

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ AUGUST 2022

MY, HOW TIME FLIES!

Quick! Do you know what year it is? (It's okay if you don't; the pandemic has made it really hard to keep track!) But do you know what next year is? Next year is 2023. And that's 75 since 1948. And 1948 is the year that Vista La Mesa Christian Church was founded here at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Boulevard Drive. So that means that next year is our 75th anniversary!

It's time to start thinking about how we want to celebrate this milestone! If you have ideas, please join us at the Fellowship Committee meeting on Thursday, August 4th at 5:30 (on Zoom) and/or the Worship Committee meeting on Thursday, August 11th (also on Zoom, but at 6:00). We will be brainstorming at both meetings about fun and meaningful ways to celebrate our 75 years as a congregation.

If you have memorabilia at home that might be fun to include, start gathering that up! (But don't bring it in just yet; we don't want to accidentally sell it in the rummage sale!)

Bible Study

Our Adult Bible Study will be starting up again in the fall, with an exploration of the Minor Prophets. These are the 12 prophetic books in the Hebrew scriptures that are shorter than the big three (Isaiah, Jeremiah & Ezekiel). They cover a wide span of history and styles, but they have important themes in common.

We will once again be learning from a rotation of teachers, which keeps it interesting, as each leader has their own take on the material. Watch for more information coming out soon!

Celebrating 70 Years!

Vista La Mesa is almost 75 years old, and Jerry & Norma Bailey have been married almost that entire time! They will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on the 16th of this month.

You are invited to help celebrate this milestone, by bringing a card of congratulations for Jerry & Norma on Sunday, August 7th.

After worship, we will have a special reception in the Prayer Garden to honor this beautiful couple.

Flower Sponsors

There are some open spots for flower sponsors for our worship arrangement in September and beyond. The cost is \$40, payable to the church. You can dedicate the arrangement to anyone or anything you like, a loved one, an occasion, or just your appreciation for our church.

Follow this link to sign up online:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e094ba5ac23abf58-vlmsunday>

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

Time has gotten pretty weird over the past two and a half years. Days and months have run together. Things that happened last year seem like they might have been last month. And the “before times” are hard to remember at all.

A new way to orient our thoughts around time might be a welcome distraction from this confusion. And we’ve got one on the horizon, as we begin to think about how to celebrate the milestone of 75 years in ministry at the corner of Massachusetts and Boulevard.

There is always the danger, when celebrating anniversaries, of putting too much focus on the past, rather than giving the future the energy it needs and deserves. It feels pretty impossible to imagine the year 2098, a whole 75 years later. But could we spend this milestone year thinking about the next five? Or twenty-five?

For now, the main thing is to consider 2023, and how we might be intentional in this anniversary year about reflecting on what God has done, is doing, and will do with and through our beloved congregation over the years. I can even imagine that focusing on those celebrations might help us more firmly root ourselves in the present moment, in ways that might bring back some clarity about not just what day it is, but where we are in history.

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor Rebecca’s Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be taking restorative leave and vacation, August 16-28. Please respect her time away and do not contact her by phone or text. If you must email, please use pastor@vlmcc.com and she will get back to you when she returns to the office. Be in touch with Pastor Tesa for emergencies.

Tesa’s Take

With my transition to Associate Pastor came a change in the number of Sundays I will be in worship. It may seem like a weird transition, but this was a part of the original vision for my position, which is very part-time. I will be in worship on 2 Sundays in months that have 4 Sundays and 3 Sundays in months that have 5 Sundays.

The Sundays I'm not at VLM will allow me to visit other Disciples congregations and churches with women in leadership as part of my continued pastoral formation. Of course, this could not happen without the people who have stepped up and volunteered to help lead Zoom; I am so grateful for their willingness to learn and continue to support our Zoom community.

My gratitude is deep right now, especially with everything going on in the world and people's lives; I think people are tired. Some days are better than others, but sometimes being tired leads to letting your guard down or finding it hard to catch up and keep up. I think of Psalm 46, which shares, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble...The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." When we are tired, God will be our strength; in God, we have One we can go to and know that we are cared for, where we can find rest.

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 14-15, 2022

Opportunities to Connect to LMPD

Have you met La Mesa's new police chief, Ray Sweeney? He is working hard to build relationships with community members and increase trust in the department.

You can meet him at two opportunities to "Chat with the Chief" this month. On Monday, August 8, Chief Sweeney will be at Journey Church from 6-8 pm. And then on Thursday, August 25, he will be at the La Mesa Community Center on Memorial Drive, also from 6-8 pm.

There is also an opportunity to get to know more LMPD officers at the Game Changer event that will be held on Thursday, August 18. Community members ages 15 and up are welcome for this time of conversation and fellowship, that also includes a Padres game!

Disciples Updates

As we emerge from the pandemic, it's time to re-build our connections to the rest of our beloved church. It's almost time to register for our **Regional Assembly** in October. Visit www.disciplespswr.org for more on that event.

But you can also get involved this month! **DMF Day** is Thursday, August 4th, a time when Disciples across the church are encouraged to give a special gift to Disciples Mission Fund, as a sign of commitment and gratitude for all that God is doing through the Christian Church (DoC).

There is also a new **Covenant Project** that you can tune into. It's aiming to engage the church in deeper conversations about how we stay connected across the denomination and support one another. You can learn more and sign up to attend an online "town hall" at this link: <https://disciples.org/covenant-project/>

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will meet on Sunday, August 7th, on Zoom, to discuss "The Once and Future Witches" by Alix Harrow. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join in the conversation!

Choir Practice will resume on Thursday, August 25th at 7:00 pm.

Happy Birthday!

- Aug. 7 - Eliseo Sisneros
- Aug. 7 - Steve Bridwell
- Aug. 11 - Allan Flores
- Aug. 15 - Kaitlin Yoder
- Aug. 17 - George Grimm, Brittany Yoder
- Aug. 19 - Lace Watkins
- Aug. 22 - Glenda Cliffe
- Aug. 25 - Paul Epler
- Aug. 28 - Sally Johnston
- Aug. 25 - Harley Hanna
- Aug. 31 - Patrice Hill

Happy Anniversary!

- Aug. 9 - John & Jennefer Lehton
- Aug. 16 - Jerry & Norma Bailey
- Aug. 17 - Allan & Daphne Flores
- Aug. 18 - Jeffrey & Berna Cliffe
- Aug. 30 - Mike & Lisa Martin

In Our Prayers...

JOYS ~ For Prayer Concerns please contact the office at 619-463-9909.

YOUTH NEWS

We are so grateful for all our youth who attended church camp at Loch Leven this summer! Edward Gurling, Jennings McCreanor, Adrian Morey, Tennyson McCreanor, Al Flores, and Marques Gurling all spent some of their summer up in the mountains with God and our Regional Church.

Big Thanks also to everyone who has helped build up our Camp Fund to make it possible for our church to cover the majority of the camp fees. Watch for more information about a Camp Fund fundraiser in early September, and also, how you can help out with our Rummage Sale on October 1st, to help build our Camp Fund back up for next year!

We are continuing to participate in the SD United Youth Group, which meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday at Normal Heights UMC, for youth in 6th-12th grades. Connect with Pastor Tesa to learn how you can join in the fun!

Tenant Updates

We have been sharing our sanctuary since late December with a small congregation called Ministerio Me Ungio Jehova. They have been holding services in the evenings on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. As of this month, their Saturday service is going to shift to Sunday afternoons. Their time in the sanctuary begins at 3:00 on Sunday afternoons, so please be aware of this and try not to intrude on their worship time.

We are so grateful for all our tenants, especially for their patience during the time we were struggling to get the AC fixed in Bailey Hall!

Board News & Committee Appointments

The Board met in July to begin the new ministry year. The Board this year includes Chair Julie Germain, Vice-Chair Karen Cliffe, Secretary Jenny Angione, Trustee Susan Peterson, Treasurer Larry Knight, Personnel Director Mary Jane Fay. Elders Chair (pending) Steve Bridwell, Deacons Chair (pending) Mary Alynn Fallon, Worship Chair Brenda Rorie-Baety, Christian Education Chair Helene Sisneros, Fellowship Chair Beckie Neely, Property Chair John Lehton, Memorial Endowment Chair Jennefer Lehton, and Pastor Rebecca Littlejohn. The position of Outreach Chair is currently vacant. (There are also 3 Deacon slots vacant.)

Financial reports for the fiscal year that ended on June 30th, showed us in a solid financial position, with a year-to-date deficit of less than \$5000. Of the \$12,000 that the Board was authorized by the congregation to withdraw from the Memorial Endowment Fund to offset expenses, only \$3000 was withdrawn. Offerings and rental income were both higher than projected.

The Board approved the Chair's appointments of Ray Adsit and Susan Peterson to three-year terms on the Memorial Endowment Committee. The other members are Tim Cliffe, Matt Hauser, Jennefer Lehton, and Helene Sisneros.

The members of the Pastoral Relations Committee and the Associate Pastor Support Committee were also affirmed. PRC: Renee Bridwell (chair), Jenny Angione, Daniel Cliffe, Cheryl Davis-Plotts, and Michael Lewis. APSC: Karen Cliffe (chair), Steve Bridwell, Mandy Dohring, Mary Jane Fay, and Eliseo Sisneros. These two committees operate with one-year terms without term limits. They are intended to provide a space for supportive feedback and reflection on ministry within our congregation.

Elders Meeting

Sunday, August 14th, 12:15 pm

August 2022 Worship Participants

	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
Worship Leader	Ray Adsit	Bob Neely	Tim Cliffe	Mary Jane Fay
Lay Reader	Jerry Bailey	Dick Penny	Deborah Wilson	Tracy Stockdall
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Mary Jane Fay	Lace Watkins	Julie Germain
Elders	Julie Germain Karen Cliffe	Renee Bridwell Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Steve Bridwell Beckie Neely	Larry Knight Mandy Dohring
Deacons	Helene 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
Communion Prep	Mary Alynn Fallon & Team 2	Mary Alynn Fallon & Team 2	Mary Alynn Fallon & Team 2	Mary Alynn Fallon & Team 2
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Mary Alynn Fallon Tesa Hauser	Julie Germain Mary Alynn Fallon	Karen Cliffe Jenny Angione	Julie Germain Mary Jane Fay
Greeters	Jerry & Norma Bailey	John Lehton Ray Adsit	Jennefer Lehton Larry Knight	Mary Jane Fay Michael Lewis
Counters	1 Mary Alynn Fallon 2 Jerry Bailey	1 Lace Watkins 2 Renee Bridwell	1 Steve Bridwell 2 Ilene Kiser	1 John Lehton 2 Lyn Van Winkle
Flowers	Mary Jane Fay	Norma & Jerry Bailey	Tim & Karen Cliffe	Beckie Neely

Coffee Hour Hosts: Team 1 (Lyn Van Winkle, Helene Sisneros, 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: **Rev. Tesa Hauser**

Admin & Comm Coor.: **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