



SEPTEMBER 2023

The Visitor

MELVIN VILLAGE COMMUNITY CHURCH

P.O. Box 233

476 Governor Wentworth Highway
Melvin Village, NH 03850

The Rev. Kevin Van Brunt (603) 544-9661

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www.mvcn.org

Trusting in the Lord

“My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart. If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be



satisfying. Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation.” Proverbs 3:1-4

In the 1887 hymn, John Sammis reminds us to “Trust and Obey”.

*What He says we will do,
where He sends we will go
Never fear, only trust and obey
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey*

Were you singing along? As you were singing did you listen to those words? Do you do what God says, do you go where God leads. Never fear, only trust and obey? Those are serious words of declaration. My prayer is that your words match your actions. We can't do that alone, nor does God ask that of us. God asks us to step out in faith, rest in His goodness and be good stewards of the “talents” He has entrusted us with.

We grow in our relationship with God when we trust God. We lean on God through his strong rock-solid attributes. Remember and meditate on these four attributes of God. Read these verses, again and again and wear them as a reminder.

God is faithful

“God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1:9

God forgives

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

God is merciful

“The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. ²³ Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, “The Lord is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!” Lamentations 3:19-24

God listens

“Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my plea! Answer me because you are faithful and righteous.” (Psalm 143:1)

Trust in God. Rest in God.

Dutch Missionary, Andrew Murray once said we rest in the Lord with complete trust when we...

“Let the Word create around you, create within you a holy atmosphere, a holy, a heavenly light, in which your soul will be refreshed and strengthened for the work of daily life.”

Amen and Amen.
Trust and Obey,
Pastor Kevin

10AM SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

September 3rd

Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

September 10th

Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

September 17th

Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders

Matthew 7:24-27

September 24th

Guest Pastor: Pastor James Smith



Committee Corner Returns!

Starting on Sunday September 10th and running through October 29th, we will see the return of Committee Corner (first introduced in 2022!). Committee Corner will take place immediately after the Sunday morning announcements and just before the Light and Word are brought into the sanctuary when we prepare our hearts and minds for worship. During the Committee Corner each Sunday, we will hear from one of our fabulous church committees who will share with the congregation the goals and efforts of their respective committee. We will hear from the Christian Education Committee on September 10th and Deacons on September 17th. Other committees that we will hear from throughout September and October include: Worship, Stewardship, Pastoral Relations, Buildings & Grounds, and Outreach. The church officers of Moderator, Clerk, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer will close out the 2023 Committee Corner on October 29th. The purpose of "Committee Corner" is to introduce old and new members of the church family to some of what goes on behind the scenes.

Following the church services on Sunday November 5th and 12th, the Nominating Committee will begin

discussing committee nominations. MVCC's mission is to provide the best environment for young and old together to grow and experience the richness and generosity of Christ. Consider your gifts and strengths. Are there areas within the church you feel compelled to serve? If yes, please reach out to any committee member, chairperson, or officer and let them know you'd like to join. ALL are welcome.

A Call to Action

"...that it is by our actions that we are put right with God, And not by our faith alone." James 2:24

Our church backs up our faith with our actions by our outreach to local and worldly needs. But to make it all work we have very dedicated people who fill the officer openings (Moderator, Clerk, Financial Secretary and Treasurer) and committees: **Deacons:** Cares for the needs of the congregation and community.

Building and Grounds: Cares for the needs and upkeep of the buildings.

Outreach: Oversees and evaluates the local and global ministries of the church.

Christian Education: Offers adult Bible studies, youth activities and community events to strengthen our depth of understanding and welcome new friends.

Worship: Works with music director to supply heart felt worship and offers events to strengthen the fellowship.

Stewardship: Works with the Pastor to develop a theme for each year and reminds the congregation of the importance of supporting the church.

Financial management: Prepares annual proposed budget and oversee Investment and Trust Funds.

Pastoral Relations: Fosters constructive communication between the Congregation and the Pastor.

The above is a brief overview of what the committees do so we plan on sharing the duties with the congregation in the following months so all have a better understanding of how everything comes together and to hopefully foster a deeper Church involvement.

Sincerely,
Executive Board
Jane S. Hunter, Clerk

Christian Education – Gearing up for the Fall!

Join us on Sunday, September 10th where we will highlight the activities of the Christian Education Committee during church. After the service, please join us for a Church Family Potluck / Picnic. The Christian Ed committee will provide hot dogs and beverages. Please sign up in the Gribbel Room or call the church office to be added to the list so we know how many people to plan on. Bring your lawn chairs and a dish to share!

We offer Sunday School every week during the school year, starting September 10th! This year, we are continuing to work through “The Gospel Project” curriculum which emphasizes the love of God and goes through the Bible with a Gospel theme. Nursery care is also available every Sunday. There is still a need for a volunteer to assist on the 3rd Sunday in the nursery. If you would like to help, or learn more about what would be involved, contact Hannah Reif, or any Christian Education member.

Youth are invited to the Youth Group held at Camp Sentinel on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00pm, starting on Wednesday, October 4. There will be a kick-off BBQ on Sunday, September 17th from 5 to 7pm.

Second Tuesday Game Nights at 6pm will continue, as well as special nights (Paint Night, Ice Cream Socials, etc) which will be announced in advanced. All ages are invited to come play with your friends and enjoy a fun time of fellowship.

Mark Your Calendars – Trunk or Treat will be Sunday, October 29th from 3 to 4pm in the church parking lot.



Financial Snapshot As Of July 31, 2023

	2023 Full Year Budget	2023 July YTD Actual	Percent of Full Year Budget
Member Pledges and Plate Offerings	\$163,404	\$91,352	56%
Other Income ¹	\$40,625	\$29,690	73%
Total Income	\$204,029	\$121,042	59%
Total Expenses	\$201,445	\$110,203	55%
Surplus / (Deficit)	\$2,584	\$10,839	

¹Other Income includes interest, trust distributions, and fundraisers

- Pledge payments and plate donations are on target with the 2023 budget.
- Expenses are slightly less than the budget.
- We have switched from a year-to-date deficit to a \$10,839 surplus in July, primarily due to Fair & Auction income.

NOTE: Contact Kerry Lynch if you would like your statement of giving so far for 2023.

SAVE THE DATE:

Feet for Fuel/Walk for Warmth Walkathon
October 15th
2pm





A Note from the Music Director:

Poetry and music are put together in church music. Usually they are fitted together intentionally, so one supports the other – but not always.

In our old hymnal on page 427 is *God the Omnipotent!* The tune is *Russian Hymn*. It is grand and stately. In poetry, we often breathe at line breaks *or* at commas, allowing time for meaning to travel to others’ ears, and start reverberating in the listeners’ minds. But if musical breaks don’t serve the text, something is lost. When the text of 427 is sung to the music, it goes like this:

God the Omnipotent!
King, who ordainest
thunder thy clarion,
the lightning thy sword,
show forth thy pity
on high where thou reignest:
give to us peace
in our time, O Lord.

But if you carry through, the meaning is clearer (even the very long salutation!):

God the Omnipotent!
King, who ordainest thunder thy clarion, the
lightning thy sword,
show forth thy pity on high where thou
reignest:
give to us peace in our time, O Lord.

Our new hymnal has the same hymn tune on page 517, but with other words:

Christ the Victorious,
give to your servants
rest with your saints
in the regions of light.
Grief and pain ended,
and sighing no longer,
there may they find
everlasting life.

Christ the Victorious,
give to your servants rest with your saints in
the regions of light.
Grief and pain ended, and sighing no longer,
there may they find everlasting life.

I’m not crusading against singing hymns in sync with the music - it’s all good to me! - but it is another opportunity right in front of us every week to enrich our lives with our singing! I’m thinking about it because I heard it happening last month, and thought, *Ahhhh, How lovely is thy dwelling place!*

Peggy



Calling All Writers!

The Stewardship Committee is looking for writers for the upcoming Devotional Booklet. Please consider writing and encouraging your church family.



The Scripture verse will be coming soon!
If you are interested or want more details, please contact Traci Van Brunt.



Send in your family photos! We will be updating our church’s photo directory in the fall and are looking for photos of your families to be sent

over to secretary@mvcn.org. Please send portraits in by October 1st or ask Hannah Reif to take your photo at the church. Reach out with any questions!

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

REJOICE and PRAISE GOD...

... for celebrations with family and friends
... for God's faithfulness

AND PRAY...

... for Amelia Driscoll, undergoing treatment at Boston Children's for recent strokes. Prayers for healing
... for those preparing to leave for college
... for Judy House's sister Sue, prayer for strength and a successful outcome with new chemotherapy treatment
... for Allison Wood's health
... for Michael McCarthy's dad and next steps for their family
... for John White with advanced Parkinsons & Oral Cancer
... for the Cordelli's daughter and grandson, Hayes Henry
... for Karen & Pastor George as Karen has cancer treatments
... for Judy LaBranche, strength and comfort in battle with cancer
...for those suffering from addiction; Caitie, David, and others. Join community churches as we pray the 3rd of each month for those suffering from addiction
...for continuing concerns of Church family and friends, including: Lisa's friend Pat; Larry Plummer; Doris Chase; Eunice Hodgdon; Gretchen Oakley; Arline Thompson, Mary McCarthy, Donna Conway; Sandy McCarthy; Cliff Theve; Eugene & Shirley Blabey; Jean's sons Mark, Paul, and Richard
...and for those at Mountain View, Taylor Home and other Assisted Living Care Facilities: Millie Calvert; Charlie Coulter; Bob Ketcham; Jann Poole; Ann Clarke; Nan & Mort Smith; Barbara McClure; Barbara Neville; Gene & Shirley Blabey

If you have a praise or prayer request for the bulletin, secretary@mccnh.org, or call the church office at 544-9661.

The Prayer Chain is here for you on a daily basis to offer prayers immediately. Call Joan Theve 544-9048 OR email Dana Robertson robertson2900a@gmail.com

September Celebrations!



2 Ron LaBranche
5 Barry Adjutant
5 Veda Gaughran
6 Dean Mendenhall
10 Mackenzie Doran
12 Chris Cordelli
13 Ginny Sherman
16 Barbara Southard
16 Dolly Thompson
17 Patsy Andrew
19 Ella Weiss
24 Jean Galvin
25 Sarah Coulter
27 Barbara Barton
29 Sherry Woodward



1 Bill & Marianne Marcussen
4 Duke & Barbara Southard
7 Bart & Lucy Carlson
8 Jim & Carolyn Craigie
10 Jeffrey & Alexis Wallace
16 Bob & Joyce Wood
19 Eric & Kayte Adjutant
20 John & Ginny Sherman
23 Ron & Judy LaBranche

VISITOR DEADLINE

Newsletter
DEADLINE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

In The Mail:



Dear Church Family-
Thank you so much for making us the Honorary Co-Chairs of the Annual Church Fair. It was an honor and a pleasure. We were driven to the Fair in an elegant Pontiac Convertible and presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers. Then it was time to cut the ribbon and allow the eager shoppers to start to search out all the wonderful treasures. We loved being part of this traditional Church event. Our thanks to the real co-chairs and all those who supported them for all the time and energy they devoted to make this event so successful. Thank you for the recognition!
Fondly,
Joan & Bob Theve

Dear Pastor Kevin and Our MVCC Family,
Thank you for making Veda's Dedication and our Baptism so special. We feel immensely blessed to be a part of such a wonderful community of believers.
In Gratitude,
Brendan & Laura Gaughran



**Please let me know when
your address changes to
continue sending you
The VISITOR.**

**secretary@mvccnh.org
(603)544-9661**

*On Sunday,
August 20th,
Betsey Vinton
was ordained as
a minister. Over
100 people
came to
celebrate.
Praise God!*





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MVCC MISSION STATEMENT

to provide the best environment for young and old together to grow and experience the richness and generosity of Christ.