



**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](mailto:laura.davis@villagepres.org).

## Stephen Ministry

# HELP HOPE HEALING

**HELP.** “Asking for help isn’t giving up. It’s refusing to give up,” said the horse in Charlie Mackesy’s “The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse.” Asking for help is brave, and can sometimes be difficult, whether it be heartbreak, grief, job loss, illness, loneliness, COVID fatigue, family difficulties or financial struggles. God does not intend for us to go through these experiences alone. Help is just a phone call or email away from Village Church. In addition to Village’s pastoral staff, more than 50 Stephen Ministers have been specially trained to be by your side and offer comfort through life’s challenges. These Village members have been trained to listen, care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support in your time of need, whether it be for a few weeks or months or longer. This private, confidential care is available weekly and at no cost.

**HOPE.** Such care is God’s love in action, helping you find healing and wholeness. Hundreds of past and present Village members have received the comfort and counsel of Stephen Ministers. Our Stephen Ministers are part of an international faith-based ministry which spans 30 countries and includes more than 600,000 trained Stephen Ministers, who provide specialized Christian care. Whether you are experiencing doubt, confusion or pain, hope will emerge as part of this process.

**HEALING.** Hear some testimonials from those who have received Stephen Ministry care:

A young woman who had ended an eight-year relationship and felt abandoned by her family and recently relocated, says, “My Stephen Minister did a wonderful job of creating a warm, caring space for me to process my emotions and work through my issues.”

A loving husband who served as primary caregiver for his ailing wife for more than ten years, tells how his Stephen Minister, “listens to everything... He is not there to tell me what to do. He is there to let me talk until I can discover what is necessary. He is there to listen to the hard things and celebrate the successes.”

A divorcee speaks of the comfort of his Stephen Minister who walked beside him persistently “and refused to give up on him” during a painful two-year separation. As a result, he not only survived the loss of his marriage, but also felt the presence of God beside him carrying his burden, forever changing his life.

Asking for help provides an opportunity to experience the blessing of hope and healing. To find out more about Stephen Ministry, contact Rev. Melanie Hardison at [melanie.hardison@villagepres.org](mailto:melanie.hardison@villagepres.org) or 913-671-2367. Or perhaps you are feeling God calling you to consider becoming a Stephen Minister yourself. Applications are always being accepted for future Stephen Ministers who feel a passion to bring Christ’s love and care to people during a time of need.

### An Update on the Mental Health Initiative

Good News! Village Church is collaborating with Kansas City congregations and community groups to expand mental-health services in our area. Founded under the name Kansas Missouri Mental Health Collaborative, the newly launched organization's 501c3 status has been granted by the IRS, and the board is now officially incorporated to do business in both Kansas and Missouri. We have reached out to a number of congregations and other community partners to join us in this endeavor. We are in the midst of a search for an executive director and expect to begin hiring counselors within the next few months. Our initial office space will be at the Village Church Antioch Campus. Our vision is to expand to many more locations around town with in-house counselors at least one day a week. A website is in the works. To date, over \$400,000 has been raised, including two grants from the Village Church Endowment Trust, with another \$100,000 pledged for 2022.



To reach members of the board with ideas for executive director candidates, counselors with whom we might contract (even one day a week), or any questions you may have, please contact Alice Carrott Eidson at [alice.carrott@yahoo.com](mailto:alice.carrott@yahoo.com) or speak with Al Eidson, Harvey Grossman, Rev. Melanie Hardison, Tim Harrison, Fred Logan or Bob Sperry.

To give online, go to the Giving section of [villagepres.org](http://villagepres.org) and designate your gift for the "Mental Health Initiative." You may also send a check in the mail to the attention of Bob Sperry, Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208 and write "Mental Health Initiative" in the memo line. Thank you for your support!

We are so grateful to Village Church members for their generosity, trust and hope for this initiative. We welcome your prayers as the momentum builds and as our fundraising and operational activities accelerate.

### Help Deliver an Easter Lily

With 290 Easter lilies to be delivered throughout the greater Kansas City area, your help is needed and much appreciated to get them to our homebound members. Choose a zip code you want, and we will assign you specific recipients. Come by the north entrance for curbside pick-up between 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, April 16, to deliver that day or on Easter. To sign up, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or [linda.alley@villagepres.org](mailto:linda.alley@villagepres.org).

### Your Easter Lily Donation Honors Your Loved One

When you make a \$15 donation in memory of a loved one this spring, your money honors that person and brightens a homebound member's life with an Easter lily. Your loved one's name will be printed in the May Good News. Your generosity helps finance this ministry. If you'd like to participate, either go to the Village Store 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. Donations are accepted up through Easter Sunday, April 17.

## VILLAGE PRESCHOOL

### Village Church Preschool-Mission Campus News

The Village Church Preschool-Mission Campus is looking to hire part-time weekday preschool classroom teachers for the 2022-2023 school year. Teaching positions are available in our 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old classrooms. Contact Preschool Director Sarah McKee at 913-671-2338 or [sarah.mckee@villagepres.org](mailto:sarah.mckee@villagepres.org) for more information.

The preschool is also enrolling for the 2022-2023 school year. We are a part-time, school-year program for 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old students located within the Village Church-Mission Campus building. Contact Sarah McKee at 913-671-2338, [sarah.mckee@villagepres.org](mailto:sarah.mckee@villagepres.org) or visit [www.villagepres.org/preschool](http://www.villagepres.org/preschool) for enrollment information.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Palm Sunday, April 10** – Children’s Palm Parades & Services: 9 a.m. Mission Campus; 9:30 a.m. Antioch Campus; additional Mission Campus services at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**Maunder Thursday, April 14** – 7 p.m. Mission & Antioch Campuses

**Good Friday, April 15** – 7 p.m. Mission & Antioch Campuses

**Easter Sunday, April 17** – Mission Campus Services at 8, 9:30, 11:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Antioch Campus Service at 9:30 a.m.

**Session Updates** - On March 7, our Village Church Session voted to continue the pattern of Sunday morning worship services for the Mission Campus at 9 and 11 a.m. through the summer with the exception of Easter Sunday.

**Session also voted to move our campuses to “mask optional” effective immediately.** With the dramatic decline in both test incidences and test percent positivity rates in Johnson County and the slower but steady decrease in COVID hospitalization cases, the Session acted to make it optional for persons to wear masks in our facilities. Persons should feel comfortable to continue to wear masks per their choice and for their safety and the safety of others.

## NATIONAL TRAVELING ART EXHIBIT

### “Heads, Faces & Spiritual Encounter” At the Village Church Mission Campus Through April 28

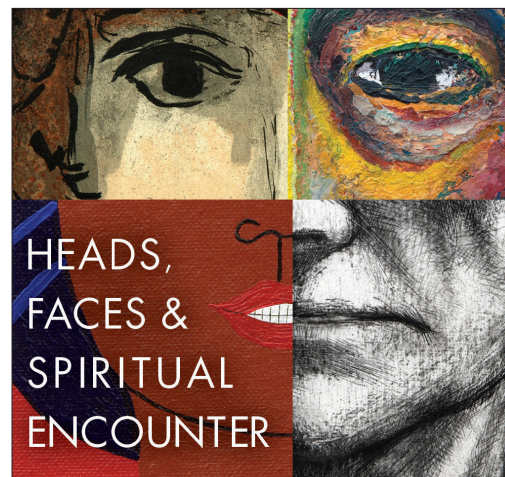
Village Presbyterian Church hosts a national traveling art exhibit called “Heads, Faces & Spiritual Encounter” through April 28 in the Mission Campus Welcome Center and Bridge. This exhibit is made available through Christians in the Visual Arts (CIVA).

The exhibit offers a glance at the many facets and mysteries of the human face. Works are from noted artists such as Henri Matisse, Marc Chagall, Otto Dix, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Paul Wunderlich, Bernard Buffet, Georges Rouault and more.

Exhibit curators say, “It is hoped that in these forty some-odd works, differing in conceptions, styles and medias, the viewer will find not only something that will arrest their attention aesthetically but also will intrigue them emotionally and intellectually.”

CIVA is a non-profit organization founded in 1979 dedicated to exploring and nurturing the relationship between the visual arts and the Christian faith.

Learn more about the exhibit at [www.villagepres.org/headsfaces](http://www.villagepres.org/headsfaces).





## Introducing the New Session Committee "Building Beloved Community"

Building Beloved Community is a new Village Church Session committee approved by Session on Dec. 6, 2021. "The Beloved Community" is a term that was first coined in the early days of the 20th Century by the philosopher-theologian Josiah Royce, who founded the Fellowship of Reconciliation. However, it was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., also a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, who popularized the term. (Source: thekingcenter.org)

In January and February 2021, the Second Presbyterian Church Open Table Anti-Racism group invited interested persons in the Presbytery to participate in a seminar on Decolonizing the Church. Fourteen Village Church members participated including Session elders Charlotte Davison, Mary Lehoczky, and Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, and former Session elders Pam Logan and Bob Fletcher. Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor for young adult ministry, participated in an earlier iteration.

Following the seminar, Village Church members continued to meet to reflect on the seminar. This group included an earlier gathering of persons called by Rev. Hallie Hottle and Rev. Dr. Brandon Frick to discern Village Church's ongoing faithful witness to be and become a more anti-racist church. The group explored a variety of strategies in consultation with the Social Justice Ministry Committee and discerned the Spirit's leading to establish the "Building Beloved Community Committee." The committee's purpose is to work within/outside our church to follow our faith's teaching in justice for, inclusion of, and welcome to all people.

Some committee members were very involved in a coalition of local organizations in planning the first-ever Prairie Village "I Have a Dream (Home) Action and Celebration Event Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." hosted in the Village Church's Mission Campus Sanctuary on Feb. 26. (see story on page 5).

Email Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka at [rodger.nishikoka@villagepres.org](mailto:rodger.nishikoka@villagepres.org) if you would like to learn more about the Building Beloved Community Committee.



**Prairie Village Mayor  
Eric Mikkelson**



**Soloist Troy Sanders**



**LINC Mighty Wild Eagles**



**Ruby Kirkwood & Timothy Bailey leading  
"Lift Every Voice and Sing"**

## Highlights from the “I Have a Dream (Home)” Action & Celebration Event Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Village Church hosted the event honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in collaboration with Stand-Up for Black Lives+ Prairie Village, the Johnson County NAACP, the City of Prairie Village Diversity Committee and Race Project KC. The event, attended by approximately 350 people in our Mission Campus Sanctuary and nearly 1,000 livestream and YouTube viewers, focused on civil rights issues and making Prairie Village more welcoming to diverse people groups. Guest speakers include Dr. Jacob A. Wagner, co-founder of the Center for Neighborhoods; Prairie Village Mayor Eric Mikkelsen; the Shawnee Mission East Jazz Band Combo; LINC Mighty Wild Eagles and more. Themes included the importance of housing equity to racial equity, the continued impact in our community of the past redlining and how housing inequity might be addressed through local policy and public awareness.

Village Church Elder and Building Beloved Community Committee member Charlotte Davison and Trudy Williams, co-founder of Stand UP for Black Lives Matter+ Prairie Village, presented the first Civil Rights Pioneer Award honoring Virginia Sewing and her late husband Donald Sewing.

Charlotte said, “We are recognizing a family who brought racial integration to Johnson County neighborhoods... Donald Sewing, a UMKC graduate and veteran of the Korean War, believed that housing integration could help people see beyond differences. So, he set out to strategically scatter black home buyers throughout the county's white neighborhoods, starting with his own family. In 1967, Donald and Virginia Sewing and their three children became the first black family to live in previously all-white Fairway, [Kansas]. Their move made headlines, attracting curious onlookers and a picketer to whom they offered refreshments.

They received threats of violence as well as warm welcomes. They joined Village where their son Henry serves as an elder. According to Andrew Gustafson of the Johnson County Museum, Donald Sewing’s efforts broke the ice for other realtors in Johnson County to start working with people of color. That allowed more white homeowners to get used to living next to someone who didn't look like them. By 1971, Donald had helped 60 black families purchase homes in this community.”



**Donald Sewing; Dr. Bob Meneilly, Village Church founding pastor; and family at the opening his real estate office in Overland Park, 1970. Photo courtesy of the Johnson County Museum.**



**Charlotte Davison and Trudy Williams present Virginia Sewing the Civil Rights Pioneer Award also honoring her late husband Donald Sewing. Photo courtesy of the Shawnee Mission Post.**

“Meanwhile, Virginia Sewing guided her children through their family’s move to a white neighborhood and white schools. She served as the PTA president of Rosedale Elementary School and on the Shawnee Mission School District Advisory Board. She was trained as a nurse, and she became a successful business woman. She has spent her life working on civil rights issues and has mentored elected officials in Wyandotte County and Johnson County.

We honor Virginia and the late Donald Sewing for their courage and visionary spirit in leading the way for Prairie Village to become a more welcoming community for all people.”

Village Church will host the second annual I Have a Dream (Home) Event at the organizers’ request.



### Welcome Sandra Stephens - New Director of Child Care

Sandra Stephens has been a Village Church member for almost eight years. During that time, she has been very active in Children & Family Ministry. She chaired the Children & Family Ministry Committee and worked in Village Child Care for several years. She is involved in Presbyterian Women, the Gathering, Young Adults, Pastoral Care and the Art Ministry Committee. Sandra received a few weeks training with Marjean Lindquist, former director of child care, before she retired on March 11.

Sandra is excited to be stepping into the role as child care director. "My passion is providing parents with a fun, safe environment while helping them connect with each other and all Village has to offer. I've got some big shoes to fill and am eternally grateful for the work Marjean has done. I count it a blessing to continue the legacy of Village Child Care."



L-R: Sandra Stephens, Marjean Lindquist and Amy Turpin

### Former Youth Elder Abby Schipfer Serving Village Youth as Interim Associate Director



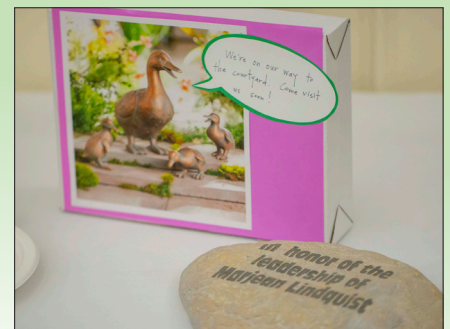
We welcome Abby Schipfer back to Kansas City and to Village Church Youth Ministry. Abby began serving as interim associate director on March 6 and will continue through the rest of the semester. She will transition to summer youth intern at the end of the semester. Abby accompanied students on the Spring Break Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic.

### Pastoral Care & Counseling Welcomes Alice Whitson



Alice Whitson joined the Pastoral Care and Counseling Department mid-March, taking over the Pastoral Care outreach coordinator position. Alice graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity in May of 2021. Alice comes to Village with lots of experience in different aspects of ministry: from hospital chaplaincy, to church camp, to running sound at Montreat. Alice is a Mizzou grad and a native of Jefferson City. She brings her deep heart for caring for the people of God and her strong sense of making things work that will become indispensable to Pastors Melanie and Sally and to Village Church. Her wife, Julianna, was ordained in the PC(USA) at Village Church on March 26. She works at Saint Luke's Hospital as a resident chaplain. They love their cat (Micah), being outside and spending time

with family and friends. Make sure you meet Alice when you get the opportunity.



Marjean Lindquist's Retirement party included tributes from Pam Southerland, Rev. Tom Are and a sneak peek at bronze ducklings that will go into the Children's Courtyard with a stone in honor of Marjean.

## APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 8 - 7:30 p.m. **UMKC Conservatory Singers present "Everlasting Love, Unshakeable Faith,"**  
Mission Campus Sanctuary
- April 9 - 10:30 a.m. **Celebration of Faithful Women**, Mission Campus Sanctuary
- April 10 – **Palm Sunday** with Children's Palm Parades at Mission and Antioch Campuses
- April 13 - Village U: **Christology 101: Who is Jesus?** - taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, April 13-27, Rooms 132 & 133-Mission Campus and via Zoom
- April 14 – 12:15 p.m. **2nd Thursday Recital with the KC Baroque Consortium**, Mission Campus Sanctuary  
7 p.m. **Maundy Thursday services** at our Mission and Antioch Campuses
- April 15 – 7 p.m. **Good Friday services** at Mission and Antioch Campuses
- April 17 – **Easter Sunday Services** at 8, 9:30, 11:15 a.m. & 5 p.m. at the Mission Campus, 9:30 a.m. Antioch Campus
- April 19 - Village U: **How to Locate and Organize Files, Folders and Pictures on an Apple Computer**, taught by Dee Couch, 1-2:30 p.m. & 6:30-8 p.m. in Room 316-Mission Campus
- April 20 - Village U: **Celtic Spirituality: Listening for the Heartbeat of God** – taught by Rev. Glenda Watts, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, April 20-May 11, Room 127-Mission Campus
- Screen Sanity Summit** - We invite parents to join in conversation with others and develop a digital plan for your family. We'll meet from 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, April 20-May 4, Room 307- Mission Campus. Register at [www.villagepres.org/children-families](http://www.villagepres.org/children-families).
- April 22 & 23 – **Presbyterian Women Spring Retreat**, Heartland Presbyterian Center
- April 24 – 10 a.m. Morning Stars Children's Choir presents **"The Tale of the Three Trees,"** Mission Campus Sanctuary. This is a beautiful story of three trees that have ambitions of fame and glory. They learn that even though life doesn't turn out exactly as they hoped, their new paths bring them to places in history even grander than they could ever imagine.
- April 26 - Village U: **Using Mail Merge to Create Form Letters** – taught by Dee Couch, 1-2:30 p.m. & 6:30-8 p.m. Room 316-Mission Campus
- Village U: **Creating a Meaningful Purpose-Driven Generosity Plan** – taught by Alison Patterson and Bob Sperry, 7-8 p.m. in Room 126-Mission Campus
- April 28 – Last chance to see **"Heads, Faces & Spiritual Encounter"** at the Mission Campus
- April 29 – 7:30 p.m. Bach Aria Soloists present **"An Evening with Rodney Marsalis"** in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. From Bach to Bernstein, this concert melds the classics with the contemporary, showcasing the excitement and artistry that Marsalis and Bach Aria Soloists deliver. Get ticket information at [www.bachariasoloists.com](http://www.bachariasoloists.com).
- Visit [www.villagepres.org/upcoming-events](http://www.villagepres.org/upcoming-events) for details and the full calendar of events.

### Coming Up in May

- May 1 – 7 p.m. **Kansas City Wind Symphony Concert**, Mission Campus Sanctuary
- May 6 – 5-7 p.m. **Art & Hors d'oeuvres** in the Mission Campus Welcome Center & Friendship Hall. Come stroll through displays by artists of all ages, sample tasty hors d'oeuvres from our own Chef Andrea and enjoy the sounds of the Aaron Linscheid Trio. New artists this year. Email [nancy.gatewood@villagepres.org](mailto:nancy.gatewood@villagepres.org) for more info.
- May 7 – 7:30 p.m. **Student & Professional Side-by-Side Season Finale: Vivaldi's Four Seasons, from Venice to Buenos Aires** in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Featuring Village Players leader Destiny Ann Mermagen alongside soloists Michael Mermagen and Dr. Elisa Bickers in a concert showcasing local Village Players youth.
- May 8 – Mother's Day; 7 p.m. **"Hold Fast to Dreams" Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir**, Mission Campus Sanctuary

## GOOD NEWS

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

APRIL 6, 2022  
Vol. 60, No. 4

### A FEW WORDS FROM VILLAGE GIVING

We churchgoers sometimes tend to take a lot for granted. We assume that all of the things we love about Village will always be there. We're sure that:

We can always expect thought-provoking sermons

We'll hear glorious music

Our kids will be taught important values by dedicated teachers

Classes will stretch our minds

We will continue to cherish the love we receive from one another

While it's not likely that Village will fade away, we need to be realistic. We need to remember that it all depends on us. All we love about Village doesn't happen magically.

Thank you so much for working hard in many ways to nurture our community of faith—giving generously of your time, talent and resources. All together we are Village Being Village.



### 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**.

### IN MEMORY

Rodney "Rod" Hill

Charma Lind

Grace Lubben

Paula McCullough

Jim Neihart

Barbara Wagner