

November 2021

Mission Village Christian Fellowship

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9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:9-10

Pastor's Perspective

Growing for Christmas

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever!" -2 Peter 3:18

My friends, Christmas is coming. It's hard for me to wrap my head around that sentence: Christmas is coming. It seems like the kids just went back to school at the beginning of September. What happened to the time? But we are moving along into November, and Advent begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving this year. Christmas is coming!

This is always a busy season. But in the midst of the busyness, I hope we can take some time to prepare our hearts for Advent, so when Advent does arrive, we are ready for everything the Lord has for us. And the Apostle Peter offers some wonderful wisdom for how we can prepare. In 2 Peter, the apostle speaks of the coming of the Lord (Jesus' second Advent, not his first!) and encourages his fellow believers to stand firm in their faith. And he finishes his letter with these words: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever!" That is wonderful wisdom, not only to prepare for Jesus' second coming but also to prepare to celebrate his first coming at Christmas.

Three simple truths in this verse for us to prepare our hearts as we approach this Christmas season:

Grow

Peter exhorts his fellow believers to grow, or quite literally, to keep on growing. We should always be growing. Christian growth is not like puberty where human beings have a massive (and awkward!) growth spurt in our youth, plateau, and then start a long, slow process of decline for the rest of our lives. No, we should always continue to grow in our relationship with the Lord. There should never be a time on this side of heaven where we

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Worship Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Sunday Children's Bible Adventure



Grief Support Group will meet on the first & third Friday of this month at

11:00 a.m.

If you are interested in attending, please talk to Russ Armstead

### Small Groups:

Monday

1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study-Library

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting Online

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Youth Group

Friday

7:00 p.m. French Home Fellowship

This month 1st & 3rd Fridays

11:00 a.m. Grief Support Group-Library

Work Party Every Fourth Saturday of the month

8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. refreshment will be provided.

For more info call Mike Loren at 619-464-1133

### *Pastor's Perspective, continued*

say, "I think I'm done growing spiritually. I think I've learned enough, grown enough, and had my character shaped enough." Until we take our final breath in this world, we should actively be growing.

#### Grow in Grace

With everything going on in our world, and the divisiveness and animosity we see every day, the world could certainly use a heavy dose of grace right now. As followers of Jesus we are uniquely qualified to offer that grace to the world. We should be known as a people of grace. The best way I know to grow in grace is to preach the gospel to yourself every single day. Author Tim Keller defines the gospel this way in his book *The Meaning of Marriage*: "We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time, we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope." If we were to genuinely preach that message to ourselves everyday, we would be daily reminded of how much grace God has lavished into our lives through Jesus Christ. And the more we are reminded of God's grace in our lives, the more we will extend grace to others and to ourselves. That is how we grow in grace.

#### Grow in Knowledge

There are 66 books in the Bible, and every single one of them points to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. So God's Word gives us a vast reservoir to daily grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior. This month as we prepare for Advent, if you are not in the habit of reading your Bible every day, start having a daily time of bible reading and prayer. Not only will your knowledge of Jesus grow, but starting your day in God's Word has a wonderful effect of shaping everything else that happens in your day. The more we take in God's Word, the more we will grow in knowledge.

#### **One Final Thought...**

Our Lord never intended us to grow in isolation. There is no such thing in the Bible as a Lone Ranger Christian. We were designed to grow together with our brothers and sisters in Christ. So as we prepare our hearts for this Advent season, if you are not yet part of a small group bible study or a home fellowship right now, please join one. In addition to the groups that meet on Mondays and Fridays in November, there are several new fellowship opportunities for you to dive into. There will be a monthly home fellowship meeting at the Quion home on Thursdays. There will be an online bible study starting soon for folks who can't yet participate in person or for folks whose schedules keep them from participating in an in-person activity. And finally, Joanna will be starting a women's bible study on Wednesday nights during the same time as our youth group. Details on these groups will be announced soon. So if you are not yet part of a home fellowship, please let me know, and we'll get you connected with one of these groups!

Let's prepare our hearts for this coming season, grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May Jesus receive all the glory as we celebrate this season.

In Christ,  
Pastor Steve

# November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:00 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	3 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	4 5:30 p.m. Quion HF	5 11:00 a.m. at MVCF Grief Support Group 6:30 p.m. French HF	6
7 Daylight Saving Time ends 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	8 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study	9 7:00 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	10 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	11 Veterans Day	12 6:30 p.m. French HF	13
14 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	15 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study	16 7:00 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	17 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	18	19 11:00 a.m. at MVCF Grief Support Group 6:30 p.m. French HF	20
21 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	22 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study	23 7:00 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	24 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	25 Thanksgiving Day MVCF Office Closed	26 MVCF Office Closed 6:30 p.m. French HF	27 8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Work Party & Church Christmas Decorating
28 First Sunday of Advent 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	29 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study	30 7:00 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting			 <p>THIS MONTH'S anniversaries</p> <p>04 —Jayson Stone &amp; Rebecca Schnarr 06 —Steve &amp; Joanna de Vos</p>	
	 <p>01—Samuel Miller 09—Briahna DeLaCruz 09—John Nowak 13—Ernie Garcia</p>				<p>16—Carl Jensen 21—Scott Fiori 22—Mary Jo Cooper</p>	

*Missions Ministry*

Dear Church,

We certainly have a lot to be thankful for this fall. We've had the privilege of hearing reflective updates from some of our ministry partners and have been looking toward the future too - trying to discern how God might want us more involved in His missional work.

We're grateful for Admasu Agiro and Terri Carver giving a wonderful update about New Hope for Women and Children and Dan Bender sharing how we can support Afghan families during the current crisis.

We are likewise grateful to our youth group for spearheading a Thanksgiving food drive to support the Serra Mesa Food Pantry. A big thank you to the youth and to everyone who is participating!

We also look forward to hearing more about the International Institute for Human Factor Development's annual fundraiser, which will take place at the church next September 17, 2022. Please save the date!

Please continue to be in prayer for these endeavors. Thank you, as always, for your care and support.

Love, Ellen

**G**o therefore  
and make  
disciples  
of all the  
nations



## *Musings from the Moderator*

November. The month of gratitude.

I see on Social Media all the time people who post daily things they're grateful for during November. I really love this concept and wish it could be every day of the year, but we humans have a tendency to become complacent. When things are going well, we say "Thank you, God," and when things are not going well, we say, "Geez, thanks a lot, God"... I know I certainly have. The Bible says: Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. — 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

In. All. Circumstances.

This is a life-long, ongoing lesson for me and probably for you. I am so grateful that our God is patient with our ingratitude! For me, it's the music we sing and share on Sundays that helps me focus on how very grateful I am to our Heavenly Father.



Thankful for 1) Jesus 2) Family 3) Life with Him, and 4) our Church family. (Of course, the list is not exhaustive - there are too many things to express gratitude for!).

I want to mention how grateful I am for you, who have dug down deep financially to help fill the void in our church finances. I know, especially with the way things are getting more expensive, that it is an act of service, submission, and sacrifice, and I want you to know that it is noticed and deeply appreciated. Thank you, too, for those who are considering an "end of the year" one-time gift over and above tithes. This will help us through the second half of the fiscal year and is greatly appreciated.

As always, if you have any questions at all, my dear family, please do not hesitate to contact me. I thank the Father above every time I think of you!

Much love,  
Jennifer French  
Moderator



## Youth Ministry

What does worship mean to you? Pastor Steve asked our Youth Group and enlightened them, as they enlightened us with their answers. In Christianity worship is the act of attributing reverent honor and homage to God. In the New Testament, various words are used to refer to the term worship. One is proskuneo (“to worship”) which means to bow down to God or kings.

How do we worship God?

- Singing songs
- Praying
- Having fellowship in the Father’s name –being together in His name
- Reading the Bible

And many more ways. Stay on it, whatever works for you – just do it!

Romans 12:1 (NLT)

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.”

Or

Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God; this is your spiritual act of worship.

We discussed each line of Romans 12:1 together.

In view of God’s mercy, God sent Jesus to save us. Worship is a response to God because he has given everything to us. How do you make sacrifices to God?

- Getting up early to go to church instead of playing video games or watching TV or football
- Making decisions to go to bed early the night before church to be ready to receive God’s Word
- Youths expressed ‘getting good energy’ from actually listening to the message given in church
- Take the time out of your day to set a time to pray to develop a deeper relationship with God.
- Praying to God in uncomfortable situations asking for calmness and wisdom before responding.
- Read the Bible, study the Bible.

Dedicate your life to God - change;

- devote your lifestyle to honor God, learn about him more
- Follow the 10 commandments, the principles God has set for us.
- Be obedient to your parents and teachers: honor your father and mother
- Change your lifestyle to add more sacrifices as Jesus sacrificed Himself and forgave our sins.
- Israel worshiped by having animal sacrifices, to atone for their sins. Jesus sacrificed Himself for us to be able to give our lives to Him, willingly and freely.

If there is a conflict of what your parents or authorities tell you to do, God’s laws rule. Talk to your non-Christian friends about Jesus. Influence other people, spread the good Word. Rely on Jesus when we make decisions. We need to focus on making good choices. With the clothes- wear an encouraging T-shirt with a good saying. Do not play violent video games. Say no to drugs, alcohol and sex.

We should follow our conscience. Living life is like an interactive video game. We make many decisions each day that are connected and move us toward a goal. God’s ways should always be our ultimate goal.

What about our decisions for the future? Be kind to others, especially your family, as they are in your future. Think about God when deciding to do something. Would God be happy if I did this? Soon we may be going to college; would you join a Christian group with others or go to wild parties instead? Pastor talked about his good college experiences by joining a Christian College Youth Group. We talked about how it is ok to say no. If you need to study for a test and your friend asks you to go somewhere else, you can say, “No, I cannot go.” God wants you to stay on the good path of life, be a good person.

We had a very good interactive discussion that seemed to ‘sink in’ and ‘plant seeds’ for their future.

## *Youth Ministry, continued*

We are all looking forward to the pumpkin carving party and harvest festival. The December Newsletter will include recaps and photos of this fun upcoming weekend.

We are very thankful for each other, for God's love for us, our families, and our church family,.  
Happy Thanksgiving to all!  
May this year be a blessing to you and your loved ones.

God Bless you all,

Terri, your Youth Group Ministry Leader with comments provided from our Youth Group.

## MVCF Youth Group Thanksgiving Food Drive

October 24 - November 17, 2021

Needed: Stuffing and gravy (ready to serve or powder mix)  
and ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO DONATE

Please place non-perishable food items in  
collection box near church sanctuary

Thank you for supporting our Youth Group and THE *SERRA MESA FOOD PANTRY*  
Terri Carver 619-208-1180

### *Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)*

*1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.*

*2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

..as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,  
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,  
humility, gentleness and patience. Col. 3:12

## Mission Village Christian Fellowship

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We're on the web!

[missionvillage.church](http://missionvillage.church)



### Council Members

Pastor  
Moderator  
Clerk  
Financial Secretary  
Treasurer  
Children's Ministry  
Youth Ministry  
Adult Ministry  
Stewardship  
Fellowship  
Service  
Evangelism  
Missions  
Finance Ministry  
Worship

Steve de Vos  
Jennifer French  
Ronda Adams  
Tony DaVee  
June McCollough  
Christopher French  
Terri Carver  
Joanna de Vos  
Mike Loren  
Open  
Darryl Angus  
Open  
Ellen Davis  
Ernie Garcia  
Open

### Sunday Schedule

Worship & Children's Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Nursery & Toddler Care is Available During Worship Service  
Service will be live on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#)

### Elders

Pastor / Elder.....Steve de Vos  
Administrative Elder .....Tony DaVee  
Elders.....Chris French  
Carl Jensen

### Staff

Administrative Assistant.....Brooklyn Cave  
Nursery Attendant.....Hannah French