

### Village U Fall 2016 Classes Offer a Wide Variety of Intriguing Topics

Did you know that an ancient stone tablet found near the Dead Sea has the potential to “shake our basic view of Christianity?”

Did you know that Hamilton, the Broadway show that just won the Tony award for best musical, is filled with Christian themes?

Do you wonder why so many young adults are not finding faith and meaning in the Church?

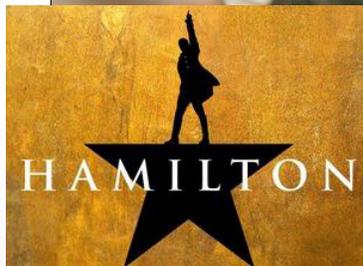
Do you struggle with how to live your Christian faith in your office?

Do you know how Rabbinic teachings influenced and shaped the teachings of Jesus?

Excitement is building for the fall as we prepare to launch our latest offerings of Village U Adult Classes. Among the new first-time classes are:

“Gabriel’s Revelation” in September taught by the Rev. Dwight Tawney, about an ancient tablet authored by the archangel Gabriel who appears in the Book of Daniel and the Gospel of Luke. The tablet also features descriptions of the suffering Messiah.

“Finding the Face of God in Art: *Hamilton* and *Rent*” in December taught by the Rev. Len Carrell, which will explore these two iconic Broadway shows and how they each speak to Christian theological themes and understandings.



“Where Have All the Young Adults Gone?” in November co-taught by the Rev. Hallie Hottle and Dr. Rodger Nishioka, explores who young adults are and why so few of them are finding meaning in the Church today.

“Real Ethics for the Workplace” in October taught by Charles “Chick” Keller, a business executive at Sprint and professor of management at KU. Keller will help persons know how to make the right decision in the midst of tough situations at the office.

“Wisdom for Living the Good Life from the *Pirkei Avot*” in October taught by Rabbi Jacques Cukierkorn. Rabbi Cukierkorn will help us see how wisdom teachings compiled by

Rabbis from the Jewish Mishnaic tradition influenced the teachings of Jesus and speak to our lives today as followers of Christ.

Join us for an exciting fall as these courses and many others help to

shape our journeys as faithful followers of God. All are welcome. All Village U courses are free, although some courses include a small fee for supplies and/or transportation. See the catalog online at <http://www.villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes.html>.

### Food Pantry

The hot days of July are upon us and with heat and sweating in mind, the Food Pantry is asking for donations of bar soap, deodorant, shampoo, sunscreen, insect repellent, etc.

The Clothes Closet is thinking along the same lines: summer clothing in all sizes is needed - there are a lot of hot days ahead - clean, gently used and sized. Also needed are towels and washcloths and bed linens. Drop-off hours for the Clothes Closet are listed on the back page of this *Good News*.

During your busy summer, it is appreciated that you take the time to remember those less fortunate.

### Village Church Meals on Wheels Team Delivers Hot Food and a Warm Smile

Since 2002, Johnson County Meals on Wheels has been delivering nutritious meals to home bound, elderly and those with disabilities and their spouses, ages 60 years and older, helping them stay independent, healthy and safe at home. Currently the program serves 550 individuals each day.

Village Church has a team of volunteers including Jean Branit, Chas Vincent, Hal and Linda Lee and Leslie Conrad who deliver meals every Friday. Each volunteer signs up for one Friday a month and if a conflict arises with their regular delivery date, it is usually easy to trade dates with another team member. Volunteers deliver meals between 10:45 a.m. and noon.

"I really enjoy supporting this vital service in our community," shares Village Church volunteer Leslie Conrad. "I have found that being part of this team is a perfect way to provide a consistent commitment to the program."

Currently, the program has a need for volunteers. If you would be interested in joining the Village Church Meals on Wheels team, contact Leslie Conrad at 913-341-2734 or [conradleslie@aol.com](mailto:conradleslie@aol.com).



### Words of Thanks from Operation Breakthrough

Rev. Tom Are and Deborah White, our director of mission, received a thank you letter from Mary Esselman, Operation Breakthrough, CEO, regarding our \$30,000 signature mission gift for their new Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) lab that opened in late May. We'd like to share it with you.

*Dear Deborah and Rev. Are,*

*On behalf of Operation Breakthrough, please extend our heartfelt thanks to Village Church's Signature Mission and Endowment Fund committee members for their hearty enthusiasm and generous support of our new STEM lab. The \$14,107 grant from the Signature Mission fund and the \$15,893 grant from the Endowment Fund came at a perfect time! The Lab is now up and running... One student is already working on an animation video (of a dog sneezing) and a storyboard using virtual Legos, complete with animated sequences of the building process. Others have been busy building windmills, a 4-ft tower and various characters and structures with real Legos. And there are now two small robots roving the area. As Damon, one of our school-age students, said as he was showing me the projects he was working on, "The possibilities are endless!"*

*Of course, it's just the kind of excitement for learning that we hoped the STEM lab would inspire. We can't thank you enough for helping to make it possible. We look forward to a time this summer when you and others from the congregation can come see it in action.*

*In gratitude,  
Mary Esselman  
Chief Executive Officer*

## Front Porch Alliance Seeking PAL Mentors

One of Front Porch Alliance's signature programs, Partners in Active Learning, or PALS, is looking for mentors for students at the Faxon Elementary School, a low-performing school in the Kansas City Public School District. Faxon is at the corner of Linwood and Paseo, just east of the Main Street Costco.

PALS typically work with two children on reading and math skills for half an hour each, one day a week. Faxon is expecting 200 new students this year, meaning we need many more PALS to join our current team of 80 volunteers.

A Village Church PAL sums up why he mentors:



*One of my students began the year as a very quiet kid with a tough demeanor. He is now much more outwardly happy and has improved his work and attitude. He recently successfully*

*completed his application to become a VIP. (Applications for this honor need to be signed by all teachers.) His teacher believes this is in direct correlation to the PAL program. If once a week can make that kind of difference, why wouldn't you do it? These kids face a tough road. Education is the key to social mobility. It benefits everyone to better these students' chances.*

If you would like to know more about the PAL Program, please contact Charlotte Davison at 913-648-6045 or [charlotteSdavison@gmail.com](mailto:charlotteSdavison@gmail.com).

## Front Porch Alliance Seeking Silent Auction Items for Porch Swing Fundraising Gala

Our friends at Front Porch Alliance are excited about the annual Porch Swing event, *Swinging the Night Away*. Many volunteers are hard at work.

We are asking for your support of Front Porch Alliance with an auction donation for our benefit fundraiser, Porch Swing 2016. It will be held on Friday, Sept. 16, at the historic City Market and will feature a supper buffet, drinks, silent and live auctions and musical entertainment by the legendary Ida McBeth.

For more information about Front Porch Alliance or to purchase tickets for Porch Swing, visit us online at [www.frontporchalliance.org](http://www.frontporchalliance.org). Thank you!

Save The Date . . . Sept 16



**Swing**  
the Night Away  
*Under The Stars*

At Kansas City's historic city market...

Featuring supper buffet, drinks, silent and live auctions and musical entertainment by the legendary **Ida McBeth**

6:30 - 9:30

## A Backstage Report on the 222nd General Assembly of the PC (USA)

Kathy Lueckert, director of finance and administrative services for Village Church, also serves as tracker for the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Below we see her backstage office at the 222nd General Assembly in Portland, Oregon June 18-25. Kathy's job was editing and inputting all motions from the floor for display on the screens in the plenary hall, so commissioners could see what they were voting on.



**Kathy Lueckert shared this historic moment from General Assembly on June 22 - Spontaneous singing of *We Shall Overcome* after Belhar was added to PC(USA)'s Book of Confessions.**

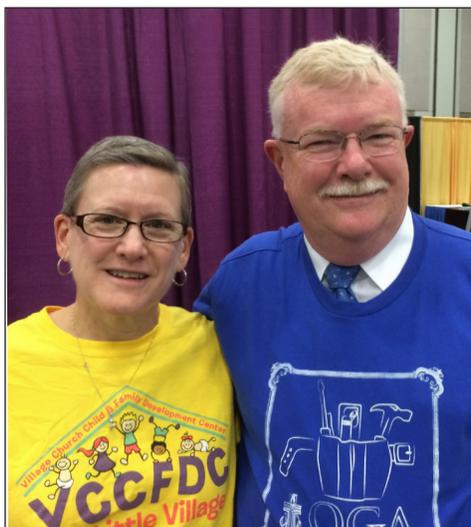
Kathy shares this behind-the-scenes report:

The 222nd General Assembly of the PC(USA) concluded its work on June 25. The Assembly elected Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston as co-moderators, approved the inclusion of the Confession of Belhar in our Book of Confessions (the first confession coming from the global south, it directly addresses issues of racial discrimination), and elected J. Herbert Nelson as the first African American stated clerk. The Assembly also approved new child protection policies, steered a moderate course on fossil fuel divestment, continued to support a two-state solution in the Middle East and many other actions.

Village Church received a shout out for your amazing hospitality to the Stated Clerk Nomination Committee earlier this year. And Village's own Jessie Light and Owen Gray both spoke at the microphones during plenary sessions.



**J. Herbert Nelson, the newly elected stated clerk of the PC(USA), is sworn in at the 22nd General Assembly.**



**Kathy Lueckert with Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons for mission tee shirt day at the General Assembly.**

## Ryan Main Named Interim Music Director

Ryan Main is a composer, director and educator. He has worked with children, youth and adults. For the past seven years, he has been director of choirs at Van Horn High School and Nowlin Middle School in Independence, Mo. His choirs earn regular superior ratings and were recently honored with a performance at the American Choral Director's Association southwest regional conference. Under his leadership, both choir programs have grown by hundreds of students.

Ryan has also served as the director of music at two congregations.

"I am so thrilled to begin working at Village," said Ryan. "To the members of the choir, I am profoundly grateful to join you in music ministry, and eager to serve you. To the staff and members of Village Presbyterian Church, thank you for the warmest of welcomes, I am proud to call Village home."

Ryan holds a Master's of Music in Music Composition and a Master's of Music in Music Education from the prestigious Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University, where he studied with Michael Hersch and Kevin Puts. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Composition from the University of Missouri - Kansas City's Conservatory of Music and Dance.

Ryan is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, the Missouri Choral Directors Association, the National Association for Music Education and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

Welcome to Village, Ryan!



## A Village Symphony of Well Wishes for Mark Ball

Friendship Hall was packed as we said our final goodbyes to Mark Ball at a reception in his honor on Sunday, July 10. Mark was visibly touched by all the music, lovely parting gifts and many kind words celebrating his 15 years of service as director of Music Ministry at Village Church.

Before his last service at Village, Mark gave a mini sermon to the choir, reminding them that change is good, and music must go on even when the world is scary because music heals. Many people dabbed their tears away while walking up to the Sanctuary to sing for him one last time.



### Highlights from the 41st Annual Village Church Ice Cream Social

A wonderful crowd of 600 turned out for the 41st Annual Village Church Ice Cream Social on Sunday afternoon, June 26, 2016. It was a very good day filled with a variety of summer treats and fun activities for all ages. The event is sponsored by Connectional Ministries of Village Church.



### SOCIAL WITNESS & ADVOCACY

#### Getting Out the Vote in Kansas!

The Village Church Social Witness & Advocacy Task Force will address questions and distribute information about the Aug. 2 Kansas primary election after the 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sanctuary worship services and the 5 p.m. Gathering service on Sundays, July 24-31, in Friendship Hall. President Franklin D. Roosevelt asserted: "Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting."

### Summer Sunday Hours for Village Nurses

The nurses are available at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday morning in the Bride’s Room. The nurses can answer your health questions and check your blood pressure to make sure it isn’t as high as these Kansas summer temperatures!

### Faith and Grief Lunches Continue

On the first Tuesday of every month, anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one and wishes to connect with others who have traveled the same road are welcome at the Faith and Grief lunch. All participants receive a free lunch and benefit from a short program and conversation around tables led by a trained facilitator. Village is excited to offer this program in partnership with four other local churches - St. Mark’s United Methodist, Second Presbyterian (KCMO), St. Andrew’s Episcopal, and Country Club Christian Church. Join us from noon-1 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Registration is required each time you come – it’s easy to register either online at [faithandgrief.org](http://faithandgrief.org) or by calling 469-251-9612. Upcoming dates include: Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1 and Dec. 6.

### State of the State: Climate & Energy in Kansas 7 p.m. Monday, July 25, in Rooms 126/127



The Environmental Action Committee of Village Church and Earthkeepers of Heartland Presbytery are co-sponsoring a Forum about environmental issues across Kansas. Entitled “State of the State: Climate & Energy in Kansas,” this forum will focus on environmental issues affecting Kansans, such as the Clean Power Plan, renewable energy, energy efficiency, water usage and fracking. Human health and social/environmental justice will also be discussed.

Moderator Rev. Kirk Perucca (pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church) will be joined by four panelists:

- Dorothy Barnett is the executive director of the Climate + Energy Project, a Kansas-based non-profit focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout the Heartland.
- Kristin Riott is executive director of Bridging the Gap, an Al Gore-trained Climate Change spokesperson and a member of Village Church.
- Rep. Dr. Barbara Bollier serves the 25th Kansas District, is a medical doctor, and is a member of Village Church.
- Rep. Stephanie Clayton serves the 19th Kansas District.

This forum is from 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, July 25, in Rooms 126/127 at Village Church. Doors open at 6:40 p.m.

EAC, Earthkeepers, and the moderator will prepare opening questions for the panelists, followed by questions from the audience. Come and learn what citizens can do to make a difference for God’s Planet and God’s People.

**Summer Sunday Adult Bible Study**

**10:45-11:45 a.m. Room 126 & 127 • More than a Summer Picnic: Food for the Journey of Faith**

Come join us as we explore the sermon text for the day based around meals in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Adults of all ages are welcome.

July 24	Luke 14:15-24	Parable of the Great Dinner	Rev. Len Carrell
July 31	Luke 16:19-31	Rich Man and Lazarus	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
Aug. 7	Luke 19:11-10	Jesus and Zaccheaus	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
Aug. 14	Luke 22:14-22	Jesus and Disciples' Last Supper	Dr. Rodger Nishioka
Aug. 21	Luke 24:36-43	Resurrected Jesus Eats with Disciples	Dr. Rodger Nishioka

**Watch for the Fall 2016 Village U Catalog ... Coming Soon!**

The fall 2016 Village U curriculum is a wide umbrella encompassing all our adult learning opportunities in one, easy-to-find location. Village Church is a learning community with a long commitment to providing opportunities for adults – young and older—to grow in knowledge and faith together. A wide spectrum of classes in the areas of Art, Christian Living, Computer, Family Life, Health and Wellness, Leisure and Life Skills will be offered. We hope you will spend some time discovering all that is available.

- Child care will be available for most classes for a one-time \$40 fee per child for the fall term; reservations will be required in advance.
- Some classes will have a small fee for materials and resources; the fees are noted in the class listing.
- You will be able to register online, by telephone, by fax or by email.

Registration for Village U fall 2016 term:

For Village Church members: Registration begins on Monday, Aug. 15.

For community members: Registration begins on Monday, Aug. 22.



**Festival of Faiths Presents *Bingo on the Boulevard*  
July 23-30**

The Kansas City Festival of Faiths is pleased to announce four performances of *Bingo on the Boulevard*. In the play, Troost Avenue -- long KC's line of demarcation - and its neighborhood people come to life at monthly bingo. Then tragedy hits. Inspired by true stories collected in local interviews, the play draws you into everyday worlds of an illegal immigrant, a pastor for social justice, a mentally ill outcast, a female impersonator, and more. It is written by Donna W. Ziegenhorn, author of the popular interfaith play, *The Hindu and the Cowboy*, and presented in the Kansas City Fringe Festival.

Performances are on the Jerome Stage at the Unicorn Theatre (3838 Main) at:

- 6 p.m. Saturday, July 23
- 7:30 p.m. Sunday, July 24
- 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 29
- 4:30 p.m. Saturday, July 30

Tickets (\$10) are on sale at [kcfringe.org](http://kcfringe.org) or at door. You also need a Fringe button, available for \$5 at the door. Your button is required to enter any Fringe program offering and enables the Fringe Festival to operate.



### Softball Across State Lines

6 p.m. Saturday, July 30, (field location TBA). No softball skills necessary (though helpful!) to play with the first ever Village YA Softball Team as we take on Second Pres. KC's Young Adults!

Email [hallie.hottle@villagepres.org](mailto:hallie.hottle@villagepres.org) to sign up!

### August Service Day • 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13

Come do good work with good people at the Cherith Brook Catholic Worker House! There's a chicken coop that needs tending, an orchard that needs grooming, food to be prepared, and houses to clean! This is a local site that helps with emergency housing and food needs of our neighbors in northeast Kansas City, all while living together in intentional community. Children are welcome on this adventure! Address: 3308 E. 12th St., Kansas City, MO.

### Summer Yard Game Olympics • 6-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19

Do you have a rarely celebrated ability to play croquet like no other? Do you throw a mean bocce ball? Here's your time to shine! Come and compete in non-competitive sports, BBQ with friends, and enjoy the end of our first summer season together. Children welcome. Bring your favorite beverages to share! Address: 2009 W. 103rd St., Leawood, KS.



# THE GATHERING

## SUMMER WORSHIP

5 p.m. Sundays in Friendship Hall | June - August

### Surf Shack Vacation Bible School

The surf is up right now at Village Church! All this week kids are catching the wave of God’s amazing love. The key Bible verse for the week is, “Remember that the Lord is great and awesome,” from Nehemiah 4:14.

This year, in addition to collecting items for our favorite mission, the Village Food Pantry, each of the six elementary groups collected items to make hygiene kits for the Food Pantry.

### Traveling Day Camp, July 25-29

The Heartland Center staff returns this summer bringing with them fun and exciting ways to study the Bible through interactive worship, songs, crafts and of course, games! There is still time to register! Follow this link; <http://www.heartlandcamps.org/traveling-day-camp/#forparents>



### Summer is almost at an end

Students who have completed grades K through 5 will continue to meet in Room 203 for a broadly graded class called, “Holy Moly!”



### Creations By Kids

Be sure to check the Village Church Kids Facebook page for pictures from this summer’s 46 Creations By Kids camps!

<https://www.facebook.com/VillageChurchKids/>



Time with the Children at the 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary worship service on Sunday, June 26.

### Village Cup Coffee Shop Summer Vacation

Please mark your calendars. The Village Cup will observe its annual summer break the weeks of July 25-29 and Aug. 1-5. The Cup will be closed M-F these two weeks. We will remain open on Sundays, July 24, 31 and Aug. 7.



# GOOD NEWS

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## VILLAGE COMMITMENT

### “Because of Your Generosity” ...



The Dominican Republic Medical Partnership (DRMP) currently sponsors four medical/surgical teams per year who travel to the Dominican Republic to hold medical clinics, surgical interventions, and more. Their patients are primarily the rural poor, living in the small sugar cane cutting communities surrounding La Romana called “bateys”. This is where the medical clinics take place—in these small, rural villages—usually inside of a school, a church, or in the open air if neither of those are available. DRMP surgical teams, on the other hand, spend their days at The Good Samaritan Hospital inside the city, providing life-altering surgeries for those who could not otherwise afford such care.



VILLAGE  
COMMITMENT

### VPC SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### SUNDAYS

Traditional – 9:30 and 11 a.m.  
In the Sanctuary

The Gathering – 5 p.m.  
In Friendship Hall

Radio Broadcast  
Sundays at 8 a.m. on  
1660 AM KMBZ,  
The Business Channel  
Week-Delayed Broadcast

[www.villagepres.org](http://www.villagepres.org)

### Food Pantry & Clothes Closet Drop-Off Hours

10 a.m.–2:30 p.m. M-F  
9:30–11:30 a.m. Saturday