



From Pastor Jeff

“All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.” (Hebrews 11:1) They were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

So, last month, I was sitting at my desk in the middle of the morning having a snack. I pulled out a candy bar from my desk. It was labeled a "Fun size" Snickers. It was one of the most disappointing experiences of my life. The bar (I use the term loosely, it was more a wafer) was disappointing on several levels. It was small, it was 30% smaller than the wrapper, and it was miniscule compared to the original fun-sized bars of 20 years ago. It was the opposite of “fun.”

Staring at that pathetic bit of chocolate, the pervasive ugliness, mendacity, and all-consuming, grasping, avariciousness of modern society struck me. Selling small things in big packages (I’m looking at you Girl Scouts!) to fool the consumer is common. Politicians lie, know that we know they are lying, lie anyway, and we elect them because they lie to us. Corporations lie continually in advertising. It’s gotten to the point you can almost be assured that whatever benefits are touted on the packaging are the very things the product will fail to do. Sitting there at my desk, a sense of sorrow and frustration washed through me far greater than my frustration with the M&M Mars Corporation.

Then this part of a hymn came to mind:

"Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure
None but Zion's children know."

Disappointment with human civilization is inevitable. We humans apart from God are irretrievably corrupt, selfish, and lost. All we build or participate in is tainted with our corruption. As the poet and priest Gerard Manley Hopkins described it, “all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil; and wears man’s smudge and shares man’s smell.”

But God does not leave his world to our whims. The cheaters and hucksters and con men don’t have the last word. The violent and rapacious, the cruel and predatory, they don’t win. Jesus has promised to return and set all things right. He came once as a baby in a manger, he will come again as a glorious King, a rider on a white horse whose name is Faithful and True. With justice he will judge and wage war. (Rev 19:11). We are waiting for a better country and a city not made by human hands (Heb 11:10, 16). So don’t let the sordidness of this world steal your joy. Remember this Christmas that this world has been overcome (John 16:33) and the Babe of Bethlehem is now the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and he is coming to establish his Kingdom without rival.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
Sunday, December 24th at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER EVENTS AT OUR CHURCH

DECORATING THE CHURCH

**Sunday,
December 3rd**

We will be decorating the church for the Advent/Christmas Season following our potluck lunch on Sunday, December 3rd. Plan on joining in the fun!



POTLUCK LUNCH

**Sunday,
December 3rd**

We will be sharing a potluck lunch following our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Our food theme is Mexican food. Bring your favorite Mexican food dish such as enchiladas, burritos, Spanish rice, beans, etc., or your favorite salad or dessert to share. The church will be providing tamales for all to enjoy.

DEACON'S MINISTRY TO THE NEEDY

We will be celebrating our Lord's Supper during worship on Sunday, December 3rd. Each Sunday we share in the meal our Lord has provided, we also assist our Deacons by bringing items for those in our community in need. The Deacons are collecting personal care items such as shampoo and toothpaste and household items such as paper towels and cleaning products. There is a basket in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you for helping.



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

This Sunday the first Sunday in Advent. A blessed way to center your heart and mind on the coming of Christ is through following the lessons in an Advent devotional. Copies are available on the counters in the Narthex. There are also

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

December 3rd

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at our Sunday morning worship service on December 3rd. If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive this Sacrament, please contact Pastor Jeff at the church to arrange for home Communion.



VILLAGE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!" PARTY

**Wednesday, December 6th
at 6:00 p.m.**

The Village Christian Preschool "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party will be held on Wednesday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m. starting with their Christmas play in the Sanctuary. A spaghetti dinner will follow in the Fireside Room. Please join us for a blessed look at the Christmas season through the eyes of our children. A second performance of the play will be on Sunday, December 10th during the 10 a.m. worship service

DECEMBER SESSION MEETING

Wednesday, December 13th

Our Session will be gathering on Wednesday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m. for study and business.

CHRISTMAS SINGALONG

**Saturday, December 16th
at 5:00 p.m.**

Join us for a wonderful time of singing Christmas songs together. Cookies and hot chocolate following the sing-along in our Fireside Room. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors!



NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

CHRISTMAS OFFERING - CHRISTMAS EVE

Joyful giving from thankful hearts has long been a Christian tradition during the Advent season. This December you have an opportunity to joyfully give during the Christmas Offering which will be received during our two Christmas Eve services. One-half of the gifts received will be used to assist in our church's International Mission Trip activities, such as Belize; and our involvement with Youth-Compass and their service trips to Eastern Europe.

The other half of the funds received will be provided to our Deacons' Food Closet ministry to assist in feeding the hungry on the North Shore of Lake Tahoe. Prayerfully consider giving to these ministry areas. If you would like to give and will be out of town on Christmas Eve, simply note "Christmas Offering" in the memo portion of your check and deliver it to our Church office.



ONGOING BIBLE STUDIES

Incline Village Small Group Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

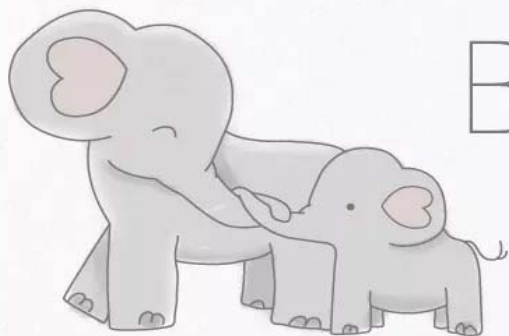
The Incline Village small group meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Jim & Jane Dykstra's House. Everyone is welcome to come. Contact Annie Payne or Tim Gilbert for more info.

Christ, Coffee and Cinnamon Rolls Men's Study Wednesday at 6:30 a.m.

Christ, Coffee and Cinnamon Rolls, ministry for men, is meeting on Wednesday mornings at 6:30 a.m. in our Church's Fireside Room. All men are invited to a time of prayer, Bible study, coffee and breakfast rolls on Wednesday mornings.

Kings Beach Small Group First & Third Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

The Kings Beach small group meets at the Boxeth's. This group meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and Third Thursdays of the month. This group is welcome to anyone. Contact Patti or Gary Boxeth for more information.



Baby Shower

Nathalie Sacci & Baby Sofia

Registered at Babylist.com

Sunday, December 10 at 11:30 AM

The Village Church 736 McCourry Blvd. Incline Village, NV 89451

INVITE A FRIEND AND BE A FRIEND



This is the challenge for each of us as we enter into Advent and Christmas. Our worship services during the Christmas season are wonderful times to invite friends to worship. On December 10th our preschool children will be performing their Christmas play. The Church is having a fun Sing-Along on Saturday, December 16th at 5:00 p.m. There are our traditional Christmas Eve Candle Light services at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 24th. We will have a Christmas Eve morning service Sunday, December 24th at 10:00 a.m.

People are more open to this kind of invitation during Christmas and Easter than any other time of the year. Think about who you might ask to come with you and then ask them. This is the "Invite a Friend" part of the challenge, but the "Be a Friend" part is to treat everyone who comes through the doors of our church as a friend. Think of them and treat them as if they were that special person you invited.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION

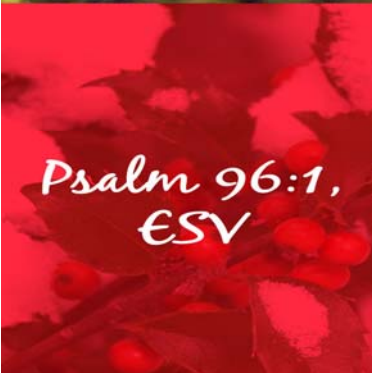


There are a great number of organizations in the North Lake Tahoe area that are working together to help those struggling in these economic times. The Village Church is glad to do its part through the Deacon's Food Closet Ministry. After church on Sunday, December 10th, we will be picking up non-perishable food at Raley's. We will need trucks with helpers and additional people to set-up for packing. On Wednesday, December 13th, at 5:00 p.m. we will be packing food boxes. The distribution will be on Saturday, December 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the church and we can use help hosting applicants and loading items into cars. Volunteers - please be at the church at 9:15 a.m. The Deacons thought it would be fun to wear Christmas attire, hat, sweater, jingle bells, etc. We'll have some tunes! Also, if anyone speaks Spanish and wants to act as an interpreter, please let Jim Dykstra know.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for the outstanding help throughout the year!



Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!



Psalm 96:1, ESV



Each year we look forward to the beauty the poinsettia plants bring to our sanctuary during the Christmas season. If you would like to purchase a plant and dedicate it in celebration of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below. Your celebration or memorial will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. You may take your plant home after the last Christmas Eve Service.



The cost of each plant is \$10.00. Please make your check payable to the church. Deliver the form and your check to the church or mail to:

**The Village Church
736 McCourry Blvd.
Incline Village, NV 89451
(775) 831-0784**

*The deadline for all orders is
Sunday, December 3rd*

Poinsettia Order Form

Name _____


Phone Number _____

No. of Plants _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

In Celebration of _____

In Memory of _____



24th Annual
Women's Christmas Tea
and
Holiday Boutique

Saturday, December 2nd

2:00pm to 4:00pm

At the Village Church
In the Fireside Room

Music by the Barefoot Duet

Come prepared to enjoy a delightful "English" tea complete with homemade finger sandwiches, cookies, candies, tea and coffee. Plan to shop the bazaar for specially selected treasures to enhance your home for the holidays. But most of all come to enjoy this incredible time of fellowship.



Village Christian Preschool's
Christmas Play, Dinner, & Crafts

December 6th at 6:00 pm

Second performance of the Christmas Play

December 10th during 10AM service

Join us for a wonderful
celebration of the birth of Jesus.



Village Christian Preschool
736 McCourry Blvd., Incline Village, NV
775-831-1184 www.villagepreschoolnv.org



CHRISTMAS FOOD-BOX MINISTRY



THE VILLAGE CHURCH CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX MINISTRY is the week of December 10th

There are various ways to volunteer with our Christmas food box ministry. At 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 10th we will need people and trucks to help pick up food from Raley's and to set up in the Church's Fireside Room for food box packing. We will be packing the food boxes at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13th in the Fireside Room. Distribution of the food boxes will be on Saturday, December 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Village Church. Your help would be appreciated for any or all of these days.

Please contact the Church with any questions 775-831-0784.

736 McCourry Blvd. Incline Village, NV

www.TheVillageChurchNV.org

Christmas Sing-Along

Saturday, December 16th

At 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

FREE Admission

Join us for a fun time of singing Christmas songs. Cookies and hot chocolate following the sing-along in our Fireside Room.

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

The Village Church

736 McCourry Blvd., Incline Village, NV

775-831-0784

www.TheVillageChurchNV.org



CE Corner December 2017

THE CHARACTERS OF CHRISTMAS

December Sunday school lessons teach children about the characters who were involved in the birth of Jesus. We are all familiar with the characters of Christmas. What an unlikely roster of players God selected to be in the Christmas story, but with each character, God eliminates excuse after excuse for not being part of Jesus' story today. Sunday school lessons this month look at some of the characters that were involved in Jesus' birth and how they reacted to it.

Elementary Sunday school class lessons focus on:

The Wise Men: We will focus on the example they set for us in seeking Jesus with all that they had in order to worship Him fully.

The Distracted Innkeeper: We will discuss some of the distractions that can get in the way of focusing on Jesus as we celebrate Christmas. We will provide some practical ways to "make room" for Jesus this Christmas.

The Religious Leaders: Children will learn about the Religious Leaders who were too busy being pious to notice that Jesus had been born. We will talk about the difference between having a head full of knowledge and a heart full of knowledge during the Christmas season.

Herod, the Opposing Ruler: children will learn how God protected Jesus even though King Herod worked hard to kill Him. Herod represents those who are against God and Jesus during Christmas.

The Shepherds: We will learn about the Shepherds and the excitement and joy that filled them upon hearing the good news of Jesus' birth. They let this excitement change their plans, their hearts, and their action as they chose to share the Good News.

Preschool classes will study an age-appropriate version of the same lessons.

Wise Men: Children will learn about the importance of seeking Jesus and praising Him for coming to earth to save us!

The Distracted Innkeeper: We will learn about the innkeeper. We will discuss some of the distractions that can get in the way of focusing on Jesus as we celebrate Christmas.

The Religious Leaders: Children will learn about the Religious Leaders who were too busy to notice that Jesus had been born.

The Shepherds: We learn about the Shepherds and the joy that filled them upon hearing news of Jesus' birth. They let this excitement change their plans, their hearts, and their actions. They also made the choice to share this Good News with others!

God chose special people to be part of this great event, and their reactions to it show how we also need to respond to God's will in our lives. Christmas is not only a time for passively remembering an old story. It is also a time for rejoicing and a time for action. It's a time to examine our lives and see if Jesus' birth changes how we act.



Mary Gilbert, C.E. Director

YOUTH NEWS

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:10-12

Merry Christmas!

With everyone thinking about and celebrating the birth of Jesus, this is one of my favorite times of year. Many of you will remember that for the last few years on Sundays the youth outreach group called "Special ops" has travelled to Reno to give out sleeping bags and other items to the homeless. This year we have switched up the Reno trips. Instead of homeless ministry, I am taking the youth to assisted living facilities to visit with the residents. This actually is what the special ops group did in the beginning, and it is a fantastic way to share the love and message of Jesus. This ministry puts young folks in a role of reaching out and listening to some amazing people who can feel neglected and lonely especially at Christmas time. When the weather gets worse, we will likely alternate the homeless ministry and the assisted living ministry. If you have any small gift items or things you think the folks in assisted living may enjoy, I would love to bring them down with us to give out.

The youth will be enjoying special Christmas themed games and our annual Christmas party on Wednesday, December 20. If you would like to bring some of your Christmas treats for us that would be very much appreciated. There are many opportunities to help with youth activities, and I would like to invite you to come and support any or all of the youth events. Contact me or call the church office if you would like more information on doing that. From the youth and myself, I want to wish you a blessed Christmas season and a very happy New Year.

Thank you, *Pastor Tony*



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES NEWS



GIFT SHOP AT THE THRIFT SHOP

The Village Christian Thrift Shop is open for you Christmas Shopping! Thrift Shop is open Monday thru Saturday 11AM-3PM.

New and gently used gift items for everyone on your list. Festive home decor, cards, lights, gift bags, Christmas trees, garlands, stockings, and even jewelry! Come shop and have a great time and know that all the proceeds go to local, national, and international missions.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PHOTOS

Our Church and Preschool packed 181 boxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. The boxes were delivered to Reno on Friday, November 17th. From there, the boxes are packed in shipping boxes for distribution all over the globe. Thank you and blessings to all who participated!



NATIONAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY

MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY. A group of adult Village Church members is making plans to volunteer in Houston, TX with Samaritan's Purse on the Hurricane Harvey Rebuild Projects. The trip is scheduled for April 22 - April 28, 2018, and we have a limited number of spaces available. Housing and meals will be provided at a church in the area. Team members will be responsible for their own airfare and a share of group expenses. Spaces will be filled on a first come, first served basis! If you are interested, please contact Jane Dykstra or the church office.

THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

JOIN US FOR A JOURNEY THROUGH *THE STORY*!

The Story is a book of selections from the Bible, arranged chronologically, that reads like a novel. During this unique 31-week experience, every member of the family reads their own version of *The Story*. Come discover together with us how our story is found in God's story!

Our journey begins January 21, 2017

during the 8:00 and 10:00 am services

at The Village Church

736 McCourry Blvd

Incline Village, NV

For more information call 775-831-0784



The Story is for every member of the family!

VILLAGE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL PHOTOS



PASTOR JEFF'S PHOTO PAGE





Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24th

Regular Morning Service at 10:00a.m.

Candlelight Services at 5:30p.m. and 7:30p.m.

**736 McCourry Blvd. Incline Village, NV
On the corner of Mt. Rose & McCourry Blvd
775-831-0784 www.TheVillageChurchNV.org**



The Village Church
 736 McCourry Blvd
 Incline Village, NV 89451
 (775) 831-0784 voice 831-0798 fax,
 Preschool 831-1184
 Website: TheVillageChurchNV.org



December

2017



Thought For the Month:
 For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
 Isaiah 9:6

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT



3 *The Lord's Supper*



8 & 10am Worship in Sanctuary
 8:15am Choir Practice - F/R
 10:15am Sunday School
 11:15am Feliz Navidad Themed Potluck
 11:45am Decorating the Church

4 *Office Closed*

5
 2:37pm Staff Meeting
 6:30pm Incline Small Group
 - Dykstra's Home

6
 6:30am Men's Study - F/R
 10:00am Prayer Group - Room A
 6-8pm Upper Room Group - Y/R
 6:00pm Preschool Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration (Play and Dinner)

7

8

2

 Women's Christmas Tea
 2:00pm to 4:00pm
 Fireside Room

10
 8 & 10am Worship in Sanctuary
 No Choir Practice
 10:15am Sunday School
 11:15am Pick up Food from Raley's
 11:30am Nathalie Sacci's Baby Shower
 12-3pm Special Ops H/S Outreach




11 *Office Closed*

12
 2:37pm Staff Meeting
 6:30pm Incline Small Group
 - Dykstra's Home

13
 6:30am Men's Study - F/R
 10:00am Prayer Group - Room A
 1:00pm Session Meeting - Pastor's Study
 3:00pm Youth Girls Bible Study - Room C
 5:00pm Christmas Food Box Packing F/R
 6-8pm Upper Room Group - Y/R

14

15
 5:00pm Christmas Sing-Along

16

 10:00am - 12:00pm
 Christmas Food Box Distribution

17
 8 & 10am Worship in Sanctuary
 8:15am Choir Practice - F/R
 10:15am Sunday School
 12-3pm Special Ops H/S Outreach



18 *Office Closed*

19
 2:37pm Staff Meeting
 6:30pm Incline Small Group
 - Dykstra's Home

20
 6:30am Men's Study - F/R
 10:00am Prayer Group - Room A
 6-8pm Upper Room Group - Y/R

21

22

23

24 *Christmas Eve*
 10am Worship in Sanctuary
 No Choir Practice at 8:15am
 10:15am Sunday School
 5:30 & 7:30pm Candlelight Services



25 *Office Closed*



26

27
 6:30am Men's Study - F/R
 10:00am Prayer Group - Room A
 No Upper Room Group

28

29

30

Preschool Closed

31
 8 & 10am Worship in Sanctuary
 No Choir Practice
 10:15am Sunday School



December Birthdays

12/3 Harry Farrell	12/20 Cindy Liggett
12/4 Ann Reynolds	12/21 Bob Williamson
12/4 Bill Leonard	12/21 Ann Sura
12/11 Vickie Twichell	12/25 Don Ferrell
12/12 Steve Merritt	12/26 Rob Robins
12/14 Marji Hansen	12/29 Al Olsen
12/15 Jim Amende	12/29 Jim Dykstra
12/15 Roland Schumann	

**Did we forget your birthday? Please let us know.
Call the Church Office at 775-831-0784.**



JANUARY TRIALOGUE DEADLINE
Friday, December 15th
 Please send your articles to
apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org



OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
 Year To Date Through

November 26th, 2017:

<u>Needed</u>	\$396,672
<u>Given</u>	\$400,026
<u>Difference</u>	+\$3,354

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

December 3rd Communion Servers

- Linda Robins
- Rob Robins
- Tim Gilbert
- Jane Dykstra

Worship Assistants

- December 3: Veronica Kilbourn
- December 10: Rich Caviness
- December 17: Millie Clarke
- December 24: Linda Robins
- December 31: Nancy Manter

Ushers

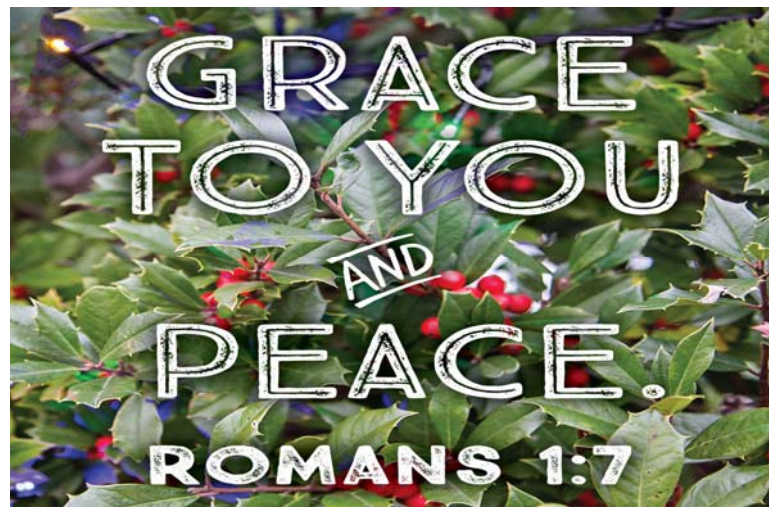
- December 3: Paul and Vickie Twichell
- December 10: Gary and Patti Boxeth
- December 17: Craig and Michele young
- December 24 10AM: Jane Dykstra & Rob Robins
- December 24 5:30 PM: Cindy & Heather Liggett; Jane Dykstra,
- December 24 7:30 PM: Don and Karen Ferrell
- December 31: Don and Karen Ferrell

Children's Message:

- December 3: Don Ferrell
- December 10: Cindy Liggett
- December 17: Need Help
- December 24: Darlene Nilsson
- December 31: Need Help

Hospitality Teams:

- December 3: Team 5
- December 10: Team 6
- December 17: Team 7
- December 24: Team 8
- December 31: Team 1



The Village Church

736 McCourry Blvd.

Incline Village, NV 89451

Telephone: 775.831.0784

Fax: 775.831.0798

Village Christian Preschool:

Telephone: 775.831.1184

Email: PastorJeff@TheVillageChurchNV.org

Website: www.TheVillageChurchNV.org



A joyful place to grow



December 2017

Church Leadership

Doug Baker - Deacon

Ted Bandaruk - Deacon

Patti Boxeth - Deacon

Gary Boxeth - Elder

Stephanie Conragan - Preschool Staff

Pastor Tony Conragan, CLP - AV & Youth Pastor

Chuck Dowd - Elder

Jane Dykstra - Elder

Jim Dykstra - Deacon Moderator

Jon Fay - Choir Director

Roxanne Fernandez - Preschool Staff

Don Ferrell - Elder

Linda Florentine - Women's Ministries Moderator

Betsy Garfinkle - Deacon

Mary Gilbert - Christian Education Director

Tim Gilbert - Custodian & Elder

Janet Howell - Preschool Staff

Cindy Liggett - Preschool Director

Terri Nielsen - Preschool Staff

Darlene Nilsson - Elder

Ann O'Keefe - Deacon

Rev. Jeff Ogden - Pastor

Vicki Ogden - Preschool Staff & Deacon

Annie Payne - Office Manager

Tom Payne - Deacon

Linda Robins - Elder, Thrift Shop Manager

Allie Sacci - Preschool Staff

Nathalie Sacci - Assistant Preschool Director

Ann Schofield - Financial Administration, & Elder & Clerk of Session

Jason Stanton - Accompanist

Lynne Swingley Donat - Deacon

Vickie Twichell - Thrift Shop Manager

Debby Wiens - Pianist

Michele Young - Elder