



**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.

For Such a Time As This

On Saturday, April 1, women will return to Friendship Hall at the Mission Campus to break bread and share stories of faith, fidelity and friendship. The Celebration of Faithful Women did not go away during the pandemic but was charged with becoming adaptable. The event was postponed in 2020. In 2021, we celebrated outdoors in lawn chairs in the south parking lot of the Mission Campus with boxed lunches. In 2022, we gathered indoors in the Sanctuary once again, but without refreshments. This year, the team is planning to return to the event's roots with a 10:30 a.m. gathering that will include a keynote speaker and brunch catered by Chefs Andrea Bradley and Maria Radulescu in Friendship Hall.

Each spring we celebrate the relationships and contributions of Presbyterian women past and present while also raising up a few special ones. In 2023, we will honor Charlotte Davis, Desiree Reinke and Carol Solenberger as the newest Presbyterian Women honorary life members.

Our guest speaker will be Rev. Claudia Aguilar of Park Hill Congregational Church in Denver. Claudia is the sister of Village Church member Elsa Aguilar. Being bilingual, bicultural and binational is part of her call to build bridges among different groups of people. Claudia was born in Sonora, Mexico. She attended Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She has led churches in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Atlanta and Denver.

Rev. Aguilar is interested in ecumenical and interfaith efforts to bring justice and peace to every sentient being. She is a certified yoga instructor and loves



Rev. Claudia Aguilar

music, dogs, cooking and baking. When not working, she is spending time in her garden with her husband Doug and their two dogs, hiking with friends, or trying to replicate authentic Mexican dishes with limited access to ingredients.

Her reflection will be on the story of Esther, "For Such a Time As This." To understand the importance of these six words that Mordecai speaks to the queen, we need to reach deeper into Esther's life. From Esther's history and those around her, we can learn how to faithfully respond to situations of crisis and use the resources that life has given us to help our communities.

Our goodwill beneficiary will be Village Church's Emergency Assistance Fund, which distributes rent and utility help to persons in the KC metro in need, most of whom are women and single mothers. For example, these funds helped keep 31 people safely housed in December 2022 and 24 people this past January.

Register for the Celebration of Faithful Women at villagepres.org/pw. There will also be registration tables at church on Sundays. The cost for the event, including brunch, is \$20. When you register, you can list up to seven people you would like to sit with and indicate if you have any dietary restrictions. Child care will be offered from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (please request child care on your online registration). The deadline for registration is March 22. We look forward to sharing such a time as this with you!

Annual Congregational Meeting Dinner/Potluck Brunch

This year an annual meeting will take place March 14 at the Mission Campus and March 26 at the Antioch Campus. You are welcome to attend at either location. We will provide a review of 2022 and plans for 2023. The Session will present the budget for 2023. Upon recommendation of Session, the congregation will also be invited to call Alice Whitson as associate pastor for Media Ministry.

March 14, Mission Campus – Dinner reservations are closed, but you are welcome to come and attend the meeting, which should begin around 6:45 p.m. in Friendship Hall. Rev. Tom Are will lead the meeting at the Mission Campus.

March 26, Antioch Campus – The meeting begins with a potluck brunch in Fellowship Hall immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 26. Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will lead the meeting at the Antioch Campus. No RSVP is required.

VILLAGE GOLF

Inviting You to Village Church Golf

Did you know that Village Church golfers get together once a month from April to October to enjoy the fellowship of golf? We do and we would love to have you join us on April 11 as we begin the 2023 season!

We play at various public courses around the Kansas City area on the second Tuesday morning of the month unless a different date is required by the golf course. Players are grouped in four player teams based on their handicap to produce equal teams and we follow a scramble format. Each player tees off. The group moves to the best shot, and everyone hits from there. This continues until the group sinks the putt or reaches bogey. Everyone always has a shot that the team uses, and the team records a score most of us only dream about. It is a fun outing for everyone.

Village golf is open to men, women, members, friends from the community and golfers with various skill levels. You can play one month or every month. We choose courses with reasonable green fees and add a small fee to cover nominal cash prizes for the low score teams and a couple sleeves of golf balls for the closest shot to the pin, longest putt and longest drive on designated holes.

Registration is required to ensure your spot and allow us to place you on a team. Watch the weekly eNews and Sunday bulletins on the weeks leading up to the second Tuesday of each month for course details and the last registration date. Registrations are via email to Brad Steil at bradsteil@everestkc.net.



LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Get a Life Walking in Peter's Footsteps

Now-April 9

This Lent, Rev. Tom Are will journey with the Apostle Peter. Peter was the first disciple to be called and among the last to fall away. He had moments of brilliance as well as utter failure. Peter shows us that life is a gift which is both ordinary and a fathomless mystery. It can be as mundane as Monday, but it is also the space in which holiness shows up. The invitation of Jesus, to all he encountered, was to live a particular life. It is a life that God intends for us. Such a life is one that is centered in God and attentive to neighbor. Peter had the courage to follow this invitation and he discovered that Jesus eventually gave his life that we all might get a life... a life that God intends for us.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Meeting Jesus at the Table: Lenten Bible Study with Rev. Tim Soule

6 p.m. Thursdays, Now-April 6
Antioch Campus - Fellowship Hall

Pastor Tim leads this Lenten Bible Study curriculum developed by Cynthia M. Campbell & Christian Coy Fohr. A soup & salad dinner is included. Books are available at the Antioch Campus for \$10 or order an e-book online. Register by calling 913-681-8180 or emailing lisa.harrison@villagepres.org.

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Easter is Coming and So are Easter Lilies

When you make a \$15 donation in memory of a loved one, your gift honors that person and brightens a home-bound member's life with an Easter lily. Visit shop.villagepres.org/pastoral-care-counseling 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 9.

Village Celebrates Women's History Month

In October of 1955, the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A voted in General Assembly to ordain women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.



On Oct. 24, 1956, the Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery in New York ordained **Margaret Towner**, the first woman clergy of the denomination. The text of Towner's ordination charge included the phrase "don't be the pet lamb of the congregation," and she would occasionally be introduced at

presbytery meetings as "our pet lamb."

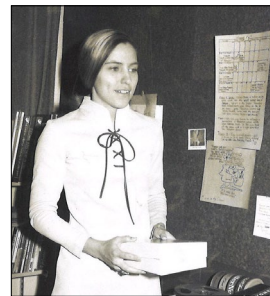
In a 2019 "Presbyterian Outlook" interview, Margaret, then 94, recalled opposition to her ordination from both men and women in the church. She received letters from ministers' wives who worried that women would take jobs away from their husbands and would be willing to be paid less. She also received letters from men who called her to repent and be saved. She chose not to answer those letters or "get into a dialogue with others about their opinions," she said. "I felt that an example of women in ministry would help break down barriers rather than debate."

Source: Presbyterian Historical Society



In 1964, **Phyllis Matchette** became the first woman ever ordained as an elder at Village Presbyterian Church. She graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in journalism. Phyllis and her husband joined Village Church in 1949. In 1965, she became director of

communication at Village Church and served in that capacity for 22 years. She is the author of the book "The Village Church Story" published in 1996. Phyllis passed away in 2010.



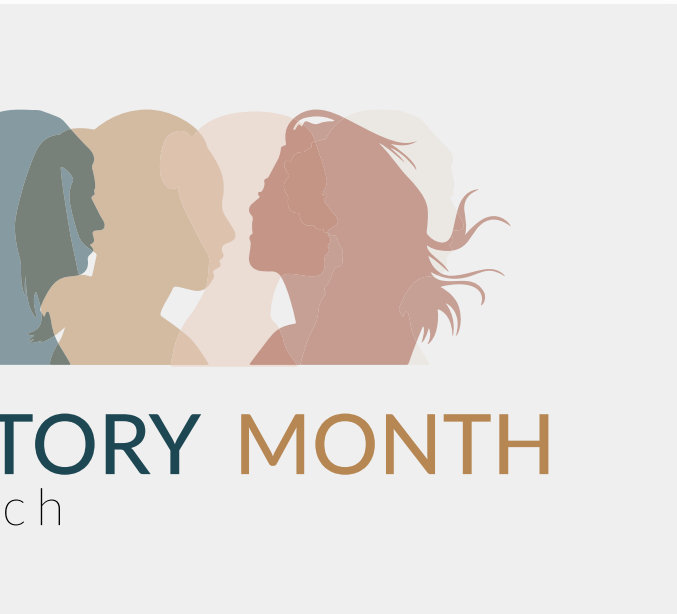
In 1980, **Rena Yocom**, a diaconal minister from the United Methodist Church, was called as minister of Adult Education at Village Church, becoming the first female pastor to serve at Village Church. In 1983, Rena was chosen as one of

22 church leaders to attend the Summit meeting between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.



Jo Taliaferro was the first female from Village Church to attend seminary. Jo grew up at Village along with her sisters Jan Roach and Nancy Cantril. Nancy shared, "My sister Jo and her twin, Jan, were born two months premature. Excessive but lifesaving oxygen given at birth

Women's History Month



caused Jo to develop retrolental fibroplasia. The vessels on her retina constricted and the retina was destroyed."

In "The Village Church Story," author Phyllis Matchette wrote, "From the beginning, 'Be thou my vision, oh Lord of my life,' was Jo's constant prayer." Phyllis wrote, "Gifted beyond sight, Jo had learned 'to handle a handicap without being handicapped.'"

Jo earned her Doctor of Ministry from Union Theological Seminary in 1980. She was called in 1982 to serve as interim minister with Youth and Their Families at Village. She went on to do advanced work in pastoral care. Now a retired pastor, Jo and her husband, Chris, live in Farrington Village, Pittsboro, North Carolina.

"I am a Presbyterian pastor with a love for people, learning new things, playing and doing business on the computer and inclusiveness for all," said Jo. "My guide dog is one of my very best friends as is my husband, Chris. I preach well, participate in church activities (choir, worship and outreach), besides being a good steward of the planet, gardening, finding humor in each day and gratefully accepting life's challenges."



In 1984, **Rev. Diane Cooke** graduated from Union Theological Seminary and was ordained one month later to the Gospel Ministry at Village Church. She was the first ordained Presbyterian female pastor on permanent staff at Village Church. She joined Rev. Mike Vaughn

in ministering to Youth and Their Families. In 1989, she was made Village's minister of Evangelism.

In the decades since, Village Church has been blessed with the leadership and wisdom of several female pastors including, Revs. Diane Quaintance, Sue Dolguist, Jeanie Barnes, Glenda Watts, Meg Peery McLaughlin, Cynthia Holder Rich and Jenny McDevitt.



In the summer of 2022, our three female Village pastors ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), Rev. Melanie Hardison, pastor for pastoral care, Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor for young adult ministry, and Rev. Sally S. Wright, pastor for pastoral care, posed next to the "Jesus trusted women. We do, too" banner at the Mission Campus.

Patti Fishel

"This is my fifth year working with children on Sunday mornings. The Lighthouse energizes me. I light up when greeting my kids, seeing their smiles and gobbling up their hugs. I fondly remember my Sunday School teachers, so now it's my turn to pay it forward. It just makes my heart happy to watch them learn how much God loves them.

When I was growing up, Mrs. Degginger was my third-grade Sunday School teacher. Since that was the year we received our Bibles, she taught us the books of the Bible with songs. She taught us where each book was located and then we had Bible Drills. She would tell us a Bible verse and the first one to find it got a point. We were all so competitive that we would practice at home, or at slumber parties, to get the most points. Mrs. Degginger sent me birthday cards, graduation cards and Christmas cards. Every time I came home, I would go see her. She was in her late seventies, but still teaching Sunday School.

When planning my wedding, I knew that Mrs. Degginger had to be part of my special day. So on Dec. 18, 1976, my beloved Sunday School teacher helped me get dressed for my wedding. We laughed and cried as we recalled our adventures together. I blamed her for having to redo my makeup. When I got my photos, I made sure to send her one helping me getting dressed. Whether I am leading children's choir or Sunday School or now the Lighthouse, my goal is to be someone's Mrs. Degginger."

Contact Brooke Brundige at brooke.brundige@villagepres.org to learn how you can be a part of the Lighthouse and a child's life.



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Summer Village Kids Camps & Programs – coming soon!

The kids haven't even been let out for spring break, but the children's ministry team is already dreaming up big plans for the summer. For 20 years, Village Church has offered incredible summer classes in the children's wing to enrich and delight elementary aged kids. We've hosted Vacation Bible School (VBS) much longer (Debbie Smith says, "forever!") and as well as a thriving Kids Day Out program.

Enroll your little ones in Kids Day Out for arts and crafts, music, storytelling and outdoor fun. The KDO program is for kids ages two (by April 1, 2023) through four. This program is offered on Wednesdays for four weeks, June 7-28, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For the next oldest set, here are some of the classes that Sandra Stephens, director of child care, and her team are planning for your kids: Camping We Will Go (taught by Erin Gustafson) 4s and 5s; Gardens Galore (taught by Mary Van Thullenar) Completed K-1; Creations by Kids (taught by Mary Van Thullenar) Completed K-1; Raining Cats and Dogs (taught by Stacy Higgins) Completed K-1; Bonding Through Board Games (taught by Amy Turpin) Completed K-1. Program fees are \$80 for the 4-day per week classes and \$100 for the 5-day classes.

Family VBS was a huge success last summer, so we plan to bring back another opportunity for intergenerational worship, service, food and fun. Family VBS will be 6-7:30 p.m. on June 7, 21 and 28 in Friendship Hall at the Mission Campus. Family VBS at the Antioch Campus will be from 6-8 p.m. July 10-13.

Jenny Hull, director of children's music, has also created quite a following for her week-long music & drama camp. The performers typically audition on a Sunday, rehearse four afternoons, and then put on a fabulous musical on Friday—complete with an accompanist, sets and costumes. This year they will present "Oh Jonah!" Dates are June 12-16.

Registration opens at 9 a.m. on Monday, March 20. Get details at villagepres.org/summer.

MARCH/APRIL CALENDAR

March 3 & 4 – **Visiting Scholar Dr. Haley Jacob**, associate professor of theology at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. Details at villagepres.org/visiting-scholar

March 7 – noon-1 p.m. **Faith & Grief Support Gathering** in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus

March 8-22 – **Village U Class: Joy Even on Your Worst Days**, taught by Rev. Tom Are from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Rooms 126 & 127

March 9 – 12:15 p.m. **2nd Thursday Recital with Lee's Summit Una Voce**, Mission Campus Sanctuary

March 10 – 7 p.m. **Kansas City Chorale Concert**, Mission Campus Sanctuary

March 11-18 – **Village Youth Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic**

March 12 – **Daylight Saving Time Begins/Spring Forward** 1 hour; Family Worship Sunday (No Lighthouse)

March 13 – **Village U Class: Climate Change: If, When and Where Will Panic Ensnare?**, taught by Chick Keller from 7-8 p.m. in Room 132

March 14 – 6 p.m. **Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Dinner** at the Mission Campus. Dinner reservations have closed but you are welcome to come to the meeting, which begins at 6:45 p.m. in Friendship Hall.

March 17 – 7:30 p.m. **UMKC & Village Choirs present "Considering Matthew Shepard,"** a response to a tragic anti-gay hate crime, with conductor Dr. Jennaya Robison, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Admission is free.

March 18 – **Village U Class: Connecting a Smart Device to a Smart TV**, taught by Dee Couch from 10-11:30 a.m. and from 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, Tillotson Building Conference Room, 9960 Mission Road

March 19 – Baptism Sunday; **Congregational Meeting at the Antioch Campus** following 9:30 a.m. worship.

March 20 – First Day of Spring

March 21 – **Parents' Night Out**, child care department, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Register through Village U

Tibetan Sound Bath & Meditation, 6:30 p.m. at the Antioch Campus. Join Dorothy Tannahill-Moran, certified sound therapist, for a sound bath & meditation. Bring a mat, a blanket and pillow for your comfort. The cost is \$15, payable by Venmo in advance, to @Dorothy-Tannahill-Moran-1, (phone digits: 1657). Call 503-260-1657 or email dorothyfrmkansas@gmail.com with questions.

March 24 – 7 p.m. **Quintet Classics** in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Musicians include violinists Stephanie Chase & Christina Bouey, violist Paul Neubauer, cellists Daniel Veis & Jesse Henkensiefken & pianist Tatiana Tessman. Featuring Schubert's Quintet in C Major, and Brahms' Piano Quintet in F Minor. Free admission with a suggested ticket donation of \$20 kids/military/senior, \$40 general admission.

March 26 – 10:30 a.m. **Congregational Meeting/Brunch** in Fellowship Hall – Antioch Campus;
3 p.m. **Kansas City Wind Symphony Concert**, Mission Campus Sanctuary.

March 29 – **Village U Class: School Days Album**, led by Pam Wood from 6-8 p.m. in Room 232

EARLY APRIL

April 1 – 10:30 a.m. **Celebration of Faithful Women Brunch**, Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. "For Such a Time as This" Guest Speaker: Rev. Claudia Aguilar

April 2 – **Palm Sunday** with Children's Choir, Youth Choir, Village Choir and Brass at the Mission Campus;
Children's Palm Parade during the 9 a.m. service at Mission and the 9:30 a.m. service at Antioch: 10:10-10:45 a.m.

All Ages Easter Egg Hunt in the south playground-Mission Campus

April 4 – noon-1 p.m. **Faith & Grief Support Gathering** in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus

April 5 – 10 a.m. **First Wednesdays Coffee & Conversation** at the Mission Campus

April 6 – 7 p.m. **Maundy Thursday Services** at both campuses

April 7 – 7 p.m. **Good Friday Services** at both campuses

April 9 – **Easter Services** at 8, 9 & 11:15 a.m. & 5 p.m. at the Mission Campus; 9:30 a.m. service at the Antioch Campus

GOOD NEWS

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VILLAGE GIVING

“Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

—2 Corinthians 9:6-7

“Why would I not want to give to my church that is making such a difference in my life, the life of my family, and the lives of so many in the community and around the world? Why wouldn't I believe that supporting Village Church is the best investment in ministries that make a difference? I hope the answer is obvious. You want to make a difference, you want to have an impact, and you want your faith to drive your decisions and be central to who you are. Village Church has very specific needs and your financial support has an enormous influence in meeting those needs. You know that Village is not just Sundays!

We're grateful for your continuing support.”

—Bob Sperry, director of giving and endowment



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

Charles 'Chuck' Hajinian

Estelle Hanna

Margaret "Louise" Line

Margaret Loban

Jane Lyon

Ron Roth

Nan Sunden

Lynda 'Lynn' Thompson