

The Christian Visitor

DECEMBER 2025 ~ VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Come Spread Joy!

In November, we began our Farmers Market outreach project, offering passers-by stickers to fill out and wear, saying what they are grateful for. It was so well received, we had to order more stickers for the second week! The stickers have our website listed in fine print at the bottom, in hopes some of those folks will look us up when they get home and take the sticker off.

In December, we'll be spreading JOY instead of gratitude. (It's a fuzzy line, right?) We would love to have your help! [Click here](#) to sign up for a shift on December 5, 12, or 19. Each day is split into shifts, 3-4:30 and 4:30-6 (if the stickers last).

It's okay if you're shy about talking to strangers; we work as a team! The people who stop to get a sticker are wonderfully friendly and glad to be part of something positive.

Caroling Party

We would love to have you come caroling with us on Saturday, December 20, as we bring Christmas cheer to some of our church friends! We will meet in the parking lot at 2 PM to divide into as few cars as possible and then set out. When we're done, everyone is invited to Karen & Tim Cliffe's house for pizza and goodies! Feel free to bring a dish to share if you can.

Christmas Party & Concert

The party of the season will be happening on Sunday, December 7, starting at 5:30. We will begin in Bailey Hall, with a festive "party food" potluck.

Around 6:30, we will move into the Sanctuary for our Christmas Concert, featuring some solos, ensemble pieces, and selections by the VLM Choir, directed by Deborah Wilson. They will include a wide variety of Christmas songs, sacred and secular.

This is a great opportunity to bring a friend to get to know the VLM community a little better.

There is a sign-up sheet out now so you can let us know what dishes you're planning to bring (and check what others are bringing to avoid duplications). If you would like to help set-up, join us on Saturday, December 6 at 10:30 AM in Bailey Hall.

Christmas Eve Service

We hope you will join us for one of the holiest nights of the year, as we celebrate Christmas Eve with our Candlelight Communion Service. We will gather in the Sanctuary at 6:00 PM, to sing carols and hear the Christmas story.

This is a wonderful chance to bring family & friends to experience the wonder of the Incarnation in community. All are welcome to join us!

A (non-passed) offering will be received for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which is used to assist members and neighbors with emergency needs.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

In case you couldn't tell, I had a really good time passing out "GRATEFUL FOR..." stickers at the Farmers Market in the run up to Thanksgiving. It turns out gratitude is a pretty easy sell. Of course there were plenty of people who didn't want to stop walking, though almost all of them were polite about it. But some of the folks who stopped to fill out and then wear a sticker shared really profound thoughts.

But I think one of the most important things that was happening while we were there didn't even involve words. As you know, we wore our 75th anniversary shirts, the ones that say "Vista La Mesa Christian Church – Sharing Christ's Welcome" on the front where people could see it. So if they were paying attention, they knew we were from a church. But what they also may have noticed was the little heart-shaped pride flag sticker right underneath the logo on our shirts.

The first week we were out there, one of the first people who took a sticker wrote on it that she was grateful for "equal marriage rights" (which had just been protected again that week by the Supreme Court). We enthusiastically agreed!

One of the young boys who got a sticker said, "I like your pride flag." I thanked him and mentioned that we know it's important to be clear about that, as a church, because so many churches don't offer that welcome. Our decision to become Open & Affirming is bearing good fruit. Let's keep sharing Christ's welcome with EVERYONE!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be on vacation visiting her family in IL & MI, Dec. 25 thru Jan. 4. She will have oral surgery on Jan. 6, so will be working a light load and/or from home that week.

Carol Sing

On Sunday, December 28, we will have a special Carol Sing in worship, when we'll hear the stories behind a few of our favorite Christmas songs. You are invited to wear your "comfy, cozy" clothes that day.

Christmas Offering

Our Christmas Special Offering goes to support the ministries of the Pacific Southwest Region, including camps, Regional staff supporting our congregations and so much more! We will receive this over-and-above offering on December 14 & 21 in worship, and you can also give online at www.vlmcc.org. Any donations given in the Santa box at the Card Tree will also be part of this special offering.

Pocket Park, coming soon!

Our corner lot on the north side of Boulevard Drive is going to be transformed into a pollinator garden/pocket park in the new year, thanks to two local non-profits, Busy Bees Garden Coop and Wild Ones San Diego. They have won a couple of grants to cover the cost of plants and other upgrades.

We will need to think of a name for this newly refreshed spot! A ribbon-cutting party is being planned for April.

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

*Celebrating the Joy of
Sharing Christ's Welcome!*

www.vlmcc.org

Thanks for your gifts to the Thanksgiving Special Offering! We collected \$570 for Disciples higher education.

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will meet at 3 on Sunday, January 18th on Zoom to discuss "The Ogress and the Orphans" by Kelly Barnhill. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to join the conversation.

Poinsettias!

We will be taking orders for poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary through Sunday, 12/7. They will arrive for worship on Sunday, December 14th

The plants are \$10 each and can be dedicated to anyone or anything you like. You may take your flowers home with you after the Christmas Eve service or leave it for the next couple Sundays.

Christmas Card Tree

You are invited to bring in a Christmas card to greet your whole church family at once. If you'd like to donate the money saved on postage, you may put a donation in the Santa box under the tree. All those gifts will go to the Christmas Special Offering. Happy Holidays!

IN OUR PRAYERS...

JOYS & CONCERNS~ Please contact Pastor Rebecca for prayers.

Food Drive – 12/14

We are moving our monthly Food Drive up one week this month, so that we can deliver your contributions to the food pantry at St. Martin's before Christmas week.

Please bring your donations on Sunday, December 14. This is an important time to help feed our neighbors!

Staff Christmas Gift

Every year at Christmas, we like to show our appreciation to our dedicated staff with a special Christmas bonus.

Karen Cliffe & the Elders will be coordinating this, so watch for announcements. Some Elders will be receiving contributions in person, but you can also give online at www.vlmcc.org. Look for the Elders Fund/Staff Gift line in the drop down designation menu. Thank you for your contribution!

Christmas Lunch Bunch

December's Lunch Bunch (12/17 at noon) will be a Christmas party in Bailey Hall! It's "brown bag", so please bring your own lunch. If you can bring a dessert to share, please do, but we will have plenty so don't worry about it, if that is a challenge.

We're also going to have an ornament exchange, so bring an ornament, new or pre-loved, to give away.

Happy Birthday!

Dec. 20 - Stephanie Cadiero

Dec. 22- Ginny Hanna

Dec. 24- Christine Lind

Dec. 29 - Ryan Hanna

Dec. 29 - Wavalea McKee

Dec. 30 - Lois Lyford
Abe Sisneros

Dec. 31 - Laura McCreanor

Happy Anniversary!

DEC. 28

Skip & Susan Peterson

Share the Joy Fund

As you have probably heard, we have launched a new designated fund called the Share The Joy Fund. One of the most important things a church can do is help other people find their way into our community of faith. The Share The Joy Fund is intended to help us do that.

This fund will cover expenses like printing the gratitude and joy stickers we are passing out at the Farmers Market this season. It can help cover the costs of supplies for Trunk-or-Treat.

Have you noticed the beautiful invitation poster on the bulletin board in Bailey Hall? Over 250 people come through Bailey Hall in a given week; it's about time we started making sure they understand they're welcome here on Sunday morning too! Seasonal posters like the one that's up there now can be printed with support from this new fund.

There are lots of things to donate to in this holiday season, but we hope that you might consider a contribution to the Share The Joy Fund as well, so that we can keep the momentum going as we share the joy we have here at VLM!

Sabbatical Plans in 2026

At their November meeting, VLM's General Board approved a seven-week sabbatical for Pastor Rebecca Littlejohn, representing the second half of the sabbatical she began in early 2024. Thanks to the Pastoral Relations Committee, the Elders, and the Administrative Committee for working out the details for this extended leave.

Pastor Rebecca will be on her sabbatical leave from January 21 through March 10. Thanks to all the people who will keep things going while she is gone!

Renee Bridwell will be coordinating coverage for worship, including scheduling preachers. Karen Cliffe will be covering many of the communication responsibilities. VLM volunteers and friends from Missiongathering will be making sure Welcome Saturday runs smoothly. And a number of others will be taking care of the many other little tasks needed.

We have scheduled a rotation of Elders to cover pastoral care and emergency needs throughout these weeks. Karen Cliffe will be primary contact, however, as she will be the "keeper" of the prayer list and then the dispatcher for the various Elders, as personal assistance is needed.

Is It I, Lord?

The new year is a great time to try something new! Let Pastor Rebecca know if you're interested in serving in any of the following roles:

Worship Greeter – hands out bulletins & welcome packets 10-10:30 on Sunday mornings, usually serves one 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; once or twice a month.

Offering Counter – with a partner, count and log the offering; currently once or twice a month.



December 2025 Worship Participants

	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 28
Worship Leader	Karen Cliffe	Renee Bridwell	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Tim Cliffe
Lay Reader	Tracy Stockdall	Michelle Tolvo-Chan	Ilene Kiser	Michael Lewis
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn	Renee Bridwell
Elders	Karen Cliffe Tesa Hasuer	Renee Bridwell Gary Wilhite	Cheryl Davis-Plotts Michael Lewis	Tim Cliffe Steve Bridwell
Deacons	Mary Alynn Fallon Ilene Kiser Vicky Wilhite	Daphne Flores Jenny Angione	Susan Peterson Michaela Stockdall Claudette Toland	John Lehton Tracy Stockdall
Comm Prep & Clean up	Susan Peterson	Ilene Kiser	Ilene Kiser	Daphne Flores
Greeters	John Lehton Ilene Kiser	Vicky & Gary Wilhite	John Lehton Michael Lewis	Daphne Flores Michael Lewis
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Mary Alynn Fallon Michaela Stockdall	Jenny Angione Vicky Wilhite	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe	Tracy Stockdall Michaela Stockdall
Counters	John Lehton Ilene Kiser	Tracy Stockdall Renee Bridwell	John Lehton Mary Alynn Fallon	Andy Cliffe Steve Bridwell

Vista La Mesa Christian Church is an Open & Affirming Congregation.

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