

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ MAY 2022

“Come to Me, All You That Are Weary”

On Sunday, May 1st, we will be kicking off our stewardship campaign for the 2022-2023 ministry year, with a theme inspired by Matthew 11:28-30. It has been a rough couple of years, and we may be struggling to see how God is going to bring us through. Everything seems hard and heavy. But when we turn to Jesus, we find that he is gentle and offers us rest.

On May 8th, Consecration Sunday, you are invited to join with your fellow VLMers in bringing a completed Estimate of Giving card to worship and adding it to our Blessing Box. (You should have received one in the mail; additional cards will be available at the back of the sanctuary.)

We are so grateful for all our faithful and generous donors who make our ministries possible!

ELDERS & BOARD MEETING SUNDAY, 5/15, 12:15 PM

A special joint meeting of the Elders & the General Board will be held after worship on Sunday, May 15, for the purpose of considering the hiring of Tesa Hauser as Associate Pastor. Thus far, Tesa has served as Ministerial Intern and Ministerial Assistant. Once she is ordained, her position will shift in some important ways. We want to ensure this process is carried out with full transparency, following appropriate processes, so this meeting is being held prior to the May Board meeting, to ensure everyone is on board. Please be present!

May Prayer Meetings

We have chosen a new direction for our Adult Study time in the month of May. Given everything we've been going through, it seemed clear that we need to spend some time in prayer together.

We hope you will join us for these sessions each Sunday at 9 am, in Bailey Hall or on Zoom. Each week, we will spend a little time with a scripture passage, but also devote ourselves to prayer and discussion about how God is holding and leading our congregation in these challenging days.

Everyone is welcome to join the conversation. We will be lifting up our challenges in an atmosphere of prayer and discernment.

Service of Ordination

We hope you will be present on Saturday, June 4th at 2 pm, when we will host the Pacific Southwest Region for the Service of Ordination into Christian Ministry of Tesa Hauser.

This is an exciting occasion for our whole congregation and the rest of the church! You are encouraged to bring a card and/or gift for Tesa and to wear RED to celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit.

After the service, a celebration will be held in the garden and parking lot, with tacos and cake! If you would like to help with this celebration in any way, let Pastor Rebecca or Karen Cliffe know as soon as you can. Thanks!

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

We are truly in a Romans 12:15 moment right now, as a congregation, weeping with those who weep and rejoicing with those who rejoice. There are so many different things going on, pulling us between extremes of grief and joy. And we're walking through it all together, weighed down by the exhaustion of the pandemic and its refusal to end.

As the pandemic wanes (hopefully?), it's beginning to feel like it's time to make plans and set goals again, and we will, but not just yet. Instead, we are going to do what we have to do, but also spend some intentional time letting God carry the burdens we're not ready for yet, like the burden of figuring out the future. It's in God's hands, which is the best place for it anyway.

The next couple months are going to be filled with making decisions and plans, as we approach the new ministry year that starts in July. But that doesn't mean we have to have everything figured out. We've begun implementing some new ideas, and it will be fun to see what God does with those, while we wait to see what else might be revealed.

Jesus invites us to come to him, for his yoke is easy and he offers rest. So let us accept the blessing of rest whenever we can for now, even as we keep doing what has to be done, and trust that God has more blessings just around the corner.

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be attending a District 8 Clergy Lunch on May 11, a Regional Board meeting on Saturday, May 21, and De Luz Retreat Center Oversight Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 31. She will be on vacation next month (June 13-19) to attend her 25th college reunion and visit family.

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.

Pentecost Special Offering

We will be receiving the Pentecost Special Offering on May 29th & June 5th this year.

This special, over-and-above offering goes to support efforts within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to plant new congregations, within our Region and beyond.

Our goal for this offering is \$500. You can give using the envelopes in the bulletins those two Sundays or online through tithe.ly, looking for DMF-Pentecost in the drop-down designation menu. Thanks!

Rummage Sale Postponed

We have decided to postpone our Rummage Sale till later in the year, because there's just a little too much going on right now. If you need to get your stuff out of your house sooner rather than later, check with Pastor Rebecca about a storage spot. Otherwise, watch for information about bringing it in later in the summer. We're currently looking at late August as the new date.

Budget Meeting

The Budget Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 18th at 6 pm on Zoom, to build the proposed budget for the 2022-2023 ministry year. The budget committee includes the pastors, the treasurer, the financial secretary, and the board chair.

Welcome!

We were delighted to welcome two new people into membership on Palm Sunday, both of whom have been worshipping with us for a while now.

Claudette Toland is a pastry chef at Bali Hai. Michelle Tolvo-Chan is the choir director at Helix High School.

We are so glad to have both of you as part of VLM!

Opportunities to Serve

We need to fill out a number of our volunteer rotations. If you would be interested in serving as a Worship Greeter (before worship) or an Offering Counter (after worship), please let Pastor Rebecca know soon. Thanks!

We are also planning another no-commitment training for our two worship tech roles, the AV tech and the Zoom tech. Let Rebecca know if you'd be interested in learning more about these jobs, and we'll find a time to show you what they both entail, so you can decide if you'd like to take a turn. Thanks!

Hearing (New) Voices?

We are so happy to introduce some new singers in our choir! By way of the award-winning Helix HS choir, we welcome Josh Bisby, Hano Gossman, and Premiere Whitley into our Bass section. We're glad you're here!

Novels Tea

will be discussing
"The Poisonwood Bible"
on Sunday, June 26th
at 3 pm on Zoom

Thank You Saturday!

Our Welcome Saturday outreach ministry is going strong! We depend on your donations to this fund to keep it that way, so THANK YOU!

We have invited some new volunteers to get involved. If you would like to volunteer, please let Outreach Chair Eliseo Sisneros or Pastor Rebecca know. Thanks!

Food Drive

Thank you for your donations to our monthly Food Drive! We will be collecting on Sunday the 15th this month. (It's always the 3rd Sunday.) These donations are taken to the food pantry at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, where they are much appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!

In Our Prayers...

JOYS and CONCERNS ~ Check the office for details.

Happy Birthday!

May 2 ~ Farrie Ann Nichols
May 6 ~ Brittany Cliffe
May 10 ~ George Moss
May 20 ~ Becky Carranza
May 24 ~ Helene Sisneros
May 28 ~ Lyn Van Winkle
May 29 ~ Aireen Bentley

Happy Anniversary!

May 16
Kevin & Patty Severns
May 20
Shayne & Rachel McKinney
May 21
Matt & Tesa Hauser
May 25
Andy & Amy Cliffe

YOUTH NEWS

Church Camp at Loch Leven!

June 15-17 - Wee Camp (age 3-kinder)

June 19-24 - Chi Rho (grades 6-8)

July 10-15 - Junior Camp (grades 4-5)

July 12-15 - Mini Camp (grades 1-3)

July 24-29 - CYF 1 (grades 9-10)

July 24-29 - CYF 2 (grades 11-12)

(Grade based on upcoming year)

Registration open now!

Click this link for info and registration:

<http://www.disciplespswr.org/camp>

If you need help with funding, please let Pastor Rebecca know and we can use our Camp Funds to get you there!

P.S. If you would be interested in participating in a Thursday-night youth group with a couple other churches, please be in touch with Pastor Rebecca for details!

May Board Meeting Wednesday, 5/25 - 6:00 pm

The General Board will meet on Zoom, on Wednesday, May 25th at 6 pm. This is an important meeting, as we prepare for the upcoming ministry year. The slate of nominees for various lay leadership positions will be presented by the Nominating Committee. The proposed budget for 2022-2023 will also be presented.

All Board members should make sure to attend the Joint Meeting of the Elders & the Board on Sunday, May 15th at 12:15 pm, as well, when we will be considering the new terms of Tesa Hauser's employment. We are hoping she can stay on with us part-time, but her ordination warrants some major adjustments to the position. The Administrative and Memorial Endowment Committees have already reviewed the proposed terms.

Reports are due to Pastor Rebecca on Friday, May 13th prior to the 5/17 Administrative Committee meeting (Zoom, 6 pm). Please contact Pastor Rebecca if you have any questions about your report.

SAVE THE DATES!

June is a big month at Vista La Mesa! We hope you'll be able to join us for these events.

Tesa Hauser's ordination service will be held Saturday, June 4th, at 2:00 pm.

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, June 12th. (Watch for a special email with all the information we will be considering.)

Our Service of Installation of Lay Leaders for the 2022-2023 ministry year will be held on Sunday, June 26th.

Watch for information about our summer Leadership Retreat, most likely to be held in late July.



Our new Easter paraments, made by Maggy Broderick of UCC, were dedicated in memory of Walter Rorie-Baety.

May 2022 Worship Participants

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Worship Leader	Amanda Dohring	Mary Jane Fay	Julie Germain	Marianna Kirwan	Larry Knight
Lay Reader	Daphne Flores	Patrice Hill	Jerry Bailey	Dick Penny	Lace Watkins
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Mary Jane Fay	Tesa Hauser	Rebecca Littlejohn	Tim Cliffe
Elders	Larry Knight Ray Adsit	Beckie Neely Jerry Bailey	Bob Neely Karen Cliffe	Brenda Rorie-Baety Tim Cliffe	Ray Adsit Cheryl Davis-Plotts
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
Communion Prep	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3
Greeters	Jerry & Norma Bailey	John Lehton Ray Adsit	Jennefer Lehton Larry Knight	Ray Adsit Michael Lewis	Mary Jane Fay
AV Tech	Karen Cliffe	Mary Allyn Fallon	Mary Allyn Fallon	Julie Germain	Karen Cliffe
Counters	1 Lyn Van Winkle 2 Jerry Bailey	1 Lace Watkins 2 Renee Bridwell	1 John Lehton 2 Donna Morey	1 Steve Bridwell 2 Mary Allyn Fallon	1 John Lehton 2 Jenny Angione
Flowers	Rebecca Littlejohn	Tim & Karen Cliffe	Marianna Kirwan & Michael Lewis	Matt & Tesa Hauser	Grace Van Winkle

Coffee Hour Hosts: Flock 2 (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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Church website: www.vlmcc.org