

From Pastor Jeff

***“The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:
for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight;
for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair;
for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young--
let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance--
for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.”***

Proverbs 1:1-7

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2020! Every pastor I know is doing a sermon this Sunday with some kind of pun on the number of the year. It's an illness we pastors have, the need to pun in our sermons. My sermon is titled "2020 Vision." I couldn't help myself. I'm going to be preaching through the book of Proverbs for the next couple of months and since Proverbs shows us how to live correctly, I was thinking about it like a pair of glasses helping us see clearly. Proverbs gives us 20/20 vision, spiritually speaking. Proverbs is one of the Wisdom books of the Bible, along with Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs. It is a book compiled by several editors containing collections of proverbs and poetic discourses. King Solomon collected the initial core and wrote many of the individual proverbs, but there are collections from non-Israelites and unknown teachers. Proverbs is given for the purpose of showing us what life looks like lived in the "fear of the Lord." It shows us what righteousness looks like and how to avoid folly. Wisdom is more than knowledge or intelligence. It is life lived skillfully; it is knowledge correctly applied. Join me this year in studying Proverbs and learning how to live a life pleasing to our Lord. We will be looking at Proverbs in the sermon on Sunday mornings and at the Pastor's Bible Study on Wednesday night at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room.

The
FEAR
of the **LORD**
is the beginning
of **KNOWLEDGE.**

PROVERBS 1:7



Prayer Vigil

THE VILLAGE CHURCH IS A PRAYING CHURCH!

Our Lord has placed on the hearts of the leaders of The Village Church to pray. As a church we provide opportunities during 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. On New Year's Eve from noon to midnight, we will pray over our church, our nation, and our world as we look forward to the New Year. We encourage you to start the New Year in prayer.



**SOUTH OF THE
BORDER
JANUARY
POTLUCK
LUNCH**

Sunday, January 5th

On Sunday, January 5th, following our 10:00 a.m. worship service, join in fellowship, fun and good food. Our food theme is Mexican for this pot luck. The church will provide yummy tamales. Please bring your favorite Mexican dish, side dish, salad or dessert. Join us for good food and fellowship.

**SESSION MEETING
Wednesday, January 8th**

Our church's Session will be gathering on Wednesday afternoon, January 8th at 3:30 p.m. for study and for business. Please be in prayer for the leaders of our church as we transition from 2019 to 2020.

**TO ALL CHURCH
LEADERS
Annual Reports
are due**

Wednesday, January 8th

If you need a copy of last year's report, please contact our temporary office manager, Ann Schofield in the church office. You may e-mail your report to Ann at ASchofield@TheVillageChurchNV.org.



**ECO NATIONAL
GATHERING
February 3rd - 6th**

Some of our church leaders will be attending our denomination's national meeting in Dallas, Texas at the beginning of February. This will be an opportunity for worship, prayer, connection, Gospel teaching and inspiration. ECO is a vibrant, rapidly growing denomination made up of churches like ours. Please be in prayer for ECO and those attending for a time of learning, discernment and the making of Christ-centered decisions.



ECO
A Covenant Order
of Evangelical
Presbyterians

**UNDECORATE
THE CHURCH**

Sunday, January 5th

We will be "undecorating" our church from Advent and Christmas this Sunday, January 5th following our 10:00 a.m. worship service and all are welcome to help! Many hands make light work.



**THE LORD'S SUPPER
Sunday, January 5th**

On the first Sunday of the month, we share the Lord's Supper together. In January, we will be serving communion on January 5th. If you cannot attend worship and would like to receive communion at home, please call Pastor Jeff.



Lead a life
worthy of the calling ...
making every effort
to maintain the unity
of the Spirit in
the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:1-3

**CHURCH
LEADERS TO BE
ORDAINED AND
INSTALLED**

January 26th

Our newly elected deacons and elders will be ordained/installed on Sunday, January 26, 2020 during our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Please be in prayer for our church leaders as they seek to discern our Lord's will for our church.

**DEACON'S MINISTRY
Sunday, January 5th**

Please support our Deacons' ministry by donating household products such as paper towels and dish soap as well as personal care items such as shampoo and soap. You can place your donations in the basket in the church entryway. Thank you for helping.

**DEACONS MEETING
Sunday, January 12th**

Our church's Deacons will be gathering on Sunday, January 12th after the 10:00 am service.





THE UPPER ROOM GROUP[®]

Middle School Youth Group

Wednesdays 6-8pm

TIME TO

GET EXCITED!

Food, Fun, and Faith

Being a young teen is one of the most challenging times of our lives. At The Village Church we want young people to know they are amazing masterpieces created by God and made to know Him.

Every week come up to have fun, hang out, enjoy food, music, meet new friends, and learn about God and the Bible.

This is a place youth can grow, learn, and have fun.



**A safe positive
place to grow in
faith and have fun**

**Games, fun, and
friends**

Music and food

**Bible studies and
outreach**

**Led by Youth Pastor
Tony Conragan**

lowestservant@yahoo.com

**Meets at
The Village Church
in the Youth Room**

**736 McCourry Blvd
Incline Village, NV**

(775) 831-0784

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES NEWS



**WOMEN'S RETREAT 2020
SPEAKER - ANDREA COLI**

Do you ever feel like your relationship with God has become routine? Or like you've settled into the status quo and you wonder if this is as good as it gets? Or maybe you just don't know what the next step in your faith should be. This retreat will be all about how God has MORE for you. We have a God who is always able to surprise us with the depth of who He is but so often we miss out on experiencing all that He has for us. During the retreat, we'll talk about some specific areas of our lives where God is ready and willing to be the MORE that we are looking for.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 14th 9:00 a.m.

There will be a Women's Ministries Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 14th at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

THE THRIFT SHOP NEEDS WINTER ITEMS

Our Thrift Shop is in need of winter coats, ski gear, ski clothes, etc. We are completely sold out of these items. Check your closets for winter things you can donate. We are open Monday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Just drop your items off at the store during those hours. Please do not leave your donations outside of those hours by the store's door. Also, the shop is always looking for volunteers. If you're interested in helping out a few hours a week, please contact Vickie Twichell, Linda Robins or Karen Ferrall.

Reserve a spot at our **North Lake Tahoe Women's Retreat** in 2020. Here is the early registration form:

**Lake Tahoe Christian Women's Retreat Early Registration
September 18-20, 2020**

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Church _____

Roommate (if any) _____

I prefer*:

- Cabin close to Tallac Center
- Room in Tallac Center
- Any Cabin or Room is fine with me
- No Stairs
- ADA Room Needed

2020 is my first Lake Tahoe Christian Women's Retreat

- \$50 Deposit (nonrefundable, but transferable or can go to scholarship fund)
- \$180 approximate total fee for next year (\$50 non refundable, but transferable or can go to scholarship fund)

\$5 Vegan \$5 Vegetarian

I would like to donate to the **Jenny Kerry Scholarship Fund** so others may attend.
Amount \$ _____

Make checks payable to:
The Village Church Women's Ministry
736 McCourry Blvd. Incline Village, NV 89451

***Attempts will be made to honor preferences but not guaranteed**

CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX PHOTOS



CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX MINISTRY

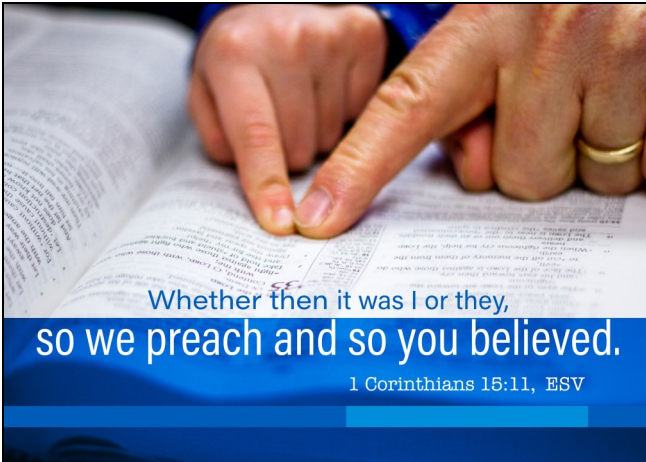
Thank you to everyone who helped with the food pickup, setting up, packing, and distribution of the Deacons' Christmas food boxes. Also, a big thank you to Jim and Jane Dykstra! They volunteered a lot to help organize, distribute, pack extra boxes, get food to many people. We served a lot of families that signed up for boxes. We gave out over 200 boxes to families in our community.

The Deacons have provided food to our community for over thirty five years. We are always in need of funding to insure this ministry is sustainable into the future. If you are interested in supporting this important program, just note "food ministry" on the memo line of your check and drop it in the Sunday offering.

Thanks for being the hands and feet of Jesus!



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES



Christ, Coffee and Cinnamon Rolls Men's Study Wednesdays 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.

Adult Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Join Pastor Jeff for a study based on his sermons. This is a great opportunity for learning more about God's Word, to fellowship together and

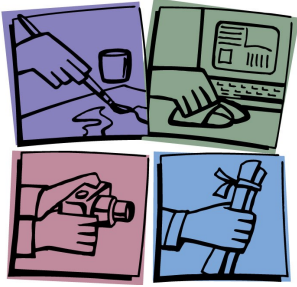
enjoy snacks. Meets in the Fireside Room.

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

The Kings Beach small group meets at the Ackerman'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 Judy or Paul Ackerman for more information.

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

The Incline Village small group meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come. Contact Tim Gilbert for the location of that week's gathering.



A NEW YEAR & NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW!

Would you like to grow in your faith? Would you like to get to know a few more people better? Consider assisting in the ministry of The Village

Church. Each week there are chances for folks to serve our Lord, grow in the process and get to know others better. Some of the many opportunities are noted below. To find out more about these opportunities or to volunteer, please contact our church office at 775.831.0784.

Worship. There are numerous opportunities for growth within our worship setting. You may sing in the choir and/or praise group, greet people as they enter the church as an usher, serve as worship assistant, help with the children's message, assist with the sound system, help with the outdoor services (in the summer!) and other tasks.

Mission Outreach. Interested in learning more about the mission activities of our church around the world? Consider being a part of the direct mission ministry of The Village Church through our Belize dental mission trip, our YouthCompass Eastern Europe trips, and volunteering with our national and local mission projects. Or you can learn more about the many other missions our church supports, pray for our missionaries and assist them financially.

Fellowship. If you like food, fun and other people, then fellowship may be your area in which to grow. There are numerous fellowship events through out the year. You can assist with fellowship by being part of one of our eight Sunday hospitality teams.

Church Growth and Outreach. Do you like meeting new people and sharing Christ's love? There are a number of opportunities within church growth. You can invite friends and neighbors to church, meet and greet those unfamiliar to you in worship and invite them to our fellowship time, support our church's outreach events in the community and volunteer at those events.

Stewardship. Stewardship? Yes, there are great opportunities for personal growth within the area of stewardship. The first growth area is recognizing and accepting the blessings of being a generous and cheerful giver. Through giving, you are assisting with our Lord's ministry through The Village Church. You may also grow by assisting with the counting, recording and depositing of our weekly offerings or help others in utilizing their time, talents and money for our Lord's work.

Building and Grounds. God has truly blessed our congregation with an outstanding and debt-free facility. The care and maintenance of this facility provides numerous chances for our individual growth. By using the gifts and talents our Lord has given us by painting, pulling weeds, planting flower pots, assisting with minor repairs and upgrading our facilities, we are being used by our Lord.

Small Groups and Bible Studies. Consider joining one of our Bible study groups. These take many forms with two ongoing men's studies, forming our women's study, adult studies throughout the year and our small groups. Grow you faith and friendships by joining a group.

Christian Education. There are several ministry opportunities that you might get involved in during the coming year such as:

Sunday School Teacher
Good News Club

Vacation Bible School
Middle School/High School Leaders

YOUTH NEWS



*The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*
Lamentations 3:22-23

*Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*
Isaiah 43:18-19

God is so amazing! I love how He calls us to leave behind the things of our past and cling to a new life and identity in Christ, the one who gives us endless love and eternal life.

In 2019 the youth had many truly powerful experiences. In July, a group of us went on a week long mission trip to Oakland California with Youthworks. We traveled with a group that drove from Minnesota and spent the week helping out in many community programs that included work with seniors, farm programs, the elderly, and community events. We also sent a group of young girls to Calvin Crest camp where we had an amazing week getting to know God in a beautiful setting outside of Oakhurst California.

In the youth group gatherings there were too many fun games to count and big concepts were taught with powerful truths from the Growth curriculum. "Growth" is a program we started using in fall of 2019. The lessons are easy for the youth to understand and will hopefully continue to have a big impact on them as they work out their faith.

I am looking forward to trying some new ideas for 2020 to get more youth in the community participating with the church programs and activities and we will start planning our 2020 summer camps and mission trips very soon as well.

Our Youth group called "The Upper Room Group" meets on Wednesdays in the upstairs youth room from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All 6th through 12th grade youth are welcome.

There is a youth Bible study that meets Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Starbucks coffee. The church will buy anyone that shows up a cup of hot chocolate or coffee. 6th through -12th grade youth are welcome.

On Sundays, Special Ops travels to the Reno area to distribute items that will help the homeless or needy. We hand out sleeping bags, hygiene products, socks etc. The group leaves the church by noon, and returns by 3:00 p.m. 6th through 12th grade youth are welcome. If you would like to donate to this ministry, bring items like sleeping bags or hygiene care products to the church on Sundays.

His lowest servant,

Pastor Tony Couragan

PASTORAL CONTACT

In order to provide the best possible pastoral care in times of emergency or crisis, Pastor Jeff has a cell phone. This will allow congregational members the opportunity to contact him during non-office hours should an emergency arise. This number is 775.624.4240. If Pastor Jeff does not answer, simply leave a voice message. He will attempt to respond as quickly as possible.

PRESCHOOL PHOTO PAGE



MISSION NEWS

THE NELSONS SERVING WITH SERGE IN GUATEMALA

Dear friends,

It's a beautiful day in Guatemala City: sunny, 74 degrees, and with thunderstorms sure to come later this afternoon. I'm sitting in the infirmary at our kids' school where I pinch hit for the school nurse from time to time, grateful for the chance to hang out with our girls during their day and appreciate the fact that such a sweet school exists to serve the many missionary families that call Guatemala home. Everybody is in school this year - Hazel started preK in August, along with Lucie in 3rd grade and Cora in 5th, giving us five blissful days a week of childcare from 8-3.

Accordingly, we've gotten pretty busy during that time. Jeff has gotten involved in several projects that seem sort of unwieldy but are all interconnected. The main thing he has been working on is opening up a clinic to provide therapy to ministry workers of all stripes. He's also been giving talks on mental health to a few different groups. In August he helped with a panel discussion/Q&A at Iglesia Reforma for the young adults, and fielded many questions about faith and depression/anxiety, the "rightness" of taking medications, the difficulty of finding a therapist that won't tell you that your lack of faith is the cause of your depression, and much more.



{Jeff getting it done at Iglesia Reforma talk in August}



{Me teaching our diabetes class. My Spanish is still wobbly but drawing pictures always helps.}

Yesterday he stood in the back of the room while we talked to our diabetic group about emotional health and listened to people express fear and despair around their diagnosis but also about the utter difficulty of being people living in extreme poverty in an unstable country, with no way out. He has been studying group interventions for depression that have been developed in similar low income countries, and is considering training options for lay mental health providers to meet needs in these types of communities.

I just counted and I've seen a grand total of 200+ patients in clinic over the last month, including our diabetes group, which has been a *hoot*. Esther (my teammate—another RN who co-leads the group with me) and I have been coping with the (good?) problem of too many people turning up each week, pushing the limits of classroom

capacity and time for getting appointments done well. It has been apparent for some time that *something* needs to be done about improving diabetes care in the landfill neighborhood, and so we are planning to start a program early in 2020 that formally enrolls patients, checks labs, consistently provides medications, education, group support, and follows this chronic disease that disables and kills so many people. The hope is to lift the shroud of hopelessness and despair around this diagnosis - in a place like the US where poverty-bound people with diabetes have primary care providers, access to the \$4 list at Walmart, food stamps, and Medicaid, diabetes is not seen as a death sentence. Here, as one of our patients memorably put it yesterday, "It's like a cancer."

Continued on the next page

Continued from the previous page - The Nelsons in Guatemala

I think a lot about the time we have been allotted here - maybe just the next 4 years, maybe the rest of our careers - as something of a talent that God has given us to invest well. It would be easy to just keep showing up to the existing clinic and plugging away at seeing patients, doing what is essentially sub-par urgent care work, to post pictures of all that on social media and appreciate the feeling of doing a noble thing in a hard place. Much less glamorous is working on the profoundly sad and difficult intersection of poverty and chronic disease, trying to build infrastructure and program in a place that tends to destroy that sort of thing. Pray for us: for shrewdness, creativity, persistence, a good sense of humor. For the language fluency that understands implicit meaning, for real compassion and love for our patients, and for God to multiply our small lunch in a crazy way to meet the needs of a starving hillside.

We love you guys,

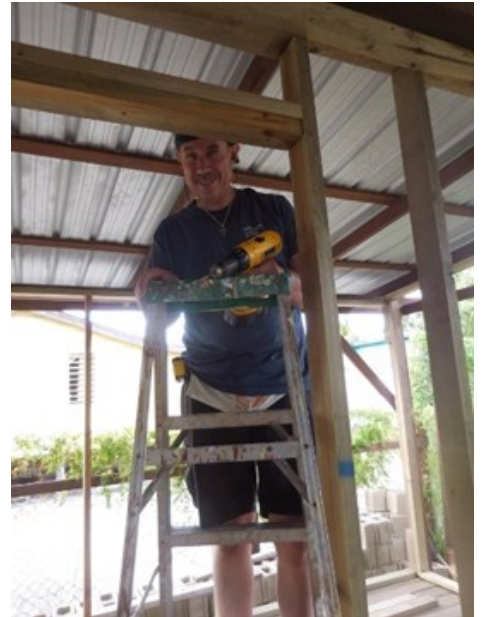
Abbie & Jeff

MISSION BELIZE 2020



It is with great sadness that we plan our final mission trip to Belize from May 15th to May 23rd. Our team has provided free dental care to over 1000 individuals on the Placencia peninsula. Don't miss out on the chance to experience the warm, moist air of Southern Belize while serving on either the dental or construction team. This trip is truly an ex-

perience of a lifetime working side by side with the local Garifuna people and ex-pats from the U.S. that now call Siene Bight home.



Construction projects range in complexity based on the team make up so if you have skills to offer let us know and we can plan accordingly. Our dental team is also looking for dentists and hygienists that feel



led to share their skills with these warm and loving people. PRAY about joining us in 2020 and contact Renee at Villagechurchmissions@gmail.com for more information or if you have questions.





1/02	Nancy Irwin	1/25	Anita Lee
1/07	Stan Wolken	1/27	Tom Donat
1/07	Mark Sura	1/27	Chris Peterson
1/16	Judy Ackerman	1/30	Mark Bredesen
1/17	Teđ Bandaruk	1/30	Doug Baker
1/22	Jalyne Leonhart	1/31	Rich Townley

Did we forget your birthday?
 Call us at the church office - 775.831.0784
 to be included on our birthday list.

WORSHIP SERVICE
FLOWERS
 Help us fill the
 2020 Calendar



Do you have a special day you wish to remember - a birthday, an anniversary or a loved one? Consider providing flowers for our Sunday morning worship service. Just sign up on the Flower Calendar for 2020 in the Lobby. Ann or another volunteer in the church will purchase your flowers, arrange them and deliver them to the church for only \$25. Sign up early and often!

Thanks
 be to God
 for his
 indescribable
 gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
 Year To Date Through
 December 29th, 2019:

<u>Needed</u>	\$449,956
<u>Given</u>	\$503,615
<u>Difference</u>	+\$53,659

NEED MORE INFO?

Our church’s leadership wants our congregation to have adequate information about the decisions being made and the direction our Lord is leading His church. Financial information, minutes of our various meetings and other information has always been available upon request. Significant information is provided in our annual reports prepared each January and available after worship on Sunday, February 2nd. We want this information even more available to our congregation. To that end, a Session Information Notebook has been prepared with minutes of our Session meetings for the past few years. This information will be updated as necessary in order to provide the most current information available to our congregation. This notebook is available in the library area in the office lobby. This notebook is not for circulation but may be reviewed in the church. Should you have other ideas or suggestions that might improve our Lord’s ministry through The Village Church, please let our leadership know.

got questions?

FEBRUARY
TRIALOGUE DEADLINE
Tuesday, January 16th
Please send your articles to
apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Thank you to all who participated in our Christmas Offering on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve, we received over \$3,000. This will assist with our Deacons’ Food Closet Ministry and our church’s mission trips. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Village Church

736 McCourry Blvd.

Incline Village, NV 89451

Phone: 775.831.0784

Fax: 775.831.0798

Village Christian Preschool: 775.831.1184

Email: PastorJeff@TheVillageChurchNV.org

or Info@TheVillageChurchNV.org

Web Site: www.TheVillageChurchNV.org

A joyful place to grow



Church Leadership

Paul Ackerman - Deacon

Alfredo Amezaga - Elder

Doug Baker - Deacon

Lynn Bandaruk - Deacon

Ted Bandaruk - Elder

Pastor Tony Conrigan, CLP - AV & Youth Pastor

Jim Dykstra - Deacon

Jon Fay - Choir Director

Don Ferrell - Elder

Linda Florentine - Elder

Betsy Garfinkle - Deacon

Tim Gilbert - Elder & Custodian

Patti Hanczarek - Preschool Staff

Keith Hansen - Elder

Tasia Irons - Preschool Staff

Scott Johnson - Elder-Elect

Cindy Liggett - Preschool Director

Miriella Melara - Deacon

Marilyn Merritt - Deacon

Darlene Nilsson - Elder

Rev. Jeff Ogden - Pastor

Steve O'Malley - Deacon-Elect

Vicki Ogden - Deacon

Annie Payne - Office Manager

Chris Peterson - Deacon-Elect

Sabra Presler - Preschool Staff

Linda Robins - Thrift Shop Manager

Ann Schofield - Clerk of Session, Elder

Jason Stanton - Accompanist

Lynne Swingley Donat - Deacon

Vickie Twichell - Thrift Shop Manager

Paul Twichell - Elder

Debby Wiens - Pianist

*Michele Young - Women's Ministries
Moderator*

January 

2020