

The Christian Visitor

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

First Day Ice Cream!

Can you believe it's time for school to start up again already? The first day at Helix High School is Thursday, August 6, and we want to offer our neighborhood students ice cream treats again this year in celebration (or consolation)!

Please bring a box or two of your favorite frozen treats to worship on Sunday, August 2, and put them in the freezer. If you'd like to sign up to help pass them out, we'll have a clipboard for that.

We will set up in the Pollinator Garden (with canopies & chairs) around 2:00 on Thursday, August 6, and go till about 4:00. It's a blast, so come on out and join us!

Saturday Forums

We have two interesting Saturday Forums for you this month! On Saturday, August 1, Rev. Ryan Cullumber will present "Exploring Living Coast Ministry," walking us through what a week looks like for the young people who participate in this ocean stewardship program hosted at Harbor Christian Church. We'll be on Zoom at 10 AM.

On Saturday, August 22, Saturday Forum: Exploring Disciples Justice Ministries, will feature Rev. Brian Frederick-Gray of Disciples Justice & Advocacy Ministries at Disciples Home Missions in Indianapolis. You won't want to miss this conversation with one of our church's most dynamic leaders!

Potential Partnership

We are reviving our conversations with our fellow Disciples congregation in La Mesa, Missiongathering – this time aimed at considering a "partnership tenancy." Missiongathering is looking for a new space, and our building might be the best option!

On Sunday, August 16th, Pastor Rebecca will be preaching for Missiongathering, to help them gain a deeper sense of Disciples identity as a denomination. After their service, they will all come over here to VLM, and we'll have lunch together. We're ordering pizza, and we'd love for a few folks to bring salads or desserts. See Vicky Willhite if you want to bring something. After the meal, we will offer tours of our facility so they can have a sense of what is possible. They will then gather in the Sanctuary for further discernment as a congregation. We will be having a conversation about this, as VLM, immediately following worship on Sunday, August 30.

Guest Preacher

On Sunday, August 16, while Pastor Rebecca is preaching at Missiongathering, we will be blessed to welcome Rev. Marshela Salgado-Solorio as our guest preacher! You may remember Marshela from a few weeks ago, when she introduced us to the Be The Neighbor program, as the local site director. Be sure to be here to welcome her on the 16th!

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

It's been quite a summer! We are deep into an extended season of transition, some of it good, some of it bad. Grief has been one part of this season, as we've lost beloved church members and continue to bear witness to the final days of a number of others. But we're also looking at new possibilities and continuing to welcome visitors and new members into our community!

In the midst of all that, it can be hard to find a time to take a breath. That is why I want to renew the invitation to join me at our weekly Pray for Peace service. Every Tuesday, from 12:15 till 12:45, a small group gathers in our Sanctuary for a time of quiet prayer. There is Gregorian chanting playing softly, a short scripture reading, and a simple song to open and close. You can light candles, or sprinkle salt into water, as a sign of your tears joining the world's, or perhaps a thanksgiving for the vastness of creation.

We have regulars from the Catholic and Methodist traditions, along with a few VLMers who usually come. But there's definitely space for you! The half hour goes by quickly, but you also have plenty of time to sink down into the arms of God's eternal love and find rest. The air is on; the chair is soft; the Spirit is present. Come check it out and discover the refreshment your soul needs!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor Rebecca's Schedule

No travel this month, so instead just a reminder that Pastor Rebecca is always off on Mondays and also on Saturdays when there isn't something on the calendar.

In Memoriam

We are saddened to share that two beloved members of Vista La Mesa passed away at the end of July.

Ilene Kiser died unexpectedly in her sleep at her son's home here in San Diego, early in the morning of Sunday, July 26. Arrangements are still being made, but there will be a service at VLM and one at her church in Round Rock, TX. Ilene will be buried in Ashland, OR, next to her late husband. We extend our deep sympathy to her son Roy Jenkins, his daughter Kaity, and Ilene's daughter Dolly and her family, in Texas.

Ray Adsit died on the evening of Monday, July 27, at Fredericka Manor, under hospice care, after an extended hospitalization. A memorial service will be held in our Sanctuary on Thursday, August 6, with a time of visitation at 10:30 AM, followed by a service at 11 AM. The burial will follow at a later date. We extend our deep sympathy to Victoria and all of their children.

Addresses for both families can be found in our newest directory or contact the office.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

You are invited to the 2026 Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Pacific Southwest Region. It will be held at the Disciples Ministry Center in Fullerton, Friday & Saturday, October 16-17.

The theme this year is "Defiant Hope" from Hebrews 10:23-25. We can send voting delegates, so let us know if you're interested. You can learn more about the event by [clicking here](#). Registration will open soon.

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

*Feeding Your Soul
Without Disconnecting
Your Mind!*

Lunch Bunch

We are trying something special for Lunch Bunch this month! We will be dining at La Vida Real, where Jerry & Norma Bailey have moved.

Because of the facility's space limitations, only 10 folks can be accommodated (plus the Baileys), so please RSVP to Vicky Wilhite ASAP.

The meal is \$18, and you can order off their menu for the day. **Bills must be paid in cash**, so please come prepared. If it goes well, we may do it more often!

Glenda's 100th

Glenda Cliffe is turning 100 years old on August 22! You can join in the celebration by bringing a card to church on 8/23, when we will have a cake reception after the service, in Bailey Hall.

In Our Prayers...

JOYS & CONCERNS ~ Please contact Pastor Rebecca for prayers.

New Directories

Our new VLMCC directories for the 2026-2027 ministry year will be coming out this month. Please take just one per household at first, so we can make sure everyone gets the updated information. If you would like an electronic copy, please let Pastor Rebecca know once the paper copies are out.

We want to make sure our info is up-to-date, so please let Pastor Rebecca or Krista know if you've had any changes in numbers or addresses.

Choir Party

The Choir will kick off the fall singing season with a potluck rehearsal on Thursday, August 27, at Mary Alynn's house on Shadowhill. Time is TBD, depending on jury duty!

Please bring a dish to share. If you've ever considered joining our choir, this is a great time to check it out! Let Pastor Rebecca know if you need a ride.

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will meet on Sunday, September 6, at 2:30 pm on Zoom, to discuss "The Bones Beneath My Skin" by TJ Klune.

Thank You!
We received
\$523 for our
Open &
Affirming
Special Offering!

Happy Birthday!

Aug. 7 - Eliseo Sisneros
Aug. 7 - Steve Bridwell
Aug. 11 - Allan Flores
Aug. 15 - Kaitlin Yoder
Aug. 22 - Glenda Cliffe
Julian Ballo Cliffe
Aug. 25 - Paul Epler
Aug 25 - Harley Hanna
Aug 30 - Michelle Tolvo-Chan

Happy Anniversary!

Aug. 9 - John & Jennefer Lehton
Aug. 16 - Jerry & Norma Bailey
Aug. 17 - Allan & Daphne Flores
Aug. 18 - Jeffrey & Berna Cliffe
Aug. 30 - Mike & Lisa Martin

Report from the Board

Our 2026-2027 General Board met on July 29 for their first meeting of the ministry year. The Board this year consists of Karen Cliffe, Board Chair; Tracy Stockdall, Vice Chair; Jenny Angione, Secretary; Tesa Hauser, Stewardship & Finance Chair; Helene Sisneros, Trustee; Amy Cliffe, Personnel Chair; Steve Bridwell, Elders Chair; Mary Alynn Fallon, Worship Chair; Cheryl Davis-Plotts, Christian Education Chair; Mary Jane Fay, Outreach Chair; Vicky Wilhite, Fellowship Chair; Gary Wilhite, Property Chair; and Rebecca Littlejohn, Pastor. (We still need to name a Deacons Chair and the MEC Chair.)

Beyond receiving the year-end financial situation (see Stewardship News), the Board approved the appointments of Renee Bridwell and Andy Cliffe to the Memorial Endowment Committee, and Jenny Angione, Renee Bridwell, Cheryl Davis-Plotts, Mary Alynn Fallon, and Gary Wilhite to the Pastoral Relations Committee.

We also discussed the potential “partnership tenancy” with Missiongathering and spent some time on orientation & review of our structure.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

We are happy to report that we ended the 2025-2026 fiscal year in the black! This is the first time that has happened in many years, and it is largely due to the faithfulness and generosity of our donors. THANK YOU!!

You may recall that our FY26 budget authorized a draw of up to \$22,500 from our Memorial Endowment Fund. We only pulled \$9,250 of that amount, and that Fund, along with our Scholarship Fund, are doing well. Our FY27 budget authorizes a draw of \$20,000, but we are hopeful that we will not need that full amount this year either.

If you have questions about stewardship, please be in touch with Pastor Rebecca.

Reconciliation

Each fall, we join in with the work of our denomination, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), with two Sunday focused on Reconciliation Ministry. Reconciliation is the anti-racism ministry of our church, formed originally in the 1970s, and then revamped around 2000, when the CCDOC committed to becoming an anti-racist church.

We are excited to have Rev. Manuel Retamoza, pastor of The Border Church and St. Andrew's Lutheran, as our guest preacher this. He will be with us on Sunday, 9/27.

MINISTRY THRU COMMITTEES

As we begin the new ministry year, we are hoping to build up the congregation's involvement in our ministries, through the work of our Ministry Committees. Our Ministry Committees cover almost everything that happens here at VLM. They include Worship, Christian Education, Outreach, Fellowship, and Property. In collaboration with the Pastor, the Chair and members of these committees assess where their particular part of our ministry is, consider what needs to happen next, and makes plans to carry out that ministry. We would love to have your voice and participation in that process.

The Outreach Committee will meet on Zoom, on Wednesday, 8/5 at 5:30 PM, to begin planning a celebration for the 10th anniversary of Welcome Saturday in October. This meeting will include friends from Missiongathering.

The Fellowship Committee will meet on 8/18 at 3 PM to start thinking about Trunk-or-Treat (on 10/24). They will also help with the partnership meal on 8/16.

The Worship Committee will meet on Zoom on Wednesday, 8/19 at 4 PM. Our primary work this month will be planning World Communion Sunday.

The Property Committee will hold their quarterly meeting on Wednesday, 8/12, at 9:30, in the Library, to review and update our list of projects around the facility that need to be done and make decisions about how to accomplish them. That group will then get started on whatever can be done that day, including cleaning out the creek.

We would love to have YOU get involved!

August 2026 Worship Participants

	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Worship Leader	Gary Wilhite	Mary Jane Fay	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Tim Cliffe	Tesa Hauser
Lay Reader	Deborah Wilson	Daphne Flores	Mary Jane Fay	Michelle Tolvo-Chan	Tracy Stockdall
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn	Marianna Kirwan	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Gary Wilhite Karen Cliffe	Mary Jane Fay Renee Bridwell	Cheryl Davis-Plotts Jennefer Lehton	Tim Cliffe Steve Bridwell	Tesa Hauser Tim Cliffe
Deacons	John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle	Jenny Angione Tracy Stockdall Vicky Wilhite	Al Flores Lisa Milan Michaela S	Mary Allen F Daphne Flores Susan Peterson	John Lehton Lisa Milan Daphne Flores
Communion Prep/Clean	Al Flores	Lisa Milan	Jenny Angione	Susan Peterson	Michaela Stockdall
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Tracy Stockdall Michaela S	Mary Allen F Vicky Wilhite	Jenny Angione Karen Cliffe	Tracy Stockdall Michaela S	Mary Alynn F Karen Cliffe
Greeters	John Lehton Mary Jane Fay	Vicky & Gary Wilhite	John Lehton Lisa Milan	Daphne Flores Steve Bridwell	Marianna K John Lehton
Counters	Andy Cliffe John Lehton	Steve Bridwell Tracy Stockdall	Andy Cliffe John Lehton	John Lehton Renee Bridwell	Mary Alynn F Jenny Angione

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