them the info.

October 2020 Worship Participants

	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25
Worship Leader	Michael Kinnamon	Julie Germain	Larry Knight	Beckie Neely
Kids' Moment	Rebecca Littlejohn	Deborah Wilson	Rebecca Littlejohn	Mandy Dohring
Lay Reader	Larry Knight	Katie Yoder	Tracy Stockdall	Deborah Wilson
Offering Invite	Tim Cliffe	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Jerry Bailey	Larry Knight
Offering Elder	Brenda Rorie-Baety	Bob Neely	Ruth Tiffany	Walter Rorie-Baety
Comm. Elder	Karen Cliffe	Jerry Bailey	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Tim Cliffe

M.A.S.C.

This is not a reminder to make sure your mask is covering your mouth and nose! The Ministerial Assistant Support Committee will meet on Sunday, Oct. 4th at 1:00 pm. The Committee includes Michael Kinnamon (chair), Karen Cliffe, Mandy Dohring, Mary Jane Fay, and Eliseo Sisneros. Their role is to support Tesa in her ministerial role and provide constructive feedback as she grows in her pastoral experience.

Welcome Saturday

We have gotten into a groove with our covid-modified Welcome Saturday ministry. We serve our guests breakfast & lunch from the doors of Bailey Hall, and they eat under canopies in the parking lot. We also have some clothes and other items available at the Sanctuary doors. Last month, we finally added showers back into the mix, with careful sanitizing procedures between each guest. We appreciate your continued donations that make this life-giving ministry possible!

Camping at De Luz!

We are excited to announce that our Regional/District retreat center in Fallbrook, De Luz, is now available for private camping. Because De Luz cannot currently host retreats, the Oversight Committee has authorized camping in the back part of the property, with tents or RVs, one party at a time. You would have full bathroom access in the back house. The cost is \$45/night, per family, maximum of 3 vehicles. See Pastor Rebecca for more information.

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/Tue/Thu/Fri 10-1

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: **The Members of VLMCC**

Pastor: **Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn**

Ministerial Assistant: **Tesa Hauser**

Admin/Comm Coor.: **Alicia M. 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