

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ AUGUST 2023

The kindom of heaven is like...

SATURDAY, 8/26

Be sure to be here on Saturday, August 26, when we're having a fabulous party with all our friends! We'll be here from 11 am till 3 pm, with tacos, music, sno-cones, games, popcorn, and great fellowship!

It's open house style, so come as long or as short as you like. It's the kind of party Jesus might throw, with folks from our partner churches and other ministries, our Welcome Saturday friends, and some of the folks who are in our building for meetings during the week.

If you'd like to help out, check out the volunteer sign-up in Bailey Hall. We're also taking song requests, both for the band and for the playlist we'll hear while the band is on break.

SUNDAY, 8/27

You won't want to miss worship on Sunday, August 27, when the Rev. Dr. Rick Lowery will be preaching for us. Dr. Lowery is a dynamic preacher and renowned professor of Hebrew Bible, who has taught at multiple seminaries around the country. He also served as the President of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. He is married to our former General Minister & President Sharon Watkins, who will also be with us that day.

We encourage you to wear your VLM anniversary gear that day, as we plan to take a group photo out in front of the parking lot mural after worship.

a weekend-long celebration!

The new and improved
www.vlmcc.org
arrives 7/28!
Share it widely!

Summer Hymn Sing
Sunday, July 30th
Rev. Julie Germain &
Karen Cliffe, leading

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

It's such an interesting moment, as we move into August, to be preparing to go experience the General Church and to be preparing, simultaneously, for the General Church to come experience us! It is not an exaggeration for me to say that I probably would never have gone into ministry if it hadn't been for experiences early in my life at Regional and General Church events. That included church camp, of course, at Camp Walter Scott, in southern Illinois. But I also went to my first General Assembly when I was nine years old, in Des Moines, Iowa. And then two years later, another one, in Louisville, just like this summer's.

At that Des Moines assembly, I was enrolled in the children's program, and one of the crafts we made was a simple autograph book. We were supposed to go around and ask fellow Disciples to sign their names in our books. Well, I did. And then in 1993 and 1997, my mother dug that autograph book out again, and I started collecting more autographs at subsequent assemblies.

Two of the people who are in that book will be with us later this month, Rick Lowery and Sharon Watkins. What a joy it will be to welcome them to our humble little church, knowing how deeply they love the Disciples of Christ, in all our manifestations. As we celebrate our 75th anniversary this year, connecting with the Disciples Historical Society is part of how we deepen our ties with our broader church. We may want to make our own autograph book!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor Rebecca's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be on vacation following the General Assembly (7/29-8/1), visiting her family in Illinois (8/2-8/7). She will be back in the office on August 8th.

Tesa's Take

John chapter 15 is one of my favorites for its nuggets of wisdom and comfort. The disciples are worried. Jesus keeps talking about leaving, and they don't want him to leave. It's partially about missing Jesus and fear of what will happen when he's not around. Fear about what others might do, and fear if they'll know what to do when Jesus isn't there to lead them anymore.

Lately, we've been looking at different translations of scripture, and I think it's a great idea for this particular section. I have two versions of John 15:16-17 below. Read the versions I provided and others if you have a chance, and reflect on the ways Jesus has called you to be a part of the body of Christ. When we are uncertain, we can turn to Jesus for guidance.

"You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. This I command you, that you love one another. (NASB)

"You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you. But remember the root command: Love one another." (MSG)

Vaya con Dios,
Pastor Tesa

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

*Feeding Your Soul
Without Disconnecting
Your Mind!*

SAVE THE DATE!
REGIONAL GATHERING
OCTOBER 14, 2023

Choir Party

The Choir will be coming back a couple weeks early this summer, so we can be ready to sing on 8/27. We will have a potluck on Thursday, August 17th at 6 pm at the Lehtons' house. Please bring a dish to share. See Deborah or Jennefer if you have questions. The pool might be open earlier if desired.

Save the Date!

On Sunday, September 24, after lunch, we will be having a pottery painting party at the CeramiCafé at Grossmont Center. We hope to have VLM stencils available, so you can make a commemorative design for our anniversary year. Mark your calendars now, so you won't miss out!

Report from the General Board

Our 2023-2024 General Board met for the first time on July 19. New officers include Karen Cliffe, Board Chair; Tracy Stockdall, Vice Chair; Amy Cliffe, Personnel Chair; Mary Alynn Fallon, Worship Chair; Julie Germain, Outreach Chair; Jennefer Lehton, Fellowship Chair; and Daphne Flores, Deacon Chair.

The Board received the news that we ended the 2022-2023 fiscal year with a budget deficit of \$10,000. We appreciate our donors so much and sincerely hope you will continue supporting our ministries in the coming year.

Andy Cliffe and Jennefer Lehton were appointed to the Memorial Endowment Committee.

The Board also got an update on our 75th Anniversary Fund. We have received just over \$12,000. We have spent about a third, have plans for spending another third, and will determine what to do with the rest in the coming months.

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will meet on Sunday, August 20th, at 3 pm on Zoom, to discuss "West with Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge. Read the book and join the conversation!

Lunch Bunch Wed., Aug 16 12 pm at Claim Jumper Adsits, hosting

Happy Birthday!

- Aug. 7 - Eliseo Sisneros
- Aug. 7 - Steve Bridwell
- Aug. 11 - Allan Flores
- Aug. 15 - Kaitlin Yoder
- Aug. 22 - Glenda Cliffe
- Aug. 25 - Paul Epler
- Aug. 25 - Harley Hanna
- Aug. 30 - Michelle Tolvo-Chan
- 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...

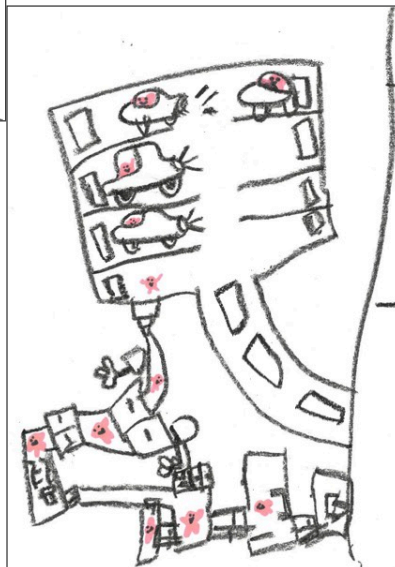
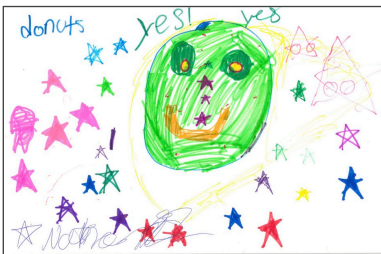
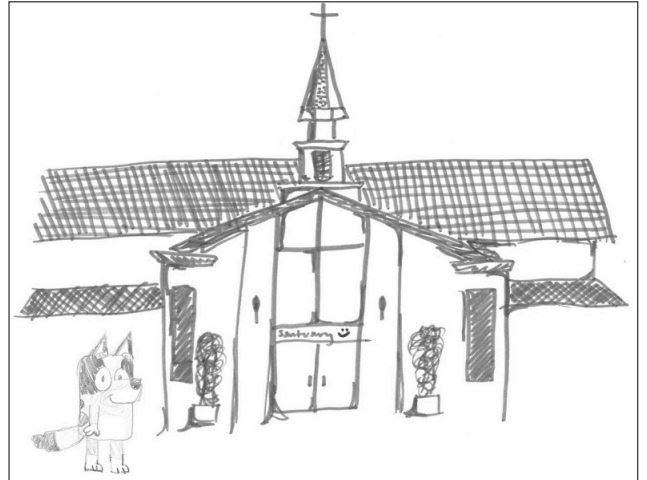
JOYS & CONCERNS ~ Please contact Pastor Rebecca for prayers.

A LOVE LETTER TO VLM

BY VLM'S KIDS WITH HELP FROM TESA HAUSER & HÉLÈNE SISNEROS

All of the kids in our discussion about church mentioned it being a place that they liked since it was fun and where you could experience kindness and God's love. They said the church was pretty/nice looking and named several places around the church like the nursery, the garden, and Bailey hall that they liked in particular. They talked about Jesus being important, and they liked when there was food and donuts at church. They liked the activities they've done and having snacks. -TH

The church Christmas party was magical; I sang and played the guitar by myself. During the talent show, a kid did the rubix cube and another person sang Amazing Grace. * Julie & Mandy sent me a letter when I was at church camp. * I get a donut for free and without having to ask a parent for permission. * I like coming to see Ms. Stephanie and Mrs. Helene and other people from church who are nice. * I went Christmas caroling and after went to Tim & Karen's house and had a dinner like Thanksgiving. * Before we went on a trip out of state, people came over and brought us dinner for a few days. * I like hanging out with the kids! * My favorite place at church is the nursery - where I can hang out with everyone and we can play.



August 2023 Worship Participants

	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
Worship Leader	Tim Cliffe	Mary Jane Fay	Larry Knight	Julie Germain
Lay Reader	Tracy Stockdall	Michael Lewis	Daphne Flores	Jennefer Lehton
Offering Invitation	Ray Adsit	Julie Germain	Tesa Hauser	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Michael Lewis Karen Cliffe	Marianna Kirwan Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Brian McCreanor Steve Bridwell	Brenda Rorie-Baety Mandy Dohring
Deacons	Mary Alynn Fallon Patrice Hill Ilene Kiser Susan Peterson	Jennefer Lehton John Lehton Helene Sisneros	Jenny Angione Claudette Toland Lyn Van Winkle	Al Flores Daphne Flores Tracy Stockdall Michelle Tolvo-Chan
Communion Prep	Team 2	Team 2	Team 2	Team 2
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Karen Cliffe Jenny Angione	Mary Alynn Fallon Julie Germain	Karen Cliffe Tesa Hauser	Mary Alynn Fallon Tesa Hauser
Greeters	Jerry & Norma Bailey	John Lehton Ray Adsit	Daphne Flores Michael Lewis	Mary Jane Fay
Counters	Lyn Van Winkle John Lehton	Steve Bridwell Jenny Angione	Tracy Stockdall Ilene Kiser	Jerry Bailey Mary Alynn Fallon
Flowers	OPEN	Jerry Bailey	Glenda Cliffe	Dick Bailey

Coffee Hour Hosts: Mary Alynn Fallon, Ilene Kiser, 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: Tues/Thur/Fri 19-12

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: **The Members of VLMCC**

Pastor: **Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn**

Associate Pastor: **Rev. Tesa Hauser**

Office Admin: **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