

# Tahoe Community Church

*Notes, Announcements, and Reminders*

*February 2024*

*Worshipping Together, Making Disciples, Reaching Our World!*

## The Church Year in Review, 2023



This photo from January of 2023 says it all! The big story of 2023 was the record breaking snow. We had to cancel church three times during the season and that has never happened before. Lets pray that it doesn't happen again!

The headline for February's newsletter was "The Pastor Search May Be Over." The Pastor search Committee and Elders brought Pastoral Candidate Doran Wray to Tahoe in hopes that he would be our next pastor. We as a church liked Pastor Wray but in the end he did not feel led to be our pastor and turned down the calling. So, the search continues. However, we do need to thank our Pastor Search Committee for their hard work and diligence!

Other events in February included the starting of after school tutoring led by Kevin Mayer. The Women's Ministry was active hosting two events: "The Gift" and "Cookies For Firefighters." Good Job Ladies!

In March the church began renting the Discovery Zone Building to an AA chapter. They have been great tenants.

April brought Easter and the return of the Community Easter Egg Hunt spearheaded by Jacky Daly. It has been some time since we hosted this event and it was well attended by our community.

**(Continued on page 2)**

## Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 a.m.	Sunday Prayer
9:00 a.m.	Bible Study Class
9:00 a.m.	Praise Team Practice
10:10 a.m.	Coffee/Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service

Preschool and Children's Church Available

## Weekly Church Activities

Mon.	7:00pm	Discipleship Training
Tue.	10:30 am	Knitting Group
Wed.	8:00 am	Bible Study Breakfast
	9:30 am	Prayer Gathering
	3:00 pm	Praise Team Practice
	5:30 pm	AWANA Bible Club
	6:00 pm	Design for Discipleship Class
Thurs.	9:00 am	Women's Bible Study
Fri.	6:00 pm	Word of Life Worship Service



## The Search Continues

By Kathy Pavich

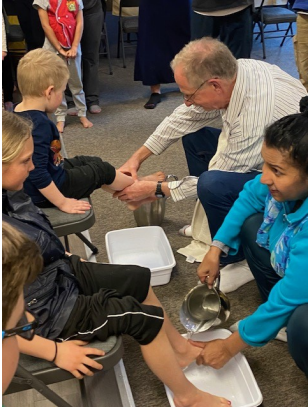
The Pastor Search Committee is continuing its search for new candidates to consider for our next pastor.

At this time, we do not have much to report, just know that we are vetting candidates and praying for God to bring us a new pastor soon. Please continue to pray for God's will in this and for the committee to have discernment and wisdom as we vet these candidates.

### Your Pastor Search Committee,

Bill Rowell, Bill Kolstad, Bob Pavich, Christine Feinberg, Kathleen Huggins, and Kathy Pavich

**(2023 in review Continued)**



The AWANA group celebrated Easter in style with the Ceremonial Washing of Feet and a Seder Meal. Easter morning saw the return of a Easter Fellowship Breakfast Gathering spearheaded by Mike Furno. This was a regular event for us in the past and we were glad to see it's return.

May saw the approval of two new Church Elders; Bill Kolstad and Bill Rowell. They joined Leonard O'Malley, Bob Daly and Jeff Brumbach. Thanks for your service men! The Women Hosted two more events; A Prayer Gathering, and "Embracing Our Identity in Christ."

In June the "Grateful at the Lake" ministry turned into "Grateful at the Park" and then later in the year to "Grateful at the Farmers Market." Wherever they went, they were Grateful! The Knifty Knitters were quietly making lots of homemade items throughout the year for missions efforts.

July left us with mixed emotions. Kai Keith resigned as our Music Director and he, Katie and Kaylena moved to Wyoming.

The biggest event of the year, and most labor intensive, is VBS! This year we turned the Church Campus into a Royal Palace for "Keepers of the Kingdom!" It was the most extensive decorating we have ever done. It was amazing and the kids thoroughly enjoyed it. A big shout out to Jacky Daly and all the royal trainers who volunteered to pull it off!



In July, Kevin Mayer stepped up as our new Music Director to fill the vacancy left by Kai Keith. We are grateful that he brought Tim and Erica Cantwell along with him to boost our Praise Team! Kevin and Tim are also two of our regular lay preachers.

In September we celebrated the life of a dear sister in Christ, Dona Rybak, who went to be with the Lord. Other Events included our annual Baptism on Nevada Beach, and the women's Event "Ryans Case for Smiles."

October saw the start of our Annual Shoebox Drive which included making Tie-dye Bags. The ladies had a great time making them and they looked groovy! The Men hosted "Police State" a community movie event. It was done men's style, with pizza!

In November, Christine Fienberg spearheaded a ladies project to spruce up our worn out Christmas Wreaths.



What a big difference! And we packed and shipped a record number of shoeboxes, 440!

Wow! Thanks to Karen Beverage for her year long work on this project.

We finished the year strong with our Christmas Fellowship Meal, a month long Advent Celebration, and Wonderful Christmas and Christmas Eve services. Pictures are included below.

Praise be to God for a great 2023. We can't wait to see what He does in 2024!





## Church Missions Coordinator

The elders are looking for someone to be our Church Missions Coordinator. We haven't had one since Carol Borsos left. We do have someone interested in the position but I wanted include this outline of responsibilities compiled by Bob Daly in case there is someone else who may be interested and just to inform the church body of the responsibilities of the Church Missions Coordinator. It can be a very big job!

### Objective:

The Volunteer Church Missions Coordinator will serve as a passionate advocate for global and local missions within the church, inspiring and coordinating missions efforts in alignment with Biblical principles and the Great Commission.

### Responsibilities:

#### Missionary Support:

Organize a team dedicated to supporting missionaries, following the Biblical principle of sending and supporting workers in the field (**3 John 1:8**). Facilitate regular updates and communication between the church and missionaries, embodying a spirit of partnership in the gospel (**Philippians 1:3-5**).

#### Missions Promotion:

Develop strategies to promote missions awareness within the church, aligning with the Biblical call to go and make disciples of all nations (**Matthew 28:19**). Organize events and presentations that emphasize the Biblical mandate for missions and the church's role in fulfilling it (**Acts 1:8**).

#### Local Outreach Programs:

Collaborate with local organizations to identify opportunities for the church to serve and impact the community, fulfilling the Biblical call to love neighbors and meet practical needs (**Mat. 22:39**). Mobilize volunteers for local missions initiatives that reflect Christ's love and compassion (**James 2:14-17**).

#### Prayer Emphasis:

Lead the church in fervent prayer for missionaries, global needs, and the advancement of the gospel (**Colossians 4:2-4**). Establish and maintain a dedicated prayer network within the church, recognizing the biblical power and importance of intercession (**James 5:16**).

### Communication:

Utilize various communication channels to share updates, stories, and prayer requests related to missions, fostering a sense of unity and connectedness within the church body (**1 Corinthians 12:26**). Maintain transparency and openness, reflecting the Biblical values of honesty and integrity (**2 Cor. 8:21**).

### Training and Equipping:

Provide Biblical training for individuals interested in missions, recognizing the importance of being equipped with the Word of God for effective service (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**). Encourage the development of missions teams or small groups, embodying the Biblical principle of shared labor in the Kingdom (**1 Corinthians 3:9**).

### Collaboration:

Work collaboratively with other church ministries, recognizing the Biblical metaphor of the body of Christ and the synergy of its parts (**1 Corinthians 12:12-27**). Align missions efforts with the overall mission and values of the church, seeking to glorify God in all outreach endeavors (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).

### Qualifications:

- Passion for missions and a deep commitment to the Great Commission (**Matthew 28:18-20**).
- Strong organizational and communication skills grounded in Biblical principles (**Ephesians 4:29**).
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse groups of people, reflecting the biblical call for unity in the body of Christ (Colossians 3:14).
- Previous experience in missions or outreach is appreciated but not required.
- Willingness to serve with a servant's heart, following the example of Jesus (**Mark 10:45**).

**Please contact Ted or the Elders for more information**

**Audio  
Visual**

## Help Needed!!!

We continue to be very short handed in the sound booth on Sunday mornings. Cliff Schlinger has been helping with audio but there is still no one but Annarose on the computer side. Mark Kaczar does a great job filling in for AnnaRose in her absence but another person is still needed.

Remember, prior experience is not required to volunteer, just a willing heart and spirit! Our Audio Visual team are wonderful people and very easy to work with! Please contact any of them or Kevin Mayer to join the team!

**Thanks in advance for volunteering!!**



## Missionary News & Prayer

by Ted Beverage

For more details, and photos on missions, check out the bulletin board in the church lobby.

### Tim and Susan Driscoll, Japan (OMF)

The latest newsletter I received from Tim and Susan is their Christmas Letter. I have it posted on the bulletin board and there are also copies in the foyer if you would like one. Here is an excerpt from Tim's letter that thought was great:

"I was surprised to hear Christmas music in the city today. Christmas songs are common but not this soon. The song was "It's the most wonderful time of the year." Christmas in December really is a wonderful time of year as we remember Jesus. Sadly though 99% of the Japanese don't have this hope. Their hope is in January where millions of people gather at shrines and temples. In Japan this is the most prayerful time of the year. All of these prayers would be wonderful except they are not lifted to the God who created each prayerful individual who is looking for someone to hear and answer. Our hope this new year is that God would lead many Japanese to know Him."

### Central Asian Family

The Central Asian family has transitioned to a new media method of keeping us informed of their activities and adventures. It is a platform called Epistle. Anyone can sign up to receive their updates. I now get updates once a week instead of once a month or so. I will continue to put stories and prayer requests in the newsletter but there is just way too much information to do them justice. The site includes a lot pictures and other information that I can not publish. The best way to stay informed is to sign in to the site and read the updates as they come in! The site is:

**The-Thorson-Family** <[updates@Phoebe.epistle.org](mailto:updates@Phoebe.epistle.org)>

I will include their most recent stories later in this newsletter.

### Macedonia Missions to the Balkans/ANM: Marino Mojtic and the Evangelical Church of Macedonia"

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus to all of you from Macedonia. I would like to share with you what God has been doing in the last month in our life and ministry:

#### Evangelical Church Bitola

We Praise God for a young boy from Bitola, his name is **Darko** (18 years old), he recently became a

believer and on December 28, Darko was baptized in the cold waters of Lake Prespa. He was so happy that he was jumping from joy.

### Evangelical Church in Kochani

Recently, God has honored them with a lot of young people. Every night they have prayer night and thank God for those who have understood the importance of prayer.



### Christmas Evangelism Eents

The Christmas season in Macedonia is a great time for evangelism. Our churches receive Christmas packages for children, **from Samaritan's Purse (OCC)** and we organize evangelism programs for children. After these evangelization programs, the children are invited to a Bible Course.

**Evangelical church in Struga** Both churches together have organized unique Christmas Evangelism events. They gave out almost 200 Christmas gift bags and around 400 gospel tracts in both languages. And they gave around 200 New Testaments and Children Bibles. May God bless His Word.

### Prayers:

- Evangelical Church in Resen at 9-th of February will organize an evangelism event for people with special needs and their parents. We expect around 300 people. This will be for several towns from our area.
- Pray for upcoming event: A big Worship Night-"The Upper Room", organized by Evangelical church Aerodrom in Skopje, where worship is taken out in a public space. We are expecting believers from all over Macedonia to come to this event.

Blessings, Petre Petrov  
President of the Evangelical church in Macedonia

### Pastor W. in Pakistan/FMI

Pastor Arif is using a new evangelism tool called snapshot. Photos are used to kick start spiritual conversations between Christians and their non-Christian neighbors. You can read more about this Gospel sharing method in their newsletter.



## Building and Grounds

Our building and grounds work has been pretty quiet since the last newsletter but there is always maintenance going on. We recently had our annual fire extinguisher inspection. We had three fire extinguishers replaced and two had to be re-hung. Do you know where all the fire extinguishers are located? You should!

This has been an easy winter for snow removal so far, but winter is not over! I Remember Leonard O'Malley once said; if you have to clean up snow at you house, there is also snow to clean up at church! With that being said, there will still be plenty of cleaning up to do and any help we can get will be appreciated.

As I write this, Mike Furno is busy repainting the bathroom in the Kids Zone building. He also has material purchased to redo the window frames in the office that got damage when we had the windows replaced. Like I said, there is always something to do!

As you walk around our campus, keep an eye out for anything you see that needs some attention or needs to be fixed. Please do not assume that we already know about it. Feel free to contact Mike Furno, Leonard O'Malley or me if you see anything and we will do our best to get it done. Thanks!

### (Missions News Continued)



#### Life Choices Clinic, Carson City

Reflections from the January Life choices letter: "This past year held celebrating our 40th year with our largest gala, new growth for our staff, and many women and men saying "Yes!" to new life.

As we enter 2024, we have much more to look forward to as God continues to work through Life Choices. This year will bring our first youth rally, as we desire to be intentional about leading the next generation of pro-life advocates. Our New Yerington campus will be opening its doors to make our life-affirming services available to even more clients. We are looking forward to a night of family fun with illusionist John Michael Hinton. And, we can't wait for our annual gala featuring award-winning Steven Curtis Chapman in September."

The Life choices letter is posted on the bulletin board. Come to church early and take a look!



## Notes from Knifty Knitters

By Karen Beverage

Would you like to learn to knit for missions? Then join us on Tuesday, March 5th at 10:30 in the Church Office for an introduction to the joys of knitting! Needles and yarn will be provided.

We will start with making washcloths for our Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing party. You will learn how to cast on, the knit and purl stitches, and binding off.

Once you are comfortable with making washcloths we will progress to creating the basic beanie for Mexican Medical Ministries.

Hopefully I have piqued your interest and you will let me know if you are interested in attending so I can make sure there will be plenty of needles and cotton yarn to start our first washcloths.



## Praise God for a new record of shoebox gifts in 2023!

The numbers are in! Join us in praising God for 11,330,126 shoebox gifts collected worldwide in 2023 (10,051,570 in the U.S.) the most that have ever been packed and donated nationwide. Each of the 11,330,126 shoeboxes represents a child and a Gospel opportunity made possible through your partnership in ministry. We praise God for you!

Millions of these children will go on to complete The Greatest Journey discipleship program, learning from faithful Ministry Partners in their region about how to follow Christ and share the Gospel with friends and family.

Please continue to pray with us. We are asking God to open the hearts of these children and their families to receive the Gospel in faith. Please also pray for the Ministry Partners who will be leading outreach events and teaching discipleship classes throughout the year.

We eagerly anticipate seeing how God will advance His Kingdom through these shoebox gifts this year. It is a privilege to serve alongside you in this ministry.

**Please read Franklyn Graham's January update: After the Shoebox, The Greatest Journey Begins!**



## Two New Discipleship Classes

**"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Mat. 28:19-20**

In obedience to this commandment, we have started two new discipleship classes on Church property. Both classes are currently using a study guide from The Navigator's Ministry called "Design for Discipleship."

**Discipleship Training Class:** This Monday Night study is designed to be a "train the trainer" class. Keven Mayer and others are training volunteers to teach the Discipleship Class on Wednesday nights. However, this class is open to anyone who would like to attend. Meetings start at 7:00pm in the Church Office.

**Design for Discipleship Class:** This class meets on Wednesday nights at 6:00pm. They are currently meeting in the church foyer because they already outgrew the Church Office spaces. If the class continues to grow it may change locations again or may split into smaller classes. Only God knows for sure! I will do my best to keep you informed of any changes.

All Wednesday night discipleship class participants are welcome to enjoy a light meal with the AWANA group at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall. Please contact Kevin Mayer or Bob Daly for information about our new discipleship training opportunities

## Church Prayer Coordinator



The Church is in need of someone to take the lead in coordinating our prayer efforts. I have been doing my best, but the job has out grown me. We need someone with the ability to send text messages to the church body increasing the speed of getting prayer requests out. The position could also include organizing meals for church families in need using "Meal Train," an online meal sign up site. Please contact the Elders if you are interested in learning more.



## Bible Studies

Here is look at what the Adult Bible study groups are up to.

### Wednesday Breakfast Study

The Wednesday Breakfast Study group is in the middle of a study on the book of Job. They are looking at chapter 10 this coming week. The format of the study is the same with members of the group taking turns facilitating the study.

This group provides a perfect mix of Bible Study and Fellowship. All you need is a Bible, an open mind to learn, and o yes, a good appetite for a hearty breakfast! Participants are asked to sign up to bring breakfast but there is no obligation to do so. Everyone is welcome!

### Wednesday Prayer Gathering

The Wednesday Morning prayer group continues to meet at 9:30 am following the Breakfast Study. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate in this weekly event. This is a great opportunity to pray for our Church and our communities.

### Sunday Prayer

Along with Wednesday Morning Prayer Gathering, Church Members also meet every Sunday Morning at 8:30am in the Adventure Zone Building for prayer. The Adventure Zone Building is directly below Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

### Women's Thursday Study

The Ladies started a new study today called "Jesus and Women-The First Century and Now" by Kristi McLelland. Today's study was an introduction called "Meeting the Middle Eastern Jesus." Next week's lesson is "Jesus and the Woman in the First Century World." Other lessons in February include "Jesus and the Woman at the Well", "Jesus and the Woman Against a Wall", and "Jesus and the Woman with Chutzpah." Have I piqued your interest?

There are three teachers for the ladies study now; Tootie O'Malley, Kathy Pavich, and Christine Feinberg. You may contact any one of them for more information. Remember, this study series has just started so this would be a good time to join in!

### Sunday Morning Study

The Sunday morning study is still working their way through the book of Acts. Elder Bob Daly is the primary teacher with others filling in from time to time. Anyone can join this group at anytime which makes this the perfect study to invite visitors to!

## Two Stories from our Central Asian Family She's Going Where?!

Yep, that was my reaction too. God you're calling me where? India!!?

So back it up to early January and we took a retreat with our new sister in the Lord. "H, one of my hobbies is traveling, but this time I want to travel for Jesus." She said to me. "What do you think about this?" Of course I was very encouraging and told her I had friends around the world she could meet up with and assist their work, but later that night I heard the Holy Spirit say to me, I want you to go with her.

Umm. Nope! I responded. I got three kids and J. is too busy to let me go. I pushed the thoughts aside.

The next morning J came to me after his prayer time. "H what do you think if you went with A\* on her trip?" He asked. Umm excuse me? Were you reading my prayer journal?!

So this led to several days of prayer and planning. And now today, January 31st, I am leaving for one week to India with our new sister. We hope to be able to share the Gospel and be open to whatever the Lord has for us!

I see this as a great opportunity to pour deep into our new sister-to have undistracted time in the word and prayer as well as going out and applying it! Please pray for us! Thank you!

## Our Adoption Story

Our adoption story started on February 14th, 2015. We were engaged to be married and excited about the adventures ahead. I (H) for Valentine's Day gave J. a card. Inside the card was \$100 and a small note that wrote "let's start saving for adoption." That gift marked the tangible beginning, of the previously discussed dream, to someday adopt a child together. We were married two months later and began to monthly put aside money to save for adoption. We started to pray for our future adopted child.

For me (J.), the strong desire to adopt came a few years earlier, while reading one day in the Fargo City Library. During that season of life, I'd often escape there for silence and solitude. On that day, I was reading through the book of James, and came to this strong statement, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." (James 1:27)

During this time of great transformation in my life, I felt a foundational value was growing within me that my life would be pleasing to God the Father,

regardless of how pleasing it was to others (an idea this verse expands upon). I remember looking out the window and saying to the Lord, "This is what I want for my life." While I wanted to serve orphans and widows in broad ways, the seed to one day adopt also began to grow within my heart.

In 2019, I (H.) was volunteering in an orphanage in Kyrgyzstan. That fall, I had two very clear and vivid dreams about adopting one specific, older boy in the orphanage. This boy has severe disabilities. He is unable to walk or use his arms, but is very smart. He uses his mouth to write and draw. I told J. about it and we started to pray, and think about adopting this boy. But we both felt like it was not the right time because we were starting a business and that was our "baby." Then in the spring of 2022 we took a sabbatical rest and in that time felt the Lord telling us it was time to start pursuing adopting this specific boy from Kyrgyzstan. We were encouraged by Luke 14:12-14 in which Jesus says to invite the poor, the lame, the crippled and the blind into your banquet. We saw the Lord showing us that this is for this specific boy; through adoption we are inviting him into the banquet of our family.

The events of the past 2 years also reminded us that Jesus may return any day, and we agreed we would feel sad if Jesus returned before we'd adopted one of the unnumbered plethora of orphaned children with special needs, suffering greatly throughout the world.

In July 2022 we sent our application into Life-line Children Services. And in August H. had one more dream about this specific boy. In this dream he was older and adopted into our family.

### Where are we now in the process?

- Our dossier just got sent to Kyrgyzstan! (We are here in process)
- Next, the dossier will be translated
- Dossier sent to the Kyrgyz government
- We will be waiting for child referral
- Receive referral
- We will take a trip to the orphanage to tell the child our intent to adopt (!)
- Go before a judge to get permission to complete adoption.

### We are still raising money for the adoption:

<https://mystory.lifesongfororphans.org/stories/our-adoption-journey-16/>

PLEASE PRAY! Pray for justice in the Kyrgyz government and for favor every step of the way! Thank you! Thank you!!

Eagerly waiting to bring this sweet boy home!  
~J and H



### Upcoming Events

#### Home School co-op Meeting

Saturday February 10th, 10:00am in Fellowship Hall

#### Deacon's Meeting

Sunday February 18th after church

#### Family Worship Sunday

Sunday February 25th

#### Fellowship Meal

Sunday March 3 after church.

#### Good Friday Service

March 29th at 5:00pm

#### Resurrection Sunday!

March 31st

### Memory Verses for February

- February 4 Psalm 103:2
- February 11 1 Samuel 22:50
- February 18 Psalm 90:2
- February 25 Colossians 1:17



## Children's Church Changes

To best meet the needs of our congregation, Children's Church has gone from two classes to three classes: 1 year to Pre-K, K-2nd grade, and grades 3-6. With this plan in place, there is now a desperate need for more teachers. We are looking for anyone who loves children. Please contact Jacky Daly for information and to sign up!

**Home School Co-op:** There have already been meetings, and a number of community families have expressed interest in starting a Home School Co-op on church property. Contact Kevin Mayer if Interested.

### Upcoming Preaching Schedule

- February 4 Kevin Mayer, Tahoe Community Church
- February 11 Tim Cantwell
- February 18 Bob Daly, Tahoe Community Church
- February 25 Kevin Mayer, Tahoe Community Church

### Here to Serve You

**Elders:** Jeff Brumbach, Bob Daly, Bill Kolstad, Leonard O'Malley, Bill Rowell

**Deacons/Deaconesses:** Ted Beverage, Susie Brumbach, Jacky Daly, Christine Feinberg, Jan Hurst, Jerry Klosterboer, Bob Pavich, Kathy Pavich, Tootie O'Malley (On Sabbatical)

**Church Staff:** Kevin Mayer, Worship Director; Ted Beverage, Office Administrator ; Michael Prager, Church Custodian.

# IN GOD WE TRUST



**Tahoe  
Community  
Church**

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