

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ JUNE 2021

Church in the Park

We hope you will join us at Harry Griffen Park one last time (for now) for worship on Sunday, June 13th! We will gather at 10:30 for worship, and then hold our congregational meeting immediately following the service.

Please remember to bring a chair and something for communion, if you like. (We'll have some available.) Since we're outside, we ask that you have your mask available for when you're interacting closely with others, but if you want to remove it when you're at your seat, that is fine.

Congregational Meeting

All members are asked to attend our Congregational Meeting, which will be held immediately following worship on June 13th at Harry Griffen Park. This annual meeting is an important time for the whole of the congregation to affirm the work that our lay leaders carry out throughout the year.

We will be voting on the slate of nominees for leadership and the proposed budget for 2021-2022. A packet with all the information will be distributed to all members the first week of June.

If you have any questions about any of the material, you may contact Pastor Rebecca or Board Chair John Lehton. We hope to see you there!

We Gather Together – Finally!

We are delighted to announce that we will resume gathering in the sanctuary for worship on Sunday, June 27th, after 66 Sundays apart!

Since we're re-opening after the state & county guidelines are scheduled to be lifted, we will be using fewer precautions than we originally expected. We will start out pretty careful, as we all ease back into being in one another's presence.

For the initial transition period, we are strongly encouraging everyone to wear masks while in the congregation inside, especially when singing and especially if you're not yet vaccinated. This is largely to show our love and care for the children in our midst who are not yet eligible for vaccines. Speakers up front, who are farther away from others, will be encouraged to remove their masks as they are comfortable for their speaking parts, to enable being heard.

Communion will be served with pre-packaged communion sets, but you are welcome to bring something from home if you prefer. Coffee hour will be outside. (See p. 3)

More information about how things will work will be in the packet for the congregational meeting. We have not set a timeline for when this transition period will shift to the next stage; we will be gauging things as we go and adapting appropriately. We welcome your feedback!

Installation & Appreciation!

The highlight of our first service back in the sanctuary will be installing our Lay Leaders for the 2021-2022 ministry year. This is an important moment for us to cover our lay leaders with prayer, as they prepare to carry out their respective ministries to keep our church vital and healthy.

This year, because we won't be able to have a potluck afterward, we will also be expressing our appreciation to those completing terms of service during worship. It will be a special time to give thanks for their service!

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

As we move toward re-opening our church building, there is something even more important than the protocols and precautions we use to do so, and that's the attitude with which we live out those guidelines. I want to suggest three words to help us do this well: relax, respect, and reverence.

There has been a lot of anxiety and ugliness over the past year, especially regarding the various restrictions we've been asked to follow when interacting in public. Let us resolve not to bring that into our church life. I pray that all of us trust that our fellow church members are grounded in love in everything we do. As we prepare to gather again, let's all take a deep breath and relax. We will not all choose the same precautions, but it's vital that we don't waste time judging and making assumptions about others' choices. Different people may act out our shared respect for the community differently. We each have different life circumstances. Let's try to assume that everyone has good intentions. To the best of our knowledge, at the moment, the congregation has a vaccination rate of over 90%, so our other safety precautions are mostly about helping us all ease back into being together. We can relax, even as we respect one another's different choices and needs.

Finally, as we resume gathering, let us give thanks. We have not lost anyone within our congregation to this terrible virus, as of now. That is something we should not take for granted. Let us use this opportunity to treat the life of each member and friend of our community, young and old alike, with the reverence befitting God's beloved children. There may be some bumps in the road ahead, as we adjust and adapt to new ways of being together. But let us stay united in our compassion for one another, cherishing each other person as a fellow beloved child of God.

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.

You Made a Joyful Noise!

A year ago, we were building a budget with a fair amount of anxiety. We had no idea how the pandemic was going to affect our financial support. It hadn't seemed appropriate to collect Estimate of Giving cards, so we were flying blind with much trepidation.

This year, we are rejoicing because we have seen how generous and faithful you have been throughout this difficult year! We have received over 20 Estimate of Giving cards already, and they're still coming in. We are happy to report that the budget coming before the congregation this month has the smallest deficit we've anticipated in a while, with a much smaller projected draw on the Memorial Endowment Fund than we authorized for this year. (Thus far this year, we've only pulled half of the \$20,000 allowed.)

We are so grateful for the generosity of our current donors and the legacy gifts that make our ministries possible. Thank you!

Committees, Boards, and Small Groups, please discuss when, if & how you want to shift from Zoom to in-person at your meetings this month, and share your plans with

Pastor Rebecca, so we can let everyone know what to expect.

Thanks!

Guest Preacher!

We are delighted to have the Rev. Steve Bridwell preaching for us on Sunday, June 20th, our last remote-only service. Steve and his wife, Rev. Renee Bridwell, recently retired to San Diego County after long careers in the Midwest.

Coffee Hour in the Garden

One of the things we have missed the most during the pandemic is gathering after worship to catch up with friends and get to know visitors better. Coffee hour is coming back! During our transition period, we will be holding coffee hour outside, with the drinks and treats served from the prayer garden and plenty of other spaces to spread out and chat. We hope you will join us, as you are comfortable.

Welcome Saturday

We are so grateful for your financial support of Welcome Saturday over the past year that made it possible for us to continue this re-humanizing ministry! We will have a sign-up for "stuff" out for July's WS again, but we are happy to continue receiving financial support for the things we end up needing to purchase.

Our plan is to move the ministry back indoors very gradually, over the next few months.

BIG THANKS to Helene Sisneros and Jennefer Lehton who recently organized our storage space and got everything put away neat and tidy! You are a blessing!

CATCHING UP

Once we're back in the sanctuary, we've got some catching up to do. We will have a few special services in July to note the things we missed being able to do together over the past year+.

On July 11th, we will mark birthdays & anniversaries, along with deaths of loved ones and babies being born.

On July 18th, we will celebrate "Christmas in July" with carols and decorations.

Watch for more info on the plans for July 25th.

We missed it all the first time, so don't miss it this time around!

Lunch Bunchers,
let's start talking
about how and
when we want to
start going out
together again!
What are you
hungry for?

Happy Birthday!

- 6/1 - Teannah Townsend
- 6/9 - Carmen Bunch, Walter Rorie-Baety, Coral Yoder
- 6/14 - 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...

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

YOUTH NEWS & CAMP!

Since we still can't head up to Mentone for camp this summer, we are excited to announce "Camp ~~Leh~~ Not Leven"! In collaboration with three other District 8 congregations – MissionGathering CC, University CC, and Pacific Beach CC – we will be offering a 23.25 hour camp alternative, **July 16 & 17**, held right here at VLM!

Watch for online registration coming very soon. First graders through high school seniors are invited. There will be a small suggested registration donation to help cover costs, including your Camp Not Leven t-shirt! Every kid is asked to bring a towel (for sitting on and more) and a water bottle both days. On Friday, we will go from 5:30-9:00 pm (including dinner), and on Saturday, we will go from 9:30 am till 4:45 pm (including lunch & snack).

We hope you'll join us for some of your favorite camp activities like s'mores, family group, games, arts & crafts, and even a talent show! Family groups will be arranged in three age groups, with age-appropriate activities. All adult volunteers will be fully vaccinated, and all activities (except bathroom breaks) will happen outside. Parents, if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Rebecca.

Youth Group will meet on Zoom on **Sunday, June 6th at 3:00 pm**. We have some important pre-camp things to plan, so make sure to be present! This is our only meeting this month.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for the new fiscal year are here. If you would like to pick yours up, come by the office. We will have them available for pick-up on 6/13 & 6/27. If you would like to have yours delivered, contact Pastor Rebecca. If you didn't order personalized envelopes, but would still like a set of monthly giving envelopes, we have a few sets available.

Many Ways to Serve

As we resume gathering for worship, this is a great time to consider whether you might be interested in welcoming folks to worship as a Greeter, serving as Lay Reader, leading an Offering Invitation, working with the kids, or helping count the offering. Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you'd like to help out in any of these ways.

FOOD DRIVE

We are so glad to have revived our monthly Food Drive supporting the food pantry at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church. Thanks to the Sisneroses for being our drop-off and delivery folks!

This month, you can drop your donations on the Sisneroses' porch between Sunday & Wednesday, June 20-23. Thanks for your contributions!

(New & Continuing) Elders & Deacons

The Elders and Deacons will meet on Zoom on **Sunday, June 6th at 1:00 pm**. This is an important meeting because we will be going over all the changes in the worship service for when we resume worship in the sanctuary. We will also be finalizing leadership for each of the groups for the coming ministry year.

Deacons are also asked to attend a training on **Saturday, June 19th at 11:00 am** at the church (in person), so that we can walk through all the set-up, service, and clean-up duties.

Both of these events are aimed primarily at those who will be Elders or Deacons in the coming ministry year, not those who are finishing terms and not returning. We hope to return to having our regular Leadership Retreat next year, but for now, we hope you will join us for these two important gatherings, so we can all be on the same page as we resume gathering for worship in the sanctuary later in June. Thanks!

Save the Date!
Disciples Virtual Gathering
Saturday, August 7th
"Nothing Can Separate Us
From the Love of God"

June 2021 Worship Participants

	June 6	June 13	June 20	June 27
Worship Leader	Brenda Rorie-Baety	Bob Neely	Walter Rorie-Baety	Ruth Tiffany
Lay Reader	Al Flores	N/A	Cathy Mullican	Daphne Flores
Offering Invite	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Rebecca Littlejohn	Mary Jane Fay	Michael Kinnamon
Elders	Karen Cliffe Michael Kinnamon	Jerry Bailey Julie Germain	Cheryl Davis-Plotts Larry Knight	Tim Cliffe Beckie Neely
Deacons	Mary Alynn Fallon Bill Kwon Dick Penny Lace Watkins	Amanda Dohring Susan Peterson Tracy Stockdall	Patrice Hill Jennefer Lehton John Lehton	Ray Adsit Al Flores Daphne Flores Lyn Van Winkle
Comm Prep Comm Set-up Comm Clean-up	N/A	N/A	N/A	Team 4
CWW	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greeters	N/A	N/A	N/A	Larry Knight John Lehton
Counters	N/A	N/A	N/A	Walter Rorie-Baety

Coffee Hour Hosts: Flock 3 (Deacons – Patrice Hill, Jennefer Lehton, John Lehton)

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

Admins' 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 & Comms Coord.: **Alicia M. Gervasi**

Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**

Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero**

Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

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

Church website: www.vlmcc.org