

MVCF

December 2025 Newsletter



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Pastor's Pen

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Peace That Surpasses All Understanding

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid (John 14:27)."

As we enter this Advent Season, we currently live in a world that is longing for peace. We are longing for peace to come in the midst of wars around the globe where innocent people are killed every day. Here at home, we are longing for peace in our country, where there is so much political and cultural division. And in our own personal lives, we are longing for peace. With the instability from the recent government shutdown and other events in our country, my retirement account has been bouncing up and down like a kid on a trampoline...not exactly the most peaceful thing to watch when it involves your own money!

But beyond financial uncertainty, there are any number of other factors that contribute to our lack of peace this Advent Season. Mental health struggles. Life transitions. Job instability. Grief and loss. Personal conflict. I could go on and on, and I am sure you can add to this list from things in your own life that are causing you to experience a lack of peace.

So here is the problem: We are entering a season where we sing about Jesus being the Prince of Peace, and yet in our own lives we are not experiencing peace. There is a seeming disconnect between what we sing about and celebrate each Christmas, and what we are actually feeling and experiencing. So does the Bible actually offer us something to bring us peace this Christmas?

Thankfully, the answer is a resounding yes! Jesus tells his followers that he is giving his peace to them. Think about that. Jesus' perfect peace as God the Son, is given to us as followers of Jesus. In Ephesians 2:14 Paul says that Jesus is our peace, and can bring peace in a way that no one or nothing else can.

Worship Schedule:

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

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What this suggests is that Jesus' peace that he gives to us is a kind of peace that is infinitely greater than the kind of peace we try to cultivate in our own lives when we are lacking peace. The kind of peace we try to cultivate is like a band aid; it helps for a while but doesn't really solve the problem. But Jesus' peace is something much greater and longer lasting.

When I was in Scouts as a teenager, I was part of a COPE course one summer at summer camp. COPE is for older Scouts, and goes beyond learning basic outdoors skills and dives into deeper leadership and life skills. And one exercise from that course comes to mind as I think about the difference between Jesus' peace and the kind of peace we try to cultivate in our own lives. For this exercise, we were given a large barrel by the side of a lake. Our challenge was to make the barrel overflow with water. But there was one problem. The barrel was full of holes. No matter how fast we filled the barrel with water, we could never get close enough to make the barrel overflow with water... until...one of our group members had the brilliant idea of putting the barrel IN the lake, and putting the largest kid in our course IN the barrel. Then, and only then, were we able to make the barrel overflow with a few quick scoops of water.

But even with this plan, the water only overflowed momentarily. We accomplished our goal, we did what we were challenged to do. But at the end of the day, the barrel still had holes. Once the Scout was taken out of the barrel (shivering by this point!) and the barrel was taken out of the lake, the barrel was as empty as ever. And this is similar to what happens when we try to cultivate peace on our own apart from Jesus. We can bring about a sense of peace in our lives, but only for a short time.

How is Jesus' peace better? The word for peace in the Bible means whole or complete. A wall that does not have any holes or damages in it can be said to be in a state of peace. What this means for us is that Jesus is not giving us a better strategy to fill our barrel that is full of holes. He is giving us a new barrel with no holes. He is giving us peace that does not leak.

My hope and prayer for us as a church family this Advent Season is that we can experience this kind of peace. Jesus' peace. A peace that makes us whole and complete, even if the circumstances in our lives are trying to destroy our peace. This is what we will be exploring during our Advent worship services each Sunday as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

So I would like to invite you to do two things this month. One, come each Sunday as we look at this amazing peace that Jesus offers to us. Talk with friends at church each Sunday about how you need Jesus' peace and how you can experience this peace. And two, if you are struggling to experience peace in a certain area of your life, come talk to me or to one of the Elders (Carl Jensen and Tony DaVee). We would love to pray for you and help you experience Jesus' supernatural, everlasting peace.

Now I will be the first to tell you that I don't always experience Jesus' peace. I easily get caught up in the stressors of this world, and there are times that I am lacking in experiencing this peace. But I do know this: I know that a barrel without holes is better than a barrel with holes. And when I have experienced Jesus' perfect peace, it is a far greater peace than anything I can find in this world. So this Christmas, let's take Jesus up on his offer, and experience his perfect, whole, complete, peace.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Steve

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS



Happy Birthday

Nicole Dietz	12/1
Elliot Quion	12/02
Gayle Kraft	12/07
Laura Copenhaver	12/10
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

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

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	2 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom	3 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 5:00pm Picnic	4	5	6
7 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service 2nd Sunday of Advent	8 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	9 9:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	10 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry	11	12	13
14 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service 3rd Sunday of Advent	15 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	16 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	17 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry	18	19	20
21 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service 4th Sunday of Advent	22	23	24 6:00pm Christmas Eve Service Office Closed	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26	27 All Church Work Party
28 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	29	30	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed			

"I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people."

~ Luke 2:10

Serra Mesa Food Pantry

"Greetings!

The food pantry volunteer team is working hard to serve Serra Mesa families in need.

Before the pandemic lockdown, we distributed food to 75-90 families every Wednesday. During the lockdown, 150-160 families needed help. Last week, because of the SNAP/EBT delays, we had an overwhelming 210 families.

Our community is responding with food and financial donations. Several groups are having food drives to help.

We have recently established a partnership with a nation-wide organization called Community Loaves. They match home bakers with nearby food pantries. The home bakers bring bread loaves and energy cookies every two weeks. You may have noticed the posters in the pantry window. This has been a helpful partnership since our bread donations from Panera and Bread & Cie Bakery are much smaller now.

We are so grateful for your support and permission to use the storage rooms to accommodate the extra food supplies. Thank you for enabling this mission to continue.

Have a lovely holiday season.
Kristine Webb"

"Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord."

~ Luke 2:11

Youth Ministry

Hello: Jesus is the Reason for the Season!!

We are so grateful for our Youth Group who came to decorate our church!

We really appreciate the efforts from Andrew, Alivia, Geneva & Kristina – you did great!

We even had Pastor Steve on the rooftop clipping on our lights.

We love it when our church is decorated and our Holiday schedule is in force!

Our Angel Tree Ministry is in Full Force with the help of all the Youth Group!

We are going shopping at Target a couple times together, wrapping and delivering presents to the children – mostly all day on Saturday December 20th! Thank you to those who took Angels off our Tree on 11-30; here is the timeline that we must stick to - as it is very tight. Let me know if you have complications with finding your gift. We are flexible in that. Timeline is below:

Plus make sure you REMEMBER TO ASK FOR A: GIFT RECEIPT!

Mission Village Youth Group (tight) timeline for remainder of 2026 :

- 12.2.25 Angel tree Shopping nite (Ladina is helping to drive us 7-8:15p)
- 12.9.25 Angel Tree Shopping Final nite (and start wrapping)
- 12.14.25 Angel Tree Wrapping after church on Sunday till finished in YG Room
- 12.16.25 thru 12.20.25 Deliver Angel Tree Shopping Deliveries and Prayers!

I have been approached by a few people to help deliver presents and need a few more please and thank you. We appreciate all you do to help make this ministry so successful and make many children happy. We have 42 children which equals 84 presents!

We are looking forward to attending Gifts to the King!

We are looking forward to our upcoming Christmas & New Years's Services!

We are taking off for Youth Group the week of and the week after Christmas and New Years!

To resume YG in 2026 either on Tuesday Jan. 6th or Wednesday Jan. 7th (6 or 7?) God Bless!

Youth Ministry



Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with



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

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
Elder..... Carl Jensen

Staff

Administrative Assistant.....Judy Yacob
Nursery Attendant.....Hannah French