

# The Christian Visitor

OCTOBER 2022 – VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## World Communion Sunday

### Christianity & Democracy Series Concludes

Every year on the first Sunday of October, Christians around the world celebrate our unity at the Table of Christ with special World Communion Sunday services. At VLMCC, we join in the festivities, remembering our fellow Christians all over the world, often using a variety of languages or breads in worship.

This year, our service will be part of efforts across the country to call attention to the threats posed by the rise of Christian Nationalism. The spirit of global unity that is at the center of World Communion Sunday is directly opposed to the violent supremacist ideologies promoted by nationalism. This focus will be the third installment of our Christianity & Democracy Series. Thank you for listening!

## 75th Anniversary Fund

Maybe you've heard; maybe you did the math – VLMCC's 75th anniversary is next year! Our congregation was officially founded in January of 1948, but we're going to be celebrating all year long. We're just now getting started with the planning, but we know we're going to need some extra funds to have the appropriate level of festivity.

So we're making a special ask for the last three months of 2022. You are invited to contribute \$25 in October, November, and December, adding up to – you guessed it! – \$75!

It is our hope that these special donations will get our anniversary year off to a good start. Watch for special offering envelopes on the first Sunday of each month. You can use them then or bring them back another Sunday with your gift! You can also donate online. Thank you!

## Trunk-or-Treat Saturday, 10/29, 3-6 pm

Trunk-or-Treat is coming, and we need your help to make it a success again this year! Our neighbors look forward to this event every year; it's an important part of our ministry of hospitality!

We need folks to decorate your trunks and pass out candy in "trunk-or-treat" row. (Please park your care by 2:30.) We also need people to volunteer with the games, food, and more. Watch for the sign-up sheets which will be available on the Sundays in October leading up to the event.

## Bible Study - Sundays @ 9 am

We are continuing our study of the Minor Prophets each Sunday at 9 am in Bailey Hall and on Zoom. We'd love to have you join us.

Here is the schedule for October: 10/2 & 10/9, Mandy on Amos; 10/16, Rebecca on Obadiah & Jonah; 10/23 & 10/30, Julie on Micah.

This class will continue through 12/18. The sessions on each prophet stand alone, though we're also going to identify common themes. You can always catch up by watching the videos.

## From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

I have realized lately that I've been using the word "clarity" a lot. In my Christianity & Democracy sermon series, you have heard me say that our times are demanding that we be clear – clear about what the gospel says, clear about how Jesus calls us to live, clear about the fact that God loves each and every person, regardless of the many labels we may apply to them. There are forces out there with dangerous agendas who are poised to take advantage of any vagueness or confusion they can find.

I wonder sometimes why we don't make the effort to be clear about our language. Sometimes we avoid it because it's more work to be precise. Other times, I think we're afraid of offending someone by drawing fine distinctions. We aim, instead, to "keep the peace" with a false unity that ignores the damage being done. But at some level, this is about knowing and naming the difference between right and wrong. Rhetoric that excludes people based on their demographic categories is not aligned with the gospel. We need to say so. Attempts to build and maintain hierarchies that place some over others are not in keeping with the will of God. We need to call them out.

Disciples have always valued unity, but there can be no unity without justice. We need to paint clear pictures of what true unity looks like, so that we can recognize violations of that unity and name them when they arise. When people are claiming the name of Christ for purposes that oppose the gospel, we must be prepared to say No, loudly and clearly.

grace & peace,

*Pastor Rebecca*

### Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be in Santa Barbara visiting with family Oct. 3-5. She will be at Regional Assembly Oct. 14-15. She is going home to Illinois for Thanksgiving, Nov. 23-28.

## Tesa's Take

I was able to go on vacation recently and take time away from both of my current jobs. It is hard for me to step away from my duties and take time to spend in nature, in reflection, or just resting without any expectations.

I know taking a vacation won't solve all my problems and that not everyone can go away for a few days. However, I've been working with my therapist to take a few moments each day for self-care by going for a walk, reading a few pages of a book, journaling, taking a break from work, or grabbing a snack.

There were various moments in scripture where people needed rest or time to stop doing what they were doing and relax. There's a meme about the prophet Elijah in 1 Kings 19:4-9, who had asked to die after a day's journey in the wilderness. After rest and nourishment, he was okay and kept going for 40 days and 40 nights!

Even Jesus needed rest (like he did on that boat) and time away from his closest people to be alone and with God. I hope, especially as we enter this next season, you may find moments of self-care in big and small ways. We are God's beloved and deserve rest and care; it may not be convenient, and that's okay!

Vaya con Dios,

*Pastor Tesa*

## 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.

**Daylight Saving Time ends  
at 2:00 AM on Sunday,  
November 6th.  
Enjoy your extra hour!**

## Camp Fund Grows!

Thanks so much to everyone who helped out with our Camp Fundraisers in September! Between our Camp Sunday Ice Cream Float fundraiser and the Rummage Sale, we collected over \$3000 and counting! That is enough to cover the costs of sending 8 kids to camp!

Novels Tea will meet on Zoom on Sunday, 10/9, at 4 pm, to discuss "The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead.

Praying & Coloring  
Saturday, 10/22  
1:30 pm at  
Pacific Pointe &  
on Zoom

Lunch Bunch  
at Olive Garden  
Wednesday, 9/19  
12:00 pm  
Hosted by  
Ray & Vicki Adsit

## Regional Assembly October 14-15 in Fullerton

The Pacific Southwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will finally be meeting in person again, Friday & Saturday, October 14-15 at the Disciples Ministry Center in Fullerton!

Pastor Rebecca & Pastor Tesa will be attending, along with our voting delegates, Mandy Dohring & Julie Germain and Mary Jane Fay. You can register to attend in person for only \$15 (before 10/11). You don't have to register to watch the main programming on the livestream. Register and find the livestream links on the Region's website, at [www.disciplespswr.org/ra2022](http://www.disciplespswr.org/ra2022). Speakers include Dr. Frank A. Thomas, Dr. Patrick B. Reyes, and Rev. Lori Tapia. Pastor Rebecca will be involved in presenting some of the business items, through her work with the Regional Nominating Committee and the Bylaws Revision Committee.

## In Our Prayers...

JOYS ~ 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. 17 - Mark Reagles
- Oct. 22 - Bob Neely
- Oct. 31 - Alexander Reagles

We collected \$462  
toward our \$500  
goal for the  
Reconciliation  
Special Offering!  
Thank you!

## YOUTH NEWS

All sixth-twelfth grade youth are invited to participate in our San Diego United Youth Group. It meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at Normal Heights United Methodist Church. Connect with Pastor Tesa if you're interested in attending.

## News from the Board

The Board met on 9/21 on Zoom. Reports were received from the pastors and committee chairs, as needed. Treasurer Larry Knight gladly reported that we ended the first two months of the fiscal year in the black, with a surplus of over \$3000. We are so grateful to all of our faithful and generous donors who make our ministries sustainable. Thank you!

## Elders & Deacons Meeting

All Elders & Deacons are asked to attend our meeting on Sunday, October 9, at 12:15 pm. We will meet in the Sanctuary, but we'll also have Zoom open for those who need to attend virtually.

Our main topic of conversation at this meeting will be plans, dreams, and visions for our 75th anniversary year. We want as many brains in the room as possible for this initial conversation, so please make a point of joining us!

## *Sunday Volunteers Needed*

Are you looking for a new way to get involved with Sunday worship? We could use a few more people in some of our volunteer rotations! The Greeters are responsible for welcoming everyone to worship (10-10:30ish), ensuring each person gets a bulletin, and offering hospitality to visitors. They usually work in pairs. Lay Readers are the ones who read the first scripture reading in the worship service. We could also use some back-up offering counters (an after-worship job) and some more AV tech volunteers (before, during & after worship). Let Pastor Rebecca know if you're interested in any of these opportunities. Thanks!

## Supporting Our Pastors

The Pastoral Relations Committee, which works with Pastor Rebecca will meet on Saturday, Oct. 1, at 1:00 pm in the Library and on Zoom. This committee is chaired by Renee Bridwell, and also includes Jenny Angione, Daniel Cliffe, Cheryl Davis-Plotts, and Michael Lewis.

The Associate Pastor Support Committee, which works with Pastor Tesa, will meet on Sunday, Oct. 23, at 12:15 in the Library and on Zoom. This committee is chaired by Karen Cliffe, and also includes Steve Bridwell, Mandy Dohring, Mary Jane Fay, and Eliseo Sisneros.

Both of these committees exist to provide space for supportive feedback and reflection on ministry, with the aim of improving our pastors' capacity to serve as the ministers of our congregation. The members serve one-year terms without term limits.

## Small Group Opportunities

The Women's Study just started a new book, which makes it a great time to join the conversation! They are reading and discussing "The Women in the Gospel of John: the Divine Feminine" by Judith K. Jones, from Chalice Press. They meet on Zoom every other Friday at 1 pm.

The Senior Men's Coffee that began as a VLM small group is still meeting at the Starbucks by Vons at La Mesa Springs every Wednesday at 8 am.

See Page 3 for information about Novels Tea. The next book is usually selected at the end of each session. This group meets about every 6 weeks, depending on what else is going.

Everyone is welcome to join Lunch Bunch! Just make sure you let the month's host know you're coming, so they reserve enough seats!

# October 2022 Worship Participants

	October 2	October 9	October 16	October 23	October 30
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Brenda Rorie-Baety	Renee Bridwell	Bob Neely		Karen Cliffe
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Jerry Bailey	Dick Penny	Jennefer Lehton	Deborah Wilson	Al Flores
<b>Offering Invitation</b>	Rebecca Littlejohn	Mary Jane Fay	Lace Watkins	Tesa Hauser	Rebecca Littlejohn
<b>Elders</b>	Cheryl Davis-Plotts Julie Germain	Ray Adsit Larry Knight	Mandy Dohring Marianna Kirwan	Tim Cliffe Michael Lewis	Mary Jane Fay Beckie Neely
<b>Deacons</b>	Hélène Sisneros Lyn Van Winkle Lace Watkins	Jenny Angione Mary Alynn Fallon Susan Peterson	Patrice Hill Ilene Kiser Jennefer Lehton John Lehton	Al Flores Daphne Flores Tracy Stockdall	Ilene Kiser John Lehton Susan Peterson
<b>Comm Prep &amp; Clean up</b>	Daphne Flores & Tracy Stockdall	Daphne Flores & Tracy Stockdall	Daphne Flores & Tracy Stockdall	Daphne Flores & Tracy Stockdall	Daphne Flores & Tracy Stockdall
<b>Greeters</b>	Jerry & Norma Bailey	John Lehton Ray Adsit	Jennefer Lehton Larry Knight	Ray Adsit Michael Lewis	Mary Jane Fay
<b>AV Tech Zoom Tech</b>	Karen Cliffe Tesa Hauser	Jenny Angione Tesa Hauser	Mary Alynn Fallon Karen Cliffe	Karen Cliffe Tesa Hauser	Mary Alynn Fallon Julie Germain
<b>Counters</b>	Mary Alynn Fallon Jerry Bailey	Lace Watkins Renee Bridwell	John Lehton Ilene Kiser	Lyn Van Winkle Jerry Bailey	John Lehton Jenny Angione
<b>Flowers</b>	Mary Alynn Fallon	Karen & Tim Cliffe	Open	Beckie Neely	Dick Bailey

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** Team 4 (Al Flores, Daphne Flores, Tracy Stockdall)

## 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, between Interstate 8 and the 94 Freeway, 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

Senior Pastor: **Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn**  
 Associate Pastor: **Rev. Tesa Hauser**  
 Admin & Comm Coord.: **Alicia M. Gervasi**  
 Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**  
 Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero**  
 Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

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