Weekly Messenger 11-21-2025

Unstoppable—Even in Chains

You'd think that by the time we reach Acts 21, Paul might finally catch a break. After all the miles walked, sermons preached, churches planted, and opponents endured, surely God would roll out a smoother path. Instead, the opposite happens. What unfolds in Acts 21–28 reads like a catalog of hardship: false accusations in Jerusalem, violent mobs, imprisonment in Caesarea, political foot-dragging, a near-fatal storm, a terrifying shipwreck, and—because why not—a snakebite thrown in for good measure.

Anyone else might have taken these events as cosmic hints to retire early. But not Paul. Instead of asking, "Why me?" he keeps asking, "What's next?" And that simple shift in posture becomes the difference between a derailed life and a divine assignment.

That's the spirit of Acts 21–28. The gospel refuses to be contained. Every setback becomes a setup. Every chain becomes a channel. Every courtroom, cabin, island, and imperial guard becomes an unexpected congregation. From Jerusalem to Caesarea to Malta to Rome, Paul never stops pointing to Jesus—because he believes that the gospel is bigger than his circumstances.

And that's the lesson for us. Storms are not signs that God has abandoned you. Delays are not indicators that God has forgotten you. Sometimes the detour *is* the design. Sometimes the chains we resent are the very places God chooses to bring resurrection life. Even house arrest becomes a pulpit.

But perhaps the greatest truth we learn is this: our lives can preach even when our mouths are silenced. Faithfulness speaks. Hope speaks. Courage speaks. Grace under pressure speaks. The world listens when believers refuse to quit.

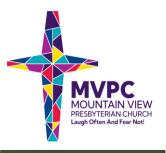
Acts ends with Paul still under house arrest—but the gospel is not. Luke's final line is a micdrop: "proclaiming the kingdom of God... without hindrance." It's as if Luke is telling us, "The story didn't stop here. It can't. It won't. It moves on through you."

And here we are, nearly two thousand years later, living in that unfinished chapter. The Spirit who empowered Paul empowers us. The message that reached Rome is still reaching Las Vegas. The mission is still alive.

So let's keep preaching. Keep testifying. Keep loving boldly. Keep living like this gospel really is... unstoppable.

Grace and peace, Laugh often and Fear not! David!





Sunday Worship Services 8:30 am – Traditional 10:30 am- Contemporary

Email: mvpc@mviewpc.org
Website: mviewpc.org

Office Hours 8a-5p M-Th

Phone: 702-341-7800

Pastor Rev. David W. Dendy

Men's/Mission Director Dr. Gary Wall

Director of Family Ministries Chris Kirschman

Director of Music Dr. Mark Wherry

Redeemed Worship Leader Bridgette Foster

Administrative Assistant Shane Jensen

Tech Assistant Tracy Vanderwerf

Church Accountant Mitra McNally

Ministry Coord/Social Media Tami Samek

Facilities Manager Mark Washburn

Women's Ministry Director Allison Gray

Organist Richard Wilson

Bell Choir Director Gail Berg

Elder Mailbox Session@mviewpc.org

Family Ministry News



Youth Group -

Youth Group Nov. 23rd 4-6 p.m. Helping with Christmas decorating.

Children -

Child-care provided during services. Sunday School @ 10:30am – Nov. 23rd

U50s/adults.
Next meeting is TBD.



Happy Thanksgiving!! CJK



Join the MVPC family this Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. for Virtual Church!

Go to the MVPC webpage @ www.mviewpc.org and select Facebook or YouTube

CLOSED CAPTION AVAILABLE

Are you missing out on Pastor David's wonderful virtual sermons because you can't hear what is said? We now know closed caption is available on the YouTube broadcast. Follow the directions below:

On Youtube under the video, where you can start, pause, etc. is a "cc". Click on that to start closed







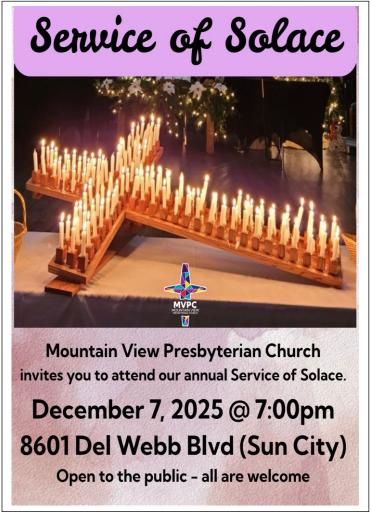


MVPC Deacons will be hosting our annual Service of Solace. All are welcome, open to the public.

While some anxiously await the coming of Christ, others dread the holiday season. Join us for a quiet Christmas service provided for those who aren't feeling the cheer of the season.

While experiencing sadness, grief and loss, this special service might help to calm your troubled heart and bring peace, light and hope to you and your loved ones.

Come join us, no sign-up required



October 2025 Session Meetings Highlights

The Deacons will be providing communion preparation training. Deacon Sandy Gandy purchased new crosses for new member bags, ordered Thanksgiving cards. Advertising for the Service of Solace (Sunday, December 7) will be placed in a Sun City magazine "SCS Life."

Pastor David read to Session a letter of thanks from the Dendy family for the support of Session, staff, and the congregation during Faith Dendy's health issues. Pastor David had postponed the annual staff reviews and will undertake the reviews soon. Pledge cards for the fall pledge drive will be sent the week of October 27 with Dedication Sunday on November 9. The Church Picnic on October 19 was a great celebration with 100 people in attendance.

The Magnify Commission (matters relating to worship). Pastor Appreciation Sunday is October 26. Communion by intinction will be served on Commitment Sunday, November 9. Advent begins on Sunday, November 30. Plans are for decorating the Church for Advent and Christmas Sunday, November 23 at 4:00 p.m. We will invite Grace Presbyterian to participate. Pizza will be served. Elder Karla Canfield has been working with Domsky Glass Company on fabricating a new baptismal font for MVPC. Elder Canfield hopes to have a prototype soon. The performance of the Messiah by the joint choirs of MVPC and Grace Presbyterian is subject to the schedule for construction completion of Grace's new church facility.

The Serve Commission (serving others outside of MVPC). The presentation of "Protecting our Children" October 5 was a great event and well received. The Church Picnic on October 19 included a pet blessing of 16 dogs. Thanks Pastor Gary Wall and the Pet Ministry team. Holiday Giving Opportunities: Thanksgiving Boxes (150 boxes) for Olive Crest to be returned on November 2. Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes collection for Samaritan's Purse will be available for pickup on November 2 and returned by November 16.TBD. Salvation Army Angel Tree donations are hopefully to be reinitiated. The Project 150 the "Denim Drive" finishes on October 26 focusing on new and old jeans for teens - the collection bin was full and overflowing. Food Banks - \$820.00 was donated by the Men's breakfast crew for the month of October to Westminster Presbyterian Church and Salvation Army food donations for October was estimated at a value of \$5000.00. The Women's Ministry plans to donate Christmas presents to Club Christ children at the December Tea Party. The Hoving Home Night of Hope Gala on October 16, 2025 was attended by 9 MVPC.

The Nurture Commission (taking care of our congregation) reported on Youth and Family Ministries events - Trampoline Park on October 5, and Moapa Corn Maze on October 23. The Bookstore has new fall items and the Coffeeshop has yummy fall drinks. The Commission has begun updating its policies and will meet in November to review. Women's Ministry events - Just Us had lunch at Olive Garden on October 13; Women's Breakfast on October 18 at The Summit: Blessed Bites hosted by Women's Ministry but open to all at Bagel Café October 30.

The Gather Commission (taking care of gathering in large and small groups). Thanks to all who helped make the Church Picnic on October 19 awesome.

Stewardship Commission (being good managers of time, talents, and treasures). Electrical repairs to bring the elevator into code compliance are being scheduled. The solar power system has been serviced and is operating at full potential power generation.

Elder Karla Canfield has agreed to be moderator of the Nominating Committee and has enlisted Laura Martin (Elder Representative), Nancy Amato, Barb Maletsky, and Sara Kirschman (Deacon Representatives), John Bull, Cam Camburn and Richard Becker (members at large) to serve on the Committee. A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 2 between services to elect the Nominating Committee.

The scheduled November Session meeting is the day before Thanksgiving. Session voted meet on Wednesday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. for its November/December meeting.



We enjoy reading and discussing books! For our monthly meeting, we select a book together to read and discuss. We welcome anyone who is interested to join us! Normally we meet on the last Friday of the month at 10am in the chapel. Because of Thanksgiving our November date is the 21st. The December date also changed due to the party. In January we will be back to the last Friday of the month.

Here are the books and meeting dates for the upcoming months.

December 12th - Christmas Party Please bring appetizers to share and a wrapped gift (cost less than \$25). We will meet at a member's home.

January 30th One Thousand White Women by Jim Fergus

That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet" - Jumpa Lahiri





Be Miracle

Holiday Shoppe Wish List

Please return unwrapped toys valued at up to \$25 each to

MVPC by December 7, 2025

Dolls

Monster High / LOL Dolls Barbie Dolls (Especially Multi-Ethnic) Baby Dolls (Especially Multi-Ethnic) Baby Doll Clothes & Accessories

Sports:

Sports Balls
Las Vegas Sports Team Gear
Skateboards/
Scooters with safety equipment

Building:

Large Legos for Young Children Legos for Older Children Magnet Tiles Puzzles - All Ages

Vehicles:

Remote Control Cars - All Ages Cars and Trucks - All Ages

Themed Toys:

Bluey toys Paw Patrol Toys Coco Melon Toys Super Hero Toys

Others:

Art Supplies & Crafts - All Ages Sensory Toys Kinetic Sand Squishmallows Make-up Sets Games - All Ages Books - All Ages Nerf Guns & Accessories

\$25 Gift Cards:

Bath and Body Works Walmart/Amazon/Target Roblox Nintendo/ PlayStation

Nintendo/ PlayStation X-Box

GameStop Gift Supplies:

Gift Bags Tissue Paper Wrapping Paper Bows / Tape

Small Gifts for Parents Appreciated

Questions email; Gary@mviewpc.org

Supporting families in need.



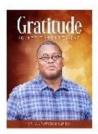




RightNow Media is a free service offered to MVPC/Guests/Friends. You will have exclusive access to hundreds of Bible studies and topical videos led by world-class teachers along with a multitude of Christian-based videos for your family to enjoy.

It's easy to sign up, email Tami Samek, Ministry Coordinator at <u>Tami@mviewpc.org</u> and she will set you up and you can start accessing great Bible-based studies/videos today!

Gratitude Is Not Thanksgiving



The only appropriate response to the faithfulness and goodness of God is GRATITUDE. In this study, Pastor Jason Turner will convey a biblical understanding of the necessity for authentic gratitude in the

life of a faithful follower of Jesus. Jason will explore how we express it to God and communicate it to those through whom God works to bring about His good and perfect will for our lives. Gratitude is a worshipful disposition toward a good and gracious God. Jason will explore four main characteristics of what gratitude is not in moving us to understanding that gratitude is something that Christ Followers should model in their everyday life.

The Creators (Kids)

The Creators tells the story of a group of friends who join forces to create films that are "meaningful, virtuous, and good." Both clever and creative, The Creators weaves biblical truths into engaging stories with humor and the right dose of seriousness. Enjoy this lighthearted children's series that will make your kids laugh and leave them with important truths to consider.



Your Divine Design

Do you know how God has uniquely wired you? Every believer was created to play a strategic role in the body of Christ with the gifts God has given them. But many of today's Christians face one difficult question: How do I discover my spiritual gifts and then use them effectively in my church?

This series will unpack key passages from Romans, Ephesians, and 1 Corinthians to explore the role of spiritual gifts in the believer's life, while

helping you to pinpoint your own. With Biblical insight and practical steps, you'll learn how to discover, develop, and deploy your spiritual gifts so you can live a life of greater impact.

Everyday Revolutionary

How to Transcend the Culture War and Transform the World.

Tired of being a pawn in the culture war? Feeling squeezed between political and theological extremes? How do we live faithfully when we don't feel at home in this increasingly secular culture? Pastor and Bible

teacher J. D. Greear calls us to reimagine our Christian witness in today's world. In this practical and encouraging six-session series, discover biblical insights for witnessing well in our polarized, post-Christian world.

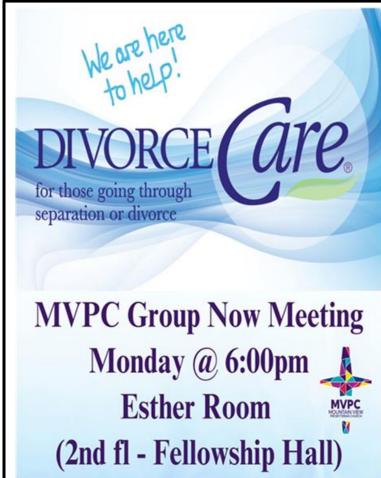




DIVINE DESIGN

EVERYDAY









It's a new MVPC record! 165 Shoeboxes

A big "thanks" to all who filled a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child.

Special thanks to Jim Steiner, organizer and the transport team: Gary Wall, Mari & Phil Pupanek, Bob Anderson, and Jim Rothermel





The Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society's 62nd Season, in conjunction with Grace Presbyterian Church and Mountain View Presbyterian Church, Proudly Presents



Christmas section

Musical Arts Chorus * Grace Presbyterian Chancel Choir Mountain View Presbyterian Church Choir Musical Arts Orchestra * Guest Soloists



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 4:00 PM

Dr Mark Wherry, Conductor



Dr Lisa Elliott, Conductor

Mary Lynn Lewis, Soprano • Valeria Sokolova Ore, Mezzo-Soprano • Robert Peterson, Tenor • Travis Lewis, Bass

Both Performances will be at

Mountain View Presbyterian Church 8601 Del Webb Blvd, Las Vegas

Admission is free. Contributions are welcome through a free will offering.

Our Vision

LOVE God

LOVE People

KNOW God

KNOW People

SERVE God

SERVE People

It's what we do!







Member Anniversaries

As part of celebrating life at MVPC, we like to recognize "milestone" anniversaries of members joining MVPC during the months of October and November 2025.

October:

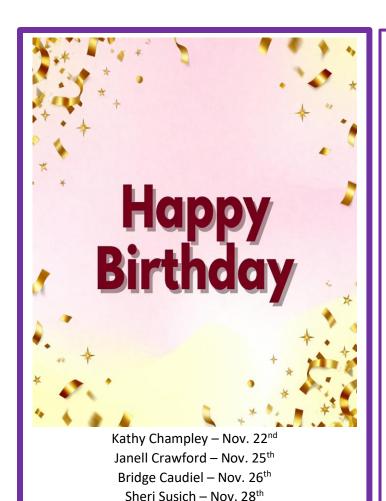
Bridge Gaudiel – 10 years
Felix Gaudiel III – 10 years
Kathy Gray – 10 years
Tami Samek – 10 years
Amy Vanderwerf – 10 years
Mike Vanderwerf – 10 years
Dian Ward – 10 years
Allan Clark – 15 years
Mary Ann Clark – 15 years
Beth Dworkin – 15 years
Larry Johnson – 25 years
Dan Ruff – 25 years

November:

Joanne Reason – 20 years



Thank you all for your steadfast membership and support of MVPC. Jeff Patterson, Clerk of Session





This Week's Events

Sun., Nov. 23

8:30 a.m.
 10:30 a.m.
 1:00 p.m.
 Traditional Worship, SC
 Contemporary Worship, SC
 Grace Presbyterian Church, SC

4:00 p.m. Christmas Decorating, 4:00 p.m. Youth Group, FH 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, CH

Mon., Nov. 24

9:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Divorce Care, Esther
7:00 p.m.
Gamblers Anon., CH

Tues., Nov. 25

11:30 a.m.
1:00 p.m.
Griefshare, CH
5:30 p.m.
Narcotics Anon., CH

Wed., Nov. 26

5:00 p.m. Bell Choir, CH
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FH
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, SC
7:00 p.m. Session, Esther

Knitting, FH

Thurs., Nov. 27

Fri., Nov. 28 2:00 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 29

5:00 p.m. **AA Meeting,** FH



Thanksgiving Day/Office Closed



Messenger articles and Sunday announcement requests are due in the Church office by **Wednesday** at **noon** each week! Thank you for your cooperation!

LET THE PEOPLE PRAY

Pray without Ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Our Members

- The Fontes Family
- Bernice Foreit
- The Forred Family
- Ron Forret and Carol Brink
- Kathy Forte
- The Foster Family
- The Fox Family
- Renny Fransz

Our City

- School bus safety
- Holiday Travel
- Grand Prix Weekend

Our Churches

- 1. St. Joseph Catholic Church
- 2. Vegas Drive Church of Christ
- 3. Zion Methodist Church

Other Prayer Concerns...

Rick Shafer Jesse Keeley Tom Gorham

Our World

- People of Ukraine
- Kenyan unrest
- Gaza flooding

Our Nation

- Government Closure aftermath
- Winter weather travel
- Economic stability

Our Congregation

Rae Narcisse-Bryant, Katherine Forred,
Kathy Gray, Betty Jones,
Laura Martin, Elaine Poole,
Delores Singleton, Jeff Southwell,
Penny Takier, Yvonne Wayland

- Elders: Dave Matawitz

Deacons: Sandy Gandy,
 Allison Gray

