

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NOVEMBER 2021

All Saints Memorial Service

We hope you will join us in worship on Sunday, November 7th, as we hold our annual All Saints Memorial Service. This is an important time for us to remember all those we have lost – in the past year and before that. Grief is not something that ever goes away, so we take this chance to open the parts of our hearts where we hold our sorrows to the healing love of God.

While we have only lost one church member this year, we know that many have lost extended family members, and that our whole society and world have been enveloped in grief as we've moved through the pandemic. We will have a special commemoration in this year's All Saints Service for all those who have lost their lives to the coronavirus.

There may be someone you know who really needs to be here for this service. It could be a great blessing for you to invite them.

BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

We will be finishing up our Bible Study on the gospel according to John this month. On 11/7, Tesa Hauser will lead discussion on chapters 16 & 17; on 11/14, Marianna Kirwan will cover chapters 18 & 19; and then on 11/21, Pastor Rebecca will conclude our class with an exploration of chapters 20 & 21. It's never too late to join the conversation! The previous sessions are all available on YouTube as well.

Beginning on 11/28, as Advent begins, we will do a four-session study of some of the imagery for Jesus that is found in John. Even though this gospel doesn't have a traditional birth narrative, John has a lot to say about the arrival of Jesus in the world and what it means for us.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS!

On Sunday, November 14th, we will be celebrating Pastor Rebecca's 10 year anniversary as our Senior Pastor! Tesa Hauser will be preaching for this special service, and a party will be held during coffee hour.

You are invited to bring a card as part of the celebration. It's been quite a journey, and it's only just begun! Let us give thanks!

Advent Begins 11/28

It's hard to believe we're approaching another pandemic-era Christmas, but it will be here before we know it! Plans are still shaping up for some of our activities, so stay tuned for more information.

The First Sunday of Advent is Sunday, November 28th, the weekend of Thanksgiving. If you can help decorate the church that Saturday, please let Pastor Rebecca or Worship Chair Brenda Rorie-Baety know.

We hope to have sign-up information for sponsoring Christmas for El Nido families before the end of the month, so watch for the details on how to do that.

See page 4 for more information about our covid-adjusted Christmas Choir Concert. We hope you'll join us for that!

It won't be like last year, and it won't be quite like the Christmases before that, but there is nothing that can stop us from preparing to welcome the Christ Child into our world!

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

Ten years is a long time! I wish we could re-create the rain that Todd & I brought with us when we arrived in November 2011, because we could definitely use it now.

A lot has changed in the ten years I've been here at Vista La Mesa. People have come, and others have moved on. New ministries have been launched; some have become part of who are are, while others only lasted for a short season. This change and growth is part of what it means for a church to be alive.

We often want to think of "our church" as something unchanging that we can count on. But that's not how life works for human institutions. First we must remember that it's not "our church"; it's God's church. God is the one who is reliable and trust-worthy, and in many meaningful ways, unchanging. God's gospel calling us to love and liberation does not change, but the ways we live that out shift as times change and we learn how to better and more faithfully follow Jesus.

It's difficult to look back and assess the passing of time while we're still very much trapped in the limbo of a (hopefully waning) pandemic. Once things can return to "normal", it's likely we won't remember exactly what "normal" used to be! But that's just as well, because churches are not called to move backward, but forward! We will continue changing and growing, adjusting and shifting, as we move into God's future together. I am grateful to be on the journey with you!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

The Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca has District & Regional meetings on 11/2, 11/9, 11/20 & 11/30. She will be attending a meeting with the La Mesa Police Department on 11/16. She will be off on Thanksgiving.

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.

Covenant Series

Coming to District 8 in January!

"Imagine God's Limitless Love!" That is the good word that is going around the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) these days! And we're going to imagine it together with friends for our partner congregations in District 8 after the holidays.

The "Covenant Series" is a five-session curriculum from the denomination designed to help us "explore the notion of covenant within our faith tradition and to deepen our commitment to living in covenant with each other."

This class will be entirely on Zoom, so folks from all our churches can meet together. It will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm, January 12th through February 9th.

This will be a great way to re-connect with folks from other Disciples churches in our area.

Time Change is Coming!

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 6th!

Interfaith Shelter

We have committed to host Interfaith Shelter this winter, with the help of an outside coordinator, Lynette Shaw. We will be meeting with her this month to get to know each other and make plans together.

We will open the shelter at VLM on Saturday, January 22nd and close up on February 5th. Watch for more information about how you can lend a hand! We will have an online sign-up for meals and other ways to help soon.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

You are warmly invited to a Celebration of Life for Kay Tenison, a long-time member of our congregation who passed away a few weeks short of her 100th birthday on September 27th, in Novato, where she had moved to be close to her daughter.

The service will be held Saturday, November 6th at 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary, with a reception to follow in the prayer garden. The family will appreciate your presence!

Novels Tea

Our Novels Tea group will meet on Zoom, on Sunday, November 21st at 3:00 pm, to discuss "The Book of Longings" by Sue Monk Kidd. If you love to read, you are welcome to join us! Since we're on Zoom, everyone has to provide their own tea and "fancy snacks"!

In Our Prayers...

FOR PRAYER CONCERNS PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT 619-463-9909.

Thank you!
Your donations to the Reconciliation Special Offering helped us exceed our fundraising goal, with a total of \$520!

Thanks for your generosity!

Thanksgiving Offering

We will receive our annual Thanksgiving Special Offering November 14-21, in worship (with special offering envelopes) and online through tithe.ly. The Thanksgiving Special Offering supports Disciples-related colleges & universities and Disciples seminaries and divinity houses. We have set a goal of raising \$500 for this special offering. Thank you for your donations!

Women's Lunch
at Olive Garden
Wed., 11/3, 12:00 pm
Beckie Neely hosting

Lunch Bunch
at Marie Callender's
Wed., 11/17, 11:30 am
Pennys hosting

Happy Birthday!

- Nov. 1 - Norma Bailey
- Nov. 7 - Janet Smith
- Nov. 8 - Daphne Flores
- Nov. 9 - Stephen Cliffe
- Nov. 9 - Matt Hauser
- Nov. 10 - Jennefer Lehton
- Nov. 19 - Maria Cusumano
- Nov. 20 - Katie Yoder
- Nov. 21 - Tesa Hauser
- Nov. 23 - Noralea Penny
- Nov. 26 - Deborah Wilson
- Nov. 28 - John Lehton

Happy Anniversary!

Nov. 4

Eliseo & Helene Sisneros

Nov. 20

Brian & Laura McCreanor

Nov. 21

Terry & Amber Morris

YOUTH NEWS

Partnership Youth Group is going strong, with friends from University Christian Church and other congregations joining us!

Youth, we'd love to have you join us at Trunk-or-Treat on October 30th, to help out or just in costume having fun!

We will be meeting on Sunday, November 28th, here at VLM, at 12:30, with lunch included.

Remember that Pastor Rebecca and Tesa are always available if you need us. Send a text if you want to get in touch!

P.S. Congrats to Teannah Townsend on her performance in Twelfth Night!

VLMCC Board News

The General Board will meet on Wednesday, November 17th at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be held on Zoom. Our primary business will be assessing where we're at in our journey through the pandemic and this ministry year. You are always welcome to attend our board meetings, even if you're not a member of the board.

Board reports are due on Friday, November 5th. If you have any questions about what should be in your report or if you need a copy of the Board Report Form, please be in touch with Pastor Rebecca. It is very helpful when these reports are submitted by the deadline, so we don't have to waste time tracking you down later.

The **Administrative Committee** will meet on Zoom at 6:00 pm on **Tuesday, November 9th.**

Christmas Concert

We are not quite ready to eat a big meal crowded into a room together yet, so our traditional Christmas Choir Dinner will be a Christmas Concert this year. We hope you'll join us on Sunday, December 12th at 6:00 pm for concert of holiday songs from our choir. We are still making plans for some additional festivities to make it a fun evening for all! Watch for more information.

Advent Schedule

Late November – Watch for El Nido info and sign-up
Saturday, November 27 –
Decorating the sanctuary for Advent (afternoon)
Sunday, December 12 –
Christmas Concert @ 6 pm
December 18 or 19 (TBD) –
Caroling Party
Friday, December 24 –
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service @ 6 pm

*Some pictures from last year's
Drive-Thru Halloween:*



November 2021 Worship Participants

	November 7	November 14	November 21	November 28
Worship Leader	Mary Jane Fay	Julie Germain	Marianna Kirwan	Larry Knight
Lay Reader	Dick Penny	Beckie Neely	Al Flores	Patrice Hill
Offering Invite	Rebecca Littlejohn	Lace Watkins	Walter Rorie-Baety	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Beckie Neely Jerry Bailey	Bob Neely Karen Cliffe	Brenda Rorie-Baety Tim Cliffe	Walter Rorie-Baety Cheryl Davis-Plotts
Deacons	Jennefer Lehton John Lehton Susan Peterson	Patrice Hill Dick Penny Eliseo Sisneros Lyn Van Winkle	Al Flores Daphne Flores Lace Watkins	Ray Adsit Mary Allyn Fallon Tracy Stockdall
Comm Set-up Comm Clean-up	Daphne Flores & Team 1	Daphne Flores & Team 1	Daphne Flores & Team 1	Daphne Flores & Team 1
CWW	On Hiatus	On Hiatus	On Hiatus	On Hiatus
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 Allyn Fallon

Coffee Hour Hosts: Flock 4 (Deacons: Tracy Stockdall, Ray Adsit, Mary Allyn Fallon)

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 Coord.: **Alicia M. Gervasi**
 Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**
 Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero**
 Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

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