

# MVCF

## January 2026 Newsletter

2650 Melbourne Drive San Diego CA 92123 | Phone: 858.278.2633 | [www.missionvillage.church](http://www.missionvillage.church)

### Pastor's Pen

#### 2 Corinthians 3:18

“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with every increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

On any number of occasions in the years I have been here at Mission Village Christian Fellowship, I have expressed my strong dislike, or at least strong hesitancy about the practice of making New Year’s Resolutions. These are things that we want to change in our lives; we try really hard for several weeks in the new year to bring about that change in our lives, eventually fail at whatever we had resolved to do, and our lives go back to normal without any lasting change.

Now I am sure there are examples of successful New Year’s Resolutions. You may have had success with them yourself. But statistically, the vast majority of New Year’s Resolutions fail long before spring. So why do we as followers of Jesus do something that over and over again doesn’t work?

The problem is that the vast majority of resolutions rely on self-effort to be successful. Try harder to find time to go to the gym. Try harder to eat better. Try harder to be better with financial decisions. And on and on. All of these resolutions are good things, but the vehicle by which we try to attain these things is our own self-effort, and that is where we eventually fail.

But Paul tells the Corinthian church that change comes about a different way. Notice how he describes change in 2 Cor. 3:18; that as we are close to Jesus (contemplate the Lord’s glory with unveiled faces), we are transformed to become more like Jesus (into his image). And this transformation does not come about by human effort, but it is the work of the Holy Spirit.

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### Worship Schedule:

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

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Think about this for a moment: if we are increasingly becoming more and more like Jesus, the things we resolve to do each and every year will be drastically easier. If we are actively becoming like Jesus, then our decisions will be better. If we are actively becoming like Jesus, our relationships will be better. To paraphrase Dallas Willard, if our lives were so much like Jesus that we would live our lives the way Jesus would live our lives if he were us, we would find that the changes we want to see in our lives would occur quite naturally without a significant amount of self-effort.

So instead of making a New year's Resolution, what if we go into 2026 with a simple goal? Get close to Jesus, stay close to Jesus, become like Jesus, so that we can love others (and ourselves!) like Jesus. The closer we are to Jesus throughout 2026, the more we will become like Jesus, and the more we will be able to live and love in the way of Jesus.

Now of course, there is still the question: What do I do to get close to Jesus and stay close to Jesus? I get that it is the work of the Holy Spirit who changes me, and my job is to be close to Jesus, but how do I do that? Let me suggest several practical steps you can take to get close to Jesus and stay close to Jesus in 2026.

1. **Be close to your church family.** The church is the body of Christ, and therefore the closer we are to our church family, the closer we will be to Jesus. Come every Sunday that you can, join a small group Bible study if you are not part of one already, seek out opportunities to spend time with brothers and sisters in Christ.
2. **Go deeper.** Don't settle for your current relationship with Jesus. Be willing to let yourself get stretched and challenged this year. As part of that I want to offer two ways you can go deeper in your relationship with Jesus. First, if you have not gone through a process of discipleship with me, I would love to talk to you about that. This is a process I have developed through my academic studies, and we focus on how we can get close to Jesus and stay close to Jesus. Second, several people have asked me about having a time to talk more in depth about the sermon each week. I love that idea. So starting this month, as part of our fellowship time after the worship service, I will sit down with anyone who wants to talk more about the sermon and apply it into their lives. We'll find some table in the back and talk for as long as needed. If you want to go deeper with Jesus, please come join us!
3. **Serve.** One great way to grow closer to Jesus is to serve in ministry. Part of the discipleship process mentioned above involves discerning how the Lord is preparing you to serve in ministry. But even before you go through that process, there are any number of ways you can help to meet the needs of our church family and our community, and I would love to talk more about that with you.
4. **Time.** Quality time is one of the greatest gifts you can give to a loved one. And the same goes for our relationship with Jesus. I know that for many of us, our lives are busy, chaotic, and it seems like we can't squeeze one more minute out of the day for Jesus. But I promise you that even in the midst of a busy life, it is possible to carve out time for Jesus, even if you have to be creative and flexible about it. I know people who listen to God's Word or Bible-based sermons or podcasts as they drive. Others pray as they drive (keep your eyes open!), or pray as they go into or out of a meeting. But if you can figure out ways to give Jesus more of your time where your heart is open to him, you will grow to become more like Jesus.

This list can go on. Feel free to add to it! But what is important is not to think of this list above as a checklist to be completed, but simply means by which you can get close to Jesus, stay close to Jesus, become like Jesus, so that you can love and serve like Jesus. And if you get close to Jesus and stay close to Jesus this year, I promise you that you will see change in your life that you could never bring about by yourself.

Happy New Year!  
Pastor Steve

# January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service <b>Epiphany Joint Service</b>	<b>5</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>6</b> 9:30am Bible Study <b>6:30pm Zoom Prayer Group</b>	<b>7</b> 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry <b>7:00pm Youth Group</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	<b>12</b> 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	<b>13</b> 9:30am Bible Study <b>6:30pm Zoom Prayer Group</b> <b>7:00pm Council Meeting</b>	<b>14</b> 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry <b>7:00pm Youth Group</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	<b>19</b> 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	<b>20</b> 9:30am Bible Study <b>6:30pm Zoom Prayer Group</b>	<b>21</b> 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry <b>7:00pm Youth Group</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> All Church Work Party
<b>25</b> 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service	<b>26</b> 1:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Women's Bible Study	<b>27</b> 9:30am Bible Study <b>6:30pm Zoom Prayer Group</b>	<b>28</b> 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry <b>7:00pm Youth Group</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

## JANUARY CELEBRATIONS



Alana Krokee	1/4
Senyo Adjibolosoo	01/07
PJ Addy	01/15
Lily Davis	1/15
Casey Semonchuk	1/16



Roger & June McCollough	01/02
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Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel,  
and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I  
am the first, and I am the last; and  
beside me there is no God.

And who, as I, shall call, and shall  
declare it, and set it in order for me,  
since I appointed the ancient people?  
and the things that are coming, and shall  
come, let them shew unto them.

*Isaiah 44:6-7*

### 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

**Youth Ministry**

Happy New Year! What a good year this will be! Praying for good health and opportunity to everyone. Taking on any opportunities to learn more about Jesus and how to teach others.

Our Youth Group will be meeting on Wednesdays now starting at 6:30p for games and 7:00 lessons. We are thinking that with the good food available on Wednesdays around 5p to get more youths to attend our Youth Group afterwards. Good food is always enticing! Good news, Geneva has already graduated high school; she is taking her college classes at Mesa!

We had a quiet December this last year without our church having our annual 'Gifts to the King' it felt awkward. The Youth Group really looks forward to that and were unaware of any complications of not having it. Yes, Christmas Eve services were quite small but powerful.

We took a lot of time off in December for Youth Group for those to reflect on what their life goals would be for January 2026. There are a lot of good things in store – God's plan is in the works to show how good things happen to those who are spreading his good news. For the last Wednesdays of each month during the school year, we will be taking a field trip of some kind. On January 28th 6-8p we will be going to the Aztec Bowling Lanes to have fun!

Other Ideas of Youth Group activities to do might be:

An ice cream roller skating social and Pine Valley Bible Camp weekend with Chaperones!

The Youth Group has many projects to do and complete during 2026. We wish everyone and their families the happiest and healthiest thoughts for this upcoming year. Good luck to everyone! We pray that our Youth group stays and plays and prays together each week!

**Romans 12: 1-2**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – 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: 9 -13 Love**

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with god's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. (Our church does this Wed.s)

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

**Isaiah 40:30-31**

*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	<b>Open</b>
Youth Ministry	Terri Carver
Adult Ministry	<b>Open</b>
Stewardship	Frank Romeo
Fellowship	Jenny Fiori
Service	<b>Open</b>
Missions / Evangelism	Matt & Ellen Davis
Finance Ministry	<b>Open</b>
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 Elder .....Tony DaVee  
Elder..... Carl Jensen

### Staff

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