The Christian Visitor

OCTOBER 2026 – VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

World Communion Sunday

Every year on the first Sunday of October, Christians around the world celebrate our unity at the Table of Christ with special World Communion Sunday services. At VLMCC, we join in the festivities, remembering our fellow Christians all over the world, often using a variety of languages or breads in worship.

This year, we will have a special time during the service to celebrate our connections with places all around the world. You can prepare for the service, by thinking about what other countries you have lived in, slept in, set foot in, know someone who lives or lived there, and more. Let's see how much of the globe we can cover together!

Guest Preacher 10/18

We are excited to welcome Rev. Manuel Retamoza to our pulpit on Sunday, October 18. We were hoping to have him for the second Sunday of our Reconciliation Ministry focus, but surgery and recovery required postponing till now.

Rev. Retamoza is the Co-Pastor at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (ELCA) in San Marcos, but he is also the pastor of The Border Church, which holds a service every Sunday afternoon across the border fence, in collaboration with friends in Mexico. You won't want to miss this chance to hear about Rev. Retamoza's vital ministry!

Ten Years of Welcome!

We are celebrating the tenth anniversary of Welcome Saturday this month! Were you here when it was born? Were you here last month? Were you here in those play-it-by-ear early months of the pandemic?

We will be celebrating this milestone in worship & coffee hour on Sunday, October 11, which also happens to be National Weekend to End Homelessness, a project of the National Faith Coalition to End Homelessness. (There will also be a party in November – see page 3!)

If you have been part of Welcome Saturday at any point over the past 10 years, we would love to have you share a brief story or reflection during worship that day. Ten years is a lot of love, a lot of laughter, a lot of socks, and a lot of bacon!

Trunk-or-Treat 10/24

Trunk-or-Treat is coming! The festivities will be Saturday, October 24, 3-6 pm. It's time to mark you calendar and sign up! We need all hands on deck for this neighborhood Halloween party. If you can decorate your trunk (and yourself!) and pass out candy at your car, that's awesome! If you'd rather do something else, we need people helping with food, crafts, games and more. Please come no later than 2:30 if you are volunteering or hosting a car. Thanks!

You can sign up on the clipboard at church or click here to sign up online. We will also have friends from Missiongathering joining in the fun!

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

The fall can be a confusing time to be on social media if you're living in San Diego County. Other people – individuals, media, and advertising – are now celebrating an autumnal vibe – sweaters, soups, and of course, the perennial pumpkin spice everything. But the temperatures here are some of the hottest we've had all year.

In some ways, this could be an analogy for what it's like to be a Christian. The messages we receive from commercials and even our friends encourage us to pursue our own comfort, to burrow in and shut the door on the rest of the world. But the gospel reminds us that there are realities we cannot ignore, some right outside (or inside) our own homes.

Jesus calls us to respond to the suffering of the world, but it doesn't have to be a bleak, desert experience. As we move through the fall at VLM, observing Reconciliation, World Communion Sunday, and later All Saints Memorial Sunday, we experience the miracle of facing different kinds of challenges – together. Community makes all the difference, whether we're talking about protecting our Haitian neighbors, nurturing our connections with Christians around the world, or lifting up those who lost loved ones.

Maybe the best thing about fall is that it can be a season of coming back together. Make a point of being with us on Sundays, and for our special events. It'll be cozier that way!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be attending the Regional Clergy Retreat & Regional Gathering in Fullerton, October 15-17. She will also be on vacation out of town October 26-29.

Regional Assembly

The Pacific Southwest Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will meet for our Regional Assembly Friday & Saturday, October 16-17, at the Disciples Ministry Center in Fullerton, CA. All Disciples and friends are welcome!

The theme this year is "Defiant Hope" from Hebrews 10:23-25.

Special guests will include Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy, President of Pacific School of Religion, and Rev. Dr. Leah D. Jackson, Esq., a congregational pastor and seminary professor. Rev. Dr. William Barber and his wife Rev. Dr. Della Owens will be preaching at worship services on Friday and Saturday

The worship services are Friday at 6:15 PM and Saturday at 9 AM & 2:30 PM. They will be live-streamed on the PSWR YouTube channel.

It's not too late to register and learn more about how to participate virtually at: https://www.disciplespswr.org/ra2026. You can also reserve rooms at the nearby Marriot for Friday night, if you would like to stay over. There is a block of rooms available for Assembly attendees.

The Region is holding a Clergy Pre-Event Oct. 15 prior to the Assembly, which Pastor Rebecca will be attending.

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

Sharing the Joy of Christ's Welcome!

www.vlmcc.org

We received $490 for the Reconciliation Special Offering! Thank you for your contributions!

Memorial Service

You are warmly invited to join us on Saturday, October 3 at 11 AM for a memorial service for Grace Van Winkle, who died on August 8. There will be a time for visiting with the family beforehand, starting at 10:30 and a light reception in Bailey Hall following the service.

Welcome Sat Party!

Welcome Saturday is 10 years old this fall, and we will be celebrating with our guests and volunteers and community donors on Saturday, November 14, with live music, a pizza truck, and prizes! Mark your calendars now!

All Saints Service

Our annual All Saints Memorial Service will actually be on All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1, this year. We have quite a few saints to remember this year, even as we remember those we lost even earlier.

"We Call Ourselves Disciples"

Disciples Class will be trying something new in the new year, and now is the time to decide you're going to join in! We will be working through the new book "We Call Ourselves Disciples" which is currently 30% off, so order now and save! We will be using a wonderful multimedia study guide that includes reflections from clergy and lay people across the church and videos exploring the issues each chapter addresses. You won't want to miss out on this chance to learn and reflect on our shared faith. Watch for info!

In Our Prayers...

JOYS & CONCERNS~ Please contact Pastor Rebecca for prayers.

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will discuss "The Golden Gate" by Amy Chua on Sunday, October 25th, at 2:30 PM on Zoom. Anyone who's read the book is welcome!

Lunch Bunch

Wednesday 10/21 at noon

at The Olive Garden in La Mesa

hosted by Karen Cliffe

Happy Birthday!

- Oct. 1 - Cher Flores
- Oct. 4 - Jerry Bailey, Haylee Hanna
- Oct. 5 - Jenny Angione
- Oct. 9 - Josie Hahn
- Oct. 10 - Betty Sullivan
- Oct. 11 - Sara Gurling
- Oct. 17 - Mark Reagles
- Oct. 22 - Bob Neely
- Oct. 31 - Alexander Reagles

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 AM on Sunday, November 1st. Enjoy your extra hour!

Scholarship Committee Report

If you haven't been a student recently, you might not be very aware of the VLM Scholarship Committee. But we should all be proud of the work this small group does! The VLM Scholarship Fund is named for Aves Gascoigne, who gave the primary estate gift that endowed it. It is used to support members and friends of VLM who are pursuing higher education. Tim Cliffe and Hélène Sisneros have served on the Scholarship Committee for years, alongside Ray Adsit till he passed in July. The Board recently approved the appointment of Marianna Kirwan to take Ray's place.

Though we don't currently have any college students, the Scholarship Committee has been proactive in supporting Disciples in San Diego. Two grants were recently approved for seminarians Lucia Napolez (Iliff) and Emily Trân (PSR), along with a scholarship for interim ministry training for Rev. Marshela Salgado-Solorio.

News from the Board

The General Board met on 9/22, after an electronic vote in August and an emergency meeting with the Memorial Endowment Committee on 9/13. We want the congregation to have a clear and full understanding of why the Board and the MEC have been so busy.

Unfortunately, we recently discovered errors in our online bookkeeping system that date back to March 2024. On 7 occasions over 3 years, our Sunday deposit was recorded twice, in ways that were difficult to detect. This, of course, led us to believe we had more money than we really had. It means that we did not end Fiscal Year 2026 with a surplus, but with a deficit. It also meant that we needed to address an immediate cash flow issue. Thus, the Board and the MEC voted to withdraw $25,000 from the MEF to supplement other September income. The errors have all been corrected, and new procedures are being implemented to ensure this will not happen again. If you have questions, please talk with Stewardship & Finance Chair Tesa Hauser or Pastor Rebecca. Thank you for your trust and patience as we establish new checks and balances. We take stewarding your gifts very seriously. Your donations are essential to our continued ministries. Thank you!

Mark Your Calendars!

World Communion Sunday – Sunday, Oct. 4
Welcome Saturday – Saturday, Oct. 11
WelSat 10th Anniversary – Sunday, Oct. 11
Pastor at Clergy Summit – Oct. 15
Regional Assembly – October 16-17
Guest Preacher – Sunday, Oct. 18
Trunk-or-Treat – Saturday, Oct. 24, 3-6 PM
All Saints Memorial Service – Sunday, Nov. 1
Welcome Saturday & 10th Anniversary Community Party – Saturday, Nov. 14
First Sunday of Advent – November 29
Christmas Concert & Party – Sun., Dec. 6, 5:30 PM
Welcome Saturday w/ Waffles – Saturday, Dec. 12
Lunch Bunch Xmas @ VLM – Wed., Dec. 16, 12 PM
Caroling Party – Saturday, Dec. 19, 2 PM
Christmas Eve Service – Thursday, Dec. 24, 6 PM
Carol Sing Sunday – Sunday, Dec. 27

News from the MEC

In addition to working closely with the Board on the financial management issues mentioned above, the Memorial Endowment Committee, with the Board's approval, has decided to move our investment funds into the Christian Church Foundation. This will allow us to gain more interest, while ensuring our money supports our values.

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.

October 2026 Worship Participants

	October 4	October 11	October 18	October 25
Worship Leader	Jennefer Lehton	Gary Wilhite	Karen Cliffe	Cheryl Davis-Plotts
Lay Reader	Michelle Tolvo-Chan	Mary Jane Fay	Tracy Stockdall	Daphne Flores
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Tesa Hauser	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Jennefer Lehton Karen Cliffe	Gary Wilhite Tesa Hauser	Karen Cliffe Mary Jane Fay	Cheryl Davis-Plotts Steve Bridwell
Deacons	John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle Mary Alynn Fallon	Tracy Stockdall Susan Peterson	Michaela Stockdall Al Flores Lisa Milan	Vicky Wilhite Daphne Flores Jenny Angione
Comm Prep & Clean up	Mary Alynn Fallon	Al Flores	Lisa Milan	Daphne Flores
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Jenny Angione Vicky Wilhite	Tracy Stockdall Michaela Stockdall	Jenny Angione Michaela Stockdall	Mary Alynn Fallon Karen Cliffe
Greeters	Vicky and Gary Wilhite	John Lehton Lisa Milan	John Lehton Marianna Kirwan	Mary Jane Fay Steve Bridwell
Counters	John Lehton Mary Alynn Fallon	Andy Cliffe Lyn Van Winkle	John Lehton Tracy Stockdall	Jenny Angione 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, between Interstate 8 and the 94 Freeway, 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 am

CHURCH STAFF

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

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