

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NOVEMBER 2024

All Saints Memorial Service

As we do each year, we will be marking All Saints Day with a Memorial Service on Sunday, November 3rd. This is an important time to remember those we have lost in the last year, as well as all those who have gone on before who remain in our hearts.

This is also a wonderful opportunity to think about who you may know that needs to be with us in worship that day. Often when someone loses a loved one, they need a faith community but they don't know where to turn. You may have the invitation they've been waiting for. Take a moment to consider who you need to bring to worship with you that day.

Though we have not lost any members of VLM this year, many of you lost family members and other loved ones. Be sure to join us for this meaningful way to honor their memory and give thanks.

DISCIPLES CLASS

As we move into the winter months, you may have a growing desire to cuddle up with a good book. Why not join Disciples Class on Sunday mornings at 9, to study First Corinthians? We have been exploring this book since September, but it's never too late to join the conversation! We are just now in chapter 8. Our approach in this class is fairly informal, no prior expertise required. There is lots of learning and lots of laughter!

If you're not ready to leave the house yet, you can join on Zoom; otherwise, we meet in Bailey Hall.

Supper of Substance

Join us for our second Supper of Substance on Friday, November 1st (All Saints Day) for a deep and interesting conversation about Death. This event is a potluck, so please bring a dish or two to share. We will begin at 6 PM in Bailey Hall.

Please be aware that this conversation is more about death than it is about grief, but the two topics are inextricably intertwined. Please consider how you need to prepare your heart to participate in the conversation in the way that suits you best.

Advent Is Coming!

The entire season of Advent falls in December this year, but it's right around the corner! Here are the dates and information you need.

On the First Sunday of Advent, we will be having a Carol Sing. We will collect your requests for that in worship on November 10 & 17.

We will begin taking orders for poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones on Nov. 27.

We would love to have your help decorating the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas, on Saturday, Nov. 30, starting at 11 am.

The Christmas Choir Concert will be preceded by a "party food potluck" on Sunday, 12/8 at 5:30 pm. The Lunch Bunch Christmas Party will be Wednesday, 12/18 at noon in Bailey Hall. The Caroling Party will be Saturday, 12/23 beginning at 2 pm in the church parking lot.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

This past Sunday, I tried to give us encouragement for the season of uncertainty we are living in by turning to the “exhortation” passages in the New Testament epistles. The word “exhort” means to urge someone to do something. It has been used to describe those passages for years, which makes sense because they are mostly made of up a imperative sentences – the writer listing off all the things the recipients should do.

But I’m not convinced these passages are just a To-Do list. I think they can play a more important role as Who You Are list. As we discussed on Sunday, when things around us get difficult, it becomes all the more important to lean on our deepest convictions and live out our faith.

Some of those commands sounds pretty hard. First Thessalonians 5:18 tells us to “give thanks in all circumstances.” As we enter into our annual season of gratitude, we could treat that like an aspirational platitude. But it loses its power if we take it superficially. If you really absorb that line, you realize what a challenge it is.

But it doesn’t tell us to give thanks for all circumstances. Some circumstances are really terrible, with no blessing to be found. The verse asks us to give thanks in all circumstances. Even when things are really bad, there are other things in our life we can be grateful for. And the secret of this practice is that gratitude is an antidote for anxiety. Inviting our anxious hearts back into a place of thanksgiving is not just faithful, it’s also a healing practice!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

The Pastor’s Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be taking the week of Thanksgiving off (just Monday through Friday).

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

Do Justice. Love Mercy.

Walk Humbly with God.

www.vlmcc.org

Welcome Saturday Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wedn...

Thanks to everyone who participated with Welcome Saturday Sunday on 10/20, as we celebrated 8 years of this life-giving ministry! It was wonderful to welcome guest speaker Bonnie Baranoff, a local homelessness specialist who helped us understand more about how Welcome Saturday fits into the broader picture of the housing crisis in San Diego County and East County in particular.

We hope you enjoyed our creative offering envelopes, decorated by our Welcome Saturday guests! Thank you for your donations! We received just over \$600 for the Welcome Saturday Fund that day.

You have heard about other efforts we are making to ensure this ministry is sustainable. We have carefully assessed how we can cost costs. We are recruiting “toiletory sponsors,” as various personal products that we provide need to be replenished. We have entered into partnerships with 2 local congregations who are holding “Undies Drives” for us, which is a major cost-saver for us! We have also just applied for a Camile Christian Church Grant from the PSW Regional Church in Society Committee, which we hope to hear back about later this month; this grant would give us a good cushion for any months when our expenses exceed donations.

Time Change is Coming!

Set your clocks back one hour
before you go to bed on
Saturday, November 2nd!

Enjoy your extra hour!

Welcome Saturday Updates

Thank you for your support of this ministry! Things we need right now include: grocery bags (lots!), wash cloths, and as always, casual, sturdy men's clothes. As colder weather comes, we would also love to get more jackets and coats. We can always use bags and suitcases, even if they're a little ragged.

In addition to our regular prep day and actual Welcome Saturday, we will be hosting some Helix volunteers for a sorting day on Saturday, 11/2, supervised by Stephanie Cadiero.

**Cooking with Chef
Claudette
Sunday, 11/24
Baked Banana Boats
for the Feast
of St. Andrew**

In Our Prayers...

JOYS & CONCERNS ~ Please contact Pastor Rebecca for prayers.

Special Speaker Coming

Rev. Mitri Raheb, Pastor of Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem and Founder & President of Dar al-Kalima University there, will be speaking at USD on Thursday, November 21, at 6:30 PM.

Let Pastor Rebecca know if you would like to carpool to this event. Rev. Raheb's talk is titled "Decolonizing Palestine: The Land, the People, the Bible."

Thanksgiving Offering

The Thanksgiving Special Offering will be received in worship, 11/17 and 11/24, and online. This offering goes to support Disciples colleges & universities, and seminaries like Disciples Seminary Foundation. Our pastor (along with many others) is a DSF graduate. These schools supply Disciples congregations with well-equipped leaders!

**LUNCH BUNCH
Olive Garden
Wednesday, 11/20
at 12 noon.
Hosted by the
Adsits.**

Novels Tea

Our Novels Tea group will meet on Zoom, on Sunday, November 3 at 3 pm to discuss "This Rebel Heart" by Katherine Locke.

Happy Birthday!

Nov. 1 - Norma Bailey
Nov. 7 - Janet Smith
Nov. 8 - Daphne Flores
Nov. 9 - Stephen Cliffe
Nov. 9 - Matt Hauser
Nov. 10 - Jennefer Lehton
Nov. 19 - Maria Cusumano
Nov. 20 - Katie Yoder
Nov. 21 - Tesa Hauser
Nov. 23 - Noralea Penny
Nov. 26 - Deborah Wilson
Nov. 28 - John Lehton

Happy Anniversary!

Nov. 4
Eliseo & Helene Sisneros
Nov. 20
Brian & Laura McCreanor

CONSIDERING VLM'S FUTURE(S)

We have embarked on a journey of discernment, to explore possibilities for the future of our beloved congregation. We know that our current situation is not sustainable, either financially or people-power-wise. We know that there are many potential paths forward. For now, we are still in the imagining phase. We will be considering the immediate future and what the long-term could look like.

We will have our second Futures Meeting on Saturday, November 23, beginning at 10 AM and going till noon or so. If you would like to bring morning snacks to this one, please do! We are asking Elders and Board members to commit to participating, but anyone else who is interested is welcome to attend. This is a process that involves our whole congregation, so please show up if you have the capacity.

The meeting will be held in Bailey Hall and on Zoom. We will be alternating between weeknights and weekends, in order to accommodate various scheduling needs.

News from the Board

The Board will meet on Wednesday, November 20 at 6 PM on Zoom and in Room 4. Board reports are due to Pastor Rebecca on Friday, November 8, unless you make other arrangements. The Administrative Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 12, at 6 PM on Zoom and in Room 4.

At the Futures meeting in October, it was decided that we should pursue the Open & Affirming Process, to make official our welcome of persons of all gender expressions and sexual orientations in the communion, life, and leadership of our congregation. Given that is a related, but side journey from the work the Futures Meetings are focused on, the Board was assigned to explore what sort of process we want to follow for this discernment and decision. We will discuss this at our November meeting. You can learn more at [this link from Disciples Alliance Q+](#).

We will, of course, also be closely examining our financial reports and deciding on what level of support is needed at this time from the Memorial Endowment Fund.

Is It I, Lord?

We could use more folks in these volunteer roles. Let Pastor Rebecca know if you're interested in any of the following:

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

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.

Mark Your Calendars!

Supper of Substance – Friday, Nov. 1, 6 PM

All Saints Memorial Service – Sunday, Nov. 3

Welcome Saturday – Saturday, Nov. 9

Carol Requests for 12/1 – Nov. 10 & 17

Poinsettia Orders Open – Nov. 17 (thru 12/8)

Board Meeting – Wednesday, Nov. 20, 6 PM

Futures Meeting – Saturday, Nov. 23, 10 AM

Sanctuary Decorating – Saturday, Nov. 30, 11 AM

First Sunday of Advent – December 1

Christmas Concert & Party – Sun., Dec. 8, 5:30 PM

Welcome Saturday – Saturday, Dec. 14

Lunch Bunch Christmas Party – Wed., Dec. 18

Caroling Party – Saturday, Dec. 21, 2 PM

Christmas Eve Service – Tuesday, Dec. 24 6 PM

November 2024 Worship Participants

| | November 3 | November 10 | November 17 | November 24 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Worship Leader | Tesa Hauser | Larry Knight | Marianna Kirwan | Michael Lewis |
| Lay Reader | Mary Jane Fay | Michelle Tolvo-Chan | Jerry Bailey | Tracy Stockdall |
| Offering Invitation | Rebecca Littlejohn | Rebecca Littlejohn | Rebecca Littlejohn | Rebecca Littlejohn |
| Elders | Tesa Hauser Karen Cliffe | Larry Knight (Cheryl) Ray Adsit | Marianna Kirwan Cheryl Davis-Plotts | Michael Lewis Steve Bridwell |
| Deacons | John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle | Al Flores Daphne Flores Tracy Stockdall | Ilene Kiser Claudette Toland | Jenny Angione Bill Kwon Susan Peterson |
| Comm Prep & Clean up | Ilene Kiser | Lyn Van Winkle | Ilene Kiser | Lyn Van Winkle |
| AV Tech Zoom Tech | Tracy Stockdall Michaela Stockdall | Jenny Angione Karen Cliffe | Jenny Angione Karen Cliffe | Tracy Stockdall Michaela Stockdall |
| Greeters | Michael Lewis Daphne Flores | Ray Adsit Ilene Kiser | Mary Jane Fay John Lehton | Ray Adsit Michael Lewis |
| Counters | Lyn Van Winkle Jenny Angione | Tracy Stockdall Michelle Tolvo-Chan | Andy Cliffe John Lehton | Steve Bridwell Michelle Tolvo-Chan |

WHO, WHERE, and WHEN

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.

**Sundays: Disciples Class @ 9:00
Worship @ 10:30**

Secretary's Hours: Tues/Thur/Fri 8:30-11:30 am

CHURCH STAFF

Senior 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.org

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

Church website: www.vlmcc.org