

*From Pastor Jeff*

## **Not A Tame God**

One of my favorite series of books is the Chronicles of Narnia by C. S. Lewis. These books are Faerie Tales full of talking animals and mythical creatures and all kinds of adventures. They are also full of symbols and allegories that describe aspects of the Christian faith. In these books the figure of Jesus is represented by the Lion, Aslan, who comes and goes at will, who saves and judges, who is compassionate and wild. “Not like a tame lion” is how Aslan is described. Lewis was onto something in his portrait of Jesus. Since the beginning of time we humans have been on a quest to tame God. We want a God we can control and a God we can understand. We want a God who will give us whatever we want; a God who will confirm all our projects and prejudices, who will underwrite our patriotism and politics. As comfortable and pleasing as this domesticated deity may be, it is a false deity.

There is only one true God, and he has revealed himself to us in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, and Jesus will not be tamed. He will not conform to our programs or desires. He is Himself. We find this over and over in the Gospels. People come to Jesus, expecting him to conform to their program, and find that they must join his or be irrelevant. Following Jesus is the requirement for eternal life. He makes this statement repeatedly: “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for *my sake* will find it.” Matthew 10:39; “Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for *my sake* will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.” Matthew 19:29; “Follow *me*, and let the dead bury their own dead” Matthew 8:22.



In the Gospels, Jesus redefines all of life to be about absolute loyalty to himself. All areas of life or death belong to him. A person must either acknowledge his Lordship and swear fealty to him, or remain outcast in the far country, alone and abandoned until ultimate night falls. He cannot be tamed or made safe. We must conform to his image, not he to ours. He is “the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. [The one] who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father - to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.” Revelations 1:5-6.

## BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

### **Nursery & Sunday School - Sundays 10:00 a.m.**

The church has Nursery Care & PreK-5th Sunday School in-person every Sunday for the 10:00 a.m. service. Sunday School is in Room C at the church. Nursery care is in the Nursery.

### **Youth-Young Adult Bible Study**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 10:15 a.m. In-Person and Online**

This is a Bible Study for youth and young adults. Group Led by Tim Gilbert. You can join in-person in the Youth Room or online on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 10:15 a.m. Link to join <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98494686433?pwd=MzZnSIF3OW1heWFxbEJzdWJicFU0QT09>



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

Everyone is welcome to join. Group Led by Tim Gilbert. Link to join <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/396067313?pwd=Smc1U29GVEVsYW85UkZoODFycHIDdz09>

### **Women's Book Club - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at Noon**

All women are welcome to join. Group Led by Karen Ferrell. Link to join <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82716033329?pwd=Y1d4RHNLSEnuZ1NRWFJBC0lmcEU5UT09>

### **Men's Bible Study - Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m.**

All men are invited for prayer and Bible study. Link to join <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/284810005?pwd=QVJ6SzcZc2VDNlZwcFNobnBwTjhTUT09>

### **Prayer Group - Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.**

Everyone is welcome to join our prayer group. Link to join <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81423073885?pwd=ZTJsQVFcjFic3RaNEl3UUJyeUVpUT09>

### **Adult Bible Study - Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.**

This group is for all adults. Group Led by Pastor Jeff Ogden. Link to join <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/366324920?pwd=UVR3UUU40K1RKNzk5YnRtamJyTkZnUT09>

## MARCH



## BIRTHDAYS

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

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

- 3/1 Susan Andre  
Jason Stanton
- 3/2 Tim Gilbert
- 3/3 Bob Beart
- 3/4 Caryl Bydash  
Ann Schofield
- 3/5 Sharon Sigler
- 3/7 Ruth Jensen  
Nancy Leonard  
Bill Critchfield  
Paul Hamer
- 3/9 Jane Duffield  
Jan Paulson
- 3/12 Guy Fortier  
Robyn Barnes
- 3/19 Joe Batistic
- 3/21 John Manter
- 3/24 Faith Ogden
- 3/26 Jean Ashbrook
- 3/27 Millie Clarke
- 3/30 Sara Stanton

### PASTORAL CONTACT

In order to provide the best possible pastoral care in time of emergency or crisis, Pastor Jeff has a cell phone. This will allow congregation members the opportunity to contact him during non-office hours should a crisis or emergency situation arise. The phone number is 775-624-4240. If Pastor Jeff doesn't answer, simply leave a voice message and he will attempt to respond as quickly as possible.

**DAY LIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS**  
**Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**



Remember to "spring" your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

## VILLAGE CHRISTIAN THRIFT SHOP & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

**Women's Ministries has a Christian Book Club** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at noon every month on zoom. Our next one is March 16<sup>th</sup> and the book is "Redeeming Love" by Francine Rivers. Hope you can join us.

**Women's Ministries is planning a snowshoe hike** soon. Details to come.

**The Thrift Shop is always in need of volunteers** to help out at the shop. To volunteer please contact Linda Robbins 775 831-5200, Vickie Twichell 775 434-5830, or Tony Conragan (775) 830-0566. The Thrift Shop days of operation are Monday-Saturday 11:00am-3:00pm.

**A big thank you to all our volunteers and everyone who shops and donates to our thrift shop! We couldn't do it without all of your support.**

## VILLAGE CHURCH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

***"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare, and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11***

This month we mark one year since the beginning of the COVID disruption. It has been a turbulent year for everyone, and children's ministry was no exception. Although there were many obstacles and challenges to ministry, by the grace of God ministry has continued and we have seen God at work even in the midst of these difficult times.

**The Future of Children's Ministry.** As the COVID-19 vaccines become more available, and restrictions are lifted – what is the future of children's ministry? COVID-19 has affected all of us in one way or another when it comes to attending church. And it's not just the kids. Many volunteers have stepped back from serving which has made things even more challenging.

Yes, great steps are being taken to get vaccines out to people. Hopefully, we can see COVID-19 under more control in the upcoming months. But the tension is going to be getting the many individuals and families who have stopped attending to re-engage with in-person worship and discipleship.

We have challenging days ahead. We need wisdom and discernment as we help kids, families, and individuals re-connect with their local church. If we want to reach the next generation, then this must be one of our top priorities.

**Easter Egg Hunt.** I'm thrilled to announce that we will be having an Easter Egg hunt this year! We will not be advertising it as an outreach event as we have in the past as we still need to be mindful about the limits on attendance, but we will be hiding eggs stuffed with treats after the church service.  
In Christ, Darlene

## VILLAGE CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Lili Arpino Memorial** – Will be held on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am in-person in the Sanctuary and will also be live-streamed [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYxkLpF6lPmZSf5b\\_-SJEXA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYxkLpF6lPmZSf5b_-SJEXA) for anyone unable to attend in person.

**Christian Women's Conference Via Zoom** –Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. Special Guest speaker Dawn Pickering. RSVP to [apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org](mailto:apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org) and receive the zoom link.

**Lord's Supper** - during both Sunday worship services on Sunday, March, 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Johnson Wedding** a part of the 10am Sunday worship service on March 7<sup>th</sup>

**Women's Ministry Board Meeting - Thursday**, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 9am via Zoom

**Personnel Committee Meeting - Thursday**, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 4pm

**Deacon's Meeting** – Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom meeting

**Mission Committee Meeting** - Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:15pm via Zoom

**Session Meeting** - Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

**New Covenant Partners (New Members) Class:** Meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> at Noon via Zoom online meeting. Please email [apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org](mailto:apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org) if you are interested in attending and I will send you the zoom link.

**Christian Women's  
Online Mini-Conference**  
Saturday, March 6th @ 2pm



Guest Speaker: Dawn Pickering  
Topic: Faith Over Fear  
Breakout Discussions/Prayers Groups

Free Event

Please RSVP to [apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org](mailto:apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org)  
to receive Zoom Link

The Village Church | 775-831-0784 | [www.thevillagechurchnv.org](http://www.thevillagechurchnv.org)

# Easter Sunday, April 4

**6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service In-Person  
at Burnt Cedar Beach (Weather Permitting)**

**8:00 a.m. In-Person at The Village Church  
& Live-Streamed via YouTube**

**10:00 a.m. In-Person at The Village Church  
& Live-Streamed via YouTube  
(Childcare Available)**

**Requirements for In-Person:  
Face Coverings & 6 Feet Social Distancing**



736 McCourry Blvd. • Incline Village, NV  
775-831-0784 • [www.TheVillageChurchNV.org](http://www.TheVillageChurchNV.org)

## VILLAGE CHURCH MISSIONS

### Missions Spotlight on NetWorks Romania

In 2012, Tim Gilbert volunteered with Youth Compass to serve on Project Compassion in Romania. In Taut, he met Lee Seville, who is the president and founder of NetWorks Romania. Lee has lived in Romania since 1996 and co-founded a charity working with street children. It successfully opened a day center for street children, a school program, and six homes for children and young people formerly living on the streets. Lee also managed the charity's trading company, which provided training and employment for young people. In 2001, Lee recognized the need to address the complex social and economic issues that lead to children and young people living on the streets, and he co-founded NetWorks. The Village Church Missions committee has recently decided to support NetWorks.



NetWorks is an inter-denominational, Holy Spirit led, Christian mission working among some of the poorest people in northwest Romania to achieve their physical and spiritual transformation. NetWorks is in the county of Arad near the border with Hungary. It operates mainly in and around three communities: in the city of Arad, in the village of Şiria and in the villages surrounding Taut.

NetWorks is an inter-denominational missions team with missionaries currently from Romania, England, Wales, Ireland, Sweden, Holland and the U.S.A. Over the years, its team has been made up of people from Baptist, Pentecostal, Charismatic, Presbyterian, Anglican, Lutheran, Free Methodist, and Greek Orthodox backgrounds. The missions team is supported by both full time and part-time Romanian staff as well as short and medium-term volunteers from around the world.

In 1996, members of the NetWorks team began working with street children, and it was these children that became their teachers, leading them into communities of extreme poverty to meet their families and helping to understand the scale of the challenges that families faced daily. As friendships were built, the model that has developed into what is now called **E3** was born.

**E3: Education Empowerment Employment** The E3 model was developed over a period of more than 20 years in response to a common need.

It has become increasingly clear that *education* is one of the fundamental keys to breaking the cycles that trap entire families in extreme poverty for generations. Education is not only about learning to read and write, but it is also about changing the way we think about ourselves and the world around us. *Empowering* a family to better understand and access their legal rights and to be able to utilize the resources that they have available to them (for example by lending basic tools and equipment) are some of the ways in which to help them be able to better provide for themselves. *Employment* is empowering and brings hope and creates opportunities. Many of the poor are strong and able to work, but no-one in their family has ever had a job. Networks helps people to begin their own small business, and run its micro-enterprises to help create work within a community.



Want to learn more? Go to [www.networksro.org](http://www.networksro.org)



**JEFF'S PHOTO PAGE**



# Village Christian Preschool







# NEW MEMBER CLASS

**NEW COVENANT PARTNER (NEW MEMBER)  
INFORMATION MEETING**

**Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Noon Via Zoom**

**Are you interested in learning more about becoming a  
Covenant Partner of The Village Church?**

**Join us for an online meeting on  
Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at Noon via Zoom**

**If you would like to attend or have questions contact the  
Church Office at 775-831-0784 or send email to  
apayne@thevillagechurch for the Zoom link.**

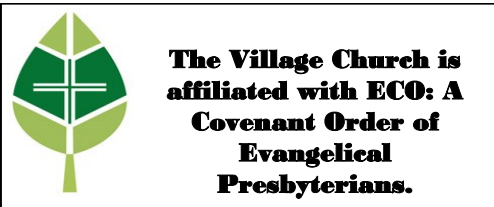
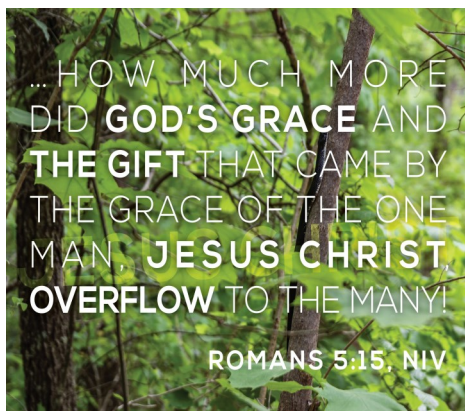
**[www.thevillagechurchnv.org](http://www.thevillagechurchnv.org)**

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**A Joyful Place to Grow**



**Church Leadership**



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Paul Ackerman - Deacon</i>                              | <i>Darlene Nilsson - Elder &amp; Children's Ministry Director</i> |
| <i>Dolores Alferez - Preschool Staff</i>                   | <i>Rev. Jeff Ogden - Pastor</i>                                   |
| <i>Pastor Tony Conragan, CLP - AV &amp; Grief Minister</i> | <i>Vicki Ogden - Preschool Staff</i>                              |
| <i>Stephanie Conragan - Office Assistant</i>               | <i>Colby Olsen - Preschool Staff</i>                              |
| <i>Chuck Dowd - Elder</i>                                  | <i>Steve O'Malley - Deacon</i>                                    |
| <i>Jim Dykstra - Deacon</i>                                | <i>Annie Payne - Office Manager</i>                               |
| <i>Don Ferrell - Treasurer, Elder</i>                      | <i>Chris Peterson - Deacon</i>                                    |
| <i>Karen Ferrell - Women's Ministries Moderator</i>        | <i>Sabra Presler - Preschool Staff</i>                            |
| <i>Betsy Garfinkle - Deacon Moderator</i>                  | <i>Lonny Reed - Custodian</i>                                     |
| <i>Tim Gilbert - Elder</i>                                 | <i>Linda Robins - Thrift Shop Manager</i>                         |
| <i>Keith Hansen - Elder</i>                                | <i>Maricarmen Rubio - Preschool Staff</i>                         |
| <i>Yolanda Jimenez - Preschool Staff</i>                   | <i>Sharon Sigler - Deacon</i>                                     |
| <i>Scott Johnson - Clerk of Session, Elder</i>             | <i>Jason Stanton - Accompanist</i>                                |
| <i>Kira Kitzman - K-5 Program Leader</i>                   | <i>Vickie Twichell - Thrift Shop Manager</i>                      |
| <i>Cindy Liggelt - Preschool Director</i>                  | <i>Paul Twichell - Elder</i>                                      |
| <i>Marilyn Merritt - Deacon</i>                            |   |