

The Christian Visitor

SEPTEMBER 2025 ~ VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Disciples Class

Our Sunday morning adult study, Disciples Class, will resume on Sunday, September 7, and we hope you join us! We meet at 9 AM in Bailey Hall and on Zoom (same link as worship).

Each session begins with a time of prayer, in which each person shares a concern and a joy. Those prayers are written onto leaves, which are added to the prayer tree on the bulletin board.

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 diving into the gospel of Matthew, which includes some well-known verses and some more obscure passages as well. Join us!

Future Retreat

Our Futures Process has been in “praying & waiting” mode over the summer, but it’s time to re-group and see where we’re at. On Saturday, October 4, we will hold a Futures Retreat to discuss and ponder some of what we have learned over the past year. All Elders, Deacons, and Board Members are asked to attend this Retreat. Anyone else who would like to attend is also welcome. We have not figured out if some or all of it can include Zoom or not, but we will let you know, if that would help.

We will begin at 9 AM and conclude around 2 PM, with some time for a potluck lunch around 12:30.

Please mark your calendars now, so that you can be present for these important conversations! We need everyone’s voice and everyone’s wisdom as we move into God’s future for VLM!

Saturday Forum – 9/27

Our second Saturday Forum will be held on September 27 at 10 AM on Zoom. We will be “Exploring Canadian Disciples.”

This topic is also inspired by a resolution from this summer’s General Assembly, but we will also learn a little bit more about the history of the Stone-Campbell movement in Canada, which both mirrors and diverges from what happened in the US. You can read the resolution by [clicking here](#).

This “limited series” discussion forum will help us learn more about some of the issues raised at the Memphis General Assembly. The next one will be held November 1st.

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 is “Beyond Brokenness – Building Beloved Community,” which expands on the 2025 General Assembly theme “Beyond.” The scripture inspiration is 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, which is where Reconciliation’s name comes from.

We will receive the Reconciliation Special Offering on Sundays, September 21 and 28. You can also give online at www.vlmcc.org.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

Sometimes in small-membership churches like ours, we can get down on ourselves because of all the things we don't have. We worry that when/if anyone were to come in the door, they would just see shabbiness and people who are barely holding things together. We don't have any slick flyers, or slick graphics, or slick programming that will change people's lives.

The good news is that a lot of people aren't looking for "slick"; they're looking for authentic. They don't want a shiny surface faith; they want to find people who are actually trying to follow Jesus. And while that isn't cheap, it doesn't cost a lot of money or require hordes of volunteers.

Our beloved congregation is going to grow by being who we are. The people who will come throw their lot in with us will do so because they want to be who they are too, in the light of God's love. Authenticity doesn't cost money, but it does require courage. We have to be willing to be honest about who we are, what we believe, and why it matters. We have to stop making excuses for what isn't here and start being loudly thankful for what is here – a community of sincere faith, committed to living out the gospel as best we can.

Seeing people being themselves gives others permission to be who they are – something lot of folks are looking for. Seeing people doing what they can inspires folks to offer their gifts as well. Let's be the church God is calling us to be!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor Rebecca's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be taking Friday, September 19 off to celebrate her 50th birthday!

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

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

www.vlmcc.org

REGIONAL GATHERING

The 2025 Gathering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Pacific Southwest Region will be held at the Disciples Ministry Center in Fullerton, Saturday, October 18. It's time to consider attending!

The theme this year is "Unbreakable Hope: God's Power in Clay Jars," from 2 Corinthians 4:7-9.

Special guests at this year's Gathering include Rev. Dr. David Anderson Hooker, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ who holds multiple degrees in ministry and law and works with the Church Narrative Project; and Rev. Yvonne Teresa Gilmore, our Associate General Minister, who directs the Church Narrative Project.

A clergy retreat will be held the two days before that Pastor Rebecca will be attending.

Guest Preacher

We often have a guest preacher for one of the two Sundays when we celebrate Reconciliation Ministry, our denomination's anti-racism ministry. But this year, due to scheduling complications, we will be welcoming a guest preacher for World Communion Sunday instead, on October 5.

Rev. Jess Kim serves on the staff of Disciples Seminary Foundation. She has been active in many ministries in our Region, including some international trips with young people from around the PSWR. She is also closely involved with NAPAD – North American Pacific Asian Disciples. We hope you will join us next month to welcome Rev. Jess!

Palestine Solidarity

Pastor Rebecca has been working with a number of other Disciples leaders to re-launch the grassroots group formerly known as the Disciples Palestine Israel Network as the Disciples Palestine Solidarity Movement. The official launch date is September 1st!

Most of the activity will be happening on the group's Facebook page, which you are invited to follow. They will be posting weekly prayer videos there. There will also be a Solidarity Circle event held on Zoom on Sunday, September 21 at 2 PM.

Trunk or Treat!

We are excited to have our neighbors over again for our 2025 Trunk-or-Treat event on Saturday, October 25, 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 on 9/28. We hope to have volunteers from MissionGathering as well.

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

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday,
September 17
12 noon at
Anthony's
Hosted by the
Lehtons

Food Drive
Sunday, 9/21

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will gather on Zoom on Sunday, Aug. 31 at 2:30 pm on Zoom to discuss "The Book Club for Troublesome Women" by Marie Bostwick. Anyone is welcome to join this group, as long as you read the book!

Kids Cooking

Chef Claudette is inviting all our kids to join her for "Michaelmas" this month, in honor of the the end of harvest season and start of Autumn. Come to worship and then meet Chef Claudette in Bailey Hall on Sunday, September 28 to make grape cakes and vine & branches art. 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. 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

In Our Prayers...

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

Happy Anniversary!

- Sept. 29 - John & Brandie
Neely

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. Some of our committees have regular meetings, and all of them would welcome your input and involvement.

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 Vicky Wilhite or join us for the meeting on Zoom on 9/23 at 4 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 9/9 at 3:30 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 usually function without regular meetings. The primary responsibility of the Outreach Committee is Welcome Saturday, 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. The Property Committee meets quarterly; the next meeting is November 12 at 9:30 AM.

A New Look, A New Future!

These Before & After pictures may not look like improvement, but they show the first steps toward a lovelier space on the church's lot on the north side of Boulevard Drive. Now that the creek is cleared out completely, we will be better able to keep the trees and undergrowth under control, so that they don't inhibit the water way.

And now that the work has been done, we are looking forward to the Lemon Grove Busy Bees Garden Collective coming in and transforming the space above the creek into a pollinator garden full of native plants! Thanks to everyone who helped out!

Board Reports

The General Board will meet Wednesday, September 17 at 6 PM on Zoom or in the Office. Reports should be sent to Pastor Rebecca by Friday, September 5. The Administrative Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 9 at 6 PM on Zoom and in the Office.



September 2025 Worship Participants

	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28
Worship Leader	Jennefer Lehton	Karen Cliffe	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Steve Bridwell
Lay Reader	Ilene Kiser	Michael Lewis	Mary Jane Fay	Tracy Stockdall
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn	Tesa Hauser	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Jennefer Lehton Michael Lewis	Karen Cliffe Tim Cliffe	Cheryl Davis-Plotts Tesa Hauser	Steve Bridwell Marianna Kirwan
Deacons	Mary Alynn Fallon Ilene Kiser Tracy Stockdall	Daphne Flores John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle	Susan Peterson Michaela Stockdall Claudette Toland	Jenny Angione Vicky Wilhite
Communion Prep	Michaela Stockdall	Susan Peterson	Claudette Toland	Susan Peterson
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Mary Alynn Fallon Vicky Wilhite	Jenny Angione Michaela Stockdall	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe
Greeters	Vicky & Gary Wilhite	Michael Lewis Daphne Flores	Mariana Kirwan John Lehton	Ilene Kiser Michael Lewis
Counters	John Lehton Mary Alynn Fallon	Tracy Stockdall Ilene Kiser	Lyn Van Winkle Andy Cliffe	Ilene Kiser Renee Bridwell

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