

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ JULY 2024

Incarnation Worship Series

Throughout the month of July, we will be sharing in a Worship Series centered on the theme of Incarnation, the theological concept of God taking on human form in Jesus. We hope you'll enjoy this series and consider bringing a friend to learn and celebrate with us!

July 7

Jesus, Specifically
You, Specifically

July 14

Christmas In July
Carols & Cookies

July 21

Guest Preacher
Rev. Tesa Hauser

July 28

Service of Healing
Prayer Stations

Christmas in July

On Sunday, July 14, we will be celebrating Christmas, as part of our Incarnation Worship Series. The service will include the Christmas scripture lessons and carols, along with some (but not all) of our decorations! You are invited to wear your favorite Christmas outfit (if it's not too warm!).

We would love to have you bring a dozen or two of your favorite Christmas cookie for our "Cookie Potluck" during coffee hour that day. And why not invite a friend to come with you? [Click here](#) to RSVP to the Facebook event or share it with others!

Service of Healing

The final service of our Incarnation Worship Series will be a time of prayer for healing. The service will include interactive prayer stations, and each person will have the opportunity to be prayed with and for individually, if you so choose.

This is a great opportunity to invite a friend who has been going through difficulty, whether that is health problems, relationship struggles, grief, or any other burden. [Click here](#) to RSVP to the event on Facebook or to share it with others, so they can join us.

Drive-Thru Prayers – Back to School Edition!

We will be holding another opportunity for Drive-Thru Prayers on Thursday, August 8, from 3-6 PM. We didn't get much response when we did this in May, but we're hoping people are warming up to the idea and will actually show up this time. Plus, August 8 is the first day of school for Helix Charter High School! So we're planning to offer frozen treats for the first hour or so, to celebrate our students.

We'd like to ask you to bring a box or two of frozen treats to church on Sunday, August 4 to share with our student neighbors. Ice cream sandwiches, popsicles, fudge bars, drumsticks – the possibilities are endless! Bring your favorites and we'll collect a good variety. Watch for a sign-up sheet to help staff the treats & prayer booths, which will be in the lower parking lot all afternoon. (We may start earlier, if we learn more about when school gets out.) Thanks for your help, as we share the joy of Christ's welcome!

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

When I was a kid, I never wanted to go to Vacation Bible School. Somehow, my parents talked me into it anyway, and as it turned out, I had a great time. I'm thinking about this because I have to go to Junior Camp this month. For the past couple months, it's been looming over my head, giving me a sense of dread. I think that was mostly about the fact that we didn't have a counseling staff recruited yet. But there were so many other things to dread: the heat, the tarantulas, the noise, the heat, the possibility of kids getting Covid, the uncomfortable beds, the heat.

But you know, now that we have our staff more or less in place, I started thinking about some other parts of camp. We're going to meet with our counselors soon and figure out interest groups. I like to lead a creative writing session at camp. Writing prompts for 4th & 5th graders don't need to be complicated, so I like to start with having them make acrostics with their names (where you write a word for each letter that describes you). As I was thinking about this, suddenly I remembered why I said Yes in the first place. I love camp. I love 4th & 5th graders. I love Loch Leven, even when it's 98°.

Because we have three camps happening at once this year, I might not get my own room. But maybe it will be okay. It's possible I will discover that I'm getting too old for camp, but I hope not. I trust you will grant me the space and time to recover when I get back, whatever happens. But I'm glad I get to go! Yay, camp!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor Rebecca's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be at Junior Camp at Loch Leven July 20-26. Internet and cell service are very limited.

2024-2025 Directories

Now that the new ministry year has begun, we will be creating the new directories. Watch for the clipboard with the draft copy coming out soon, so you can confirm, update, or correct your contact information. We like to help our church family stay connected, by letting you know how to get in touch with one another. Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you don't want certain information shared.

Sharing Our Home

Last month, we reported to you that we were in conversation with two different congregations about potentially sharing our facility. We regret to say that both of these possibilities fell through, at least for the moment. But we remain open to sharing our space with the right partners. If you are aware of any non-profit organization that needs space, please be in touch with Pastor Rebecca. We cannot rent to for-profit organizations because it would impact our tax status.

We are fully booked for evenings, but Bailey Hall is empty most of the time during the day. And we have various ways that we could work out sharing the Sanctuary on the weekends. Rental income currently covers just over 10% of our monthly expenses. We would love to increase that amount, to smooth out our month-to-month donation variations and boost our bottom line.

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

*Celebrating the Unity and
Diversity of the Body of Christ!*

www.vlmcc.org

SAVE THE DATE!
REGIONAL GATHERING
OCTOBER 18-19, 2024

VLMCC Email Updates

We are in the process of shifting our church email addresses over to a new system. The new addresses will be the same, except for the ending.

Pastor Rebecca's church email will be pastor@vlmcc.org (no longer .com) and Krista's email will be admin@vlmcc.org (not .com). We will let you know when shift is complete, hopefully within a few days. You can still use Pastor Rebecca's Yahoo and Gmail email addresses. Please make sure to update this in your contacts, as the old one won't forward.

Kids Cooking

If we have kids here, Cooking with Chef Claudette will be held on Sunday, July 14, with "Crustmas!" Crustmas is a way to celebrate Christmas (in July) by making miniature pizzas.

Come and bring your friends and your friends' kids and your kids' friends! Let Pastor Rebecca know if you can be here that Sunday, so we can plan.

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will be discussing "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks, on Sunday, Aug 4 at 3 pm on Zoom. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join.

Welcome Saturday

You have been hearing a lot lately about the need for financial support for Welcome Saturday. What you might not have realized is that individual, designated donations are the only funding this ministry has; it is not subsidized by our General Fund budget at all.

As you are probably aware, the cost of food (our primary expense) has gone up substantially over the past couple years. Our expenses for Welcome Saturday have almost doubled since 2022 because of that. We are feeding higher numbers of guests with the same amount of food we've been serving for a few years now. That is why your donations to this special fund are so appreciated! We are working on developing other funding structures and finding ways to cut costs. See Outreach Chair Mary Jane Fay if you'd like to help us figure out how to sustain this vital ministry!

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday,
July 17, 12 pm
at Anthony's
Marianna K &
Michael L, hosts

In Our Prayers...

JOYS & CONCERNS ~ Please contact Pastor Rebecca for prayers.

Happy Birthday!

- July 6 ~ Mary Alynn Fallon
- July 9 ~ Teaghan Townsend
- July 10 ~ Cheryl Davis-Plotts
- July 13 ~ Lisa Martin
- July 17 ~ Nancy Knight
- July 18 ~ Marques Gurling
- July 21 ~ Adrian Morey
- July 22 ~ Karen Cliffe
- July 31 ~ Michael Martin

Happy Anniversary!

- July 18 ~ Christi & Jaime
Neely-Carlson

VLM Takes Over Junior Camp!

We don't have any kids who were able to attend church camp at Loch Leven this summer, but we have three grown-ups who will be serving at Junior Camp, July 20-26! Pastor Rebecca is co-directing, and Al Flores and Michaela Stockdall will be serving as counselors. Junior Camp is for rising 4th & 5th graders. It will be happening at the same time as Mini Camp (1-3 grades) and Wee Camp (younger kids with a grown-up), combining to make up a big party we're calling Jubilee Camp!

We would love to get mail from you while we're at Loch Leven! You can send mail to any of us at this address: Name, Junior Camp, Loch Leven Camp, 36910 Mill Creek Road, Mentone, CA 92359.

Volunteers Needed!

There are a few volunteer rotations that could really use a couple more people. Contact Pastor Rebecca if you'd be up for any of these roles. Thanks for considering how you could help out!

Worship Greeter – hands out bulletins & welcome packets 10-10:30 on Sunday mornings, usually serves one particular Sunday each month.

Lay Reader – reads the scripture in worship.

Offering Invitation – share a testimony or story about the blessings of supporting the church, to inspire the congregation to give generously. (You can do this just once, instead of joining a rotation, if you want.)

AV Tech – wakes up the AV system on Sunday mornings (9:45 or so) and gets everything ready, flips the slides during worship, and then puts everything away; currently once or twice a month.

Zoom Tech – hosts our Zoom congregation, including letting people in, recording the service, monitoring the chat box, sharing prayer concerns, and shifting the camera angles; currently once or twice a month.

Offering Counter – work with a partner to log and count the Sunday offering; once a month (must be approved).

General Board 2024-2025

Due to scheduling complications this month, the General Board meeting will be held by email. The Administrative Committee will meet on Tuesday, July 9 at 6 PM on Zoom and in Room 4. Watch for the official Board email the next week. That email will include appointments to some committees, the financial reports and a report from the Outreach Committee. You will be asked to vote on the appointments and the financial reports by email. Those who do not email will be provided with hard copies of the information and given an opportunity to weigh in.

Details about the scheduling of future meetings are still being finalized, as other plans for the fall are still coming together. Please save the date of Friday & Saturday, August 23-24 for our annual Leadership Retreat.

The General Board for 2024-2025 consists of Chair Karen Cliffe, Vice-Chair Tracy Stockdall, Secretary Jenny Angione, Stewardship & Finance Chair Larry Knight, Trustee Hélène Sisneros, Personnel Chair Amy Cliffe, Elders Chair Steve Bridwell, Deacons Chair Daphne Flores, Worship Chair Mary Alynn Fallon, Christian Education Chair Cheryl Davis-Plotts, Outreach Chair Mary Jane Fay, Fellowship Chair Jennefer Lehton, Property Chair John Lehton, Memorial Endowment Committee Chair Andy Cliffe, and Pastor Rebecca.

Coffee & Donuts?

In a nod to how things actually happen, we have officially relieved the Deacons of responsibility for hosting coffee hour after worship. (That was only "real" on paper anyway!) The Fellowship Committee is now responsible for this, and the kitchen crew will continue to operate organically as it has been. If you would like to help, just head into the kitchen and ask how you can lend a hand! Thanks!

July 2024 Worship Participants

	July 7	July 14	July 21	July 28
Worship Leader	Ray Adsit	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Karen Cliffe	Steve Bridwell
Lay Reader	Tracy Stockdall	Daphne Flores	Michael Lewis	Mary Jane Fay
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Marianna Kirwan	Tesa Hauser	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Ray Adsit Mary Jane Fay	Cheryl Davis-Plotts Larry Knight (Steve)	Karen Cliffe Marianna Kirwan	Steve Bridwell Tim Cliffe
Deacons	Mary Alynn Fallon John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle	Al Flores Daphne Flores Tracy Stockdall	Ilene Kiser Michaela Stockdall Claudette Toland	Jenny Angione Bill Kwon Susan Peterson
Comm Prep & Clean up	Mary Alynn Fallon	Lyn Van Winkle	Ilene Kiser	Lyn Van Winkle
Greeters	Michael Lewis Daphne Flores	Ray Adsit Mary Jane Fay	Ray Adsit John Lehton	Ilene Kiser Michael Lewis
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Mary Alynn Fallon Michaela Stockdall	Tracy Stockdall Michaela Stockdall	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe	Jenny Angione Karen Cliffe
Counters	Ilene Kiser Lyn Van Winkle	Steve Bridwell John Lehton	Andy Cliffe Tracy Stockdall	John Lehton Michelle Tolvo-Chan

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.

Sunday Worship @ 10:30

Secretary's Hours: Tues/Thur/Fri 9-12 pm
The Pastor is off on Mondays.

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor: **Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn**

Secretary: **Krista Trimlett**

Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**

Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero**

Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

Church Tel. (619) 463-9909

Office E-mail: admin@vlmcc.org (soon!)

Pastor's E-mail: pastor@vlmcc.org (soon!)

Church website: www.vlmcc.org (already!)