

# Weekly Messenger 12-06-2024



## Finding Comfort and Joy in a World of Strife

In the familiar Christmas carol "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen," there's a refrain that echoes deeply through centuries of holiday celebrations: "**O tidings of comfort and joy.**" This simple yet profound line offers a message of peace, hope, and joy. But in a world often filled with strife, war, division, and political turmoil, how can we truly find comfort and joy? Is this message still relevant today?

The carol was written in a time of unrest—during the late 16th century, when England was plagued by political and religious conflict. The song was meant to remind people that despite their circumstances, the good news of Christ's birth offers a source of comfort that transcends earthly struggles. That same message is still relevant today, offering us a glimpse of hope even in our own turbulent times.

Comfort doesn't always mean an absence of hardship. In fact, true comfort often emerges in the midst of challenges. It's the quiet strength that comes when we place our trust in God's promises, even when the world seems unstable.

Jesus' birth in a humble stable amidst political oppression reminds us that God's presence with us isn't bound by perfect circumstances. Even in times of chaos and uncertainty, we can experience God's peace, which surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7).

Joy, too, is not merely the absence of sorrow. It's the deep, unshakable joy that comes from knowing we are loved and cared for by God. This joy is not dependent on our situation or the state of the world around us. The joy found in Christ is a well that doesn't run dry, no matter how difficult life may get. As the psalmist declares in Psalm 16:11, "In Your presence there is fullness of joy."

As we enter the holiday season, let us hold onto this ancient message: "**O tidings of comfort and joy.**" These words remind us that no matter what we face, God offers comfort in the midst of our struggles and joy that is not bound by the world's divisions. In the darkness of winter, let us remember the light of Christ that shines in us, bringing peace and joy to all people, even in the most trying times.

See you Sunday...  
Laugh often and Fear not!  
David!



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

Email: [mvpvc@mviewpc.org](mailto:mvpvc@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 Coordinator  
Tami Samek

Facilities Manager  
Mark Washburn

Women's Ministry Director  
Allison Gray

Organist  
Richard Wilson

Sports Ministry Pastor  
Rick Strasser

Bell Choir Director  
Gail Berg

Elder Mailbox  
[Session@mviewpc.org](mailto:Session@mviewpc.org)

# Family Ministry News

## Youth Group –

Youth Group at 4:30 p.m. Next week Christmas Caroling.

## Children -

Sunday School this week. Talking about Shepherds.

## U50s/adults.

Next Meeting is Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

Wear a coat! BRRR!

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 caption.



# November 2024 Session Meetings Highlights

The Deacons cyber security and elder fraud event on October 29 had 36 participants. Thank you to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department for an excellent presentation. The annual Service of Solace will be held on December 1, coordinated by Melody Edwards Becker.

Pastor David reported that the Men's and Women's Bible Studies are both going strong. The Advent sermon series will be "Hymns for the Holidays," and Pastor David has sermons planned through August 2025.

The Magnify Commission (matters relating to worship) is planning for Advent. Advent devotionals have arrived. Saturday, November 30 is Church decorating beginning at 9:00 a.m. New banners have been installed in the Sanctuary. The Bell Choir has two new members and the Chancel Choir is looking for new singers. Christmas Eve services are being planned for 4, 6 and 10 p.m. Sundays December 29 and January 5 will have only one service at 10:00 a.m.

The Serve Commission (serving others outside of MVPC) reported that the November 1 Salute to Veterans dinner was a "wonderful evening" which include candle lighting for deceased members and assistance from the Boy Scouts. MVPC provided Olive Crest with 110 Thanksgiving food boxes and \$2,600 in gift cards, and Operation Christmas Child with 180 shoeboxes filled with gifts. The Pet Ministry is scheduling its annual bake sale for Sunday, February 9, 2025. Project 150 volunteers helped assemble 2,500 food boxes for Thanksgiving and will assist in assembling 2,500 Christmas boxes. Session approved repairs to the Coffee Shop counters required as a result of a malfunctioning coffee brewer (a gift was received to help purchase a new brewer). The next Commission meeting is January 16, 2025 (with 3 new members).

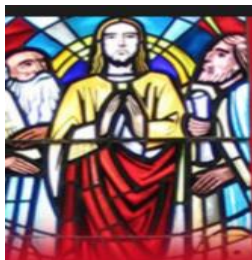
The Nurture Commission (taking care of our congregation) reported that Women's Bible study completed its study of the Book of Ephesians and will begin on Advent. The Women's Christmas Tea and Brunch will be on December 7. Christmas caroling to homes of shut-in members is scheduled for December 15. The Coffee Shop will offer free beverages on Sunday, December 1 to celebrate Advent. The Just Us widows' group enjoyed making Christmas crafts on November 19.

The Gather Commission (taking care of gathering in groups large and small) reported it now has a crew of seven volunteers helping with Sunday morning fellowship preparation, with the goal of providing fresh baked cookies three Sundays each month.

Stewardship Commission (being good managers of time, talents, and treasures) presented financial reports through October. Finance has reviewed the capital reserve study and specifically focused on items needing repairs and/or replacement over the next five years, totaling over \$450,000. Those items include HVAC repairs and replacement, roof repairs, bathroom upgrades and computer equipment replacement. Elder Al Youmans reported that the ceramic tile floors throughout the facilities had been professionally cleaned. The kitchen's reverse osmosis system required some repairs and the heating system boiler required a new igniter.

Gary Wall will be providing ministerial assistance in Fellowship Hall during the fellowship time.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.



*Session*

# MEN'S BREAKFAST



Date: Dec. 7  
Time : 9:00 a.m.  
Location: Summit  
Cost: \$20



for:  
The Strasser Family



Visit this link or scan the QR Code:  
[mealtrain.com/873z9n](https://mealtrain.com/873z9n)



LAUGH OFTEN  
FEAR NOT!



## Christmas Caroling and Pizza

Sunday, December 15, 2024

4:00 – 6:00 pm

All ages welcome - invite a friend!



Let's carpool and  
visit MVPC  
member's houses  
who cannot attend  
church.

Sign-up in the Narthex  
so we have enough pizza!

Hosted by Women's Ministry

## 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. 29th @ 10am



# Christmas Caroling

## Las Ventanas

### Tues, Dec. 17th at 11 am

Sign up in the Narthex

Meet at church at 10:30 am. There are 11 spots open on the van (others can carpool behind the van if they'd like).

## Monthly Caregiver Support Group

Build a support system with people who understand.

Dec. 11, 2024  
11 a.m.

Mountain View  
Presbyterian Church  
8601 Del Webb Blvd.  
Las Vegas

Call 1.800.272.3900 to register.

Alzheimer's Association support groups, conducted by trained facilitators, are a safe place for caregivers of people living with dementia to:

- Develop a support system.
- Exchange practical information on challenges and possible solutions.
- Talk through issues and ways of coping.
- Share feelings, needs and concerns.
- Learn about community resources.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

## The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting

Join us on December 8, 2024

*"...that their light  
may always shine."*



The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting on the 2nd Sunday in December unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of the sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren who left too soon. As candles are lit on December 8th, 2024 at 7:00 pm local time, hundreds of thousands of people commemorate and honor the memory of all children gone too soon.

Now believed to be the largest mass candle lighting on the globe, the annual Worldwide Candle Lighting (WCL), a gift to the bereavement community from The Compassionate Friends, creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone. TCF's WCL started in the United States in 1997 as a small internet observance and has since swelled in numbers as word has spread throughout the world of the remembrance. Hundreds of formal candle lighting events are held, and thousands of informal candle lightings are conducted in homes, as families gather in quiet remembrance of children who have died and will never be forgotten.

Join us on December 8 by replying to this email with your reservation request. Please include how many will be attending. We will provide 1 candle per family for the service. We honor our loved ones by lighting our candle and saying their name and their dates (example: Adam Francis Correnti, May 21, 1986 to October 29, 2005) Again, please reply to this email to make your reservation. Thank You!

🕒 Sunday, 12/8 - 630pm-8pm 📍 Mountain View Presbyterian Church, 8601 Del Webb Blvd.

📧📧📧 Please reply to this email; or text to 702 401 9678 for your reservation 📧📧📧

LOVE  
God

LOVE  
People

KNOW  
God

KNOW  
People

SERVE  
God

## 2025 Per Capita



### \$47.00 per Member

Please make checks payable to MVPC or select "Per Capita" for online giving option - thank you!



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!

### Everyday Advent

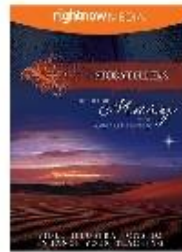
Advent is a time to remember and reflect, but it's also a time of looking forward with hope and anticipation. We remember the significance of the arrival of baby Jesus, and we look forward with great anticipation to his coming return. But the greatest hope of all is that Jesus is fully present and being revealed in a deeper way in our hearts every day.

The Everyday Advent is a 4-week devotional study for the holiday season that will help us refocus on our personal relationship with Jesus, and heighten our sense of expectancy to see his promises fulfilled in our everyday lives.



Everyday Advent

### The Life of Mary



The Life of Mary is a 4-part Bible study that unfolds Mary's life and transforms it to a 21st century audience with teaching by Margaret Feinberg. In this series, Margaret shares insightful discoveries on Mary's unique situation and brings

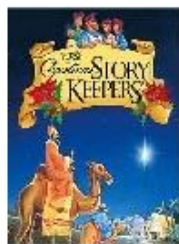
to life her fears and struggles

With powerful lessons and excellent teaching, this video Bible study examines Mary's life in a way you would never expect. Each session walks down Mary's road of faith as she journeys through a life of unbelievable events that ushers in Jesus Christ.

*Happy New Year!*

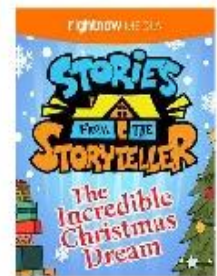
### The StoryKeepers Christmas

This 70-minute feature film, commissioned by Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment in the U.S. features new animation, together with celebrity voices (Tim Curry, Adam Wylie, Debbie Boone, Robert Guillaume, Sheryl Lee Ralph), a new score and songs.



### The Incredible Christmas Dream (Luke 1:26-33)

In the midst of family Christmas stress and mishaps, Kam hatches a secret plan to recapture the true meaning of Christmas. With a little help from his parents and a mysterious old couple who run a local Christmas tree lot, Kam's plans come together with more magic and meaning than he could muster on his own.



### Christmas

Eyewitness Bible Series is pleased to present the Christmas Series. This series is a collection of ten New episodes designed to be watched on the three Sundays prior to Christmas week, plus the seven day of Christmas week, ending on Christmas day.



*The Air is filled with Music*

**Mountain View Presbyterian Church**

*Presents*

**THE LAS VEGAS MASS CHOIR**

Along with Special Guests

*In A Christmas Concert*

8601 Del Webb Blvd  
Las Vegas, NV 89134

Dec 8, 2024 3PM - 4PM

Free entry

For more information  
702-334-8444

**2025 Sanctuary Flower signups**

**Starting Dec. 8th in the Narthex.**

**Prepare the Way**  
ISAIAH 40

**CHRISTMAS JOY**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
LEADERSHIP, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 22

THE PERFECT GIFT.

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and our future leaders of the church.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s.

The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

- The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families.
- Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years

MVPC will receive the Christmas Joy Offering on **December 15, 2024**. There are special pew envelopes available. Please note "Christmas Joy" on your checks.

Jesus' example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Thank you for your continued support of the four Great Offerings in 2024!

## Looking for Elder and Deacon Candidates

Are you interested in serving MVPC as an Elder or a Deacon?

Pursuant to the Book of Order:

Elders exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation.

Deacons provide a ministry of compassion, witness, and service.

If you would like to learn more please see or contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Jeff Paterson, Al Youmans, Diane Lo Chirco, Jim Camburn, Beth Dworkin or Joyce Shore.

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Did you know the benefits of singing in a choir?

- Singing releases endorphins, which reduces stress and boosts mood.
- Singing in a church choir fosters a sense of community and belonging as we work toward a shared goal.
- Singing improves breathing, posture, and lung capacity.
- Singing enhances cognitive function, memory, and quality of life.

We warmly invite you to consider joining the Mountain Chancel Choir this holiday season! We'll be singing many beloved Christmas carols that everyone enjoys, bringing joy to the congregation.

Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM.

## MVPC Book Club

Our group meets the last Friday of the month at 10:00 a.m., at the Church, in the Chapel. We enjoy gathering together to enjoy friendship and discussion of books. Each month we read a book we've chose together to discuss at our monthly meeting. We welcome all who are interested to join us!

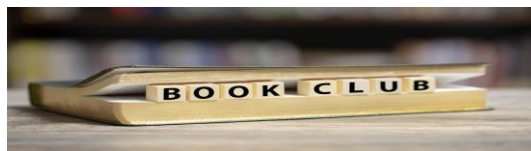
**January 31st** ***Mrs. Quinn's Rise to Fame*** by Olivia Ford

December, being a holiday month, we'll be meeting earlier, on Friday, December 13th, at 10:00 a.m.

For more information about this Christmas gathering, please contact the office. Best Christmas wishes to all!

*The best antidote to holiday stress is relaxing with a good book!*

*Happy Reading!*



## Our Vision

**God**

**People**



**It's What We Do!!**

**Laugh Often  
and  
Fear Not!**



# This Week's Events

## Sun., Dec. 8

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship, SC  
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, SC  
1:00 p.m. Reformed Church Meeting, FH  
3:00 p.m. Concert Series, SC  
4:30 p.m. Youth Group, FH  
6:00 p.m. Compassionate Friends, FH

## Mon., Dec. 9

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, CH  
3:00 p.m. Just Us Team Meeting, CH  
4:30 p.m. Women's Ministry, CH  
6:30 p.m. Divorce Care, Esther  
7:00 p.m. Gamblers Anon., CH

## Tues., Dec. 10

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, FH  
11:30 a.m. Divine Dealing, FH  
5:30 p.m. Narcotics Anon., CH  
7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study, CH  
7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study, FH

## Wed., Dec. 11

10:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study, FH  
11:00 a.m. Dementia Support Group, CH  
5:00 p.m. Bells, CH  
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FH  
7:00 p.m. Choir, SC

## Thurs., Dec. 12

4:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry, FH  
5:00 p.m. Redeemed Worship Rehearsal, SC  
6:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting, Esther  
7:00 p.m. Al Anon Meeting, FH

## Fri., Dec. 13

10:00 a.m. MVPC Book Club, CH  
2:00 p.m. Knitting, FH

## Sat., Dec. 14

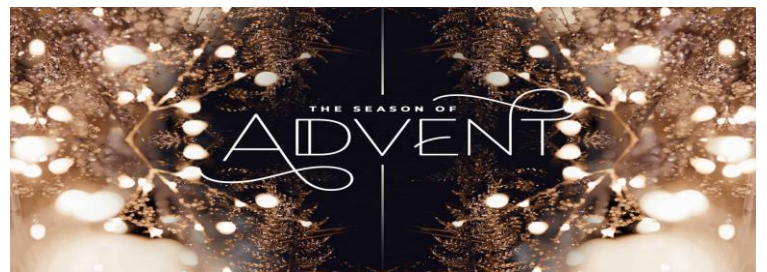
5:00 p.m. AA Meeting, FH



Selema Ghadhban – Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>  
Laura Martin – Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>  
Debbie Trujillo – Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>  
Arina Lewis – Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>  
Charlene Stamos – Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>  
Diane Emick – Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>  
Cheryl Hodges – Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>  
Tommy Krier – Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>



Jerry and Carole Nelson – Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>  
Arlon and Suzan Sibert – Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>



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

- Susan Pullishusky
- The Patterson Family
- The Paul Family
- Dr. Bertha Pendleton
- Dr. Ralph Pendleton
- Diane Penman
- Connie Petersen
- Wayne and Gail Petersen

## Our World

- People of France
- South Korea government
- Middle East conflict

## Our Nation

- California School shooting victims
- FEMA assistance
- NYC Crime

## Our City

- NFR
- Traffic Safety
- Mayor Shelley Berkley

## Our Congregation

Gene Braden, Jerry and Del Heiss,  
Sara Pierson, Pam Russell,  
Paige Vorhies, The Strasser Family

- Elders: Al Youmans
- Deacons: Rick Trenkler,  
La Valle Vita

## Our Churches

1. Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
2. Green Valley Baptist Church
3. Haitian Baptist Church

## Other Prayer Concerns...

Sympathy to the family of Jeff Katahara  
Sympathy to the family of George Pucine  
Richard Rynberg  
Sage Alig  
Xavier Taylor  
Laura Chestworth  
Tad DuBois  
Richard MacLeod

