



Mitchell Community Church

1507 S. Mitchell Rd.
Turlock, CA 95380

www.mcchurchturlock.org

Church Phone (209) 632-5335

Sharing the Love of Christ



Newsletter

Senior Pastor – David Sotelo

Office: (209) 632-2111 Cell: (209) 702-1801

E-mail: pastordave@hotmail.com

Discipleship Pastor – Rex Wright

Cell: (209) 648-1924

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Children’s Director – vacant

Youth Director – Tim Mejia

Cell: (209) 535-4118

Email: timotheus333@gmail.com

Mission Statement

Developing Passionate Followers of Jesus Christ

We at Mitchell Community Church are dedicated to providing a Biblical ministry to the people of this community. Our goal is to provide love and support for each member of this body of believers and to share the love of Christ with all members of our community. We are convinced that the Bible is God’s word to man. We believe that “Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised again on the third day according to the Scriptures...” (1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

If you have any questions or needs, please feel free to contact one of our Pastors or Elders.

Church Officers 2022 – 2023

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|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Chairman | Randy LaFollette | |
| Vice Chairman | Vern Larson | |
| Elders | Rex Wright Rick Frazier | |
| Treasurer | Christina Ruiz | |
| Secretary | Cathy Black | |
| Trustees | Jon Fletcher Vern Larson Don McFarlane Jay Mohr | Roger Parks Dan Ruiz Cliff Sanders Steve Weber |
| Deaconess | Kathy LaFollette Jill McFarlane Leslie Mohr | Diane Parks Sherry Sotelo Cheryl Weber |
| Sunday School Superintendent | Jennifer Maimone | |
| Asst. Sunday School Superintendent | Kathy LaFollette | |



SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

9:30 - Sunday School

10:15 – Coffee & Donuts

10:45 - Church



Our church calendar is online:

<https://www.mcchurchturlock.org/google-calendar/>



MEN'S BREAKFAST

MEN'S SPRING BREAKFAST
MITCHELL COMMUNITY CHURCH

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

8:00 A.M.

"A 6 G Event"

- Great Food
- Great Music
- Great Fellowship
- Great Encouragement
- Great Fun
- Great Bunch of Guys

Hear a testimony of a life change and a lifelong walk with the Lord

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. - Ephesians 3:20

Bring a friend!

Adult & Children's Sunday School
9:30 a.m. each Sunday

Men's Bible Studies

Wednesday afternoons, 3:30 p.m. at church

Thursday evenings, 6:30 p.m.
at Roger Parks' home 209-401-0397

Weekly Prayer Meeting

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at church

Ladies Home Bible Studies

Tuesday mornings, 10 a.m. at Jill McFarlane's
Ten Women of the Bible, by Max Lucado
Phone: 209-345-9028

Tuesday evenings, 6:30 p.m. at Sherry Sotelo's
"Abide" - This study is on 1st, 2nd and 3rd John
Phone: 209-702-1802.

After Church SUNDAY MARCH 5

MITCHELL COMMUNITY CHURCH

POTLUCK

BRING A DISH TO SHARE!

Pastoral candidate Rick Burnam will be speaking at church on this Sunday. He and his wife, Joan, will stay and join us for the potluck as well.

Please see the letter [Presentation of Rick Burnam as Candidate for Sr. Pastor of Mitchell Community Church](#) on the next page.

Join us, as you are able, on the following dates and times to meet Rick and his wife Joan:

Sunday, March 5 – Rick will be speaking at church, and there will be a potluck after church

Sunday, March 12 – Rick will be speaking at church, and there will be an informal question & answer time after church

Saturday, March 18 - Open house at Randy and Kathy LaFollette's home from 3 to 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come for a more personal interaction and fellowship time with Rick and Joan.

Sunday, March 26 - Membership meeting after church for members to vote for approval to call Rick as our next Sr. Pastor



Mitchell Market Food Pantry

The new location is open in the gym, a user-friendly location! Everything is free...

Take what you need, use what you take, donate when you can.

Think about what's for dinner and grab a missing ingredient if it's there!

Presentation of Rick Burnam as Candidate for Sr. Pastor of Mitchell Community Church March 2023

Our pastoral search committee has consisted of Randy LaFollette, Rick Frazier, Vern Larson, Rex Wright, Brian LaFollette, Paul Maze, Don McFarlane, Cheryl Weber, Amanda Pires, Cathy Black, Diane Parks, and Jennifer Maimone. We began our search in October of 2022 and have met numerous times to lay the groundwork, parameters, and principles for our search for Mitchell's next Sr. Pastor. At each meeting we opened with scripture and prayer, sometimes group prayer, and closed in prayer. We encouraged each other to seek the Lord diligently in prayer for the Holy Spirit's clear leading to the person/couple who He has been preparing for us. We discussed our church constitution and its requirements and priorities for a pastoral call. We discussed our Mission statement, updated our Sr. Pastor job description, and wrote a new church profile. We agreed on a list of doctrinal questions to ask each candidate to make sure they agreed with Mitchell's scriptural and doctrinal beliefs. We also agreed on a list of interview questions to ask each candidate to get to know them and to hear their personal testimony and ministry practices and experiences. We placed ads for the position with 4 seminaries and with an online church job site. We received a few applications and inquires but none seemed to be a good fit for Mitchell.

As you all know because of his health challenges Pastor David has not been able to preach some Sundays in the past year. In looking for pastors to preach in his absence, we have called on Rick Burnam to fill the pulpit. The last 3 times he preached were on July 31st, November 20th, and December 10th. After one of these Sundays, I asked Rick to be in prayer with us about Pastor David's retirement at the end of June 2023. He said he would pray with us. The following week he contacted me and said that he and his wife Joan had been in prayer and that he would like to submit his resume as a candidate for Sr. Pastor.

Our search committee has met with Rick and Joan twice for about two hours each time for interaction and discussion and prayer. We have gone over his answers to the doctrinal and interview questions and are satisfied he is in scriptural and doctrinal agreement with Mitchell. We called five men and one woman from the Turlock area whom he gave us as references, some of them known by some of our committee members. We asked them questions about their relationship with Rick and Joan, his past ministries, his personal reputation, etc. Each of them gave him high marks and thought he would be a great pastor for Mitchell. We were very encouraged by our research and our conversations and fellowship with both Rick and Joan. Our search committee and the full church board is unanimous in agreeing to recommend him as a candidate for our next Sr. Pastor at Mitchell Church.

We have asked Rick and Joan to come for two Sundays in March as a candidate so as many as possible can hear him preach and meet he and Joan. He will speak on March 5th and we will have a potluck lunch after the service. He will speak again on March 12th, followed by an informal question and answer time after service. We will also have an open house at Randy and Kathy LaFollette's home on Saturday March 18th from 3 to 5 p.m. where everyone is welcome to come for more personal interaction and fellowship. We will then have a membership meeting after service on March 26th to have our members vote for approval to call Rick as our next Sr. Pastor. Our church constitution requires a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority positive vote by our membership to approve a candidate. If the membership calls Rick as Sr. Pastor he will not begin his ministry until July 1, 2023. Pastor Dave will finish out his ministry through June 30th.

Please feel free to ask questions of any of our elders or board members and please be in prayer for our existing pastors and spouses, for our membership, and for Rick and Joan, asking the Holy Spirit to give His clear guidance throughout this process. May the Lord's will be done!

Randy LaFollette – Mitchell Community Church Chairman

An article from Pastor Dave:

SIGNS THAT YOUR PASTOR IS GENUINE What Lies at the Heart of Pastoring & Shepherding

Interviewer Dan Hamil- *If you were asked by one to describe what is at the heart of the work of pastoring and shepherding, what would you say?*

Pastor Eugene Peterson- *I'd tell them that pastoring is not a very glamorous job. It's a very taking-out-the-laundry and changing-the-diapers kind of job. And I think I would try to disabuse them of any romantic ideas of what it is. As a pastor, you've got to be willing to take people as they are. And live with them where they are. And not impose your will on them. Because God has different ways of being with people, and you don't always know what they are. I think at the root of a lot of pastors' restlessness and dissatisfaction is impatience. They think if they get the right system, the right programs, the right place, the right location, the right demographics, it'll be a snap. For some it is. But for most, pastoring is a very ordinary way to live. And it is difficult in many ways because your time is not your own, and for the most part, the whole culture is against you. This consumer culture, people grow up determining what they want to do by what they can consume. And the Christian gospel is just quite the opposite of that. And people don't take to that. And pastors don't generally have the same end game. We've got a whole church culture that is programmed to please people, telling them what they want to hear. And if you do that, you might end up with a big church, but you won't be a pastor.*

The Apostle Paul addresses his most heart-breaking pastoral rejection. He contrasts his investment in shepherding the Corinthian church against boastful usurpers in 2 Cor. 11.

His One Aim is Your Maturity and Passion for Christ

11 ¹I hope you will put up with a little more of my foolishness. Please bear with me. ²For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God Himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband—Christ. ³But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent. ⁴You happily put up with whatever anyone tells you, even if they preach a different Jesus than the one we preach, or a different kind of Spirit than the one you received, or a different kind of gospel than the one you believed.

If we do not make transformation into the character of Christ the priority, then we're just going to keep on producing Christians that are indistinguishable in their character from many non-Christians. We are aiming at a character and life that is so shaped that the deeds of Christ routinely and which easily comes from what is inside. Dallas Willard.

Read Galatians 4:19-20

His Credibility Comes from a Lifetime of Obedience

⁵But I don't consider myself inferior in any way to these "super apostles" who teach such things. ⁶I may be unskilled as a speaker, but I'm not lacking in knowledge. We have made this clear to you in every possible way. *Christ is to be to the Christian on an infinitely higher level what its mother is to a baby- warmth, nourishment, protection, rest and an object of satisfying affection. Right here is where the wrong kind of Bible teacher can do his damage. The first thing he does is to destroy the new Christian's simplicity. He introduces something between the Christian and Christ. He makes him Bible-centric instead of Christ-centric. The Spirit-anointed Bible teacher will so teach the Word as to keep it transparent, so as to allow it to be what it always should be, a kind of burning bush which God indwells and out of which He shines in awesome splendor. The beholder sees the bush, it is true, but the object of his interest is the Presence, not the bush. The wrong kind of teacher gets so technical about the bush that the fire dims down and the light ceases to fall on the Christian's face.* A.W. Tozer

Read 2 Timothy 3:16- 4:4

He is A Pastor by God's Call. He Will Pay the Cost

⁷ Was I wrong when I humbled myself and honored you by preaching God's Good News to you without expecting anything in return? ⁸ I "robbed" other churches by accepting their contributions so I could serve you at no cost. ⁹ And when I was with you and didn't have enough to live on, I did not become a financial burden to anyone. For the brothers who came from Macedonia brought me all that I needed. I have never been a burden to you, and I never will be. ¹⁰ As surely as the truth of Christ is in me, no one in all of Greece will ever stop me from boasting about this. ¹¹ Why? Because I don't love you? God knows that I do.