

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ MAY 2024

May Worship Series

“Hymns We Should Know More About”

In May, we will have a special 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 any we might 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!

Drive-Thru Prayers

In February, our renewal leave interim, Pastor Rachel, led us in our first Drive-Thru Ashes for Ash Wednesday. The people who stopped by seemed so touched by the opportunity that we’ve decided it shouldn’t be only one a year!

We will be offering Drive-Thru Prayers on Wednesday, May 22, from 3-6 PM, for whoever wants to come be blessed.

We’ll need set-up and tear-down help, along with some folks to just be friendly with whoever may be waiting for prayer. Watch for a sign-up in Bailey Hall. You can share the event on Facebook with this link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/454501950316376>

WELCOME SATURDAY & YOU!

You know that we need your prayers and financial support for our monthly homeless outreach. And you bring us your grocery bags when we’re running out. (Right now, we could really use more metal coffee cans with lids – we make a lot of bacon grease!)

But the most important thing you should know right now is how much it could mean if you showed up that day! You don’t even have to volunteer. We need you to come meet and thank the numerous volunteers we have coming from outside VLM! We have a great chance to help them get to know us as a congregation, just by letting them know how much we appreciate their partnership. Come on by and say Hi!

FAITHFUL TOGETHER

Our 2024-2025 stewardship campaign culminates on Sunday, April 28th, with Consecration Sunday. But if you don’t get a chance to turn in your Intentions Offering that day, it’s not too late.

We would be happy to receive your Intentions Offering any time this month. This is such an important moment for our congregation, and we really need you to be part of what God is doing here!

If you would like more information on how to get involved, please be in touch with Pastor Rebecca.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

Have you seen our front bed – our anniversary bed, if you will – lately? The oak tree has grown so gradually that it's hard to tell how different it looks from the way it was a year ago. But the flowers! Those lupines! There is so much purple out there, but also yellow and red, and wonderful scents if you get up close.

A lot of work has gone into that bed, both before anything was planted and in the year+ since. Tim spent hours digging out rocks, with help from Andy and others. Tracy and Tim carefully selected native plants that would thrive. John has been watching carefully, to make sure it's not overtaken by weeds.

Do you remember what it looked like a year ago? The plants were a little spindly. They are, after all, desert plants, that have evolved to be tough. Our little tree was a little crooked, requiring a strong stake with a large rock propped to help it stand up straight.

Did you ever think it would look like it does now? Barely over a year in, and that tree doesn't look like a seedling anymore. And those plants! It's easy to believe that the birds of the air could find their homes in them now.

The hands of many VLMers made that bed possible. But God has added growth in ways we might never have expected. The psalms and occasionally Jesus himself encourage us to look to nature to see what lesson it is trying to teach us. Our anniversary bed seems to be telling us that God is faithful and will do "abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine" as Ephesians puts it. What a wonderful message for this moment. Hallelujah and Amen!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

PENTECOST!!!

The Day of Pentecost is Sunday, May 19, when we remember how the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, giving birth to the church. The color of the season is inspired by the tongues of flame from that story, so we encourage you to **wear red, orange or yellow** that day.

We will be receiving the Pentecost Special Offering on May 12 and 19. This over-and-above offering goes to support Disciples New Church Ministries, so we can help give birth to more churches! Our goal is \$500. Every gift will make a difference. You can give in worship or online. Thanks!

Casa de Oración Service

Our District 8 partner church Casa de Oración has moved to a new location! They have been getting it ready for months now, and we are invited to a Service of Dedication for the new facility.

Let Pastor Rebecca know if you're interested in carpooling to this celebration on Saturday, May 25 at 3 PM. The new church building is in National City.

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

*Feeding Your Soul Without
Disconnecting Your Mind*

www.vlmcc.org

Save the Date!
**Pacific Southwest
Regional Assembly
October 18-19, 2024
in Fullerton**

Cooking with Chef Claudette

All kids are invited to join Chef Claudette, once they're blessed in worship on May 19, to make Flaming Cakes in honor of Pentecost. Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you'll be here or not.

Elders & Deacons Meeting

At their April meeting, the Elders began a discussion of how to adjust the way we are serving communion to better reflect the theological value and centrality that we, as Disciples, place on this ritual.

The Elders & Deacons are invited to a meeting together, after worship on May 19, at 12:15 in the Sanctuary. We will be exploring proposed adjustments the Elders envisioned and working out the details together.

Please make a point of being present for this important gathering about this possible transition.

Volunteers Needed

There are a number of tasks that help keep our worship service 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 volunteer roles.

Looking Ahead

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, June 9,
after worship
Installation Service & Potluck,
Sunday, June 30

Lunch Bunch
Wednesday,
May 15, 12 pm
at Marie
Callender's
Hosted by
the Lehtons

Novels Tea

will be discussing
"The Water Dancer"
by Ta-Nehisi Coates
on Sunday, May 5th
at 3 pm on Zoom.

In Our Prayers...

JOYS & CONCERNS ~ Please email Pastor Rebecca for prayer requests.

*Happy
Birthday!*

May 6 ~ Brittany Cliffe
May 15 ~ Ilene Kiser
May 24 ~ Helene Sisneros
May 28 ~ Lyn Van Winkle

*Happy
Anniversary!*

May 20
Shayne & Rachel McKinney
May 21
Matt & Tesa Hauser
Marianna Kirwan & Mike Lewis
May 25
Andy & Amy Cliffe

Church Camp 2024 at Loch Leven

June 23-28 – CYF (Grades 9-12)

July 7-12 – Chi Rho Camp (Grades 6-8)

JUBILEE CAMP WEEK!

July 21-24 – Wee Camp (Ages 3-Kinder)

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! Also, if you're interested in counseling or otherwise helping out.

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 re-post will be more engaged. If you don't want to re-post, 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

The General Board will be meeting on Tuesday, May 21 at 6 PM on Zoom and in Room 4 for their regular meeting. This is an important meeting, as we will be receiving the slate of nominees from the Nominating Committee and voting on the proposed budget for the 2024-2025 ministry year.

Board members, please make sure to have your reports turned in by Friday, May 10, so the Administrative Committee can review them at their meeting on Tuesday, May 14 (6 PM, Zoom/Room 4).

The Budget Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 7 at 5:30 PM to prepare the proposed budget. Committee Chairs, if you have recommendations or requests for the Budget Committee, please send them to Pastor Rebecca or Treasurer Larry Knight prior to that day.

Street Closures

The City of La Mesa will be bringing their "slurry project" to Boulevard Drive on Friday, May 3. They will be doing the eastbound side that day, so the road will be closed most of the day. Please take care driving on it for the week after that and avoid hard, fast turns. The schedule for the west bound side is still to be determined. Be aware that the work may cause your tires to track a bit.

Offering Envelopes Coming Soon!

Personalized offering envelopes for the new ministry year should be arriving soon. Be sure to pick yours up sometime in June, so you'll be ready. We will also have a number of sets of monthly envelopes without specific names on them, if you've never used them before.

We are also happy to have you set up regular donations online at www.vlmcc.org of course!

Thank you for your generous support!

May 2024 Worship Participants

	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Worship Leader	Tim Cliffe	Mary Jane Fay	Larry Knight	Ray Adsit
Lay Reader	Michael Lewis	Daphne Flores	Mary Jane Fay	Michelle Tolvo-Chan
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Steve Bridwell	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Brian McCreanor Ray Adsit	Brenda Rorie-Baety Steve Bridwell	Michael Lewis Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Marianna Kirwan Karen Cliffe
Deacons	Mary Alynn Fallon 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	Stephanie Cadiero	Stephanie Cadiero Claudette Toland	Stephanie Cadiero
Communion Prep & Clean Up	Lyn Van Winkle	Claudette Toland	Jenny Angione	Lyn Van Winkle
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 Michaela Stockdall	Jenny Angione Karen Cliffe	Mary Alynn Fallon Karen Cliffe	Tracy Stockdall Michaela Stockdall
Counters	Lyn Van Winkle Jenny Angione	Steve Bridwell Mary Alynn Fallon	Andy Cliffe Tracy Stockdall	John Lehton Michelle Tolvo-Chan

Coffee Hour Hosts: Jennefer Lehton, 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 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**

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Church website: www.vlmcc.org