

# The Christian Visitor

SEPTEMBER 2022 ~ VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Bible Study Resumes 9/4

We are excited to welcome you back to Bible Study on Sunday, September 4th! We will be exploring the Minor Prophets this fall, all 12 of them! These prophets aren't really "minor"; they're just more succinct than their colleagues Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. Most of these books we will cover in one week, with four of them taking up 2 weeks. We will look at the themes they have in common and the nuances each one offers.

We will continue to offer this class on Zoom, but we'd also love to have you join us in Bailey Hall, where we've got lots of room to spread out! We will begin at 9 am each Sunday, through December 18.

We are so grateful for our rotation of teachers! Here is the schedule for this month:

9/4 – Tesa Hauser with an Introduction

9/11 & 9/18 – Steve & Renee Bridwell on Hosea

9/25 – Julie Germain on Joel

## Reconciliation Offering

Each year, we give the last 2 Sundays of September to celebrate Reconciliation Ministry, our denominational efforts at dismantling the sins and structures of racism. We will receive the special over-and-above offering for Reconciliation on Sept. 18 & 25. This year, our Reconciliation focus will be part of a three week sermon series on Christianity and democracy, which will culminate on World Communion Sunday, when preachers all across the country are being asked to speak out against Christian Nationalism and its threat to our country.

## Camp Sunday 9/11

We hope you'll join us for worship on September 11th, when we're going to take a look back at the Region's return to Loch Leven this summer! Our kids who went to camp will share more about their experiences and lead us in singing some camp songs.

Make sure to plan to stay after worship too! During coffee hour, our campers will be serving up ice cream floats, in exchange for a free will offering for our Camp Fund. You don't even have to eat or drink one to make a contribution! But there will be plenty for everyone, so you could have more than one if you like.

## Rummage Sale

It's finally time to get rid of all that stuff you've been cleaning out of your closets during the pandemic! VLM will be holding a Rummage Sale on Saturday, Sept. 25, to benefit our Camp Fund, which was wiped out by all the campers we sent to Loch Leven this summer!

We need your stuff! But hold on – we're hoping for "just in time" deliveries, since our storage space is limited. We would prefer that you not bring your items in until September 11th, after this month's Welcome Saturday, so that we can organize everything better.

We're looking for clothes, kitchen stuff, games, etc., but also larger items like furniture and major appliances, which is what brings in the most money. If you need a pick-up at your house, let Pastor Rebecca know. Watch for more information about how you can help make this sale happen! Thanks!

## From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

What is your favorite line from the 23rd Psalm? There are a lot of good ones to choose from, but I think mine is where it says that God 'restores my soul.' That's where my heart goes when I hear the term "restorative leave," which I did back in May when the Board voted to grant me an extra two weeks off, for "restorative leave," with the aim of giving my soul the space needed to recover from the stresses of 2.5 years of pandemic ministry.

That time off came with permission to use a portion of our set-aside sabbatical funds for travel or other activities. So this past month, I was able to fly to Colorado, where I stayed in an old cabin outside Colorado Springs that belongs to a friend from college. The mountains, the clouds, and the wildflowers all helped soothe my weary heart. Those funds also meant that Todd & I were able to spend a couple nights in a lovely hotel on the ocean in Del Mar. We shared lovely meals and relaxed in the hot tub. It was truly restorative.

I am so grateful for this tangible show of support for my ministry. What is almost as life-giving though is simply knowing that the congregation I lead understands why such time away and the funding to use it well are important. Your respect and appreciation for my work here at VLM mean more to me than I can say. You are a blessing.

Thank you for being the kind of church that takes care of your pastors, making that extra effort to help us take care of ourselves in ways that truly make a difference.

grace & peace,

*Pastor Rebecca*

### Pastor Rebecca's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be here all month and celebrating her 47th birthday in the spaces between lots of ministry happening in September!

## 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

I don't know about you, but I wasn't a big fan of the beginning of school, and this was true for elementary school up until college. I liked school, but the transition from grade to grade and even from May to September made me nervous. Even if I was attending the same school, I had so many questions: "Did my friends change?" "Will I like my teacher(s)?" "What unexpected challenges will arise?" However, after the first days of going through syllabi and getting settled into my classes, new questions came up. "What am I most excited to learn about?" "How can I make sure I set myself up for success?"

I know some people don't enjoy school, so the excitement maybe never arose, but there are situations where we are the new person or decidedly going into the unknown. Sometimes we are in the middle of the transition. We are ready and excited to move on but nervous about what is next, maybe waiting on others until we can move on. Amid it all, we know that God is with us. It's not a matter of if, but when we believe that is true. If we forget, let us remind each other and be with each other in these moments of transition, waiting, and change. In the now and the not yet, God is with us.

Vaya con Dios,

*Pastor Tesa*

### Pastor Tesa's Schedule

Pastor Tesa will be on vacation Sept. 9-19. She will be in Bible study and worship on 9/4 and 9/25.

## Thank You!

*Our thanks for the 70th anniversary party after church on August 7th! For the cake, the corsages, the many cards, and especially to the kitchen crew! Thanks to everybody! Our appreciation and blessings, Jerry & Norma Bailey*

## Trunk or Treat!

We are excited to have our neighbors over again for our 2022 Trunk-or-Treat event on Saturday, October 29, from 3-6 pm. We will need folks to decorate cars and pass out candy, as well as volunteers for preparing & serving food, running games, crafts, and other stations. Watch for more information and sign-up sheets, which will be out in early October.

We can't do this without you, and our neighbors are counting on us for the fun!

## Lunch Bunch is back!

**Wednesday,  
September 21  
12 noon at  
Claim Jumper  
Hosted by Jerry  
& Norma Bailey**

Praying & Coloring tentatively scheduled for Saturday, 9/17 at 1:30 at Pacific Pointe.

## Novels Tea

Novels Tea will gather on Zoom on Sunday, Sept. 4th at 3 pm on Zoom to discuss "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus. Anyone is welcome to join this group, but it makes the discussion better if you've read the book!

## Welcome Saturday

Our monthly outreach ministry to our neighbors without shelter is chugging along! We've had a bunch of volunteers from Helix High School come to help out, which we're hoping will continue. This month, we will have visitors from a research institute at UCSE, who are aiming to collect 500 interviews with people experiencing homelessness in San Diego County.

## In Our Prayers...

JOYS & CONCERNS ~ Please reach out to pastor Rebecca to share joys and concerns.

## Happy Birthday!

- Sept. 1 - Victoria Adsit  
Kiley Hanna
- Sept. 6 - Al Flores
- Sept. 10 - Mark Cliffe
- Sept. 14 - Edward Gurling
- Sept. 17 - Dick Penny
- Sept. 18 - Renee Bridwell,  
Mike Lewis,  
Rebecca Littlejohn
- Sept. 20 - Kainoa (Sisneros)  
Ramirez
- Sept. 21 - Julie Fallon
- Sept. 22 - Donna Morey
- Sept. 23 - Gene Blumenfeld
- Sept. 27 - Cathy Mullican
- Sept. 29 - Betty Sinton
- Sept. 30 - Trinity Crumble

## Happy Anniversary!

- Sept. 29 - John & Brandie  
Neely

## YOUTH NEWS

Hey, Campers (and Camper Parents)! Make sure you will be here for Camp Sunday on the 11th, to tell us about your experiences at Loch Leven this summer. After worship, we need your help serving ice cream floats to help raise money for our Camp Fund for next summer. We also need all the help you can give preparing for and holding our Rummage Sale on Saturday, Sept. 25th. Check in with Pastor Rebecca about when the best times for you to help out will be.

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! We are also considering scheduling another Zoom retreat sometime soon. Watch for more information on how to join us for that.

## Board News & RA Delegates

The Board will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 6 pm on Zoom, for our regular meeting. Reports are due on Friday, Sept. 9th to Pastor Rebecca (unless you've made special arrangements because of the timing of your meeting). The Administrative Committee will meet on Zoom on Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 6 pm to review business items and prepare the agenda.

We are invited to appoint three voting delegates to the Pacific Southwest Regional Assembly, to be held October 14-15 in Fullerton. (Clergy with standing are automatically credentialed as voting delegates.) These appointments must be submitted before our meeting, so watch for an electronic vote. Portions of the Assembly will be available for online streaming, but voting will only be in-person this year, because of bylaws requirements. There are some important and interesting business items this year, so please consider whether you would like to serve as a voting delegate and let Pastor Rebecca know if you are interested. The church will cover the registration fee for our voting delegates, but we do not have funds for travel or lodging. We will try to help coordinate rides and room sharing, as needed.

## Tenant Updates

The small congregations, Ministerio Me Ungio Jehova, that had been using our sanctuary three times a week has moved on to another location, as of this month. See Pastor Rebecca if you have any questions.

## Secretary on Leave

Our Administrative & Communications Coordinator (church secretary) Alicia Gervasi is currently on medical leave, followed by a trip at the end of this month to see her ailing aunt in Ohio. Please be patient as we operate with minimal staffing during the coming weeks. If you'd like to help with things like folding bulletins, let Pastor Rebecca know that you're available.

## 2022-2023 Directories

Our new church directories went like hot cakes! All the copies we had printed have been picked up. If you still need one, please let Pastor Rebecca know, so we can print some more. If you are far away, we can email you the most important sections. If you're in town, and need one delivered, let Pastor Rebecca know, and we'll get one dropped off for you!

**REGIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**OCTOBER 14-15, 2022**

## Elders Meeting

**Sunday, September 11th, 12:15 pm**

# September 2022 Worship Participants

	September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Julie Germain	Larry Knight	Marianna Kirwan	Michael Lewis
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Michael Lewis	Daphne Flores	Ilene Kiser	Al Flores
<b>Offering Invitation</b>	Rebecca Littlejohn	Mandy Dohring	Rebecca Littlejohn	Tesa Hauser
<b>Elders</b>	Marianna Kirwan Tim Cliffe	Michael Lewis Renee Bridwell	Brenda Rorie-Baety Mary Jane Fay	Karen Cliffe Steve Bridwell
<b>Deacons</b>	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
<b>Communion Prep</b>	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3	Jennefer Lehton & Team 3
<b>AV Tech Zoom Tech</b>	Karen Cliffe Tesa Hauser	Julie Germain Mary Jane Fay	Karen Cliffe Jenny Angione	Mary Alynn Fallon Tesa Hauser
<b>Greeters</b>	Jerry & Norma Bailey	John Lehton Ray Adsit	Jennefer Lehton	Mary Jane Fay Michael Lewis
<b>Counters</b>	Mary Alynn Fallon Jerry Bailey	Renee Bridwell Lace Watkins	Steve Bridwell Ilene Kiser	John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle
<b>Flowers</b>	Ilene Kiser	Open	Beckie Neely	Grace Van Winkle

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** Team 2 (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:** Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 10-1

## CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: **The Members of VLMCC**

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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Pastor's E-mail: [pastor@vlmcc.com](mailto:pastor@vlmcc.com)

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