

The Christian Visitor

OCTOBER 2023 – VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

World Communion Sunday

Every year on the first Sunday of October, Christians around the world celebrate our unity at the Table of Christ with special World Communion Sunday services. At VLMCC, we join in the festivities, remembering our fellow Christians all over the world, often using a variety of languages or breads in worship.

This year, we will focus on what it means to be in communion with the world and how we can live that out, in our hearts and in our lives. Our anniversary theme song invites us to be “leaves of a tree that’s planted by God... for the healing of the nations” (Rev. 22:2c). We will be dedicating our anniversary green tree banners, made with help from many of you, this Sunday as well! Don’t miss it!

Trunk-or-Treat Saturday, 10/28, 3-6 pm

Trunk-or-Treat is coming, and we need your help to make it a success again this year! Our neighbors look forward to this event every year; it’s an important part of our ministry of hospitality!

We need folks to decorate your trunks and pass out candy in “trunk-or-treat” row. (Please park your car by 2:30.) We also need people to volunteer with the games, food, and more. Watch for the sign-up sheets which will be available on the Sundays in October leading up to the event.

Disciples Class!

We have been working on re-designing our Sunday morning adult study, and we are re-launching it on Sunday, October 1st, as Disciples Class! What is Disciples Class? It’s a gathering where you can learn more about following Jesus, in many different ways. It’s a time for Disciples of Christ to get together and talk about faith. It’s a chance to deepen your understanding of what being a “small d disciple” means.

This fall, we’ll be looking at a variety of spiritual practices and trying them out together. Near Thanksgiving, we’ll focus especially on gratitude practices. And then in December, we’ll turn to some of the practices that reflect the themes of Advent. We will continue to have a rotation of teachers and to offer the class in Bailey Hall and on Zoom at 9 am each Sunday.

Welcome Saturday

Because Regional Gathering/Clergy Retreat and Helix Homecoming and Welcome Saturday all collide on the calendar this month, we’re looking for some special one-time Welcome Saturday volunteers.

If you could help out on Friday night (10/13) or Saturday (10/14), please let Pastor Rebecca know ASAP.

Also, we’re still very in need of men’s clothes, especially jeans and other casual pants, as well as t-shirts and other casual tops.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

I cannot tell you how relieving it is to have found a new place to live and know where we are going. But I probably don't need to, because I think you are aware of the severity of the housing crisis in our area. I am so grateful for your patience and flexibility during this time of transition in my family's life.

As a congregational pastor, part of my job is to "lead change." Upheavals like having to move make me realize just how much I don't like change myself. Or perhaps it is the uncertainty I don't like. Either way, congregations face a lot of both! Before the details of our new situation got finalized, I had developed a little nervous tic just below my eye!

Every time I have my limits tested like this, it makes me think about people whose situations are even more precarious than mine. We hear a lot about the connections between homelessness and mental health. Observing my own reaction to – not homelessness – but just uncertainty about where we would be living makes me more aware of the stresses not having shelter must place on people.

Having to carry everything you own, not knowing where (or if) you could lay your head down that night, having people view you with suspicion and disrespect – I think I would go stark raving mad. It's no wonder people struggle to hold it together. May we all extend as much compassion as we can!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be attending a Regional Clergy Retreat Oct, 12-13 and then Regional Gathering on Oct. 14. She will be moving later in the month, so her presence in the office will be spotty, especially the week of 10/22.

Tesa's Take

Friends,

I am feeling a bit nostalgic. We recently sang the hymn Great is Thy Faithfulness, and every time we do, I get a little teary-eyed. This hymn reminds me of my last chapel in my undergrad. It was for the seniors and their families the night before graduation. The speaker was a professor who had pancreatic cancer for many years and passed the year after I graduated. She chose that hymn to sing over us as we processed out. A song she said was on her lips often, especially as she endured the hardship of treatments and dealing with such a terrible illness, all while continuing to teach, preach, and show up for students.

I cried on the way out as the choir sang the refrain, "Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand hath provided: great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!" I was thankful for the leadership, guidance, and care I had received all those years. For the direction and reminder that in the midst of transition, celebration, hardship, uncertainty, or grief, we come together to proclaim the truth of God's faithfulness. May it be so.

Vaya con Dios,

Pastor Tesa

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

Sharing the Joy of
Christ's Welcome!

www.vlmcc.org

Daylight Saving Time ends
at 2:00 AM on Sunday,
November 5th.
Enjoy your extra hour!

VLM Promotions Team

Do you love Vista La Mesa Christian Church? Would you like to help “Share the Joy” about the great ministry and fellowship we have here? Maybe you would like to join the newly forming VLM Promotions Team. Now that we’ve spent a good portion of our anniversary year discerning and clarifying our identity as a congregation, it’s time to get the word out. We have a broad swath of plans for doing that, but we need some help.

One portion of the Team will be focused on social media; committing to engaging with the church’s posts on a regular basis, to extend their reach. But we will also be meeting to design and plan some other projects. If you have skills (or friends?) with design or advertising, we’d love to have you get involved.

We don’t have a meeting on the calendar yet, because we want to work with the schedules of those who are getting involved. So let Pastor Rebecca know if you are interested or if you have questions or ideas. We will get together soon, most likely on Zoom, to get things started!

Regional Gathering October 14 in Fullerton

Visit
www.disciplespswr.org
for info.

Lunch Bunch
at Patty’s Cafe
Wednesday, 10/18,
12 pm
Hosted by
the Lehtons

APSC Meeting

The Associate Pastor’s Support Committee will meet on Sunday, October 22 at 2:00 pm. Connect with Tesa for the location/venue for the meeting.

Novels Tea will meet on Zoom on Sunday, 10/1, at 3 pm, to discuss “Americanah” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

Happy Birthday!

- Oct. 1 - Cher Flores
- Oct. 4 - Jerry Bailey, Haylee Hanna
- Oct. 5 - Jenny Angione
- Oct. 9 - Josie Hahn
- Oct. 10 - Betty Sullivan
- Oct. 11 - Sara Gurling
- Oct. 17 - Mark Reagles
- Oct. 22 - Bob Neely
- Oct. 31 - Alexander Reagles

In Our Prayers...

JOYS & CONCERNS~ Please reach out to Pastor Rebecca for prayers.

**We collected \$330
(so far) toward our
\$500 goal for the
Reconciliation
Special Offering!
Thank you!**

A LOVE LETTER TO VLM

FROM DEBORAH WILSON

When I first came to our church, I couldn't help but notice how comfortable the kids were being there. I was in my mid-forties, finally graduating from college, with a good-sized chip on my shoulder.

I intended to remain aloof. I left after every service – until, one Sunday, Ed and Anita Gurling blocked my exit and told me that they had a place for me at their table.

It just grew from there, of course. All of you were so welcoming; it only took me fifteen or twenty years or so to realize that I was home.

In her sermon a few weeks ago, Pastor Rebecca said that "to be defensive was a waste of time." Amen to that!

Let's spread the joy!

News from the Board

The Board met on 9/19 on Zoom and in Room 4. Remember that Board meetings are open, and you are always welcome to attend.

The Board received and approved a proposal from the Pastoral Relations Committee for Pastor Rebecca to take a "half-sabbatical" early next year, Jan. 24 – Mar. 6, 2024. Plans for pastoral coverage will be worked out in the coming month or so. It will have been almost six years since her previous sabbatical, which are supposed to happen every five years. She will just be gone for six weeks this time, because of so much else happening within our congregation, but she may take the other half later in the year.

Pastor Rebecca reported that we have lost a tenant (a 12-step group that was meeting in the Library on Tuesday evenings), but gained another tenant, a new 12-step group that will be meeting in the Library on Fridays at 6:30 pm. Unlike most of the meetings we host, this new meeting is "closed," so please try not to disturb them.

The Board also approved withdrawing the first \$2,500 from the Memorial Endowment Fund that was authorized in this year's budget to supplement the General Fund, because of a substantial deficit in the first two months of our fiscal year. Thanks to all our generous and faithful donors!



The Leaves of a Tree

On World Communion Sunday, we will be dedicating our first set of anniversary banners! Many members of VLM cut out the leaves, and then Marianna Kirwan created the banners.

The banners re-create our anniversary logo, which is our older "cross & boxes" logo turned into a tree. The earlier logo was, in turn, inspired by the cross & gold boxes design of the reredos. Both logos were created by Pastor Rebecca's uncle, Norm Littlejohn.

October 2022 Worship Participants

	October 1	October 8	October 15	October 22	October 29
Worship Leader	Karen Cliffe	Ray Adsit	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Steve Bridwell	Mandy Dohring
Lay Reader	Deborah Wilson	Tracy Stockdall	Michael Lewis	Jennefer Lehton	Cheryl Davis-Plotts
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Julie Germain	Marianna Kirwan	Rebecca Littlejohn	Tesa Hauser
Elders	Larry Knight Michael Lewis	Mandy Dohring Marianna Kirwan	Tim Cliffe Brian McCreanor	Julie Germain Brenda Rorie-Baety	Mary Jane Fay Karen Cliffe
Deacons	Mary Alynn Fallon Ilene Kiser Susan Peterson	Jennefer Lehton John Lehton	Jenny Angione Claudette Toland Lyn Van Winkle	Daphne Flores Tracy Stockdall Michelle Tolvo-Chan	John Lehton Tracy Stockdall Lyn Van Winkle
Comm Prep & Clean up	Tracy Stockdall	Tracy Stockdall	Tracy Stockdall	Daphne Flores	Daphne Flores
Greeters	Ilene Kiser Michael Lewis	Ray Adsit John Lehton	Michael Lewis John Lehton	Ray Adsit Daphne Flores	Mary Jane Fay
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Mary Alynn Fallon Tesa Hauser	Mary Fallon Karen Cliffe	Karen Cliffe Julie Germain	Jenny Angione Tesa Hauser	Jenny Angione Tesa Hauser
Counters	Lyn Van Winkle Jenny Angione	Ilene Kiser John Lehton	Mary Alynn F. John Lehton	Steve Bridwell Lyn Van Winkle	Ilene Kiser Tracy Stockdall
Flowers	Worship Comm	Mary Alynn Fallon	Beckie Neely	Tesa Hauser	Norma & Jerry Bailey

Coffee Hour Hosts: Team 3 (Jenny Angione, Claudette Toland, Lyn Van Winkle)

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: Disciples Class @ 9:00 – Worship @ 10:30

Secretary's Hours: Tues/Thur/Fri, 8:30-11:30

CHURCH STAFF

Senior 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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