

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ MAY 2025
An Open & Affirming Congregation

2025-2026 Stewardship Campaign

“Unrevealed Until Its Season”

Our 2025-2026 stewardship campaign will kick off on Sunday, April 27 in worship. You should have received an invitation in the mail with an Intentions Offering slip and a Stewardship Glossary enclosed. We hope you will spend some time contemplating the many ways to participate in the ministries of Vista La Mesa Christian Church and pray about how God is calling you to get involved.

On Sunday, May 4, we will have Consecration Sunday, when we will place our Intentions Offerings in the Blessing Box, as a sign of our commitment. If you are unable to be with us in person that day, you may mail your Intentions Offering in to the church or to our Financial Secretary directly. (See Stewardship Glossary for address.)

This annual effort is how we help our congregational leaders make plans for the upcoming year. It's also a spiritual discipline that can help us all grow!



SUPPER OF SUBSTANCE

We hope you'll join us for our next Supper of Substance, on Friday, May 16 at 6 PM in Bailey Hall. We are having a "re-do" of our last one when most folks couldn't make it, so our topic will be "Being Brave."

Everyone is welcome to Suppers of Substance. It's a potluck, so bring a dish to share. But it's mostly a conversation, so come prepared to talk about Things That Matter.

Unfortunately, the format of these meals doesn't translate well to Zoom, so we cannot offer an online form of participation. If you'd like the materials to study on your own, contact Pastor Rebecca.

Future Process

Our Futures Process is currently in prayer. Have you found the prayer practice that fits into your life yet? There are possibilities for prayer on your own, with partners, in groups, a prayer form for each day of the week, and more!

All of the practices are centered on discerning the future of our congregation. At some point in May, we'll have a check-in to see who is using which format. Elders & Board Members, watch for more information from Board Chair Karen Cliffe about when we will be gathering for a meeting again.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

Our world is a pretty uncertain place right now. Government policies seem to shift by the day; the economy is teetering on the brink of recession. Even the ground beneath our feet recently shifted. Though we may know that change is a sign of life, there is a certain level beyond which change and uncertainty just feel like chaos. We would like to be able to come to church and find a haven of stability, a place where we know what's going to happen and we can rely on things unfolding as expected.

And yet, even church is full of unknowns these days. Our culture has shifted so that many people don't even think of church as an option. What does the future look like for a small congregation? At times, it may feel like things here are just as chaotic and confusing as they are everywhere else.

That's when we need to take a deep breath and remember that we are in the presence of God. When everything else seems fragile and unreliable, we can turn to Christ and be assured by things that are eternal. Love will not fail us. The Love that brings life out of death can sustain us through whatever trials may be thrown at us.

If we get caught up in desperate "what ifing" about our congregation's future, it's time to remember why we're here in the first place: because God loves us, because God's love is for everyone, because Jesus showed us how to live sharing that love with everyone. In any given circumstance, we can do this, even if the specifics look different from year to year. When we stay grounded in God's incarnate love, we can withstand all manner of chaos and uncertainty. Hallelujah and Amen!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

**General Assembly!
July 12-15
in Memphis
Learn more at
[ga.disciples.org!](http://ga.disciples.org)**

**Thank you for your
contributions to our
Easter Special Offering!
We collected \$661,
exceeding our goal, to
support Disciples
General Ministries!**

In Memoriam

We will be hosting a Memorial Service for Marvin E. Pfeffer, Jr., one of our Welcome Saturday friends, who passed away on March 13. The service will be held Saturday, May 10 at 2 PM, the afternoon of our monthly outreach. We would love to have church members join Marvin's family and friends for this remembrance.

**Save the Date!
Pacific Southwest
Regional Gathering
October 18
in Fullerton**

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

*Feeding Your Soul Without
Disconnecting Your Mind*

www.vlmcc.org

Cooking with Chef Claudette

All kids are invited to join Chef Claudette on Sunday, May 4, to mark the Feast of St. Bernard, with Shoe Painting and Bigfoot's Cheese! Don't know what that means? Neither do we, but if you come, you'll get to find out! Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you're coming and how many kids you're bringing. BIG Thanks to Chef Claudette!



Lunch Bunch
Wednesday,
May 21, 12 pm
at Janet's Cafe
in Santee
Hosted by
the Cliffes

Novels Tea

will be discussing
"Tom Lake"
by Ann Patchett
on Sunday, May 4th
at 4 pm on Zoom.



In Our Prayers...

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

Happy Birthday!

May 6 ~ Brittany Cliffe
May 15 ~ Ilene Kiser
May 24 ~ Helene Sisneros
May 28 ~ Lyn Van Winkle

Happy Anniversary!

May 20
Shayne & Rachel McKinney
May 21
Matt & Tesa Hauser
Marianna Kirwan & Mike Lewis
May 25
Andy & Amy Cliffe

Church Camp 2025 at Loch Leven

June 22-25 – Wee Camp (Ages 3-Kinder)

June 22-25 – Mini Camp (Grades 1-3)

June 22-27 – Junior Camp (Grades 4-5)

June 29 - July 4 – Chi Rho Camp
(Grades 6-8)

July 6-11 – CYF Camp (Grades 6-12)

Registration is OPEN!

Click this link for more information and registration:
<http://www.disciplespswr.org/camp>

Please be in touch with Pastor Rebecca about VLM
scholarships from our Camp Fund!

Help Amplify VLM on FB/IG

Are you on Facebook or Instagram? Are you following VLMCC there? If not, that's your first step! We can use your help making the algorithms work for us.

Even if you have already "liked" (FB) or "followed" (IG) VLM through your social media account, our posts might not be showing up in your regular feed. But you can fix that by being proactive. We have regular posts that come out at the same time each week. If you check our page shortly after each scheduled post, you can interact with the post there, and soon they will start showing up in your feed. The posts come out at 9 AM Sundays, 5 PM Tuesdays, and 11 AM Fridays. There are, of course, other random posts that you can also interact with.

The best way to interact with our posts is to share them. If you add a comment of your own, even just one line about the post itself or a simple "I love my church!" the people who see your re-post will be more engaged. If you don't want to re-post, it still helps to like or love the post, or to add a comment about it, the more specific the better! We want people to see that real, interesting, thoughtful, funny people go to church here!

News from the Board

The General Board will be meeting on Tuesday, May 27 at 6 PM on Zoom and in Room 4 for their regular meeting. This is an important meeting, as we will be receiving the slate of nominees from the Nominating Committee and voting on the proposed budget for the 2025-2026 ministry year.

Board members, please make sure to have your reports turned in by Friday, May 9, so the Administrative Committee can review them at their meeting on Tuesday, May 13 (6 PM, Zoom/ Room 4).

The Budget Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 14 at 5:30 PM to prepare the proposed budget. Committee Chairs, if you have recommendations or requests for the Budget Committee, please send them to Pastor Rebecca or Treasurer Larry Knight prior to that day.



VLMers celebrating becoming an officially Open & Affirming Congregation on March 30th!

Offering Envelopes Coming Soon!

Personalized offering envelopes for the new ministry year should be arriving soon. Be sure to pick yours up sometime in June, so you'll be ready. We will also have a number of sets of monthly envelopes without specific names on them, if you've never used them before.

We are also happy to have you set up regular donations online at www.vlmcc.org of course!

Thank you for your generous support!

May 2025 Worship Participants

	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25
Worship Leader	Marianna Kirwan	Renee Bridwell	Jennefer Lehton	Michael Lewis
Lay Reader	Tracy Stockdall	Jennefer Lehton	Michael Lewis	Cheryl Davis-Plotts
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn	Renee Bridwell
Elders	Marianna Kirwan Tim Cliffe	Renee Bridwell Mary Jane Fay	Jennefer Lehton Tesa Hauser	Michael Lewis Steve Bridwell
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 Up	Michaela Stockdall	Claudette Toland	Susan Peterson	Ilene Kiser
Greeters	Michael Lewis Daphne Flores	Vicky & Gary Wilhite	Marianna Kirwan John Lehton	Mary Jane Fay Michael Lewis
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Tracy Stockdall Karen/Michaela	Mary Alynn Fallon Karen Cliffe	Jenny Angione Karen Cliffe	Tracy Stockdall Michaela Stockdall
Counters	John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle	Tracy Stockdall Renee Bridwell	Andy Cliffe Michelle Tolvo-Chan	Steve Bridwell Jenny Angione

WHO AND WHERE WE ARE

We are an Open & Affirming 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**

Secretary: **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