



**VILLAGE
CHURCH**

Presbyterian (USA)

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.

The Village Church Food Pantry & Clothes Closet

Feeding and Clothing the Food Insecure for 24 years

For 73 years, Village Presbyterian Church has been known as a church of mission on Mission Road. The congregation has initiated many ministries and provided support to ensure Village's continued good work locally and abroad. One of our largest ministries is the Village Church Food Pantry & Clothes Closet, located at 9960 Mission Road in Overland Park.

Village Church Food Pantry History – The Village Church Food Pantry at 99th and Mission opened in 1998. In September 2008, Village dedicated a new facility on the same property named The Tillotson Building in honor of John E. "Jack" Tillotson II.

Jack Tillotson was a member of Village Church for 50 years. He served on the Board of Trustees and funded the Dr. Robert Meneilly Chair for the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and the Meneilly Conference. He died in 2004. Rev. Tom Are, Jr. said at the dedication ceremony in 2008, "This building would not have been possible without the generosity of Jack Tillotson. Jack's final act of stewardship was to leave the largest gift to Village Church in our history, 75% of which was directed to the Village Presbyterian Church Endowment Trust—at the time, more



Rev. Tom Are, Jr. and Jody Tillotson, Jack Tillotson's widow, at the 2008 Tillotson Building dedication.

than doubling the assets of the Endowment Trust. This generosity ensures that Jack Tillotson's support of mission will be known and have its impact for all of our tomorrows."

Village Food Pantry Today – Food Pantry & Clothes Closet director Dennis Cobb says, "We serve more than

600 households each month. That translates into about 1,200 individuals represented within those households. If they show up at our window and say I need some help, we do what we can to help them with both food and clothing in our Clothes Closet."

What Our Clients

Experience – "Once they are checked in, clients are met by a volunteer whom we call a 'shopper.' That person stays with the client throughout the grocery shopping experience, helps them interpret the limits of how much food they can take of whatever variety they're considering—ushering them through the process. The Village Church Food Pantry operates on a 'client choice' model. Our hope is that it gives our clients a sense of dignity to go through the shopping area and pick the items they can use for their families."



Our Amazing Volunteers – About 170 volunteers staff the Food Pantry & Clothes Closet each month. Volunteers typically work one morning or afternoon each week. Volunteers are retirees, working adults, students (ages 14+) and others.

Continued

Volunteer Sarah Bracco shared, "I've been here more than 10 years, and I love it. I have worked in all the different areas of the Pantry...the Food Pantry serves a



need. The food insufficiency that's out there right now really increased over the summer. Especially during the last two or three years with the COVID situation, people have been beyond grateful for getting this need met."

Sponsor a Thanksgiving Meal for Village Food Pantry Families – Each year the Pantry gives out 500 Thanksgiving baskets. Planning is underway by staff and volunteers at the Village Church Food Pantry to make sure as many of our client families as possible have a Thanksgiving meal to celebrate the holiday and the chance to make new memories. Your \$35 donation will sponsor a Thanksgiving feast of turkey and all the trimmings for a family of four. Please consider sponsoring one or more of our families as they gather

to make their own holiday memories this Thanksgiving. Your gift can be made with a check payable to Village Church with "Food Pantry Thanksgiving" in the memo and mail to the Food Pantry at 9960 Mission Road, Overland Park, KS 66207. Or make a donation online at villagepres.org/thanksgiving. Thank you for your support!



The Clothes Closet received a donation of 2,500 pairs of socks through Bombas and Community Services League on Oct. 11. Socks are the #1 most-requested clothing item at shelters. Each person in the households we serve will get a new pair of Bombas socks during their visit.

Adopt a Star Family for Christmas

Village Church is once again sponsoring "Star Families" from Operation Breakthrough. We will help provide Christmas gifts and holiday meals for low-income individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness. Stars are now available for adoption online at bit.ly/adoptstarfamilies.

Simply go online, select the family you wish to adopt and follow the instructions provided. Also, once you adopt a family, you will need to come by Friendship Hall at the Mission Campus from 10 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Nov. 13, to pick up your adoption packet for your family. The Operation Breakthrough truck will be in the Mission Campus south parking lot to receive donations between 9 a.m. and noon on Sunday, Dec. 11.



We also invite you to make a monetary donation to Village Church for Star Family holiday meals. A \$30 donation will feed a family of three or less, and \$60 will feed a family of four or more. Note "Operation Breakthrough" in the memo of your check, and send your check to Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208. If you have questions and/or need help with the online adoption process, contact Ann Colston, 913-461-1791, or Marilyn Borel, 913-708-1917.

Angel Tree Ministry at the Antioch Campus

All Village families are invited to pick an "angel" from our wall in November and provide a gift for the child of an incarcerated parent. Antioch has a long tradition of supporting this special ministry each Christmas by providing gifts to 100 children. Call 913-681-8180 for details or to choose an angel.

STAFF UPDATES



Farewell to Liz Middleton, Village Church Food Pantry coordinator – Liz Middleton retired as Food Pantry coordinator on Sept. 30. Liz served as a member of the Village staff for 28 years. "On Dec. 2, 1994, I started working in child care while our son Ryan attended preschool," Liz recalls. "Working in the extended preschool program followed as Ryan and our daughter Madi got older."

In 2003, she started working in children's ministry. "I have an art degree from KU and enjoyed many fun years working on bulletin boards and designing Advent Workshop projects. In 2016, I took an opportunity and began dividing my hours in Connectional Ministries and Children & Family Ministry, enjoying a different area of service with Village Church.

Little did I know that things would change again when I decided to pursue the Food Pantry coordinator position that came up in 2017. I was hired to help Susan Webb [former Food Pantry director]. For three years I split my time between Connectional Ministries and the Food Pantry, before landing full-time at the Pantry. The administrative tasks I took on, as well as working with extremely dedicated volunteers, have been an ideal fit these last five years.

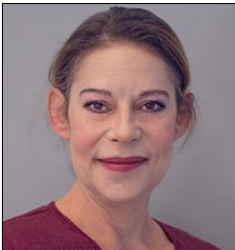
The mission of the church is important in my life. So, instead of leaving, I will continue at the Pantry as a volunteer. The people and faith of Village Church have made me a better person, and I am forever grateful."



Welcome our new director of facilities, Jamie Rollheiser – Jamie Rollheiser came to us from the J Rieger & Company distillery facility in the east bottoms as facility manager. In that role, she was responsible not only for the manufacturing facility, but also the hospitality space. Previously she worked at Emcor Services Fagan where she dispatched 21 HVAC technicians. Before moving to Emcor/Fagan, she worked for an HVAC equipment and parts supplier that did business with Emcor/Fagan. She married her high school sweetheart, Caleb. They have two girls, 6-year-old Cynthia and 2-year-old Josie. They also have two cats and a ball python named Chuck Norris.



Sarah Dunne Pickrell, new mission and engagement coordinator – Sarah is assisting Rev. Dr. Dionne Boyice, director of mission and engagement. Sarah most recently served as director of Heartland Presbytery's New Worshipping Communities and continues to work in curriculum development with Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary. She is the founding leader and an antiracism trainer with The Open Table KC, a PCUSA 1001 New Worshipping Community. Sarah lives with her partner, Nick, and her two terriers, Socks and Rocky, in Kansas City, Missouri.



Meet our new sous chef, Maria Radulescu – Maria comes to Village after working five years at UMKC. Born in Europe with Romanian-Italian heritage, she lived in Orlando for 22 years before moving to Kansas City. Maria has experience as a chemistry teacher, master baker, sous and pastry chef. Her son Edward is a microbiologist living in Great Bend, Kansas. She is happy to be at Village, surrounded by people who love others and love God.



Eva Toledo, Village Cup barista – Eva Toledo is a high school student at Liberty High. She is the daughter of Village custodian Marlon and Leslie Toledo (former director of international mission at Village Church). Eva is involved in a book club as well as theatre. She is passionate about fine arts and fashion as her creative outlets. She is also a proud collector of posters and trinkets. Her hobbies include drawing, making ceramics and listening to music. Say hello to Eva on Sunday mornings in The Cup.

Christma

Nov. 27 – **1st Sunday of Advent. Advent Sermon Series: Hopes and Fears of All the Years.** Christmas angels always tell us, "Do not be afraid!" We wish it were that easy. As we draw near to this Advent season, there is war in Ukraine. We witness destructive fires and storms that have left entire communities wiped off the map. In our own city, domestic violence shelters are full. Gun violence is at a record level. Truth is under assault, and COVID lingers. Most of all, it seems we are living against each other, rather than for each other.

Of course, 2022 is not unique. Fear is always in the atmosphere. The angel is not ignorant of that reality, but the angel knows redemption has come, which means no hurt is so deep it cannot be healed. No life is so broken it cannot become beautiful. No burden is so heavy, it cannot be overcome with blessing. The angel is brimming with hope because the love of God took on skin and was born for you.

No matter what has happened, the love of this season is for you. It will meet you wherever you are. It is a holy love that calls you by name. So, in a frightening world, do not be afraid.

Nov. 28 – **Advent Video Devotionals** delivered to your inbox. As we wait together for Jesus Christ to be born, join us each day (Monday through Saturday from Nov. 28 through Dec. 24) for a short video devotional offered by our pastors. Sign up to receive these emails at villagepres.org/subscribe.

Dec. 2 – 7:30 p.m. **Christmas Favorites Duo Recital**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Join Village Players leader and violinist Destiny Ann Mermagen for a fun Christmas Kick-Off Concert with pianist Tatiana Tessman. A special guest appearance by Village Players Youth violinist Gabrielle Griggs. Free admission.

Dec. 3 – 2-3:30 p.m. **Advent Family Workshop** in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. Don't miss our traditional family activity to prepare for the birth of Jesus. There will be crafts for all ages, cookies and popcorn.

Dec. 4-24 – **Decorate Trees with Diapers, Hats & Mittens** – We invite you to bring hats, mittens and diapers (all sizes including adult large and XL) to put on and under our Mission Campus Christmas trees so that we can offer them to families served by the Village Food Pantry & Clothes Closet. Trees will be in the Welcome Center and at the south entrance.

Dec. 4 – 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Advent Family Workshop & Hanging of the Greens**, Antioch Campus. Lunch is included. Families are invited to this special Christmas activity which will include the same craft stations as the Dec. 3 Mission Campus Advent Workshop, along with cookie decorating and popcorn. While young families are crafting, the rest of the congregation is invited to help decorate the church for Christmas by hanging the greens and decorating trees.

Dec. 6 – 6:30-8 p.m. **Presbyterian Women's Advent Celebration**, in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. All in our community who identify as women are invited to Village Church for the annual Advent Celebration, "Women. Together. In LIGHT." We'll experience God's message through liturgical dancing, scripture, women's stories, music and prayer. Light snacks and beverages will be served in the Welcome Center until 8 p.m. Register at villagepres.org/pw.

Dec. 7 – **Village U Class: Christmas Around the World** led by Barbara Pendleton from 6:30-8 p.m. in Room 126 - Mission Campus. Join us as we visit every continent, except Antarctica, to discover their beautiful religious Christmas traditions.

Dec. 7 & 14 – **Village U Class: Who Was Jesus Really? Keeping the Christ in Christmas** taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka. 6:30-8 p.m. in Rooms 132 & 133-Mission Campus. As we come upon the celebration of Christ's birth, we'll explore who Jesus really was and exactly what we can know about Jesus as the historical figure.

Dec. 8 – 12:15 p.m. **2nd Thursday Recital with "poco Rezound!"** handbell ensemble, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Admission is free.



Christmas at VILLAGE

Dec. 9 – 7 p.m. **Kicks Band presents a Big Band Christmas**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Admission is free.

Dec. 10 – 7 p.m. **Rezound! Hand Bell Concert** in the Antioch Campus Sanctuary. Admission is free.



Dec. 11 – 3 p.m. **Service of Remembrance**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. At this service, share gratitude for loved ones who have died. If your loved one passed away during 2022 and Village Church was informed, his or her name will be included in the program. If you want to include any other name(s), contact Linda Alley at linda.alley@villagepres.org or 913-671-2327 by noon Friday, Nov. 25.

Dec. 14 – 5-6 p.m. **Christmas Dinner**, Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. Our menu is honey baked ham, potato gratin, green beans, rolls and dessert. The cost is \$9 for adults and \$4 for children. Purchase dinners by noon Dec. 12, at villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners.

Village U Class: Christmas in Bethlehem: The Palestinian Struggle for Justice, taught by Margot Patterson, writer, activist, editor and co-host of "Understanding Israel-Palestine," 6:30-8 p.m. in Room 126-Mission Campus. Learn what it is like for Palestinians, and especially Christian Palestinians, to live, work and worship in the city of Christ's birth.

Dec. 16 – 7:30 p.m. **Community Messiah Sing-Along**, Antioch Campus Sanctuary. Join us for Handel's "Messiah." Audience participation welcome but not required.

Dec. 18 – 9:30 a.m. **Children's Christmas Pageant**, Antioch Campus Sanctuary.

Get your cameras ready for some extra special cuteness as our children perform a short and sweet pageant during our regular worship service.

Dec. 18 – 10:10 a.m. **Morning Stars Children's Music presents "Room for Christmas,"** Mission Campus Sanctuary. It's the week before the church Christmas pageant, and the children are determined to bring new life to the story. But can they do it? Will the pageant be a flop, or will they discover the true joy of Christmas by making room for what really matters? A component of this musical is the inclusion of a toy drive; the congregation is invited to participate by donating new or gently used toys.

3 & 6 p.m. **Tidings of Joy** featuring Village Choirs & the Kansas City Wind Symphony, Mission Campus Sanctuary.

Dec. 19 – 7 p.m. **Christmas Concert, "O Magnum Mysterium," with Te Deum Chamber Choir**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Spanning more than 10 centuries, the music expresses the meaning of Christmas from generations past and present. Tickets at te-deum.org.

Dec. 24 – **Children & Families Services at the Mission Campus** – 3 & 5 p.m. Family Worship Service with The Gathering Band; 7 & 9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Services in the Mission Campus Sanctuary, 11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion. Christmas Eve services will be livestreamed at villagepres.org/online.

Christmas Eve Services at the Antioch Campus - 5 p.m. Family Worship Service; 7 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship Service with Communion.

Dec. 25 – **Christmas Day** – 10 a.m. service in the Mission Campus Sanctuary; Rev. Tom Are is preaching; 9:30 a.m. service at the Antioch Campus; Rev. Tim Soule is preaching.

Jan. 1 – **New Year's Day Services** - 10 a.m. service in the Mission Campus Sanctuary; Rev. Melanie Hardison is preaching; 9:30 a.m. service at the Antioch Campus Sanctuary; Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka is preaching.

Get your 2023 Star Word. Star Words are paper or wooden stars featuring one word related to our spiritual life in Christ. Simply draw a star out of the basket (rather than hunt through the basket for a word you like), and thus let the word choose you. The idea is to journey with your word through the coming year—to notice where it shows up, how it moves your heart and the ways it brings you closer to God. Anyone unable to come to the church in person is welcome to email Rev. Melanie Hardison at melanie.hardison@villagepres.org, and she will draw a Star Word for you.

Visit villagepres.org/christmas for more details.

VILLAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Classic Citizens Celebration – What a delight to spend time with so many of our Village Church "celebrities" on Thursday, Sept. 22, for our red-carpet themed Classic Citizens Celebration. It was nearly a full house! Thank you to soprano, Alison Borberg, accompanied on piano by her mother, Marvie Sneegas, who performed wonderful show tunes for our entertainment. Chef Andrea Bradley prepared fabulous desserts, and Rev. Tom Are gave everyone timely updates about Village and our extended community. This was the first time our Classic Citizens Celebration returned to Friendship Hall since 2019. Special thanks to the Pastoral Care Committee for organizing this memorable afternoon celebrating our members age 75+.



Food Truck Festival – Thanks to Rev. Dr. Dionne Boyce, director of mission and engagement, and all who helped make the Food Truck Festival on Sept. 25 a big success this year, including the Sharp Marbles (KC blues, jazz, bossas, rock & pop band), staff and volunteers from Children & Family ministry, and of course, our fantastic food vendors: Crave of KC, Burg & Barrel, Taste of KC and KaleidoScoops Ice Cream.

Be The Church Service Night – We were overjoyed to bring back this in-person all-ages service experience at both campuses on Sunday, Oct. 9. At the Mission Campus, more than 175 of you worked on projects for City Union Mission, Sole Hope, the Deaf International Church, students at Rosedale Middle School and Kansas City International Academy, Village Church Food Pantry and the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership. At the Antioch Campus, you made birthday bags for foster children, decanted cleaning supplies for the Food Pantry, polished handbells and more. Thank you all for being the church!



PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Please Deliver a Poinsettia – Your help is needed to deliver 275 poinsettias throughout the greater Kansas City metro area. This is a great service project for students. Just choose a zip code, and we will assign you specific recipients. Then come by the north entrance for curbside pick-up between 9 and 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 3, and spread some cheer. Contact Linda Alley to sign up at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

A Poinsettia To Honor Your Loved One While Bringing Christmas Cheer to Others – A seasonal opportunity to honor your loved one(s) is making a \$15 donation per poinsettia. Your donation helps bring a poinsettia to a homebound member to enjoy during Christmastime. If you would 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. Loved ones' names will be published at a future date.



Stephen Ministers Are Here to Offer Support this Season – Do the holidays seem extra challenging this year? Are you or someone you know struggling with loneliness, anxiety, grief, financial strain, job loss or other unexpected life challenges? If so, you don't have to face it alone. Village Church's trained, compassionate and caring Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support. A Stephen Minister is available to meet confidentially with you (in person or by phone or video chat). For more information, contact Rev. Melanie Hardison at 913-671-2367 or melanie.hardison@villagepres.org.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF CLASSES & EVENTS

Nov. 7, 14, 21 – **World Politics: When Do You Stand Up for What You Believe In?** taught by Chick Keller, 7-8 p.m., Room 133.

Nov. 8 – **Election Day.** Social Justice Ministry encourages you to get out and vote!

Nov. 8 & 15 – **Beginning Video Editing**, taught by Rev. Dr. Ron Patton, 1-2:30 p.m. & 6:30-8 p.m., Room 316.

Nov. 9 - 5:30-7 p.m. **Christmas Eve Filming**, Mission Campus Chapel. Come and help us tell the story of Christmas. Our media ministry team will be creating video to be used during our 3 and 5 p.m. Children & Families Christmas Eve Worship Services. No preparation necessary. We'll be filming during Wednesday Family Dinner. Come and eat, then come to the Chapel to find a costume and be a star!

Nov. 9, 16 and 30 – **Pneumatology 101: A Guide to the Holy Spirit**, taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Wednesdays (no class Nov. 23), Rooms 132 & 133.

Nov. 9, 16, 30 and Dec. 7 – **The Huguenot Diaspora**, taught by Rev. Dr. Lonnie Lee, 6:30-8 p.m., Room 127.

Nov. 10 – noon **Women of Wisdom (WOW) Lunch**, Houlihan's in Town Center, 4900 W. 119th St. in Overland Park.

12:15 p.m. **2nd Thursday Recital with Flutist Ebonee Thomas**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. UMKC Conservatory professor of flute, Ebonee Thomas, will be accompanied by Tatiana Tessman on piano. Free admission.

Nov. 12 – 7:30 p.m. **Village Players Side by Side Concert**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Student & Professional Side by Side Concert featuring Village Players leader and violinist Destiny Ann Mermagen alongside cellist Michael Mermagen. The concert showcases local talented Village Players youth alongside orchestral professionals. Free admission.

Nov. 13 – 9 & 11 a.m. **How Firm a Foundation: Dedication Sunday**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Come celebrate the end of stewardship season with the Village Choir, Morning Stars Children's Choirs, Village Voices Youth Choir and Village Brass Ensemble leading worship service music. **Remember to bring your 2023 pledge card to worship.**

Nov. 15 – 7 p.m. **Journeys into Freedom: Organist Kimberly Marshall**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Hear world-renowned concert organist and scholar Kimberly Marshall perform works by J. S. Bach, Florence Price, William Grant Still, Arvo Pärt, Connor Chee and Sharon Willis.

Nov. 15-Dec. 6 – **Beginning Scrapbooking: Taming Your Photos One Step at a Time**, taught by Pam Wood, 10 a.m.-noon Tuesdays, Nov. 15, 22 (or 29 if unable to come Nov. 22) and Dec. 6, in Room 126.

Nov. 16 – 5-6 p.m. **Thanksgiving Dinner**, Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. Our menu is roast turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, sweet potatoes and dessert. The cost is \$9 for adults and \$4 for children. Purchase dinners by noon Monday, Nov. 14, at villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners, or call Karen at 913-262-4200.

Nov. 20 – 7 p.m. **"Words of Love" with the Kansas City Wind Symphony**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Dr. Langston Hemenway leads this resident ensemble of the Village Arts Alliance. Free admission.

7 p.m. **EncoreKC! Concert**, Antioch Campus Sanctuary. This community choir of more than 50 voices will sing in the season with holiday classics. Free admission.

Nov. 24-25 – **Thanksgiving Holiday**

Get more details about upcoming events at villagepres.org/upcoming-events.



GOOD NEWS

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VILLAGE GIVING

The Good That Is Ours to Do! We believe that God calls us to be generous givers of our time, talent and treasures. When we combine our gifts, no matter the size, they multiply to bring hope to our community and beyond.

We give our financial resources through our annual stewardship commitment. Giving is an act of faith, an expression of gratefulness and a spiritual discipline. Your annual pledge ensures that children and youth are nurtured, adults grow in faith through relationships with one another, older adults are upheld and cared for, God's name is praised through song and worship, the hungry are given food. All of that—and so much more—is made possible through our giving to Village Church.

Thank you for returning your 2023 pledge card so Village Church can continue doing The Good That Is Ours to Do! Dedication of 2023 pledges is Sunday, Nov. 13.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MISSION CAMPUS 6641 Mission Rd.

Traditional - 9 & 11 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
The Gathering - 5 p.m.
In Friendship Hall

ANTIOCH CAMPUS 14895 Antioch Rd.

Overland Park, Kansas
Traditional - 9:30 a.m.
In the Sanctuary

Call in to hear the previous Sunday's 9 a.m. Sanctuary worship service on our phone line **913-203-1301**.

**Food Pantry & Clothes Closet
Drop-Off Hours**
10 a.m.–2 p.m. Monday–Friday
9:30–11 a.m. Saturday

IN MEMORY

Ruth "Romaine" Glass
Wayne Thies