

## From Assistant Pastor Tony

Dear Village Church family,

It is with bittersweet feelings that I write this letter to let you know my wife and I will be leaving Nevada in March of 2024. This decision was made after a lot of thought and prayer. Two things we want everyone to know are this is extremely hard, and we love you. Tahoe has been our home and The Village Church our family for several decades. We are wholly attached to this church, and it is our family, and literally part of who we are.

Leaving makes us sad. We are not fans of change; we enjoy routines and familiar surroundings, but we have reasons for the decision. We want to share those with the church.



Family is the first reason. Our children and grandchildren are all in far northern Montana, and another grandchild is expected in January. We do not like to fly and are currently 16 hours away. We want to be able to see them more often, and the distance makes that hard. Housing security plays a big part in the move too. A few years ago, housing costs forced us out of Incline Village. Carson City is growing, and housing is very limited. It seems like it is only a matter of time until we will be forced out again. That could be a long way off, but we have no way to know, and

it weighs on us. I have been vocal about the fact that I will die before moving to a colder climate like Montana. Thankfully, the Treasure Valley climate is like Carson City with even less snow, and housing is much more affordable and available. Another plus, this is an opportunity to go somewhere we like.

The last few years when we visited our kids in Montana, we got to look around a lot of places. We saw nothing like Tahoe, but out of all the places we visited, Stephanie and I both liked southern Idaho a lot. This year we looked closer at Caldwell Idaho in the western part of the Treasure Valley. (This sits about ½ way to our children). Healthwise, it also seems like a good time. After years of my various reconstructive surgeries, my wife and I are both mobile and healthy. Everyone understands how fast that can change, but right now, praise God, we are physically able to move.

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A final reason to do this sooner over later is we expect it to take a very long time to get reestablished in another community and church. This is very much a situation of jumping while afraid. I still remember a playground device that resulted in a lot of physical and mental trauma. It was a spinning steel platform 10 feet across, with metal bars as handles welded to the top. We would spin the metal beast around while others held on for dear life. Anyone wanting to join the ride had to pick a time to jump and grab on. Calculating and planning went on in every kid's mind, but at some point, even when it was scary, you just had to jump. I know Jumping will not get easier. I would prefer to wait for total safety, but that usually means not jumping at all. Right now, we can choose when we jump, and where we land, and that sounds good. After the landing is where the scary part starts. We have nothing but love for our church family, leadership, and everyone we have served with over the years. I learned through the grief ministry there are no easy ways to get through goodbyes or loss, but none of us go through them alone.

God always moves to patch holes and keep things moving forward for His purposes. He is amazing at doing that, and He has a plan. As hard as this is to do, I see God blessing it, and He has a lot of room to move.

We covet your prayers for God to lead us to the church and ministries and people He has for us to be with. I will seek to continue with grief/bereavement, and hospice ministry, maybe as a chaplain, I believe God has called me to that ministry. As of now, I do not have a job to go to. Please also pray for the change on both ends to be full of Gods blessings, presence and worked out for His glory (Add anything that you like to those prayers). Thank you for allowing my family and I to serve with you and be used by God in The Village Church.

Thank you for being our family, and all the opportunities. Thank you for loving, caring, encouraging, and nurturing us.

A special thanks to Pastor Jeff, and the staff who have been a huge part of our lives. There is not the time or the ability to express how much your friendships and love have meant. We are not going anywhere until spring, and I would love to talk to you, and be prayed over.

The Village Church has been and given nothing but blessings to us for more than 30 years. I pray God continues to pour out his favor on The Village Church and us, and that the church and thrift shop will continue to be a lighthouse for the lost and hurt, and blessings to the community, and world.

God continue to bless you. You will always be home to us, and we will miss you all deeply and constantly. I already do.

In Christ, Tony and Stephanie Conragan

*I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?  
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.  
Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.  
The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.  
The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.  
The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.  
The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and  
forevermore. Psalm 121*

*I pray that the Lord, who gives peace, will always bless you with peace. May the Lord be with all of you. 2 Thessalonians 3:16*

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Revelation 22:21*

## VILLAGE CHURCH DECEMBER EVENTS

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>: Joann Fortier Memorial at 2pm at the Church**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Potluck; Lord's Supper, First Sunday in Advent; Congregational Mtg**

**December 13<sup>th</sup>: Preschool Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration**

**December 17<sup>th</sup>: Third Sunday in Advent; Preschool Children Singing during 10am**

**December 21<sup>st</sup>: Session Meeting**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve: Morning at 10am & Evening services at 5 & 7pm**

**December 31<sup>st</sup>: 10am only worship service**

**Sunday Mornings**, Nursery, Preschool, & K-5 Sunday School (10:00am) in-Person.

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Mornings**, Village Sunday Youth Group (10:00am) in-person.

**Monday Evenings**, Grief Share Group (5:00pm) in-Person Fireside Room.

**Monday Evenings**, Women's Bible Study **Off until in January.**

**Tuesday Nights**, Incline Small Group (6:30pm to 8:00pm):in-person at the Church House and via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/396067313?pwd=Smc1U29GVEVsYW85UkZoODFycHlDdz09>

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/396067313?pwd=Smc1U29GVEVsYW85UkZoODFycHlDdz09>

**Wednesday Mornings**, Men's Bible Study (6:30am to 7:30am): in-person the Fireside Room and via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/284810005?pwd=QVJ6SzZzc2VDNlZwcFNobnBwTjhTUT09>

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/284810005?pwd=QVJ6SzZzc2VDNlZwcFNobnBwTjhTUT09>

**Wednesday Mornings**, Children's Chapel at 9:30am in the Sanctuary.

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Afternoons**, Middle School Girls Group: 1:45-4:45pm at the YL Incline Clubhouse – 924 Incline Way Suite F.

**Wednesday Afternoons**, Great News Club (2:35pm to 4:00pm) at Incline Elementary

**Wednesday Nights**, Adult Bible Study at 5:00pm in the Fireside Room.

**Thursday Mornings**, Women's Bible Study. Joining with Cornerstone at 9:30am at Cornerstone Community Church.

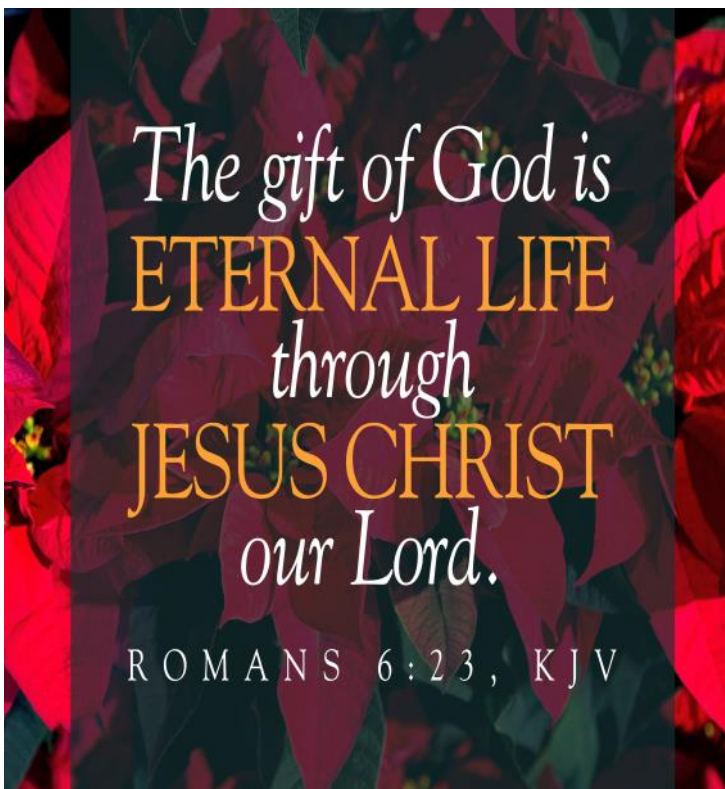
**Thursdays at Noon**, Prayer Time for the Church and Schools

**Thursday Nights**, AA meets in the Fireside Room at 7:00pm



**Advent starts this Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have Advent devotionals & calendars are available at the Church. Also, Advent Bible Study on Wednesdays nights at 5pm. We need volunteers for the 8am service to read the Advent scriptures and then light the Advent Candles email [apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org](mailto:apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org) to volunteer.**





**POINSETTIAS**

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 17<sup>th</sup>.*

**Poinsettia Order Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Plants \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

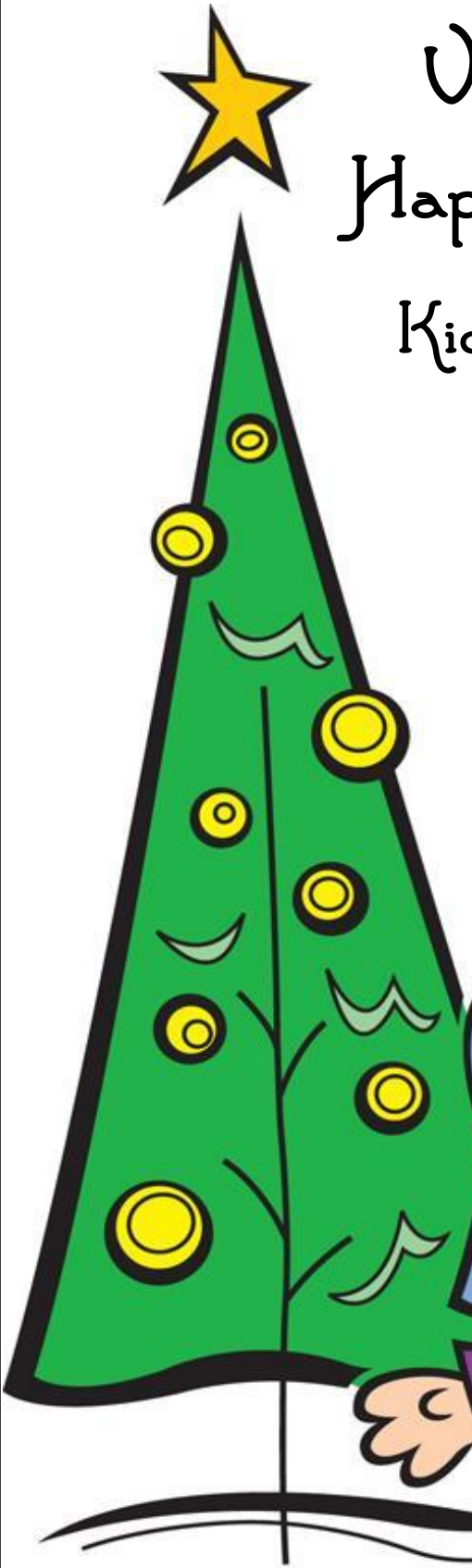
In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like your plant to be donated to someone, please check this box:





Village Christian Preschool's  
Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration

Kids Performance, Dinner, & Crafts  
December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM

Kids Singing in Church on  
December 17<sup>th</sup> at 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](http://www.villagepreschoolnv.org)



# Village Christian Preschool Photos







Christmas Eve Candlelight Services  
Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
5:00p.m. & 7:00p.m.

Childcare available at 5pm service

736 McCourry Blvd. Incline Village, NV  
On the corner of Mt. Rose & McCourry Blvd  
775-831-0784 [www.TheVillageChurchNV.org](http://www.TheVillageChurchNV.org)



**A big huge THANK YOU to everyone who participated (shopped, volunteered, decorated, worked, etc!) in our Christmas Open house in November. It was an amazing two days full of blessings. Thank you to our wonderful community for making it such a wonderful day!**

**There is still awesome Christmas items at the Thrift Shop for sale!  
Come shop Monday-Saturday 11:00am-3:00pm**





## 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. There are our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight services at 5:00p.m. and 7:00p.m. on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

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.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Church needs your help - particularly in December. 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 worship assistant, greeter, or prayer warrior. If you are interested in volunteering with any of these areas, send an email to [apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org](mailto:apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org).

### HOSPITALITY TEAMS

We have hospitality teams that provide the tasty treats for Sunday fellowship. Each team is "up" only once every seven weeks. With the ebb and flow of our church's attendees, often people are out of town when it's time to bring a treat. We can always use more people interested in serving on one of these teams. If you are interested in helping out on one of our cookie teams, please let the church office know.



12/3 Harry Farrell	12/21 Bob Williamson
12/11 Vickie Twichell	12/25 Don Ferrell
12/12 Steve Merritt	12/26 Rob Robins
12/13 Ed Windham	12/29 Jim Dykstra
12/14 Marji Hansen	12/29 Al Olsen
12/15 Roland Schumann	
12/20 Cindy Liggett	

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Our regular hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Did we forget your birthday?  
Call us at the church office - 775.831.0784**

### PASTORAL CONTACT

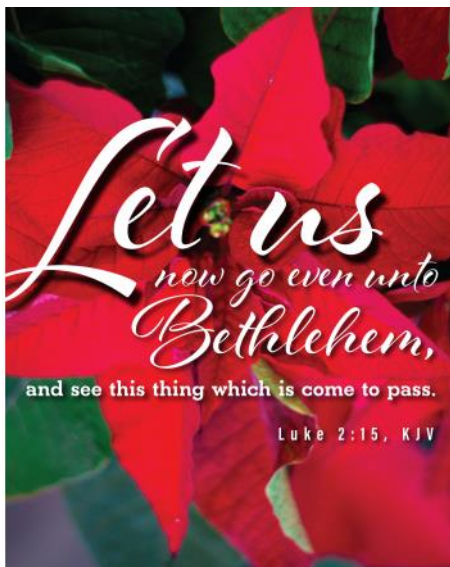
In order to provide the best possible pastoral care in time of emergency or crisis, You can contact Pastor Jeff Ogden at 775-624-4240 or Assistant Pastor Tony Conragan at 775-830-0566. If they don't pickup please leave a voicemail and they will get back to you as soon as possible.



The Village Church is affiliated with ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. For more information about ECO, visit our website: [www.TheVillageChurchNV.org](http://www.TheVillageChurchNV.org) or [www.eco-pres.org](http://www.eco-pres.org).

### 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](mailto:PastorJeff@TheVillageChurchNV.org)  
Website: [www.TheVillageChurchNV.org](http://www.TheVillageChurchNV.org)



### Village Church Leadership

Amber Anderson - Preschool Staff  
Alissa Bird - Preschool Staff  
Pastor Tony Conragan - Assistant Pastor  
Chuck Dowd - Elder  
Jim Dykstra - Deacon's Food Distribution  
Don Ferrell - Treasurer, Elder  
Karen Ferrell - Women's Ministries Moderator  
Krissy Flynn - Teacher  
Betsy Garfinkle - Deacon  
Tim Gilbert - Elder, Church Project Manager  
Jenna Hilton - Office Assistant  
Travis Holzner - Preschool Staff  
Tasia Irons - Preschool Staff  
Gabby Lara - Preschool Staff  
Cindy Liggett - Preschool Director  
Gina Longhi - Preschool Staff  
Yancy Lopez - Preschool Staff

Marilyn Merritt - Deacon  
Patricia Moser Morris - Deacon  
Rev. Jeff Ogden - Pastor  
Debra Ornelas - Family Ministries Director  
Hal Paris - Elder  
Annie Payne - Office Manager  
Chris Peterson - Deacon  
Lonny Reed - Custodian  
Linda Robins - Thrift Shop Manager  
Maricarmen Rubio - Preschool Staff  
Ann Schofield - Clerk of Session, Elder  
Sharon Sigler - Deacon Moderator  
Lisa Snavely - Deacon  
Jason Stanton - Accompanist  
Vickie Twichell - Thrift Shop Manager  
Ellie Vigil Lopez - Preschool Staff  
Ed Windham - Elder