

The Christian Visitor

JANUARY 2022~VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISTRICT 8 COVENANT SERIES

“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 from our partner congregations in District 8 in coming weeks.

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. Registration is free, but required. Follow this link to register: <https://forms.gle/xoAYjfMR6uSBYY5ZA>

Sunday Bible studies will be on break till 2/20, so everyone can participate in this special series.

Welcome, Me Ungió Jehova!

We have opened our doors to a new tenant, a small congregation called The Lord Hath Anointed Me Ministries, or Me Ungió Jehova. They are a group of about 10 people, led by Pastor Dory Rivera, originally from El Salvador. They will be holding services in our sanctuary on Wednesday & Friday nights starting around 5:00, and their study groups and main service on Saturdays, starting at 3:00 pm. They will also have a monthly morning activity on the third Saturday of the month. They will be installing a storage cupboard in the hallway closet for their supplies.

Interfaith Shelter

We are planning to host Interfaith Shelter, from Saturday, January 22 through Saturday, February 5, with the help of a mother-daughter team from Journey Church, Lynette & Stevie Shaw. There is a strong possibility that the Interfaith Shelter Network will decide to pull the plug due to rising covid numbers and put guests in hotels instead, in which case, we will hold a fundraising campaign to help with that.

But assuming Shelter is happening at VLM, we’d love to have your help! On 1/15, we’ll be having a work day to clear out some of our various rooms and storage spaces to prepare. We will need volunteers for meals and overnights. Lynette & Stevie will also be recruiting volunteers from their church to help. Watch for more info!

Big Thanks!

There are so many people who helped make Advent and Christmas happen at VLMCC this year! Big thanks to those who helped decorate, those who sponsored poinsettias, those who made treats for our sale and sang in the concert, those who went caroling and made that party happen, those who sent cards for our tree, those who donated to the Christmas Special Offering and the Christmas Eve offering for the discretionary fund, those who showed up for worship in-person and online, those who helped lead worship, those who hosted coffee hour, those who engaged with our prayer stations... and more! You are a blessing!

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

A year ago, as we entered into the season of Epiphany, the pandemic was approaching its one-year mark and vaccines were beginning to be distributed. Having noted that both “apocalypse” and “epiphany” mean “revelation,” it seemed like it might be a good time to reflect on what we had learned from going through a global epidemic. As the pandemic waned and faded from memory, surely there were learnings we didn’t want to lose?

At some point, well into this reflection project, Board Chair Julie Germain mentioned to me that she wasn’t really able to engage with the questions because it felt too soon. While we definitely collected some interesting thoughts, it turned out Julie was right. The pandemic was not waning; there were (and are) many more months of learning opportunities to come.

Hard as it has been, it seems we’ve begun to let go of the hope that we’ll be able to see the end of the pandemic coming. At this point, it feels like we may only recognize that it ended after the fact. Some, of course, have been trying to pretend it’s over for months, simply because they’re weary of the safety precautions that will actually make the end come sooner.

So this Epiphany, I propose we focus on a different sort of revelation. Let’s be like Ebenezer Scrooge and resolve to carry Christmas with us all year. Let’s seek to watch, every day, for signs of Emmanuel. We’re living, as we’re all tired of hearing, in “unprecedented times.” Where do you see God with us in this strange and challenging period of history? What can we learn about God by watching how God shows up in such unusual circumstances? How can you be a sign that God is with us in the midst of such difficulty?

If we’re no longer hanging our hopes on leaving the pandemic behind sooner rather than later, let us hang our hopes instead on God, the everlasting presence of Love that will not leave us.

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Flower Sponsors for 2022

The sign-ups for weekly flower sponsors in 2022 are now open. The poster is on the bulletin board in Bailey Hall. You can also sign up online at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094ba5ac23abf58-vlmsunday> (We will do our best to keep the two sign-ups in sync!)

Please help us fill in the earliest dates first. The arrangements are \$40, payable to VLMCC. (Look for “Flowers-Worship” on tithe.) After worship, you’re invited to move the flowers into a church vase and take them home. Please return those vases once your bouquet is done. (If you have vases at home, please bring them back in, as we’re running low.) The vases from the florist are returned to them each week.

We can also deliver your flowers to someone who needs a little cheer, if you don’t want them.

Choir at FUMC (1/27 & 2/3)

While (if) we are hosting Interfaith Shelter, our 12-step groups will be meeting in the Sanctuary.

Our friends at La Mesa First United Methodist Church have graciously invited us to hold choir practice in their social hall those two Thursday nights. We may even sing a song with their choir, who will also be practicing that night!

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.

Christmas Special Offering

Thank you for your contributions to our Christmas Special Offering, which goes to support our Regional Church! We surpassed our \$500 goal by collecting \$521.00! Thanks!

*Thanks so much for your
generous Christmas gifts to us!*

*love & blessings,
the Staff of VLMCC*

*Stephanie Cadiero Scott Tiemann
Alicia M. Gervasi Tesa Hauser
Deborah Wilson Rebecca Littlejohn*

Novels Tea

We will be discussing
"My Real Children" by Jo
Walton on Sunday,
January 16 at 3 pm on
Zoom. Anyone who likes
to read is welcome to join
us! It's bring-your-own-
tea-and-fancy-snacks!



*Women's Lunch
Wed., 1/5, 12 pm
Black Bear Diner
Van Winkles, hosts*

*Lunch Bunch
Wed., 1/19, 12 pm
Anthony's
Neelys, hosts*

Welcome Saturday

Thank you for your continued financial support of our monthly outreach to our neighbors living without shelter. Our numbers have finally begun to go back up. We are still taking major precautions, having our guests eat outside and wear masks inside to get their meals and look through the clothing options. We can use donations of sturdy, casual clothes, especially men's pants in a variety of sizes. You can just drop off your donations in the storage room at the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you!

**On Sunday,
January 2nd,
we will be taking
down and putting
away all the
Advent &
Christmas
decorations after
worship.
We could use
your help!**

Happy Birthday!

- Jan. 4 - Patty Severns
- Jan. 5 - Ray Adsit
- Jan. 13 - Julia Tiffany
- Jan. 15 - Himston Flores
- Jan. 16 - Troy Gurling
- Jan. 20 - Sonny Cusumano
- Jan. 23 - Jackie Hahn
- Jan. 24 - Tracy Stockdall
- Jan. 27 - Mary Jane Fay

Happy Anniversary!

- Jan. 6
Ray & Victoria Adsit
- Jan. 20
Mandy Dohring & Julie
Germain
- George & Donna Moss
- Jan. 24
Bob & Beckie Neely

IN OUR PRAYERS...

JOYS ~ Please contact the office at 619-463-9909 for prayer concerns.

YOUTH NEWS

We were hoping to have a skating party this month, but we've postponed that because of rising covid numbers at the moment. Watch for info on our next gathering.

The Board of VLMCC

VLMCC's General Board will meet on **Tuesday, January 18th** at 6 pm, on Zoom. Board reports are due to Pastor Rebecca by Friday, January 7th. The Administrative Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 11th at 6 pm on Zoom. We will be appointing a Nominating Committee this month. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Rebecca or Board Chair Julie Germain.

Thanks to All Who Sent Christmas Greetings by way of our Card Tree!

Norma & Jerry Bailey
Gene Blumenfeld & Fleegle
Rhonda Ciardetti
Fontaine Epler
Paul Epler & Family
Mary Alynn & Jim Fallon
Marilyn Fiddmont (CCF)
Julie Germain & Mandy Dohring
Patrice Hill
Ilene Kiser
Jennefer & John Lehton
Pastor Rebecca Littlejohn & Todd Lesh
Wavalea McKee
Beckie & Bob Neely
Pacific Southwest Regional Staff
Dick & Noralea Penny
Brenda & Walter Rorie-Baety
Betty Sullivan
Grace & Lyn Van Winkle
and our Welcome Saturday friends!



The winners of the Most Festive Outfit Contest!
Grace Van Winkle – Most Festive
Ilene Kiser – Best Theme (Candy Cane)
Gene Blumenfeld & Fleegle – Best Group Outfit
Mandy Dohring & Julie Germain – Best Non-Christmas
Holiday Outfit (Star Wars Life Day)



January 2022 Worship Participants

	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
Worship Leader	Jerry Bailey	Karen Cliffe	Tim Cliffe	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Mandy Dohring
Lay Reader	Lace Watkins	Jennefer Lehton	Brenda Rorie-Baety	Jerry Bailey	Daphne Flores
Offering Invite	Mary Jane Fay	Walter Rorie-Baety	Mandy Dohring	Tesa Hauser	Rebecca Littlejohn
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	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3
Greeters	Wavalea McKee Ray Adsit	Ray Adsit Bob Neely	Larry Knight Wavalea McKee	John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle	Jennefer Lehton Ray Adsit
Counters	1 Lyn Van Winkle 2 Jerry Bailey	1 Lace Watkins 2 Jenny Angione	1 John Lehton 2 Donna Morey	1 Walter Rorie-Baety 2 Mary Alynn Fallon	1 Lace Watkins 2 John Lehton

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

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