

MVCF

February 2025 Newsletter

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Pastor's perspective

Psalm 119:97-104

Oh, how I love your law!
I meditate on it all day long.
Your commands are always with me
and make me wiser than my enemies.
I have more insight than all my teachers,
for I meditate on your statutes.
I have more understanding than the elders,
for I obey your precepts.
I have kept my feet from every evil path
so that I might obey your word.
I have not departed from your laws,
for you yourself have taught me.
How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
I gain understanding from your precepts;
therefore I hate every wrong path.

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Worship Schedule

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

Pastor's perspective continued

How are your New Year's Resolutions coming? Statistics tell us that the vast majority of resolutions made going into a new year have failed by this point. So please don't feel bad if that describes you! But such statistics should tell us something about change, which is that lasting change cannot come through self-effort, it can only come by being transformed by God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Last month in my newsletter article I suggested that the biblical pathway to change is not trying harder, but putting ourselves in the way of God's grace so that he can change us to make us more like Jesus. The steps we take to put ourselves in the way of God's grace are what theologians call "means of grace." And so I am using these first few months of 2025 to explore various means of grace, so that we can get in the way and stay in the way of God's transforming grace throughout 2025. This month our focus is on one of the most important means of grace: The Word of God.

Clearly the bible, God's spoken Word, is a transformative means of grace. The Psalmist in the passage above sings about the beauty of God's Word and how it not only teaches him but gives him wisdom, insight, and even works in his heart to make him hate what is wrong. The author of Hebrews offers a similar assessment of God's Word: "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12). The Word of God not only works in our minds to give us knowledge and wisdom from God, but even more importantly works in our heart to change us from the inside out.

Sadly, many Christians only engage with God's Word on Sunday mornings through a sermon or a Scripture reading, or when they read a short verse through a devotional. But for God's Word to have the transformative impact it has for the psalmist, we certainly need to be more immersed in it. Thankfully there are any number of ways to regularly take in and hold on to God's Word as you go through your week. To help us think about this I want to share with you the Word Hand Illustration from the Navigators. Each finger in the "Word Hand" is a way to have a greater grasp on God's Word. This is copied directly from the Navigators website: <https://www.navigators.org/resource/the-word-hand/>

Little Finger – Hearing

Pastors and teachers teach from the Word provides fresh insight into the Scriptures. The weakest finger (the pinkie) represents hearing, because we retain only five percent of what we hear. Romans 10:17

Ring Finger – Reading

Reading gives us an overview of the Bible and is the foundation of a daily quiet time. This is represented by the ring finger. We generally retain 15 percent of what we read. Revelation 1:3

Middle Finger – Studying

Studying the Scriptures deepens our convictions. It requires greater time and effort but results in increased knowledge of the Bible. Most people retain 35 percent of what they study. This is represented by the middle finger. Acts 17:11

Pastor's perspective continued

Index Finger – Memorizing

God's Word enables us to use Scripture, "the Sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17), to overcome temptations and to have verses readily available for ministering to others. The index finger, our strongest finger, represents memorization. We remember 100 percent of what we memorize if we consistently review it. Psalm 119:9-11

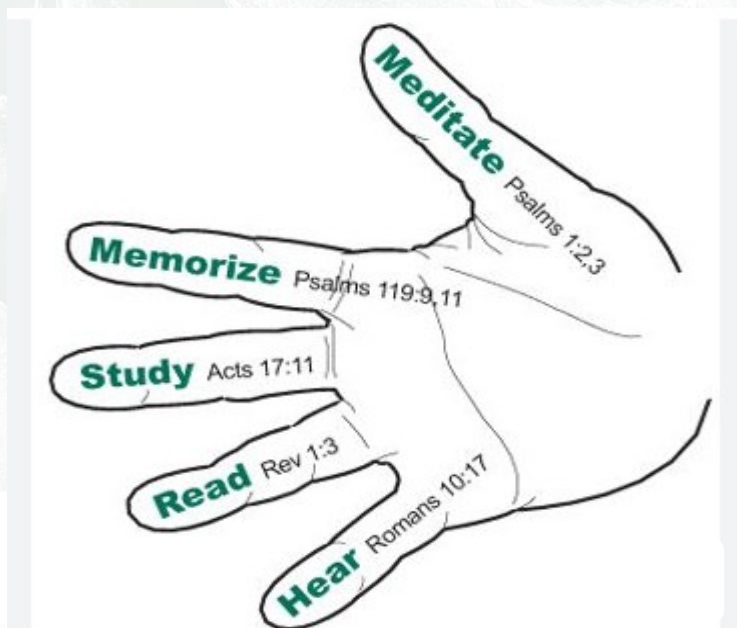
Thumb – Meditation

Meditation is the process that accompanies each of the other four methods of Scripture intake. This is why meditation is assigned to the thumb. Only the thumb can touch all the other four fingers. By meditating on God's Word as we hear, read, study, and memorize, we discover its transforming power at work in us. Psalm 1:2-3

My challenge to us this month: See where you are in your current interaction with God's Word, and add one more "finger" to your daily routine. If you only hear God's Word on Sundays, start reading God's Word a little each day. If you are hearing and reading, join a bible study to start studying God's Word with other believers. Maybe you need to try memorizing Scripture this month. But add a finger, and let me know what finger you are adding so I can pray for you. The more fingers you add, the more you will grasp and retain God's Word, and the more it will transform you from the inside out.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

p.s. I cannot tell you how many times people have told me over the past 20 years of being a pastor that they cannot do one of the "fingers" mentioned above, particularly the one about memorizing God's Word. Please trust me when I say that is simply not true. Every single person can do every single one of these practices in some way shape or form. Please come talk to me and I'll help you find creative ways of working through what you think you can't do.



Youth Ministry**This is our Feb newsletter with snippets from Jan, too!**

What a fantastic year Jesus has in store for us all! How has it been going for you so far?

January means 'a new start & year!' February means reminding those you love – you love them! Reach out and touch a family member or two; a friend or two who you think about!

What did you add to your daily life to get closer to Jesus or make resolutions, to keep? Try again: Please add in or include the usual: pray everyday for at least 10 minutes & be kind.

We started our discussion in Youth Group with Pastor about being better Disciples for Jesus. We compared ourselves to 'like' a Reservoir for God's love or a canal. Their responses were a bit humorous that they did not know what a Reservoirs was so we explained it to them. We all felt we have a bit of depletions lately in or 'God tanks' or Reservoir's that need to be replenished by daily Prayer and Thanking God for everything! The discussion went well as the students are all trying to do better in school with God's help and the Holy Spirit's guidance. Sometimes we stray but need to get right back on track!

We will be starting a new book called: 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey Briahna is going to start our 1st class in February and the students will switch off leading.

We are very excited to be able to grow closer to Jesus while being responsible adults.

I know the holidays are now past and the lights are all take down but ss the Youth Group Leader currently at our church I want to take a long look back during our last December:

I want to give a 'SHOUT OUT' to all our Youth Group who participated in the Advent readings and prayers! We are really so proud of all of you. Thank you for making it special.

Our Youth Group really stepped in and up this last year; especially during our Advent season. The Holy Spirit has blessed each and every one of them in God-like mature ways.

Youth Ministry Continued

HOPE Matt presented the spirit of Hope to us all. He has come such a long way on his journey with the Lord. He got baptized last year so this year he is spreading the Good cheer and news of Jesus to his friends and family. Good Job!!

PEACE Evan presented the spirit of Peace to us all; how we all and he struggles to find peach at times and does through knowing Jesus. He expressed his deep friendship with Chris French and how much he misses him. Evan let himself get close to him and even took guitar lessons. It helped Evan discover ways to get closer to Jesus. We all at MCVF miss our brother Dearly. He is smiling down on our efforts. We can see now how much Chris did planning and preparing our events. Good Job!!

JOY Geneva presented the spirit of Joy to us all. Geneva is so inspirational with Jesus on her side. She came here shy and now 'shouts in out' that she knows Jesus better. She struggled through the teenage years then found Jesus to help her through. She is very private and for her to share with the church was a blessing to us.

Good job!!

LOVE Briahna presented the spirit of Love to us all. Her love for the Lord is beaming out of her like a bright beacon of light. She learned from the Best: and has known Chris French the longest. She misses him Dearly and wrote a medley of songs for him that he used to sing for us during YG with his guitar for during the Gifts to the King. Her love for God shines bright! When she teaches the children in her special Holy spirit gifted way – the children smile, listen, participate, open up and have fun! Her love for Jesus is expressed. Her love for her family and church family expressed. She is now expressing her love for Jesus by letting us hear her angelic voice and singing in our worship team with Nicole until Jennifer & Hannah come back to join. Good Job!!

Pastor Steve & Terri were especially touched what each Youth shared from their heart! These students have come a long way thru the journey of life with Jesus starting at our church. We equip them with pertinent bible verses, beautiful worship songs and good 'church' memories, etc. to rely throughout their lives.

CHRISTmas Eve: All the above combined in lighting the Christmas candles!

I, Terri Carver, presented the spirit of Christmas to us all. Jesus is the sole reason for the season. Pastor & I are especially proud of our Youth Group students who willingly participated. Each person did such a great job! Confirming their journey with Jesus! We hope to teach them more and more each time we have fellowship.

FEBRUARY 2025

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

PSALM 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God; they are a marvelous display of his craftsmanship.

Day and night they keep on telling about God. Without a sound or word, silent in the skies, their message reaches out to all the world.

The sun lives in the heavens where God placed it and moves out across the skies as radiant as a bridegroom going to his wedding, or as joyous as an athlete looking forward to a race!

The sun crosses the heavens from end to end, and nothing can hide from its heat.

God's laws are perfect. They protect us, make us wise, and give us joy and light. God's laws are pure, eternal, just.

They are more desirable than gold. They are sweeter than honey dripping from a honeycomb.

For they warn us away from harm and give success to those who obey them.

But how can I ever know what sins are lurking in my heart?

Cleanse me from these hidden faults.

And keep me from deliberate wrongs; help me to stop doing them. Only then can I be free of guilt and innocent of some great crime.

May my spoken words and unspoken thoughts be pleasing even to you, O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer.



FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS



Happy Birthday

Jim Williamson	02/04
Bruce Kraft	02/15
Steve de Vos	02/15
Joanna de Vos	02/16
Mike Evans	02/16



Carl & Marilyn Jensen	02/01
Tony & Susan DaVee	02/08
Aender & Jenn Perez Harris	02/14
Steven & Luisa Johnson	02/17

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	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