

# The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NOVEMBER 2022

## All Saints Memorial Service

As we do each year, we will be marking All Saints Day with a Memorial Service on Sunday, November 6th. This is an important time to remember those we have lost in the last year, as well as all those who have gone on but remain in our hearts.

This is also a wonderful opportunity to think about who you may know that needs to be with us in worship that day. Often when someone loses a loved one, they need a faith community but they don't know where to turn. You may have the invitation they've been waiting for. Take a moment to consider who you need to bring to worship with you that day.

This year, as we prepare for our 75th anniversary, we will be considering how we can become "good ancestors" for those who will come after us. Please join us for worship on 11/6!

## BOOK OF 12 BIBLE STUDY

Our study of the twelve "minor" prophets continues this month, and we'd love to have you join us! We're learning a lot about how each book has its own flavor, but also fits together with the others.

The class will extend through December 18th. We meet every Sunday at 9 am in Bailey Hall and on Zoom (regular link). Here is the schedule for November:

- Nov. 6 – Nahum, with Tesa Hauser
- Nov. 13 – Habakkuk, with Marianna Kirwan
- Nov. 20 – Zephaniah, with Rebecca Littlejohn
- Nov. 27 – Haggai, with Steve Bridwell

## 75th Anniversary Fund

Our 75th Anniversary Fund was launched last month, asking everyone to get us started by giving \$25 in October, November, and December. Special envelopes will be in the bulletins on the first Sunday of each month, but you can also give online.

At the Board meeting this month, we will be reviewing a list of possible projects to be included in our celebration, and then we will have a clearer picture of what our fundraising goals will be. These 3 monthly gifts are intended just to get us started by covering expenses in the early months. Thank you for your contributions!

## Advent Begins 11/27

The First Sunday of Advent is coming right up, on November 27th! Our Advent theme this year will be centered on expectation, in anticipation of how Christ Jesus will lead us throughout our 75th anniversary year.

You can help make Advent happen at VLMCC! Watch for information later this month about gifts for our El Nido families and ordering poinsettias. And make sure to be in worship so that you can help carry the light!

We will be decorating for Advent after worship on Sunday, 11/20, with final touches on Saturday 11/26, as needed. If you would like to be involved in that, please attend the Worship Committee meeting on Wednesday, 11/9.

## From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

This month, as we do every year, we will sing Natalie Sleeth's beautiful hymn "In the Bulb, There Is a Flower" at our All Saints Memorial Service. More and more, I'm struck by how it speaks to our experience, not just of death and mourning, but of life itself. The closing line of each verse reminds us how much is "unrevealed, until its season, something God alone can see."

Unlike with many of the familiar beauties of nature that we rely on to reveal what's expected – a flower from a bulb, a tree from an apple seed – life's revelations can bring complete surprises. When we launched an intentional season of cultivating vitality back in 2018, we did not know that a season of endurance and creativity (the pandemic) would interrupt it 2 years later. And now, as we sit on the precipice of a milestone year, we are hoping for a season of celebration, while admitting that we never quite know what's coming.

The important thing this song reminds us of, though, is that regardless of what is coming, it is something God can see. Our future is held in God's hands and tended with God's love. And more, we know the pattern of God's care: bringing wholeness out of brokenness, life out of death, hope out of despair.

So let us make plans for rejoicing, despite our lack of the knowledge of what the future will bring. For it is God's church that we celebrate, God's work that we re-dedicate ourselves to, and God's people that we aim to bring together in worship, service, fellowship, and prayer. Hallelujah and Amen!

grace & peace,

*Pastor Rebecca*

### The Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be visiting her family in Illinois for Thanksgiving, November 23-28.

## Tesa's Take

Dear Church,

Recently, I have been meditating on Romans 15:13, which says, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

It is hard to hope at any given time, especially when faced with an injustice that seems too big. From Palestine to Ukraine, to Louisville and Uvalde, it is hard to find moments of hope.

However, Romans says we aren't alone. The power of the Holy Spirit allows us to overflow with hope. When hope is hard to find, let us look to the Holy Spirit, the Holy Advocate, to allow hope to overflow into our lives and communities.

May we live and hope for a better world that can ultimately be filled with joy, justice, and peace for all people, everywhere.

Vaya con Dios,  
*Pastor Tesa*

**Time Change is Coming!  
Don't forget to set your  
clocks back one hour before  
you go to bed on Saturday,  
November 5th!**

## 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.

## No Elders or Deacons Meeting This Month

But remember to check out the link to 75th plans that Pastor Rebecca sent out after last month's discussion. Thanks!

*Thanks so much for the flowers and the gift cards you presented to us during Pastor Appreciation Month last month!*

*It is a blessing to be part of a congregation that cares for its leaders so well!*

*Pastor Rebecca & Pastor Tesa*

### *Novels Tea*

Our Novels Tea group will meet on Zoom, on Sunday, November 20 at 4 pm (note later time) to discuss "The Sparrow" by Mary Doria Russell. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join in the conversation.

### **In Our Prayers...**

JOYS ~ For prayer concerns please contact the office at 619-463-9909.

### **WELCOME SATURDAY**

We continue to welcome new guests each month at Welcome Saturday, along with our long-time regulars and some newer friends as well. If you've never been, consider this your invitation to stop by and check it out!

We've got a good number of Helix students volunteering each month now, but we'd be happy to have you help out as well! Thanks for your donations that keep us going!

### **Thanksgiving Offering**

The Thanksgiving Special Offering will be received in worship, 11/13 and 11/20, and online. This over-and-above offering goes, in its entirety, to support Disciples colleges & universities, and seminaries, divinity schools, and theological foundations like Disciples Seminary Foundation. Our goal for this offering is \$500. Our pastors are both DSF graduates. These schools supply Disciples congregations with well-equipped leaders!

Lunch Bunch will be held at Marie Callender's in La Mesa on Wednesday, November 16 at 12 noon. Mary Alynn Fallon, hosting

### *Happy Birthday!*

- Nov. 1 - Norma Bailey
- Nov. 7 - Janet Smith
- Nov. 8 - Daphne Flores
- Nov. 9 - Stephen Cliffe
- Nov. 9 - Matt Hauser
- Nov. 10 - Jennefer Lehton
- Nov. 19 - Maria Cusumano
- Nov. 20 - Katie Yoder
- Nov. 21 - Tesa Hauser
- Nov. 23 - Noralea Penny
- Nov. 26 - Deborah Wilson
- Nov. 28 - John Lehton

### *Happy Anniversary!*

- Nov. 4  
Eliseo & Helene Sisneros
- Nov. 20  
Brian & Laura McCreanor
- Nov. 21  
Terry & Amber Morris

# Stewardship Thoughts

November is traditionally the time when we focus on Thanksgiving – the holiday and the state of mind. Gratitude is pretty much the purest motivation you can have for anything. It's a great reason to support your congregation. But thanksgiving – and stewardship – are more than just emotions. They are spiritual disciplines.

When we engage in giving thanks as a spiritual practice, it begins to shape who we are and how we live out lives. Stewardship is the same way. Once you've made a commitment of your money to the church, you'll notice your level of spiritual investment increases as well. This is why Jesus taught us that "where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also." Thank you for your generosity!

# VLMCC Board News

The General Board will meet on Zoom on Wednesday, 11/16 at 6 pm. Board reports are due to Pastor Rebecca on Friday, 11/4. The Administrative Committee will meet on Zoom on Tuesday, 11/8 at 6 pm.

The primary discussion at this month's meeting will be plans for the celebrations of our 75th anniversary next year. The Administrative Committee will bring a preliminary plan and ask the Board to weigh in on a list of priorities for the 75th Anniversary Fund. A tentative schedule of events will also be presented.

# Advent and Christmas Dates

- Decorating the Sanctuary – After worship Sunday, 11/20
- First Sunday of Advent (Hope) – Sunday, 11/27
- El Nido sign-ups and Poinsettia Orders – Late November
- Advent 2 (Peace) – Sunday, December 4
- Christmas Welcome Saturday – Saturday, December 10
- Advent 3 (Joy) – Sunday, December 11
- Christmas Concert – Sunday, December 11th, 5:30 pm
- Caroling Party – Saturday, December 17th, 2 pm
- Advent 4 (Love) – Sunday, December 18 (Last Bible Study)
- Christmas Lunch Bunch – Wednesday, December 21
- Christmas Eve Service – Saturday, December 24, 6 pm
- Christmas Day Worship – Sunday, December 25, 10:30

*Some pictures from last year's Trunk-or-Treat!*



# November 2022 Worship Participants

	November 6	November 13	November 20	November 27
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Cheryl Davis Plotts	Ray Adsit	Mandy Dohring	Tim Cliffe
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Dick Penny	Ilene Kiser	Michael Lewis	Tracy Stockdall
<b>Offering Invitation</b>	Rebecca Littlejohn	Mary Jane Fay	Rebecca Littlejohn	Julie Germain
<b>Elders</b>	Julie Germain Brenda Rorie-Baety	Marianna Kirwan Karen Cliffe	Larry Knight Cheryl Davis Plotts	Steve Bridwell Ray Adsit
<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
<b>Comm Prep &amp; Clean up</b>	Lyn Van Winkle & Team 1	Lyn Van Winkle & Team 1	Lyn Van Winkle & Team 1	Lyn Van Winkle & Team 1
<b>Greeters</b>	Jerry & Norma Bailey	John Lehton Ray Adsit	Jennefer Lehton Larry Knight	Ray Adsit Michael Lewis
<b>AV Tech Zoom Tech</b>	Mary Alynn Fallon Tesa Hauser	Karen Cliffe Julie Germain	Jenny Angione Julie Germain	Mary Alynn Fallon Karen Cliffe
<b>Counters</b>	Mary Alynn Fallon Jerry Bailey	Lace Watkins Jenny Angione	John Lehton Ilene Kiser	Lyn Van Winkle Steve Bridwell
<b>Flowers</b>	Jerry & Norma Bailey	OPEN – Please sign up!	Julie Germain & Mandy Dohring	OPEN – Please sign up!

**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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