

# The Christian Visitor

JANUARY 2025 ~ VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Futures Meeting

At our January Futures Meeting, we will have some special guests – fellow Disciples from other congregations that have gone through journeys of shifting into new models for ministry. In order to get it done before Pastor Rebecca leaves town, we will meet on Saturday, January 11 at 2 PM.

Because we'll be hosting guests from other places, this meeting will be primarily on Zoom, but you can come join us in Room 4 if you don't prefer to hop on Zoom at home. We will hear from each of our guests and then have some time to ask them questions.

All Elders & Board Members are asked to attend, and anyone else who would like to is welcome!

## O&A Discernment

Our Board has initiated a conversation about becoming an officially "Open & Affirming" congregation, which would mean being intentional about our welcome to all people, especially our LGBTQ+ neighbors, in authentic VLM ways.

On December 15, we asked the congregation for input. The results so far have been overwhelmingly positive. A few people expressed surprise that we aren't already "O&A". Some mentioned that they think this step is vital to our growth. The only hesitation raised were concerns about whether it might cause anyone to leave, though no one has yet expressed opposition.

If you have not submitted an input form yet, please do so ASAP. [Click here](#) to do it as a Google form, or find a hard copy at the back of the Sanctuary on 12/29. Responses must be in by January 3.

## Big Thanks to Those Who Made Christmas Happen!

Thanks to everyone who...

Helped decorate the church for the season!

Lit candles!

Sent or brought in a Christmas card!

Helped with Advent & Christmas worship!

Made and shared cookies!

Exchanged ornaments at Lunch Bunch!

Sponsored poinsettias!

Sang carols at neighbors' houses!

Gave to the Christmas Special Offering!

Practiced and performed choir songs!

## DISCIPLES CLASS IN 2025

January is a great time to add Bible study into your life! Disciples Class will resume on Sunday, January 5 at 9 AM in Bailey Hall and on Zoom. You are invited to join this group of faithful Disciples, exploring scripture.

The class is currently making its way through First Corinthians, which is full of interesting passages and great topics for discussion. We read slowly, consulting various translations, commentaries, and study notes as we go. We also share in prayer each week. We will begin foliating our prayer tree again this month. See Christian Ed Chair Cheryl Davis-Plotts for more info.

## From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

We had a rather subdued Christmas at VLM this year. The season was bracketed with memorial services for people we loved very much. The Christmas Concert, one of our biggest events, was postponed and toned down due to illness. We are in the midst of some important conversations about our future, which don't necessarily lend themselves to merry-making.

But one thing I discovered this year is that the most important thing for us to be at Christmas is not jolly or cheerful or even just content, but human. The whole point of the story of Christmas is that God blesses our human state by showing up alongside us, just the way we do, being born as a small, vulnerable baby. We accept that gift best by accepting our own human-ness, and the humanity of others.

This means there is room for pain at Christmas, room for grief and sleeplessness and confusion. Nobody here is expecting us to be anyone other than who we are. And that's just it: God knows us more deeply than we know ourselves and loves us more than we can imagine.

That is the gift we carry into the future, as it arrives with this new year. God loves us to the very tippy toes of our humanity. Jesus invites us to live lives of loving others the same way. So let's carry one another into this new year with that sort of compassion and understanding. Happy New Year!

grace & peace,

*Pastor Rebecca*

### Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be visiting her mom in Illinois, to be with her during her knee replacement, January 15-24. Rev. Marianna Kirwan will preach on January 19.

## Vista La Mesa Christian Church

*Feeding Your Soul Without  
Disconnecting Your Mind!*

[www.vlmcc.org](http://www.vlmcc.org)

## In Memoriam

We offer our sympathy to the family & friends of Mary Ann E'Golf, who passed away after a brief decline on Saturday, December 21st.

A Memorial Service will be held at 11 AM on Saturday, January 4th, at the Salli Lynn Chapel at Greenwood Memorial Park on Imperial Avenue. The burial will follow the service, after a time of visiting.

Following the burial, there will be a luncheon in Bailey Hall at the church. Please let Karen Cliffe know if you can assist with that.

## Christmas Special Offering

Thank you for your contributions to our Christmas Special Offering, which goes entirely to support the Christian Church in the Pacific Southwest Region! We collected \$561, exceeding our \$500 goal! You are a blessing!

## Welcome Saturday Updates!

Thanks so much for your continued faithful support of our monthly homeless ministry, Welcome Saturday! You make so much love possible! This month, we were able to provide winter gloves and holiday socks to our friends, as Christmas presents. We also provided cards, so they could exchange them or send them to loved ones, which was much appreciated.

We're also happy to report that we received a Regional grant to tide us over through thin months in the coming year.

## 90th Birthday Card Shower!

Ray Adsit is home from rehab, but he won't be getting out yet by the first Sunday of the month, which just so happens to also be his 90th birthday! So we would like to ask you to help us help Ray & Victoria celebrate by bringing a card for his birthday. You could even bring one for Victoria too, since we missed her big 9-0 back in September. We will make sure they get into the hands of these beloved nonagenarians! Thanks!

## Novels Tea

We will be discussing "The Lacuna" by Barbara Kingsolver on Sunday, February 9 at 2:30 pm on Zoom. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join us!

We are so grateful  
for all our faithful  
and generous  
donors!

Please watch for a  
letter this month or  
early in February  
with your 2024  
giving record for tax  
purposes and our  
heartfelt gratitude!

## KIDS COOKING WITH CHEF CLAUDETTE!

Cooking with Chef Claudette is turning up the heat in 2025, with added activities, new recipes, and science experiments! Be sure to note the dates from the email Pastor Rebecca sent out recently.

We've got two projects this month. On January 5, we will celebrate Epiphany with stellite pasta, Galileo telescopes, and star domes.

On January 26, we mark the Feast of Saints Timothy & Titus with electric pretzels and edible pretzels.

Make a point to be here, and bring your friends!

## Lunch Bunch

January 15 @ 12pm  
at The Omelette  
Factory  
in Santee  
RSVP to Norma &  
Jerry Bailey

## Happy Birthday!

- Jan. 5 - Ray Adsit
- Jan. 15 - Himston Flores
- Jan. 16 - Troy Gurling
- Jan. 23 - Jackie Hahn  
Krista Trimlett
- Jan. 24 - Tracy Stockdall
- Jan. 27 - Mary Jane Fay

## Happy Anniversary!

- Jan. 6  
Ray & Victoria Adsit
- Jan. 24  
Bob & Beckie Neely

## IN OUR PRAYERS...

JOYS & CONCERNS ~ Please contact Pastor Rebecca for prayers.



## The Board of VLMCC

VLMCC's General Board will meet early this month, on **Tuesday, January 14th** at 6 pm, on Zoom and in Room 4, due to Pastor Rebecca's travel. **Board reports are due** to Pastor Rebecca by **Friday, January 3rd**. The Administrative Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 7th at 6 pm on Zoom and in Room 4.

We will review our current financial situation to see if withdrawals need to be made, but it seems unlikely at the moment. We will assess next steps in the O&A discernment process, based on the feedback we received from the survey done in December. We also hope to appoint a Nominating Committee this month.

Committees will not meet this month due to Pastor Rebecca's travel, but all Board members are asked to participate in the Futures Meeting on Saturday, January 11th at 2 pm on Zoom and in Room 4. We will have special guests from other churches telling their stories.

## Volunteer Roles for 2025

If you're looking for a way to deepen your spirituality through service, there are some volunteer roles we could use some help with going into 2024. We really need some more greeters for before worship and some more offering counters for after worship. We could use a couple more tech volunteers in worship, to help with AV and/or Zoom. Let Pastor Rebecca know if you're interested and we will make sure you are fully trained.

## Christmas Greetings!

We received Christmas cards for our Card tree from the following folks: Norma & Jerry Bailey; Marilyn Fiddmont at the Christian Church Foundation; Karen & Tim Cliffe and family; Cheryl Davis-Plotts; Paul Epler and family, Mary Ann E'Golf and the Fallon Family; Mary Jane Fay; Sandy and Kiley Hanna; Rebecca Littlejohn & Todd Lesh; Beckie & Bob Neely; Janet Smith; Betty Sullivan; Michelle Tolvo-Chan; Grace Van Winkle and Lyn Van Winkle; and the Sunday Afternoon GA Group.

Merry Christmas to us all!

# January 2025 Worship Participants

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Tim Cliffe	Renee Bridwell	Mary Jane Fay	Tesa Hauser
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Michelle Tolvo-Chan	Deborah Wilson	Jerry Bailey	Tracy Stockdall
<b>Offering Invitation</b>	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn	Michael Lewis	Rebecca Littlejohn
<b>Elders</b>	Tim Cliffe Jennefer Lehton	Renee Bridwell Michael Lewis	Mary Jane Fay Karen Cliffe	Tesa Hauser Steve Bridwell
<b>Deacons</b>	Mary Alynn Fallon John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle	Al Flores Daphne Flores Tracy Stockdall	Michaela Stockdall Claudette Toland	Jenny Angione Bill Kwon Susan Peterson
<b>Comm Prep &amp; Clean up</b>	Lyn Van Winkle	Claudette Toland	Michaela Stockdall	Susan Peterson
<b>Greeters</b>	Michael Lewis Daphne Flores	Vicky & Gary Wilhite	Marianna Kirwan John Lehton	Mary Jane Fay Michael Lewis
<b>AV Tech Zoom Tech</b>	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe	Jenny Angione Michaela Stockdall	Tracy Stockdall Michaela Stockdall	Jenny Angione Karen Cliffe
<b>Counters</b>	John Lehton Tracy Stockdall	Lyn Van Winkle Renee Bridwell	Andy Cliffe Michelle Tolvo-Chan	Steve Bridwell 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, between Interstate 8 and the 94 Freeway, 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

Senior Pastor: **Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn**

Secretary: **Krista Trimlett**

Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**

Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero**

Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

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Pastor's E-mail: [pastor@vlmcc.org](mailto:pastor@vlmcc.org)

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