



**VILLAGE  
CHURCH**

Presbyterian (USA)

# GOOD NEWS

The Village Church Good News is published quarterly 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).

## Village Church Food Pantry & Clothes Closet Marks 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in November

The Village Church Food Pantry and Clothes Closet will be marking 25 years of ministry and mission this fall. Plans are being made to honor those with the vision to begin serving neighbors in need and to celebrate the volunteers who have served the Pantry over those 25 years. There are five of the original group of volunteers who still volunteer regularly at the Pantry & Clothes Closet: Shirley Martin, Barb Nettles, David Lillard, Vicki Ensz and Bill Plant. Here are some of their memories.

In 1994, Village Church purchased the property with the old school building at 9900 Mission Road owned by the University of Kansas. Shirley Martin recalls how the Village Church Food Pantry began. "Overland Park Church of Christ came to the Village Community Concerns Committee and said they could no longer support a food pantry, and would we be interested? That committee recommended to go ahead and try, knowing full well that all we had was an old building in bad condition at 99th and Mission, but they felt they could make it work. So, we did. It was a lot of work. But we had great people to work with."

Barb Nettles remembers, "Carol Wagner gave a Minute for Mission during worship and said, 'We're so excited. We're going start a food pantry!' People's first reaction was: Why? And she said, 'Come and see if it might be something you're interested in.' Her enthusiasm was what sold me."



The five original volunteers who still volunteer regularly. L to R, Shirley Martin, Barb Nettles, David Lillard, Vicki Ensz and Bill Plant.

David Lillard, who does carry out, shares, "I got involved in setting up the facility in the old school. We had to make a place to bring food in. Remember the school was below grade, so we had to have conveyors and had to put in a big rolling door. Then when we got started with the pantry, it was logical to stick around."

The Village Church Food Pantry began its operation on Nov. 2, 1998. The state-of-the-art Tillotson Building, which houses the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet, opened in 2008. Barb, who has

worked at the front desk says, "Having been here this long, I have seen a lot of volunteers come and go. It's been a joy to have every one of them. They're all committed. They're all dedicated."

Vicki Ensz, who works in the Clothes Closet, said, "It's a nice community out here. Everybody really wants to show hospitality. We all feel truly fortunate that we can serve the community in this way."

Shirley remembers one particular pantry shopper. "She was 30 or 35 and was crying—hated the fact that she had to be here, but she was going to be graduating from school soon and just needed a little boost because she didn't have any food. And her back hurt so bad she could hardly walk. She was so eternally grateful that I'll never forget her as long as I live, because she was so upset that she had to come to a pantry for food. We have a lot of that. But that's what we're here for."

Bill Plant does carry out. He remembers one woman he assisted. "She seemed upbeat. Sometimes they're downcast. We got her food in the car, and she says, 'I won't be back anymore. I get a job next week.' She was beaming. That's the ultimate goal. In a utopian world, we'd be out of business."

The need to support our neighbors who are food insecure has not diminished, notes Food Pantry director Dennis Cobb. "For the first six months of 2023, the average number of households served per month has increased by over 15% from the monthly average in 2022."

Dennis is so grateful for our 170 pantry volunteers. "We have two full-time staff people, and we would need eight more full-time staff to make up for the time that the volunteers give to the pantry. I've also loved how the community has opened itself up to the pantry because at least half of our volunteers are not connected to Village Church. It might be a friend of somebody who is at Village, who has brought their friend to volunteer here, or other people who have just seen the pantry and have heard about it after being here for 25 years. I took the job with some trepidation wondering if I was going to have sufficient volunteers. And it turns out that I have more than enough.

Knowing it's not hard to recruit volunteers has freed me up to do some other things, like looking into the idea of updating the processes with a new electronic database. We're entering a new program this fall with a nearby elementary school, Apache Elementary in Overland

Park. We're helping them get a pantry started in the school. We're also looking at a delivery system. One of the biggest problems that people have in terms of needing food is that they don't have transportation to get here. They either don't have a car or don't have the money to buy the gas to get here. We're looking at a way of addressing that need through a program with DoorDash and hope to be able to start doing that this fall."

When asked why he has continued to serve as a pantry volunteer for 25 years, Bill said, "I feel that those of us who have been blessed, have had good lives without major speed bumps, have a responsibility to give back. That's the core of it."

Vicki Ensz shared, "I often wonder, if the tables were turned and I was in a situation like that, how would I cope? To have a community that cares enough and sees them rather than just being dismissive and not present, I think that's a nice gift we can give."

Barb Nettles wants the Village congregation to know what a difference the Food Pantry has made in so many people's lives—both neighbors and volunteers. "I feel good every time I come in. And every time I leave, I think, 'Well that was a morning well spent.'"

Plans are in the works to give you the opportunity to sponsor a Food Pantry DoorDash delivery. We'll be sharing more information about that and how the pantry plans to commemorate 25 years of ministry in the coming weeks.

## 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 neighbors as possible have a Thanksgiving meal to celebrate the holiday and the chance to make new memories. Your \$40 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 mailed to the Pantry at 9960 Mission Road, Overland Park, KS 66207. Or make a donation online at [villagepres.org/thanksgiving](http://villagepres.org/thanksgiving). Thank you for your support!

## Home Delivered Meals Program Now at the Antioch Campus

Thanks to Village Church member Chas Vincent's leadership, the Antioch Campus has formed a Meals on Wheels (now called Home Delivered Meals) team that is delivering meals to homebound folks in the central Blue Valley area on Mondays.

## What Does it Mean for Village to be a “Matthew 25” Church?

Village Church is proud to now be a Matthew 25 congregation, joining 1,130 other PC(USA) congregations worldwide. At its May meeting, the Village Church Session voted unanimously to partner with the denomination and committed to involvement with anti-poverty, racial justice and church-vitalizing ministries. This movement was created by the General Assembly of the PC(USA) with the mission to create a loving and just world while being committed to self-reflection. The vote was brought to Session by the Building Beloved Community Committee. Pam Wood, committee member, said, “By joining forces with other Matthew 25 congregations, we strengthen the work of the PC(USA). We can learn from the activities of other congregations through the sharing of their stories and utilizing existing resources.”

Much of the work in the initiative is consistent with Village’s vision and mission work from the beginning. Wood shares, “Village is already doing so much that qualifies as ‘caring for the least of these.’ When [we] presented the recommendation to Session, elders came up with more than 35 ways Village is already fulfilling the mission of Matthew 25.” She says she also imagines partnering with local organizations already doing the good work of serving the least of these. A rededication to the movement’s priorities helps push Village forward to continue to do the work outlined in Matthew 25:31-46.

Building Beloved Community’s vision is to help the church build the beloved community of Jesus where justice and righteousness are joined together for all peoples everywhere. Obtaining the designation of being a Matthew 25 congregation is just the beginning for the committee. Amelia Howard, Building Beloved Community committee member, says, “Looking forward, we plan to do a robust review of the amazing activities our church does that work toward the three initiatives in the Matthew 25 movement: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty.

We want to meet with committee leaders, church staff and congregation members to see how we can expand our efforts and continue to make Village an inclusive and proactive community for all.”

Wood leaves us with this challenge, “Village Church is the most generous congregation I’ve ever been involved with—and we can do more.”



## How to Get Involved in the Building Beloved Community Committee

The committee typically meets from 12:30-2:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month in Room 132 at the Mission Campus and is always open to new members. Contact Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka at [rodger.nishioka@villagepres.org](mailto:rodger.nishioka@villagepres.org) if you are interested in joining or drop in and attend a meeting to start.

## Building Beloved Community Plans a Human Rights Pilgrimage to Alabama in October 2024

This is an educational journey to better understand the deep history of racism in our country and ways to dismantle it. Get more details about this pilgrimage, learn more about the Building Beloved Community Committee and being a Matthew 25 Church at [villagepres.org/beloved-community](http://villagepres.org/beloved-community).

## Your Annual Giving Dollars at Work: 2023 Village Church Signature Mission

The Mission & Engagement Ministry and Mission Committee are proud to announce the 2023 Village Church Signature Mission recipients, Cherith Brook Catholic Worker and Care Beyond the Boulevard.

underserved populations of Kansas City outside the bounds of traditional health care settings. In doing so, they have become a force for health care equality and social change.



**Cherith Brook's Elders Circle, the core leadership team for the community**

Their partnership began during the pandemic. Cherith Brook founder Rev. Eric Garbison said, "We are proud of the fact that we stayed open during the pandemic. When most services in our community closed, we adapted, making sure our hospitality was safe and available for all. This was the beginning of our partnership with Care Beyond the Boulevard. Over time, our relationship has grown."

Together, they share a storefront space in the Historic Northeast neighborhood of Kansas City, Missouri, that needs renovation. Additionally, Care Beyond the Boulevard is purchasing a new mobile clinic that will increase the number of

people they are able to serve in the community. The \$80,000 Signature Mission grant will support much-needed improvements to the storefront,

This is the first time in 14 years of Signature Mission history that Village has elected to support a partnership between two organizations instead of a single entity. The Mission Committee embraces the partnership as a living example of the Matthew 25 vision that Village has adopted through the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Cherith Brook Catholic Worker is a residential Christian community of hospitality, faith and activism welcoming and advocating for those marginalized due to homelessness, systemic poverty and racism. They offer many services to guests including hot showers, healthy meals, clothing, toiletries, laundry, groceries, haircuts, ID vouchers and more. They are an active part of the Catholic Worker Movement founded by Dorothy Day.

Care Beyond the Boulevard provides high-quality medical and mental health care to those experiencing homelessness and other



**Cherith Brook community participating in a Stand Up KC action for workers' rights**

café space and medical clinic and will contribute to the purchase of a new mobile clinic.

What makes this partnership unique is their distinct approach to the Matthew 25 initiative through their commitment to dismantling racism, eradicating poverty and building community.

Becky Anderson, the Signature Mission Subcommittee chair, stated, "When we visited (each organization), we felt we were seeing the Matthew 25 parable as Christ intended. They graciously open their doors to those who are hungry, thirsty, sick or in need of a friend."

Guests and patients are treated with dignity at Cherith Brook and Care Beyond the Boulevard.



**Cherith Brook guests getting free haircuts from local professionals**



Rev. Garbison shared, "As a mutual-aid community, we are most authentic when our guests are invited into the work and decision making, sharing their gifts, time and talents. We dismantle the distinction between host and guest."

Care Beyond the Boulevard founder Jaynell "KK" Assmann and Rev. Garbison celebrate and embrace this opportunity to partner with Village Church. They share the same vision for the grant: "With the improved space, we hope to deepen our relationship, grow our commitment to the community we serve, and call forth more leadership among those directly impacted by poverty."



**Care Beyond the Boulevard's mobile clinic**



**Kansas Missouri  
Mental Health  
Collaborative  
Has a New Name  
and Hires First  
Clinical Director**

As the Kansas Missouri Mental Health Collaborative leadership prepared to launch services later this fall, they recognized the need for a name that better captured its vision and mission, as well as the spirit of the community it serves. After careful consideration, the decision was made to adopt the name Prairie Sky Counseling Center.

The new name reflects a holistic approach to mental health counseling to help individuals expand their horizons and find hope and healing. The Counseling Center received First Decision Mission Legacy Grants from the Village Church Endowment Trust and was incubated through Village Church Pastoral Care & Counseling. The initial office space is at the Village Church Antioch Campus. The vision is to expand to many more locations around town with in-house counselors at least one day a week.

"I am thrilled we made the decision to root our new name in the unique geography of our community," said executive director Jen Wewers. "The name Prairie Sky Counseling Center embraces the unity of mind, body and spirit. It encapsulates our mission to help individuals navigate life's challenges through expanding their horizons, fostering healing and cultivating resilience. We want to nurture that expansive sense of possibility in our clients and the wider community."

On July 5, Prairie Sky welcomed Brittany Talley as clinical director. "Brittany's extensive experience in

individual counseling, clinical supervision, programming and dedication to improving access to high-quality mental health counseling make her an invaluable asset as Prairie Sky's first clinical director," shared Jen.

Throughout her career, Brittany has focused on empowering children, adolescents and young adults. She is an enthusiastic advocate for children and adolescents of color, guiding them in exploring race, privilege, representation and identity. She has expertise in supporting individuals who have experienced or witnessed interpersonal violence. Her commitment to creating a safe and inclusive environment fosters positive self-discovery for her clients. Brittany co-founded Color Collective

KC, an online directory of therapists of color in Kansas City, alongside Megh Chakrabarti, LMSW, showcasing her entrepreneurial spirit.

Brittany earned her master's degree in counseling and guidance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her training in Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TFCBT) and the Attachment, Self-Regulation and Competency (ARC) Model further enhance her ability to address her clients' unique needs. Jen adds, "From the moment I met Brittany, I knew she was the clinical leader we needed. Her strong clinical and program administration background, warmth and creativity make her the perfect fit for us."

**Interested in accessing counseling services? Email [hello@prairieskycc.org](mailto:hello@prairieskycc.org) or call 913-214-2857.**



**Brittany Talley**

**How to Learn More about Prairie Sky Counseling Center**

Tune in to KCUR 89.3 FM at 9 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 18, when Steve Kraske will interview Jen and Brittany on Up to Date. A “Why Village Matters” video about Prairie Sky will be shown in worship at the Mission Campus on Sunday, Sept. 24. Visit with the Center’s staff and board members following worship. The video will be shown in 9:30 a.m. worship at the Antioch Campus on Sunday, Oct. 1, followed by a Prairie Sky Counseling Center Open House and Ribbon Cutting.

Learn more about Prairie Sky Counseling Center at [prairieskycc.org](http://prairieskycc.org).

**Mental Health Awareness Week is Oct. 1-7**

When Village Church members Alice and Al Eidson began their journey that has led to Prairie Sky Counseling Center, they wanted to be a force for reducing the stigma that still exists about mental illness. As a result, we focus on highlighting mental health awareness initiatives like Mental Illness Awareness Week Oct. 1-7, which is sponsored by the National Association of Mental Illness, better known as NAMI. In 1978, NAMI started as a grassroots organization primarily composed of parents with children who struggled with schizophrenia. They have grown into one the largest nonprofits that advocates, educates and raises public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives. Jen Wewers says, “At Prairie Sky we want to make sure that we are always raising awareness and reducing stigma.”

**Home Communion Now Available for Homebound Church Members**

On Aug. 6, when The Lord’s Supper was celebrated in worship, you may have noticed baskets on the Communion Table alongside the bread, juice, candles and serving trays. Village Church deacons used the baskets to deliver Home Communion after the service to our homebound church members—those who cannot physically attend worship.

These kits contain very special items. In addition to the bread and juice, the baskets were handcrafted from jute and recycled cotton saris by artisans of Dhaka Handicrafts which provides fair wages in rural Bangladesh. And Village Church Mission Sewing contributed the gorgeous handmade table runners.

Upcoming 2023 Home Communion Dates: Oct. 1 and Dec. 3. Email [hillary.mackowski@villagepres.org](mailto:hillary.mackowski@villagepres.org) for more information.



## Fall 2023 Village U Classes for Church & Community

What is it that we believe? How do we build empathy for others? Why is White Christian Nationalism growing? What is so special about the Earth? How do we understand and accept transgender children? How can we see the Bible through art? These questions and more frame this fall's Christian Life classes in our Village U adult course offerings. For the second year, Village Church has teamed with William Jewell College's Center for Faith and Culture. Together, we are offering eight courses, two here at Village Church and six others at Country Club Christian Church, Community Christian Church, Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral and Second Baptist Church in Liberty, Missouri. The two courses taught here are "Divine in the Details: Poetry as Contemplation" taught by Dr. Ruth Williams, associate professor of English at William Jewell College, and "Acts of the Apostles: Growing the Early Church" by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka.

In addition to the Christian Life classes, there are courses in art and leisure, children and family, environment, health and wellness, life skills and literature for a total of nearly 40 classes. Child care is provided for a number of these classes. **Visit [villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes](http://villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes) for more information and to register.**

### Art & Leisure:

**Boomerangs**, Judy Bliss, 10 a.m.-noon Tuesdays, year-round, Room 307

**The Pointer Sisters (Needlepoint)**, Janice Gill, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, year-round, Room 132

**Continuing Watercolor**, Ed Harper & Bill Yates, 1-3 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 20-Dec. 20, Rooms 232/233

**Blue Valley Quilters Guild**, Ibby Rollert, 9 a.m. first Tuesday each month, Fellowship Hall, Antioch Campus

**Drawing Class**, Kim Higgins, 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 3-Nov. 14, Room 232

### Children & Family:

**Monday Handworks, Walk/Jog and Work from Village Monday**, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays, Sept. 18-Dec. 11, Room 127 and Village Cup

**Parents' Night Out**, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, Drop-off in nursery

**Wednesday Handworks and Work from Village Wednesday**, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 20-Dec. 13, Room 133 and Village Cup

**Friday Parent Break**, 9:30-11:45 a.m. Fridays, Sept. 22-Dec. 15, Drop-off in nursery

**Parents' Night Out at Village on Antioch**, 6-8:30 p.m. Fridays, Oct. 6, Dec. 1, Antioch Campus

### Christian Life:

**Especially for Women**, Rev. Diane Quaintance, retired Village pastor, 9:30-11 a.m. Fridays, Sept. 8-Dec. 22, Room 126

**What Do We Believe? Creeds and Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**, Rev. Tom Are, Jr., Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, and Rev. Anna Owens, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 20-Oct. 25, Rooms 132/133 (Revs. Are and Nishioka) or 6:30-8 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 21-Oct. 26, Antioch Campus, Fellowship Hall (Rev. Owens)

**Men's Breakfast & Bible with Tom Are, Jr.**, 8-9 a.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 3-Nov. 14, Room 228 (Friendship Hall East)

**Divine in the Details: Poetry as Contemplation**, Dr. Ruth Williams, associate professor of English, William Jewell College, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 4-25, Room 127

**"What Kind of Christianity" Book Study Groups**, Study group one, Elizabeth Doyle, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Thursdays, Oct. 5, 19, and 26, Room 127, and Study group two, Jim Marshall, 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 10-24, Room 127

**"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman" (Lev 18:22): Christianity and Sexual Diversity**, Biagio Mazza, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mondays, Oct. 30-Nov. 20, Room 133

**Acts of the Apostles: Growing the Early Church**, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29, Rooms 132/133

**Saint John's Bible - Hospitality, Transformation, Justice for All God's People**, Rev. Peter DeVeau and Rev. Dr. Robert Johnson, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29, Room 126



**From Devotional to Hymnbook: Exploring the Book of Psalms**, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 10-11 a.m. Thursdays, Nov. 2-30, via Zoom only

**Emmanuel: God with Us... From the Manger to the Temple**, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Dec. 6 & 13, Rooms 132/133

### Environment:

**Climate Change Update: Big Changes Coming**, Chick Keller, 7-8:30 p.m. Mondays, Sept. 18, 25 and Oct. 2, Room 232

### Health & Wellness:

**Adult Exercise**, Margaret Tlappek, 9-10 a.m. Mondays-Fridays, Room 333

**Beginner Hula Hooping & Hoop Dancing Fitness Class**, Sirena Beyer, 5:45-6:45 p.m. Third Tuesdays and every Thursday, Room 333

**Essentrics – Apprentice Exercise Class**, Elizabeth Doyle, 10:15-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays, Room 333

**Intro to Tai Chi Fundamentals**, Kimberly Bland, 5-5:45 p.m. Wednesdays, Sep. 20-Dec. 13, Room 14

**Tai Chi Fundamentals**, Kimberly Bland, 5-5:45 p.m. Mondays, Sep. 18-Dec. 11, Room 14

### Informational:

**First Wednesdays Coffee & Conversation**, Ginger Rothhaas, and facilitated by Brooke Brundige, 10-11 a.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6, Rooms 307/309

### Life Skills:

**Beginning Spanish: Español Para Todos**, Joni Kimsey, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays, year-round, Room 124

**Connecting a Smart Device to a Smart TV**, Dee Couch, 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, Tillotson Building Conference Room, 9960 Mission Road

**Locating and Organizing Files, Folders and Pictures on an Apple Computer**, Dee Couch, 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26, and 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, Tillotson Building Conference Room, 9960 Mission Rd.

**Basic Apple Computer**, Dee Couch, 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, Tillotson Building Conference Room, 9960 Mission Rd.

**Intermediate Apple Computer**, Dee Couch, 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, and 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, Tillotson Building Conference Room, 9960 Mission Rd.

### Literature:

**Great Books Discussion**, Jane Abildgaard & Joni Kimsey, 2-3:30 p.m. First Tuesday of each month, Room 127

## 2023 Village Connect Focuses on the Gospel of Mark

This fall begins a new year for Village Connect groups. Village Connect groups are small groups of adults who meet once a month to share their lives with one another and to study a passage of scripture from the Bible. Some groups meet in homes while others meet at the church. Each gathering invites group members to build relationships with one another and to grow in their faith and faithfulness.

## VILLAGE CONNECT

Small Group Ministries

The study this year is titled "If I Could See What You See." Rev. Tom Are, Jr. invites groups to read chapters 8-10 in the Gospel of Mark. In these chapters, Jesus opens the eyes of his disciples to the truth of who he is and to the truth of who they are. The Gospel of Mark is the earliest of the four gospels and Tom's favorite. Tom has recorded nine brief videos, one for each session. Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka has written a study guide for each of the small group sessions. When each Village Connect group meets, they will view the video segment and learn about the background of the scripture passage and then discuss a series of questions. Meetings last anywhere from an hour to two hours.

Village Church is a big place. The goal of the Village Connect groups is to provide a way for church members and friends to grow deeper in their relationships and in their understanding of the Bible. Several Village Connect groups are eager to welcome new members. Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka leads a Village Connect group that meets from 6:30-8 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month October-May at the church. Email [dionne.boyice@villagepres.org](mailto:dionne.boyice@villagepres.org) for more information.

## That's Asking a Lot!

When anyone is ordained—as a pastor, elder or deacon—they are asked to make a series of promises. They are big promises. It would be hard to utter these promises in the quiet of one's prayers, much less in the presence of the gathered worshiping community, except, these promises say less about us than they do about God. In this sermon series, preached by co-pastors Rev. Tom Are, Jr. and Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, we will use the promises as springboards into exploring what these statements tell us about God.

Sept. 10 - Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior and acknowledge him Lord of all...? – Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Sept. 17 - Do you accept the Scriptures to be the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ? – Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Sept. 24 - Will you seek to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination and love? – Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

Oct. 1 - Will you promise to further the peace, unity and purity of the Church? – Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

Oct. 8 - Will you be instructed and led by the confessions? – Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

Oct. 15 - Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry? – Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

## Giving Season Preaching Series

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." John 3:16

Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will preach a sermon series titled "The Giving Season" Oct. 22-Nov. 12. As the leaves start to turn, we begin to look to our Thanksgiving celebrations in November when we gather with family and friends to give thanks for God's gifts. The sermon series will remind us that God is the one who gives first and in response to that incredible gift of love in Jesus Christ, we are invited to give back to God and one another. This fall, we will remember and celebrate the giving season that lasts not just for a few months but for our whole life long!

## CARNAVAL DOMINICANO

### Support and Celebrate the DRMP (Dominican Republic Medical Partnership)

We are thrilled to bring back the Dominican Republic Medical Partnership (DRMP) annual dinner and fundraiser at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Lodge at Ironwoods (147th Street and Mission Road). The DRMP has not been able to host an in-person event since 2019. Your support allows the DRMP to provide free health care, surgeries and education services to approximately 3,500 low-resource men, women and children living in the D.R. each year.

We are moving the event to a new Leawood location, the Lodge at Ironwoods, which offers an outdoor gathering area, room for 300 guests and plenty of parking. DJ Leonightus, one of KC's top DJ artists, will keep the dance floor buzzing. Our special guest from the D.R., Sandy Yan Meristal (Wilkin) of Light A Candle Foundation, will perform a couple of his recent Dominican hits. Dinner will be catered by Empanada Madness, a local Latin American restaurant which is known to be a favorite of Kansas City Royals catcher, Salvador Perez. Perez, a native of Venezuela, was one of the restaurant's first customers and is considered part of their family. Your ticket will include dinner and drinks.

The 2023 theme is Carnaval Dominicano! Attendees are encouraged to wear colorful cocktail attire. You can meet past trip participants, DRMP health care providers and the pioneers who started this nonprofit in the mid-1990s. There will be games, auction items, and other ways to support the DRMP's goal of working alongside our brothers and sisters to help sugarcane cutters and their families break free from the cycle of poverty. Become a DRMP sponsor or purchase tickets at [villagepres.org/cd](http://villagepres.org/cd).

## SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### September

**September is Peanut Butter Month for the Food Pantry.** Please bring jars of peanut butter (18 oz. plastic jars) any (or all!) Sundays in September

Sept. 3 – Rev. Zach Walker is preaching. Note: No child care due to the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Sept. 5 – 9 a.m. **Fall Village U Registration opens** at [villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes](https://villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes)

Sept. 6 – 9 a.m. **Youth Ski Trip Registration opens** at [villagepresyouth.org/ski-trip](https://villagepresyouth.org/ski-trip)

Sept. 8 – 7-9 a.m. **Rise & Shine Front Porch Alliance Breakfast** at Grand Street Café. This annual fundraiser supports Front Porch Alliance's work across Eastside Kansas City, Missouri. Register at [frontporchalliance.org](https://frontporchalliance.org).

Sept. 10 – 10 a.m.-11 a.m. **Ministry Fair** in Friendship Hall; 11 a.m.-1 p.m. **Fall Festival at Antioch**; 5:30-7:30 p.m. **Food Truck Festival at Mission**

Sept. 14 – 12:15 p.m. **2nd Thursday Recital featuring violinist Elizabeth Suh Lane**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Free admission.

Sept. 16 – 9-10:30 a.m. **PW Fall Kickoff**, Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. Community leaders will discuss faith when we face difficult and uncertain circumstances in our lives and in our world. Register at [villagepres.org/pw](https://villagepres.org/pw) by Sept. 11. Continental breakfast is included. Child care is available. Email [stephaniemorrison132@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniemorrison132@gmail.com) with questions.; 6-10 p.m. Carnival Dominicano/DRMP fundraiser, Lodge at Ironwoods.

Sept. 17 – **Village Kids Lighthouse resumes; Congregational Meeting** - in the Sanctuaries at both campuses immediately following the 9 a.m. worship service at the Mission Campus and the 9:30 a.m. worship service at the Antioch Campus; 3 p.m. **Te Deum Chamber Choir presents Truer Words**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Purchase tickets at [te-deum.org](https://te-deum.org)

Sept. 20 – 5-6 p.m. **Wednesday Family Dinners resume** in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. The cost is \$9 for adults and \$4 for children. Purchase online by noon on Mondays at [villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners](https://villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners) or call Karen at 913-262-4200.

Sept. 21 – 1-3:30 p.m. **Classic Citizens Celebration** in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. Or join online at [villagepres.org/online](https://villagepres.org/online).

Sept. 24 – 3 p.m. **Organist Doug O'Neill presents benefit recital for the choir school at Christ the King Catholic Church** in Wyandotte County, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Free admission with donations accepted.

### October

Oct. 1 – **World Communion Sunday**

Oct. 8 – 7 p.m. **Kansas City Wind Symphony concert**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Free admission.

Oct. 12 – 12:15 p.m. **2nd Thursday Recital, featuring harpist Tabitha Reist-Steiner and soprano Alyssa Toepfer**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Free admission.

Oct. 21 – 7:30 p.m. **VOCES8** concert, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Join Friends of Chamber Music and acclaimed British vocal ensemble VOCES8 for a magical concert featuring music from the Renaissance through modern day. Tickets are available at [chambermusic.org](https://chambermusic.org).

Oct. 24 – noon-6 p.m. **Blood Drive** in Rooms 132 & 133-Mission Campus. Sign up at [donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/zip](https://donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/zip) and enter the zip code 66208 and Oct. 24. Walk-ins are also welcome. Contact Ann Colston at 913-461-1791 for more info.

Oct. 28 – 4:30-6 p.m. **Youth Ministry's Trunk or Treat**, south parking lot-Mission Campus

Oct. 29 – 3 p.m. **KCKCC Chamber Choir presents Missa Lucis**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. The ensemble presents a jazz mass composed by Justin Binek, featuring vocal soloists, rhythm section, saxophone and choir, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Free admission; 6-8 p.m. **Be the Church Service Night**, immediately following the 5 p.m. Gathering service. Bring the whole family for pizza and an evening of giving back. RSVP at [bit.ly/2023bethethechurch](https://bit.ly/2023bethethechurch).

### November

Nov. 5 – **Be the Church Service Day at the Antioch Campus**

Nov. 9 – 12:15 p.m. **2nd Thursday Recital featuring baritone and Antioch Campus music director, Cameron Rolling**. Mission Campus Sanctuary. Free admission.

Nov. 12 – **Commitment Sunday** – bring your annual pledge cards to church

Nov. 19 – Baptism Sunday – **Guest Preacher Rev. Owen Gray**; 7 p.m. **Kansas City Wind Symphony concert**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Free admission.

Nov. 23-24 – Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 26 – **Guest Preacher Rev. Caroline Barnettt at Mission and Rev. Molly Ramsey at Antioch**

Get more event information at [villagepres.org/upcoming-events](https://villagepres.org/upcoming-events).

## GOOD NEWS

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### GIVING

#### Why We Give – The Sewings

In the early 1960s Dr. Bob Meneilly and my father, Donald Sewing, partnered with many others to fight against unjust housing laws, racism, housing discrimination, poverty and unequal educational opportunities. In 1966, we moved to Fairway. Dr. Bob extended the invitation for our family to join Village Presbyterian. I have been a member ever since. In 1998, my wife Jackie and I were married here at Village Church.

**Village is special to us because...** at Village Church, we have the ability to filter out the negativity and division of our world and focus on the following: (Quotes from Dr. Bob's books):

*Be of good cheer.*

*Be humble minded.*

*Enjoy being hungry and thirsty to serve others.*

*Be sincere.*

*Be forgiving.*

*Happy is he who trusts in the Lord.*

We are the church of mission on Mission Road. We are unified as one with Christ to pull through God's work in our neighborhood, our community and all over the world. At Village, we are providing uplifting charity, spiritual motivation and leadership to those we serve. We have created an inclusive environment that positively celebrates diversity. At Village, we welcome all.

**It is important for us to give because...** of the multiple opportunities Village presents. Jackie and I have had the honor of collaborating and serving God and community with members of Village Church, which includes our Village Connect group, serving on Session, deacon board, Front Porch Alliance, mentoring, reading at Faxon Elementary, Food Pantry, Operation Breakthrough, Crosslines, United Community Services, as well as delivering meals, flowers and Easter lilies.

### IN MEMORY

Joan Benson  
Barbara Bevan  
Norma Brockhouse  
William 'Chris' Cox  
Frances Dean  
Mary 'Susan' Donaghue  
E.W. Eldred  
Rowena Flanagan  
Darla Hajinian  
Pam Hanson  
Marjorie Hubbard  
Ken Jackson  
Joanne Lane  
Phylas Lose  
Judy McEachen  
Phil Piatt  
Shirley Peters  
Linda Purcell  
Mary Ellen Purucker  
Joanne Rootes  
June Sayles  
John Seymour  
William 'Foster' Tidwell  
Charlene Walsh  
Gayle Ward  
Joseph 'Joe' Wolfe