

Moving Mountains For Christ

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR MONTE VISTA
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEW: MONTE VISTA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our first quarterly newsletter! This is a church community newsletter that is intended to highlight people, activities and opportunities within the Monte Vista Community. If you have ideas for the newsletter, forward them to montevistaoffice@montevistanp.church.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

October

10/2 Game & Worship Night 6pm
(Middle and high school)

10/9 Fields of Faith 7pm (hosted
by Fellowship of Christian
Athletes) at Moorpark High

10/24 Children's Hospital of LA
Blood Drive - Monte Vista

10/30 Manna Trick o' Treat 6pm
(all children and youth)

1/5 Election Day

11/6 Game & Worship Night 6pm
(Middle and high school)

11/10 Family Movie & Dinner
Night in the Quad

Bible Studies

Why Study the Bible?

IT IS NO SURPRISE THAT WHAT YOU READ IMPACTS YOU. THINK ABOUT HOW YOU FEEL WHEN YOU READ YOUR NEWS FEED. READING THE BIBLE ON A REGULAR AND CONSISTENT BASIS HAS SEVERAL BENEFITS. WHAT ARE THEY?

FIRST, THE BIBLE SHOWS US GOD'S CHARACTER AND PROVIDES US GOD'S REVELATION OF HIMSELF TO HIS PEOPLE. IN EACH SECTION OF THE BIBLE, WE SEE GOD'S HOLY, UNCHANGING, FAITHFUL, GRACIOUS AND LOVING CHARACTER.

SECOND, 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17 WHEN DISCUSSING THE TOPIC OF SCRIPTURE IT SAYS THAT IT IS "PROFITABLE FOR TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION AND FOR TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS." THE NEXT VERSE GOES ON TO SAY THAT THIS LEADS TO THE COMPLETENESS AND EQUIPPING "FOR EVERY GOOD WORK" (ESV).

THIRD, REGULARLY READING GOD'S WORD REORIENTS OUR THINKING SO THAT WE CAN GROW IN MATURITY, WHICH IS PART OF THE CHRISTIAN CALLING (EPHESIANS 4:14-16; ROMANS 12:1-2). HAVE YOU EVER MET A MATURE CHRISTIAN WHO DID NOT REGULARLY READ THE BIBLE? THESE THREE THINGS ARE REALLY JUST THE BEGINNING, THIS LIST COULD INCLUDE DOZENS OF REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD READ THE BIBLE ON A REGULAR BASIS.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

November cont.

11/10 Family Night

11/11 Veteran's Day

11/17 Celebration Sunday

11/27 Night of Worship 7pm

11/28th & 29th - Thanksgiving holiday - office closed

December

12/4 Game & Worship Night
6pm (Middle and high school)

12/8 Advent begins

12/20 Preschool Christmas
Performance 8:30am

12/24 Christmas Eve Services

12/25 Christmas Day

12/25-26 Christmas holiday
office closed

WRITTEN BY DANIEL
DIFFEY PHD, GCU

BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Bible Study Wednesday 10am, Youth Room. "Why Ain't My Name Noah?" - When Jesus walked this earth in human form, He had conversations with people and with His Father that were important for us to listen to and understand. Based on these conversations, we're going to study Five F-Words, Good F-Words, that will help us navigate what it means to belong to Jesus: Forsaken (what do we do when we feel that God has completely abandoned us?), Focused (finding God's will for our lives), Forgiveness (how do we forgive others and how do we ask for forgiveness when we have hurt others?), Failure (what do we do when we have failed being what God wants us to be?), and Following (How do we really follow Jesus His way, not our own way?).

Women's Bible Study Wednesday 7pm, Pastor Loughry's home or Zoom - "Relying on the Holy Spirit" by Charles Stanley. In Relying on the Holy Spirit, Charles F. Stanley cuts through the confusion and introduces us to a living Person as real and active as God the Father and Christ the Son. We can know what God's Word says about who the Spirit is—and how to develop a relationship with Him.

Bible Study 7pm Thursday night Zoom - "A study of Micah". Micah, a book from the Old Testament, explores Micah's accusations and warnings of God's impending judgment on Israel, but Micah also had a message of hope that countered these warnings and told of the restoration that God would one day bring about.

Women's Bible Study, 4th Saturday of the month, 10am Youth Room - "Study of Ruth". The Book of Ruth is a story about a widow, her Moabite daughter-in-law, and a wealthy farmer that leads to the birth of Obed, the grandfather of King David. The book's main themes include: Obedience: Obedience in everyday life pleases God. God's love: Ruth's sacrifice and hard work to provide for Naomi reflected God's love. Kindness and generosity: Kindness and generosity bring life. Reversal of fates: The book shows the reversal of fates.

If you are interested in joining a bible study or have a suggestion for a new study, please contact Diane Jones at 805-768-5059 or the church office at 805-498-8213 or montevistaoffice@montevistanp.church

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

Middle School Bible Study Small Groups - contact Tarsha Davis for more info,

Tarsha.Davis@montevistnp.church

- Mondays 4:15pm - Middle School Girls in Dos Vientos
- Tuesdays 2pm - Middle school Guys (TBD)
- Wednesdays Noon Bible Study - Sequoia Middles School (room B 7)

High School & Young Adult Bible Study Small Groups - Contact Pastor Matt for more info, matt.elam@montevistanp.church

- Sundays 5pm - Soph Football/Baseball guys (meet in different family homes)
- Sunday 5pm - Frosh Girls (meet in different families homes or youth room) with Toriann Garner
- Sundays 7pm - Junior & Senior Soccer/Baseball guys (meet in different families homes)
- Mondays 7pm - Varsity football guys (meet at coach's home)
- Mondays 7pm - Upper class girls (TBD)
- Tuesdays 6:30pm - Frosh guys (meet in different families homes)
- Thursdays 6:00pm - Young Adult/College guys, Youth Room on campus

YOUTH SAVE-THE-DATES

October 30th & November 3rd - Manna Trick o' treat service (children, middle and high school)

November 10 - Family Movie & a Dinner Night - Under the Sail

January 18-20, 2025 - Youth Winter Camp at Big Bear (middle and high school)

July 6-11, 2025 Summer Camp at Forest Home (middle and high school)

BOOK CLUB & SUPPORT GROUPS

Sweet Monday Book Club- 2nd Monday of the month, 3pm, The Gathering Place. We read all genres of books selected each November by the members of the group. Please pop in ... even if you haven't read the book...for a little warm fellowship of women, lively discussion, comforting, sharing, and prayer. Contact Brooke Gant at brookegant@gmail.com with questions.

GriefShare, TBD - Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? None of us are fully prepared for the overwhelming emotions we experience after the death of someone we love. Grief affects us not only emotionally, but mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually. Grief affects us differently at different points and times along our journey. But you don't have to suffer by yourself. GriefShare is a 13-week grief recovery support group where you can discuss and process your own unique experience with others who understand what you're going through. You'll hear insights from grief recovery experts, receive comfort and support, and learn practical tips for navigating your grief and finding your way towards healing and hope. A new GriefShare group will be starting soon at Monte Vista. We hope you'll consider joining us. For dates and times, please contact Barbra Winter at 805-279-5959 or call the church office at 805-498-8213.

Compassionate Friends - Begins in January, 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. The Compassionate Friends provides highly personal comfort, hope, and support to every family experiencing the death of a son or a daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family.

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

WHY DO WE SING?

Why do we sing when we gather together for worship? That is an important question to ponder since singing is an integral part of our worship services as followers of Christ. It is also a good question to ask in light of the fact that in our American culture, we really do not sing together in gatherings much, with the exception being "Happy Birthday" at a friend or family member's birthday dinner. In a concise book titled *Sing!* by Keith and Kristin Getty, the authors mention three reasons. I think these really sum up the "why" of singing as an important act of worship to our God.

First, we are created to sing. We are fearfully and wonderfully made and this includes the ability to speak and sing. When we sing, we are joining creation in lifting up our worship of our Creator God. Many people tell me, "I can't sing" or "I have a really bad tone", but the truth is that God is concerned with our heart more than our tunefulness in singing. We are created to sing because it leads us joyfully to the Creator of all that is true, good and beautiful. Music is a beautiful gift.

Second, God commands us to sing. There are over 50 explicit commands to sing in Scripture, so it must be important to our Lord. One of many verses is Psalm 96:1 which says, "Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!" The Bible tells us that God inhabits the praise of His people. When we sing together, we magnify God's name and He is glorified.

Finally, we are compelled to sing. Worship is the act of assigning to God His true worth. Where do we start with knowing His worth? We go to His Word, the Bible. We are a singing people because the Gospel of Jesus compels us to respond in singing. Throughout Scripture, we see a revelation-response prompt in God's people when it comes to worshiping in song. We see in the very first song with Moses and Miriam that God's people were compelled to sing together about His deliverance. The many songs of David displayed his intimate knowledge of all that God had done and would continue to do in his life. In the New Testament, we see Paul and Silas singing together in jail in response to their transformed lives through Jesus Christ.

So, Monte Vista family, let's continue to sing out as an act of worship to our God.



DOOR TO PEACE

DOOR TO PEACE PODCAST

In a world filled with anxiety, pain and uncertainty, many of us are seeking peace. We ask questions like: Why is this happening to me? Is there meaning in my pain? How can I move on from a horrible experience? Why are my successes empty? Is there a way to live with hope?

We long for practical answers and spiritual nourishment in order to find more love, more joy and more meaning in our lives. Some of us have given up on Christianity and other religious communities because they seem to be the cause of the problems rather than the solution.

The cornerstone of The Door to Peace Podcast are guest interviews. These raw conversations highlight how finding peace is possible in the midst of tragedy, bad decisions, addiction and a myriad of circumstances. Our hope is that just as God infiltrated their lives in dramatic and beautiful ways, you can also experience peace in your life.

Our core value is that Peace begins by opening the door to God's work in your life. Jesus said it this way: Here I am. I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and be with them.

You can listen to the latest episodes of Door to Peace podcast by clicking the play button below, or subscribe [here](#).