

GOOD NEWS



The Village Church *Good News* is published monthly (September-May) for all members and friends of the Village Presbyterian Church. Readers are encouraged to submit article ideas to The Department of Communications, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208, or call 913-671-2375 or email laura.davis@villagepres.org.

OCTOBER 6, 2021

Bring on the Joy of Music at Village

After listening to Zoom concerts in our living rooms—while creative and life-giving in their own right—live music feels like a luxury. Émile Durkheim, an early 20th century sociologist, coined the term, “collective effervescence” to describe the bliss, energy and harmony people feel when they come together in a group around a shared purpose or activity. Like music. He believed that a joy shared is a joy multiplied. The music ministry at Village Church is seeking ways to create those joy-filled experiences in a time when we may crave them more than ever.

Will Breytspraak, director of music ministry at Village on Mission, feels that many of us have become “hyper-appreciators,” a term he borrows from writer Davis Brooks, as we emerge from lockdowns and begin to make and listen to live music again. Brooks says, “We are...savoring every small pleasure, living in a thousand delicious moments, getting together with friends and strangers and seeing them with the joy of new and grateful eyes.” Will notices this in the choir members’ enthusiasm as they rehearse and sing again in worship, and in musicians, like Kansas City Symphony percussionist Joshua Jones, who performed in front of a live audience for the first time in 19 months at our 2nd Thursday recital. The experience is nothing short of cathartic for all in attendance.



Will also understands that not everyone is ready to return and is making space for those people as well, by planning some gatherings and movie nights that do not include singing. “We fully support the members who are choosing not to join us at this time. But we’re offering the safest possible opportunities for those who want to,” he says. “It is joyful to see so many coming back and what this means to people. All over our society, people’s patterns, habits and activities have changed, but there is every indication that music ministry means as much, if not more, to people than it did before the pandemic.”



Here are some of the people, stories and events you need to know about so you can tap into some of this delight.

Josh and Langston—New Energy with New Additions

Dr. Joshua Maize, associate director of music, began his official role in July 2021, but to be accurate, his journey with Village started as a music ministry intern under the direction of Mark Ball from 2009 to 2011. “Josh brings tons of experience and energy and ideas,” Will says. “He’s already asking questions that are making us better on a daily basis.” Dr. Maize directs the More Love Chorale, Morning Bells and Village Voices.

Dr. Langston Hemenway began as the director of Village Brass in August 2021—though he was already a known and trusted entity for his leadership of the all-volunteer, Village-based Kansas City Wind Symphony. “It has been fun to see the excitement of the brass players getting to work with Langston,” Will says. “He has an incredible reputation in Kansas City as a conductor and professor.” There is a high level of buzz happening in Village Brass and the musicians are excited to explore music with Dr. Hemenway, whose first Sunday in worship was Sept. 19. The Kansas City Wind Symphony will perform at the Village on Mission Sanctuary at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 17, and at 3 pm. on Sunday, Nov. 21.

Continued

Will says that both Josh and Langston are fun, easygoing, and highly capable—adding electricity to an already pedigreed team energized to share music with one another and the community.

Meet the New Interns

The origins of the music ministry intern program begin with music director Mark Ball. “It is as unique and wonderful for the interns as it is for the church,” Will says. “Whereas a lot of churches have paid singers supporting their choir, we have an intern program that’s designed to give them opportunities to grow and learn how to serve. Ideally, we meet each intern as an individual.” Let us welcome four interns to Village this season who bring musical expertise and vocal gifts to rehearsals and worship.

- Evan Nelson, bass, who is beginning doctoral studies in voice at UMKC.
- Cassie Leon, alto, who is beginning graduate conducting studies at UMKC.
- Karli Cabrera, soprano, who just finished her education at the University of Kansas and is primarily a soloist.
- Dre-Shon Tolbert, tenor, who is studying music education at William Jewell.



(L to R) Evan, Cassie, Karli, Dre-Shon

Gratitude for Music at Village on Antioch

Ryan Main, director of music at Village on Antioch, has accepted a call from the Youth Chorus of Kansas City, a non-profit organization he founded four years ago, to serve as executive and artistic director—their first full-time staff member. Ryan says, “I am excited for this new chapter and what it means for the young people I serve in Kansas City, but I am sad to be leaving a community and ministry that I love.” Ryan has graciously committed to leading the choir until a replacement is found and the community is so grateful. They rehearse at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays. The choir section leaders are Leah Owen, Shannon Redburn, Aaron Redburn and Cameron Rolling.

“It’s so great to have the VOA Choir singing together again,” Ryan shares. “The spirit in rehearsal has been better than ever, and music-making has been joyful and fun. Our choir is one of our most dedicated and steadfast ministries at Village on Antioch, and I am so proud to continue to help them lead our congregation in singing every Sunday. Masks can’t slow us down!”



The Gathering Family is Reunited

After months of worshiping on couches watching pre-recorded services and ‘gathering’ on Zoom calls, the reunion of this tight-knit community, band, and Rev. Hallie Hottle (after a summer of maternity leave) feels particularly special. “Being back in the Gathering in-person has been such a gift,” shares musician and vocalist, Becky Bliss. “The experience of playing live music with amazing musicians is irreplaceable and being back with our blessed Gathering community again—after more than a year—is truly magical. The energy in the room is both joyful and worshipful. Even with masks on, we can hear everyone singing!”

2nd Thursday Recitals

These free, 30-minute recitals require no ticket or reservation. Each recital is followed by a Meet The Artist reception in the Welcome Center. “There is something for everyone in our line-up—we have a couple of new instruments, new musicians—growing and celebrating all the people of our city,” Will says. “There is more gratitude that we’ve got this chance for music in the middle of our day. There’s more excitement, participation. And we’re hearing the music with fresher ears.” Free-will offerings at the recitals will benefit Jewish Vocational Services who are helping resettle Afghan refugees in the Kansas City area.

Here is how to treat yourself to exceptional live music once a month: block out your 2nd Thursday lunch hour, invite a friend, grab a salad or panini at the Village Cup at 11 a.m., enjoy the 12:15 p.m. recital, and then stay for the reception, fellowship and a cookie after. The next recital is Oct. 14 and will feature David Pickering on the organ.

Four Seasons Spooktacular – Oct. 16

Destiny Mermagen will offer a fun event at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary presenting 'Fall' and 'Winter' from Vivaldi's Four Seasons along with playful, spooky Halloween selections—all in about an hour. "It will be both professional and youth musicians and with Destiny, it is always personal and friendly," says Will. "People will feel that they are brought along on a musical adventure by these great musicians."

Tidings of Joy – Dec. 19

The music ministry team has lots of creative ideas (and a surprise) up their sleeves for the Tidings of Joy concert this Advent. It is planned for 3 & 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 19. You will get no spoilers here, but I will say that the little that was shared gave me goosebumps! A free-will offering will go to benefit Artists Helping the Homeless, Village Church's Signature Mission for next year.

This is just a small sampling of the magic that Village Church's music ministry is serving this season and some of the talented people behind it. Will says, "I think there is a higher voltage or a new electricity about what we can do together." Part of that magic is happening in the congregation, in the pews, on the other side of the 'fourth wall.' Many of us have become hyper-appreciators and will not take beauty for granted—especially when it is a shared experience. "Our sponges are dry," Will reflects. "We are ready to soak each other up."

Go to the music ministry's Facebook page @VillageChurchMusic or villagepres.org to stay informed. You can also email Carol Dale (carol.dale@villagepres.org), music ministry coordinator, to be added to the email distribution list, so you won't miss a moment.

MISSION

Serve Your Neighbor by Participating in Be the Church Service Week

During the week of Oct. 24-31, Village Church will take part in service work as a part of "Be the Church Service Week," which was founded by a small group of churches in the Heartland Presbytery, including Village Church. This year Village on Mission and Antioch will offer a variety of service opportunities that can be completed at home and dropped off in bins at Village on Mission's south entrance and Village on Antioch's main east entrance. In addition, if you wish to provide service in person, you can help assemble Heart to Heart hygiene kits at Village on Antioch at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 24.

"This year we are offering a hybrid format for our Be the Church Service Week with a combination of in-person and at-home activities," shared Deborah White, director of mission. "The hybrid model allows participants to choose service work in a way they feel most comfortable during the pandemic."

At-home projects include the following:

- Creating Thanksgiving cards for food pantry clients receiving baskets
- Stuffing socks with snacks for those experiencing homelessness
- Helping make shoes to prevent jiggers in Uganda
- Donating diapers for refugees resettling in Kansas City
- Contributing hot and cold cereal items, including kids' cereals, for the Village Food Pantry

For more information on the service projects and to register for the hygiene kit packing, visit www.villagepres.org/bethechurch. Call Deborah White in the Mission office with questions at 913-671-2369.



David Enslow and his son packing hygiene kits.

Adopt a Star Family Online

Village Church will again sponsor “Star Families” from Operation Breakthrough. We will help provide Christmas gifts for families and holiday meals. Stars will be available online starting Oct. 31 with packet pick-up on Nov. 13. Keep an eye out for the sign-up link in upcoming October eNews. Simply go online, select the family you wish to adopt and follow the instructions provided on the site. Each child in a family receives at least three new, unwrapped gifts; and the mom receives a \$25 gift card to Target or Walmart.

The Operation Breakthrough truck will be in the Village on Mission parking lot to receive the donations between 9 a.m. and noon on Sunday, Dec. 5. We also invite you to make a monetary donation for Star Family holiday meals. \$30 will feed a family of three or less and \$60 a family of 4 or more. Note: Write Operation Breakthrough in the memo of your check and send your check to Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208.

The children who receive Christmas aid all come from low-income families. Some are experiencing homelessness. Many are in foster care because they have been abused or neglected. Nearly all live in single-parent families, headed by low-income working women. If you have questions or need help with the online adoption process, contact Ann Colston at 913-461-1791 or Marilyn Borel at 913-708-1917.

VILLAGE STAFF UPDATES

Lisa Wright Named Assistant Director of the Village on Mission Preschool

Lisa Wright has been a classroom teacher at the Village Church on Mission Preschool since January 2016. She has worked part-time in the office for three years and was hired as assistant director this school year (beginning in August), after Debbie Smith’s retirement last year. As assistant director, Lisa will be responsible for state licensing documentation, student files, some staff education, hospitality, and so much more! She will also continue to teach in a 3-year-old classroom on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Sarah McKee, director of the Village on Mission Preschool, shared, “Lisa’s three girls all attended Village Preschool (they are now a senior in high school, a freshman in high school and a 6th grader). Once they had moved on to elementary school, Lisa could not find it in her to leave and applied for a teaching position.”

“Lisa is passionate, organized and creative,” adds Sarah. “We are so lucky to have her as a part of our team.”

Village Welcomes Amy Turpin as Child Care Office Manager

Amy Turpin started working in Village Child Care 10 years ago when she and her husband, Lance, joined Village Church. She began serving as office manager at the end of August. She’s teaching 2-year-olds in the Kids Day Out program. This will be her fifth year doing so.



Amy was born and raised in Michigan. Her husband is from Kansas City. She’s been here for 20 years. “I have two kids; my oldest just started college and my youngest is a junior,” shared Amy. “I’m going to be an empty-nester soon and wanted to get more involved in the child care program as I will have more free time.”

“We are so glad to have Amy join us as office manager in the Child Care Department,” said Marjean Lindquist, director of child care. “Amy is warm and caring and enjoys working with the children and families. She is detail-oriented and organized. She is a great asset to our team.”

Amy loves many things about working with littles. “I love to watch the children grow, so much change happens throughout the year, and it makes me happy to know I was a part of that growth and development.”

Pastoral Care & Counseling Welcomes Michelle Dicus as Outreach Coordinator

Michelle Dicus joined the Village staff as pastoral care & counseling outreach coordinator on Sept. 20. As outreach coordinator, Michelle will be primarily responsible for coordinating various groups of volunteers who reach out to our Village Church family with notes, flowers, calls and more. Michelle and her husband, Scott, joined Village as members in 2008. Since then, they've had their three children baptized here and have enjoyed watching their kids graduate through our Kids Day Out and Village Preschool programs. Michelle is also a member of the Village Ringers handbell choir. When not at Village, Michelle spends her free time camping, leading her daughters' Girl Scout troops, and listening to true crime podcasts.



Madeline Chamberlain Garcia Joins the Marketing & Communications Team

Madeline Chamberlain Garcia, who served almost three years as youth coordinator, began a new position at the end of August in the Marketing & Communications Department as creative design & digital media manager. In her new position, Madeline oversees the villagepres.org website and designs digital, print and video creative elements that capture the spirit of Village Church.



"We are thrilled that Madeline has joined our team," said Laura Davis, director of marketing & communications. "We were so happy we were able to hire someone who knows Village so well. Madeline is creative, innovative, and a quick learner and problem solver. Her wonderful sense of humor is such a joy to us."

Madeline graduated from Lee University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts in Writing, where she was an active member of Unity Dance Troupe, a Christian performing arts company. She's been a freelance graphic designer and website developer, restaurant server, ESL writing tutor, and ballet teacher, collaborating on summer arts camps for kids in Georgia, Tennessee, and abroad in Colombia and Belgium. She loves Just Dance 4, thrift shopping and hiking with her dog, Xander. She and her husband, Adrian, and 16-month-old daughter, Iris, live in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Village Cup Is Open for Business Once More!

We have all missed going to The Village Cup since it was forced to close 18 months ago due to COVID health and safety concerns. The Cup reopened for business on Connection Sunday, Sept. 12, with Abbey Johnston (a former pastry chef) as lead bartista and food selections managed by Chef Andrea Bradley.

Village Cup business hours are Sunday from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Tuesday thru Thursday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m.-noon.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the Village Cup has a variety of cold deli sandwiches and salad offerings ready to grab-and-go in the cooler. Yogurt breakfast parfaits are available in the cooler weekdays. A new addition to The Cup is hot panini sandwiches, which are grilled to order.

"We're excited to be open and serving at Village," said Chef Andrea. "I love panini sandwiches and thought it would be a great addition to the menu. Also, soup has returned on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We offer a seasonal menu to ensure the freshest ingredients."

"Cinnamon rolls and muffins have been added to our breakfast pastry selections," shared Abbey. "We have breakfast pastries every day. Drinks are the same as what we had before: KC Roasterie espresso and drip coffee blends that rotate seasonally. For October, we have a pumpkin spice latté and autumn harvest drip coffee as our featured drinks. The Village Blend will always be available."

Come check out the new and familiar favorites menu items in The Village Cup, located on the second floor of the Welcome Center at Village Church on Mission.



Lead barista Abbey Johnston and Chef Andrea Bradley

Oct. 10 – Rev. Tom Are concludes his preaching series, “The Church: An Already/Not Yet People.”

Oct. 17 – Rev. Sally S. Wright preaches on “Finding God – This place and on the move.” (Genesis 28:10-22) This is a meditation on God’s inexplicable presence of awe and glory mixed with the daily focus to spot God on the move. God is both in this place and in everyplace. So, then why do we have churches, sanctuaries and holy places? Our spiritual grandfather Jacob shows us what it means to have places of worship and to find God on the move.

Oct. 24 & 31 – We turn to environmental care with a two-part sermon series titled “The World God So Loved is This World.” Rev. Tom Are is preaching on Oct. 24. Rev. Zach Walker will preach morning services on Oct. 31 and Rev. Hallie Hottle will preach in The Gathering.

Grateful Hearts for The Sacristy Committee

Did you know that every time Village on Mission has communion, most of those preparations have been made by our Sacristy Committee? Committee members are Maryanne Adelman, Janet Bates, Anne Bayless, Anita Browning, Dee Couch, Carol Dowdy, Vicki Graham, Susie Latas, Sharon Ihde, Anellen Neill, Cindy Nicholson and Cyndi Seifert. At Village on Antioch, Kelly Thomason prepares communion and recruits volunteers as needed.

The purpose of the Sacristy Committee is to enhance Village Church worship through the preparation of the elements for communion and the maintenance of the communion ware and linens. The word “sacristy” means a room attached to the church where the sacred vessels are kept.

Pictured at right in the Village on Mission Sacristy are committee co-chairs Janet Bates and Anellen Neill after just having met with Rev. Tom Are to discuss the safest way to serve communion for World Communion Sunday, Oct. 3. This was the first time since March 1, 2020 that communion has been served in the Village on Mission Sanctuary.

Communion preparations begin on Saturday morning in the sacristy room, where five members fill the cups with juice and get the bread plates ready for Sunday. The 1,600 cups have been put in the trays earlier in the week.

Early Sunday morning, the bread plates are filled, and the table is set with the elements in the Sanctuary and Narthex.



Gluten-free crackers are on plates at the front Sanctuary doors, the Narthex and the balcony. Between services the bread and juice are replenished so all the trays are full and ready. After the last service, everything is cleaned and put away. This is served communion.

Several times a year, we do communion by intinction, where the congregation comes forward to the servers, takes a piece of bread and dips it into a chalice full of juice.

Our thanks to the Sacristy Committee for their hard work and dedication to Village Church.



Sacristy Committee co-chairs Janet Bates and Anellen Neill

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 12 – Village U Class - Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence, Rev. Dr. Meredith Holladay, 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 12-26, in Room 126

Oct. 13 – Village U Class - Galatians: Crisis in the Church, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 13-27, in Rooms 132 & 133, and via Zoom

Oct. 14 – Village U Class - A Theology in Outline: An Overview of Christian Theology, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 11 a.m.-noon Thursday, Oct. 14-Nov. 18 and Dec. 2 & 9, via Zoom

2nd Thursday Recital with organist David Pickering, 12:15-12:45 p.m. Oct. 14 in the Village on Mission Sanctuary

Oct. 16 – 7:30 p.m. A Four Seasons Spooktacular Concert with Destiny Ann & Michael Mermagen, Dr. Elisa Bickers and the Village Players in the Village on Mission Sanctuary. Admission is free.

Oct. 17 – 7 p.m. Kansas City Wind Symphony concert in the Village on Mission Sanctuary

Oct. 18 – 7 p.m. “Code Red for Humanity,” led by Brigadier General Dr. Chris King. This Environmental Action Committee-sponsored class will be available by Zoom. Dr. King is an authority on the impact that climate change, water scarcity and other environmental issues have on national security and international stability. His presentation will assess the 2021 UN report to better understand the harm being done to God’s Great Gift. Email Reesveenstra@aol.com to register.

Oct. 19 – noon-6 p.m. Prairie Village Community Blood Drive in Rooms 132 & 133 at Village on Mission

Taizé at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, in the Village on Mission Sanctuary

Oct. 24-31 – Be the Church Service Week (see service projects at www.villagepres.org/bethechurch)

Oct. 26 – Village U Class - Mail Merge, Dee Couch, 1-2:30 p.m. & 6:30-8 p.m. in Room 316 and via Zoom

Oct. 27 – 4:30-6:30 p.m. Trunk or Treat in the Village on Mission south parking lot. All are welcome to join us in the south lot on the Wednesday before Halloween. Come for the fun and the candy or come to enjoy all the amazing costumes. If you’d like to host a trunk, email the youth department at youth@villagepres.org.

Climate Change: Trillions of Dollars of Economic Impact – Taught by Chick Keller from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, Rooms 126 & 127. Email laura.hobbs@villagepres.org to register.

Oct. 31 – Drop off Be the Church Service projects in bins at Village on Mission and Village on Antioch

Register for Village U classes at www.villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes

Sponsor a Food Pantry Family's Thanksgiving Meal

The Village Church Food Pantry is looking forward to our annual Thanksgiving Basket distribution. Turkeys and all the trimmings will be distributed Nov. 17-20. We will not have a food drive this year, but you can sponsor a family with a \$30 donation and let us do the shopping. Checks payable to "Village Church Food Pantry" may be mailed to Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208.





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GRATITUDE FROM CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Children & Family Ministry is so grateful for the gifts and pledges from generous church members. Even during these COVID days, we have been thankful to connect and gather with our kids and families at drive-thrus and events. Recently, we purchased some yard games thanks to the generous folks at Village. We have had such a blast playing Giant Connect 4, Giant Jenga and Giant Checkers with our awesome kiddos on Sunday mornings.

Throughout the year, we are able to honor and celebrate various kids and their families at Village: newborn babies with family devotionals, babies being baptized with board-book bibles, 3rd graders with bibles and graduating 6th graders with devotionals. Thanks to generous funding, we are also able to pull off VBS, Advent Workshop, Be the Church and Bingo nights. And we love connecting every Sunday with kiddos through awesome curriculum materials.

Thank you for all the ways you support Village and our Children & Family Ministry!



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

VILLAGE ON MISSION
Traditional – 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
The Gathering – 5 p.m.
In Friendship Hall

VILLAGE ON ANTIOCH
Traditional - 9:30 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
14895 Antioch Rd.
in Overland Park

Call **913-203-1301** to hear the previous Sunday's 9:30 a.m. Village on Mission Sanctuary worship service.

IN MEMORY

Leila "Marie" Clark
Gene Elsas
Mary "Pat" Hampton
Charles 'Bill' Mohr
Richard 'Rich' Nelson
Phillip Perry
DuMont Reed
LeAne Story
Jack West
Kathleen White