

# Weekly Messenger 12-19-2025

## “Expect Delays”

Delays are almost never welcome, especially when traveling over the holidays this time of the year. They halt our momentum, interrupt our plans, and test our patience. Yet Scripture reveals that God often works most powerfully in the very places where we experience life’s interruptions. What we call a delay, God often calls preparation.

Joseph’s story in Matthew 1 is a masterclass in faithful waiting during unexpected delays. He learns that Mary is pregnant — news that shatters his expectations and threatens to unravel his future. Joseph feels blindsided, confused, and heartbroken. The life he thought he was stepping into dissolves in a single conversation. And yet, even in this moment of disappointment, he chooses compassion. He resolves to break the engagement quietly, refusing to add shame to Mary’s already complicated story. Joseph reminds us that our character is revealed not when life goes as planned, but when it doesn’t.

It is in the middle of Joseph’s confusion that heaven breaks in. An angel appears with words Joseph desperately needs: “Do not be afraid... what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.” God interrupts Joseph’s interruption. Divine revelation enters the chaos of human uncertainty. Before giving Joseph direction, God reminds him of his identity: “Joseph, son of David.” God names him correctly so Joseph can step forward faithfully. The delay is no longer random; it is now sacred ground.

Joseph’s delay becomes God’s direction. His detour becomes his destiny. The interruption he never wanted places him at the center of salvation history as the earthly father of Jesus. What looked like a devastating setback was actually the divine setup for God’s greatest gift. The story of redemption moved forward through a man who was willing to trust when nothing made sense.

This Advent, many of us are facing delays — in relationships, in health, in careers, in long-standing prayers we keep offering with weary hearts. Some delays feel discouraging. Others feel disorienting. But Joseph’s story reminds us that delays are not dead ends in the kingdom of God. They are invitations to trust anew, listen deeper, and follow obediently. God does some of His most transformative work in the seasons we least prefer.

So yes — expect delays in life. But also expect God to meet you in them. His purposes are never thwarted by our interruptions. Often, they unfold beautifully through them.

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



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

Email: [mvpc@mviewpc.org](mailto:mvpc@mviewpc.org)  
Website: [mviewpc.org](http://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](mailto:Session@mviewpc.org)

# Family Ministry News



**Youth Group –**  
Youth Group Christmas Party  
Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.  
No Youth Group 12-28-25



**Children -**  
Child-care provided during services.  
Sunday School @ 10:30am – Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>

**U50s/adults.**  
We will next meet Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

Happy season of expectation!!  
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](http://www.mviewpc.org) and select  
Facebook or YouTube

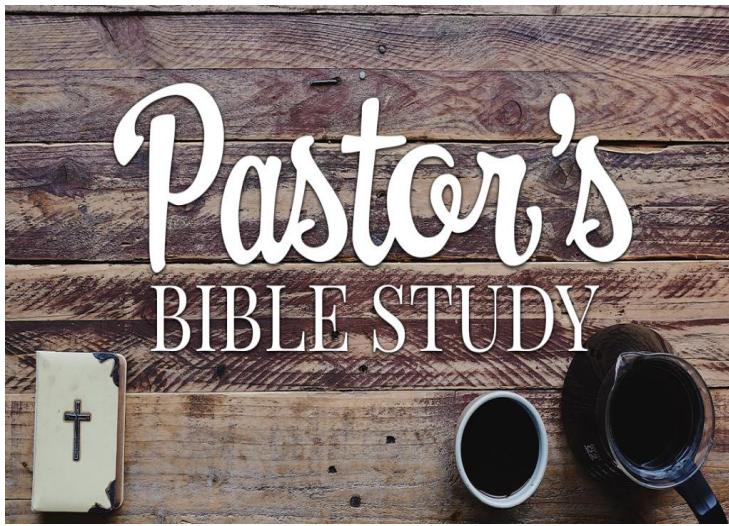
## CLOSED CAPTION AVAILABLE

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

Thank you to everyone who bought a stuffed animal to benefit animal rescues in the valley. We far exceeded our goal. Have a Merry Christmas!





Pastor's Bible study will resume on Jan. 14, 2026. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

# God's Grace Cancer Support

13 week series  
Jan. 8 - Apr. 2  
2:00-3:00pm  
Open to all



## 2026 Offering Envelopes



Pick up your 2026 Offering Envelopes on Sunday, 12/21/25 or 12/28/25 in the Narthex.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."  
2 Corinthians 9:7

You can also stop by the Church Office during regular business hours to pick up a box as well.



Mark your calendars!

Christmas Eve Services  
Dec. 24th  
4:00pm Contemporary  
6:00pm Traditional  
10:00pm Candlelight

One Worship Service  
Wear your Christmas  
Sweater Sunday!  
Dec. 28th @ 10am



## New Elder and Deacons

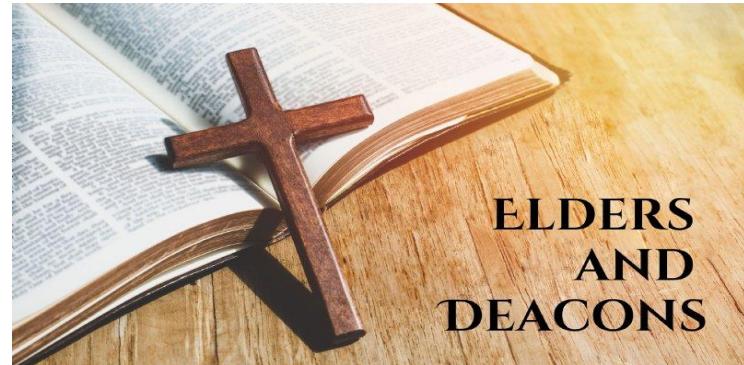
At the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 14, our congregation elected the following people as Elders and Deacons for three year terms beginning January 1, 2026:

### Elders:

Class of 2028:	Paul Curatolo	Wes Forred
	Bob Langliers	Karen Stokes
	Dian Ward	Courtney Wolff

### Deacons:

Class of 2028:	DeAnn Dutt	Alane Ehrhardt
	Dan Ehrhardt	Katherine Forred
	Cheryl Hodges	Jo Ellen Lewis
	Melissa Malfara	



Thank you to the new Elders and Deacons for your willingness to serve and lead MVPC.

And thank you to the Nominating Committee, under the excellent leadership of Elder Karla Canfield, for recruiting these wonderful new Elders and Deacons.

### Nominating Committee:

Karla Canfield (Moderator and Session representative)  
Laura Martin (Session representative)  
Sara Kirschman (Deacon representative)  
Nancy Amato (Deacon representative)  
Barb Maletsky (Deacon representative)  
Cam Camburn  
John Bull  
Richard Becker



## Member Anniversaries

As part of celebrating life at MVPC, we like to recognize “milestone” months of December 2025.

Carol Brink – 25 years

Thank you all for your steadfast membership and support of MVPC.

Jeff Patterson, Clerk of Session



## **Christmas and New Year's Church Office Hours**

**Open Christmas Eve: Noon to 5:00pm**

**Christmas Day: Closed**

**Open New Year's Eve: 8:00 to Noon**

**New Year's Day: Closed**

**Wishing you and your families a very Merry  
Christmas and a blessed Happy New Year!**

**Pastor David Dendy and MVPC Staff**

## November/December 2025 Session Meetings Highlights

Session met December 3 for both its November and December meetings.

The Deacons are finalizing plans for the Service of Solace on Sunday, December 7.

Pastor David reported that the Advent sermon series is entitle “The Waiting Room of God.” 2026 sermons will start out with the Book of Proverbs. The Staff Christmas lunch is December 15. Christmas Eve Services will be at 4:00, 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. The Messiah will be presented on December 7 and at Grace Presbyterian’s service at 2:00 p.m. on December 14. On December 3, Gary Wall and Pastor David attended the Family Promis luncheon in its new facility.

The Magnify Commission (matters relating to worship). Approximately 37 helpers, including members of Grace Presbyterian, decorated the Church for Christmas on November 23. The Commission continues to work with Domsky Glass Company on fabricating a new baptismal font for MVPC. Sundays, December 28 and January 4 will have just one service at 10:00 a.m. The Commission will hold usher and greeter training in January.

The Serve Commission (serving others outside of MVPC). Elder Laura Martin reported on advancing 2026 food bank distributions to assist with the effects of the government shutdown. MVPC sent \$2,000 to Presbyterian Disaster Relief earmarked to assist victims of Hurricane Melissa, primarily in Jamaica. The Pet Ministry annual bake sale will be held in February. The denim collection to benefit Project 150 was valued at approximately \$3,000. MVPC filled 125 Thanksgiving food boxes for Olive Crest. And 150 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse. Olive Crest “Be the Miracle” toys and gift cards donations collected on December 7. Food Banks - \$975.00 was donated by the Men’s breakfast crew for the month of November to Westminster Presbyterian Church (which fed 300 families for Thanksgiving) and Salvation Army food donations for October was estimated at a value of \$5000.00. The Quilting Group which meets at MVPC donated \$3,000 for missions.

The Nurture Commission (taking care of our congregation) is updating its policies manual. The Youth Group has enjoyed combining with youth from Grace and Green Valley Presbyterian Churches for various activities. Bible studies are all going well. Christmas caroling is on December 14. Women’s Ministry events - Just Us visited the Bellagio conservatory; Women’s Christmas brunch on December 6 has almost 50 signed up.

The Gather Commission (taking care of gathering in large and small groups). A special thank you to Gary Wall for cooking for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Brunch on November 30. A wonderful kickoff to Advent.

Stewardship Commission (being good managers of time, talents, and treasures). Electrical repairs to bring the elevator into code compliance were performed. The elevator still needs fire marshall approval for the repairs. The gardeners will be removing a number of bushes and replacing them with plants requiring less water. The parking lot lighting has been upgraded with new LED fixtures providing significantly more light

Elder Karla Canfield, moderator of the Nominating Committee, reported on nominees. Session set December 14 for a special Congregational meeting to elect new Elders and Deacons for terms beginning January 1, 2026. Session also scheduled the annual Congregational meeting for Sunday, February 22.

The next scheduled Session meeting is on Wednesday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m.





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 [Tami@mviewpc.org](mailto:Tami@mviewpc.org) and she will set you up and you can start accessing great Bible-based studies/videos today! *Merry Christmas!*

### The Creators Christmas Special (Family)

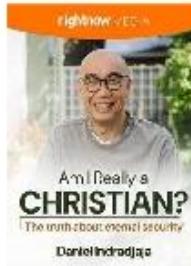
*The Creators* tells the story of a group of friends who join forces to create films that are “meaningful, virtuous, and good.” In this episode, the creators embark on a journey to find the true meaning of Christmas which is found in the life of Jesus Christ. Enjoy this light-hearted children’s series that will make your kids laugh and leave them with important truths to consider.



### Am I Really a Christian?

#### THE TRUTH ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY

Too many Christians love Jesus but still wonder anxiously if they’re ‘good enough’, if they’re really saved, or if they can lose their salvation. In this six-part series, Daniel Indradjaja tackles these fears head-on, exploring what the Bible says about our eternal security – because our Heavenly Father loves us too much to let us live in doubt about His unconditional love for us.



### Excavating the Evidence for Jesus - The Top-10 List for Christmas



Archaeologist and author, Dr. Titus Kennedy, explores the scripture, history, archaeology, and evidence for the ancient world surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ.

The home base for the series is Dr. Kennedy’s research lair, a secret basement where he stores maps, slides, tools, and artifacts from his various excavations and adventures. In addition to teaching with a collection of old school resources, Titus treks outside his lair for special visits to Israel’s archaeology sites and museums. Designed for all ages, Excavating the Evidence for Jesus is fun and educational, encouraging families to dig deeper into the Gospel accounts together.

### Advent

Who exactly is Jesus? What kind of God would come to earth as a human? As Christmas approaches, the season of Advent offers us a chance to reflect on our savior, his purpose, and the surprising ways he invited people near to him. Join pastor Derwin Gray in this five-session Advent study as he unveils King Jesus—the God-man who defied expectations, the king of all creation who humbled himself to serve and die, the friend to sinners who wants to lift us up.



### The Cost of Christmas

Have you ever thought about the cost of Christmas? Beyond buying presents and decorations—a real price was paid for the joy of Christmas. Three encouraging stories show the true cost of Christmas and Franklin Graham shares how to respond.

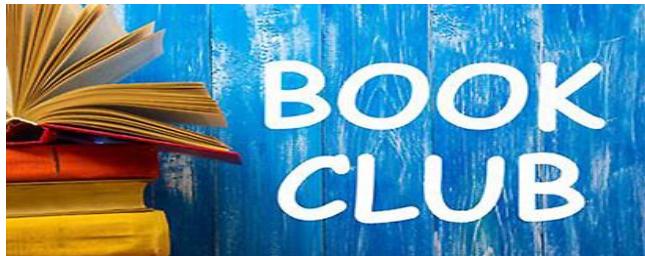
This is a new year and new books to read. Please join us as we discuss a selected book. We meet in the Chapel on the last Friday of the month at 10am. Our upcoming books are:

**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

Happy Reading!



## Divine Dealing

**Tuesday's  
11:30 to 1:30pm**



**LOVE God**  
**LOVE People**  
**KNOW God**  
**KNOW People**  
**SERVE God**  
**SERVE People**

A logo for Divorce Care. It features a blue and white wavy background. The words 'DIVORCE Care' are written in blue, with 'Care' in a larger, stylized font. Below this, the text 'for those going through separation or divorce' is written. A blue banner across the bottom contains the text 'MVPC Group Now Meeting' in purple, followed by 'Monday @ 6:00pm' in purple, 'Esther Room' in purple, and '(2nd fl - Fellowship Hall)' in purple. To the right of the text is the MVPC logo, which is a colorful geometric star shape with the letters 'MVPC' and 'MOUNTAIN VIEW PRESBYTERIAN' below it.

*We are here to help!*

**DIVORCE Care**  
for those going through separation or divorce

**MVPC Group Now Meeting**  
**Monday @ 6:00pm**  
**Esther Room**  
**(2nd fl - Fellowship Hall)**

## Our Vision

**LOVE God**  
**LOVE People**  
**KNOW God**  
**KNOW People**  
**SERVE God**  
**SERVE People**

**It's what we do!**

**LAUGH OFTEN  
FEAR NOT!**

## Grocery Program

Your holiday grocery shopping can boost our Mission giving. Just participate in our Grocery Program, with a portion of your purchases returned to MVCP:

1. **Smith's.** Smith's program, called **Inspiring Donations**, rebates to the Church a portion of your purchases. Please update the registration of your Smith's Reward Card number (or phone number) at [www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire](http://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/inspire). The Church's organization number is CF673. After registration, every purchase at Smith's earns money for the Church.
2. **Albertsons and Vons.** Purchase Albertsons gift cards, which are useable at all Albertson's, Vons, and other affiliated stores across the country, including Acme (Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware), Jewel/Osco (Illinois), Safeway (throughout the West), Kings (New Jersey, New York and Connecticut), Randalls (Texas), Shaw's and Star Markets (New England). Albertsons gives the Church 5% of the amount of the gift card purchased (\$100 gift card = \$5 to MVPC).

When multiplied by dozens of participants, our returns become substantial. Through the first three quarters of 2025, Smith's sent MVPC \$363.31 from participation in the Inspiring Donations program. So far this year, MVPC's return on Albertsons/Vons gift cards has been \$250. Albertsons/Vons gift cards also make great gifts! You can purchase Albertsons gift cards from Jeff Patterson - 702-528-8199.



## Merry Christmas from the Gift and Book Store!! We support Christian Education and Mission trips!!

Stock up on these holiday gift favorites:

MVPC purple shirts

MVPC purple coffee thermos

Shelf Sitter

Pocket Pieces

Jewelry

Window Hangers w/sentiments

Angels

Books, Bibles

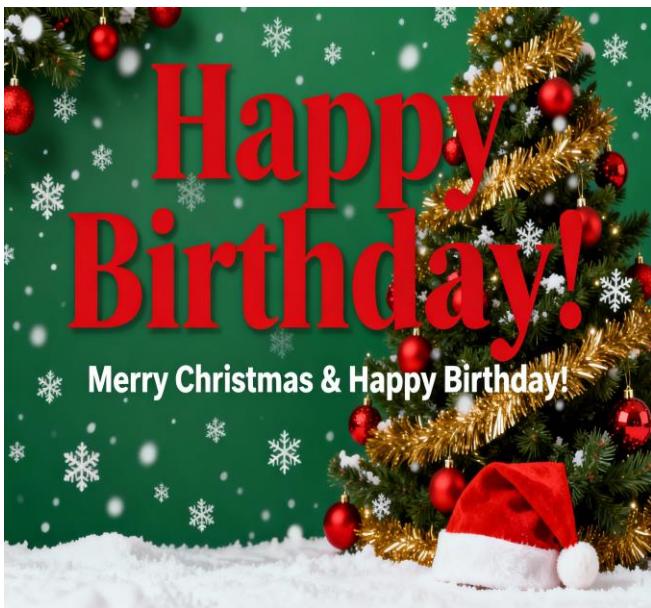
Bracelets

Greeting Cards

Wall Crosses

Initials Necklaces





Rosie Carlisle – Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Carol Letvin – Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Lindsey Patterson – Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Camilla Camburn – Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>  
Alistair Barron – Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Ken Moore – Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>  
Carole Zahn – Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>



Jim and Katrina Steiner – Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Roger and Marcia Alig – Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Felix and Bridge Gaudiel – Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Dale and Lois Heidel – Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>  
William and Carole Paul – Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>



## This Week's Events

### Sun., Dec. 21

8:30 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.  
1:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m.  
4:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m.

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
Traditional Worship, SC  
Contemporary Worship, SC  
Grace Presbyterian Church, SC  
U5O's, Mark  
Youth Group, FH  
AA Meeting, FH

### Mon., Dec. 22

9:00 a.m.  
2:30 p.m.  
6:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m.

Quilters, FH  
Small Group, Mark  
Divorce Care, Esther  
Gamblers Anon., CH

### Tues., Dec. 23

11:30 a.m.  
5:30 p.m.

**Divine Dealing**, FH  
Narcotics Anon., CH  
**Christmas Eve**  
Contemporary Service, SC  
Traditional Service, SC  
AA Meeting, FH  
Candle Light Service, SC

**Wed., Dec. 24**

4:00 p.m.  
6:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m.  
10:00 p.m.

### Thurs., Dec. 25

7:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day/ Office Closed**  
AI Anon, Esther

### Fri., Dec. 26

2:00 p.m.

**Knitting**, FH

**Sat., Dec. 27**

5:00 p.m.

AA Meeting, FH



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 Herbst Family
- The Curt and Liz Hill
- Peter and Marcie Hill
- Judy Hoenk
- The Hoyt Family
- Elaine Irwin
- The Jackson Family
- Ken and Grace Johnson

## Our World

- People of Australia
- Bondi Beach victims
- Venezuela tensions

## Our City

- Air travel
- American Red Cross of Southern NV
- Jewish Community

## Our Nation

- Brown University shooting
- Iowa National Guardsmen
- Winter weather

## Our Churches

1. St. Joseph Husband of Mary Church
2. North Las Vegas Baptist Church
3. Journey United Methodist Church

## Our Congregation

Rae Narcisse-Bryant, Bob Berry,  
Katherine Forred, Kathy Gray,  
Sally Hahn, Marilyn Kopp,  
Elaine Poole, Delores Singleton,  
Jeff Southwell

- Elders: Dwight Rickard
- Deacons: Kathi Meola,  
Penny Takier

## Other Prayer Concerns...

Leah McCormack

Rick Shafer

Billy Sagerman

Dwight Kirk

Abigail Radabaugh

Tad DuBois

