

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ MAY 2021

Worship at the Park

We hope you will join us for worship at Harry Griffen Park on Sunday, May 2nd, at 10:30 am. Many folks learned about the back gate last time, with parking on Blackthorne Ave. Because it won't be Easter, though, we are not expecting the park to be as crowded as it was last month. The entrance is at 9550 Mildred St. in La Mesa, near Grossmont High School.

As always, please bring a chair and your mask. Because we never know when we might abruptly be close together, we want to encourage everyone to keep wearing their masks, whether vaccinated or not. You may bring something to use for communion, or use the pre-packaged communion sets we will provide. We are considering using these sets once we're back in the sanctuary, so we'd like to test them out.

In June, we'll be at the park on the 13th (second, not first Sunday), with a service followed by our congregational meeting. Hope to see you both times!

CONSECRATION SUNDAY – MAY 2

As we anticipate returning to our sanctuary for worship, we are preparing for the 2021-2022 ministry year. That means we're all invited to share our intentions for financial support of our beloved church.

We will celebrate Consecration Sunday on May 2nd at the Park. You are invited to complete the Estimate of Giving card you received in the mail and bring it with you, to add to our Blessing Box, as we ask God's blessing on our intentions for generosity and faithfulness.

Our theme this year uses Psalm 100 to remind us to give thanks for how God has brought us through this wild and crazy year, and when we return to:

COME TO THIS PLACE WITH A SONG!

Celebrating Katie!

We are so very sad to be saying good-bye to Katie Yoder, who will be moving to Virginia to live with family in June. Our service on May 2nd is the last time we'll be together before she goes, so after our service at the Park, we're planning a brief celebration of Katie.

You are invited to bring a card for Katie that day, and if there's a short story or some words of appreciation you'd like to share, there will be a time for that. We will also be collecting a love gift for Katie, to assist her with this transition. Please mark your checks "Katie" or use the Elders Fund designation on tithely to contribute. Please have your gift in by May 21st, so we can get it to her before she leaves.

FCLM Dialogues on Race

Twelve members of VLM are participating in the Dialogues on Race anti-racism course that the Faith Coalition of La Mesa is holding this spring. With reading materials, video content, and small group discussion, there are a lot of sources of information. We are sharing brief thoughts about our experience each week in the Friday e-newsletters, so the rest of you can get a taste of what we're doing.

The churches involved in the FCLM, besides VLM, include First UMC-La Mesa, Foothills UMC, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran, and Table UCC-La Mesa. Members of St. Peter's by the Sea Lutheran are also participating in this class.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

We are right on the cusp of another big shift. Hopefully, within another month, we will resume gathering for worship in our sanctuary. It is our current plan to do so on Sunday, June 27th, the day we will be installing our Lay Leaders for the 2021-2022 ministry year. We will also have a special time of appreciation for those who have been completed terms of service and worked so hard to hold us together over the past year. I hope you will join us!

We have a lot to work out between now and then. Our Ministry Committees – Worship, Fellowship & Christian Education – will each be talking through the policies and procedures that will be needed to carry out our various ministries safely. Later this month, the Board will approve some of those policies, and then the Elders & Deacons will work through some of the practical implications at their meeting on June 6th.

For some period of time, we will be using a transitional format for worship, which will include various precautions such as not passing the offering plate, offering pre-packaged communion and inviting folks to bring their own elements if they prefer, extra space between rows, and air filters running in the sanctuary. Coffee hour will likely be held in the prayer garden and parking lot, for those who want to share in fellowship.

While the State of California is planning to drop the tier system restrictions on June 15th, we want to be mindful of the youngest members of our congregation who are not yet eligible for vaccines. We will likely resume gathering with strong encouragement to wear your mask while you're in the midst of the congregation, but with speakers up front taking theirs off to be more easily heard. There is a lot to work out, so we deeply appreciate your patience & cooperation. We will continue to get through this together, with God's help!

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.

Pentecost Special Offering

We will be receiving the Pentecost Special Offering on May 16 & 23 this year. This special day offering goes to support New Church Ministries, in the Pacific Southwest Region and across the denomination.

Pentecost is the day when the Holy Spirit arrived amongst the first disciples – sometimes called the “birthday” of the church – so it's a great day to focus on churches being started.

Planting new Disciples congregations is hard work, but there are so many people who need these churches to help them connect with God! The Outreach Committee has set a goal for us to raise \$350 for this offering this year. We hope you will contribute what you can. You can mark “Pentecost” on a check or choose “DMF-Pentecost” on the designation menu on tithe.ly. Thank you for your support!

Thanks also for your support for our 2021 Easter Special Offering! We collected \$525 in support of Disciples general ministries, exceeding our goal by \$25. Thank you!

Save the Date!
Saturday, Aug. 7th
Disciples 2021
Virtual Gathering
Bible Study,
Workshops, Worship

<https://disciples.org/2021-virtual-gathering/>

All-Church Coffee Hour

Do you miss donuts? Or do you just miss your church friends? If it's the latter, we'd love to have you join us on Zoom, Sunday, May 16th at 12:30 for a virtual coffee hour. We sometimes play games or share responses to discussion questions that help us get to know one another better. We always have fun! You will need to bring your own donuts and coffee – we'll provide the fellowship!

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 Sisneros' porch between Sunday & Wednesday, May 16-19. Thank you!

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will meet on Sunday, May 30 at 3 pm on Zoom to discuss Michael Kinnamon's new novel, "Summer of Love and Evil", which will be released May 1st and is available for pre-order now.

Anyone is welcome to join our discussion. Since we're on Zoom, you have to provide your own tea and "fancy snacks"!

Committees & Small Groups, it's time to start thinking about whether you want to stay on Zoom or resume meeting in person at the church, or try a hybrid model.

Welcome Saturday

We are still holding Welcome Saturday with all our covid precautions, though our numbers are still not up to what they were in the "before times." We're also making plans for the next chapter, with some of the operations moved back inside.

Thanks for your continued financial support that makes it possible to feed our guests! We will also be welcoming back some of our higher-risk volunteers, as folks get fully vaccinated. We are grateful for all our volunteers, long-time, new, and those from other congregations as well!

 **PENTECOST**
is May 23rd!
Wear RED for
worship! 

In Our Prayers...

Please contact our office at 619-463-9909 for any prayer concerns

Happy Birthday!

May 2 ~ Farrie Ann Nichols
May 6 ~ Brittany Cliffe
May 10 ~ George Moss
May 20 ~ Becky Carranza
May 24 ~ Helene Sisneros
May 28 ~ Lyn Van Winkle
May 29 ~ Aireen Bentley

Happy Anniversary!

May 16
Kevin & Patty Severns
May 20
Shayne & Rachel McKinney
May 21
Matt & Tesa Hauser
May 25
Andy & Amy Cliffe

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group will meet once in May & June, on 5/16 and 6/6 at 3 pm, on Zoom.

We are in discussion with four other District 8 congregations about creating a special event this summer to take the place of summer camp at Loch Leven. The Region has created a curriculum. We will be surveying families soon to learn what sorts of activities you would be comfortable with.

We are looking at the weekends of July 17 and/or 24. We are considering a Friday night / Saturday / Sunday afternoon model, as well as a two-consecutive Saturdays option. We're hoping to make it available for all ages that are interested.

There will be no Elders & Deacons meeting in May. We will meet on June 6th for May & June. Please be sure to be present then!

May 2021 Worship Participants

	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
Worship Leader	Michael Kinnamon	Julie Germain	Larry Knight	Beckie Neely	Mike Martin
Lay Reader	N/A	Jennefer Lehton	Tim Tiffany	Mandy Dohring	Dick Penny
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Tesa Hauser	Tim Cliffe	Julie Germain	Walter Rorie-Baety
Offering Elder	Brenda Rorie-Baety	Bob Neely	Ruth Tiffany	Walter Rorie-Baety	Katie Yoder
Comm. Elder	Karen Cliffe	Jerry Bailey	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Tim Cliffe	Mary Jane Fay

May Board Meeting – 5/25

Board members, please note that we will meet on Tuesday, May 25th at 6:00 on Zoom (not the normal day). Your reports are due on Friday, May 14th, unless there are special reasons for you to turn it in later. The Administrative Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 18th at 4:30 pm.

The May Board meeting is the most important one of the year, because we are preparing for our Congregational Meeting in June. We will be discussing and voting on the proposed budget for 2021-2022 and a proposal to renew Tesa Hauser's contract as our Ministerial Assistant. We will also be reviewing the proposed slate of nominees for lay leaders with terms beginning July 1, 2021. Finally, we will be approving policies & procedures for re-opening our facilities in June.

All members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

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/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**
 Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

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 Pastor's E-mail: pastor@vlmcc.com
 Church website: www.vlmcc.org