



**VILLAGE
CHURCH**

Presbyterian (USA)

GOOD NEWS

The Village Church *Good News* is published monthly (September-May) for all members and friends of Village 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.

Joy When You Need it Most

Rev. Tom Are, senior pastor of Village Church, recently told Ministry Team that it is his hope that Village can be a place where people experience joy.

“There's always a hunger for joy,” said Tom. “I think that we're more drawn to happiness. Happiness is more related to the circumstances being good. It's when your job is satisfying, when your health is good, and your daughter marries a good man—all those circumstances that make you happy. That's all good. But joy is a disposition that's not as tied to those circumstances, and it can fly in the face of challenging circumstances.”

“I've known people who've been sick and had been joyful. I've known people who have been impoverished and have been joyful. I've known people who've had their heart broken and have been joyful. I think one of the things that's true now is we're aware we're not very joyful. The self-awareness of this has been hard and our spirit is down. And so, I think it gives the church an opportunity to be with people where they are and to enrich their lives in a spiritual way.”

The Advent Sermon Series is titled, “Joy When You Need It Most.” This is the season when we light the candles of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. This year, perhaps more than most, we need a little joy. When spirits are battered and the heart is bruised, when life is wearying and hope is fragile, joy can seem hard to come by.

But joy is a strong disposition. Joy is both a gift and a spirit that is pursued. It is an experience of grace and also the fruit of discipline. This Advent we will rehearse once again the story that is the source of joy to the world, as well as joy to us when we need it most.

Dec. 5 “*I'm Coming to Your House*” - Rev. Tom Are

Dec. 12 *Tidings of Happiness Joy* – Rev. Tom Are

Dec. 19 *Joy to the World* – Rev. Tom Are

Dec. 24 *Joy on Your Worst Days* – Rev. Tom Are

Dec. 26 9:30 a.m. service at Antioch Campus;
10 a.m. service only at Mission Campus – Rev. Sally Wright preaching

Christmas Eve Services

Mission Campus

3 & 5 p.m. Family Worship with the Gathering Band

7, 9 & 11 p.m. Candlelight Services

Antioch Campus

5 p.m. Family Service

7 p.m. Candlelight Service

Child care is available during the 5 & 7 p.m. Christmas Eve services at both campuses. All Mission Campus Services will be livestreamed at villagepres.org/online.

Journey to the Star

2-6 p.m. Christmas Eve

Come journey to the star at the Mission Campus, or make a point to stop before or after worship. Help us make the star shine with your hopes and prayers for another new year. Take a little light with you to share with friends and family who need to remember the light still shines.

The Antioch Campus star will be on display starting Christmas Eve day.

Advent Daily Devotionals

As we wait together for Jesus Christ to be born, join us each day (Monday through Saturday through Jan. 8, 2022) for a brief 2-3 minute video devotional offered by our pastors and other ministry leaders. Each devotional will feature a scripture passage and brief reflection offering a word of inspiration and hope for us all. You'll find these on our [Village Facebook page](#) or sign up to receive the Daily Video Devotional emails at villagepres.org/subscribe.



Decorate the Mission Campus Trees with Diapers, Hats & Mittens

From Dec. 5-26, come put hats and mittens on our trees and diapers (all sizes welcome including adult large and XL) under our trees to give to families served by the Village Clothes Closet/Food Pantry. Trees are located at the south entrance and in the Welcome Center. Contact Deborah White at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org for more information.

Drop off Your Star Family Gifts Dec. 5

If you adopted an Operation Breakthrough Star family for Christmas or purchased a gift for the holiday store, please don't forget to drop off your gifts at the Operation Breakthrough truck parked in the Mission Campus south parking lot between 9 a.m. and noon on Sunday, Dec. 5. If you miss the truck, you can deliver your gifts to Operation Breakthrough at 31st and Troost. Gifts are distributed to families during the week of Dec. 6.



Poinsettias Honor Your Loved One and Brighten Christmas for Everyone

You may honor your loved one(s) when you donate \$15 per poinsettia this season. Your generous donation helps the ministry of bringing a poinsettia to a homebound member to enjoy during Christmastime. If you'd like to participate, visit shop.villagepres.org/poinsettia or send the printed name(s) with a check for \$15 per person to Janice Gill, Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS 66208.

Stephen Ministers are Here to Support You During this Season

Do the holidays seem extra challenging this year? Are you or someone you know struggling with challenges like isolation and loneliness, anxiety, grief, tension from juggling work, child care and schooling, financial strain or job loss, uncertainty about the future, other unexpected life challenges? If so, you don't have to face it alone. Village Church's well-trained, compassionate and caring Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. A Stephen Minister is available to meet with you (in person or by phone or video chat) to offer care and support. It is confidential and available at no cost to you. For more information, contact Rev. Melanie Hardison at 913-671-2367 or melanie.hardison@villagepres.org.



Mission Sewing

Check out the new wall hanging (left) in the Mission Sewing Room. The quilt was a team effort celebrating the return to in-person sewing after COVID-19 forced Mission Sewing volunteers to work from home for several months. The piece is entitled "Many Hands, Many Hearts," which exemplifies the spirit of our volunteers to create, make and donate. The wall hanging marks the completion of the refurbishment of the Sewing Room.

Thank You from Front Porch Alliance

Dear Village Family,

On behalf of everyone at Front Porch Alliance, we send heartfelt gratitude to so many of you who supported the Rise and Shine Breakfast this year. The Village community continues to embrace FPA with tremendous generosity both in financial contributions and time as volunteers. We are so thankful for all of you!

It was a joy this year to celebrate Charlotte Davison as our honorary chair. She has dedicated over 20 years to the PAL program and continues to graciously share her exceptional leadership and commitment with FPA. Her positive impact on the children and staff of Faxon School as well as the many volunteers is an immeasurable gift.



Charlotte Davison

We are thankful for the long-lasting partnership of Village Church with FPA and our East Side neighbors. You are truly part of the FPA family!

—Barb Haviland and Julie Sykes, Rise & Shine Breakfast co-chairs

Help a Family Resettle

Village is sponsoring a family from Afghanistan as they move to Kansas City. Through the "House to Home" program at Jewish Vocational Services, we will collect furniture and supplies, set up the home, cook a meal, and welcome them at the airport. While we don't yet have a date of arrival, let us know your interest at villagepresya.org/refugees or speak with Pastors Hallie or Melanie. We will be in touch with details.

Worship Service Radio Broadcast Signs Off Dec. 26

Please note that we will no longer be broadcasting the Village Church worship service on 1660 AM Radio after Sunday, Dec. 26. We thank all of you who have listened over the years to this weekly broadcast. We do offer an alternative for those of you without internet access or a computer. You may call in to hear the previous week's worship service at 913-203-1301. When you call this phone number, you can opt in to be called automatically each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and just stay on the line to listen to the service.

Heartfelt Gratitude for Cindy Wilcox

Cindy Wilcox, director of Connectional Ministries, is retiring in January 2022 after more than 16 years of dedicated ministry to our faith community. Here are some parting words our family wanted to share with and about her.

Rev. Tom Are “If there was a time you had fun at Village, Cindy probably had something to do with that. Her retirement is well deserved. Her positive energy, deep compassion and her love for Village will leave a big hole. God has blessed us through Cindy’s ministry, and I hope you will join me in prayer for God’s blessing to rest upon her as she begins this new season in her life.”

Haley Harrison “Cindy is so dear to our family. Wishing her all the best in retirement.”

Dee Couch “It has been such an honor to work with Cindy in various capacities throughout the years. For 15 years, this lady came to work at Village Church and did the very job for which God created her—a perfect fit for her talents and spiritual gifts. I believe great leaders possess certain characteristics—courage and decisiveness come to mind. I also think great leaders are steady and consistent. No matter the situation or how exhausted she was (think Christmas Eve or Easter morning), Cindy’s demeanor never changed. Everyone was going to get the same warm greeting, the same great smile, the same big hug. I am so grateful for Cindy’s leadership, friendship and insistence on always doing the right thing. Enjoy retirement, Cin. May it be all you dreamed of and then some.”

Kim Ratliff “Cindy has been the embodiment of welcoming to our Village community for so long. How can we ever thank her adequately? Cindy, you are beloved!”



Steve Davis “Cindy is just going to be missed. What will the church be like without her smiling face and friendly attitude?”

Jani Schepers “Cindy, you have been such an integral part of Village through the years. Your kindnesses and efforts have helped us all feel at home there. Wishing you many blessings! Congratulations!”

Judy Cooper “Cindy, I’m happy for you, but, oh, how we will miss your friendly smile and your caring attitude! You have provided so many avenues to connect people of Village! You have made a large church feel smaller because of that. We will miss you so much but hope you will embrace the joy of retirement.”

Nancee Stewart “Cindy, You ARE Village Church! What a huge, huge hole you leave us, in that you spent so many hours making this church the best it could ever be. And always with compassion, kindness and thoughtfulness.

You are one of God’s greatest gifts. We will miss you greatly.”

Edith Hultman “So glad for you, Cindy but will miss seeing you buzzing around. You have been so good to refer new members to areas such as Mission Sewing. Happy retirement.”

Cyndi Seifert “What will we do without you, Cindy? You have been a loyal and faithful servant to Village Church and the community. You are such a warm and welcoming person, and your beautiful smile can light up an entire room! You will be sorely missed. Bill and I wish you the very, very best!”

Tony Liu “Congratulations, Cindy, on your next enjoyment of life in your golden years. Thank you for all you have done for the Village Family and the Liu Family. We love you for all you do by lifting our spirits.”

Deborah White “I will never forget the first day I arrived at Village and entered the pod (also known as pastoral care) and Cindy came bounding out of her office to greet me with a big smile on her face. My office was even decorated with a big 'welcome' bulletin board. I knew then that I had landed in the right place. She made me feel at home. And she continued to be supportive of Mission in many ways from mornings of service for the deacons, to rallying folks for the construction of our prayer labyrinth, to her joyful Monday devotions.”

Michelle O'Neal “Our pastors have grown and strengthened the church with words from the pulpit, but Cindy grew and nurtured the church with her attention to relationships. She is one in a million and will be sorely missed.”

Wayne Bates “Congrats Cindy! I recall the first time we met, you were leading an Alpha class at VPC!”

Judy Bliss “Congratulations, Cindy! I will so miss seeing your bright face and positive spirit at Village! Your contributions are immeasurable. I am so happy for you!”

Carol Gee “We should all be so blessed to have had the impact on others that Cindy has had. She leaves an amazing legacy and a lifetime of friends. You will be so missed!”



Did You Know?

- Cindy has three wonderful younger brothers, Mark, Doug and Curt, with whom she is close.
- She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Interior Design from Kansas State University.
- She joined Village in 1988.
- In 1991, Cindy was contacted about a job opening as program coordinator, interviewed with Dwight Tawney and was offered the job that same week.
- Cindy worked as program coordinator from 1991-1995, then 10 years at Second Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri, before coming back to Village in 2005, where she has been until the present.



Marjean Lindquist Announces Retirement

Marjean announced she plans to retire March 11, 2022. Marjean has served in Village Church child care for 25 years, four years as office manager and 21 years as director. Marjean said, “The timing is right for my retirement. We are rebuilding in child care because of COVID. It’s time for someone new to come in.” Pam Southerland, who retired last March, recruited Marjean to come work at Village. “Pam is my neighbor. I was at home with my kids when she asked me to come work with her in child care. We became lifelong friends,” shared Marjean. “I love nurturing and caring for children as they learn it’s ok to be without mom or dad for a short time. It teaches them to be independent.”



Meneilly Visiting Scholar Kaitlin Curtice March 4-5, 2022 at Mission Campus

Kaitlin Curtice is a Potawatomi author and theologian who explores ways to bridge Native and white cultures, specifically striving to find God in a Christianity that has too often been destructive to Native Americans. Most recently, she’s the author of “Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God (2020).” The book jacket states, “Native is about identity, soul-searching, and the never-ending journey of finding ourselves and finding God.” Her previous book was “Glory Happening: Finding the Divine in Everyday Places.”

As both a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation and a Christian, Kaitlin shares what it means to experience her faith through the lens of her Indigenous heritage and encourages us to embrace our own origins. She speaks on faith and justice within the church as it relates to Indigenous peoples. Kaitlin is a monthly columnist for Sojourners, has contributed to On Being and Religion News Service, and has been featured on CBS, in USA Today and the New Yorker.

DECEMBER 5

4 p.m. Candlelight Remembrance Service in the Mission Campus Sanctuary and livestreamed at villagepres.org/online.

DECEMBER 6

7 p.m. Environmental Action Committee co-sponsored class “**The IPCC 6th Assessment Report: Code Red for Humanity**” presented by Brigadier General Dr. Chris King via 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. Register by emailing reesveenstra@aol.com.

DECEMBER 7

6:30 p.m. PW Advent Celebration in the Mission Campus Sanctuary and livestreamed at villagepres.org/online.

DECEMBER 8

5 p.m. Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka Interviews Rev. Tom Are About His New Book “Joy Even on Your Worst Days: Wisdom from Philippians.” A book signing immediately follows in Friendship Hall at our Mission Campus. Books are available for a suggested donation of \$15. Fifty percent of net proceeds benefit the Village Church Endowment Trust. Copies are available at bookstore.villagepres.org or at the event.

REMAINING VILLAGE U CLASSES

Medieval Mothers: The Five Matriarchs of the Reformation – Taught by Dr. Trenton Smith from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 8 & 15 in Room 127.

Being a Matthew 25 Church: What Can Dorothy Day Teach Us? – Taught by Rev. Eric Garbison from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, in Room 126.

The Joy of Christmas!? What Christmas trees, wrapped presents, and Santa Claus have to do with the birth of Jesus – Taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 8 & 15 in Rooms 132 & 133, and via Zoom.

Look for Spring 2022 Village U Classes to be posted online by the end of December.

DECEMBER 9

12:15 p.m. Second Thursday Recital with soprano Sarah Tannehill Anderson and pianist Mark Hayes in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Anderson and Hayes will present a program that celebrates the publication of Mark’s new Christmas music.

DECEMBER 11

5 p.m. Christmas Favorites with the Village Players in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. The Village Players Youth Strings play a concert of Christmas Favorites alongside Destiny and Mike Mermagen.

DECEMBER 15

Curbside Pickup Christmas Dinner is honey baked ham, candied sweet potatoes, seasonal vegetables and roll. Cost is \$5. Pick up meals between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. at the Mission Campus north entrance. Order by noon Monday, Dec. 13, at villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners.

DECEMBER 19

3 & 6 p.m. Tidings of Joy: Lessons & Carols in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Don’t miss this joyful Kansas City tradition featuring the Tidings of Joy Chorus, Orchestra and soloists. No reservation necessary. A free-will offering will benefit Artists Helping the Homeless - Johnson County Respite House. Email amy.turpin@villagepres.org by Dec. 12 to make child care reservations.

DECEMBER 20

7 p.m. Celebrate Christmas Joy with Te Deum Chamber Choir in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Led by Matthew Christopher Shepard, the ensemble will share music for choir and harp, including pieces by Betinis, Paulus and Heitzig. Visit te-deum.org for tickets.

DECEMBER 21

7 p.m. Snow Globes + Barnaby Bright Concert in the Mission Campus Sanctuary.

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Services - Mission Campus: 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11 p.m.; Antioch Campus: 5 & 7 p.m. Child care provided at 5 & 7 p.m. services at both campuses.

DECEMBER 26

9:30 a.m. Worship Service - Antioch Campus.
10 a.m. Worship Service - Mission Campus: Rev. Sally Wright preaching.

GOOD NEWS

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WHY I GIVE

Why Village Is Our Second Home

“When we first attended, we knew we had found our church home.”

“Time spent at church working and studying with friends to serve God and our community.”

“Hearing our son say ‘our church family’ when asked to share what we’re grateful for at prayer time.”

“We were married here 46 years ago.”

“I fell in love with the music here and joined the choir.”

Giving is a matter of identity.

We are created in the image of God who is incredibly generous.

Giving is a matter of gratitude.

We express our gratitude by loving God and sharing what God has given us.

Giving is a matter of impact.

Our generosity and good works make a difference.

Your Village Church family is grateful for your continuing good works and generosity. Thank you.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Mission Campus 6641 Mission Rd.

Traditional – 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.

In the Sanctuary

The Gathering – 5 p.m.

In Friendship Hall

Antioch Campus 14895 Antioch Rd.

Traditional - 9:30 a.m.

In the Sanctuary

Call in to hear the previous Sunday's Mission Campus Sanctuary worship service at
913-203-1301

IN MEMORY

Robert "Bob" Burdick
Rev. Larry Thornton