

The Christian Visitor

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

Congregational Meeting – 6/14

We hope all members will make a point of being present for our annual Congregational Business Meeting, which will be held after worship on Sunday, June 14. This is an important but usually brief time when we discuss and vote on the official business of the congregation, in preparation for the new ministry year, which will begin July first.

Our Nominating Committee will present the Slate of Nominees, who will begin in various positions July 1. We thank everyone for your willingness to serve! We will also be voting on a proposed budget for the 2026-2027 ministry year. Watch for the information packet in your email on 5/29. A few hard copies will be available May 31.

Installation Sunday 6/28

On Sunday, June 28, we will gather for worship and install all the lay leaders who will be serving in the 2026-2027 ministry year. This is an important time for all of us to rededicate our time and talents to the ministry of Jesus Christ, as we carry it out together here at VLM!

After worship, we will hold a celebration potluck, when we will honor those who are completing terms of service. We hope you will plan to stay for lunch and bring a dish or two to share. A sign-up for the potluck will be out by June 7, so think about what you want to bring soon!

This would be a great day to wear your VLM shirt or Holy Spirit red, to add to the festive spirit.

Saturday Forum: Exploring Green Chalice

You are encouraged to join us for our next Saturday Forum: Exploring Green Chalice, on Saturday, May 30 at 10 AM on Zoom. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Scott Hardin-Nieri, Co-Minister of Green Chalice, our denominational creation care ministry. He will share with us about the ministries of Green Chalice and how we can join their efforts, and then we will have time for questions and conversation. Clergy can receive 0.1 CEUs for participating in this event.

Future Saturday Forums are currently scheduled for August 1 (Living Coast Ministry with Rev. Ryan Cullumber) and August 22 (Disciples Justice Ministries with Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray). Watch for others that may be scheduled between now and then.

“Handle with Care!”

At VLM, Pentecost isn't just one day – it's a season! We celebrate the blessings of the Holy Spirit up until the last Sunday of June when we install the lay leaders who will serve in the new ministry year that starts July 1st.

This year, we have a Pentecost sermon series – “Handle with Care!” – exploring spiritual maturity and how vital it is for a congregation to be healthy. How can scripture offer us lessons, or maybe even cautionary tales, that help us carry out the ministries God has set before us, together as one body?

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

It's been a little over a year since Vista La Mesa Christian Church proclaimed ourselves an Open & Affirming Congregation. You read and reflect on our Open & Affirming Statement by [clicking here](#). We are now entering into our second Pride Month with this official status. The Pride Flag will be raised at the La Mesa City Hall on Monday morning, June 1st.

For the most part, however, Pride in San Diego is celebrated in July, to avoid overlap with festivities in counties to the north. We will hold our second annual Open & Affirming Special Offering on July 19. This special offering is split two ways, with half going to San Diego Pride and the other half going to [Disciples Alliance Q+](#), our denominational ministry for all things Open & Affirming.

We worked really hard listening to one another's stories about why this matters and then preparing our O&A statement. But having declared our status doesn't mean the work is over. Being an Open & Affirming church attracts attention. Many people didn't know there is such a thing, and learning of our existence makes them reconsider whether there might be a church home where they could find a place at the table. We need to continue listening and learning so that we will be ready to welcome them when they arrive to check things out. This is not something we can pull off half-heartedly. If our passion for full welcome needs reinvigorating, let us remind ourselves of the stories of why it matters, the people whose lives have been impacted, and the love that is shared when we reject barriers and labels and ignorance. I pray that we will live into this commitment with courage and grace!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Help Amplify VLM on FB/IG

Are you on Facebook or Instagram? Are you following VLMCC there? If not, that's your first step! We can use your help making the algorithms work for us.

Even if you have already "liked" (FB) or "followed" (IG) VLM through your social media account, our posts might not be showing up in your regular feed. But you can fix that by being proactive. We have regular posts that come out at the same time each week. If you check our page shortly after each scheduled post, you can interact with the post there, and soon they will start showing up in your feed. The posts come out at 9 AM Sundays, 5 PM Tuesdays, and 5 PM Fridays. There are, of course, other random posts that you can also interact with.

The best way to interact with our posts is to share them. If you add a comment of your own, even just one line about the post itself or a simple "I love my church!" the people who see your re-post will be more engaged. If you don't want to re-post, it still helps to like or love the post, or to add a comment about it, the more specific the better! We want people to see that real, interesting, thoughtful, funny people go to church here!

(If you see anyone leaving rude comments, let Pastor Rebecca know ASAP, so we can minimize negativity on our page. There is no need to engage with them.)

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

Do Justice. Love Mercy.
Walk Humbly with God.
www.vlmcc.org

Thank you for your gifts
to the Pentecost Special
Offering! We collected
\$385 for New Church
Ministries!

Offering Envelopes

Personalized offering envelopes for the upcoming ministry year will arrive soon. If you give on paper, please make sure to pick yours up when they come. We will deliver to those who are homebound. Thank you for your faithful and generous support for our beloved congregation!

Outreach Committee

We are starting something new – joint Outreach Committee meetings that include some of the volunteers at Welcome Saturday who are part of other congregations. We hope to do this once a quarter. The goals are to build community, to ensure this ministry is running smoothly, and to brainstorm how to address challenges as they arise.

Our first meeting will be Friday, June 12 at 2:30 on Zoom. See Outreach Chair Mary Jane Fay or Pastor Rebecca if you are interested in being involved.

Thank you for your continued support for this life-giving ministry!

DISCIPLES CLASS

Disciples Class has been working their way through the gospel of Matthew this year. They meet at 9 AM on Sundays in Bailey Hall and on Zoom. You are welcome to join the conversation!

The Class will not meet on Sunday, June 28, because of the potluck. Then there will be two more sessions (7/5 & 7/12) before a brief summer break begins.

Little Library!

Do you love to read? Do you have books you no longer need? Remember that our new VLM Pollinator Garden has a Little Library, which we want to keep well stocked. Children's books are especially appreciated!

Novels Tea

We will meet on Friday, June 19 on Zoom at 4 pm to discuss "The Lion Women of Tehran" by Marjan Kamali. Anyone who's read the book is welcome!

Lunch Bunch

**Wednesday,
June 17
12:00 pm
in hosted by
the Lehtons.
Location TBD.**

In Our Prayers...

JOYS & CONCERNS~ Please contact Pastor Rebecca for prayers.

Happy Birthday!

- 6/1 - Teannah Townsend
- 6/5 - Marianna Kirwan
- 6/17 - Jason Sisneros, Jr.
- 6/23 - Jim Fallon
- 6/29 - Heather Morey
- 6/30 - Rebekah Morey

Happy Anniversary!

JUNE 20
Jim & Mary Alynn Fallon

JUNE 21
Rebecca & Todd
Littlejohn-Lesh

JUNE 22
Tim & Karen Cliffe

Standing with our Muslim Neighbors

The recent violence at the Islamic Center of San Diego has shaken all of us, but particularly our Muslim neighbors who were the targets of that hatred. The community has come together to surround them with our care and make sure they know what a vital part of our community they are!

You can be part of that loving response. Pastor Rebecca has helped organize an effort to be present outside local mosques on Fridays as members are arriving for Friday prayers. With friendly smiles and signs expressing love, we can help them regain their faith in our community and maybe even make new friends! [Click here](#) if you would like to sign up. If you have questions, see Pastor Rebecca.

Deacons

Thank you to all of our faithful VLMers who serve as Deacons. For those who don't know, the responsibilities of the Deacons are centered around making sure worship runs smoothly, so that others can be fully engaged in the presence of God. This includes passing the mics during prayer time, receiving the offering, and ushering the congregation forward for communion. They also prepare the Lord's Supper and put everything away after worship.

We are trying out a new way of scheduling the responsibilities of the Deacons, to ensure that no one person is carrying too much of the load. Deacons, please keep an eye on the new schedule and let us know ahead of time if you need to make a switch. Thanks!

SAVE THE DATE!
Regional Assembly
Saturday, October 16-17
Fullerton, CA

Report from the Board

The General Board met on May 20, with part of the agenda focused on the upcoming Congregational Meeting on June 14.

Pastor Rebecca added to her written report with an update on a conversation she had with Pastor Kindra Green Carson and the Board at MissionGathering Christian Church. We are continuing to explore what it could look like to deepen our partnership.

We were delighted to receive a positive financial report, which is unusual for this point in the fiscal year! We ended April with a surplus of around \$18K. The Welcome Saturday Fund is also doing well. We are so very grateful to all our faithful donors who have committed to supporting what God is doing here at Vista La Mesa.

Many Committee reports touched on the new Vista La Mesa Pollinator Garden, as the garden itself and the Ribbon-Cutting Celebration involved many aspects of the ministry we do here. If you haven't taken the time to wander through the garden yet, we encourage you to check it out soon! The plants are getting bigger and the flowers are blooming!

We have discovered that our solar power system has not been functioning as expected and that the monitoring we thought was happening was not, so those issues are being addressed and may require funds for repairs.

The Board received the report of the Nominating Committee. The Slate of Nominees will be presented at the Congregational Meeting.

The Board was presented with the Proposed FY27 Budget from the Budget Committee. Projected offerings grew at a higher rate than expected expenses, and our experience this year has been much better than expected. But this budget does still rely on an authorized up-to withdrawal from the Memorial Endowment Fund, which the Memorial Endowment Committee had approved prior to the Board meeting.

June 2026 Worship Participants

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Worship Leader	Gary Wilhite	Tim Cliffe	Mary Jane Fay	Cheryl Davis-Plotts
Lay Reader	Mary Jane Fay	Daphne Flores	Michelle Tolvo-Chan	Ilene Kiser
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn	Renee Bridwell
Elders	Gary Wilhite Jennefer Lehton	Tim Cliffe Mary Jane Fay	Mary Jane Fay Karen Cliffe	Cheryl Davis-Plotts Steve Bridwell
Deacons	Mary Alynn Fallon Tracy Stockdall	Daphne Flores John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle	Susan Peterson Michaela Stockdall Claudette Toland	John Lehton Tracy Stockdall Ilene Kiser
Communion Prep/Clean	Jenny Angione	Tracy Stockdall	Michaela Stockdall	Susan Peterson
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Mary Alynn Fallon Michaela Stockdall	Jenny Angione Vicky Wilhite	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe	Mary Alynn Fallon Michaela Stockdall
Greeters	John Lehton Mary Jane Fay	Vicky & Gary Wilhite	John Lehton Lisa Milan	Daphne Flores Steve Bridwell
Counters	Jenny Angione Tracy Stockdall	Mary Alynn Fallon Andy Cliffe	Ilene Kiser John Lehton	John Lehton Renee Bridwell

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