

# The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH ~ APRIL 2026  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

## Easter Sunday is April 5

Come and bring a friend as we celebrate the Resurrection on Sunday, April 5! When we gather to sing our Alleluias together, a joyful noise will rise!

After worship, we will move into Bailey Hall for a Celebration Potluck. We would love to have you come and bring a dish or two to share.

Easter Sunday is the most important holiday in the Christian calendar and an important time for our church family to gather together. We hope you'll be part of it!

But remember, Easter is not just one day; it's a season! The joy and power of Christ arising is something that is continually changing and renewing us. Let us all join together to practice resurrection in our individual lives and together as a church!

## Holy Week Service

We hope you will join us for our Holy Week Service on Thursday, April 2 at 6 PM. This is an important time to journey through the story of the crucifixion together so we can more fully appreciate the blessings of Easter. We have invited our friends from MissionGathering for this service. [Click here](#) to RSVP.

The service will be held at tables in the Sanctuary and will begin with a simple meal which will include communion. We will then read through the rest of the passion story, as we extinguish candles. Please join us!

## Ribbon-Cutting Celebration!

You are invited! Please join us on Saturday, April 18, 3-6 PM for the Ribbon-Cutting Celebration for the new Vista La Mesa Pollinator Garden! The official ribbon-cutting will happen at 4 PM. Nature talks will be held in the Sanctuary at 3:15, 4:15, & 5:15. Bailey Hall will be filled with conservation-focused exhibitors. Roy Jenkins' band will be playing from the Prayer Garden. There will be food and fancy lemonade for purchase in the parking lot.

We can use your help! We hope to have an ice cream sundae station going from the kitchen window, to help raise funds for the final touch – a plant identification sign for the garden. We will also need some help with set-up & clean-up and general logistics (water, trash, etc) as the event is going on. Watch for a sign-up!

## Growing God's Garden

Our 2026-2027 Stewardship Campaign, "How Does God's Garden Grow," will kick off on Sunday, April 19. The campaign this year is a reflection and celebration of what's been happening in that weird little lot across the street, and how it's been transformed into a blessing for the entire community! So many different contributions went into making that happen, which is a great metaphor for how church works!

Please be present with us on April 19, and then again for Consecration Sunday on April 26, when we will bless our Intentions Offerings!

## From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

As we move toward our congregational meeting in June and the start of a new ministry year in July, we enter into a season of cultivation. The Nominating Committee begins its work, discerning together whom God may be calling into leadership for our congregation, asking those folks to pray about that call, and eventually building up a slate of nominees for the congregation to affirm. As our stewardship campaign kicks off, we are all asked to prayerfully consider how we will be able to support our church in the coming year, both financially and through our time, talents, and presence. All of this is the work of cultivating a healthy, sustainable ministry.

As 2026 unfolded, we have begun to see that we have been given a tremendous gift, in the pollinator garden that is emerging on our little corner. So many people have put in work to make this happen. From preparing the ground, to laying the irrigation lines to planting the plants, many folks have helped create this beautiful space. People who may have never set foot on our property before painted and weeded and built things to make this garden a wonderful space for our community. Soon, the primary responsibility for maintaining this garden will be ours.

The garden is a beautiful symbol of the many amazing gifts God has given us. As church together, we are called to share our capacity to continue cultivating what God has planted. Some of us will continue the work of weeding and watering. Others will be focused on hospitality, welcoming in the people God sends to find solace in our midst. Gratitude for what has been given is a fruitful posture from which to contemplate how we can contribute to continued flourishing.

grace & peace,

*Pastor Rebecca*

**Vista La Mesa Christian Church**

*A Movement for Wholeness*

*in a Fragmented World*

[www.vlmcc.org](http://www.vlmcc.org)

## Good Friday @ MG

Last year, we invited our new friends from MissionGathering to join us for our Holy Week Service on Thursday evening, and a good number of them were able to join us. We have invited them again this year (though all planning is a bit behind schedule because of Rebecca's leave), and we hope to have a few of them with us!

MissionGathering has also invited us to join them for their Good Friday Service, which will be held in their Sanctuary at 7 PM, Friday, April 3.

It will be led by Pastor Kindra Green Carson and Jeff Thomas, a licensed counselor passionate about contemplative practices who leads retreats, groups and individuals through the sacred work of being present to Jesus and our bodies.

If you would like to carpool with Pastor Rebecca, let her know, and we can meet at VLM and drive over together to save parking!

## Pray for Peace

You are invited to join us as we resume our weekly service to pray for peace on April 7. This service first began last June, and the need is certainly still urgent.

We are moving the day from Thursdays to Tuesdays. The service begins at 12:15 and ends at 12:45, but you are welcome to come for whatever portion of the time you can. (The music usually gets started by noon.) The service itself begins and ends with a simple song, with a scripture reading in the middle. The rest of the time has quiet music playing to invite individual prayer. The prayer table has candles to light, as well as a salt & water station to assist your contemplations. Please come and invite your friends!

**Palm Sunday, 3/29, is the LAST DAY to order Easter Lilies (\$10 per plant) and to share what you're bring to our Easter Potluck!**

### Special Meetings

**NOMINATING  
Tuesday, 4/7, 4:30**

**ELDERS  
Wednesday, 4/8, 6  
Both on Zoom**

**Lunch Bunch  
Wednesday,  
4/15, 12 pm  
Patty's in La Mesa  
Marianna & Mike  
hosting**

### *Disciples Class*

Our Sunday morning Bible study is called Disciples Class, because it's one of the ways we learn how to be better disciples of Jesus!

The group shares in prayer each week and then works slowly through scripture, consulting various translations and commentaries. They are currently working their way through the gospel of Matthew. You can join them in Bailey Hall or on Zoom, on Sunday mornings at 9 AM.

### **Easter Special Offering**

We will be receiving the Easter Special Offering on Palm Sunday, March 29 and Easter Sunday, April 5. All funds from this over-and-above offering will go to support the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US & Canada, including Global Ministries, Home Missions, and much more! We hope to collect at least \$500 this year! You can give in church or online. Thank you!

### *Novels Tea*

Novels Tea will meet on Zoom at 2:30 pm on Sunday, May 3, to discuss "Once Upon a River" by Diane Setterfield. Chat with Pastor Rebecca if you are interested.

### *Happy Birthday!*

- Apr. 2 – Jessica Fallon,
- Apr. 4 – Michaela Stockdall
- Apr. 5 – Grace Van Winkle
- Apr. 12 – Skip Peterson
- Apr. 15 – Tennyson McCreanor
- Apr. 16 – John Neely
- Apr. 21 – Elysia Hauser,  
Jennings McCreanor
- Apr. 22 – Embrilly Lopez, Sam  
Rorie
- Apr. 27 – Larry Knight,  
Bill Kwon,  
Todd Lesh

### *Happy Anniversary!*

- Apr. 26 – Renee & Steve  
Bridwell

## **IN OUR PRAYERS...**

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

## **Church Camp 2026 at Loch Leven**

June 21-24 – Wee Camp (Ages 3-Kinder)

June 21-24 – Mini Camp (Grades 1-3)

June 21-26 – Junior Camp (Grades 4-5)

June 28 - July 3 – Chi Rho Camp  
(Grades 6-8)

July 5-10 – 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!

## **News from the Board**

At their meeting in March, the General Board appointed a Nominating Committee for 2026, consisting of Jenny Angione, Mary Alynn Fallon, Mary Jane Fay, and Michael Lewis. They also received a report from Pastor Rebecca sharing some of the details of her time away and her gratitude for being able to do that.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee reported that we ended February with a year-to-date surplus over \$25K. It is hoped that this surplus and continued giving can keep us in the black through the end of the fiscal year on June 30. So far this year, we have pulled \$9,250 of the total \$22,500 authorized for the 2025-2026 year. We are so grateful for all our faithful and generous donors!

We are also happy to report (from our 2025 Yearbook report) that our per capita giving (for all funds) was around \$2,700, and our per capita outreach expenditures were \$225 (basically 10% of the other). Well done, faithful servants of Jesus!

**Decorating for Easter!  
Saturday, April 4  
9:00 AM in Bailey Hall**

## **General Assembly, Version 2.0 – Virtual Edition!**

At the General Assembly in Memphis last summer, Disciples agreed upon a new approach to our regular gatherings. Rather than meeting in person every two years, we have decided to meet in person every three years and to meet virtually in the two years in between. That means our first virtual (if you don't count 2021 during the lock-down) will be held this summer, and you can easily attend!

The 2026 virtual Assembly will be held July 10-11. The theme is "Beyond: Love Surpassing," building on the theme of last summer's Assembly inspired by Ephesians 3:14-21. Registration is now open. You can learn more [by clicking here](#).

Conversations have begun among District 8 churches to see if we can all gather in one place to participate in the Assembly events. But you could also participate from your own home. In the new structure, each congregation is allotted three voting delegates, who remain our delegates for three years, thus participating in two virtual Assemblies and one in-person Assembly. If you might be interested in being a delegate, please contact Pastor Rebecca. (All clergy with standing are already granted voting privileges, so we need 3 lay people to represent us!) We may eventually elect delegates on staggered terms, so each one can learn from others who've participated before. The in-person location for 2028 has not been announced yet, but hopefully will be this summer.

If you have never been able to attend a General Assembly before, this is a great way to get a little taste of what it's like. There will be times for learning, for worship, and even a virtual "exhibit hall" with special times to interact with representatives of various ministries from across the church.

# April 2026 Worship Participants

	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
<b>Worship Leader</b>	Michael Lewis	Renee Bridwell	Tesa Hauser	Marianna Kirwan
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Michaela Stockdall	Mary Jane Fay	Daphne Flores
<b>Offering Invitation</b>	Rebecca Littlejohn	Marianna Kirwan	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn
<b>Elders</b>	Michael Lewis Karen Cliffe	Renee Bridwell Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Tesa Hauser Tim Cliffe	Marianna Kirwan Steve Bridwell
<b>Deacons</b>	Mary Alynn Fallon Tracy Stockdall	John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle	Susan Peterson Michaela Stockdall Claudette Toland	Jenny Angione Daphne Flores Vicky Wilhite
<b>Comm Set-up</b>	Susan Peterson/ Jenny Angione	Mary Alynn Fallon/ Tracy Stockdall	Susan Peterson	Daphne Flores
<b>AV Tech Zoom Tech</b>	Jenny Angione Michaela Stockdall	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe	Jenny Angione Michaela Stockdall	Mary Alynn Fallon Vicky Wilhite
<b>Greeters</b>	John Lehton Mary Jane Fay	Vicky & Gary Wilhite	John Lehton Marianna Kirwan	Michael Lewis Daphne Flores
<b>Counters</b>	John Lehton Tracy Stockdall	Jenny Angione Renee Bridwell	John Lehton Andy Cliffe	Steve Bridwell Mary Alynn Fallon

## 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, 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

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: **Rev. Rebecca Littlejohn**  
Secretary: **Krista Trimlett**  
Music Director: **Deborah Wilson**  
Nursery: **Stephanie Cadiero**  
Custodian: **Scott Tiemann**

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