

# The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ JULY 2021

## COMMEMORATION CATCHUP DAY SUNDAY, JULY 11TH

Throughout the month of July, we're going to be "catching up" on some of what we missed doing together during the pandemic. On the 11th, we will be celebrating all our birthdays and anniversaries.

We will also be commemorating the deaths of loved ones and any babies born during the past 15 months. If you had an immediate family member (parent, sibling, spouse, or child) pass away between April 2020 and now, please let Pastor Rebecca know so we don't miss you. If a baby was born (grands and greats) was born in your family, let us know that too! We're going through our records to find everything, but we don't want to leave anyone out accidentally.

## A New Chapter Begins...

What a joy it was to gather for our first service back in the sanctuary on June 27th! Though things are a little different for now because of the precautions we're taking, it's great to be together!

Coffee Hour is being held in the garden and the patio and surrounding areas. Our flocks are in charge of hosting Coffee Hour, so make sure to check out the new Flock Lists on page four. Flock 4 is responsible for hosting coffee hour in July, and Flock 1 is on in August.

As we have said, we're not quite sure how long our initial transition period will last. Some of that will depend on the spread of new variants of the virus, and how soon children can get vaccinated. It will also depend on the expressed comfort levels of the congregation, so make sure we know how you're feeling. We're doing this TOGETHER!

## Christmas in July!

On Sunday, July 18, we're going to have a little taste of the holidays in worship. Since we weren't able to do any of our beloved Christmas traditions last year, we hope you'll join us for our celebration of Christmas in July!

We will have some of our decorations up and will remember the Christmas story and sing Christmas carols. We're even going to have the little candles out for when we sing "Silent Night" at the end of the service.

You can make it even more festive by wearing Christmas clothing or colors and inviting a friend to come to worship with you.

And since it's not Christmas unless we share the joy with others, we'll also be receiving a special offering for El Nido Shelter during worship that day.

## REGISTER NOW!

### Disciples Virtual Gathering

Since we couldn't have a General Assembly this summer, Disciples are having a virtual gathering instead. "NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD" will be held Saturday, August 7, 2021.

There will be Bible study, educational workshops, worship, and much more, focused on our theme and the covenant that connects us together as church.

You can sign up to participate at [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org).

## From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

I'm not sure I want to sing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" ever again. Years from now, when a new pastor is trying to pick out hymns, someone should warn them that #433 has strong connotations of a global pandemic here at Vista La Mesa and shouldn't be used lightly.

In March of 2020, using the same song every week – about being separated but trusting that in Christ's love we would always be united – seemed like a good way to keep the faith for the weeks or months we would be worshipping remotely. Remember when we had no idea it would last more than a year?

We didn't necessarily end up singing it every week, unless you were being super faithful to every part of the worship kit you were emailed. For a while, when we thought we might be back in the sanctuary before most folks were vaccinated, we considered having it be the only song we would sing, after processing outside and going to stand by our cars, plenty distant from one another to be safe. It's short and the words aren't hard to remember, so it might have worked well, as an outlet for our desire to sing.

During Lent 2021, we used it as the Hymn of Going Forth again, to mark the the year we'd been apart. And we sang it again at our last Zoom service, as a reminder. On June 27th, we sang it one last time, but with a twist this time. Instead of the usual second verse, we sang "When we were called to part, it gave us inward pain. But we were always joined in heart, and now have met again."

I'm curious how this song and singing it repeatedly impacted you during this 15 months. Was it a source of hope and comfort? Was it an irritating reminder of how long the pandemic had stretched on? Will you ever be ready to sing it again? Regardless, let us give thanks that we were always joined in heart and that we have been blessed to be able to meet again!

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.

## Elders and Deacons

For the month of July, the Elders and Deacons will meet together on Zoom, on Sunday the 11th at 1:30 pm.

We will discuss how we want to meet going forward (in-person or Zoom, combined or separately) at that meeting. We will also discuss any questions about how our service in worship is going, with the current adapted procedures and any adjustments we need to make.

Please check out your new Flock List (on page 4 and emailed to you previously) and familiarize yourself with everyone on it. (If you need contact information for anyone, be in touch with Pastor Rebecca.)

Flock 4 Deacons, you are responsible for leading your flock in hosting Coffee Hour this month, so think about who you can invite to help out. This is a great way to get people involved in service!

## CHOIR!

Our choir will begin rehearsing again on Thursday, August 5th at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. We plan to begin singing in worship again in September. Anyone who is fully vaccinated and loves to sing is welcome to join us! See Music Director Deborah Wilson if you have any questions.

We will have special music offerings in worship until the choir comes back.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**REGIONAL  
GATHERING  
10/16/21**

## Children's Ministries at VLM

We are so excited to have our kids back at church! We want to be extra careful until all children are able to get their vaccines, so we're taking precautions to protect them. Helene Sisneros will be working with our Nursery Attendant Stephanie Cadiero to provide worshipful programming for kids during worship, as needed, primarily in the playground.

We are still looking for someone to serve as Nursery Assistant. If you know someone who might be interested in this position, please let Pastor Rebecca know.

## Welcome Saturday

We are shifting our set-up for Welcome Saturday once again, now that our volunteers are better protected with vaccines and many of our guests are as well. While eating will still happen outside, we will be inviting the guests into Bailey Hall to receive their food, to browse our clothing supplies, and to get what they need for showers.

We're hopeful this will be a transitional step toward moving the whole thing back inside in the coming months.

Thanks so much for your financial donations that make this life-giving ministry possible! We couldn't do it without you!

## PRAYING & COLORING IS BACK!

**SATURDAY, JULY 31, 1 PM**

**We will meet in Bailey Hall to stay a little more spread out. Bring your colors & books or use what we have. Everyone welcome!**

## Lunch Bunch!

**Wednesday,**

**July 21,**

**11:30 am**

**Marie Callender's  
in La Mesa**

**Host: Beckie Neely**

**(Women's Lunch  
will return in  
August.)**

## Happy Birthday!

- July 1 - Rosemary Tiffany
- July 6 ~ Mary Alynn Fallon
- July 9 ~ Teaghan Townsend
- July 10 ~ Cheryl Davis-Plotts
- July 13 ~ Lisa Martin
- July 17 ~ Nancy Knight
- July 18 ~ Marques Gurling
- July 21 ~ Adrian Morey
- July 21 ~ Terry Morris
- July 22 ~ Karen Cliffe
- July 31 ~ Michael Martin
- July 31 ~ Tommy Berry

## Happy Anniversary!

- July 6 ~ Tim & Ruth Tiffany
- July 18 ~ Christi & Jaime Neely-Carlson

## In Our Prayers...

CONCERNS ~ For prayer concerns please contact the office at 619-463-9909.

# YOUTH NEWS

Camp Loch Not Leven is almost here! On Friday & Saturday, July 23 & 24, we will be hosting kids and youth from 5 Disciples churches in San Diego for a weekend church camp alternative. Since our Regional camps couldn't happen at Loch Leven this summer, the Regional Camp Ministry Committee encouraged us to build our own. We're hoping this will be a way to keep the joy of camp alive in our young people's hearts until they can return to the mountains next summer.

We will have family groups, and singing, and s'mores, and water balloons, and interest groups, and even a talent show!

Camp Not Leven is open to first through twelfth graders. Campers are asked to bring a sturdy towel (for sitting on) and a water bottle with them. T-shirts will be distributed Friday night, and we'd like to have everyone wear theirs on Saturday for our camp picture, please!

Contact Pastor Rebecca if you have any questions.

We are planning to hold a Rummage Sale early in the fall, so please start collecting anything you can donate. Thanks!

## Offering Envelopes

Monthly offering envelope sets are available for pick-up at the church now. This is a great tool to assist in your spiritual discipline of stewardship.

## FLOCK LISTS for 2021-2022

### Flock 1

Jerry & Norma Bailey, Amy & Andy Cliffe, Daniel, Mark & Stephen Cliffe, Glenda Cliffe, Amanda Dohring & Julie Germain, Allan & Daphne Flores and Himston, Al, & Cher Flores, Editrudes & Winston Mangrobang, Sara & Troy Gurling and Embrilly Lopez, Ana Amaro, Marques & Edward Gurling, Cathy Mullican, Susan Peterson, Jack Thompson, Ruth & Tim Tiffany, Joshua, Christian, Rosemary & Julia Tiffany, Deborah Wilson

### Flock 2

Jenny Angione, Karen & Tim Cliffe and Brittany & Micah, Sonny & Maria Cusumano, Cheryl Davis-Plotts, Patrice Hill and Trinity (Hill) Crumble & Teneia (Hill) Foster, Nancy Knight, Brian & Laura McCreanor and Jennings & Tennyson McCreanor, Nona Nowlin, Dick & Noralea Penny, Eliseo & Helene Sisneros and Abe Sisneros, Jason Sisneros, Jayden Tacon, Marley & Kainoa (Sisneros) Ramirez, Kay Tenison, Grace Van Winkle, Lyn Van Winkle, Katie Yoder and Kaitlin, Coral & Wolf Yoder

### Flock 3

Francia Berry and Geri, Hannah, Kaylee & Tommy Berry, Gene Blumenfeld, Renee & Steve Bridwell, Stephanie Cadiero, Paul Epler, Matt Epler, Mary Jane Fay, Sandy Hanna and Ryan, Kiley & Harley Hanna and Ginny & Haylee Hanna, Matt & Tesa Hauser, Michael Kinnamon, Larry Knight, Jennefer & John Lehton, Donna Morey and Sally Johnston, Heather Morey, Rebekah Morey and Adrian, Brenda & Walter Rorie-Baety, Sam Rorie, Betty Sinton, Lace Watkins

### Flock 4

Ray & Victoria Adsit, Adam & Aireen Bentley and Julie, Mary Ann E'Golf, Mary Allyn & Jim Fallon, Jessica & Julie Fallon, Ilene Kiser, Bill Kwon, Christine & Emma Lind, Michael & Lisa Martin and Teaghan & Teannah Townsend, Krissy Frost, Marianna Kirwan & Mike Lewis, Wavalea McKee, Rachel & Shayne McKinney and Vivian, Donna Moss, Hannah Moss, Beckie & Bob Neely, Janet Smith, Michaela Stockdall, Tracy Stockdall, Betty Sullivan

## Flower Donations

We have many openings for chancel flower sponsors in the second half of the year. Please sign up on the flower chart on the wall above the information table in Bailey Hall or at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0b4cada72ea1fe3-vlmsunday>. Thanks!

# July 2021 Worship Participants

	July 4	July 11	July 18	July 25
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Jerry Bailey	Karen Cliffe	Tim Cliffe	Cheryl Davis-Plotts
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Mike Martin	Ruth Tiffany	Tim Tiffany	Walter Rorie-Baety
<b>Offering Invite</b>	Larry Knight	Rebecca Littlejohn	Mandy Dohring	Rebecca Littlejohn
<b>Elders</b>	Mary Jane Fay Bob Neely	Julie Germain Brenda Rorie-Baety	Marianna Kirwan Walter Rorie-Baety	Larry Knight Ruth Tiffany
<b>Deacons</b>	Mary Alynn Fallon Bill Kwon	Patrice Hill Dick Penny Eliseo Sisneros Lyn Van Winkle	Jennefer Lehton John Lehton Lace Watkins	Ray Adsit Mary Allyn Fallon Bill Kwon Tracy Stockdall
<b>Comm Set-up Comm Clean-up</b>	Mary Alynn Fallon	Daphne Flores	Daphne Flores and Team 1	Daphne Flores and Team 1
<b>CWW</b>	Helene Sisneros	Helene Sisneros	Remain in worship	Helene Sisneros
<b>Greeters</b>	Jerry & Norma Bailey	Wavalea McKee John Lehton	Larry Knight Jennefer Lehton	Ray Adsit Bob Neely
<b>Counters</b>	#1 Lyn Van Winkle #2 Donna Morey	#1 Jerry Bailey #2 Bill Kwon	#1 John Lehton #2 Lace Watkins	#1 Walter Rorie-Baety #2 Mary Alynn Fallon

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** Flock 4 (Deacons: Ray Adsit, Mary Alynn Fallon, Bill Kwon, Tracy Stockdall)

## 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 Assistant: **Tesa Hauser**

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

Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**

Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero**

Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

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