

The Christian Visitor

APRIL 2024 - VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Easter Sunday is March 31

Come and bring a friend as we celebrate the Resurrection on Sunday, March 31! When we gather to sing our Alleluias together, a joyful noise will rise!

After worship, we will move into Bailey Hall for a Celebration Potluck. We would love to have you come and bring a dish or two to share.

Easter Sunday is the most important holiday in the Christian calendar and an important time for our church family to gather together. We hope you'll be part of it!

But remember, Easter is not just one day; it's a season! The joy and power of Christ arising is something that is continually changing and renewing us. Let us all join together to practice resurrection in our individual lives and together as a church!

Holy Week Service

We hope you will join us for our Holy Week Service on Thursday, March 28 at 6 PM, as we journey through the story of Christ's passion. This will be the culmination of our Lenten exploration of "Faithfulness in Fragile Times," as we consider the depth of God's love as shared with us through the fragility of Jesus' body.

Our service will be held at tables in the Sanctuary and will begin with a simple meal which will include communion. We will then read through the rest of the passion story, as we extinguish candles in the ritual of Tenebrae. Please join us!

DECORATING – 3/30

If you want to help us get ready for Easter, we can use your help! On Saturday, March 30, we will begin by decorating Bailey Hall for our Celebration Potluck at 9 AM. Around 11:45 or noon, we will decorate the Sanctuary, which includes changing out the parakeets and banners, hanging garlands, arranging the chancel, and trimming the flowers for flowering the cross.

The choir will have a brief rehearsal at 11 AM in the Sanctuary, to be better prepared for Easter and the coming weeks. Please be present and prompt!

Stewardship Campaign

Our 2024-2025 Stewardship Campaign, "Faithful Together," will kick off on Sunday, April 21. Watch for more information in your "snail-box"!

Our campaign this year is based on I Corinthians 12 and Mark 12:29-31. We will all be asked to prayerfully consider how we can contribute to helping Vista La Mesa Christian Church flourish. This includes our financial gifts, but also the many other ways we show up for God and for one another by being church together.

Please be present with us on April 21, and then again for Consecration Sunday on April 28, when we will bless our Commitment Cards!

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

As April begins, we will be basking in the glow of the miracle of the Resurrection. What a relief it is to open our hearts to fully embrace God's triumph over death! So often the forces of destruction seem like they will overwhelm all that is good, but the story of Easter helps us remember that God has promised us that will never happen.

As we look to the rest of the year, however, there is a different Easter miracle I would invite you to consider. We celebrate the "birth" of the Church on Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit arrived among the gathered disciples in Jerusalem. But we don't often think about what a miracle it was that the disciples were still gathered in one place.

The trauma and grief of the events of Holy Week could have been enough to tear a small community apart. The terror of the state violence enacted on Jesus' body and the threat that loomed for anyone associated with him – "Surely you are a Galilean, for your accent betrays you!" – could have caused them to flee, not just a little ways away, but out of town never to return.

How is it that a community stays together when the unthinkable happens? How do we avoid retreating into isolation when our worst fears come true? This month, we will be considering what it means to be "Faithful Together," and the community of disciples could be a good model for us to follow. Even if they hadn't understood his promises, something told them it would be worth sticking around.

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor Rebecca's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca is scheduled to report for jury duty at the Federal Courthouse downtown on Monday, April 15. She will send out an update later that day to let everyone know if she is serving or not.

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

A Movement for Wholeness

in a Fragmented World

www.vlmcc.org

Faith Conversation on Gaza

You are invited to join other members of Disciple and UCC churches in San Diego for a Faith Conversation on Gaza, featuring the Rev. Jeff Wright, former Global Ministries volunteer mission co-worker in Palestine. Jeff is the founder and retired pastor of Heart of the Rockies Christian Church in Fort Collins, CO, and currently volunteers on the staff of Kairos Palestine. He will share with us about the witness and perspective of our Christian siblings in Palestine.

This conversation will be hosted by Pastor Rebecca and will also include opportunities to connect with other local Christians who are concerned about the crisis in Gaza.

The conversation will be held on Zoom. It is free, but registration is required. Visit bit.ly/43iuhhg to register. (The session is not in our regular Zoom room.) Contact Pastor Rebecca if you have any questions.

Disciples Class

Did you know you can join Disciples Class, our Sunday morning Bible study, any time, even if you've never been before? There's no time like now! We are currently working our way through the gospel of Mark, using multiple translations and commentaries. You can even attend on Zoom. Join us!

Easter Special Offering

The Easter Special Offering supports our General Ministries. Our goal is to collect \$500. If you missed the chance to contribute on Palm Sunday or Easter, you can give online or in person, designating your gift for "Easter Offering". Thanks for your contributions!

COOKING WITH CHEF CLAUDETTE

Children are invited to join Chef Claudette on April 7th to create Cherry Cheesecakes in honor of St. Thomas. The kids have been having a good time each month making (and eating) themed treats with Chef Claudette and her helpers!



Lunch Bunch
Wednesday,
4/17, 12 pm
Patty's Cafe
Baileys, hosts

Volunteers Needed

There are a number of jobs that help keep our church humming, and we could use a few more volunteers in each of these roles. **Greeters** welcome people to worship and help orient visitors. **Counters** take a turn helping to process the offering after worship. **Tech volunteers** work with our AV system or Zoom during worship. Training is available for all of these roles. Let Pastor Rebecca know if you are interested in learning more about any of these jobs.

Elder's Meeting

The Elders will meet after worship at 12:15 on Sunday, April 21, in the Library and on Zoom.

This will be an important time for us to re-group and find our direction for the year. Please make a point of being present with your fellow leaders. Feel free to bring a snack to share.

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will meet on Zoom at 3 pm on Sunday, May 5, to discuss "The Water Dancer" by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Chat with Pastor Rebecca if you are interested in joining.

Happy Birthday!

- Apr. 2 – Jessica Fallon, Tim Tiffany
- Apr. 4 – Hannah Berry, Michaela Stockdall
- Apr. 5 – Grace Van Winkle
- Apr. 12 – Skip Peterson
- Apr. 15 – Tennyson McCreanor
- Apr. 16 – John Neely
- Apr. 21 – Jennings McCreanor
- Apr. 22 – Embrilly Lopez, Sam Rorie
- Apr. 27 – Larry Knight, Bill Kwon, Todd Lesh

Happy Anniversary!

- Apr. 26 – Renee & Steve Bridwell

IN OUR PRAYERS...

JOYS or CONCERNS~ Please contact Pastor Rebecca for prayers

Church Camp 2024 at Loch Leven

June 23-28 – CYF (Grades 9-12)

July 7-12 – Chi Rho Camp (Grades 6-8)

July 21-24 – Wee Camp (Ages 3-Kindergarten)

July 21-24 – Mini Camp (Grades 1-3)

July 21-26 – Junior Camp (Grades 4-5)

Registration is OPEN!

Click this link for more information and registration:

<http://www.disciplespswr.org/camp>

Please be in touch with Pastor Rebecca about VLM scholarships from our Camp Fund!

Help Amplify VLM on FB/IG

Are you on Facebook or Instagram? Are you following VLMCC there? If not, that's your first step! We can use your help making the algorithms work for us.

Even if you have already "liked" (FB) or "followed" (IG) VLM through your social media account, our posts might not be showing up in your regular feed. But you can fix that by being proactive. We have regular posts that come out at the same time each week. If you check our page shortly after each scheduled post, you can interact with the post there, and soon they will start showing up in your feed. The posts come out at 9 AM Sundays, 5 PM Tuesdays, and 11 AM Fridays. There are, of course, other random posts that you can also interact with.

The best way to interact with our posts is to share them. If you add a comment of your own, even just one line about the post itself or a simple "I love my church!" the people who see your post will be more engaged. If you don't want to repost, it still helps to like or love the post, or to add a comment about it, the more specific the better! We want people to see that real, interesting, thoughtful, funny people go to church here!

News from the Board

At their meeting in March, the General Board received reports from various Committees. The Stewardship & Finance Committee reported that we ended February in a solid financial position with a year-to-date surplus over \$800 (compared to a projected deficit of almost \$4K). Thus there was no need for additional withdrawals from the Memorial Endowment Fund at this time. So far this year, we have pulled \$5000 of the total \$10,000 authorized for the 2023-2024 year.

The Board also approved the appointment of the 2024 Nominating Committee, including a waiver of the bylaws requirement that the Committee have five people. Cheryl Davis-Plotts (chair), Mary Alynn Fallon, and Cathy Mullican were appointed. These three still meet the additional bylaws requirements of one elder, one deacon, and two people not currently serving on the Board.

The information packets and minutes of all Board meetings are available to anyone who wishes to review them. Contact Pastor Rebecca or the office, if you would like a copy.

May Worship Series

"Hymns We Should Know More About"

In May, we will have a special sermon/worship series focused on some of the hymns in our hymnal that we may not know as much about as we should. We will sing some of them, and you will have a chance to share your impressions.

Did you know there are 41 communion hymns in the Chalice Hymnal, but we only sing 8 of them regularly and another 9 occasionally? Our first Sunday will take us on a whirlwind tour of some of the unknowns, in search of the ones we want to add to our repertoire.

On Mother's Day, we will learn the history of "How Great Thou Art." On Pentecost, we will consider the implications of "To Us All, to Every Nation." On Memorial Day weekend, we will learn more about "Lift Every Voice and Sing." We hope you will join us for this musical series!

April 2024 Worship Participants

| | April 7 | April 14 | April 21 | April 28 |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Worship Leader | Ray Adsit | Steve Bridwell | Cheryl Davis-Plotts | |
| Lay Reader | Cheryl Davis-Plotts | Jennefer Lehton | Jerry Bailey | Tracy Stockdall |
| Offering Invitation | Rebecca Littlejohn | Rebecca Littlejohn | Rebecca Littlejohn | Marianna Kirwan |
| Elders | Tim Cliffe Brenda Rorie-Baety | Mary Jane Fay Brian McCreanor | Larry Knight Marianna Kirwan | Michael Lewis Karen Cliffe |
| Deacons | Mary Alynn Fallon Ilene Kiser Susan Peterson | Jennefer Lehton John Lehton | Jenny Angione Claudette Toland Lyn Van Winkle | Al Flores Daphne Flores Tracy Stockdall Michelle Tolvo-Chan |
| Children's Ministries | Stephanie Cadiero Claudette Toland | Stephanie Cadiero | Stephanie Cadiero | Stephanie Cadiero |
| Comm Prep & Clean up | Jennefer Lehton | Susan Peterson | Tracy Stockdall | Jennefer Lehton |
| Greeters | John Lehton Daphne Flores | Michael Lewis Mary Jane Fay | Ray Adsit John Lehton | Daphne Flores Mary Jane Fay |
| AV Tech Zoom Tech | Mary Alynn Fallon Karen Cliffe | Jenny Angione Karen Cliffe | Karen Cliffe Michaela Stockdall | Jenny Angione Karen Cliffe |
| Counters | Lyn Van Winkle Jenny Angione | Tracy Stockdall John Lehton | Michelle Tolvo-Chan Andy Cliffe | Steve Bridwell John Lehton |

Coffee Hour Hosts: Mary Alynn Fallon, 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: Tue/Thu/Fri, 8:30-11:30

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: **The Members of VLMCC**

Pastor: **Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn**

Secretary: **Krista Trimlett**

Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**

Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero**

Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

Church Phone: (619) 463-9909

Office E-mail: admin@vlmcc.com

Pastor's E-mail: pastor@vlmcc.com

Church website: www.vlmcc.org