

Remembering Rev. "Dr. Bob" Meneilly, founding pastor of Village Presbyterian Church

Our beloved Rev. Dr. Robert H. (Bob) Meneilly, founding pastor of Village Presbyterian Church, died on July 20 with his children by his side. He was 96.

Dr. Bob led the church for 47 years, retiring in 1994. Village grew to more than 7,000 members and had the nation's second largest Presbyterian congregation during his tenure.

"Those of us who have the privilege of serving this congregation today all stand on the shoulders of giants, and Dr. Bob was chief among them," said Rev. Tom Are, senior pastor of Village Church. "He was tireless as a pastor, and he was courageous in matters of social justice. He had an unending commitment to make Johnson County the most kind, the most faithful and most just place to live."

Dr. Bob preached compelling sermons about race relations, fair housing and equal rights, spoke out against the Vietnam War, and gained prominence as a civic and social justice leader in the Kansas City area throughout the latter half of the 20th century.

In 1965 and 1966, Dr. Bob delivered several sermons urging his all-white congregation to welcome African American residents into their suburban neighborhoods and church. These messages prompted several complimentary letters but also a flood of hate mail. Some of those letters, and excerpts from Meneilly's sermons, are on display at the Johnson County Museum, in an exhibit about suburban change and race relations in the 1960s.

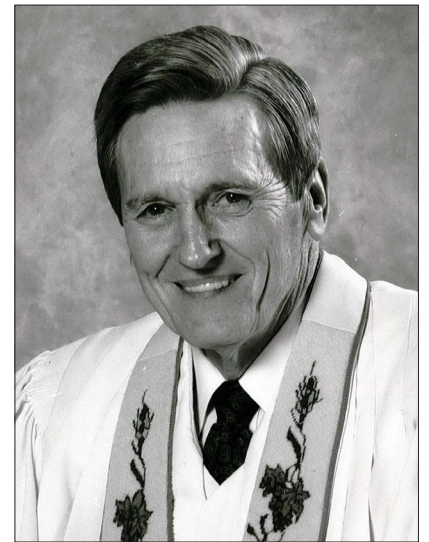
In a 2012 oral history, Meneilly reflected on the impact of his civil rights preaching. "It was very hard for some people. We lost one year probably 300 members," he recalled.

Religion writer Bill Tammeus said Bob Meneilly attracted smart people to the church and compelled them to think deeply and to live their Christian values through mission and outreach. "I think there are a lot of people in Johnson County who have progressive, more open views about life and race and economics and war and peace and the environment because of Bob," Tammeus said.

Longtime Village Church member Phil Acuff said, "If JC Nichols changed the physical landscape of Johnson County, Bob created a wonderful moral landscape in Johnson County. His influence is so strong years after he retired. We are better people because of Bob."

Dr. Bob Meneilly was born on March 5, 1925, in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania and felt called to the ministry when he was about 13. He received his Master of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He married Shirley Ann Dunlap in 1947 and they eventually had three children: Robert, Carol and Joy.

Bob and Shirley had planned to go to China after marriage, but the Communist Revolution broke out in 1946. So, they considered offers to pastor churches in Pennsylvania, in North Hollywood, California, or in Prairie Village, Kansas.



After Shirley toured Johnson County with developer Miller Nichols, she said "This is it! No need to go to California." And the Meneillys moved to Prairie Village, arriving in October 1947.

World War II had ended, and Johnson County was booming with new families looking for community. "New homes were being built everywhere. The war was just over, so men were home and families were getting re-established," Dr. Bob Meneilly recalled in a 2017 interview. "We were in the heart of all of that." He went door-to-door talking to people and looking for houses where diapers hung on clothes lines, inviting the young families to join before the church building was even finished.

Most churches started in storefronts or parlors, but Village was a built-from-scratch church at 67th and Mission Road. It held its first Sunday worship service on Feb. 13, 1949, with 282 charter members. It grew massively from that point, propelled by Meneilly's preaching and strong mission, Christian education, music and youth programs.

Toward the end of his ministry, Dr. Bob became increasingly concerned about hard-core Christian conservatives and their influence in politics and government. On Aug. 15, 1993, he preached a sermon titled "The Dangers of Religion" in which he said, "Religion can be the greatest thing on earth or the worst."

He warned that right-wing religious extremists were pushing a stealth agenda in U.S. political campaigns, trying to enforce state-mandated prayer in schools, censorship of certain books, the teaching of creationism, gutting of sex education and support for parochial schools at the expense of public schools. "These misguided religionists and patriots are trying to say that only persons with the correct religious views are real Americans and should hold public offices," he warned.

"The New York Times" printed a condensed version of the sermon in its opinion section, prompting stern rebuttals from some conservative preachers and pundits. The sermon forecast an intense debate about conservative versus moderate views that continues to the present time.

After the sermon, Meneilly joined five other Johnson County civic leaders to found the Mainstream Coalition. Its principles included guarding against the encroachment of religious doctrine into politics, tolerance for diverse views, support for public schools, reproductive freedom and respect for moderation and compromise around common values to form a just society.

"He was savvy and prophetic. The man saw what was going on with the Christian Right and said we need to do something about this. He was a Godsend," said Rabbi Mark Levin, a Mainstream Coalition founding member and longtime rabbi of Congregation Beth Torah.

When asked how he hoped to be remembered, Dr. Bob replied in a 2012 oral history, "I would hope to be remembered as always striving to be honest and cheerful and mission minded."

Dr. Bob said he loved being a minister and took particular joy in performing some 3,000 weddings. He hoped Village would always be a church where people would carry out "mission beyond themselves," and where the congregation would accommodate all different types of people. "I would hope there could be a place," he said, "where conservatives and more liberals could find ground by which they could church together anyway."

When asked how people could carry forth his message of love for others, he said with a laugh, "Work like thunder at it." But on a more serious note, he added that God is love and people must love not only their neighbors but their enemies. "What do you do with what you believe? How do you behave?" he asked. "Behave what you believe. When you get down to it, it's love one another."

Listen to podcasts of Rev. Dr. Bob Meneilly's sermons at https://soundcloud.com/villagepres_heritage.

If you missed Dr. Bob's memorial service, find the link on our website at www.villagepres.org/history-mission.



Shirley and Dr. Bob Meneilly

Your Annual Giving Dollars at Work: Artists Helping the Homeless Johnson County Respite House



Client and family of AHH.

staff of 17 address individual and systemic challenges with gap assistance such as transportation, ID's and medication, discharge planning and residential recovery through a respite house.

Currently, AHH has a respite house called Bodhi House in KCMO and Lawrence, and accountable living apartments called Finnegan Place in KCMO. AHH is in the process of adding a Finnegan Place in Douglas County. The funding from Village will be used to renovate and start a respite house in Johnson County.

The respite house concept was developed to bridge the 4-to 8-week gap between detox and inpatient treatment. A return to the street often meant the \$3,000-\$5,000 cost for detox was lost along with the person's sense they could make a change. At the respite house, they can continue to progress while waiting to be admitted to another service. AHH respite facilities provide residents a place to clear their minds and make plans and address recovery and multiple co-existing conditions. Shelter, food and basic needs are provided free of cost. Monitored 24/7

by AHH staff, many of whom have been clients, the houses offer a clean/sober environment with peer support. A holistic approach gives residents access to the full menu of services provided by AHH and collaborating agencies which include job training, education, legal, substance abuse, physical/mental health and dental services. Residents are expected to attend AA/NA meetings, group counseling/coping skills sessions and community service activities. They may also participate in

Every year, the Village Church Mission Committee invites selected nonprofit organizations to apply for Signature Mission funds. This fund, which is generally combined with the Least of These Fund and Mission Legacy Fund from Endowment, provides the monies for a larger than customary gift from Village Church to a community nonprofit. These funds may help start new programs, expand infrastructure, and/or serve new clientele. In general, Signature Mission provides funds to help a local organization grow. It offers an authentic opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ through service work and an identifiable place to grow in relationship with God. The Mission Committee has selected Artists Helping the Homeless (AHH) Johnson County Respite House for this coming year's Signature Mission.

Founded in 2008, AHH targets homeless young adult males whose behavior has alienated them from families and often the very agencies that could help them. An AHH



Clients of Artists Helping the Homeless.



AHH Executive Director Kar Woo.

physical fitness and social reintegration activities. The Artists Helping the Homeless concept has proven particularly effective with alienated young adult males. Bodhi House historically posts a progress rate near or exceeding 90%.

The new Johnson County location's capacity of eight residents will enable it to serve 25-50 people annually, depending on scope and length of service warranted. This site will fill a gap and allow individuals to stay in the county due to restrictions imposed by legal or other service agencies. It will also facilitate services by case managers and other professionals from these agencies.

With \$60,000 from Village Church Endowment and the Mission operating budget, along with funds from local government, Kansas City foundations and individual donations, Artists Helping the Homeless hopes to open its Johnson County Respite House in the first or second quarter of 2022. Furthermore, several volunteer opportunities exist if you wish to get more involved. Call 816-668-1007 or email kato@ahh.org.

Front Porch Alliance PALS Program Invites You to Join the Team

For several decades, Village Presbyterian Church has partnered with Front Porch Alliance to offer the PALS (Partners in Active Learning) program, a tutoring program with Faxon Elementary School located at 1320 E. 32nd Street in Kansas City, Missouri.

During the pandemic, the program was suspended. This fall, Faxon Elementary School K-6 grade students, teachers and PALS are looking forward to a return to a normal school year. Normal means PALS and students reading together, practicing math facts, working on homework or just chatting together as friends do.

It's the relationships that make the program successful, giving the students focused attention and drawing in the volunteers. Typically, PALS work with two students for half an hour each, once a week. A Faxon teacher said, during the pandemic, "our students missed the benefit of one-on-one tutoring and emotional support of their PALS." Many of our PAL volunteers have also missed the interaction.

Furthermore, PALS reach the broader school community by hosting the back-to-school lunch for teachers, greeting families on the first day, stocking the food pantry, and celebrating the sixth-grade graduation.

Now more than ever, it's critical that the PALS serve more students. If you would like to learn more about the Faxon PALS program and being a caring adult and mentor in a child's life, please contact Charlotte Davison at charlotteSdavison@gmail.com.

Peace Offering and Global Witness on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 3

This special offering is used for the following: 50% enables the Peacemaking Program to provide assistance and resources for congregations and other bodies of the Presbyterian Church; 25% is given to our presbytery and synod for their peacemaking efforts; 25% is retained by Village Church for our own peacemaking ministry. Gifts can be made to Village Presbyterian Church. Please note on your check that your donation is designated for the "Peace Offering."



The Church: An Already/Not Yet People

What is a church good for? Why did God decide the world that God loves needs a church? Well, there are several responses to such questions. A few centuries ago, the Presbyterian Church identified some grand purposes to describe what the church is for. These purposes are called the “Great Ends of the Church.” There are six Great Ends. They describe the life of the church as it is, at least to a point. But they also are aspirational and describe what the church should be. In that sense, they describe the church as it already is, while at the same time, they describe the church as it has yet to become. Beginning Sept. 5, Rev. Are will explore each of these ancient statements. They are hopeful. They are challenging. They are relevant, perhaps more relevant today than they were when they were drafted centuries ago. Of course, these were written in language that sounds more like Thomas Jefferson than the way we talk today; but there is still wisdom to be found in these old words. And when the church chooses to live toward these Great Ends or Great Purposes, there may be no place you would rather be than among these already/not yet people.

Starting Sept. 12, Village on Mission Sanctuary worship services will be Sundays at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m., with The Gathering at 5 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Village on Antioch will continue to worship at 10 a.m. Sundays.



Village Connect 2021-2022

Village Connect, a small-group ministry of Village Church, is a place where friendships can be found and nurtured. You are invited to participate in this meaningful ministry.

For this season, Rev. Tom Are revisits parables in a series entitled, “The Stories Jesus Loved to Tell.” This series will reflect on parables from the Gospel of Luke. Luke is the only Gospel to include some of our favorite parables, including the parable of the Good Samaritan and the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Also included are lesser loved parables, like the parable of the Rich Fool and the Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge. Yet each story provides a word of wisdom for our own time. More than providing information about God’s promised day, the parables offer an invitation for us to live each day seeing our lives defined by the wisdom included in these stories.

Materials will be ready for groups to begin, either socially distanced or by Zoom, in early October. Contact Cindy Wilcox at cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org or 913-671-2331 to join a group.



Celebrating Three Extraordinary Women: Ruthie Kline, Sue Meredith and Jane Abildgaard

For the last 20 years, three Village Church women have been the backbone of our Telecare ministry, which coordinates telephone outreach calls to members of the church. If you have received a call from the church checking on you following a surgery, hospitalization, the death of a loved one, or other difficult time, it is likely that you received a call from the church thanks to our Telecare callers and the ministry of Ruthie Kline, Jane Abildgaard, and Sue Meredith.



This month Ruthie, Sue, and Jane are transitioning out of these roles which they have so graciously and generously offered to Village Church. We will be celebrating their ministry in a number of ways and invite you to join us in lifting them up in gratitude to God for the thousands of hours they have dedicated to the church over the last 20 years.

Like many of you, these women have each experienced hard times themselves. They know, firsthand, how important it is to receive support and expressions of God's love from the Village Church family.

Did you know? Telecare callers are all Stephen Ministers, who are trained in the arts of listening, support, encouragement and prayer.

The pastors also make Telecare calls. In addition to phone calls checking on how you are doing (especially following a hospitalization, surgery, death or other life event), the church also reaches out to every member over the age of 90 every three months with a telephone call. Being in touch with you is critical to the ministry of Village Church.



Telecare is a crucial way that the church keeps in contact with members. A friendly

phone call allows the church to check on members and to find out if there's anything they need for which the church might be able to provide support. Any pastoral concerns that arise get shared with the pastors for Pastoral Care, Sally and Melanie, so that they can follow-up, too. Pastors Tom and Rodger are heavily involved with reaching out as well.



We are grateful to Ruthie, Sue and Jane for giving of their hearts, minds and souls to coordinate the Telecare ministry for over 20 years. Well done, good and faithful servants. Village Presbyterian Church is stronger for your ministry, and grateful to God for your service.

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING



From left-Rev. Sally S. Wright, Ruthie Kline, Sue Meredith, Jane Abildgaard, Linda Alley and Rev. Melanie Hardison.

**Join us in celebrating their ministry and thanking God for
Ruthie, Sue and Jane's service during worship on
Sunday, Sept. 12, at the 9:30 a.m. worship service at Village on Mission**

Share your own word of thanks with a card. Expressions of thanksgiving for Ruthie, Sue and Jane can be mailed to the church as follows: Attn: Linda Alley, Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208. We need to receive your cards by Monday, Sept. 20. The cards will be presented to Ruthie, Sue and Jane (along with gifts from the church) during a lunch with pastoral staff.

IN MEMORY

Tandy Allen
Gay Bell
Katrina Bellem
Carole Drummond
Frank Foulkes
LaVergne Friday

Alfred "Sam" Hawkey
Rev. Dr. Bob Meneilly
Bill Mullarky
Joan Nordquist
Joyce "Joy" Ottenad
Kent Polfer

Dorothy Roepe
Patricia Schultz
Mary V. Smith
Virginia Stowers
James "Jim" Townsend
Jack Winston

Introducing Dr. Joshua Maize, the New Associate Director of Music



The Music Ministry team is thrilled to welcome Josh Maize to the team. Josh's first appearance as associate director of music was to lead the choir for Rev. Dr. Bob Meneilly's memorial service on July 30. Josh most recently served as director of music for First Presbyterian Church of Austin, Texas. He has extensive experience in church music ministry and holds a D.M.A. in choral conducting from UMKC. And he is a former Village music intern!

"The Music Ministry at Village has had a long tradition of excellence and I am honored to be carrying on that tradition," Josh said. "I look forward to leading and growing the More Love Chorale, Morning Bells and Village Voices, and contributing to the life and vision of the Music Ministry. Village Church holds a special place in my heart and I am delighted to have been called

to serve this wonderful community of faith."

Meet Dr. Langston Hemenway, the New Director of Village Brass



Will Breytspraak, director of music ministry, is thrilled to have such an outstanding conductor and teacher on board to lead the Village Brass. "Langston is a beloved part of the Village Church family already for his visionary and dynamic leadership as director of the all-volunteer Village Church-based Kansas City Wind Symphony. Langston instills confidence and skill in his players with expert direction—and they always have a great time making music with him."

Langston serves as the director of instrumental studies at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. He earned his doctorate in instrumental conducting from the University of Michigan, his master's in conducting from the University of Kansas, and his bachelor's in music education from the University of Oklahoma.

A New Chapter for Ryan Main, Director of Music at Village on Antioch



On Aug. 8, Ryan Main announced that he will be leaving Village on Antioch to become the full-time executive director of the Youth Chorus of Kansas City. Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka said, "We will miss Ryan and at the same time, we are so excited for him. He founded the Youth Chorus, and it is due to his talents and passion that it is growing and doing so well."

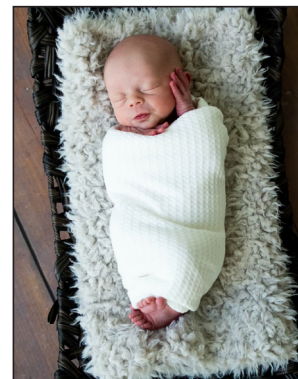
"Ryan has pledged to continue to lead the Village on Antioch choir and lead us in congregational song until we find a new director. I am so grateful for him and to him."

Welcome Charlie!

We are so glad to introduce our first child and greatest joy: Charles (Charlie) Barrett Dorn. He was born 3 weeks early on May 28 after mom was induced with health issues and arrived at 5 lbs. 9 oz., 19 inches tall. All are healthy and doing well.

The name "Charlie" was given to our baby last fall by my grandpa. Our family had traveled home to Illinois to see him as his health declined. As great-grandchildren played around him, he kept using the name "Charlie," despite no one having that name. When I corrected him, he looked at me with intention and said, "Oh, yeah, Charlie is your baby." I hadn't yet told anyone I was pregnant. My grandpa passed away a few weeks later, and in the holy mysteries that are death and birth, we are grateful for my grandpa's knowing and naming. Charlie's middle name, Barrett, is the name of Nick's brother who is delighted to have earned the title "uncle."

Charlie has spent these first weeks of life taking his nursing very seriously and is gaining weight as quick as he can to catch up with his future friends. He's looking forward to coming to work with mom and joining the Village family for daycare in September. He'll be in worship as soon as COVID conditions allow. Until then, we're grateful for your prayers for the continued growth and happiness of our baby boy. —Rev. Hallie Hottle and Nick Dorn



You May Have Noticed a Name Change

Last April, Adult Educational ministry changed its name to Adult Faith Formation. Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka shared that there was a movement that started about 15 years ago when he was teaching at Columbia Theological Seminary. The conversation shifted the language from education to language of formation. He brought this to the Adult Educational Ministry Committee and they approved the name change to Adult Faith Formation.

Adult Sunday Morning Classes Will Begin on Sunday, Sept. 12

Adult Sunday Morning Classes meet from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Village on Mission

Faith Journey meets in Room 230. Our community respects the lead of the Holy Spirit in each of our respective journeys as we grow and support each other. Our format is to use book studies, guest speakers and videos to explore new perspectives and examine our own beliefs.

Foundations of Faith meets via Zoom (only). Combining science, history and archaeology with the Bible, our class welcomes all seekers. This class also offers videos and guest speakers, including Rev. Dwight Tawney, whenever possible.

Village Forum meets in Rooms 126 & 127 and via Zoom. Class topics include biblical studies, theology, social issues and church history. Discussion is encouraged, and classes are led by visiting teachers as well as class members.

Village U Fall 2021

Register now for fall Village U classes. We are offering a mix of in-person and online classes. Register at www.villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes.

Upcoming Classes Include:

Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 8, 15, 22 and 29 in Room 126. Learn how to discover, develop and use your unique Spirit-given gifts effectively with a renewed understanding of who God created you to be.

9/11 and 1/6: What These Terrorist Attacks Have Taught Us About Responding to Extremism – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29, Room 127. Bill Tammeus recently published, "Love, Loss and Endurance: A 9/11 Story of Resilience and Hope in an Age of Anxiety." His book, and this course, share ways everyone can counter religious (and other kinds of) extremism.

Continuing Watercolor – 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 8-Dec. 15, Rooms 232 & 233. The instructor will present the subject and provide a line drawing of the outline of the subject for participants to transfer to their paper. A finished copy, or stages of the painting and the final copy, will be provided to participants to take home for reference.

Sacred Words and Sacraments: Exploring Baptism, The Lord's Supper, The Lord's Prayer and The Apostles' Creed – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 15, 22, 29, Rooms 132 & 133. Over the centuries, the church has identified certain rituals and words to be sacred and holy. We will explore what these words and sacraments mean and why we do them the way we do.

Electric Car Show – 4:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29, south parking lot of Village on Mission. Local electric car enthusiasts will display their all-electric and plug-in hybrid/electric vehicles. They will discuss how EVs are 10 times cheaper to operate, five times more efficient than gasoline vehicles and are better for the environment.

From Chaos to Calm: The Keys to Getting Organized – 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5, Room 232. Helen Austen has created organizing and design solutions that have brought peace and functional living to reality. She can make that your reality by sharing innovative insights and action plans, so that you will leave empowered to overcome your organizing challenges.

Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence – 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5, 12, 19 & 26, Room 126. How has your experience of Jesus changed over the years? Theologian Diana Butler Bass invites us to liberate Jesus and free ourselves when it comes to the ever-compelling and yet often-elusive figure at the center of Christian faith.

Galatians: Crisis in The Church – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, Rooms 132 & 133, and via Zoom. What does the letter to the Galatians have to say to us today? How do we deal with conflict and disagreements? Together, we will explore what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church now.

A Theology in Outline: An Overview of Christian Theology – 11 a.m.-noon Thursday, Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18 and Dec. 2, 9, via Zoom. Participants in this class must purchase this small book and will covenant to read one chapter before each class. Together, we will gain a broad understanding of key dimensions of the Christian faith: God, the Trinity, creation, humanity, sin, salvation and the church.

Medieval Mothers: The Five Matriarchs of the Reformation – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3, 10, 17 and Dec. 1, 8, 15, Room 127. In this course we will explore the writings of five of our greatest female theologians from the Middle Ages, and we will discover how, even under the oppression of patriarchal theology, these women influenced the theology of the Church.

Being a Matthew 25 Church: What Can Dorothy Day Teach Us? – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10, 17 & Dec. 1, 8, Room 126. Matthew 25 churches focus on three goals: to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism and eradicate systemic poverty. Dorothy Day sought to help create a more just society for all people. This class will explore her concepts of The Mystical Body, The Little Way and Love in Action, among others.

The Joy of Christmas!? What Christmas Trees, Wrapped Presents and Santa Claus Have to Do with the Birth of Jesus – 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, Rooms 132 & 133, and via Zoom. There are many traditions we associate with Christmas that are more cultural than biblical, including the date of Dec. 25! Together, we will explore how these traditions came to be and whether they help or hinder the real “reason for the season”—the birth of Jesus Christ.

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Village Church Task Force Adopts a New Name

Members of the Social Witness and Advocacy Task Force voted in July 2021 to change the group’s name to Social Justice Ministry.

The group looked for a shorter name that more directly spoke to our advocacy for the hungry, thirsty strangers and others named in Matthew 25. While the group is updating its mission, it remains committed to reaching toward God’s promised day through serving others. Much of Social Justice Ministry’s work involves education and advocacy for gun-violence prevention, immigration rights, voting rights and fair wages for workers.

The Social Justice Ministry meets at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month in Room 126, at Village on Mission (at least through the remainder of 2021.) We invite you to join us to learn more about our group.

Hit for Haiti - a Fundraiser for the Higgins Brothers Surgicenter for Hope Saturday, Oct. 9, at Homestead Country Club

Village Church supports health care initiatives in Haiti through the Higgins Brothers Surgicenter for Hope, which church member, Dr. Ted Higgins, opened in 2016. Ted recently traveled to Haiti to help with the escalating number of Haitians needing medical treatment in the aftermath of the earthquake. You can help by participating in, or supporting, “Hit for Haiti” on Saturday, Oct. 9—a tennis, pickleball and platform tennis charity event at Homestead Country Club in Prairie Village. One-hundred percent of the contributions will go to patient care at the Surgicenter. Visit www.higginsbrothersurgicenter.org/hit-for-haiti to learn more about the tournament, event and the Surgicenter’s 2021 plans. And please join us in praying for the people of Haiti.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sept. 5 – **New sermon series begins “The Church: An Already/Not Yet People”**

Sept. 7 – **Faith & Grief in-person luncheon** from noon-1 p.m. in Friendship Hall at Village on Mission. Masks are required for all. Register at www.faithandgrief.org or call 469-251-9612.

Youth Trip Signups open Sept. 7 for the Dominican Republic Mission Trip (March 12-19, 2022), the High School Ski Trip (Jan. 14-18), and the Middle School Ski Trip (Feb. 19-23). Sign up at www.villagepresyouth.org.

Sept. 9-12:15-12:45 p.m. **Second Thursday Recitals Season Kickoff** with Kansas City Symphony principal percussionist Josh Jones in the Village on Mission Sanctuary.

Sept. 11 – **Village Youth go to Sporting KC soccer game** vs. Chicago Fire. We'll meet at Village at 5:30 p.m. and carpool to Children's Mercy Park. Tickets are \$23. Visit www.vpcpvks.brushfire.com/youth to sign up.

Sept. 12 – **Connect Sunday**: Regular worship schedule resumes (8, 9:30, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Village on Mission; 10 a.m. at Village on Antioch); **Fall Lighthouse Kickoff "Popsicles on the Playground."** Connect with other Village families on the south playground at Village on Mission after the 9:30 a.m. Lighthouse; **Peanut Butter Sunday** for the Village Church Food Pantry. Please bring jars of peanut butter to church.

Sept. 15 – Dine-In option **available for Wednesday Family Dinners** in Friendship Hall. See more info below.

Sept. 19 – **Congregational Meeting** to elect new officers following the 9:30 a.m. service at Village on Mission and after the 10 a.m. service at Village on Antioch; **Fall Food Truck Festival** from 5-7 p.m. in the Village on Mission North Parking Lot. Great food, live music and kids' activities. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy outdoor fellowship with friends and neighbors.

Sept. 23 – 1:30-3 p.m. **Classic Citizens Celebration** in the Welcome Center and Village on Mission Sanctuary and via livestream at www.villagepres.org/online. RSVP to Linda Alley at linda.alley@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2327.

Sept. 29 – **Flu Shots** from 1-3 p.m. in Rooms 132 & 133 at Village on Mission. No appointments necessary. Please wear a mask as you check in and enter the church building.

Wednesday Family Meals Available By Curbside Pickup or Dine-In Option Starting Sept. 15

Beginning Sept. 15, you are invited to enjoy Wednesday Family Meals Dine-In option in Friendship Hall from 5:30-6 p.m. We ask that you be fully vaccinated to take advantage of this dine-in option. Curbside Pickup Wednesday Family Meals will also continue, so these two options will be available. Our homemade meals are prepared fresh by our own Chefs Andrea Bradley & Larry Wilcox. Please order meals online at www.villagepres.org/wednesday-family-meals. Cost is \$5 per meal. Make reservations by noon on the Monday prior.

Mark Your Calendars for Front Porch Alliance Rise and Shine Breakfast

At 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 27, Front Porch Alliance (FPA), a ministry of Village Presbyterian Church, will host its fifth annual fundraising breakfast virtually. Christopher Goode, founder of Ruby Jean's Juicery, will be the keynote speaker. Village Church started FPA in 1999 in partnership with the Ivanhoe neighborhood (31st to 47th Street, The Paseo to Prospect) providing educational opportunities for underserved children and families on our city's east side. Call 816-921-8812 or check out the registration at www.frontporchalliance.org for more information.



GOOD NEWS: Highlights for the life of your Village Church (ISSN 1542-1090) Published by the Village Presbyterian Church USA monthly 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas 66208-1799 Periodicals Postage paid at Kansas City MO POSTMASTER: Send address changes to GOOD NEWS: Highlights for the life of your Village Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208-0050

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A MESSAGE FROM VILLAGE GIVING

The mission of our Music Ministry is made possible through generous and consistent annual pledges and gifts of the congregation. Our ensemble experiences for children, youth, and adults are open to all, and welcome people to connect and grow through God’s music, while also serving their church and community.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our music staff and lay people created a robust slate of re-imagined programs, including dynamic new classes such as Choral Encounters, Black Music Matters, A Divertimento with Destiny, and Musicianship Mondays. We also explored new technologies and offered opportunities to sing, to play, and to



serve in numerous virtual choirs, and a Christmas benefit concert: Tidings of Joy—the 20th Anniversary Motion Picture. We also sustained in-person music opportunities including small instrumental groups such as bell choirs, and worship singing opportunities for children and young adults.

Our 2021-22 year will be a return to more of our in-person ministry, as we reopen our in-person 2nd Thursday recitals and resume a full season of our larger concerts, including those that benefit local non-profits.

The activities of the music ministry of Village Church reach the hearts of thousands of people every month. We thank you for your generous support as we seek to sustain our ministry, and also continue to find new ways to explore and share God’s healing and uplifting gift of music.

VILLAGE GIVING

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE THROUGH SEPT. 5

VILLAGE ON MISSION
Traditional – 9 & 11 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
The Gathering – 5 p.m.
In Friendship Hall

VILLAGE ON ANTIOCH
Traditional - 10 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
14895 Antioch Rd.
in Overland Park

Food Pantry & Clothes Closet Drop-Off Hours

10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
9:30–11:30 a.m. Saturday



IN MEMORY

See page 7 for the list of
Village Church members
who have passed.