

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NOVEMBER 2020

All Saints Memorial Service at Harry Griffen Park!

We're meeting for worship in the park again, this time for our annual All Saints Memorial Service, when we remember those who have gone on before us. Do you have a friend who's lost someone who might be blessed by this service? Please invite them to join us!

We will meet in the pine grove at the end of the parking lot at Harry Griffen Park, at 9550 Mildred St., at 10:30 am. Please bring your own chair and something to use for communion. (Elements will not be provided.) Everyone will be screened on arrival, so please don't come if you're having any symptoms. Make sure to wear your mask and keep your chairs at least 6 feet from your friends!

Birthday Parade! If you can, please bring a sack lunch and plan to stay after our park worship, to wish Kay Tenison a Happy 99th Birthday! We'll head out to Sungarden Terrace about 12:15. Please bring cards. We will provide some flowers to share with Kay.

ZOOM WORSHIP ENHANCEMENTS

We will have two items for you to pick up at our service on 11/1 in the park, to make our experience of worship on Zoom richer in the coming weeks. Julie Germain is making us homemade, gluten-free communion wafers, so that we can all use the same substance for the holy meal that unites us. We're giving you a 12-week supply, so keep them in the freezer and pull one out each week.

We're also distributing "Peace of Christ" signs, which we hope you'll use during the Passing of the Peace of Christ on Zoom so we have a lovely visual representation of this act of reconciliation each week. You can choose between a pre-colored one or a color-your-own version!

If you can't be with us at the park, we will make sure you get both communion wafers and a Peace sign soon!

Covid Cant Stop Christmas!

As you can imagine, we have had to re-imagine our Advent & Christmas season activities rather dramatically. Here's what we have planned.

We will have 2 Caroling Parties, on 12/6 & 12/20, aiming to carol at more houses than we normally do – since we're all "home-bound" now! Each household will travel in their own car, and we will only sing outside, spread out across the lawn and/or sidewalks. Call the church if you'd like us to come sing to you and your neighbors. You could sing one time and receive carolers for the other session!

Our Longest Night service will become a "Covid Christmas Catharsis" event in the prayer garden, with prayer stations available from 10-3 on Saturday, 12/5.

For Christmas Eve, we will be creating a video Lessons & Carols service that you can watch whenever it's convenient for your household. We will also have a brief Christmas Eve fellowship on Zoom for those who want to wish others "Merry Christmas!"

See pages 3 & 4 for info on our Christmas outreach projects. There is still JOY to share!

Advent & Christmas Kits

We are preparing do-it-at-home Advent & Christmas kits for you, so we can all engage with the season more fully. We hope to get them distributed before Thanksgiving so you'll be ready when Advent starts on Nov. 29th. Watch for more information!

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

'Tis the season for words of gratitude! I am so grateful to be serving a congregation that understands that ministry – in any time – is not an easy calling. I am especially grateful to serve the people of Vista La Mesa CC, who have continually expressed your appreciation and support for my ministry in this confusing, extra complicated time.

A little over a year ago, I applied for a program aimed at clergy renewal. It was supposed to take place in successive retreats in August 2020, February 2021, & August 2021. In April, I found out I was accepted, and the Board approved the use of Scholarship Fund money for my participation. Shortly after that, the retreats were pushed to Feb/Aug/Feb. Then in September, we learned the entire program was going online. This was quite a blow, since far too much of my life is already online, and the refreshment of “getting away” cannot be replicated, so I decided to withdraw from the program.

I give thanks, yet again, that the Board approved the re-allocation of those funds, so that I can still have some retreat time. Looking at the calendar, I decided to take my first opportunity! For my first mini-retreat, I will be spending a few days (Nov. 18-21) in a condo in Oceanside, meeting virtually with a clergy coach, and having some time to just be. Todd & I will then spend a couple extra days there just as vacation.

I am also grateful for VLM's flexibility in agreeing to join Pacific Beach CC for worship on Nov. 22nd, for a Partnership Thanksgiving Service. Given the nature of worship these days, with all the extra technical requirements, I could not effectively be “away” if worship was still happening at VLM. Thank you for making this time of renewal possible! You are a blessing!

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.

WE WANT TO ZEE YOU ON ZOOM!

Now that we're holding worship on 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 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. To join our main Zoom room, click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6194639909?pwd=ck12Mk40cVBkQ2xiWVYk2UVYyWlliZz09>

Or click “Join a Meeting” at zoom.us and enter our Meeting ID (619 463 9909) and our password (VLMCC4210). Or call 720-707-2699 or 669-900-9128 on your phone and enter the Meeting ID above when prompted, followed by the # sign.

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.

Partnership Thanksgiving Service

On Sunday, November 22nd, we will be joining Pacific Beach Christian Church for a Partnership Thanksgiving Service. The service will be hosted by PBCC, but our Ministerial Assistant Tesa Hauser will share in leadership. You can watch the service by visiting their website at www.pbchristian.com/watch/live. We hope everyone will enjoy this special opportunity!

WELCOME SATURDAY

Our covid-modified Welcome Saturday ministry is going well. We have successfully added showers back in, which is much appreciated by the guests. We continue to appreciate your financial donations, to help cover our costs.

We like to do something special for our Welcome Saturday guests in December, so we are inviting you to make a big batch of cookies and bring them in the week of Dec. 6th (no later than noon on Thursday). We will then package all the cookies into smaller bags to share with our guests as a token of the season to remind them of Christ's love for them.

INTERFAITH SHELTER

We are making plans to host Interfaith Shelter January 16-30. Our Shelter Director Amy Cliffe is planning to take those two weeks off so she can be our overnight host, eliminating the need for different people rotating in and out. We will share information about how to help with meals once the details become clearer.

REMINDER: Daylight Saving time ends on Nov. 1st. Turn your clocks back one hour Halloween night!

In Our Prayers...

JOYS ~ A successful Drive-thru Halloween, with happy guests! Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers! Our recent shift to worship on Zoom, with the increased sense of connection it provides! Congratulations to Lace Watkins, on her retirement from the County! Congratulations to Lisa Martin, on her new role as spokesperson for the San Diego Zoo!

CONCERNS ~ Katie Yoder, awaiting surgery for uterine cancer. Beckie Neely, squamous cell tumors removed from head 10/30. The Berry family, living in a hotel till their apartment is repaired from a flood. Cathy Mullican's mom, Judy, being treated for graft vs. host disease, a year after her transplant. Amy Cliffe's mom, sister & brother-in-law, covid. Brenda Rorie-Baety & her sisters, Georgia & Vicki, various issues. Betty Sullivan's daughter, Sheryl Nadeau. Betty Sinton. Conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. All those affected by wildfires and hurricanes/tropical storms.

New Bible Study!

We have started a new study of Second Corinthians in our Sunday morning Bible Study, led by Michael Kinnamon.

If you missed the intro session on 10/25, you can watch it on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOgoWXgFWyk>

Everyone is welcome to join us for the rest of the class, in our regular Zoom room, on Sundays at 9 am!

Happy Birthday!

- Nov. 1 - Norma Bailey
- Nov. 2 - Kay Tenison
- Nov. 7 - Janet Smith
- Nov. 8 - Daphne Flores
- Nov. 9 - Stephen Cliffe
- Nov. 9 - Matt Hauser
- Nov. 10 - Jennefer Lehton
- Nov. 19 - Maria Cusumano
- Nov. 20 - Katie Yoder
- Nov. 21 - Tesa Hauser
- Nov. 23 - Noralea Penny
- Nov. 26 - Deborah Wilson
- Nov. 28 - John Lehton

Happy Anniversary!

Nov. 4

Eliseo & Helene Sisneros

Nov. 21

Brian & Laura McCreanor

YOUTH NEWS

We will have Youth Group Zoom on 11/8 and 11/22, at 3 pm. Feel free to invite a friend! We hope to see you at our worship service at Harry Griffen Park on 11/1 too!

In December, instead of Youth Zooms, we're hoping you'll join us for our Caroling Parties on 12/6 & 12/20. We'll meet at the church, travel in separate cars, and spread out across people's yards to sing carols while wearing our masks!

November 2020 Worship Participants

	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29
Worship Leader	Mike Martin	Brenda Rorie-Baety	Bob Neely	PBCC	Walter Rorie-Baety
Kids' Moment	Rebecca Littlejohn	Deborah Wilson	Tesa Hauser	PBCC	Rebecca Littlejohn
Lay Reader	N/A	Daphne Flores	Mary Jane Fay	PBCC	Lisa Martin
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Julie Germain	Walter Rorie-Baety	PBCC	Michael Kinnamon
Offering Elder	Katie Yoder	Karen Cliffe	Jerry Bailey	PBCC	Tim Cliffe
Comm. Elder	Mary Jane Fay	Michael Kinnamon	Julie Germain	PBCC	Beckie Neely

Christmas for El Nido

The El Nido shelter offers housing & support for women & children escaping domestic violence. It is part of the Interfaith Shelter Network. Every year, we "adopt" a few families to provide them with Christmas presents. This year, we will be sharing the wish lists with you in an online sign-up, and then asking you to bring the gifts in, wrapped and ready to go. If you have trouble with the online sign-up, Pastor Rebecca can help you participate over the phone.

NOVELS TEA

**Sunday,
December 13
3:00 PM
Discussing
"Hiddensee"
by Gregory
Maguire**

VLMCC Board News

VLMCC Board reports are due on Friday, November 6th. Let Pastor Rebecca or Alicia know if you need a report form. It is quite important that your reports are submitted by the due date so that they can be incorporated into the packet in time for the meeting. The Administrative Committee will meet Tuesday, Nov. 10th at 4:30 pm on Zoom. The Board will meet on Tuesday, November 17th at 6 pm on Zoom.

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 Intern: **Tesa Hauser**

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

Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**

Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero & Francina Berry**

Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

Church Tel. (619) 463-9909

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

Church website: www.vlmcc.org