

The Christian Visitor

SEPTEMBER 2023 ~ VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Pottery Painting Party

Our anniversary activity in September will be much more low-key than last month! On Sunday, Sept. 24, we will gather at CeramiCafe at Grossmont Center for a Pottery Painting Party. We'll meet there at 2 pm, so everyone will have time to grab lunch beforehand.

We're hoping to have some stencils of VLM-related things that you can use. Watch for the RSVP clipboard, so that we know how many tables to reserve. The only fee is for whatever you choose to paint.

Reconciliation Offering

Our annual Reconciliation Special Offering focus will be held on Sept. 17 & 24. The theme this year is inspired by Numbers 10:4-7 and encourages us to "Sound the Trumpets" for racial justice with "Unmuted Ministry, Uncommon Love, and United Service." Pastor Rebecca and Pastor Tesa will both take a turn speaking to this theme to help us learn to amplify God's call to reconciliation and justice.

Adult Study

It's been a busy summer, so we're not quite ready to dive back into Sunday Morning Study. But watch for a survey, coming out early this month, that will ask what you're interested in learning more about. What topics would motivate you to dig deeper into your faith? What conversation would get you out of bed on Sunday morning? We want to know what you want to know!



SOME PICTURES FROM OUR CELEBRATION WEEKEND!



From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

General Assemblies have a way of reminding me of all the reasons I am grateful to have been born into the religious tradition where I belong. I know many people, including some of you, who struggled in other denominations that weren't a good fit and had to search high and low to find this church that we love. I am thankful that I got to enjoy it from the very start.

One of the things I love the most about our church is the way we empower people who want to express their faith in some particular way to go ahead and do so. Even as a kid, my church let me preach on Youth Sunday and even direct the Christmas pageant with my friend (and now ministerial colleague) April two years in a row!

I'm thinking of this now because this time a year ago, I had just started the conversation with a couple friends about leading a workshop at General Assembly on Christian Nationalism. I was anticipating the resolution that was coming to our Regional Assembly and wondering if we could pull one together for General Assembly as well.

We did. I was so heartened by VLMCC's Elders and Board embracing this effort as co-sponsors of GA-2341 – Calling the Church to Oppose Christian Nationalism. The response from the Assembly was overwhelming and exciting to see. I'm grateful to be part of a church where we don't wait for pronouncements from "on high," but where, instead, any pastor of a church of any size who is passionate about an issue of concern can bring that issue before the church for consideration and be heard. What a blessing to find yourself in a place where you can make an impact!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor Rebecca's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be attending her PSWR-required boundary training on Saturday, 9/23 (and doing prep work beforehand).

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

Celebrating the Unity and Diversity
of the Body of Christ!

www.vlmcc.org

Tesa's Take

Friends,

It has been so fun to celebrate with one another this year. I hope you have been open to the messages from our guest preachers, felt welcome to share what Vista La Mesa means to you and eat delicious food. I am thankful for the moments we've been together to welcome and serve guests throughout the year and have them celebrate with us.

As we approach the end of the year, I hope we don't slow down in our celebration. We may not have big parties planned with a taco cart, but we have Trunk-or-Treat, Advent, caroling and choir events, and ushering in the 77th year of Vista La Mesa Christian Church on the corner of Massachusetts and University. Each Sunday is a mini-celebration of what God has done and will continue to do - and we are invited every time!

Each time we meet at the Table, Jesus invites us to a meal, and we should invite others to partake - especially those who have been marginalized. Where two or more gathered, it is a witness of the resurrected Christ, and God's promises will continue to ring true 75 years into the future.

Vaya con Dios,

Pastor Tesa

Pastor Tesa's Schedule

Pastor Tesa will be in worship on 9/10 and 9/17, and preaching on 9/24.

SD Chorus

The San Diego Festival Chorus will be holding a day-long retreat at VLM on Saturday, Sept. 23, from 9 am till 3 pm. They will be using all of the rooms with pianos in them. Mary Alynn & Jim Fallon sing with this chorus, so they will be the hosts that day.

See Mary Alynn or Pastor Rebecca if you have any questions. Please plan ahead so as not to interrupt them.

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will gather on Zoom on Sunday, Oct. 1st at 3 pm on Zoom to discuss "Americanah" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Anyone is welcome to join this group, but please read the book!

In Our Prayers...

JOYS & CONCERNS ~ Please contact Pastor Rebecca for prayers.

Trunk or Treat!

We are excited to have our neighbors over again for our 2023 Trunk-or-Treat event on Saturday, October 28, 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!

Women's Group

Looking for a small group for fellowship twice each month? The Women's Study Group is becoming the Women's Prayer and Fellowship Group starting on Friday, September 9 at 1 pm on Zoom. We will meet every other Friday to pray together and share with one another prayers, scriptures, poems and meditations that have inspired us as we seek to follow Jesus in our everyday lives. We hope you will consider joining us! All are welcome. For more information, contact Mary Jane Fay or Cheryl Davis-Plotts.

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday,
September 20
12 noon at
Marie Callender's
Hosted by Jerry
& Norma Bailey

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. 27 - Cathy Mullican
- Sept. 29 - Betty Sinton
- Sept. 30 - Trinity Crumble

Happy Anniversary!

- Sept. 29 - John & Brandie
Neely

A LOVE LETTER TO VLM

FROM MARY JANE FAY

Being a member of Vista La Mesa Christian church has been one of the great joys of the past 11+ years of my life.

It is only by God's grace that I came to this place after being part of another beloved denomination for a good

part of my adult life. I am so grateful to have been led here. I love the commitment to service that I see at VLM, the affirmation of God's love for all, and the clarity of mission that is laid out in the Micah 6:8 scripture – "Do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God". I love the fact that so many people participate in shaping all aspects of our congregational life and take part in our worship service.

I give thanks for being blessed to be part of this community where all are invited to receive Christ's welcome and to live and grow in God's love.

A LOVE LETTER TO VLM

FROM CATHY MULLICAN

When I came to VLM. I was almost ready to give up on churches. Not on God, not on Jesus or what he taught, but on finding a church that practiced what I believe that Jesus preached.

I didn't know a lot about the Disciples then, only that it came from the same restoration movement as the church where I was raised. There were still things I valued about that tradition, so I decided to give VLM a try, and I'm so glad I did.

In VLM, I found a family that has enabled me to grow, to find a role, to see grace and love and acceptance in action. I found a church that's actively working to make this world better for everyone, without preconditions.

I want to continue to grow and change, to continue to be accepted as myself, and I want us to give everyone the same opportunity — to be your true self and find your role in our family.

If you would like to write a "Love Letter to VLM" before our anniversary year is over, please let Pastor Rebecca know ASAP.

Meetings This Month

Wed, 9/6 – Fellowship Committee Meeting, 5:30 pm (Zoom)
Tue, 9/12 – Administrative Committee Meeting, 6 pm (Zoom)
Wed, 9/13 – Worship Committee Meeting, 6 pm (Zoom)
Tue, 9/19 – Board Meeting, 6 pm (Zoom & Room 4)

Board Reports are due on Friday, Sept. 8. Please turn in a report so the Board will know what your committee is doing!

The Fellowship, Worship, and Outreach Committees would love to have some new people interested in their ministries. Contact Jennefer Lehton (Fell.) Mary Alynn Fallon (Worship) or Julie Germain (Outreach), if you'd like to get involved!

Elders Meeting

The Elders will meet after worship at 12:15 in the Library and on Zoom on Sunday, Sept. 17.

REGIONAL GATHERING

OCTOBER 14, 2023

The Pacific Southwest Region will gather on October 14 for our one-day Regional Gathering, a day of fellowship, workshops and worship. The theme this year is "With All" based on Matthew 22:37-38. You can learn more at <http://www.disciplespswr.org/rg2023>.

FOOD DRIVE!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

September 2023 Worship Participants

	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24
Worship Leader	Michael Lewis	Marianna Kirwan	Brian McCreanor	Brenda Rorie-Baety
Lay Reader	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Ilene Kiser	Jerry Bailey	Al Flores
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Steve Bridwell	Tesa Hauser	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Karen Cliffe Tim Cliffe	Larry Knight Mary Jane Fay	Cheryl Davis-Plotts Ray Adsit	Steve Bridwell Julie Germain
Deacons	Mary Alynn Fallon 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	Lyn Van Winkle	Lyn Van Winkle	Claudette Toland	Jenny Angione
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Mary Alynn Fallon Julie Germain	Karen Cliffe Tesa Hauser	Jenny Angione Karen Cliffe	Mary Alynn Fallon Tesa Hauser
Greeters	Jerry & Norma Bailey	Ray Adsit Mary Jane Fay	Daphne Flores Michael Lewis	Ray Adsit John Lehton
Counters	Lyn Van Winkle John Lehton	Steve Bridwell Jenny Angione	Tracy Stockdall John Lehton	Jerry Bailey Ilene Kiser
Flowers	Ilene Kiser	Amy Cliffe	Michael Lewis & Marianna Kirwan	Grace & Lyn Van Winkle

Coffee Hour Hosts: Jennefer & John Lehton, Helene Sisneros

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 9-12

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