

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ AUGUST 2024

DRIVE-THRU PRAYERS

We began our Drive-Thru Prayers ministry on Ash Wednesday, and the people who came through were really touched. When we tried again in May, we didn't have many takers, but there was enough interest expressed on Facebook that we decided it was worth trying again, in case people need some time to get used to the idea.

So sign up to help host on Thursday, August 8, between 3 and 6 PM, and help us welcome our neighbors. There will be a sign-up clipboard on Sunday, 8/4. The opening & closing shifts will include set-up and break-down (canopies & chairs, etc.) See the next box for more info!

I SCREAM! U SCREAM!

The reason we chose August 8 as the day for our next Drive-Thru Prayers event is that it's also the first day of school at Helix Charter High School. We want to congratulate our student neighbors for getting through that first day with frozen treats!

Please bring in a box or two of your favorite (ice cream bars, popsicles, ice cream sandwiches, drumsticks, etc.) on Sunday, August 4. Put them directly in the white upright freezer in the kitchen so they stay frozen. And then, if you want to be here to bring frozen JOY to Helix students, sign up for the first shift that day, on the clipboard that will go around on Sunday in worship!

Leadership Retreat

All Board Members, Elders, and Deacons are asked to participate in our annual Leadership Retreat on Friday, August 23 (5:30-8:30) and Saturday, August 24 (9:30-1:30). This is an important time for us to gather as leaders of our beloved church to refresh our understanding of our ministries and revive our commitment to the future of our congregation.

Our theme this year will be based on Jesus' double commandment in Mark 12:29-31, building on our stewardship campaign calling us to be "Faithful Together."

Friday night will be a potluck. Watch for a sign up for snacks for Saturday.

Upcoming Book Discussion

As you may remember, our church was a co-sponsor of a resolution at last summer's General Assembly calling the church as a whole to oppose Christian Nationalism, an ideology that is threatening the integrity of our faith and the stability of our democracy. The conversation is continuing this fall!

We hope you will join with other Disciples across the Pacific Southwest Region to study a new book, "Baptizing America: How Mainline Protestants Helped Build Christian Nationalism," by Brian Kaylor and Beau Underwood. We will be holding three sessions, 9/8, 9/22, and 10/6, to discuss the book and hear from the authors.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

Can you believe the summer is almost over already? July was a hot blur, and now August is upon us. We spent the month of July talking about and celebrating the Incarnation, the idea at the center of our faith that God took on human flesh and lived alongside us. We talked a lot about the physicality of that, the vulnerability that comes from having a body. But we didn't really talk about what it means to live through time.

Ever since the pandemic began, my sense of time has gotten pretty fuzzy. When we think back, it helps to remember if something was before 2020 or after. But the months and years after that seem to blur together. It's not entirely necessary that we have a firm handle on when exactly things happened, but it does help us feel more secure. I wonder what it was like for the Eternal God to take on time. Having a human body doesn't just mean being tied to one place at a time; it also means being tied to one moment at a time. I've never really thought about it before, but going from being timeless and everlasting to bound by the rotation of the sun must have been quite a shift. And yet, humans have often tied our prayer practices to the hours of the day. What a blessing to be part of a faith that offers us such mysteries!

How does time work for you? Does it feel restrictive or freeing? How does it help you connect to God?

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor Rebecca's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be attending The Gathering for Disciples clergy sponsored by the Pension Fund in Washington DC, August 31—September 5.

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

*Feeding Your Soul
Without Disconnecting
Your Mind!*

Birthday Party!

We are excited to welcome Paul Epler back to town on Sunday, August 11th, when we will be celebrating his 97th birthday during coffee hour! (His birthday is 8/25 but who's counting?!)

Please bring a card for Paul to wish him well and come prepared to eat cake!

Let Jennefer Lehton know if you can help make things festive that day.

New Directories

Our new VLMCC directories for the 2024-2025 ministry year will be coming out this month. Please take just one per household at first, so we can make sure everyone gets the updated information. If you would like an electronic copy, please let Pastor Rebecca know once the paper copies are out.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

You are invited to the 2024 Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Pacific Southwest Region. It will be held at the Disciples Ministry Center in Fullerton, Friday, October 18 and Saturday, October 19.

The theme this year is "Love Your Neighbor As Yourself" from Matthew 22:39, dovetailing with our themes at VLM this year.

We will be appointing up to 3 voting delegates from our congregation, so let Pastor Rebecca know if you are interested in attending and participating in that way. (Voting will only happen on Saturday.) You can find more information on the Region's website by [clicking here](#).

Choir Party

The Choir will kick off the fall singing season with a potluck rehearsal on Thursday, August 29, at 6 pm.

Watch for information about the location. Plan to bring a dish to share. If you've ever considered joining the choir, this is a great time to jump in!

Kids Cooking

Chef Claudette will be cooking with the kids on Sunday, August 11, making Derby Pie Bars in celebration of the Cane Ridge Revival.

Our denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was partially born at the Cane Ridge Revival in Kentucky, and this will be a tasty way to mark the occasion!

Email Updates

Please remember that our vlmcc(dot)COM email addresses will be disappearing soon. If you have not replaced them in your email contacts for Pastor Rebecca and our secretary Krista Trimlett, please do so.

Rebecca's new email is:

pastor@vlmcc.ORG

Krista's new email is:

admin@vlmcc.ORG

(You don't have to use the capital letters; they are here to emphasize the difference between old and new.)

Welcome Saturday

Huge thanks to those of you who recently became new regular donors to our Welcome Saturday Fund! We are still working on ways to make this vital ministry more sustainable, and your ongoing gifts are a really important part of that progress. Thank you so very much!

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will meet on Sunday, August 4th, at 3 pm on Zoom, to discuss "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks. Read the book and join the conversation!

Lunch Bunch

Wed., Aug 21

at noon

Ilene Kiser, hosting
Location TBA

In Our Prayers...

JOYS & CONCERNS ~ Please email pastor Rebecca for prayers.

Happy Birthday!

Aug. 7 - Eliseo Sisneros

Aug. 7 - Steve Bridwell

Aug. 11 - Allan Flores

Aug. 15 - Kaitlin Yoder

Aug. 22 - Glenda Cliffe

Aug. 25 - Paul Epler

Aug 25 - Harley Hanna

Aug 30 - Michelle Tolvo-Chan

Aug. 31 - Patrice Hill

Happy Anniversary!

Aug. 9 - John & Jennefer

Lehton

Aug. 16 - Jerry & Norma Bailey

Aug. 17 - Allan & Daphne

Flores

Aug. 18 - Jeffrey & Berna Cliffe

Aug. 30 - Mike & Lisa Martin

Report from the Board

Our 2024-2025 General Board met for the first time over email in July, because of travel schedules. The Board this year consists of Karen Cliffe, Board Chair; Tracy Stockdall, Vice Chair; Jenny Angione, Secretary; Larry Knight, Stewardship & Finance Chair; Helene Sisneros, Trustee; Amy Cliffe, Personnel Chair; Steve Bridwell, Elders Chair; Daphne Flores, Deacons Chair; Mary Alynn Fallon, Worship Chair; Cheryl Davis-Plotts, Christian Education Chair; Mary Jane Fay, Outreach Chair; Jennefer Lehton, Fellowship Chair; John Lehton, Property Chair; Andy Cliffe, MEC Chair; and Rebecca Littlejohn, Pastor.

The Board received the news that we ended the 2023-2024 fiscal year with a budget deficit just over \$10,000. We appreciate our donors so much and sincerely hope you will continue supporting our ministries in the coming year.

Tim Cliffe and Helene Sisneros were appointed to the Memorial Endowment Committee.

Cheryl Davis-Plotts (Chair), Jenny Angione, Daniel Cliffe, and Michael Lewis were appointed to the Pastoral Relations Committee.

The Board also received an update from the Outreach Committee about the developing sustainability plan for Welcome Saturday.

It's a slow news month, so please enjoy these pictures from our week at Junior Camp at Loch Leven!



Big smiles from Michaela, a member of the red group, the Avengers.



Pastor Rebecca gets serious with a Family Group planning vespers.



Al helped MC the Talent Show!



Indigo Cullumber was a Counselor-in-Training!



Michaela and Al planned and led vespers on Monday night at Inspiration Point!

Co-Directors Rebecca and Jessica enjoy ice cream floats from VLM 75th anniversary cups which have now been donated to Loch Leven!



Pastor Rebecca did a whistling duet with Counselor Sam Silva during the Talent Show



August 2024 Worship Participants

	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25
Worship Leader	Mary Jane Fay	Tim Cliffe	Tesa Hauser	Larry Knight
Lay Reader	Daphne Flores	Ilene Kiser	Deborah Wilson	Cheryl Davis-Plotts
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Ray Adsit	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Mary Jane Fay Michael Lewis	Tim Cliffe Jennefer Lehton	Tesa Hauser Karen Cliffe	Larry Knight (Karen) Ray Adsit
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
Communion Prep & Clean	Daphne Flores	Ilene Kiser	Tracy Stockdall	Ilene Kiser
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Mary Alynn Fallon Karen Cliffe	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe	Jenny Angione Michaela Stockdall	Tracy Stockdall Michaela Stockdall
Greeters	Michael Lewis Daphne Flores	Ray Adsit Mary Jane Fay	Ray Adsit John Lehton	Ilene Kiser Michael Lewis
Counters	Ilene Kiser Lyn Van Winkle	Steve Bridwell Jenny Angione	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, 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**

Office Admin: **Krista Trimlett**

Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**

Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero**

Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

Church Tel. (619) 463-9909

Office E-mail: admin@vlmcc.org

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

Church website: www.vlmcc.org