

# The Christian Visitor

MARCH 2021 ~ VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Worship at the Park

We will be holding worship at Harry Griffen Park again on Sunday, March 7th, and each of the first Sundays of the month for the time being. Remember to bring chairs and something to use for communion. We will stream to Facebook Live and send out a video later that afternoon for those who can't attend in person.

Tesa Hauser will be preaching on March 7th, as part of our ENDURE Lenten series. The first Sunday of April is Easter, so we'll hope to have as many folks as possible join us at the Park that day!

## FCLM Dialogues on Race

The Faith Coalition of La Mesa, of which Pastor Rebecca is a founding member, is offering an 8-week class on race and racism, from a Christian perspective. The class will be held on Zoom, on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:15, starting April 14th. The only cost is \$10 for the book. Each week, we will cover one chapter (12-15 pages), which you should read ahead of time. The class will be facilitated by Melissa James & Antoine Cummins. Most of the time will be small group discussion, with groups of people from the different participating congregations. The other FCLM churches are The Table UCC, First UMC-La Mesa, Foothills UMC, and Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran.

We are asking that you register by March 26, so we can order the books everyone will need. To pay for your book, send your \$10 to VLM for "Christian Ed-book". Visit <https://forms.gle/dkn1etynEAHbhQMCA> to register.

## ~ ENDURE ~ LENT 2021 AT VLM

Our theme for Lent this year is ENDURE, with a different word focus for each week: Empathy, Needs met, Determination, Understanding, Resilience, and finally for Palm Sunday, Excitement. This theme is borne of a recognition that the past year has felt, in some ways, like one long Lent. Though the end of the pandemic is still a ways off, it's in sight in ways we couldn't have even imagined a year ago. We want to use this season to call to mind and heart the practices that will help us get through. We encourage you to use the ENDURE journaling worksheet that was included in your Lenten kit, to work through these ideas for yourself.

We anticipate holding a Holy Thursday service on Zoom, Thursday, April 1st at 6:00 pm. And then, for Easter Sunday, we will be back at Harry Griffen Park for a celebration.

## Week of Compassion & Easter

We set a goal of raising \$500 for Week of Compassion in our annual offering this year, plus the change we collect in our coin boxes. Thank you for your help in meeting that goal! We hope you will keep collecting coins in your WOC boxes and bring them to the Park each first Sunday for our "noisy offering".

We will be setting a goal for the Easter Special Offering as well, which we will hold April 4 & 11. This offering supports our General Church Ministries. Watch for more information in the April newsletter and weekly emails.

## From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

During the very first Lent we went through together, nine years ago, I did a sermon series that was inspired by our name. “Vista La Mesa” is a great name for a congregation centered around the Lord’s Supper. Whether you translate that “view of/from the Table” or “Table View Christian Church”, it says something important about our perspective. Despite each sermon being a collaborative effort with a different group within the congregation, I think there were a couple people who were actually concerned the new pastor was trying to change the church’s name! I promise I wasn’t; it was just that, as a newcomer and a lifelong Disciple, I found the connection interesting as soon as I learned the name. It is also the inspiration for the name of this column! (Had you noticed that before?)

As I was reflecting on that today, it occurred to me that our experiences of the past year have shifted our understanding of what “table view” might mean. It’s always had the potential to be both about what it means to view the Table as the center of our shared faith life and about what it means to view life and God’s world from our places at Christ’s Table. But now that the tables in our homes – the kitchen table, the coffee table, the tray table – have become Christ’s table, as we share in worship remotely, our “view” of what it means to be a table-centered church has also been broadened. Ironically, being forced to scatter to our separate homes has shown us how the connections this Table makes manifest do not depend on sharing the Bread of Life across the same physical surface. This experience has given us new views and perspectives on what it means to have a Table at the center of our life together and how God intends for us to go forth from that Table into the world in service. At least, that’s what it looks like from where I’m sitting!

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 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. We Want to Zee You on Zoom!

## FOUNDERS DAY

Chapman University's annual Founders Day is an online event this year, featuring Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre of Iliff School of Theology in Denver. In addition to Dr. De La Torre's presentations, there is a worship service led by Chapman students.

More info & free registration are at <https://www.chapman.edu/campus-life/church-relations/founders-day/index.aspx>.

## FOOD DRIVE!

We are delighted to announce that the Food Pantry at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church has re-opened, and we will be collecting food to support this ministry again! Eliseo Sisneros has graciously agreed to resume the lead on this project. You are invited to bring your donations of non-perishable food items to Eliseo's porch (8041 University Place, La Mesa), between the third Sunday of each month and that Wednesday. Eliseo will make the delivery of all our donations on Thursday. If you have questions, call Eliseo or Pastor Rebecca. Thanks!

## IN OUR PRAYERS...

Please contact the office at 619-463-9909 for prayer concerns.

## Small Group Opportunities

There are quite a few opportunities for VLMers to gather for fellowship, study, and prayer, all happening on Zoom. All of these groups are open to new folks joining them.

**Senior Men's Coffee** meets each Wednesday at 8 am.

**Women's Study** meets every other Friday at 1 pm. Contact Mary Jane Fay for information about what they're studying.

**Novels Tea** meets about every six weeks, with the next date and book announced in this newsletter. We will discuss "A Wrinkle in Time" by Madeleine L'Engle on March 7 at 3 pm.

VLM-connected **Young Adults** are shifting their gathering to meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm.

We hold an **All-Church Coffee Hour**, usually the third Sunday of each month, at 12:30 pm, with time for checking in with one another and time to chat in smaller groups.

All our **Committees** are open to new folks attending their meetings and participating in their ministry planning!

## Welcome Saturday

Thank you for your continued support of this life-giving ministry! Things are going well, with new guests arriving each month. We are also making more connections with community partners that will enrich the ministry. We expect our numbers to continue to rise.

## Happy Birthday!

- Mar. 1 - Micah Cliffe
- Mar. 2 - Kevin Severns, Sr.
- Mar. 3 - Brenda Rorie-Baety, Ruth Tiffany
- Mar. 4 - Julie Germain
- Mar. 5 - Susan Peterson
- Mar. 6 - Indigo Cullumber
- Mar. 11 - Jimmie Beatty
- Mar. 14 - Andy Cliffe
- Mar. 15 - Jeff Cliffe
- Mar. 17 - Rachel Bunch
- Mar. 19 - Amber Morris
- Mar. 22 - Carolyn Gdaniec
- Mar. 23 - Nona Nowlin
- Mar. 26 - Daniel Cliffe
- Mar. 29 - Kara Bunch
- Mar. 31 - Amanda Dohring

## Happy Anniversary!

- Mar. 6 - Sara & Troy Gurling

## YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group is meeting every other Sunday now at 3 pm on Zoom. We are meeting with the youth group from University CC, which is lots of fun.

Our meetings this month will be on March 14 & 28. We hope you'll show up! Tesa, Marshela and Pastor Rebecca are always cooking up more plans for fun, fellowship, and learning. We want to keep you connected. Please be in contact if you have thoughts!

## March 2021 Worship Participants

	Mar. 7	Mar. 14	Mar. 21	Mar. 28
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Ruth Tiffany	Walter Rorie-Baety	Katie Yoder	Karen Cliffe
<b>Lay Reader</b>	N/A	Dick Penny	Jerry Bailey	Tracy Stockdall
<b>Offering Invitation</b>	Tim Cliffe	Mandy Dohring	Tesa Hauser	Cheryl Davis-Plotts
<b>Offering Elder</b>	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Tim Cliffe	Mary Jane Fay	Michael Kinnamon
<b>Comm. Elder</b>	Larry Knight	Beckie Neely	Mike Martin	Brenda Rorie-Baety



A screen shot of our Youth Group Valentine's Day party on 2/14.

*Thanks to everyone who played along with Formal February! We had fun dressing up with you!*

## News for the Board

The **Board of VLMCC will meet at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, 3/17** on Zoom. The Administrative Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 9 at 4:30 pm.

**Board Members – Your Reports are due on Friday, March 5th.**

## Spring Forward!

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 13.

**Daylight Saving Time begins March 14.**

Don't be late to Bible Study!

### 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, FRI 10-1**

### CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: **The Members of VLM**

Pastor: **Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn**

Ministerial Assistant: **Tesa Hauser**

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

Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**

Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero & Francia Berry**

Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

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