

# The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ JUNE 2025

## Congregational Meeting – 6/8

We hope all members will make a point of being present for our annual Congregational Business Meeting, which will be held after worship on Sunday, June 8. This is an important but usually brief time when we discuss and vote on the official business of the congregation, in preparation for the new ministry year, which will begin July first.

Our Nominating Committee will present the Slate of Nominees, who will begin in various positions July 1. We thank everyone for your willingness to serve! We will also be voting on a proposed budget for the 2025-2026 ministry year. Watch for the information packet in your email on 5/30. A few hard copies will be available June 1.

## Installation Sunday

On Sunday, June 29, we will gather for worship and install all the lay leaders who will be serving in the 2025-2026 ministry year. This is an important time for all of us to rededicate our time and talents to the ministry of Jesus Christ, as we carry it out together here at VLM!

After worship, we will hold a celebration potluck, when we will honor those who are completing terms of service. We hope you will plan to stay for lunch and bring a dish or two to share. A sign-up for the potluck will be out by June 8, so think about what you want to bring soon!

This would be a great day to wear your VLM shirt or Holy Spirit red, to add to the festive spirit.

## Pride Month at VLMCC

You are invited to join Pastor Rebecca and other VLMers at the City of La Mesa Pride Flag Raising on Tuesday, June 3 at 8:30 AM in front of City Hall. Pastor Rebecca will be reading poetry. Wear your VLM shirt if you can! We will have stickers you can add to show your Pride!

We will be collaborating with the Faith Coalition of La Mesa to offer a free community showing of the documentary “1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture,” on Saturday, June 21 at 1:00 PM, in the Sanctuary. This film tells the story of how researchers traced the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians to a grave mistranslation of the Bible in 1946, using previously unseen archives at Yale University. After the movie, we will have time for small-group discussion, to help us all process what we learned.

## Elders & Deacons Training

All incoming and continuing Elders and Deacons are asked to attend a meeting after worship on Sunday, June 22 (around 12:15). This will mostly be a training/refresher, so we will not be using Zoom.

We will meet in the Sanctuary, so that we can walk our new folks through procedures and refresh everyone’s memory about what happens when and how.

We will also be discussing some new possibilities for ways to serve communion and make it more meaningful for our congregation, so be sure to be present and share your thoughts.

## From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

It is amazing what God can do with us, once we've opened ourselves to the possibilities! At our most recent Futures meeting, we decided to take a break from discussions about possibilities to focus on two things: prayer and developing our relationship with our friends at MissionGathering. Both of those efforts are starting to take off beautifully!

If you haven't picked up our Futures Process Prayer Practices booklet yet, be sure to grab one soon. There are numerous different ways to pray, in communion with your fellow church members, about the future God is preparing for us. If you can't decide, flip to the last page and do something different every day of the week.

Meanwhile, we've continued to hang out with folks from MG, mostly at Welcome Saturday, not just in the doing, but in the organizing at a recent meeting. Pastor Braeden and I have scheduled a pulpit swap for Sunday, July 6, when we will lead worship and preach at one another's churches. I know you will be gracious hosts and excited to hear him!

MG is also one of our Faith Coalition of La Mesa partners who are co-sponsoring the community film showing we are hosting on June 21. The movie is "1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture," and I think we will learn a lot. But more importantly, we'll get to know new friends during the discussion time afterwards. I hope you will make plans to join us then!

grace & peace,

*Pastor Rebecca*

### Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be on vacation June 11-17, visiting her family in Illinois for her mom's 80th birthday.

## 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!

(If you see anyone leaving rude comments, let Pastor Rebecca know ASAP, so we can minimize negativity on our page. There is no need to engage with them.)

## Vista La Mesa Christian Church

Do Justice. Love Mercy.  
Walk Humbly with God.  
[www.vlmcc.org](http://www.vlmcc.org)

**Guest Preacher on  
Sunday, June 15  
Rev. Jimmy Gawne  
Lieutenant Commander,  
US Navy Chaplain Corps**

## Cooking With Chef C

Kids, get ready for 2 sessions with Chef Claudette this month! On June 8, we will have Cake Painting and Flaming Cakes for Pentecost.

On June 22, we will have soap making and bubble tea for the Feast of St. John the Baptizer. Come and bring your friends!

## Welcome Saturday

What a difference a year makes! We are so grateful to everyone who has helped bring Welcome Saturday into a position of financial sustainability and staffing resilience. Thank you!

Pastor Rebecca is going to be out of town for Welcome Saturday in June and July, so we are also super grateful to the volunteers – from VLM, MG, and UCC – who will help hold things together while she is gone.

We are especially in need of smaller, worn bath towels that can be used as bath mats right now. Towels that aren't quite nice enough to use as towels but not ready for the rag bin yet are perfect!

## DISCIPLES CLASS

Disciples Class is continuing through June 15, reading Philippians and possibly Philemon. We will then take a break for the summer.

We begin each class sharing prayers – joys and concerns. Watch for our prayers to “leaf out” on the tree in Bailey Hall soon! Isn't it beautiful to watch prayers become prayers answered?

We hope you will join us in the fall when we resume our Bible study!

## Pentecost Offering

We will receive the Pentecost Special Offering on June 1 & 8, to support Disciples' New Church Ministries. Our goal is \$500!

## Novels Tea

will meet on  
Sunday, June 8  
on Zoom at 3 pm  
to discuss  
“Firekeeper's  
Daughter” by  
Angeline Boulley.

## Lunch Bunch

Wednesday,

June 18

12:00 pm

Fillipi's in Jamul  
hosted by the  
Van Winkles

## In Our Prayers...

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

### *Happy Birthday!*

- 6/1 - Teannah Townsend
- 6/5 - Marianna Kirwan
- 6/17 - Jason Sisneros, Jr.
- 6/23 - Jim Fallon
- 6/29 - Heather Morey
- 6/30 - Rebekah Morey

### *Happy Anniversary!*

JUNE 20  
Jim & Mary Alynn Fallon

JUNE 21  
Rebecca & Todd  
Littlejohn-Lesh

JUNE 22  
Tim & Karen 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!

## **Stewardship News**

As you can see in the report from the Board, we are struggling with our finances this spring. We need your help to finish the fiscal year strong at the end of this month! This is a good time to check (no pun intended) if you've stayed up to date with your commitment, or to see if there's anything extra you could chip in.

We are extremely grateful for all our generous donors, and we know that you all give so much to keep our congregation thriving! If you have the capacity to help us catch up by the end of June, that would just be an added blessing! Thank you!

Personalized monthly offering envelopes for July 2025 – June 2026 will be arriving soon. There are also monthly envelopes without names, for those who haven't used them before.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Regional Gathering**  
**Saturday, October 18**  
**Fullerton, CA**

## **Report from the Board**

The General Board met on May 27, with part of the agenda focused on the upcoming Congregational Meeting on June 9.

Pastor Rebecca encouraged all the Board members to spend time with our Futures Process Prayer Practices, so they can find one (or more) that works for them. There's one version that gives you something for each day of the week and even one to use with prayer partners!

We were disappointed to learn that we ended April with a deficit of almost \$9K. The Board approved the recommendation to pull the remaining \$10,000 subsidy from the Memorial Endowment Fund that was authorized for this year's budget. A large portion of unexpected deficit was high utility costs due to our solar inverters being out of service for a few months. The monitoring system had also broken down, so we did not realize quickly enough that we weren't generating any power. The Board also approved another check signer, to increase flexibility.

The Board was especially pleased to receive the Property Committee report, sharing the news of many recent upgrades and repairs, large and small, that have been and are being completed.

The Board received and approved a motion from the Administrative Committee for an Employment Non-Discrimination Policy, which was the final step in our process of becoming officially Open & Affirming. Our form has now been filed with Disciples Alliance Q+, and we expect to hear back soon.

The Board received a report on the work of the Nominating Committee. The Slate of Nominees will be presented at the Congregational Meeting.

The Board was presented with the Proposed FY26 Budget from the Budget Committee. While projected offerings have increased over the current years, expenses have risen faster, so the budget will still require subsidy from the Memorial Endowment Fund. The MEC proposed increasing the authorized draw just a bit to create a small projected deficit. The Board approved the budget with the amendment.

# June 2025 Worship Participants

	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Karen Cliffe	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Tim Cliffe	Steve Bridwell	Mary Jane Fay
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Ilene Kiser	Tracy Stockdall	Mary Jane Fay	Jerry Bailey	Michelle Tolvo-Chan
<b>Offering Invitation</b>	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn	Michael Lewis	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn
<b>Elders</b>	Karen C Larry K	Cheryl DP Renee B	Tim C Marianna K	Steve B Jennefer L	Mary Jane F Michael L
<b>Deacons</b>	Mary Alynn F John L Lyn VW	Al F Daphne F Tracy S	Ilene K Michaela S Claudette T	Jenny A Bill K Susan P	Ilene K Bill K Susan P
<b>Communion Prep/Clean</b>	Susan Peterson	Jenny Angione	Susan Peterson	Bill Kwon	Susan Peterson
<b>AV Tech Zoom Tech</b>	Jenny Angione Karen Cliffe	Mary Alynn F Michaela S	Tracy Stockdall Michaela Stockdall	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe	Mary Alynn F Karen Cliffe
<b>Greeters</b>	Michael Lewis Daphne Flores	Vicky & Gary Wilhite	Marianna Kirwan John Lehton	Mary Jane Fay Michael Lewis	Ilene Kiser John Lehton
<b>Counters</b>	John L Jenny A	Tracy S Renee B	Ilene K Andy C	Steve B Lyn VW	John L Michelle TC

## 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**

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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