

Mission Village Christian Fellowship

February
2022

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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

Pastor's Perspective

Refocusing

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...” -Matthew 28:19

Have you ever walked into a room to do something, only to completely forget what you were supposed to do? I think that happens to all of us on a fairly regular basis. I know it happens to me a lot!

Well, after two years of dealing with a global pandemic, many churches and **church leaders are having a similar experience. We know we're supposed to do something as a church, but the pandemic has been so distracting and so disorienting that it is hard to focus on what that is.**

So as we get deeper into 2022, this is a wonderful time to ask ourselves, what should we be doing as a church? What should we be about? Where should our focus be? **That brings us back to our vision as a church: “We exist to worship God by helping people to know and follow Jesus.” That vision comes from Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 to make disciples of all nations. A disciple is someone who follows Jesus. So our job is to follow Jesus and help others to follow Jesus. That is what we need to refocus on.**

But how do we get back to the business of helping each other follow Jesus? What does that even look like? We are still in the midst of a difficult season. As I write this, our family is in quarantine due to Covid-19! **We still can't all physically be together like we were before the pandemic. Some folks in our church still have to take more precautions than others. Many are weary from the ups and downs of the past two years. These are significant roadblocks to growing together as followers of Jesus Christ.**

Grief Support Group meets on the second & fourth Friday of every 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

1st Thursday

5:30 p.m. Harris Home Fellowship

Friday

7:00 p.m. French Home Fellowship

2nd & 4th Friday

11:00 a.m. Grief Group at Library

Church 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

However, despite these roadblocks, we are moving forward as we seek to follow Jesus and help others to follow Jesus. And as part of that movement, I wanted to share two updates that I want to ask you to keep in your prayers.

First, the Elders of Mission Village Christian Fellowship are devoting a significant amount of time, prayer, and energy towards helping our church family grow spiritually both this year and in the years to come. During the past two years, our focus needed to be (rightly so) on helping our church family come through this pandemic and stay together as a church family even if we couldn't be all together physically. Now, as we come into this year, we are pivoting to refocus on this critical task of helping everyone grow as followers of Jesus.

Second, with the blessing of the Elders and Leadership Council, I am going back to school. Last month I began a Doctor of Ministry program at Talbot School of Theology, which is part of Biola University. The emphasis of this program is on 21st Century Discipleship. In other words, this program mirrors the Elders' task mentioned above: **What does it look like to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ in our world today, and how can we help others to do the same?**

Let me briefly say a few things about this program I am diving into. This program is designed to help pastors and ministry leaders grow in their ministry contexts and, in turn, to help those ministries grow as well. Much of the work I will be doing for this program in the coming years will be done in the context of our church family here at Mission Village Christian Fellowship. So this is a program designed to help our church family grow. It is also designed in a way that will not take me away from full-time ministry here at the church. I will only be away on campus in person for two weeks out of the entire year, which allows me to be fully invested in ministry here all year round.

Because this is designed to strengthen our church family, I welcome any and all questions or inquiries as I work through this program. I'm happy to grab lunch or coffee with any of you and discuss what books I am reading, projects I'm working on, or insights I'm gleaning from this program.

I am excited for what the Lord has for us in this coming year. Let's get refocused this year (and the years to come!) on what it means to be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, and then let's follow him wherever he leads us.


In Christ,
Pastor Steve

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	2 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	3 5:30 p.m. Harris HF	4 6:30 p.m. French HF	5
6 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	7	8 7:00 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	9 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	10	11 11:00 a.m. at MVCF Grief Support Group 6:30 p.m. French HF	12
13 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Epiphany Service	14 Valentine's Day 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study	15 7:00 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	16 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	17	18 6:30 p.m. French HF	19
20 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	21 President's Day — MVCF Office closed 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study	22 7:00 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	23 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	24	25 11:00 a.m. at MVCF Grief Support Group 6:30 p.m. French HF	26 8:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. All Church Work Party
27 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	28 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study					



1—Carl & Marilyn Jensen
8—Tony & Susan DaVee
14—Aender & Jenn Perez Harris
17—Steven & Luisa Johnson



02—Carrie Stinson
02—Marge Peters
03—Abenazer Agiro
04—Jim Williamson
15—Bruce Kraft
15—Steve de Vos
16—Joanna de Vos
16—Mike Evans
16—Steven Johnson
19—Margi Eno
20—Ladina Krokee

Getting Our Attention

1 Kings 19:11-13 11 The Lord said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

The Lord’s voice was not in the hurricane. The Lord’s voice was not in the earthquake. And the Lord’s voice was not in the firestorm, something which we here, unfortunately, are very familiar with. But the Lord’s voice was in a clear, quiet whisper and very recognizable.

The Lord is not showing Elijah how to endure a hurricane, earthquake, and firestorm. The cataclysmic event that Elijah was facing was because of fear and doubt caused by Jezebel’s threats to his life. Elijah stopped hearing God’s voice in the midst of his circumstances.

We are currently going through a series of calamities and cataclysmic events both globally and personally. These calamities and events are not just physical, mental, spiritual, or emotional; the reality is that this is not something new both globally and personally. How do we hear our Lord’s voice in the middle of challenging circumstances?

A former pastor of mine had an interesting response to a question he would get occasionally. He would ask: “How are you doing?” And sometimes, the answer would be: “Okay, under the circumstances.” His response was then, “What are you doing under there?” This was not an attempt to help them change their circumstances but to help those individuals shift their focus from their circumstance to the Lord and His promise that He will also be there for us. He said to His children, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” Admittedly, this is a challenging process. However, it is an important spiritual skill that will bring us true peace in the midst of any challenging circumstance. As with any other ability or skill, we need the Lord’s help in learning and growing in that ability.

Let our prayer be, “Lord help me to see and hear you better.”

-Mr. French

MVCF Youth Group

C	X	C	Q	N	W	G	E	N	E	V	A	V	M	J	T	C	Q
H	J	O	H	N	Y	E	D	O	M	V	C	F	A	O	E	E	J
R	B	D	S	C	B	O	D	M	A	R	Y	B	R	N	R	Y	B
I	R	M	A	H	I	J	U	N	A	S	M	V	Y	A	R	J	L
S	I	A	M	R	B	O	E	T	E	N	T	R	J	S	I	O	U
T	H	R	F	I	L	U	P	S	H	S	D	E	O	J	E	S	K
I	A	K	R	S	E	M	R	A	U	G	D	R	V	G	V	H	E
A	N	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	S	S	R	A	E	E	A	U	D
N	A	N	J	O	S	E	P	H	F	T	X	O	Y	W	N	A	K
H	S	E	M	I	L	Y	I	V	A	N	O	F	U	T	P	P	A
A	C	G	O	G	U	R	M	A	T	T	A	R	U	P	B	N	L
Y	J	C	A	C	J	O	A	N	N	A	S	R	L	Y	A	L	G

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

ANDREW

BIBLE

BRIHANA

CHRIS

CHRISTIAN

EMILY

EVAN

GENEVA

IVAN

JESUS

JOANNA

JOHN

JONAS

JOSEPH

JOSHUA

LUKE

MARK

MARY

MARYJO

MATT

MATTHEW

MVCF

PASTOR

SAM

STEVE

TERRI

WEDNESDAY

YOUTHGROUP

Youth Ministry

Our Youth Group (YG) has been excited to start their new year of 2022, studying following the new Bible Project Curriculum. We have a new student: Geneva, from our local neighborhood, we are so glad she joined us. She saw our beautiful Youth Group banner advertisement on our church lawn. It is always up to draw YG students to come anytime on Wed. nights 6:30-8:15p.

Every 2nd Sunday of the month we have a YG Sunday school taught by Joanna DeVos.

However, in September I taught the YG. We had three students in attendance setting SMART Goals for the year that are: measurable & attainable. One student said they would pray to God longer each day for themselves, family, and friends. Another student said they would read a chapter a day in Matthew; another said they would read for at least 20 minutes a week in the Bible. I said I would plan to match all three.

We had a record-high number of students attend the 1st Wednesday night beginning of our new year to **learn God's word. We went around the room, re-introducing ourselves, sharing what school we go to, and sharing a virtue of God we like.** The answers were superb and varied from God is good and trustworthy, and He is our Holy Father. The leaders chimed in as well. Pastor Steve said he is a student again and is studying the 21st century of discipleship. His favorite virtue of God is His grace. Ivan said he graduated from UCSD and his favorite virtue is how God brings people together like us. MaryJo Cooper said it has been years since she has been in high school and her favorite virtue of God is that He promises never to leave her/us. I went to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and received a double business major in marketing & Insurance. My favorite virtue of God is His forgiveness for us and how He loves us unconditionally and supports us. When we pray for guidance, he is very willing to help us.

We have started with Genesis part 1 and 2 and Exodus Part 1 and 2. The illustrations in this curriculum are so clever and good. It showed the students the good – God created the earth and a beautiful paradise with us in his image; and the bad –Adam and Eve tempted by the serpent then ate from the tree of knowledge this got them ousted from the garden then they discovered they were naked and capable of **sinning. The students are aware of the many 'serpents.'** Some of the questions from the 1st lesson were very thought-provoking, particularly from a teenager's perspective.

We read Genesis: 1:26-31 – **God made us in his image as human beings. We reflected in God's image how we could represent God in some way?** We asked how that impacts how they think about their self-worth and how we, our parents, our teachers perceive us, and our self-value. A few brave students said they did not feel very self-worthy and almost had a low opinion of themselves, a fear at that age more than ever. We reminded them to instill in their thoughts that God created them as His children, and God views their self-worth as high as they should as well. We created a comfortable environment to share their feelings and started the healing process instantly with prayers and kind words.

We continued with Genesis Chapter 3:1-13. God wanted Adam & Eve to trust him completely. But by intentionally disobeying God, they stated they wanted to be in charge of their own lives. The Bible calls it **"sin."** **How did they impact the relationships between God and each other? The students said it definitely changed it; they needed to earn trust back from God and noticed they were naked and needed coverings.** How they could have prevented this by not being persuaded – they thought about this for them.

How does sin impact their own lives? They get grounded and in trouble if they disobey their parents or teachers. **They've seen it impact the world around them with being surrounded by non-believers a lot.** They said they try to be on the good side of things and friends more than being on the bad side.

We continued with Genesis 3:14-15. Finding hope, thankfully, Jesus undoes the effects of sin around us. **We asked the students and are asking you, too, "Ask God to show you how precious & valuable you are."** If you find yourself sinning or near sin or sinners, stop and think and, then, try to do the right thing. If

you did not, “Ask God for forgiveness and know that Jesus loves you and died for you and your sins.”

One of the students wrote when he saw the video from the Bible project and what he thought:

“I thought of how much humanity has messed up and strayed from God.” & 2 wrongs don’t make a right.” Others thought how cruel Joseph’s brothers were to him almost to kill him & sell him into slavery. Genesis Part 2. We read Genesis 50:15-21. Joseph’s brothers are terrified that Joseph will try to get revenge for selling him into slavery. They asked for forgiveness and asked that he not kill them or wipe them out. The brothers were surprised by his response, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is being done, the saving of many lives.

The question was: How have you seen God take bad things in your life and turn them to good? It was not too easy for them to come up with an example, but they said God gave us free will, which is a good feature. We read Isaiah 53: 4-6 and asked, How does God create good out of Jesus’ death in these verses? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins and give us the chance to have eternal life with Him, if we so choose to.

Last year we asked the students to memorize this verse:

“ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

This verse reminds us of God’s promise to those that love Him. How do we experience this promise in our day to day lives? The students reflected on the path they are on for God and said they really do try to stay on it but sometimes the go astray. When they do, they feel they want to get back on the path to do better. We took some time to thank God for bringing good out of any situation. We are learning to trust Him, that he is working in difficult situations for our good.

-Terri Carver

Being together to play games,
pray and learn about God brings
our group closer together.

Mission Village Christian
Fellowship's Youth Group
invites all Middle School and
High School age students to
join their weekly meetings
Wednesday Nights at 6:30pm



..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

We exist to worship
God by helping
people to know and
follow Jesus.

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 ElderTony DaVee
Elders.....Chris French
Carl Jensen

Staff

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