

December 2022 Newsletter

Mission Village Christian Fellowship

Pastor's Perspective

“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart”
-Luke 2:19

When I was growing up, the month of December seemed agonizingly slow. I had an Advent calendar, where I could open up a new door each day of the month, that had a Scripture from the Christmas story inside. But I could only open one door each day. That seemed to take forever. Christmas wasn't coming fast enough!

Now however as an adult, I find that the month of December flies by. Christmas always seems to sneak up on me. Thanksgiving happens, and then Christmas decorations, Christmas parties, Christmas concerts and Christmas shopping seem to consume my entire month. And I find myself on Christmas Eve wondering what happened to the month! From my conversations with others, this sounds like a pretty normal adult experience this time of year.

In the midst of the busyness, and maybe before the busyness gets too chaotic, I wonder if we can take a page out of Mary's spiritual playbook this Advent Season. If you think you have a lot on your plate, consider Mary: a very young woman who is told she will give birth to the Messiah, has to deal with the social reality in the ancient world of carrying a child before her marriage to Joseph was consummated, Joseph almosts divorces her (which requires angelic intervention to stop), then she has to go through the normal hardships of pregnancy, travel a long distance close to her due date, and after giving birth to Jesus gets visits from random shepherds and people from a far away land bringing expensive gifts (because every new mom after giving birth wants strangers coming to visit, right?). Isn't that all just a little overwhelming?

Pastor's Perspective, continued on page 2

Inside this issue

Pastor's Perspective	1
Pastor's Perspective cont.	2
November Celebrations	2
Calendar	3
Children's Ministry	4
Youth's Ministry	5
Youth's Ministry cont.	6
Christmas Preparations (pics)	7
Staff & Leadership	8
Council Members	8
MVCF Contact Information	8

Sunday Worship Schedule

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

Grief Support Group meetings are held on call, if you desire to meet MVCF would like to offer support. If you are interested, please contact Russ Armstead

Small Groups:

Monday

1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study at MVCF

Tuesday

6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting Online

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Youth Group at MVCF

1st Thursday

5:30 p.m. de Vos Home Fellowship at MVCF

Friday

6:30 p.m. French Home Fellowship

Church Work Party Every Fourth Saturday of the month

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

For more contact Frank Romeo

Pastor's Perspective, continued from page 1

And yet notice how Mary responds through all of this: she trusts (Luke 1:38) and she worships (Luke 1:46-55). But she also has one other response that is worth noting. She **“treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.”** These words treasure and ponder point to Mary making sure that she tightly held on to all of these experiences so that she could reflect and meditate on what God was doing in that moment in history.

I love the Christmas carol *Joy to the World*. And in that song there is a well known line: **“Let every heart prepare him room.”** Like Mary, are we making room in our heart for Jesus this Christmas? Are we treasuring and pondering the awe and wonder of this season, that God in his love for us sent his son to identify with us, live the life we should live, and die the death we should die (1 John 4:10)? Are we making room in our hearts during this season to know Jesus, grow closer to Jesus, and savor our relationship with Jesus?

Last Sunday we began the Advent Season with a series on Sunday mornings entitled **“Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room.”** My hope is that this month can be a time where you don't get consumed with the busyness of the season, but can take some time, make room in your heart for Jesus, and grow closer to him. Examine the corners of your heart where there isn't room for Jesus and surrender those to him. Because what Jesus wants from you this Christmas...is you. Our hearts are the best gift we can give to Jesus.

Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room.

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Steve

December Celebrations



Happy Birthday




- Antonio Quion V 12/02
- Gayle Kraft 12/07
- Elaine Morgan 12/13
- Jim Ryer 12/14
- Roger McCollough 12/21
- Ronda Adams 12/21
- Evan de Vos 12/28

- Mike & Terri Loren 12/09
- Doug & Margi Eno 12/27
- Ernie & Susan Garcia 12/30

December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
11/27 1st Sun Advent Angel Tree 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	11/28 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study at MVCF	11/29 6:30 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	11/30 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30p.m. Youth Group	1 5:30-7:30p.m. de Vos Home Fellowship at MVCF	2 6:30p.m. French Home Fellowship	3
4 2nd Sun Advent Angel Tree 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	5 6:30 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	6 6:00 p.m. Council & Elder Christmas Party	7 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30p.m. Youth Group	8	9 6:30 p.m. Women's Christmas Dinner	10
11 3rd Sun Advent Angel Tree Wrapping Party 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 5:00 p.m. Gift to the King	12 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study at MVCF	13 6:30 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	14 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30p.m. Youth Group	15	16 6:30-p.m. French Home Fellowship	17 8:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m. All Church Work Party
18 4th Sun Advent Angel Tree Wrapping Party 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	19	20 6:30 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	21 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry	22	23 6:30-p.m. French Home Fellowship	24 5:30p.m. Christmas Eve Service
25 Christmas Day Promise Tree 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 	26 MVCF Office Closed	27 6:30 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	28 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry	29	30 6:30-p.m. French Home Fellowship	31
1/1 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	1/2	1/3 6:30 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	1/4 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30p.m. Youth Group	1/5	1/6 6:30-p.m. French Home Fellowship	1/7

Children's Ministry



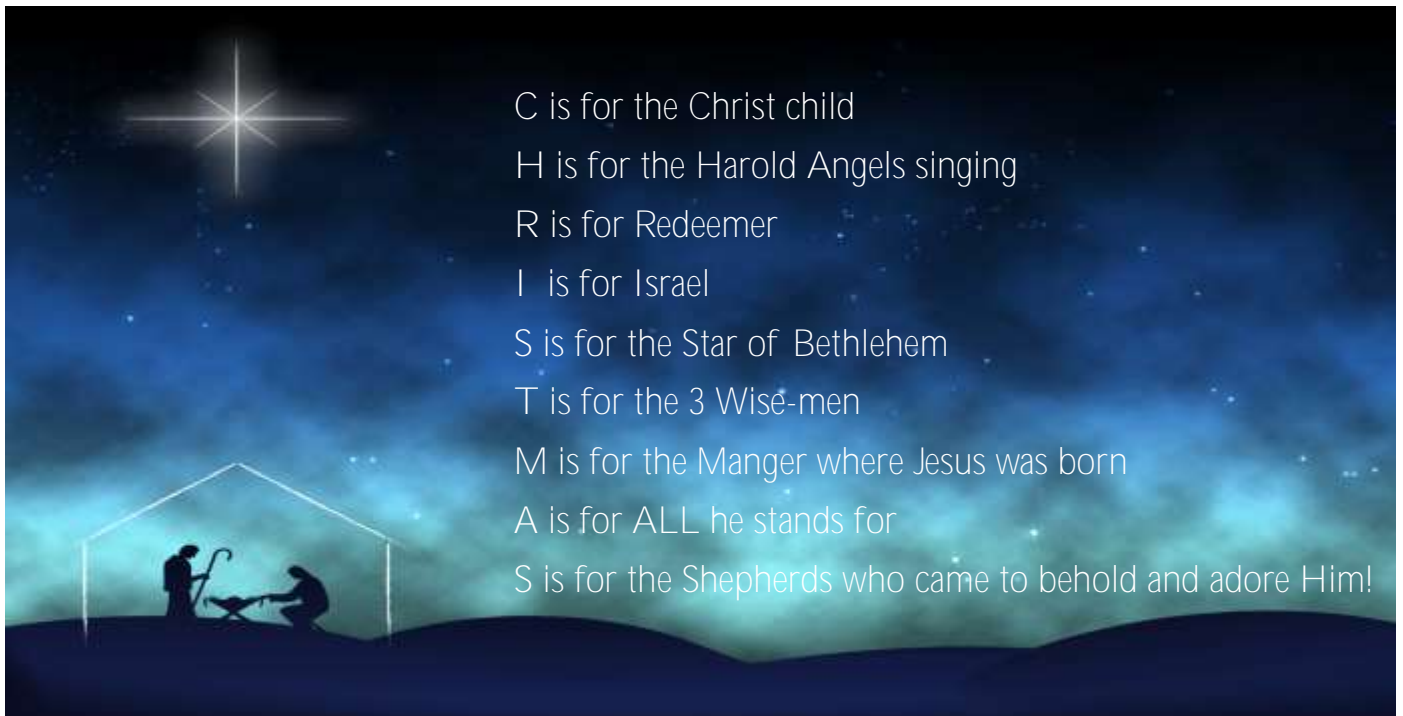
Savoring the Season or Tis the season to be jolly???



That's the party line. But for many, the holiday season can feel more like the season of commitments, obligations, stress and even depression. We work through all the holiday events and end up at New Year's Day wondering where our holiday season went. We appeared to have lost the ability savor the season.

Savoring is the scientific term for deliberately enhancing and prolonging your positive moods, experiences, and emotions.

We all have done this process of savoring before in smaller, definitive moments. We have experienced a special meal, a special performance or a unique visual experience. It is important to note that savoring is an action and mindset and not a mood or emotion itself, but rather a way of approaching positive emotions. And as the definition above indicates, it is a way to enhance our experiences. For many of us there will be a significant number of events to experience this holiday season. The challenging part of savoring becomes more than just working through the logistics of getting through this event. To savor is looking for every opportunity to make the most we can in the experiences within each of these events. An example would be: We have an event which involves working with others in the completion of this event. Completing the logistics of this event is important and necessary. Savoring or enhancing would be looking to enjoy the relationship you have with those working in that event with you. It can happen automatically. However, I believe that if you are actively seeking to savor that event or the season, you need to approach that process and mindset before those events occur. I believe that if we intentionally approach all the events of this season with that mindset, we will truly be able to savor our Holiday Season.





Youth's Ministry

It is such a wonderful time of year to be grateful and joyous to have God in our lives and thoughts. Our Holiday schedule is following the same traditions at our church for Thanksgiving,

- 1) Collecting canned goods for our Serra Mesa Food Pantry (thank you so much for all who donated!)
- 2) Then the Saturday morning after Thanksgiving decorating with Festive Holiday **lights, ornaments and poinsettia's our church sanctuary, fellowship Hall, Foyer** and even our Youth Group room. This year was preceded by a continental breakfast then afterwards some delicious Omelets provided by Terri to thank all our wonderful church members who volunteered their time to transform our church into a festival frenzy.
- 3) Angel Tree –coming up where we will all to go Target and shop Dec. 13th for a child each (Our Youths shop for 5-10 children) for their desired wrapped gifts. **Audrey and Jim contribute toward Gift cards. Then with Chris French's leadership** we will deliver all gifts to the children the week before Christmas and say they are from their parents who are incarcerated. The looks on their faces are 'priceless'.
- 4) Gifts to the King on Dec. 11th. The last few years we have had Briahana sing, sharing her beautiful voice with us and the Lord. We look forward to her and hopefully other Youths sharing; I am trying to get them involved.
- 5) We celebrate Christmas, the birth of Jesus, the symbol of the beginning of a renewed life lived for Him.

During our Youth group sessions, we have continued with the Bible Project with Esther and Job. Esther is an unsung heroine in the Bible and her story shows how **strong the women are the ones Jesus' uses for his purpose. The Lord uses Esther** in so many ways and over time she prevails with her courage from God. God is not mentioned at all in her story but his handprint is all over the good things that come out of it.

Youth Ministry, Continued on page 6

"-this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Romans 12:1b-2

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



Youth Ministry, Continued from page 5

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; don’t rely on your own intelligence. Know him in all your paths, and he will keep your ways straight.” —

Proverbs 3:5-6

Job’s story is just as relevant now in our modern day. We live in a very difficult times. Why does God allow good people to suffer? Is God just or unjust? We talked a lot about this and Pastor helped us decide that this helps to build our true character. Overcoming suffering and challenges teaches us valuable lessons – not everything comes easy in the world. It is complex. We need to talk to God through prayer in our times and unexpected moments of struggling. Job trusted God as we also should. Pastor preached last month that 1) God is faithful even though we cannot see Him 2) **God continues to be faithful even when we are faithless (at times). Trust God’s wisdom and direction and guidance. God cares for us. God exists outside of space and time. The Youth mentioned, “It could be a whole lot worse. We might not have a warm bed or clothes or food to eat. We need to be thankful for what we do have.”** Some of the questions the Youths asked were: Is Bill Gates going to hell? Do serial killers go to hell? What do angels look like? We answered truthfully and said what IS sure is that Jesus backed up his claim: He rose from the dead. He is the way, the truth and the life. Trust His guidance and listen to Him.

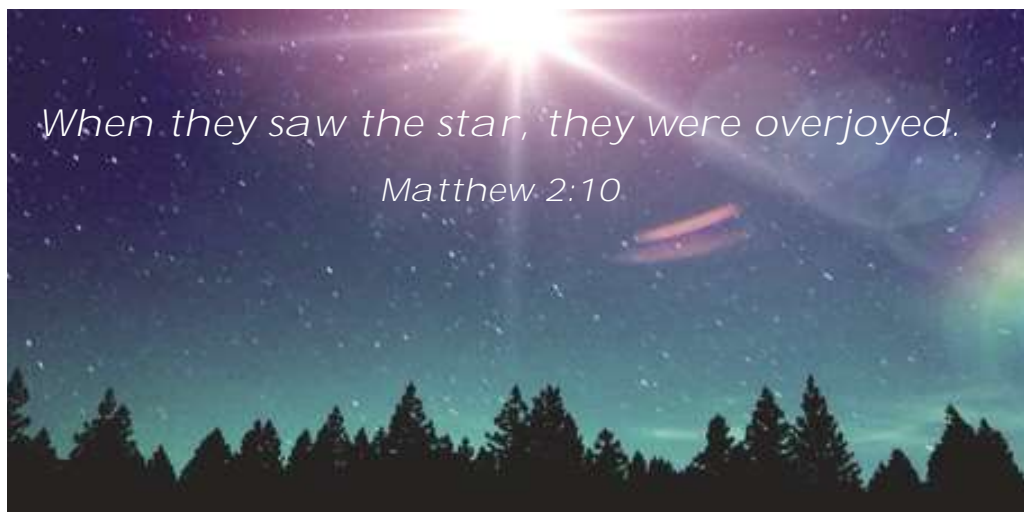
We will be taking time off the last 2 Wednesdays of the year and starting Youth Group up again: Jan.4th

May God Bless you and your families. Stay healthy and spread God’s love and warmth to everyone you see. We appreciate and love our church family. We are Thankful to have a safe place to feel God’s love!



When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

Matthew 2:10





Pictures courtesy of:
Roger McCollough





*...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

Proverbs 22:17

**"A merry heart does good like
medicine"**

Council Members

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

*Steve de Vos
Jennifer French
Ronda Adams
Tony DaVee
June McCollough
Christopher French
Terri Carver
Joanna de Vos
Frank Romeo
Jenny Fiori
Carl Demas
Matt & Ellen Davis
Ernie Garcia
Hannah French*

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.....Judy Yacob
Nursery Attendant.....Hannah French*