

The Christian Visitor

SEPTEMBER 2024 ~ VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Disciples Class

Our Sunday morning adult study, Disciples Class, will resume on Sunday, September 8, and we hope you join us! We meet at 9 AM in Bailey Hall and on Zoom.

Each session begins with a time of prayer, in which we all share a concern and a joy. (Perhaps you've noticed the prayer tree on the bulletin board in Bailey Hall that we've been adding to since January?)

Then we dive into scripture, reading from different translations and study bibles, with a few extra commentaries alongside us. We go slow, sharing the different notes and insights that the various texts we have in front of us offer and our own thoughts about each passage.

This fall, we are starting with First Corinthians, which includes some well-known verses and some more obscure passages as well. Join us!

Suppers of Substance

One of the things we realized at our Leadership Retreat last month is that we need more opportunities to talk with one another about things that matter. These conversations don't need to be limited to our "leaders," because as Disciples, we believe everyone is a minister by virtue of our baptism! There is a lot we can cover, from church issues to the things going on in the wider world.

So join us for a potluck supper with a guided conversation about important stuff on Friday, September 27, starting at 6 PM, in Bailey Hall.

We want to keep these events low-key, so as not to create too much work for the "kitchen ladies," so come prepared to pitch in as needed and don't expect fancy decorations! We want to do this once a month or so, and it may not always be at supper time. We'll see how the Spirit moves!

PSWR Book Discussion

It's last call to register for a discussion of "Baptizing America: How Mainline Protestants Helped Build Christian Nationalism" shared with fellow Disciples from around the Pacific Southwest Region. Christian Nationalism is a threat we've been addressing at VLM for some time now, and this book helps us understand the complicity of our own tradition in making it such a problem. Register at this link and order the book today!

<https://forms.gle/hXqdHcWKnGyReDkU7>

You can order the book from Chalice Press at the link on the registration form or from Amazon.

Reconciliation Offering

Each year, we affirm our denomination's commitment to becoming an anti-racist church by celebrating Reconciliation Ministry (the Disciples anti-racism ministry) with a worship focus and special offering.

The theme this year, "Repairers of the Breach" is from Isaiah 58:2. You may also have heard that phrase connected with Bishop William Barber, a prominent Disciples preacher and justice advocate.

We will receive the Reconciliation Special Offering on Sundays, September 22 and 29. You can also give online at www.vlmcc.org.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

We talked about A LOT of things at our Leadership Retreat last month, from which parts of worship connect with which parts of our beings to how to use our parking lot mural as a conversation-starter with someone who doesn't know much about our congregation. But one of the things that stuck with me is something that came up when we were interacting with materials from "Alphabet for an Evolving Church," a resource created by clergy coach Rev. Laura Stephens Reed. Each person at the retreat read through, reflected on, and reported back on one concept that began with the letter of the alphabet they chose.

In the entry about "Responsiveness," Rev. Stephens Reed reminds us that we cannot be everything to everyone; we need to find the ways in which our particular congregation can respond to God's world with the compassion of Christ. She writes "congregations cannot be self-contained entities in which folks come for Sunday morning reassurance, then leave feeling unbothered or powerless to impact their wider communities."

That spectrum from "unbothered" to "powerless" is what struck me, as I wondered how our worship service impacts those of you who attend. Worship that brings us close to the heart of God exposes us to the sorrows of God's heart. But it doesn't leave us in a place of helplessness because worship also helps us tap into the Holy Spirit, who equips us and empowers us to respond to the brokenness of the world. I hope that is what happens for you on a Sunday morning at VLM, at least some of the time!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor Rebecca's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be attending the Disciples Clergy Gathering sponsored by the Pension Fund in Washington DC, with some extra days for R&R beforehand thanks to our Board's flexibility and generosity. She leaves Aug. 31 and returns late Sept. 5.

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

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

www.vlmcc.org

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The 2024 Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Pacific Southwest Region will be held at the Disciples Ministry Center in Fullerton, Friday, October 18 and Saturday, October 19. It's time to consider attending!

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](#).

Guest Preacher

Join us on Sunday, Sept. 1, when we welcome Rev. Kathleen Whipple Hatlevig, a local Presbyterian chaplain, as our guest preacher. She will be bringing her family with her!

DMF Day

September 12 is the birthday of Alexander Campbell, one of the founders of our denomination. It has now been designated Disciples Mission Fund Day, an opportunity to show your support for what Disciples stand for and do in the world with a special donation!

Follow this link to learn more and make a donation: <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/dmfday/>

Welcome Saturday Sunday

As you have heard, we are working hard to make Welcome Saturday, our monthly outreach to our neighbors living without shelter, financially sustainable, by cutting costs and diversifying our support.

We give thanks to all of you who are regular WS donors! We want to focus on the life-giving impact of this ministry so that everyone can see how important this support is. We will be celebrating Welcome Saturday on Sunday, October 20, in worship, with special speakers. We will receive a special offering that day for this ministry.

Trunk or Treat!

We are excited to have our neighbors over again for our 2024 Trunk-or-Treat event on Saturday, October 26, from 3-6 pm. We will need folks to decorate cars and pass out candy, as well as volunteers for preparing & serving food, running games, crafts, and other stations. Watch for more information and sign-up sheets, which will be out in October.

We can't do this without you, and our neighbors are counting on us for the fun!

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday,
September 18
12 noon at
Filippi's/Jamul
Hosted by the
Van Winkles

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will gather on Zoom on Sunday, Sept. 15 at 3 pm on Zoom to discuss "The Dictionary of Lost Words" by Pip Williams. Anyone is welcome to join this group! Please make sure to read the book before our session.

Kids Cooking

Chef Claudette is inviting all our kids to join her for a "Blue Food Fest" this month, in honor of St. Mary of the Sorrows. Come to worship and then meet Chef Claudette in Bailey Hall on Sunday, September 15 to make various blue foods. Kids of all ages are welcome!

Happy Birthday!

- Sept. 1 - Victoria Adsit
Kiley Hanna
- Sept. 6 - Al Flores
- Sept. 10 - Mark Cliffe
- Sept. 14 - Edward Gurling
- Sept. 17 - Dick Penny
- Sept. 18 - Renee Bridwell,
Mike Lewis,
Rebecca Littlejohn
- Sept. 20 - Kainoa (Sisneros)
Ramirez
- Sept. 21 - Julie Fallon
- Sept. 22 - Donna Morey
- Sept. 27 - Cathy Mullican
- Sept. 29 - Betty Sinton
- Sept. 30 - Trinity Crumble

Happy Anniversary!

- Sept. 29 - John & Brandie
Neely

In Our Prayers...

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

How to Get Involved at Vista La Mesa

Did you know that Vista La Mesa Christian Church is a place where you don't need to wait for a personal invitation to get involved? It's true!

There are so many different ways to live out your faith in our congregation. Many of our committees have regular meetings and would love to have you attend and share your energy and input.

The Fellowship Committee plans and carries out most of our social activities, like birthday celebrations, Trunk-or-Treat, and potlucks. If you'd like to get involved, be in touch with Fellowship Chair Jennefer Lehton or join us for the meeting on Zoom on 9/12 at 5:30 PM.

The Worship Committee assists the pastor with planning special worship events, adorning the sanctuary appropriately for the liturgical seasons, and making sure things run smoothly. Talk to Worship Chair Mary Alynn Fallon for more information or join our meeting on Zoom on 9/11 at 5:30 PM. We are always looking for more volunteers for the various roles that make worship happen! See Pastor Rebecca to get trained and on the rotation for the roles you're interested in.

The Outreach Committee and the Christian Education Committee are just in the process of getting back into the practice of regular meetings. The primary concern of the Outreach Committee right now is making Welcome Saturday sustainable, but they also support our special offerings and our connections with Global Ministries and other missions. Talk to Outreach Chair Mary Jane Fay for more information about how you can help! The Christian Education Committee is responsible for children's ministries and adult studies, including Disciples Class. Talk to Christian Ed Chair Cheryl Davis-Plotts to get involved.

If you'd like to help out by working on the facility or grounds, contact Property Chair John Lehton, and he'll find a job for you!

Mural Musings

Have you ever noticed that the mural has mountains to the east and the ocean to the west, locating VLM in our geographic place?

Did you realize there is a shopping cart included, as a symbol of our ministry with our neighbors who carry everything with them because they don't have anywhere to store their stuff?

Do you know how to explain the Disciples Chalice logo?

Have you found the frog? Gene Blumenfeld requested a frog be included, but can you name at least two other VLMers who were/are fond of frogs? (Kay Tenison and Brenda Korie-Baety)

Board Reports

The General Board will meet Wednesday, September 25 at 6 PM on Zoom and in Room 4. Reports should be given to Pastor Rebecca by Friday, September 13. The Administrative Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 17 at 6 PM on Zoom and in Room 4.



September 2024 Worship Participants

	September 1	September 8	September 15	September 22	September 29
Worship Leader	Marianna Kirwan	Michael Lewis	Jennefer Lehton	Karen Cliffe	Ray Adsit
Lay Reader	Michelle Tolvo-Chan	Jennefer Lehton	Jerry Bailey	Tracy Stockdall	Michael Lewis
Offering Invitation	Tesa Hauser	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn	Steve Bridwell	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Marianna Kirwan Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Michael Lewis Steve Bridwell	Jennefer Lehton Tim Cliffe	Karen Cliffe Mary Jane Fay	Ray Adsit Tesa Hauser
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	Ilene Kiser Bill Kwon Susan Peterson Lyn Van Winkle
Communion Prep	Michaela Stockdall	Daphne Flores	Ilene Kiser	Claudette Toland	Ilene Kiser
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Mary Alynn Fallon Karen Cliffe	Jenny Angione Michaela Stockdall	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe	Jenny Angione Michaela Stockdall	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe
Greeters	Michael Lewis Daphne Flores	Ray Adsit Mary Jane Fay	Ilene Kiser John Lehton	Ray Adsit Michael Lewis	John Lehton Mary Jane Fay
Counters	Lyn Van Winkle Mary Alynn Fallon	Steve Bridwell Tracy Stockdall	Andy Cliffe Jenny Angione	John Lehton Michelle Tolvo-Chan	Ilene Kiser John Lehton

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