



Candy Cane Chronicles



From Pastor Jeff

How do you prepare for Christmas? Many of us will buy a tree and decorate it. Some may bake special cookies or fruitcakes for friends and relatives. 'Tis the season for cleaning house, reading for guests, putting up lights, shopping, wrapping, cooking...is that really how to prepare for Christmas?

The Advent season (the four Sundays before Christmas) is meant to help us prepare our hearts for Christmas, not just our houses. Advent means "arrival" or "coming" and during Advent, we prepare our hearts for the Second Coming of Jesus as we celebrate his first coming. It is a season in which we are reminded again about the gift given to us in Jesus, God with Us.

To help us prepare for Christmas this Advent, we're going to be looking at what it means that Jesus is "God with Us." Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace are all ours in him and are the topics for our Advent sermons. Please plan on joining me on Sundays this Advent season. I hope the reminder of God with Us will help you in your own quest to keep Christ at the heart of your Christmas. God Bless and Merry Christmas!

Join us this Christmas Season

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SERIES

GOD
with Us

SUNDAYS AT 8:00 AND 10:00 AM

December 2nd - God With Us Brings Hope

December 9th - God With Us Brings Love

December 16th - God With Us Brings Joy

December 23rd - God With Us Brings Peace

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

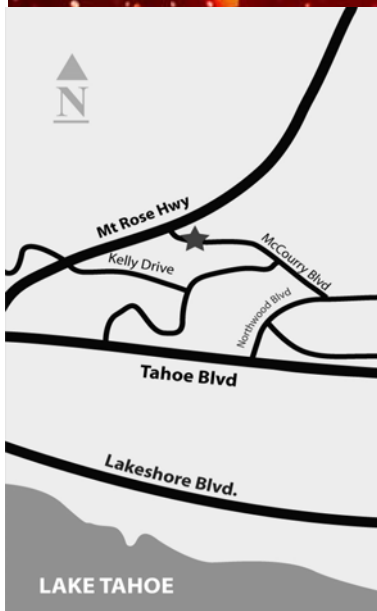
Monday, December 24th at 5:00 and 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

Saturday, December 15th at 5:00 pm

736 McCourry Blvd. Incline Village, NV

775-831-0784 • www.TheVillageChurchNV.org



DECEMBER EVENTS AT OUR CHURCH

DECORATING THE CHURCH

Sunday,

December 2nd

We will be decorating the church for the Advent/Christmas Season following our potluck lunch on Sunday, December 2nd. Plan on joining in the fun!



POTLUCK LUNCH

Sunday,

December 2nd

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.

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.



DECEMBER SESSION MEETING

Wednesday, December 19th

Our Session will be gathering on Wednesday, December 19th at 4:00 p.m. for study and business.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

December 2nd

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at our Sunday morning worship service on December 2nd. 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 5th at 6:15 p.m.

The Village Christian Preschool "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party will be held on Wednesday, December 5th at 6:15 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. The children will sing some of the songs from the program on Sunday, December 16th during the 10 a.m. worship service.

CHRISTMAS SINGALONG

Saturday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m.

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



THE VILLAGE CHURCH IS A PRAYING CHURCH!



Our Lord has placed on the hearts of the leaders of The Village to pray. As a church we provide opportunities during and after our worship services for prayer. We have a group of intercessory prayer folks who gather each Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. to pray for the needs and praises of our congregation and beyond. Please contact Pastor Jeff if you would like to join this special prayer group.

CHURCH OFFICE AND PRESCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS

This is a reminder that the church office and will be closed December 24th-27th and January 1st. The Preschool will be closed December 24th-January 1st.



CHURCH SNOW CLOSURES

Cancelling worship is never anticipated for our Sunday morning services. It is our desire to hold our worship services regardless of the weather. Some Sundays our services may be very, very small, but "where two or more are gathered..." In stormy icy weather, we encourage everyone to use good judgment in discerning whether to attend worship or not.

BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Advent Bible Study Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Ladies, join us for a Bible study on Advent led by Cindy Liggett on Mondays at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room. This is a great opportunity for learning more about God's Word, to fellowship together.

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 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 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

The Kings Beach small group meets at the Ackerman's home. 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.

Reno Small Group December 20th at 1:00 p.m.

The Reno small group meets at the at Tanamera Clubhouse 900 S. Meadows Parkway in Reno. Led by Betsy Garfinkle. The study is on "Integrity: Living the Truth" by Carolyn Nystrom.

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. The Church is having a fun Sing-Along on Saturday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m. There are our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight services at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 24th.

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



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 9th, We will be setting up the Church's Fireside Room for food box packing including making the boxes. On Wednesday, December 12th, at 5:00 p.m. we will be packing food boxes. The distribution will be on Saturday, December 15th 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!



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 _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Church needs your help. There are many ways to get involved with the church. We are seeking volunteers to do the children's message, help with the counting, be a Sunday school teacher, worship assistant, usher, or prayer warrior. If you are interested in volunteering with any of these areas, send an email to apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org and put what you are interested in volunteering for.





25th Annual Women's Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 1st
2:00pm to 4:00pm

At the Village Church
In the Fireside Room

Music by the Barefoot Trio

Come prepared to enjoy a delightful "English" tea complete with homemade finger sandwiches, cookies, candies, tea and coffee. But most of all, come to enjoy this incredible time of fellowship.



**Village Christian Thrift Shop
Christmas Boutique
& Open House**

**Sunday, December 2nd
2:00pm to 4:00pm**

**At the Thrift Shop
799 Southwood Blvd
Incline Village, NV 89451**

Come shop and find wonderful Christmas treasures and other great items! There will be food and drink to enjoy as well!

All proceeds support many different missions including Awaken, City of Refuge, Intervarsity, Reno Sparks Gospel Mission, She is Safe, Samaritan's Purse, Teen Challenge, Young Life, and more!

Please note: cash or check only



Village Christian Preschool's
Christmas Program, Dinner, & Crafts
December 5th at 6:15 pm

Performance of the Christmas songs
December 16th 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

ADVENT IS COMING!
Beginning Sunday, December 2nd



Advent is the season of the Church year which begins four Sundays before Christmas Day. The Advent season starts this year on December 2nd. Advent means “coming” or “arrival” and the focus of the entire season is the celebration of the first coming of our Lord as a baby in Bethlehem, and the anticipation of our Lord’s return as King at the end of time. Bring your family, friends, neighbors and join us on Sunday mornings at either 8:00am or 10:00am for a special Advent series called *God With Us*. The Advent series will start on Sunday, December 2nd.

Advent Devotionals will be available in the Narthex in mid November. Also, there will be Advent calendars for our children.

SAVE THE DATE!
Monday, December 24th



Christmas Eve Candlelight Services are on Monday, December 24th with new times this year! The services will be at 5:00pm & 7:00pm in the Sanctuary of the Church.



CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX MINISTRY



THE VILLAGE CHURCH CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX MINISTRY week of December 9th

There are various ways to volunteer with our Christmas food box ministry.

- **Sunday, December 9th at 11:30am** Setting up the Church's Fireside Room for food box packing including making the boxes.
- **Wednesday, December 12th at 5:00pm** Food box packing in the Fireside Room.
- **Saturday, December 15th from 10:00am to 12:00pm** Distribution of the food boxes in the Fireside room 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 15th

At 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

FREE Admission

Join us for a fun time of singing Christmas songs.

Ugly Christmas sweater contest!

**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 2018

The Meaning of Christmas

How can I teach my kids the meaning of Christmas?

The best and most effective way to teach children the meaning of Christmas is to approach them at their own level of understanding and build upon that understanding as they age. Christmas is the time we commemorate the giving of the greatest gift that man has ever received - Jesus Christ - and that fact should be celebrated each

and every day of the year. Rather than a time that is focused on giving and receiving temporal gifts, Christmas should be a time that is focused upon the gift of God and the real meaning of Christmas, which is the redemption and reconciliation of man to God through the LORD Jesus Christ.

We have allowed the world to usurp Christmas and make it a time of emotional blackmail and man-made traditions. We are bombarded with ads and displays urging us to over spend to assuage guilt. Children are brainwashed to believe that they deserve gifts regardless of their parent's ability to pay. There is a way to turn that around and that is to teach children that the meaning of Christmas is that God gave them a gift that they did not deserve and could not earn or merit by "being good" (Ephesians 2:8-9). It is the gift of eternal life, through choosing to accept God's gift of grace. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The best way to tell children the true meaning of Christmas is to read them the story from the Bible. Matthew 1:18 - 2:23 tells the details surrounding the birth of Jesus, from the angel's promise of His conception until after His birth when Joseph and Mary moved to Nazareth. Simply let the story speak for itself. Not many people can hear that story and not be moved to believe it.

There are also good videos and books available at most Christian bookstores that may be of assistance. You could read through a book or watch a video together and discuss any questions your child may ask.

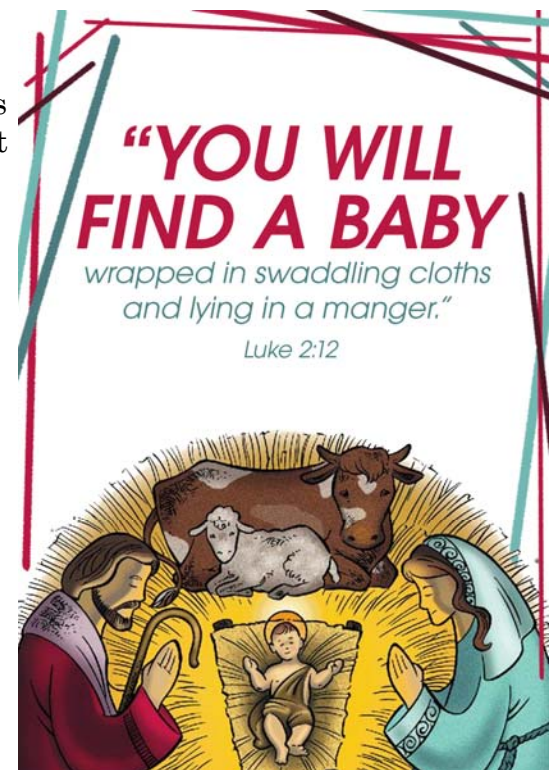
Encourage your child to participate in a Christmas play or nativity. Many children learn more from acting out the Christmas story rather than just hearing it. Check with your church about children's nativities or plays that your child can participate in.

Participate in a service project as a family. Go caroling at the nursing home, donate gifts to needy children in your community, bake cookies for your neighbors. By handing out Christian tracts as you carol or including a tract with your cookies your child will learn the importance of sharing his or her faith. As a family, you can tell others the good news of Jesus Christ and the meaning of Christmas.

Finally, you may also want to emphasize the Christ-focused Christmas traditions and de-emphasize the secular traditions.

Reprinted from allaboutjesuschrist.org

Mary Gilbert, C.E. Director



YOUTH NEWS

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

Luke 1:26-28

Merry Christmas!

This time of year, is always special. It's special for memories, family, and the church. It's also special for sharing Christ with young people. All this month in youth group we will be talking about the amazing thing God did in coming to save us.

We will be continuing our Sunday youth trips to Reno with Special ops to give out sleeping bags and other things that the homeless may need to stay warm and alive during the cold nights outdoors. It is a very special thing to see the people receive the things we bring and receive prayer all with young folks who are learning to put what they have learned about Jesus into practice. We have a need for sleeping bags that are rated for 32 degrees, sleeping pads as a cold barrier between them and the ground, and duffle bags to put them in. These items can be shipped directly to the church address at 736 McCourry Blvd, if that is helpful. It is starting to become more winter like, and these items will make it possible for some folks to stay warm and survive the cold nights. If you would like to help out with any of our youth ministries, know you are welcome to check them out on Wednesdays 6-8pm for youth group, or Sundays 12-3pm for our Special Ops Homeless Ministry.

Thank you and have a blessed Christmas!

Blessings, 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 175 boxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. The boxes were delivered to Reno on Friday, November 16th. From there, the boxes are packed in shipping boxes for distribution all over the globe. Thank you and blessings to all who participated!



2019 VILLAGE CHURCH ADULT MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Samaritan's Purse Mission Trip: Huston, Texas – February 24th– March 2nd

YouthCompass Mission Trip: Romania – April 19th–28th

Belize Dental Mission Trip: Seine Bight, Belize – May 17th–25th

Please contact the church office if you are interested in learning more info.

VILLAGE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL PHOTOS



PASTOR JEFF'S PHOTO PAGE



December Birthdays

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

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



For to us a child is born, to us
a son is given.
Isaiah 9:6

**JANUARY
TRIALOGUE DEADLINE**
Wednesday, December 19th
Please send your articles to
apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org



**OUR TITHES
AND
OFFERINGS**
Year To Date
Through

November 25th, 2018:

<u>Needed</u>	\$402,179
<u>Given</u>	\$450,322
<u>Difference</u>	+\$48,143

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

December 2nd Communion Servers

Linda Robins
Rob Robins
Tim Gilbert
Joannie McNulty

Worship Assistants

December 2: Linda Robins
December 9: Millie Clarke
December 16: Kendall Hoopes
December 23: Don Ferrell
December 30: Keith Hansen

Ushers

December 2: Joannie McNulty
December 9: Don & Karen Ferrell
December 16: Keith & Marji Hansen
December 23: Ted & Lynn Bandaruk
December 24 5 PM: Boxeth Family
December 24 7PM: Keith & Marji Hansen; Betsy Garfinkle
December 30: Don & Karen Ferrell

Children's Message:

December 2: Darlene Nilsson
December 9: Bill Ferrall
December 16: Cindy Liggett
December 23: Don Ferrell
December 30: Tony Conragan

Hospitality Teams:

December 2: Team 2
December 9: Team 3
December 16: Team 4
December 23: Team 5
December 30: Team 6



GRACE TO YOU
AND PEACE
ROMANS 1:7

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

December 2018

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



1 
 Women's Christmas Tea
 2:00pm to 4:00pm
 Fireside Room

2 *The Lord's Supper* 
 8 & 10am Worship in Sanctuary
 8:15am Choir Practice - F/R
 9:15am Praise Team Practice - Sanctuary
 10:15am Sunday School
 11:30am Feliz Navidad Themed Potluck
 11:45am Decorating the Church
 2:00pm Christmas Boutique at the Thrift Shop

3 *Office Closed*
 6:30pm Women's
 Advent Bible Study - F/R


4
 2:00pm Staff Meeting
 6:30pm Incline Small
 Group - Dykstra's Home

5
 6:30am Men's Bible Study - F/R
 10:00am Prayer Group - Room A
 6-8pm Upper Room Group - Y/R
 6:15pm Preschool Happy Birthday Jesus
 Celebration (Program and Dinner)

6

7

8

9 
 8 & 10am Worship in Sanctuary
 8:15am Choir Practice - F/R
 9:15am Praise Team Practice - Sanctuary
 10:15am Sunday School
 11:30am Deacons Food Box Setup - F/R
 11:30am Pearland Texas Mission Mtg - Rm A


10 *Office Closed*
 6:30pm Women's
 Advent Bible Study - F/R


11
 2:00pm Staff Meeting
 6:30pm Incline Small
 Group - Dykstra's Home

12
 6:30am Men's Bible Study - F/R
 10:00am Prayer Group - Room A
 5:00pm Christmas Food Box Packing F/R
 6-8pm Upper Room Group - Y/R

13
 6:30pm Kings Beach
 Small Group -
 Ackerman's Home

14

15 
 10:00am - 12:00pm
 Christmas Food Box
 Distribution
 5:00pm Christmas
 Sing-Along

16 
 8 & 10am Worship in Sanctuary
 8:15am Choir Practice - F/R
 9:15am Praise Team Practice - Sanctuary
 10:15am Sunday School
 12-3pm Special Ops H/S Outreach

17 *Office Closed*
 6:30pm Women's
 Advent Bible Study - F/R


18
 2:00pm Staff Meeting
 6:30pm Incline Small
 Group - Dykstra's Home

19
 6:30am Men's Bible Study - F/R
 10:00am Prayer Group - Room A
 4:00pm Session Meeting - Pastor's Study
 6-8pm Upper Room Group - Y/R

20
 1:00pm Reno Small
 Group

21

22

23 
 8 & 10am Worship in Sanctuary
 8:15am Choir Practice - F/R
 9:15am Praise Team Practice - Sanctuary
 10:15am Sunday School

24 *Christmas Eve*
 5 & 7pm Candlelight
 Services

 Preschool Closed**

25 *Office Closed*


26
 6:30am Men's Bible Study - F/R

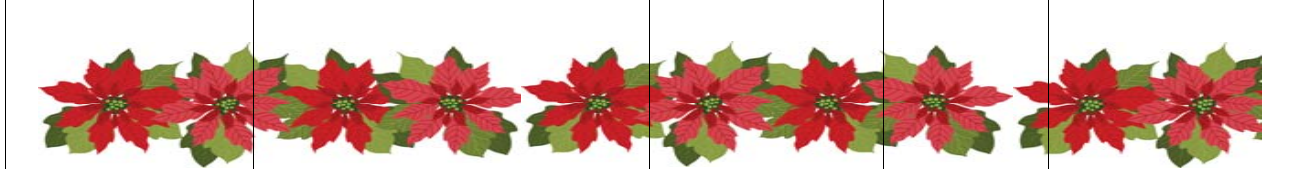
27
 6:30pm Kings Beach
 Small Group -
 Ackerman's Home

28

29

30
 8 & 10am Worship in Sanctuary
 No Choir Practice
 9:15am Praise Team Practice - Sanctuary

31 *Office & Preschool
 Closed*

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



Church Leadership

Alfredo Amezaga - Elder
Doug Baker - Deacon
Lynn Bandaruk - Deacon
Ted Bandaruk - Elder
Patti Boxeth - Deacon
Gary Boxeth - Elder
Stephanie Conragan - Preschool Staff
Pastor Tony Conragan, CLP - AV & Youth Pastor
Jim Dykstra - Deacon Moderator
Jon Fay - Choir Director
Roxanne Fernandez - Preschool Staff
Don Ferrell - Elder
Betsy Garfinkle - Deacon
Mary Gilbert - Christian Education Director
Tim Gilbert - Elder & Custodian
Patti Hanczarek - Preschool Staff
Cindy Liggett - Preschool Director
Miriella Melara - Deacon

Marilyn Merritt - Deacon
Kira Neil - Preschool Staff
Darlene Nilsson - Elder
Rev. Jeff Ogden - Pastor
Vicki Ogden - Deacon
Annie Payne - Office Manager
Linda Robins - Thrift Shop Manager
Allie Sacci - Preschool Staff
*Ann Schofield - Financial Administration,
Clerk of Session, Elder*
Brooke Spanial - Preschool Staff
Jason Stanton - Accompanist
Lymne Swingley Donat - Deacon
Vickie Twitchell - Thrift Shop Manager
Paul Twitchell - Elder
Debby Wiens - Pianist
*Michele Young - Elder, Treasurer,
Women's Ministries Moderator*