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MVCF

June 2024 Newsletter

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Worship Schedule

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

Pastor's Pen

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort that we ourselves receive from God." -2 Corinthians 1:3-4

This is a difficult season for our church family.

That previous sentence deserves to stand on its own. It is tempting to want to add something positive, to say "this is a difficult season for our church family, but here are all the awesome things God is doing." Or "this is a difficult season for our church family, but here is the silver lining." Or "this is a difficult season for our church family but I know that things will get better for us."

Now it may be true that God is doing awesome things (he is) and that there is a silver lining in suffering (there usually is somewhere) or that things will get better in the future (they will). But to try to add a positive spin to a difficult season takes away from the true difficulty of what our church family is going through. Our beloved Christopher is in hospice care. We have others in our church family going through serious health struggles. And that is not to mention the emotional struggles experienced by others in our church family simply dealing with day to day life. This is a difficult season for our church family.

In addition to taking away from the difficulty of the season, our grasping for the positive also takes our focus off of what we really need during difficult seasons (and every season for that matter): God himself. God is the God of all comfort. Let that sink in for a moment.

Continued on Page 2

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

6:30pm Women's Bible Study at MVCF

Tuesday

9:00 am Bible Study at MVCF

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

**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**

Continued from Page 1

God is the God of ALL comfort. And God does not simply comfort us with encouragement here or there or a thought to get us through the day. No, God is the God of all comfort because he is constantly with us. And because Jesus, God the Son, took on humanity and experienced the full human experience including suffering, God truly can identify with us and comfort us as he walks with us. It is usually a really bad idea to tell someone who is suffering "I know what you're going through," because even if you think you have experienced something similar to the person who is suffering, you have no idea what it is like to be in that person's shoes in that specific situation. Yet God does know what we're going through. And he walks with us. He stays with us. Sociologist Felicia Wu Song beautifully says it this way:

"The good news of Christianity is that it is a religion about 'going through.' Unlike what many presume, it is not a religion that offers a formula of escape in exchange for good works or sacrifices. Instead, it promises the presence of God, the creator of the universe, who subjected himself to human suffering of the worst kind on our behalf, and he did not withdraw his hand but went through death and undid its power by overcoming it. The good news is that it is *this God who loves us and will be with us. God is not merely a benevolent grandfatherly presence who soothes us, saying 'There, there, my child.'* Rather, we worship a God who not only knows what it is like to go through the very worst that life has to throw at us but chooses to be present with us and thereby empowers us to do the same."

It is that last sentence from Dr. Song that I find to be most encouraging; the idea that the God who has faced the worst human suffering imaginable has gone through it, and by his presence with us enables us to go through it as well. *God is not the God of all comfort simply because he provides just the right uplifting thought at just the right time, he is the God of all comfort because he is with us in the midst of suffering, and he will help us go through it. And that my dear brothers and sisters, is very good news indeed.*

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Steve

1. Felicia Wu Song, *Restless Devices: Recovering Personhood, Presence, and Place in the Digital Age* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 2021), 174-175.

June 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	3 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	4 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	5 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth Group	6	7	8
9 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	10 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	11 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	12 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth Group	13	14	15
16 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service Father's Day	17 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	18 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	19 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth Group	20	21	22 8:30am All Church Work Party
23 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	24 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	25 9:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	26 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth Group	27	28	29
30 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <h2>JUNE CELEBRATIONS</h2> </div>					
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">  <div> <p>Scott & Jenny Fiori 06/09</p> </div> </div>					



Happy Birthday

Michelle Vandenberg

06/02

Michael Fiori

06/22

Ellen Davis

06/08

Susan DaVee

06/22

Beverly Latham

06/21

June McCollough

06/25

Samantha Yoro

06/21

Doug Eno

06/30

Moderator

The last newsletter article from me!

Dearest Church Family,

This is the last article written by me as your Moderator. It has truly been an honor to serve you and our Council these past three years. The church leadership is made up of passionate, loving, kind and dedicated people who love Jesus and love His church so much! You are exceedingly blessed to have them - I know I've been blessed to be working alongside them, that's for sure.

We've gone through so much in our little fellowship since 2020 - and the pandemic and all that implies has indeed left its mark: fewer members, fewer opportunities for outreach, fewer visitors ... but we remain steadfast - being the Light on the Hill for our Serra Mesa/Mission Village community. Each one of you is precious and an integral part of our church family and each one of you is needed to be, as Christopher likes to say, "Jesus in shoe leather". Please take a personal inventory to see how you can pitch in to help the incoming Council board this next year. Assistance will be needed in the Children's Ministry as Christopher phases out of that role - can you step in? Are you able to help with Vacation Bible School? What about our Harvest Festival - our Evangelism Outreach ministry will need organizational help to bless our community! Do you play an instrument or sing? The worship team is not static - it should be always growing - please join them! We're a pretty small village, so when we say it takes a village - that means all of us, right???

On a last note - I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your love and support you're pouring out to our family at this time. The grief is real - and it's shared, church-wide - I see it on your faces on Sunday - and know that I can physically feel your love and prayers - my whole family can. Thank you. Please reach out to me, if you need. I know I'll be reaching out to you.

Thank you - please pray for the incoming Moderator, Ronda Adams, as she takes on the "CEO" role of our church family - pray for wisdom, strength and peace. She's a truly wonderful human - and we're truly blessed to have her take on this mantle!

Be blessed, my church family - you are loved!!!!

Jennifer French

Deuteronomy 1:29–31

“Then I said to you, ‘Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, and in the wilderness. There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.’”

Service Ministry

2024 Annual Report for Service

Service is defined as the action of utilizing our gifts in the service of others. James 2:14 says, "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?" We at MVCF have much to be thankful for in relation to the services provided by:

Pastor (soon to be Dr.) **Steve de Vos**

Church Secretary: **Judy Jacob**

Elders: **Tony DaVee, Carl Jensen, Christopher French**

Moderator: **Jennifer French**

Clerk: (soon to be Moderator) **Ronda Adams**

Financial Secretary: **Tony DaVee**

Treasurer: **June McCullough**

Finance: **Earnie Garcia**

Children's Ministry: **Christopher French**

Youth Ministry: **Terri Carver**

Adult Ministry: **Joanna de Vos**

Stewardship: **Frank Romeo, Jim Williamson, Doug Eno**

Fellowship: **Jenny Fiori**

Missions: **Ellen Davis**

Evangelism: **Matt Davis**

Worship: **Hannah French**

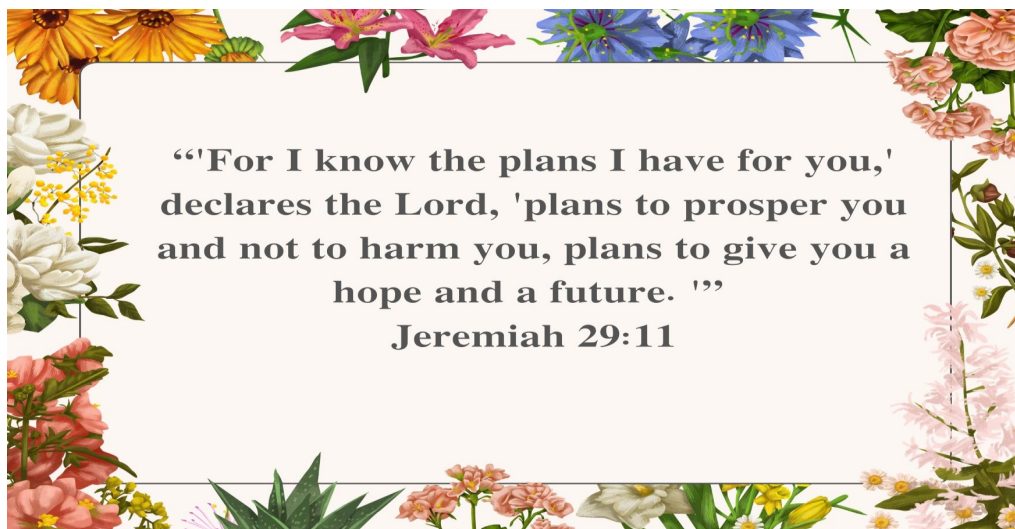
Praise Band: **Tony DaVee, Chris French, Mike Evans, Jennifer French, Rebecca Schnarr, Tony Quion**

Personnel Committee: **Michele Quion, Rebecca Schnarr, Shirley House**

Please excuse me if I have missed you but you can see how much service is required for our church to function.

THANK YOU everyone for your service as everyone is needed to further our mission of love.

Carl Demas, Service



Youth Ministry

Photos provided courtesy of Church Members



Youth Ministry

Graduation is in the air! - 2 of our original Youths will be graduating from high school! ! Briahna De La Cruz is graduating from Patrick Henry High School on **June 6th** – in the afternoon what a wonderful day! Her graduation ceremonies will be at Patrick Henry's newly renovated stadium. Yesterday, she went to the CA Adventure Park near Disney Land for their Senior Grad Night and had a blast! Taking buses to LA is always an adventure in itself. A great way to end her fine days at Henry. Sam Miller is graduating from High Tech Academy on **June 14th 1p**. Afterwards a Graduation Gathering at the Fiori Household. We all know what kinds of great food & fellowship happen there! Please mark your calendars for a Graduation Party after church here on **June 16, 2024** to celebrate Graduates and Father's Day! We will have Pepperoni Pizza, Pop and Popsicles for all who attend.

Our Youth Group Final Party for this year in our Youth Group room is Wed. June 5th. Then we will be starting up again next school year with Youth Group Bible Study Sept. 4, 2024. 6:30-8:15p.

We do take the summer off for Youth Group but we are now meeting at our church on Wednesday instead of going to Mission Bay Beach Night. The Youths will join us when they can.

Also, the week of July 23-26, Our church hosts an annual VBS (Vacation Bible School) that we ask the Youth Group to assist us as Group Leaders each night 6p-8:30p. Please let us know.

Youth Group has been wonderful this year. Our Youths are and get shining stars for attending each Wednesday (or when they could) to learn and feel the presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. When we are in the Youth Group room together, the Holy Spirit is with us – we can feel it.

Teaching side by side with Pastor Steve, & Chris French (May Jo Cooper sometimes) is a blessing. We all learn so much from each other and everyone is so supportive of our prayer requests. We really had good discussions while we all took a deep dive into the meaning of life and the Lord's Prayer and Apostle Creed. We all know the 10 commandments but it's always nice to see how to memorize them in a fun way or spiritual way in a more modern version.

A special shout out to Mr. French! He is truly an amazing man of God. Quite an inspiration to us all! He has known the Youths since they were children. He even invited the whole Youth Group to his house last Wednesday and made it very special for everyone who attended. Mary Jo said it was such a blessing as Bri and I could not attend; we heard it was a super special night with the Holy Spirit flowing freely. Chris even baked everyone cookies and whipped up some strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream. He got his guitar out and they sang worship songs. Pastor got his Bible out and taught the students about living your life right then going to be with God in heaven. We all love Mr. French so much, want to show him as much support and love as humanly possible!

Thank you and God bless us all.

Terri Carver, Youth Group leader.

Missions

Photos provided courtesy of Church Members



"We're excited to share that the Serra Mesa Food Pantry recently celebrated its 14th year! Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, supported, and/or prayed for the pantry over the years."

Adult Ministry

Photos provided courtesy of Church Members



Over Mother's Day weekend, some of the ladies of MVCF enjoyed a delightful fusion of creativity and fellowship at a paint and sip event at Lemon Grove Coffee.

What exactly is a paint and sip event you ask? It's a unique gathering where participants, guided by an experienced artist, create something beautiful while enjoying a beverage (in this case coffee) and the company of friends, old and new. One of the beauties of paint and sip events is that you don't need any prior painting experience to participate. Whether you're a seasoned artist or picking up a brush for the first time, the focus is on relaxing, having fun, and enjoying the process.

With a little guidance and encouragement from local artist Christy Ross (<https://www.christyross.art/>), we were able to unleash our own inner Picassos and create something unique to take home at the end of the night. So ladies, stay tuned for future paint and sip events in other locations-- we would be blessed if you can join us for more painting, sipping and making memories!

Grace and Love,
Joanna de Vos
for the Women's Ministry Team

.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

2650 Melbourne Drive

San Diego, CA 92123

Phone: 858-278-2633

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We're on the web!
missionvillage.church

Council Members

Pastor	Steve de Vos
Moderator	Jennifer French
Clerk	Ronda Adams
Financial Secretary	Tony DaVee
Treasurer	June McCollough
Children's Ministry	Christopher French
Youth Ministry	Terri Carver
Adult Ministry	Joanna de Vos
Stewardship	Frank Romeo
Fellowship	Jenny Fiori
Service	Carl Demas
Missions / Evangelism	Matt & Ellen Davis
Finance Ministry	Ernie Garcia
Worship	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