

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ MAY 2023

Church in the Park

We hope you will join us on Sunday, May 7, when we will gather “back at the old pine grove” in Harry Griffen Park where we had services during the pandemic. We will have worship there, followed by a picnic. If you ordered a VLM shirt or hat, we encourage you to wear it that day!

Please bring your own picnic lunch (maybe in a cooler?) and a beverage you like. We will have ice water for filling up water bottles. You will also want to bring a chair or a blanket to sit on.

During the picnic, we will split into smaller groups to do some activities designed to help us get to know one another better.

Remember to keep an eye on the weather, so you can dress appropriately. We will have the service on Zoom as well (but not the picnic). See you there!

WORK DAY – APRIL 29

We would love to have your help on Saturday, April 29th, as we try to get our house in order. Since the pandemic, things have accumulated in all sorts of places around the building, making our space less functional. We want to weed out the junk and re-organize the rest, so that we can use our beautiful rooms more fruitfully.

We will be working primarily in Classrooms 3 & 4, along with the worship storage areas. There may be other little projects around the campus that can also be done. Please bring a willing and flexible spirit toward your fellow VLMers, and a ruthlessness toward clutter! Donuts will be provided! We'll get started at 9:00.

Sunday Morning Study

Our Sunday Morning Study will start back up on May 14, at 9 am in Bailey Hall and on Zoom. We are going to look at two unusual books in the Hebrew Scriptures over the next six weeks.

First, we will spend 3 weeks looking at the book of Daniel, an example of apocalyptic literature (May 14-28). Pastor Tesa will get us started on that.

Then, in June, we will explore the book of Ecclesiastes, with Pastor Tesa wrapping things up on the 18th. Our rotation of wonderful teachers will fill in the four weeks in between.

Our Study won't meet on June 25, because of a potluck that day. We will take a break over the summer and start back up in September.

“Seeking God’s Future of Hope”

Our 2023-2024 stewardship campaign culminates on Sunday, April 30th, with Consecration Sunday. Everyone will be invited to put an Estimate of Giving Card into the Blessing Box during worship, as we dedicate our commitments to God’s future of hope for Vista La Mesa Christian Church.

If you didn't get the materials in the mail, you can pick up a replacement (or extra) Estimate of Giving card on the credenza at the back of the Sanctuary.

We hope you'll join in this important moment in the life of our congregation!

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

Every once in a while, when I'm weary of dealing with what I need to be dealing with, I start thinking about one or another of my "crazy ministry ideas." These are things like brunch church or weekly afternoon drop-ins at "grandparent church" for high school students. But there's another one that's been on my mind lately: the Mutual Hassle Help Clinic.

The idea behind Mutual Hassle Help Clinic is that dealing with the bureaucratic hassles of our own lives (insurance company, food benefits, Social Security, etc.) drains us of life, energy and everything good. These systems are literally set up to deal with us as numbers rather than people. So a Mutual Hassle Help Clinic would pair us up together, and invite us to help one another deal with the faceless, unhelpful voices on the other end of the phone, with the goal of getting stuff done with our humanity intact. Some of us are better at being polite but insistent than others; some are bolder about asking for what's needed and cutting through the red tape. The church has not traditionally seen these talents as spiritual gifts, but when used in the service of others' humanity, they certainly qualify!

In light of our office break-in in February, I'm sure you can imagine why this has been on my mind! That said, one of the best antidotes to the weariness caused by bureaucratic hassle is gratitude. As we finally emerge on the other side of this chapter, I want to extend DEEP THANKS to some of the folks who helped us through: Tesa Hauser, Krista Trimlett, Scott Tiemann, Julie Germain, Susan Peterson, John & Jennefer Lehton, Karen Cliffe, Helene Sisneros, Jim & Mary Alynn Fallon, Cathy Mullican, and the rest of the Board & MEC. My thanks to all of you for your patience with me as this has taken so much of my time and attention.

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

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.

Tesa's Take

We had our stewardship campaign at the end of April, using the words of Jeremiah to inspire and encourage us all as we approach the new ministry year. When I think about Jeremiah's words, I also think about Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope." God is the source of our hope and is the source of many things like love, strength, and an ever-present help in need. God provides and surprises us with continued affection and support.

We won't go into the future alone either; not only do we have the power of the Holy Spirit to help us make decisions for the new ministry year and the future of Vista La Mesa, but we have one another. We are Easter people moving forward, people who are filled with hope because we know that death no longer has its power and that the resurrection has the last say. We can go boldly into the future, proclaiming newness and life. There is hope because the impossible was possible. We stand with one another, knowing Jesus stands with us in solidarity, the Spirit guides us, and God continues to promise a future of hope.

Vaya con Dios,
Pastor Tesa

Budget Meeting

The Budget Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 9th at 6 pm on Zoom, to build the proposed budget for the 2023-2024 ministry year. The budget committee includes the pastors, the treasurer, and the financial secretary, with input from other Board members.

Pentecost Special Offering

We will receive the Pentecost Special Offering on Sunday, May 28. This denominational offering goes to support the Disciples' church-planting efforts. Wear **RED!**

Thank you for your donations to the Easter Offering! We raised \$548 for our General Ministries!

75th Anniversary Fund

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to our 75th Anniversary Fund! We have received just under \$11,000 so far, and we hope to break 12K soon!

The goals for this Fund are partially for the celebrations we're holding all year long. But we are also hoping to invest in some projects that will last far beyond this year.

In March, the Board found some ways to stretch these dollars so we can accomplish most of our goals. But we will continue gratefully receiving your gifts all year! Thanks!

In Our Prayers...

JOYS & CONCERNS ~ Contact Pastor Rebecca for prayer concerns.

Opportunities to Serve

We need to fill out a number of our volunteer rotations. We could use a couple more people to serve as Worship Greeters (before worship) and Offering Counters (after worship). We would also love to get a couple more people in our worship tech rotation, running the AV and Zoom.

Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you'd be interested in any of these jobs, and we'll find a time to train you. Thanks!

Welcome Saturday

It's been a year now that we have had students from Helix Charter High School helping out with Welcome Saturday. It's been so much fun!

The students are so eager to get their volunteer credits with us that we've had to limit the number who can come each month.

Come by and say Hi! some second Saturday soon!

Lunch Bunch
Wednesday,
May 17, 12 pm
at Olive Garden
in La Mesa,
Dick & Noralea
Penny, hosts

Novels Tea

will be discussing
"The Tea Girl of
Hummingbird Lane"
by Lisa See
on Sunday, May 28th
at 3 pm on Zoom.

*Happy
Birthday!*

May 6 ~ Brittany Cliffe
May 15 ~ Ilene Kiser
May 24 ~ Helene Sisneros
May 28 ~ Lyn Van Winkle

*Happy
Anniversary!*

May 20
Shayne & Rachel McKinney
May 21
Matt & Tesa Hauser
Marianna Kirwan & Mike Lewis
May 25
Andy & Amy Cliffe

A LOVE LETTER TO VLM

FROM MARIANNA KIRWAN & MICHAEL LEWIS

When we began discussing what we wanted to say about our feelings for our church, we realized very quickly that if we went into all the reasons for those feelings that our testimony would be much too long, so we have condensed what we have to say to the most important reasons for how we feel.

Worship – We find great value and enjoyment in the worship services because it is at worship that we feel closest to the Lord and feel most strongly His love and concern for us. The sanctuary in which we worship is pleasing in appearance in general and always appropriately decorated or arranged to enhance and conform to whatever message is being presented. The musical programs both by the choir and by individuals are appropriate, enjoyable, and well performed with excellent leadership by our musical director. Audio-visual aids are used in appropriate ways to assist but not distract from the presentation of the message or program.

Christian Education – We both enjoy the Sunday School programs as they educate and enlighten us concerning aspects of scripture that we may not have been aware of or thought much about. The leaders of the programs are knowledgeable and skilled in presentation and are excellent in keeping the programs on message instead of allowing them to wander off onto extraneous matters.

Service by Members – The opportunities to serve are extensive and the dedication to service and the quality of the services by members of the congregation in assisting with worship, participating in non-worship activities, and maintaining and enhancing the physical premises is outstanding and impressive. We are pleased and honored to have been called to join in that service.

Fellowship – What can we say? The congregation is like a family to us: welcoming and concerned and affectionate.

Ministerial Staff (Saving the best for last) – Rebecca is an erudite, dedicated, and compassionate minister who presents messages that are appropriate, enlightening, timely, and scripture-based in a pleasing, enjoyable, and easy to understand manner. She has a loving interest and concern for us as members of the congregation and personally, and with the assistance of others, works for the well-being of each of us. She also has an appropriate concern about the world outside of our congregation and rightly encourages and solicits us to join in that concern. Tesa is a star in the making. She does everything well and is an asset to our congregation. It has been a pleasure seeing her develop and use her talents.

Truly, Vista La Mesa Christian Church is a place where we are loved and are found worthy of the kingdom.

May Board Meeting

The General Board will meet on Zoom, on Wednesday, May 24th 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 2023-2024 will also be presented.

Reports are due to Pastor Rebecca on Friday, May 12th prior to the 5/16 Administrative Committee meeting (Zoom, 6 pm). Please contact Pastor Rebecca if you have any questions about your report.

Church Camp '23

June 18-20 - Mini (Gr. 1-3)

June 18-23 - Chi Rho (Gr. 6-8)

July 2-4 - Wee Camp (3+)

July 2-7 - Junior Camp (Gr. 4-6)

July 16-21 - CYF (Gr. 9-12)

Registration is OPEN!

Click this link for more information and registration:

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

Save the Dates!

Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, June 11.

Service of Installation, with **Guest Preachers** Revs. Don & Susan Gonzales Dewey, is Sunday, June 25, with a **potluck** to follow.

Be Sure to Be Here!

May 2023 Worship Participants

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
Worship Leader	N/A	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Ray Adsit	Mandy Dohring
Lay Reader	N/A	Dick Penny	Al Flores	Deborah Wilson
Offering Invitation	N/A	Mary Jane Fay	Rebecca Littlejohn	Renee Bridwell
Elders	N/A	Renee Bridwell Brenda Rorie-Baety	Mary Jane Fay Karen Cliffe	Steve Bridwell Cheryl Davis-Plotts
Deacons	N/A	Jenny Angione Mary Alynn Fallon Susan Peterson	Patrice Hill Jennefer Lehton John Lehton	Al Flores Daphne Flores Tracy Stockdall
Communion Prep	N/A	Jennefer Lehton	Jennefer Lehton	Jennefer Lehton
Greeters	N/A	Ray Adsit John Lehton	Daphne Flores Michael Lewis	Mary Jane Fay Jerry Bailey
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Z: Tesa Hauser & Mary Alynn Fallon	Mary Alynn Fallon Julie Germain	Karen Cliffe Jenny Angione	Karen Cliffe Tesa Hauser
Counters	N/A	Renee Bridwell Mary Alynn Fallon	Jerry Bailey Tracy Stockdall	Lyn Van Winkle John Lehton
Flowers	N/A	Beckie Neely	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Grace Van Winkle

Coffee Hour Hosts: Mary Alynn Fallon, Jenny Angione, Susan Peterson

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: Tue/Thu/Fri, 9 am – 12 pm

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: **The Members of VLMCC**

Pastor: **Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn**

Associate Pastor: **Rev. Tesa Hauser**

Secretary: **Krista Trimlett**

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