

The Christian Visitor

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

EASTER SERMON SERIES

The season of Eastertide continues, up through Ascension Sunday on May 17! Pastor Rebecca's sermon series, "What Easter Makes Clear" will resume for the first three Sundays in May. This series aims to explore how the way Holy Week and Easter unfolded shaped the fundamentals of our faith.

On May 3, we will look at how Easter teaches us not to be afraid and not to turn to violence to protect ourselves. On May 10, we will look at how Easter is open to everyone and therefore our faith must be as well. And on May 17, we will look at how Easter pushes us toward unity, not for its own sake, but for the sake of the world. Be sure to join us in worship, to engage with these important topics!

Pentecost is May 24!

Do you have a favorite red shirt or dress? Or maybe a yellow or orange one? Pentecost is coming, and we want to do it up! Why red, yellow, and orange? Because one of the primary symbols of Pentecost is fire, because of the flames of the Spirit that appeared above the apostles' heads.

One of the things that this fire symbolism teaches us is that our faith is not something that is easily contained. The Spirit is a force for good, but not one that we can manipulate for our own purposes. We must approach working with the Spirit with care and intention. We will be starting a Pentecost sermon series about spiritual maturity that will go through June.

SATURDAY FORUM

Saturday Forums are back! We invite you to join us on Saturday, May 30, at 10 AM, as we welcome Rev. Scott Hardin-Nieri, Co-Minister of Green Chalice, the Disciples' environmental and creation care ministry. A graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary, Scott now lives in Western North Carolina.

This session on Zoom will give us a chance to hear from Scott about how Disciples are engaging in creation care and then ask questions. We will be inviting our friends from MissionGathering and the rest of the Region to join us for this conversation.

How Does God's Garden Grow?

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2026-2027 stewardship campaign, "How Does God's Garden Grow"! Sharing your Intentions Offering helps our budget committee make informed projections for our finances in the coming ministry year.

If you haven't turned in an Intentions Offering yet, with your 2026-2027 estimate of giving, it's not too late! You can share that information with Pastor Rebecca or Financial Secretary Cathy Mullican. All details are kept confidential.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

We have just wrapped up our annual stewardship campaign, in which we're all asked to consider our capacity to support our congregation in the coming ministry year and share those estimates, so our budget planning committee can work with numbers that are relatively accurate. My deep thanks to everyone who participated by sharing an Intentions Offering!

But as we prepare the new ministry year to begin, another process has been going on, a little more behind the scenes: the Nominating Committee has been doing its work. Each year, we have certain leadership positions that open up, and it is the job of the Nominating Committee to discern who might have the skills and talents to fill those roles. We are grateful for the folks on the Committee and all those who were able to say Yes when they were called. The slate of nominees will be presented to the Board on May 20, and then voted on by the congregation at our annual meeting on June 14.

But the roles included in the nomination process are only about half the story. There are so many different little tasks that hold this congregation together. I wonder if you've ever thought about what your contributions mean to others? When you serve as a greeter for worship, or the Zoom tech, or helping out with coffee hour by cutting the donuts or taking out the trash, you are helping others become part of our community more easily. The access and welcome provided by Zoom and the friendly faces at the door make a difference. The Lay Readers show newcomers that many different people have a voice in leading our service, making clear what kind of church this is. All the ways each of you contribute are important and appreciated parts of the Body of Christ. Thank you!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

General Assembly!

July 12-15

Online

Learn more at

ga.disciples.org!

Thank you for your contributions to our Easter Special Offering!

We collected \$568, exceeding our goal, to support Disciples General Ministries!

Pentecost Special Offering

The Pentecost Special Offering is a nod to the idea of Pentecost being the "birthday" of the church. That is why it goes to support Disciples' efforts at planting new congregations.

We will receive this offering on Sundays, May 17 & 24. You can also give online [through our website](#). Our goal is to collect \$500.

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

*Feeding Your Soul Without
Disconnecting Your Mind*

www.vlmcc.org

Save the Date!
**Pacific Southwest
Regional Assembly
October 16-17
in Fullerton**

Christian Zionism Webinar

You are invited to join Disciples Palestine Solidarity Movement for a webinar about Christian Zionism & Disciples. Scholars Marci Mazza-Fredley and Teri Nilson Baird will share some opening commentary on the issues, and then there will be small group discussion. The event is free, but registration is required. [Click here](#) to register.

Pastor Rebecca is part of the DPSM Organizing Team. See her for more info.

*You are invited to join
Pastor Rebecca
at the La Mesa
Police Department on
Thursday, May 7, 4 pm,
for a ceremony to honor
their fallen officers,
Lauren Craven.*

**Lunch Bunch
Wednesday,
May 20, 12 pm
at Anthony's
Hosted by
the Wilhites**

WELCOME SATURDAY

Did you know that Welcome Saturday has become “our thing”? Our community knows that we’re doing this good work, and they appreciate that they are invited to take part. We have regulars, who drop off clothes, grocery bags, socks, sleeping bags, and more, because they want to help out. Helix high schools students tell each other about coming to Welcome Saturday as a fun way to fulfill their community service hours requirement. Our friends at MissionGathering are holding a Sock Drive right now, because we discovered we were low on good socks last month. How wonderful to have launched a ministry that has so blessedly expanded into something the whole community feels connected to. We continue to be so grateful for the core of support – your time and your funds – that keep Welcome Saturday going. And we will keep looking for ways to involve more and more people!

Novels Tea

will be discussing
“Once Upon a River”
by Diane Setterfield
on Sunday, May 3rd
at 2:30 pm on Zoom.

In Our Prayers...

JOYS & CONCERNS~ Please contact Pastor Rebecca for prayers.

*Happy
Birthday!*

May 6 ~ Brittany Cliffe

May 15 ~ Ilene Kiser

May 24 ~ Helene Sisneros

May 28 ~ Lyn Van Winkle

*Happy
Anniversary!*

May 21

Matt & Tesa Hauser

Marianna Kirwan & Mike Lewis

May 25

Andy & Amy Cliffe

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.discipleswr.org/camp>

Please be in touch with Pastor Rebecca about VLM scholarships from our Camp Fund!

News from the Board

The General Board will be meeting on Wednesday, May 20 at 6:30 PM on Zoom and in the office for their regular meeting. This is an important meeting, as we will be receiving the slate of nominees from the Nominating Committee and voting on the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 ministry year.

Board members, please make sure to have your reports turned in by Friday, May 8, so the Administrative Committee can review them at their meeting on Wednesday, May 13 at 6:30 PM.

The Budget Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 5 at 5:30 PM to prepare the proposed budget.

Photos: Todd Lesh



Elena Banks of Wild Ones San Diego cut the ribbon on the sign she painted. "Huzzah!" Bill Kwon & the Lehtons cut the ribbon on the bench. Difan Chen of the American Society of Landscape Architects, a grantor, cut the ribbon on the path. Busy Bees Garden Co-op got this whole project started!



Our new Little Library – with books and seeds!

We had special avian guests, a hawk and this impressive owl, who were brought in by the Avian Behavior Conservancy.



La Mesa Vice Mayor Lauren Cazares secured us a garbage can!



Nature Talk with Lucy Warren of Friends of Balboa Park.



Nature Talk with Kemi Pavlocak, a local keeper of native bees.



Nature Talk with Ken Abernathy of Caterpillar Chow.



May 2026 Worship Participants

	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Worship Leader	Gary Wilhite	Jennefer Lehton	Karen Cliffe	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Tim Cliffe
Lay Reader	Tracy Stockdall	Gary Wilhite	Michelle Tolvo-Chan	Michael Lewis	Cheryl Davis-Plotts
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Steve Bridwell	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Gary Wilhite Mary Jane Fay	Jennefer Lehton Renee Bridwell	Karen Cliffe Michael Lewis	Cheryl Davis-Plotts Marianna Kirwan	Tim Cliffe Gary Wilhite
Deacons	Mary Alynn Fallon Tracy Stockdall	Daphne Flores John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle	Susan Peterson Michaela Stockdall Claudette Toland	Jenny Angione Vicky Wilhite	John, Susan, Claudette, Vicky
Communion Prep & Clean Up	Daphne Flores	Mary Alynn Fallon	Susan Peterson	Jenny Angione	Michaela Stockdall
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Jenny Angione Vicky Wilhite	Mary Alynn Fallon Karen Cliffe	Mary Alynn Fallon Michaela Stockdall	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe
Greeters	John Lehton Mary Jane Fay	Vicky & Gary Wilhite	John Lehton Marianna Kirwan	Michael Lewis Daphne Flores	John Lehton Mary Jane Fay
Counters	John Lehton Tracy Stockdall	John Lehton Renee Bridwell	Jenny Angione John Lehton	John Lehton Andy Cliffe	Andy Cliffe Mary Alynn F.

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**

Secretary: **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