The Christian Visitor

VISTA LA MESA CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NOVEMBER 2026

All Saints Memorial Service

As we do each year, we will be marking All Saints with a Memorial Service on Sunday, November 1. This is an important time to remember those we have lost in the last year, as well as all those who have gone on before who remain in our hearts.

This is also a wonderful opportunity to think about who you may know that needs to be with us in worship that day. Often when someone loses a loved one, they need a faith community but they don't know where to turn. You may have the invitation they've been waiting for. Take a moment to consider who you need to bring to worship with you that day.

We have six members of our VLM community that we said good-bye to in the past year, plus the countless other loved ones that we hold in our hearts. Please join us for this important service.

Ten Years of Welcome Saturday!

We had a wonderful service of celebration for the 10th anniversary of Welcome Saturday in October, but the party is just getting started! We hope everyone will join us on Saturday, November 14, 11 AM till 1 PM for another celebration! Come and bring your friends & neighbors!

We will have a pizza truck, live jazz, and door prizes! If you want to volunteer to help out that day, please sign up or let Pastor Rebecca know. We will need a little extra help with set-up & clean-up.

We will be holding a Men's Jeans Drive that day, so please one or more pairs of men's jeans, to help build up our stock. Those who bring jeans get extra door prize tickets!

Help Us Spread the Joy!

We're going to be spreading gratitude at the La Mesa Farmers Market again this year, and you're invited to be part of it! We will be there on Friday, November 20 and Friday, December 4, in two shifts: 3-4:30 and 4:30-6. You can sign up here.

We will have stickers that say "GRATEFUL FOR…" and each person is invited to fill in their answer. The stickers have our website in small print at the bottom. We will also have small flyers with the schedule of our holiday events. This is a low-risk way to help folks get to know who we are.

Advent Is Coming!

The First Sunday of Advent falls in November this year, the same weekend of Thanksgiving, so don't let it sneak up on you!

We will begin taking orders for poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones on Nov. 22.

We will be decorating the Sanctuary on Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 11 AM, for the Advent season. You are invited to come lend a hand!

The Christmas Choir Concert will be preceded by a "party food potluck" on Sunday, 12/6 at 5:30 PM.

We will be enjoying the Christmas Waffle Bar at Welcome Saturday on 12/12.

The Lunch Bunch Christmas Party will be Wednesday, 12/16 at noon in Bailey Hall. The Caroling Party will be Saturday, 12/19 beginning at 2 PM in the church parking lot.

From My View at the Table

Dear Church,

"O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be thou our guide will life shall last, and our eternal home." The closing verse of the final hymn of our All Saints Memorial Service is a good reminder for us to hold onto these days. There is a lot going on – at church and in our world. We need to remember that we can rely on God, no matter what comes, not just for protection but also for guidance.

God's answers do not always look like what we might have expected. Sometimes we spend a lot of time imagining or even planning for one possibility, and then another option emerges that we weren't watching for. The grace of the Holy Spirit empowers us to pivot, if we seek God's guidance in the face of such surprises.

When a church is clear about who we are and the welcome God is asking us to share, we can receive whatever new friends God sends us. When we recognize that the blessings we have are not ours alone, we are able to share them freely with others. When we work together with the Spirit, God's grace can flow through us, creating flexibility and creativity that make marvelous new things possible. May this season of transition we're living in be a blessing for all God's people!

grace & peace,

Pastor Rebecca

The Pastor's Schedule

Pastor Rebecca will be attending the Disciples Preachers Retreat in Scottsdale, AZ, Nov. 9-11. She will be off on Friday, Nov. 6 when friends are visiting and the Thursday & Friday the week of Thanksgiving.

Pastor on Panel

Pacific Beach United Methodist Church has been doing a book study on "American Heresy: The Roots and Reach of White Christian Nationalism" by local retired pastor Rev. John Fanestil. They will culminate their discussion series with a panel on Sunday, Nov. 8 at 1:00 PM, which Pastor Rebecca has been invited to be part of. You are invited as well!

Please be understanding with her time after worship that day, to ensure she can arrive on time!

Disciples Class Book Study in 2027!

We hope that you know you are always welcome to join our Sunday morning Bible study, Disciples Class! They meet in Bailey Hall and on Zoom at 9 AM each Sunday morning. They have been making their way through the gospel of Matthew and will finish up this month and then take a break in December.

We would really love everyone to join Disciples Class in January, when we embark on a new book study, exploring **"We Call Ourselves Disciples,"** a short book of essays about various aspects of Disciples identity, edited by Kamilah Hall Sharp and Joel Brown. There is a multi-media study resource that goes with the book, so it will be a wonderful learning opportunity for all of us!

Vista La Mesa Christian Church

Do Justice. Love Mercy.
Walk Humbly with God.

www.vlmcc.org

The Times, they are a'changing!

Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, October 31!
Enjoy your extra hour!

Welcome Saturday Waffles!

Thank you for your support of this life-giving ministry! We continue to have great volunteers from Helix and Missongathering. Right now, we mostly need warm men's clothing.

We will be hosting our Christmas Waffle Bar next month, and we'd like to invite you to contribute toppings! Watch for a sign-up sheet and plan to bring those in the week of 12/6. We may need to borrow a couple waffle irons as well. If you'd like to volunteer that day, be in touch with Pastor Rebecca.

Clean-Out Days!

We have a lot of stuff, and it is currently spread around most of the building. Join us on Saturdays, 11/7 and 11/21, to help organize, consolidate and/or get rid of all the things, to make space for new friends!

Food Drive

Our Food Drive this month may very well be the most important one we've ever held, as the holidays approach and food aid to low-income families has been reduced.

Please bring what you can to our Food Drive on November 15, so we can take a full load to the pantry at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church.

Remember that things like spices, oils, and other condiments are helpful, but less common, as are basics like flour and salt.

Thanksgiving Offering

The Thanksgiving Special Offering will be received in worship, 11/15 and 11/22, and online. This offering goes to support Disciples colleges & universities, and seminaries like Disciples Seminary Foundation. Our pastor (along with many others) is a DSF graduate. These schools supply Disciples congregations with well-equipped leaders!

In Our Prayers...

JOYS & CONCERNS ~ Please contact Pastor Rebecca for prayers.

LUNCH BUNCH
at Filippi's in Jamul
Wed., 11/18, noon
Hosted by
Lyn Van Winkle

Novels Tea

Novels Tea will meet on Zoom, on Sunday, January 10 (tent.) at 2:30 pm to discuss "Un Lun Dun" by China Miéville.

Happy Birthday!

Nov. 1 - Norma Bailey
Nov. 7 - Janet Smith
Nov. 8 - Daphne Flores
Nov. 9 - Stephen Cliffe
Nov. 9 - Matt Hauser
Nov. 10 - Jennefer Lehton
Nov. 19 - Maria Cusumano
Nov. 20 - Katie Yoder
Nov. 21 - Tesa Hauser
Nov. 23 - Noralea Penny
Nov. 26 - Deborah Wilson
Nov. 28 - John Lehton

Happy Anniversary!

Nov. 4
Eliseo & Helene Sisneros
Nov. 20
Brian & Laura McCreanor

Property Committee Meeting

The Property Committee will meet on Wednesday, November 4 at 9:30 in the Library. This is our quarterly meeting to check on our ongoing projects and field volunteers for new jobs. After the meeting, you are invited to stay and help with creek clean-out or other small jobs that need to happen sooner, rather than later.

Check with Gary Wilhite to see what tools or materials it could be helpful to bring with you that day. We need to make sure that our building and grounds are El Niño ready! We also have some work days this month, on 11/7 and 11/21.

We are super excited that our new solar inverters are now installed and up & running!

News from the Board

The Board will meet on Tuesday, November 17 at 6 PM on Zoom and in the Office. Board reports are due to Pastor Rebecca on Tuesday, November 3, unless you make other arrangements. The Administrative Committee will meet on Thursday, November 5, at 6 PM on Zoom and in the Office.

This will be an important meeting, as we will receive follow-up reports on our financial situation and the new bookkeeping procedures that have been implemented in the last two months. We may also be reviewing and voting on new space-sharing agreements.

Committee chairs, remember that we won't meet in December, so we need to plan accordingly.

Potential Tenant(s)

Did you know there are three Disciples congregations in La Mesa? We have been partnering with Missiongathering for a while now, on things like Welcome Saturday and Trunk-or-Treat. The conversation about whether they might move over here and rent space from us continues, as they discern their options.

But there is also a predominantly Spanish-speaking Disciples church called Fe, Esperanza, y Amor that is currently renting from another church off 70th Street. Their pastor is Rev. Daniel Rivera. They have approached us about moving over here to rent space from us as well. We will be meeting with them over the next few weeks to determine if this is a viable plan, keeping open the possibility that Missiongathering might still be added to the mix as well.

Please be in prayer for all three of our churches and their pastors, in this time of discernment, transition, and adjustment. May the Holy Spirit make our hearts soft and welcoming to whatever is to come!

Mark Your Calendars!

All Saints Memorial Service – Sunday, Nov. 1
Re-Organizing Work Day – Saturday, Nov. 7
WCN Panel @ PBUMC – Sunday, Nov. 8, 1:00
Welcome Saturday – Saturday, Nov. 14
WS 10th Anniversary Party – Saturday, Nov. 14, 11-1
Board Meeting – Tuesday, Nov. 17, 6:00
Lunch Bunch – Wednesday, Nov. 18, 12:00
VLM @ Farmers Market – Friday, Nov. 20, 3-6
Re-Organizing Work Day – Saturday, Nov. 21
Poinsettia Orders Open – Nov. 22 (thru 12/6)
Sanctuary Decorating – Wednesday, Nov. 25, 11:00
Office Closed – Thursday-Friday, Nov. 26-27
First Sunday of Advent – Sunday, Nov. 29
VLM @ Farmers Market – Friday, Dec. 4, 3-6
Christmas Concert & Party – Sun., Dec. 7, 5:30
Welcome Saturday (Waffles!) – Saturday, Dec. 13
Lunch Bunch Christmas Party – Wed., Dec. 16
Choir Party – Thursday, Dec. 17, 6:30
Caroling Party – Saturday, Dec. 20, 2-6
Christmas Eve Service – Wednesday, Dec. 24, 6 PM
Carol Sing – Sunday Dec. 27

November 2026 Worship Participants

	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Worship Leader	Tim Cliffe	Renee Bridwell	Tesa Hauser	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Marianna Kirwan
Lay Reader	Cheryl Davis-Plotts	Gary Wilhite	Michelle Tolvo-Chan	Mary Jane Fay	Tracy Stockdall
Offering Invitation	Rebecca Littlejohn	Renee Bridwell	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn	Rebecca Littlejohn
Elders	Tim Cliffe Jennefer Lehton	Renee Bridwell Tesa Hauser	Tesa Hauser Gary Wilhite	Cheryl Davis-Plotts Marianna Kirwan	Marianna Kirwan Tim Cliffe
Deacons	John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle	Jenny Angione Lisa Milan Tracy Stockdall	Mary Alynn Fallon Al Flores Vicky Wilhite	Daphne Flores Susan Peterson Michaela Stockadall	John Lehton Lisa Milan Daphne Flores
Comm Prep & Clean up	Susan Peterson	Vicky Wilhite	Michaela Stockdall	Lyn Van Winkle	Tracy Stockdall
AV Tech Zoom Tech	Jenny Angione Tesa Hauser	Mary Alynn Fallon Vicky Wilhite	Tracy Stockdall Michaela Stockdall	Mary Fallon Karen Cliffe	Jenny Angione Karen Cliffe
Greeters	John Lehton Lisa Milan	Mary Jane Fay Steve Bridwell	Vicky & Gary Wilhite	Daphne Flores Marianna Kirwan	John Lehton Lisa Milan
Counters	John Lehton Mary Alynn Fallon	Renee Bridwell Andy Cliffe	John Lehton Jenny Angione	Tracy Stockdall Andy Cliffe	John Lehton Lyn Van Winkle

WHO, WHERE , and WHEN

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: Disciples Class @ 9:00
Worship @ 10:30

Secretary's Hours: Tues/Thur/Fri 8:30-11:30 am

CHURCH STAFF

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

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Church website: www.vlmcc.org