The Christian Visitor

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

Disciples Mission Week

Disciples Home Missions is inviting us to participate in Disciples Missions Week, a new initiative that encourages Disciples all across the U.S. and Canada to dig more deeply into mission to discover how God is calling each of us into service.

Tuesday–Friday, Sept. 8-11, DHM will be offering daily webinars at 4:30 PM Pacific. The topics include Food Insecurity, Housing Insecurity, Healthcare Inequities, and Disability Equity. You can learn more and register at this website.

On Saturday, Sept. 12, we are invited to unite in a Day of Volunteering & Service, which we will be fulfilling with our regular Second Saturday Welcome Saturday! We'd love to have you stop by and visit with our guests, if you've never been before!

On Sunday, Sept. 13, we will celebrate mission and service in worship, in collaboration with DHM and Disciples congregations across the continent!

September 8-13

Disciples Class

You are invited to join our Sunday morning Bible Study, Disciples Class, when it resumes on September 6! We meet in Bailey Hall and on Zoom at 9 AM each Sunday. We will be picking back up in the gospel of Matthew. We read from a variety of translations and commentaries, moving through the texts slowly to consider different perspectives an ask questions. Everyone is welcome!

Partnership Possibilities Q&A

As you have hopefully heard, our fellow La Mesa Disciples congregation, Missiongathering, is looking for a new home. We are delighted that we are at the top of their list. It was fun to have them join us for a pizza luncheon on 8/16 and get to know some of them better. Thanks to everyone who helped with that, bringing food and offering tours!

Immediately following worship on Sunday, August 30, we will have a discussion amongst ourselves about what this possibility might mean for us. There are ways in which we would need to be flexible and make adjustments. Come with all your questions and concerns, prepared to think through what is possible. We want everyone's input!

Reconciliation

Each year, we affirm our denomination's commitment to becoming an anti-racist church by celebrating Reconciliation Ministry (the Disciples anti-racism ministry) with a worship focus and special offering. The theme this year is "Beyond Restoration – Hope in Action," inspired by Psalm 85:6-11, calling us to build back better.

We will receive the Reconciliation Special Offering on Sundays, September 20 and 27. You can also give online at www.vlmcc.org. On 9/27, we will welcome Rev. Manuel Retamoza, pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in San Carlos and the pastor of The Border Church.

Guest Preacher 9/27

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

Sometimes in small-membership churches like ours, we can get down on ourselves because of all the things we don't have. We worry that when/if anyone were to come in the door, they would just see shabbiness and people who are barely holding things together. We don't have any slick flyers, or slick graphics, or slick programming that will change people's lives.

The good news is that a lot of people aren't looking for "slick"; they're looking for authentic. They don't want a shiny surface faith; they want to find people who are actually trying to follow Jesus. And while that isn't cheap, it doesn't cost a lot of money or require hordes of volunteers.

Our beloved congregation is going to grow by being who we are. The people who will come throw their lot in with us will do so because they want to be who they are too, in the light of God's love. Authenticity doesn't cost money, but it does require courage. We have to be willing to be honest about who we are, what we believe, and why it matters. We have to stop making excuses for what isn't here and start being loudly thankful for what is here – a community of sincere faith, committed to living out the gospel as best we can.

Seeing people being themselves gives others permission to be who they are – something lot of folks are looking for. Seeing people doing what they can inspires folks to offer their gifts as well. Let's be the church God is calling us to be!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor Rebecca's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be taking Friday, September 18 (and Saturday) off to celebrate her birthday!

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

Celebrating the Unity and Diversity of the Body of Christ!

www.vlmcc.org

In Memoriam

With trust in God's everlasting love, we share the news of two recent deaths and arrangements for Ilene Kiser.

Grace Van Winkle passed away on August 8, 2026, at age 98. A memorial service has been scheduled for October 3 at 11 AM. Watch for more information on that in the coming weeks.

Betty Sinton passed away on August 24, just a month shy of 100 years old. It is not likely that we will be hosting a service.

Ilene Kiser, who died July 26, will be buried in Oregon on August 31. Her California memorial service will be held Saturday, September 26 at 2 PM. A potluck and jazz jam will follow in Bailey Hall, the prayer garden and the parking lot. Watch for how you can pitch in. There will be a memorial service at her church in Round Rock, TX, as well.

Regional Assembly

You are invited to the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in the Pacific Southwest, which will be held in Fullerton, October 16-17. The theme this year is "Defiant Hope," inspired by Hebrews 10:23-25. Click here to learn more about this event.

We can send up to three voting representatives to this Assembly. If you are interested in being one, please contact Pastor Rebecca soon because the deadline is 9/15. All clergy with standing are already qualified as voters.

Birthday Caroling

Victoria Adsit will turn 92 on September 1st! We are going to go "Birthday Caroling" to her at Fredericka Manor on Friday, September 4 at 11 AM.

If you would like to go with us for this fun way to bring cheer to Vicki, please be in touch with Pastor Rebecca. We will meet at the church at 10:30 to carpool down so that we can take a few cars as possible.

If you can't join us that day, you can go have lunch with Victoria anytime, as long as you call ahead (her & the 2nd floor nurse's station.)

Trunk or Treat!

We are excited to have our neighbors over again for our 2026 Trunk-or-Treat event on Saturday, October 24, from 3-6 pm. We will need folks to decorate cars and pass out candy, as well as volunteers for preparing & serving food, running games, crafts, and other stations.

Watch for more information and sign-up sheets, which will be out on 9/25. We hope to have volunteers from MissionGathering as well.

We can't do this without you, and our neighbors are counting on us for the fun!

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, September 16
12 noon at Brothers Family Restaurant
5150 Waring Rd.
San Diego, 92120
Hosted by Mary Alynn Fallon

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will gather on Zoom on Sunday, Sept. 6 at 2:30 pm on Zoom to discuss "The Bones Beneath My Skin" by TJ Klune. Anyone is welcome to join this group, as long as you read the book!

Apartheid-Free?

Pastor Rebecca is helping host the next Disciples Palestine Solidarity Movement online gathering on Sunday, August 30 at 2 pm. It is focused on Apartheid-Free Communities and how congregations can take the apartheid-free pledge to support our Palestinian siblings.

In Our Prayers...

JOYS & CONCERNS ~ Please contact Pastor Rebecca for prayers.

Happy Birthday!

Sept. 1 - Victoria Adsit
Kiley Hanna
Sept. 6 - Al Flores
Sept. 10 - Mark Cliffe
Sept. 14 - Edward Gurling
Sept. 18 - Renee Bridwell,
Rebecca Littlejohn
Sept. 20 - Kainoa (Sisneros)
Ramirez
Sept. 21 - Julie Fallon
Sept. 22 - Donna Morey
Sept. 27 - Cathy Mullican

Happy Anniversary!

Sept. 29 - John & Brandie
Neely

10 Years of Welcome!

Can you believe that we've been holding Welcome Saturday for almost 10 years now? October 2026 marks the official anniversary.

We will be celebrating for 3 months though! This month, worship on 9/13 will feature this ministry as part of Disciples Mission Week (see page 1). In October, we will celebrate in worship on 10/11, as part of the "Weekend to End Homelessness" of the National Faith Coalition to End Homelessness, which a number of churches in La Mesa are participating in.

And in November, we're planning a big party on Welcome Saturday (11/14), with a food truck and live music. We will be inviting all our volunteers and donors from VLM and the wider community. Mark your calendar now so you don't miss it!

Board Info

The General Board will meet Tuesday, September 22 at 6 PM on Zoom and in the Office. Reports should be sent to Pastor Rebecca by Friday, September 1. The Administrative Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 15 at 6 PM.

The Board and the MEC also took an electronic vote at the end of August to authorize funds to replace our solar inverters.

A Tree of Prayer for All Peoples!

The bulletin board tree in Bailey Hall, which has been used as a prayer tree for Disciples Class over the past 2.5 years, is transforming into a prayer tree for everyone! If you want to add a prayer to the tree, just write it down on one of the leaves provided and attach it. See Pastor Rebecca if you would like to "pre-pray" with people by cutting out leaves!

How to Get Involved at Vista La Mesa

Did you know that Vista La Mesa Christian Church is a place where you don't need to wait for a personal invitation to get involved? It's true!

There are so many different ways to live out your faith in our congregation. Some of our committees have regular meetings, and all of them would welcome your input and involvement.

The Fellowship Committee plans and carries out most of our social activities, like birthday celebrations, Trunk-or-Treat, and potlucks. If you'd like to get involved, be in touch with Fellowship Chair Vicky Wilhite or join us for the meeting on Zoom on 9/15 at 3 PM.

The Worship Committee assists the pastor with planning special worship events, adorning the sanctuary appropriately for the liturgical seasons, and making sure things run smoothly. Talk to Worship Chair Mary Alynn Fallon for more information or join our meeting on Zoom on 9/16 at 4 PM. This month, we'll be finalizing plans for World Communion Sunday on 10/4. We are always looking for more volunteers for the various roles that make worship happen! See Pastor Rebecca to get trained and on the rotation for the roles you're interested in.

The Outreach Committee is now meeting with friends from Missiongathering, since we work together on our primary project, Welcome Saturday. Right now, we're busy planning for the 10th anniversary of Welcome Saturday! This Committee also supports our special offerings and our connections with Global Ministries and other missions. Talk to Outreach Chair Mary Jane Fay or join us on Zoom 9/9 at 5:30 PM for more information.

The Christian Education Committee is responsible for children's ministries and adult studies, including Disciples Class. Talk to Christian Ed Chair Cheryl Davis-Plotts to get involved.

If you'd like to help out by working on the facility or grounds, contact Property Chair Gary Wilhite. The Property Committee meets quarterly; the next meeting is November 4 at 9:30 AM.

September 2026 Worship Participants

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Worship Leader	Marianna Kirwan	Renee Bridwell	Mary Jane Fay	Steve Bridwell
Lay Reader	Gary Wilhite	Michaela Stockdall	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Deborah Wilson
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Renee Bridwell	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Marianna Kirwan Tesa Hauser	Renee Bridwell Gary Wilhite	Mary Jane Fay Marianna Kirwan	Steve Bridwell Cheryl Davis-Plotts
Deacons	John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle Vicky Wilhite	Jenny Angione Tracy Stockdall Mary Alynn Fallon	Al Flores Lisa Milan	Daphne Flores Susan Peterson Michaela Stockdall
Communion Prep/Clean Up	Vicky Wilhite	Lyn Van Winkle	Tracy Stockdall	Jenny Angione
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe	Mary Alynn Fallon Vicky Wilhite	Jenny Angione Michaela Stockdall	Tracy Stockdall Karen Cliffe
Greeters	John Lehton Mary Jane Fay	Vicky & Gary Wilhite	John Lehton Lisa Milan	Daphne Flores Steve Bridwell
Counters	Andy Cliffe John Lehton	Steve Bridwell Jenny Angione	Tracy Stockdall John Lehton	Lyn Van Winkle 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**
Office Admin: **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