

# The Christian Visitor

FEBRUARY 2026 ~ VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## LENT IS COMING

As Disciples, our relationship to the traditional liturgical calendar is a loose one, but we do find some spiritual value in marking the seasons. The season of Lent is a 40 day (minus Sundays) period leading to Easter, a time to prepare ourselves to welcome the Risen Christ into our hearts and lives again.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which is February 18 this year. Our worship service on the Sundays after that will be slightly adjusted to reflect the season. We will gather for a Holy Week service on Thursday, April 2 to remember the events that led to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

## Week of Compassion

We will be celebrating and supporting Week of Compassion – our denominational relief, refugee and development mission fund – on February 15 & 22, with a special worship emphasis and a special offering.

The Week of Compassion theme this year is “A New Way,” from Mark 2:1-5, the story of the paralyzed man whose friends lowered him down to Jesus through a hole in the roof. Sometimes in order to truly love our friends and neighbors, we need to find new ways to provide the help they need.

Our goal is to raise at least \$500 for this special fund. You can give in worship or online at [www.vlmcc.org](http://www.vlmcc.org).

You can learn more about the ministry of Week of Compassion at [www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org) or by following them on social media.

## Introducing: The Vista La Mesa Pollinator Garden!

Work has officially begun on the Vista La Mesa Pollinator Garden! The path has been cut, mulch has been delivered, weeds are being pulled. Watch for new signage, hopefully arriving in the coming weeks as well.

We are so grateful to Wild Ones San Diego and the Lemon Grove Busy Bees Gardening Collective for bringing this project into being! We also give thanks for the grants they received from the Xerces Society and the American Society of Landscape Architects San Diego Chapter.

You can get involved in the process of bringing this neighborhood pocket park to life! Volunteers will be working every Saturday morning for the

coming weeks, pulling weeds at first, and eventually planting plants and working on other preparation.

On January 30, the garden planners are bringing in a group of Helix students to learn about native plants and various other aspects of landscaping and horticulture. Feel free to stop by and check it out if you're interested! (Just don't disrupt the lessons!)

We are planning an official ribbon-cutting ceremony, complete with food and music, on Saturday, April 18. Mark your calendar now, so you won't miss it! We want this garden to be an asset for the whole Vista La Mesa neighborhood, so we will keep thinking of ways to involve other groups and individuals.

## Share the Joy!

We are working at getting better at spreading the word about God's love the way we experience it here at Vista La Mesa. One of the ways you can help with that (without even having to accost a stranger!) is to donate to our Share The Joy Fund. We use this fund to cover costs like printing stickers and posters and other expenses like food for events that are open to the public. We don't need large amounts, but if a few people could make regular \$10 donations, we could keep it in the black! Thanks!

Watch for info about a fun Fellowship Event on Saturday, February 28!

## Property Updates

If you would like to help keep our facility in good shape, we invite you to attend the Property Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 18 at 9:30 AM in the Library. We have a running list of jobs, large and small, that we're trying to whittle down as effectively as we can. It takes a lot of different skills to keep this property functional, so consider how you might be able to help.

## PREACHER & ELDER SCHEDULE

While Pastor Rebecca is on her sabbatical leave, various folks will be holding things together. We have an Elder "on call" each week to attend to pastoral/emergency needs. (See schedule on page 3.) But your first call can also be to our Dispatcher Elder Karen Cliffe, who will then make sure you're taken care of.

This month, our preachers will be Rev. Marianna Kirwan on 2/1, Gary Wilhite on 2/8, Rev. Tesa Hauser on 2/15, and Rev. Renee Bridwell on 2/22. Week of Compassion begins 2/15, and 2/22 is the first Sunday of Lent, so there will be lots to engage our spirits in worship!

## Lunch Bunch Wednesday, 2/18

12 pm  
hosted by  
Mary Alynn Fallon

## Novels Tea

Novels Tea will meet on Sunday, March 15, at 2:30 pm, on Zoom to discuss "The Prophets" by Robert Jones, Jr.

## IN OUR PRAYERS...

### JOYS & CONCERNS ~

Please reach out to our interim Pastor Karen Cliffe for prayers!

### *Happy Birthday!*

Feb. 9 ~ Jason Sisneros, Sr.

Feb. 11 ~ Scott Tiemann

Feb. 13 ~ Sandy Hanna

Feb. 14 ~ RJ Lucchesi

Feb. 21 ~ Amy Cliffe

Feb. 22 ~ Jayden Tacon  
(Sisneros)

Feb. 23 ~ Tim Cliffe

Feb. 25 ~ Beckie Neely

# February 2026 Worship Participants

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Renee Bridwell	Marianna Kirwan	Gary Wilhite	Jennefer Lehton
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Gary Wilhite	Michael Lewis	Michaela Stockdall	Cheryl Davis-Plotts
<b>Offering Invitation</b>	Steve Bridwell	Renee Bridwell	Tesa Hauser	Steve Bridwell
<b>Elders</b>	Renee Bridwell Tim Cliffe	Marianna Kirwan Mary Jane Fay	Gary Wilhite Michael Lewis	Jennefer Lehton Steve Bridwell
<b>Deacons</b>	Mary Alynn Fallon Tracy Stockdall	Daphne Flores John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle	Susan Peterson Michaela Stockdall Claudette Toland	Jenny Angione Vicky Wilhite
<b>Comm Prep &amp; Clean up</b>	Mary Alynn Fallon	Susan Peterson	Michaela Stockdall	Susan Peterson
<b>Greeters</b>	John Lehton Mary Jane Fay	Vicky & Gary Wilhite	John Lehton Marianna Kirwan	Daphne Flores Michael Lewis
<b>AV Tech Zoom Tech</b>	Mary Alynn Fallon Vicky Wilhite	Jenny Angione Karen Cliffe	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe	Jenny Angione Vicky Wilhite
<b>Counters</b>	John Lehton Jenny Angione	Tracy Stockdall Renee Bridwell	John Lehton Mary Alynn Fallon	Andy Cliffe Steve Bridwell
<b>Elder on Call for the week</b>	Tim Cliffe	Gary Wilhite	Mary Jane Fay	Michael Lewis Marianna Kirwan

## 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 am

## CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: **The Members of VLMCC**  
 Senior 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](mailto:admin@vlmcc.org)  
 Pastor's E-mail: [pastor@vlmcc.org](mailto:pastor@vlmcc.org)  
 Church website: [www.vlmcc.org](http://www.vlmcc.org)

# FEBRUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Disciples Class 9 am	2	3	4	5	6	7
GA 2 pm	GA 6 & 7 pm, SDFC	AA 7 AM, 7:30 pm	AA 7:15 pm	AA 6 & 7:30 pm <b>NO Choir</b>	TM 7 am, AA 6:30 pm	
8 Disciples Class 9 am	9	10	11	12	13	14
GA 2 pm	GA 6 & 7 pm	AA 7 AM, 7:30 pm	AA 7:15 pm	AA 6 & 7:30 pm <b>NO Choir</b>	TM 7 am, AA 6:30 pm <b>WS Prep 4-7 pm</b>	TM 7 am, AA 6:30 pm <b>Welcome Saturday 7:30-12:30 pm</b>
15 WOC Special Offering Disciples Class 9 am Food Drive	16	17	18	19	20	21
GA 2 pm	GA 6 & 7 pm, SDFC	AA 7 AM, 7:30 pm	AA 7:15 pm <b>Property Meeting 9:30 am Lunch Bunch 12 pm</b>	AA 6 & 7:30 pm <b>NO Choir</b>	TM 7 am, AA 6:30 pm <b>Winter Camp at Loch Leven..... TM 7 am, AA 6:30 pm</b>	TM 7 am, AA 6:30 pm
22 WOC Special Offering Disciples Class 9 am	23	24	25	26	27	28
GA 2 pm	GA 6 & 7 pm, SDFC	AA 7 AM, 7:30 pm	AA 7:15 pm	AA 6 & 7:30 pm <b>NO Choir</b>	TM 7 am, AA 6:30 pm	TM 7 am, AA 6:30 pm <b>Fellowship Event (tent.)</b>

GA, AA, TM, & SDFC are non-congregational activities