

The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NOVEMBER 2025

All Saints Memorial Service

As we do each year, we will be marking All Saints with a Memorial Service on Sunday, November 2. 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.

We have three precious VLMers that we said good-bye to in the past year, plus the countless other loved ones that we hold in our hearts. Please join us for this important service.

FARMERS MARKET

At our Futures Retreat, we decided to try out a new way of connecting with our community – at the La Mesa Farmers Market! [Sign up here](#) to join Pastor Rebecca as we spread gratitude on the two Fridays leading up to Thanksgiving. Plan to wear your VLM shirt or hat if you have one.

We will have stickers that people can write on what they're grateful for with a marker, and invitations to our holiday events for those who are interested. We will be doing this again for Christmas – spreading joy – and before Easter – spreading hope.

Saturday Forum

Join us for our third Saturday Forum on November 1 at 10 AM on Zoom. We will be exploring GA Resolution 2512 – Concerning the Silver Chalice Designation. [Click here](#) to read it.

We are also delighted to welcome Kathryn Engel, Chair of the PSWR Older Adults Ministries Committee. Kathryn will share important information with us about the various grant programs the committee has for older adults within our Region.

Don't miss this last Saturday Forum!

Advent Is Coming!

The First Sunday of Advent falls in November this year, the same weekend of Thanksgiving, so don't let it sneak up on you!

We will begin taking orders for poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones on Nov. 16.

We will be decorating the Sanctuary on Tuesday, Nov. 25 at 4 pm, for the Advent season. You are invited to come lend a hand!

The Christmas Choir Concert will be preceded by a "party food potluck" on Sunday, 12/7 at 5:30 pm.

We will be reviving the Christmas Waffle Bar at Welcome Saturday on 12/13.

The Lunch Bunch Christmas Party will be Wednesday, 12/17 at noon in Bailey Hall. The Caroling Party will be Saturday, 12/20 beginning at 2 pm in the church parking lot.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

We are trying a new thing this month. On two Fridays in November, leading up to Thanksgiving, a couple of us will be on the corner of La Mesa Boulevard and Third Street during the Farmers Market, representing our church. We will have our VLM shirts and stickers – Who doesn't love stickers? The stickers have two big words on them – GRATEFUL FOR – with space underneath for people to write in the rest of the sentence. At the very bottom, in teeny type, it says www.vlmcc.org.

Our goal is a “light-touch” way to introduce people to our congregation. By promoting gratitude – a practice most people appreciate – we hope to connect with people without bumping into the mental blocks many folks have with “church.” We will also have rainbow stickers on our shirts to indicate that our congregation is Open & Affirming. For those who are interested, we will have small paper invitations listing all the events we have coming up for the holidays.

I would love to have you come join me for this new project. The plan is to do it again in December, leading up to Christmas (with Joy), and again in March, leading up to Holy Week and Easter (with Hope). People are looking for connection. They want to be part of something that makes a difference. Many of them just don't know that loving, accepting community like we share at VLM even exists. We have a good thing here – it's time to share it!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

The Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be off Thursday & Friday the week of Thanksgiving.

Disciples Class

Did you know that VLM has a regular Sunday morning Bible study? We do! It's called Disciples Class, and it meets in Bailey Hall every Sunday at 9 AM. You can also join through Zoom, if you prefer.

The class begins with a regular prayer practice, sharing joys & concerns. Right now, they are making their way through the gospel of Matthew, reading each section from various translations, with the aid of different commentaries and study Bibles. We would love to have you join us!

ELDERS MEETING

Sunday, November 9

12:15 pm

In the Library and on Zoom

The Garden Is Coming!

Have you been wondering what is going to happen on the little lot across Boulevard Drive, above the creek? Because exciting plans are being made!

In partnership with Busy Bees Gardening Collective and Wild Ones San Diego, a pollinator garden is being planned. Grants for plants have been acquired, and work should begin in earnest in December. We're hoping it will transform our little corner into an oasis for the whole neighborhood! Watch that space!

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

Do Justice. Love Mercy.

walk Humbly with God.

www.vlmcc.org

The Times, they are a'changing!

Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 1st!

Enjoy your extra hour!

Welcome Saturday Updates

Thank you for your support of this life-giving ministry! We continue to have great volunteers from Helix, MG, and UCC. Right now, we can use warm clothes and gently used shoes.

We will be reviving our Christmas Waffle Bar next month, and we'd like to invite you to contribute toppings! Watch for a sign-up sheet and plan to bring those in the week of 12/7. We may need to borrow a couple waffle irons as well. If you'd like to volunteer that day, be in touch with Pastor Rebecca.

**Cooking with Chef
Claudette
Sunday, 11/23
Cheese Turkeys for
Thanksgiving.**

In Our Prayers...

JOYS & CONCERNS~ Please email Pastor Rebecca for prayers.

Food Drive

Our Food Drive this month may very well be the most important one we've ever held, as the holidays approach and food aid to low-income families may be cut.

Please bring what you can to our Food Drive on November 16, so we can take a full load to the pantry at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church.

Remember that things like spices, oils, and other condiments are helpful, but less common, as are basics like flour and salt.

Thanksgiving Offering

The Thanksgiving Special Offering will be received in worship, 11/16 and 11/23, 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
at Marie Callender's
Wed., 11/19, noon.
Hosted by Mary
Alynn Fallon**

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will meet on Zoom, on Sunday, November 16 at 2:30 pm to discuss "Deacon King Kong" by James McBride.

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

PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Property Committee will meet on Wednesday, November 12 at 9:30 in the Library. This is our quarterly meeting to check on our ongoing projects and field volunteers for new jobs. We hope that some folks will be able to stay afterwards for our first quarterly assessment and upkeep of the creek, since the clean-out in August.

We have various other projects that have stalled, which we hope to get back on track. We need volunteers to do the follow-up work needed to resolve our recent pest problem. We will also be discussing the proposed bathroom renovations, so that we can collect more information in order to seek out accurate bids.

NEW TENANT

We will have a new tenant beginning this month. Another AA group will be using Bailey Hall. They will be meeting on Tuesday mornings, from 7-8 (so in the space around 6:30 till 8:30). This will be our ninth 12-step group hosted in our facility, which is part of our ministry and helps us stay financially stable.

News from the Board

The Board will meet on Wednesday, November 19 at 6 PM on Zoom and in the Office. Board reports are due to Pastor Rebecca on Friday, November 7, unless you make other arrangements. The Administrative Committee will meet on Tuesday, November 11, at 6 PM on Zoom and in the Office.

We hope to have reports from all our committees at this meeting. We will also review financial reports for the first 4 months of this fiscal year and assess our current financial position, especially with regard to possible withdrawals from the MEF and potential market fluctuations in the coming months.

The primary focus of this meeting will be discussing a proposal from the Pastoral Relations Committee for Pastor Rebecca to take the second 7 weeks of the sabbatical she began in 2024, over the first part of 2026. Renee Bridwell, PRC Chair, will be coordinating most of the pastoral coverage, in collaboration with the Elders and the Administrative Committee.

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!

Saturday Forum – Saturday, Nov. 1, 10 AM

All Saints Memorial Service – Sunday, Nov. 2

Welcome Saturday – Saturday, Nov. 8

Elders Meeting – Sunday, Nov. 9, 12:15 PM

Poinsettia Orders Open – Nov. 16 (thru 12/7)

Lunch Bunch – Wednesday, Nov. 19, 12 PM

Board Meeting – Wednesday, Nov. 19, 6 PM

Sanctuary Decorating – Tuesday, Nov. 25, 4 PM

Christmas Concert & Party – Sun., Dec. 7, 5:30 PM

Welcome Saturday (Waffles!) – Saturday, Dec. 13

Lunch Bunch Christmas Party – Wed., Dec. 17

Caroling Party – Saturday, Dec. 20, 2 PM

Christmas Eve Service – Wednesday, Dec. 24, 6 PM

November 2025 Worship Participants

	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30
Worship Leader	Tesa Hauser	Marianna Kirwan	Gary Wilhite	Steve Bridwell	Jennefer Lehton
Lay Reader	Ilene Kiser	Michael Lewis	Mary Jane Fay	Tracy Stockdall	Cheryl Davis-Plotts
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn	Renee Bridwell	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Tesa Hauser Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Marianna Kirwan Renee Bridwell	Gary Wilhite Tim Cliffe	Steve Bridwell Mary Jane Fay	Jennefer Lehton Michael Lewis
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	John Lehton Vicky Wilhite Susan Peterson Claudette Toland
Comm Prep & Clean up	Tracy Stockdall	Mary Alynn Fallon	Ilene Kiser	Tracy Stockdall	Ilene Kiser
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Jenny Angione Michaela Stockdall	Mary Alynn Fallon Karen Cliffe	Mary Alynn Fallon Vicky Wilhite	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe	Tracy Stockdall Michaela Stockdall
Greeters	John Lehton Daphne Flores	Vicky and Gary Wilhite	Marianna Kirwan Michael Lewis	Ilene Kiser Michael Lewis	John Lehton Mary Jane Fay
Counters	John Lehton Ilene Kiser	Tracy Stockdall Steve Bridwell	John Lehton Mary Alynn Fallon	Lyn Van Winkle Renee Bridwell	Ilene Kiser Andy Cliffe

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