

The Christian Visitor

OCTOBER 2021 - VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

World Communion Sunday

We hope you will join us for worship on Sunday, October 3rd, as we join with sisters & brothers & siblings from all around the world in celebrating World Communion Sunday!

The first Sunday of October is set aside every year for this celebration of the unity we have with Christians around the globe, experienced most deeply at the communion table.

This year, our celebration will focus on the many languages that people use to worship God, how words form our spirituality and how broaden our experience of language can deepen our understanding of our unity as God's people. Join us!

Trunk-or-Treat Saturday, 10/30, 3-6 pm

We hope everyone will pitch in to make this year's Trunk-or-Treat a success! Our event this year will be more like normal than last year's, but not quite back to normal. We will be having decorated trunks, where you can pass out candy to the children. Please sign up ASAP if you want to do that part.

We are also going to have games and crafts, along with hot dogs and caramel apples. (No bouncy houses this year, for safety.) If you'd like to help with any of these parts, please sign up on the other sign-up sheet.

Our neighbors look forward to this event every year, so we hope you'll get involved and come have fun with us on October 30th!

Guest Preachers

We are delighted to have some great guest preachers this month, while Pastor Rebecca is on an extended vacation. We hope you'll make a point to be present to hear them.

Our Ministerial Assistant Tesa Hauser will be leading the service and preaching on 10/10.

On 10/17, Rev. Jarda Alexander will be preaching for us, with Tesa leading the service. Jarda is an ordained Disciples pastor who serves as a board certified chaplain and supervisor of Pastoral Care Services at Providence St. Joseph Hospital in Orange. She is originally from Atlanta, GA, and has lived in Southern California for 8 years now.

On 10/24, our own Rev. Renee Bridwell will lead the service and preach for us. Renee retired from ministry as a Regional Minister in Kansas before moving with her husband Steve to the San Diego area in 2019.

Bible Study - Sundays @ 9 am

Our study of the gospel of John continues each Sunday at 9 am, in Bailey Hall and on Zoom. We'd love to have you join us!

This month, our teachers will include Julie Germain (10/3), Marianna Kirwan (10/10), Tesa Hauser (10/17), Steve Bridwell (10/24), and Mandy Dohring (10/31), as we cover chapters 6-15, two chapters each week.

The conversation is richer when you are present. It's never too late to jump in.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

I will miss you this month. This pandemic has been a long slog, and I've taken a few days off here and there. But I'm bone tired, and it's time for a real opportunity to rest. As I've prepared to be gone, it's become obvious just how much happens at VLM in the course of three weeks – a lot! I am so grateful for all the many capable hands that will carry on our ministries while I'm away. Praise be to God!

It's important that we consider the larger issue of rest though. I know I'm not the only one who is exhausted. We are not living in normal times; there is no reason we have to keep on keeping on with all the "normal" things, as if there's no reason we might need to slow down. It will be okay if some things aren't done as well as usual or aren't done at all. We may even discover that some of what we used to do doesn't seem all that important anymore.

If you are also struggling to stay focused and engaged, I encourage you to think about how you can build more space into your life. You're probably teetering on the edge of burn-out like I have been. No level of excellence is worth your health. As I've discovered over the past week or so, it's a challenge to prepare to step away. But I'm hoping to report, when I get back, that it was worth every moment of working ahead! God took breaks. Jesus took breaks. We need to be able to claim the holy practice of rest too.

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be on vacation October 4-25, returning to the office on Tuesday, October 26th. She will be visiting family in the Midwest and getting some much needed down-time to rest and rejuvenate. While she is gone, please contact Tesa or one of your Elders with any pastoral needs or prayer concerns.

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). 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. Sandhya Jha on Friday night Rev. Dr. Miguel de la Torre, on Saturday morning. There is also a workshop with Rev. Cherisna Jean-Marie on Saturday morning. You will be blessed by all these speakers!

Online registration is open now! The registration fee has been waived this year.

The gathering will be held Friday (10/15), 5:30–7:30 pm, and Saturday (10/16), 9:00 am till 12:00 pm.

Learn more and register at www.disciplespswr.org today!

Elders Meeting

The Elders will meet after worship on Sunday, October 17th, at 12:30 in the Library and on Zoom. Marianna will lead us in a conversation about how we can support our flocks and our congregation in prayer in these strange times.

Praying & Coloring

Saturday, October 23

1:00 pm

Bailey Hall & Zoom

In Memory

Kay Tenison, a long-time member of Vista La Mesa Christian Church, passed away on October 27th. Kay would have been 100 years old on November 2nd. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Ralph.

We hope you can join the family for a celebration of Kay's life on Saturday, November 6th at 2:00 at the church. A reception will follow, in the prayer garden.

All Saints Service

Our annual All Saints Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, November 7th. After a year and a half of a global pandemic, this will be an important time for us to lift up our grief to God, in memory of loved ones we've lost and all those lost to coronavirus. There may be someone you know that needs to be with us for this service. Why not consider extending a gracious invitation to them to join us that day?

**Women's Lunch
at Patty's
Wednesday, 9/6
12:30 pm
Hosted by
Norma Bailey**

**Lunch Bunch
at El Torito
Wednesday, 9/20
12:30 pm
Hosted by
Mary Alynn Fallon**

Welcome Saturday

We are so grateful for your support of our monthly homeless outreach ministry, Welcome Saturday! It has been easier, during the pandemic, for us to collect your financial donations and do all the food shopping at once, rather than collecting various food items from different individuals. So thank you for your continued gifts to the Welcome Saturday fund!

We are in need of some other items right now though. We could use donations of gently used (or new) wash cloths and hand towels. Please, no rags, and we have plenty of full-size towels at the moment. Also, as the days and nights get cooler, we could use more donations of warm men's clothing, especially pants in larger sizes.

If you would like to volunteer for this ministry, please be in touch with Outreach Chair Eliseo Sisneros. Thanks for your support!

In Our Prayers...

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

Happy Birthday!

- Oct. 1 - Cher Flores
- Oct. 4 - Jerry Bailey, Haylee Hanna
- Oct. 5 - Jenny Angione
- Oct. 9 - Josie Hahn
- Oct. 10 - Betty Sullivan
- Oct. 11 - Sara Gurling
- Oct. 13 - Isabelle Grimm
- Oct. 17 - Mark Reagles
- Oct. 22 - Bob Neely
- Oct. 31 - Alexander Reagles

**Daylight Saving Time
ends at 2:00 am
on Sunday,
November 7th.**

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group will be meeting after church (12:30 pm) on Sunday, October 24th, on the West Patio. Our partners from other churches will join us. Lunch will be included. (Date for November not yet set.)

We also hope that you'll come help out and/or have fun at Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, October 30th from 3-6 pm. We could use your help with the outdoor games we'll be offering instead of a bouncy house.

Nursery Suspended

In collaboration with the Personnel Committee, the Christian Education Committee has made the decision to temporarily suspend our nursery care and children's ministries. We will review the situation on a monthly basis, in hopes of re-opening soon.

For now, it has been difficult to find a second staff person, and we are not comfortable or optimistic about recruiting volunteers. Once it's clearer what the impact of return to in-person school has been and when a vaccine might become available for younger kids, we will look at the hiring environment again and see what is possible. For now, our nursery attendant, Stephanie Cadiero, will be on paid leave, so we don't lose her too!

**Ministerial Assistant Support
Committee Meeting
Sunday, October 24th at 2:30
pm
See Tesa or Karen for details.**

News from the Board

The Board met on 9/22 on Zoom. In addition to Committee reports, they dealt with two special items. A space use agreement with Lace Watkins was approved, allowing her primary (but not exclusive) use of Classroom 3, for her work with Lace on Race. The Board also reviewed a proposal for a walking path in west La Mesa that would feature the creek on the north side of our property. The group working on the proposal is interested in using our corner property on the north side of Boulevard Drive as a pocket park. The Board sent a letter of initial interest and support for the proposal, with the caveat that the congregation will need to approve any final agreements about transferring the property.

Christmas Concert

It's a very difficult time to make plans, but we are trying. We have decided that we will not hold our usual Christmas Choir Dinner this year, but instead will offer a Christmas Concert, and potentially some other festive activities, on Sunday, December 12th at 6:00 pm.

We hope that you will be able to join us for this event and invite your friends. All singers in the choir are required to be fully vaccinated, as part of our efforts to provide a safe holiday event. If you're interested in helping out, please let Beckie Neely know.

Page Four Pop Quiz!

1. What did VLM celebrate on July 18th?
2. What was the theme for our Reconciliation Special Offering this year?
3. Who was our guest preacher in June?
4. Who taught the first session of this fall's Bible study on the gospel of John?
5. Which flock had the most people in attendance at our All Church Picnic on Sept. 18th?
6. What was the name of last year's pandemic-adapted Trunk-or-Treat event?

1-Christmas! 2-"Revealing God's Justice" based on Isaiah 56:1. 3-Steve Bridwell. 4-Pastor Rebecca. 5-Flock 3. 6-Drive-thru Halloween: Circus Showcase

October 2021 Worship Participants

	October 3	October 10	October 17	October 24	October 31
Worship Leader	Karen Cliffe	Jerry Bailey	Tim Cliffe	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Mandy Dohring
Lay Reader	Mary Jane Fay	Lace Watkins	Jennefer Lehton	Walter Rorie-Baety	Jerry Bailey
Offering Invite	Julie Germain	Mandy Dohring	Mary Jane Fay	Tim Cliffe	Tesa Hauser
Elders	Mandy Dohring Larry Knight	Mary Jane Fay Beckie Neely	Julie Germain Bob Neely	Marianna Kirwan Brenda Rorie-Baety	Larry Knight Walter Rorie-Baety
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 Tracy Stockdall	Al Flores Patrice Hill Eliseo Sisneros
Comm Set-up Comm Clean-up	Tracy Stockdall & Team 4	Tracy Stockdall & Team 4	Tracy Stockdall & Team 4	Tracy Stockdall & Team 4	Tracy Stockdall & Team 4
Greeters	Eliseo & Helene Sisneros	Ray Adsit Bob Neely	Larry Knight Wavalea McKee	John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle	Jennefer Lehton Ray Adsit
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	#1 Lyn Van Winkle #2 Jerry Bailey

Coffee Hour Hosts: Flock 3 (Deacons: Jennefer Lehton, John Lehton, Lace Watkins)

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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