From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

"Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." –Philippians 2:4

This long, strange season of the covid pandemic has been many things for us. The word "apocalypse" comes to mind, and it's important to remember that that word means "revelation" or "revealing". Indeed, many things have been revealed, and a lot of what has been unveiled hasn't been pleasant to face up to.

In many ways, this year and a half has been one long moment of truth for us as people of faith. The longer it grinds on, the more pressing the question becomes: Can we, will we follow Jesus?

The Savior we profess, as followers of Christ, is one who leads from a place of deep, sacrificial love. We cannot be faithful to the call of Christ if we're not willing to do our best at imitating that example. We have all given up a lot in the past 18 months, but our capacity for sacrifice may be wearing thin by now. We just want it to be over. But pretending that it is doesn't make it so.

As infection rates rise again, we need to dig deep and find the spiritual resources we need to hold onto our new habits of masking and distancing and simply not doing all the things we'd like to be doing. We had hoped it would be over by now, but it isn't. And the longer we resist taking the measures required to end the pandemic (getting vaccinated, masking, distancing, etc.), the longer it will persist. Let us instead give thanks for the example of Christ who shows us the power of sacrificial love and the path to living in joy through pouring out our lives for the sake of others.

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be taking three weeks off in October to refresh her body, mind, and spirit, October 4-25. In addition to having Tesa preach, we will welcome Rev. Jarda Alexander and Rev. Renee Bridwell to bring the good news.

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.

Regional Gathering

October 15-16, 2021

The theme for this year's Regional Gathering is "Siguiendo el Camino" (Continuing on the Way) based on the scripture from Joshua 3:4B (CEB). Our focus will be looking at the tangible ways that we can live into God's call as we move forward.

Keynote speakers include Rev. Dr. Miguel de la Torre, on Friday, and Rev. Dr. Daisy Machado, on Saturday. They are both brilliant scholars whom you will be glad to hear from.

Online registration will open on September 1st. The registration fee has been waived this year.

Currently, the tentative schedule is: Friday, 5:30–7:30 pm (online only), and Saturday, 9:00 am till 12:00 pm (in person and online). In-person registration will open at 8 am on Saturday.

The in-person portions of the weekend for us will be held at Casa de Oracion downtown.

Elders & Deacons will not meet this month, as we are meeting with our flocks at the picnic instead.

Elders will meet on Sunday, October 17. Deacons will not meet in October, unless a need arises.

Praying & Coloring
Saturday, Sept. 25
1:00 pm
Bailey Hall & Zoom
(if tech available)

Women's Lunch at Hooley's Public House (at Grossmont)
Wed, 9/1, 12:30 pm
Noralea Penny hosting

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will gather on Zoom on Friday, October 1 at 6 pm to discuss "Cinnamon and Gunpowder" by Eli Brown. Contact Pastor Rebecca if you have any questions.

Lunch Bunch at Claim Jumper's
Wed, 9/15, 12:30 pm
Jerry & Norma Bailey, hosts

Candidate Forum

The Community Outreach Committee at La Mesa First United Methodist Church will be hosting a forum with the candidates for the special election for La Mesa City Council on Wednesday, September 29. Watch for more details! Mail-in ballots will be out in early October.

Welcome Saturday

Thank you for your continued donations to our Welcome Saturday fund! Every month, we are providing 30-40 hot breakfasts and sack lunches to our neighbors without shelter. We also provide all the toiletries they might need for cleaning up, plus socks & undies, and much more. Your donations make this re-humanizing ministry possible!

In Our Prayers...

For individual prayer concerns please contact the office at 61-463-9909.

Happy Birthday!

Sept. 1 - Victoria Adsit
Kiley Hanna
Walt Morris

Sept. 5 - Christopher Bunch

Sept. 6 - Al Flores
Rachel McKinney

Sept. 8 - Emma Carranza

Sept. 9 - Julie Bentley

Sept. 10 - Mark Cliffe

Sept. 13 - Kevin Severns, Jr.

Sept. 14 - Edward Gurling,
Francia Berry

Sept. 16 - Shirley Gleason,
Emilio Vasquez Jr.

Sept. 17 - Dick Penny

Sept. 18 - Rebecca Littlejohn,
Renee Bridwell
Mike Lewis

Sept. 20 - Kainoa (Sisneros)
Ramirez

Sept. 21 - Julie Fallon

Sept. 22 - Donna Morey

Sept. 23 - Gene Blumenfeld

Sept . 25 - Donna Moss
Cynthia Wright
Kelly Yoder

Sept. 27 - Cathy Mullican

Sept. 29 - Betty Sinton

Happy Anniversary!

Sept. 6 - Adam & Aireen
Bentley

Sept. 29 - John & Brandie
Neely

YOUTH NEWS

We will be returning to in-person youth group this month, with most of our activities held outside. We will be continuing our partnership with University Christian Church and may welcome youth from other congregations as well. We will gather at 1:30 at UCC on Sunday, September 12th. We may eat lunch together at VLM before we head over there. Watch for more information. Parents, if you have questions or concerns, please be in touch with Pastor Rebecca.

We hope you will enjoy these pictures of some of the encouraging chalk art our kids made at Camp Not Leven.

VLMCC Board

Board members, your **reports are due** on **Friday, Sept. 10th**. The Board meeting will be **Wednesday, Sept. 22nd at 6:00 pm on Zoom**. Please make sure to review your meeting information packet before the meeting. The Administrative Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 14th at 6:00 pm to prepare the agenda.

Please make sure to turn in your reports on time, with as much detail as possible, so that all Board members will be informed about the ministry your committee is carrying out.

Continuing the Dialogue - FCLM

Everyone who participated in the Faith Coalition of La Mesa's Dialogues on Race class last spring is invited to a Reunion Picnic on Sunday, September 26th at 4:00 pm. This will be a great chance to meet your small groups in person and catch up on how the class has impacted your life and all our congregations.

We will be meeting in the same pine grove at Harry Griffen Park where we've held our worship services. You are asked to bring whatever meal/snacks you would like for yourself, along with a comfortable chair. We will have some drinks available, but if you have a favorite, you should bring that too!

This will be a great chance to share ideas and action plans with our siblings in Christ, as we combat racism together!

If you haven't had a chance to walk by and read all of the art, why not take a moment to do so soon?

September 2021 Worship Participants

	September 5	September 12	September 19	September 26
Worship Leader	SUB NEEDED	Bob Neely	Brenda Rorie-Baety	Walter Rorie-Baety
Lay Reader	Tracy Stockdall	Larry Knight	Deborah Wilson	Daphne Flores
Offering Invite	Rebecca Littlejohn	Julie Germain	Walter Rorie-Baety	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Jerry Bailey Amanda Dohring	Karen Cliffe Mary Jane Fay	Tim Cliffe Julie Germain	Cheryl Davis-Plotts Marianna Kirwan
Deacons	Al Flores Daphne Flores Susan Peterson	Patrice Hill Dick Penny Eliseo Sisneros Lyn Van Winkle	Jennefer Lehton John Lehton Lace Watkins	Ray Adsit Mary Allyn Fallon Bill Kwon Tracy Stockdall
Comm Set-up Comm Clean-up	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3
CWW	Helene Sisneros	Helene Sisneros	Helene Sisneros	Helene Sisneros
Greeters	Jerry & Norma Bailey	Wavalea McKee John Lehton	Larry Knight Jennefer Lehton	Ray Adsit Bob Neely
Counters	#1 Lyn Van Winkle #2 Donna Morey	#1 Jerry Bailey #2 Jenny Angione	#1 John Lehton #2 Lace Watkins	#1 Walter Rorie-Baety #2 Mary Alynn Fallon

Coffee Hour Hosts: Flock 2 (Deacons: Patrice Hill, Dick Penny, Eliseo Sisneros, Lyn Van Winkle)

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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