

Pastor's Pen

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." - Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)

These are some of my favorite verses in the Bible, not only because of what they say, but because of their context in the biblical story. These verses are not spoken in a time of blessing but a time of grief. Israel has been carried into exile after generations of disobeying God and his commands. For hundreds of years God sent prophets to lovingly call his people back to following the way of God, and for hundreds of years Israel rejected those prophets and turned to false gods and the detestable practices associated with those false gods. So finally God gave Israel over to their sin, and they were carried into exile, first by the Assyrian empire in 722 B.C., and then by the Babylonian empire in 586 B.C. So the book of Lamentations is written after these exiles have begun, and Israel is processing through the horrifying reality of their new situation. Lamentations is exactly what its title suggests: five chapters of gut-wrenching lament.

And yet, in the middle of this lament, there is hope: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." The beauty of this is that even in the darkest and most difficult times of our lives, there is always hope because of who God is. Whether the difficult season is brought on by our own sinfulness, such as in the case of Israel, or brought on simply because we live in a broken world where pain and suffering exist, there is always hope because the steadfast love of God never ceases, and his mercies never come to an end. God is always faithful, even in the darkness.

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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

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Why am I reflecting on this now? Well, I am writing this in mid July, one week after our Vacation Bible School. This was the first VBS in two years, and the first since our beloved Mr. French passed away last year. Honestly, it was difficult to even think about planning a VBS without Christopher. His absence was keenly felt during the preparation process in the weeks leading up to VBS, and his absence was felt even more during the week of VBS.

And yet, "the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is (His) faithfulness." We saw God's loving faithfulness in at least two beautiful ways during VBS. First, God faithfully helped us to do it. Because of the faithfulness of God, we pulled off a VBS without the planning and creativity of Mr. French. That is a small miracle in my opinion, and we fully give thanks and praise to our faithful God for that miracle.

Second, we saw God's loving faithfulness through our VBS Staff. We had an amazing team helping during VBS. Briahna De La Cruz and Terri Carver served as our co-directors, Michele Quion took on crafts, and Joanna de Vos did the bible lesson. Ladina, Alana, and Claire Krokee helped in a variety of ways during the week, as did several kids from our youth group, including Geneva, Matt, and Andrew. And Tony Quion did any number of things behind the scenes. We had a wonderful team.

But the real experience of God's faithfulness was not just the team itself, but the way that God worked through that team in the midst of this season of grief and loss. While Mr. French's absence was keenly felt all week, his imprint was clearly seen from start to finish. Let me give just two examples. First, Briahna's creativity in things such as set design and snack planning had Mr. French's imprint all over it. And second, as we decorated the sanctuary on Monday night, Andrew channeled his Mr. French/MacGyver instincts and got the decorations to work using nothing but duct tape and zip ties (proud dad moment!).

So while Mr. French was very much missed during VBS, his imprint and his legacy was very clearly seen. And I say this not to put Mr. French up on a pedestal (he would hate it if I did), but rather to point to the overwhelming loving faithfulness of God, who ministered to us even in the midst of a difficult week.

I share all of this for two reasons. One, I share this so you can join us in celebrating and praising God for his loving faithfulness to our church as we reflect on Vacation Bible School. But two, I share this so that you might be directed towards God's loving faithfulness in the midst of whatever darkness and hardship you might be facing right now. No matter how dark the darkness is, "the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is (His) faithfulness." That is good news.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

August 2025

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	4	5 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	6 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 5:00pm Picnic	7	8	9
8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	11	6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 5:00pm Picnic	14	15	16
8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship	18	19 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	20 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 5:00pm Picnic	21	22	23 All Church Work Party
8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	25	26 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	27 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 5:00pm Picnic	28	29	30
8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service						

Small Groups:

Monday

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

7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study at MVCF

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Bible Study at MVCF

6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting Online

Wednesday

5:00 p.m. Picnic

7:00 p.m. Youth Group 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

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS



Andy & Terri Carver 08/01



Andy Carver 08/14
Savina Adjibolosoo 08/15
Jean Fortanas 08/16
Samuel Davis 08/16
Becky DeLaCruz 08/23

Numbers 6:22-27

The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."

"So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.""

Therefore, 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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Council Members

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

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