



**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.

Good Vibrations at Village Church

Have you noticed something wonderful happening at Village Church? More people are returning to church. One place that's especially evident is in our choirs. Will Breytspraak, director of music ministry at the Mission Campus says, "I've seen dozens of 'reunion moments' in the Village Choir. These are times when someone returns to choir after years away from friends, and they hug and smile. It's as powerful as those great airport reunions you see or the prodigal son—not that anyone has done anything bad—just a reunion of joy that somehow eclipses the time and life lost in the overflowing love that is felt."

Will says something feels different this fall compared to last fall. "I see that people are no longer taking all of this for granted. Music, and a music family, are sacred gifts from God. It's changed the way we connect, adding depth and presence. But it has also affected our ability to sing in a heartfelt, deeply spiritual way. We sing now like our lives depend on it."

"Increasingly, I am having conversations with those not ready to come back. You can tell they feel the pull of the choir family and the draw of the uniquely unconditional love that is Jesus' church and Village Church. It's palpable when you talk to several people who are inevitably coming back."

Dr. Elisa Bickers, associate director of music, has noticed these good vibrations reverberating through the music ensembles she leads. "It's wonderful to be back to 'regular' bell music with the Village Ringers," said Elisa.



"At the start of the pandemic, we played music that allowed us to be well apart from one another, not sharing bells. It was a neat challenge to figure out how to safely ring together, but it's great to be back at our typical setup in the handbell room, playing literature that fully uses each player's skills."

"The Alegría group is working on some great anthems for worship, plus exciting pieces for Tidings of Joy. We're excited to continue exploring this new phase of the group's format, with the rehearsal and singing schedule being such that even the busiest adults can hopefully carve out some time to make choral music in church."

"Last year, I felt the constant tummy-butterflies that come with making musical plans that may have to bend and flex (or cancel!) with whatever unforeseeable challenge the pandemic would bring. I was in open



and constant dialogue with the musicians in my ensembles, and they really helped me figure out how to proceed forward in such a time, in ways that kept everybody

safe and encouraged. We weathered that tough season together, and now I can feel the energy that they have to dive into our music-making with more confidence, now that we know so much more



Continued

about the virus and how to protect ourselves. There's absolutely nothing like the church members of Village Pres to make me feel like things are going to be okay. The greatest encouragement, pep talks, love and advice come from those good folks. I'm blessed to be part of this community."

Dr. Josh Maize, associate director of music, is delighted to begin a new season of music and fellowship with the three ensembles

he leads: More Love Chorale, Morning Bells and Village Voices.

"We have some wonderful events, services and new music ahead!



There's a general feeling of excitement about being back together in a way that feels 'pre-pandemic.' I'm sensing folks are ready to return to the choirs and ensembles in a way that feels normal again. I also think everyone involved is even more engaged in connecting with one another. We were always checking in to see how people were doing during the pandemic, especially those who were ill. One of the results of that level of care was the building of relationships, which I think is continuing to grow even as we return to more relaxed in-person activities."

Josh shares, "I'm also excited to see that Village Church is committed to taking risks and investing in new ideas and projects with the goal of reaching more people. I think this demonstrates a strong desire by the church to engage the wider community and to nurture stronger personal connections within the congregation."

Our children's music ministry program has started back up again after a two-year hiatus. **Jenny Hull**, coordinator of children's music, said, "I am so excited to be singing



with the children again in the Morning Stars Choirs. It has been too long since we've heard their voices every week!

In addition, we have expanded our musical offerings for children and have more ways for them to get involved and be a part of the church's musical family."

"Over the past couple of years, we have looked for new ways to stay involved with our youngest church friends—and in the process, have grown our Morning Stars program, which is truly exciting. Being able to talk to people face-to-face and welcoming them back in-person makes all the difference in the world. Last week I was walking around each of the Sunday morning classrooms, talking with children about joining us. In each room, someone would speak up and share with the other children about how much fun they had singing in church, being in costume in the musical or getting the chance to ring handbells—they were building excitement and recruiting their friends. I absolutely loved it."

What gives Jenny hope through all these challenging times? "I love that Village Church sees the promise and importance of our youngest church members. They are the future of the church, and providing them with the opportunities to lead ministry at this early age gives them a sense of belonging that will carry them through their youth. Having a place where they are accepted, loved and allowed to express themselves is so important; I am proud that Village Church values our children in that way!"

Destiny Ann Mermagen, our instrumental music coordinator, is pleased to share that Village Players



has grown leaps and bounds. "I'm most excited by the initiative players feel to create their own music and offerings. I'm always looking to match players and repertoire together, but



I've noticed a real enthusiasm for each member taking matters into their own hands and coming up with marvelous ideas. The most profound thing a leader can do is to inspire others to become their own leaders. As for Village Players Youth, the level has risen incredibly; we're offering a season of top-notch, famous works performed at a highly professional level.

You would never know there are students among the pros."

Community among the church-going and concert-going crowd is what has kept Destiny going through these challenging times. "They genuinely care for one another and want what's best for each other. They show up at concerts and participate in the Good Word of our artistic offering. For musicians, these concerts are our way of offering up ourselves to God. And it's nice that other people want to be there to support them. These concerts/offerings are our own form of the sermons that you're used to hearing voiced on Sunday mornings."

Cameron Rolling, director of music ministry at the Antioch Campus, is most excited about two things:



The first being growth. "During my time as director of music [since December of 2021], both the chancel and handbell choirs have grown in

numbers, which makes me excited about the growth to come. Secondly, I am in the process of putting together a Messiah Sing-along at the church this Christmas season that will feature our own choir, our section leaders, chamber instruments, as well as anyone who wants to sing the chorus parts."

"We have two additional concerts coming up at Antioch: EncoreKC! performs at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20, and the Rebound! Handbell Ensemble is performing at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10. EncoreKC!'s artistic guests will be with the Youth Choir of Kansas City under the leadership of Ryan Main."

Cameron shared, "Leading this amazing group of people has been such a joy. I am glad the necessary measures are being taken to keep us going safely. Antioch is comprised of so many people including the singers, the ringers, the members and my fellow staff who make my job easy. It is also such a privilege and joy to have

Dr. Jan Kraybill as my 'partner in crime.'"

The entire music ministry team invites you to come and/or participate.



See the full list of upcoming concerts at villagepres.org/music. Learn more about our choirs and instrumental ensembles at villagepres.org/music-ensembles. Elisa Bickers said, "There is a way to make music at Village for absolutely anyone who wants to do so. Whatever your age, training, strength of faith or challenge of doubt... please come be a part of music ministry here. We would all be delighted to meet you and help you find your spot in the Chancel."

Don't Miss Duke Ellington's Sacred Service at Village Church

Featuring Lothar Krist's Hannover Big Band Jazz Orchestra, Village Church & Kansas City, Kansas Community College Choirs - 7:30 p.m. Oct. 22 & 23 - Mission Campus Sanctuary

Hear this lively work with soprano and bass soloists, tap dancing, singing and the world-renowned Hannover Big Band. This is the Hannover Big Band's first time to Kansas City. Their October visit is part of a Sister City jazz exchange program between the cities of Hannover, Germany and Kansas City. Tickets are \$25 and available at villagepres.org/music. All proceeds go directly to offset travel costs for the Hannover Big Band.



STAFF UPDATES



A Promotion for Dan Goodloe

Dan Goodloe has been promoted from custodian to assistant director of facilities. Dan has been a member of the Village Church custodial staff for 29 years. One of his roles is educating Jamie Rollheiser, the new director of facilities, about our buildings, our schedule of events and how our facility folks support worship and the many events that we host throughout the year. Congratulations, Dan!

Rev. Tim Soule named interim site pastor at the Village Church Antioch Campus

Rev. Tim Soule is our new temporary site pastor leading worship every Sunday, providing pastoral care and working with the Antioch Campus staff during the week. Tim recently retired as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Leavenworth, Kansas.

Tim is a graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. He has served churches and was in ministry in Conrad, Iowa; Sacramento and Red Bluff, California; and Hutchinson, Ottawa and Leavenworth, Kansas.



Welcome Faith Fields, design & communications coordinator for youth and young adults

Faith was born and raised in Lee's Summit, Missouri. She graduated from Hannibal LaGrange University in 2021 with a bachelor's degree in public relations communications. Currently she is working on a master's in strategic and organizational leadership through Fresno Pacific University. Prior to Village Church, she worked as an operations and student care worker at Fresno Pacific University. Faith was in California for a year to play soccer and start on her master's. "I am excited to be here at Village and look forward to creating a culture for youth ministries."



Hallie Dugan, new lead barista

Hallie was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri. She graduated from Bishop Miege High School and has 20 credits left for an associates degree in general studies at Metropolitan Community College. She loves to sing, dance, do cross-stitch and needlepoint, camp, fish, visit historic places, ghost hunt; and she, of course, loves coffee! "I am so happy to be a part of the Village Cup and can't wait to make your coffee drink in the future," she says.

SAVE THE DATE

Visiting Scholar 2023

Please mark your calendars for Friday, March 3, and Saturday, March 4, 2023, when our Meneilly Visiting Scholar will be Dr. Haley Jacob, associate professor of theology and theology department chair at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington.

Dr. Jacob received her Ph.D. from the University of St. Andrews, is the author of "Conformed to the Image of His Son: Reconsidering Paul's Theology of Glory in Romans" (2018), and was named one of the top new female theologians by Christianity Today in 2018. She is widely traveled and brings a diverse background to her studies. We hope you will join us in welcoming her in March.





Spread the Message: Be Just. Be Kind. Be Humble.

Village Church is partnering with Church of the Resurrection and other churches in the KC Metro area for the “BE” Campaign this fall. The “BE” campaign calls you to take action!

- Stand up, speak out and act in places of inequity, ensuring the vulnerable are treated fairly.
- Practice intentional acts of kindness and compassion daily.
- Cultivate the habit of humility through respect, listening and empathy.

Help yourself to a yard sign or sticker in the Narthex and the north and south reception desks at the Mission Campus or in the office at the Antioch Campus. Learn more about the “BE” Campaign at becampaign.org.

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

The Good That is Ours to Do Oct. 23-Nov. 13

There was a time when the church was convinced that we would conquer the world. Maybe whoever Luke was who wrote the book of Acts had such a confidence. Western Christianity certainly did as recently as 100 years ago. But we are different now. We know that, in our time, there are more conversations about the church’s irrelevance. While we, at Village, are blessed with remarkable strengths, we know that we often feel that our strength can seldom match the demands and needs of the world in which we live. The gift of such a position is that it reminds us of our dependence on God. We choose to do the good that is ours to do and see what God will do with that.

Mental Illness Awareness

Each year, millions of Americans face the reality of living with a mental health condition. Mental illness affects everyone directly or indirectly through interaction with families, friends and coworkers. If you or a loved one lives with mental illness, you are not alone—we work, love, perform, create, compete, laugh and inspire every day. During the first week of October, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and supporters across the country raise awareness and fight discrimination through Mental Illness Awareness Week. Village Church invites you to be in prayer for all of God's children who deal with mental health issues.

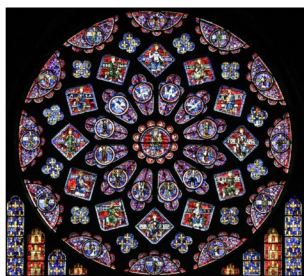
Did you know?

- 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year
- 1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year
- 1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year

Anxiety disorders are the most prevalent—19% of U.S. adults live with anxiety. Depression is the second most prevalent at 8% of adults in the U.S.

Pastoral Care & Counseling at Village Church is here for you. We are partnering with the Kansas Missouri Mental Health Collaborative (KMMHC) to get affordable, accessible mental health care to more people in the Kansas City Metro. We offer weekly support groups for widowers and a Growing Through Grief class, which is offered four times per year. Pastors are available to pray with you when you are hospitalized, as well as meet one-on-one. Stephen Ministers are lay persons trained to offer Christ-centered, confidential care during challenging life circumstances. Our volunteers make phone calls, send cards and repurpose flowers for church members who could use a touch of beauty during a difficult time. If you would like to know more about any of these ministries, visit villagepres.org/pastoralcare or call the office at 913-671-2327. We are with you, wherever you are.

Mandala Making: Grounding Your Story in Word, Color and Image



Mandala making is a meditative practice that invites you into deeper conversation with yourself. It is a way to allow the unconscious to communicate your desires, places that need healing, purpose and insights. It is also a self-care process that creates a place of calm and rightness in the midst of life's busyness. "Creating mandalas is a calming practice I've used in my own life, at retreats, with entrepreneurs, and with middle and high school students," says Jen Wewers, executive director of the Kansas Missouri Mental Health Collaborative, who is co-teaching this Village U class at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 25, with Rev. Melanie Hardison.

A mandala, which is Sanskrit for "circle," is a design believed to represent different aspects of the universe and/or self and can be used as an instrument of meditation, prayer and self-discovery. Mandalas can be found in all ancient cultures. In Christian art, mandalas are seen in frescos, mosaics and stained glass—for example, the ornate round Rose windows of Chartres Cathedral in Chartres, France.

But mandala making has humble origins and requires no prior experience with art. "When children first begin to draw, they most often begin with circles and spirals," says Jen. The trend of adult coloring has made it cool to doodle and color. Using Susan Fincher's book, "Creating Mandalas," participants will also explore a series of questions to uncover the meaning of their mandala. Carl Jung, the Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, said, "I sketched every morning in a notebook a small circular drawing, a mandala, which seemed to correspond to my inner situation at the time... Only gradually did I discover what the mandala really is: the Self, the wholeness of the personality, which if all goes well, is harmonious."

Jen likens the process to contemplative prayer which cultivates stillness and receptivity. "When you sit in silence with an open heart, there is a fresh opportunity to understand how the Spirit may be leading or speaking to you," she says. Sign up for this and other Village U classes at villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes.

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF CLASSES & EVENTS

- Oct. 4, 11, 18 & 25 & Nov. 1 – **Men's Breakfast and Bible with Rev. Tom Are, Jr.** – 8-9 a.m. Tuesdays, Room 228
- Oct. 9 – **Be the Church Service Night** – 6 p.m. at the Mission Campus. Worship at any of our services and return at 6 p.m. for dinner and hands-on service projects, or worship at 5 p.m. with the Gathering and stay to eat and serve. All projects are appropriate for all ages. Sign up at VPCTheGathering.org/serve.
- Oct. 11 – **Village U Class: How to Set up and Use a Smart Home** – Taught by Tony Liu, 1-2:30 p.m. & 6:30-8 p.m., Room 316
- Oct. 12, 19 & 26 – **Village U Class: Power, Tyranny and the Biblical Response** – Taught by Dr. Brendon Benz, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Wednesdays, in Room 126
- Oct. 12, 19 & 26 – **Village U Class: Great Religious Figures of the 20th century: Niebuhr, Heschel, Thurman, Day** – Taught by Gus Breystspraak, Ph.D., 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Room 127
- Oct. 13 – **2nd Thursday Recital with pianist Sihao Qin**, 12:15-12:45 p.m. in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Presented by Park University. Free admission.
- Oct. 18 – **Village U Class: Locating and Organizing Files, Folders and Pictures on an Apple Computer** – Taught by Dee Couch, 1-2:30 p.m. & 6:30-8 p.m. Room 316
- Oct. 19 – **Village U Class: Make Learning Fun for Young Children** – Taught by Marilyn Pattison, 6:30-8 p.m. Room 230
- Oct. 19, 26 & Nov. 2 – **Village U Class: Reboot for Intentional Living** – Led by Ginger Rothhaas and Brooke Brundige, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Room 309
- Oct. 22 & 23 – **Duke Ellington Sacred Service featuring Lothar Krist's Hannover Big Band Jazz Orchestra**, Village Church and Kansas City Kansas Community College Choirs and Soloists, 7:30 p.m. in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Tickets are \$25 at villagepres.org/music.
- Oct. 25 – **Community Blood Drive**, noon-6 p.m., Rooms 132 & 133-Mission Campus
Village U Class: Intermediate Apple Computer – Taught by Dee Couch, 1-2:30 p.m. & 6:30-8 p.m., Room 316
- Oct. 25 – **Village U Classes: Card Kit Class** – Led by Pam Wood, 10 a.m.-noon, Room 126
Mandala Making: Grounding Your Story in Word, Color and Image – Led by Jen Wewers and Rev. Melanie Hardison, 6:30-8 p.m. Room 132
- Oct. 29 – **Village Youth's Trunk or Treat**, 4:30-6 p.m. in the Mission Campus south parking lot
- Oct. 29 & 30 – **FEAST 2.0 Retreat** – 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 29-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 30, Conception Abbey, Conception, Missouri. Need some quiet time for reflection? Need some time for yourself? Need time to feel the presence of God? Want to continue or deepen your spiritual journey? If so, please join us for a retreat at Conception Abbey for a time of personal growth and contemplation with the Sacred. Cost is \$50. Contact laura.hobbs@villagepres.org with questions and to register.
- Oct. 31 – **Village U Class: Climate Change, Earth Care & Village Church** – Taught by Chick Keller, 7-8 p.m., Room 133



GOOD NEWS

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VILLAGE GIVING

Making a planned gift is not just for those who have wealth or special financial expertise but for anyone with a generous heart. As members and friends of Village Church, we share a deep sense of gratitude for those who have gone before us. They gave gifts to fund current needs and for the long-term benefit of those who would follow them in ministry.

Your legacy gift to the Village Church Endowment Trust ensures the continued vitality of Village Church from one generation to the next. While a planned gift brings a sense of fulfillment to our own lives, it may also provide financial benefits to the donor, including tax savings, reduced capital gains and estate taxes and release from financial management.

To get started on your will or estate plan, contact your attorney, accountant, trust officer, life insurance professional or investment officer. Contact Bob Sperry at 913-671-2325 or bob.sperry@villagepres.org with any questions you may have or to let him know that you have remembered Village Church in your estate plans.



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

Gail Acuff
Richard 'Dick' Campbell
Rita Cooper
Suzanne Levine
Susan Lord
Robert 'Bob' Philippi
Dana Tanner
Dan Veglahn