

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ JUNE 2022

Service of Ordination

You are invited to join in celebration with Vista La Mesa Christian Church on Saturday, June 4th, at 2:00 pm, as we host the Service of Ordination into Christian Ministry of Tesa Hauser!

Tesa completed her Master of Divinity degree at Claremont School of Theology in May 2020. She has sat for multiple interviews with the Committee on Ministry of the Pacific Southwest Region of the Christian Church, and, with our endorsement, they have approved her for ordination. We are so proud of her and grateful to have been on this journey with her!

Marshela Salgado-Solorio will be preaching for this service, and our Regional Minister Rev. Richie Sanchez will preside and lead the vows of ordination. Rev. Dr. Belva Brown Jordan, the Moderator of the Christian Church, will be with us as well, representing Disciples Seminary Foundation.

This is a wonderful opportunity to bring cards and gifts to celebrate Tesa's achievements. After the service, there will be tacos with all the trimmings and cupcakes, with seating outdoors and inside. (See page 2 for more info on Tesa's future with VLM.)

Installation of Lay Leaders

We hope you will join us on Sunday, June 26th, when we will install all those serving in lay leadership for the 2022-2023 ministry year, during worship! This is an important moment to ask God's blessing and guidance on all those leading our ministries.

We will also be expressing our appreciation to those completing terms of service. Those who give their time, talent, energy and attention to the ministries of our congregation are a blessing we never want to take for granted. Thank you to all who serve!

Congregational Meeting

In anticipation of our new ministry year beginning on July 1st, we will hold our annual Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday, June 12th.

There are a couple of important business items we will address in this meeting, which have been prepared by various committees, with final oversight from our Board. We will vote on the Slate of Nominees for various positions of lay leadership. We will also vote on the proposed budget for 2022-2023.

All members will receive a packet of information for this meeting by email the first week of June, or you may pick up a hard copy on Sunday June 5th. Please review the materials carefully and contact Pastor Rebecca if you have any questions. We hope to see you on June 12th!

VLM Hosts Event

On Sunday, June 5th, at 4:00 pm, we will have the privilege of hosting an Anti-Hate Event, in partnership with Borderlands for Equity and East County BIPOC, two local organizations led by women of color doing equality & anti-racism work.

The event is part of a series that will be held in various locations around East County, featuring a documentary from KPBS about a hate crime that happened locally some years ago. A moderated discussion will follow the viewing of the film. As other locations are announced, we will share them, in case you cannot join us on the 5th.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

The video for this year's Pentecost Special Offering references the Apostle Paul's words from 2 Corinthians 4:8, when he writes that "we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair." We can only imagine the sort of persecution the early Christians went through, but all the same, that line about being "perplexed, but not driven to despair" feels pretty timely.

It's remarkable how things can be so hard and so exciting at the same time. The world is on fire, and we're struggling as a congregation. But there are also amazing signs of hope and celebrations happening in our midst that speak to brighter days. I am so grateful that we share a faith that has space for all the complexities of life. Rather than inviting us to dismiss life on earth as uniformly terrible and spend our energy focusing on heaven, where all will be good – or conversely, acting as though everything is fantastic and we have no complaints because we've got Jesus, our faith makes room for the good, the bad, and the confusing. God walks alongside us through it all, weeping when we weep, cheering when we cheer, guiding us toward righteousness when we're faced with ethical challenges.

It's okay to be perplexed; we live in complicated times. We continue to learn how to live out gospel love, as long as we keep our hearts open to the Spirit. The One who is doing a good work here among us is faithful. Let us rejoice and give thanks for the future that God is unfolding.

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be on vacation June 13-19, visiting with family in Minnesota for her mom's birthday and attending her 25th Reunion at Carleton College in Northfield.

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.

Welcome, Pastor Tesa!

As of June 4th, we will have a new pastor on staff! Our former Ministerial Assistant Tesa Hauser, by virtue of her ordination and a promotion, will become our Associate Pastor.

This is an important transition, so we have been working out the details very carefully. You will see her referred to as "Pastor Tesa" in our publications, and we encourage you to call her that. (We need to help her get used to it!)

Tesa will continue working around 12 hours a week, but after July 1st, when the new position officially kicks in, her time will be allocated a little differently. She will be present and working in worship 2 or 3 Sundays a month, to better reflect her quarter-time commitment. This was the original plan for her position but the pandemic and Zoom tech needs got in the way of that. Now that we have more folks trained to run Zoom, we can give her the flexibility originally intended.

Tesa's new position also enrolls her in our denominational Pension Fund and provides for two small reimbursable expense accounts. She will also have a column here, starting in July!

Guest Preacher!

We are delighted to have Rev. Walter Zuniga preaching for us on Sunday, June 19th. Walter is relatively new to the Disciples, but he's been pastoring for over 40 years. He is the founding pastor of City Church, a new Disciples congregation currently nesting at Pacific Beach Christian Church.

Walter is a native of Chile and has also lived in Arizona and Los Angeles before moving to San Diego. He and his wife live in San Marcos.

Please join us on the 19th to welcome Pastor Walter!

Praying & Coloring at Pacific Pointe!

We are finally going to resume Praying & Coloring again, but with a new twist! Brenda Rorie-Baety is going to host us in the activity room at her new home, Pacific Pointe in Chula Vista. We expect that some of her neighbors may join us. If possible, we will open up a Zoom room as well, for folks who want to join remotely. This group will meet each third Saturday of the month at 1:30 pm. The address is 171 4th Avenue, just off E Street. We'd love to have you join us!

Novels Tea

will meet on
Sunday, 6/26
on Zoom at 3 pm
to discuss "The
Poisonwood Bible"
by Barbara
Kingsolver.

Welcome Saturday

We had a wonderful time at Welcome Saturday in May, when we welcome some students from Helix High School as volunteers! We're hoping to have a few more this month, and potentially in the future.

We can use your help this month too, if you've ever been before, because both Pastor Rebecca and Tesa will be out. (Tesa on vacation; Rebecca at camp training.) If you could lend a hand, hopefully with some young assistants, please let Pastor Rebecca know as soon as you're sure. Marshela Salgado-Solorio will be helping out as well.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT!

We are so grateful to everyone who participated in our annual stewardship campaign last month! We've received Estimate of Giving cards from 20 households so far!

You are a generous and faithful congregation, which is how God makes our ministries possible! Because of your commitments, we were able to build a proposed budget that is much prettier than we had expected.

Let us rejoice together in our Gentle Savior!

Happy Birthday!

- 6/1 - Teannah Townsend
- 6/9 - Carmen Bunch, Coral Yoder
- 6/14 - Mary Ann E'Golf
- 6/17 - Jason Sisneros, Jr.
- 6/19 - Christi Neely Carlson
- 6/23 - Jim Fallon
- 6/24 - Adam Bentley
- 6/27 - Kaylee Berry
- 6/28 - Marley Ramirez
- 6/29 - Heather Morey
- 6/30 - Rebekah Morey

Happy Anniversary!

- JUNE 7
Christopher & Rachel Bunch
- JUNE 20
Jim & Mary Alynn Fallon
- JUNE 21
Dick & Noralea Penny
Rebecca & Todd
Littlejohn-Lesh
- JUNE 22
Tim & Karen Cliffe

In Our Prayers...

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

YOUTH NEWS

We are so excited to have 5 young people and 3 grown-ups heading up to Loch Leven for camp this summer! Edward Gurling will be attending Chi Rho Camp, June 19-24. Adrian Barragan Morey and Jennings McCreanor will be attending Junior Camp, July 10-15, where Rebecca Littlejohn will be the director and Bekah Morey will be counseling. Tennyson McCreanor will be a Mini Camper, July 13-15, with mom Laura counseling. And then July 24-29, Al Flores will be attending CYF II Camp.

We're also excited about the new Thursday night youth group that we've started partnering with. It meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday evening at Normal Heights Methodist Church. All kids in 6th-12th grades are welcome. Ask Tesa if you're interested in getting involved.

Report from the Board

The Board met on Wednesday, May 25 on Zoom to address the business of the congregation. Parts of the meeting were aimed at preparing for the congregational meeting on June 12th. The proposed budget was reviewed, discussed, and ultimately, approved contingent upon mutual approval from the Memorial Endowment Committee (for the proposed draw).

The Board also received a joint motion from the Personnel Committee and the Pastoral Relations Committee to award Pastor Rebecca an additional two weeks of "restorative leave," during which she is authorized to use a portion of the current sabbatical fund for costs associated with spiritually restorative activities, in order to maintain her emotional and spiritual health.

Pentecost Special Offering

We will be receiving the Pentecost Special Offering on May 29 & June 5. This over-and-above offering goes to support New Church Ministries within the Christian Church, including within the Pacific Southwest Region. We've set a goal of \$500 for this offering this year. Watch for the video in worship on 5/29. Special offering envelopes will be in the bulletins, and you can also give online. Thanks!

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for the new year will be arriving soon. Watch for announcements about when and where to pick yours up. If you need your envelopes delivered, Pastor Rebecca will be in touch once they're here.

We only having monthly envelopes now, because our order for weeklies wasn't big enough for a print run. You can always use a "no name" envelope though, if you need an extra!

Is It I, Lord?

Have you been feeling like you might be ready to get more involved at VLM? Beyond the elected roles the Nominating Committee calls people into, there are many other ways to serve, especially on Sundays.

As the new ministry year begins, this is a great time to try out a new role. Let Pastor Rebecca know if you're interested in any of the following:

Worship Greeter – hands out bulletins & welcome packets 10-10:30 on Sunday mornings, usually serves one particular Sunday each month

Lay Reader – reads the first scripture reading in worship, on a rotation with variable frequency (usually no more than once every two months).

AV Tech – wakes up the AV system on Sunday mornings (9:30 or so) and gets everything ready, flips the slides during worship, and then puts everything away; currently once or twice a month.

Zoom Tech – hosts our Zoom congregation, including letting people in, recording the service, monitoring the chat box, sharing prayer concerns, and shifting the camera angles; no more than once a month.

Offering Counter – work with a partner to log and count the Sunday offering; once a month (must be approved).

Coffee Hour Host – set up coffee hour, bring things out to the garden, help clean up; you can help anytime, just come on into the kitchen and volunteer!

June 2022 Worship Participants

	June 5	June 12	June 19	June 26
Worship Leader	Beckie Neely	Bob Neely	Brenda Rorie-Baety	Ray Adsit
Lay Reader	Deborah Wilson	Tracy Stockdall	Al Flores	Michael Lewis
Offering Invitation	Julie Germain	Rebecca Littlejohn	Mary Jane Fay	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Jerry Bailey Mandy Dohring	Tim Cliffe Mary Jane Fay	Cheryl Davis-Plotts Julie Germain	Karen Cliffe 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 Tracy Stockdall
Communion Prep	Tracy Stockdall & Team 4	Tracy Stockdall & Team 4	Tracy Stockdall & Team 4	Tracy Stockdall & Team 4
AV/Zoom	Mary Alynn/Tesa	Mary Alynn/Julie	Julie/Karen	Karen/Tesa
Greeters	Jerry & Norma Bailey	John Lehton Ray Adsit	Jennefer Lehton Larry Knight	Mary Jane Fay Michael Lewis
Counters	1 Mary Allyn Fallon 2 Jerry Bailey	1 Lace Watkins 2 John Lehton	1 Renee Bridwell 2 Donna Morey	1 Lyn Van Winkle 2 Steve Bridwell
Flowers	Brenda Rorie-Baety	Mary Allyn Fallon	Tim & Karen Cliffe	Open

Coffee Hour Hosts: Flock 3 (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**

Associate Pastor: **Tesa Hauser**

Admin & Comm Coord.: **Alicia M. Gervasi**

Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**

Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero**

Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

Church Tel. (619) 463-9909

Office E-mail: admin@vlmcc.com

Pastor's E-mail: pastor@vlmcc.com

Church website: www.vlmcc.org