What do inmates who write powerful poetry, women on the Supreme Court, peace-loving Muslims, Pope Francis and butterfly gardeners have in common? All of them will be topics of study and conversation this spring through our Village U courses.

Believing that all of us are called to grow in our faith and faithfulness to God and that study and action are essential to that growth, we welcome another spring term of new courses here at Village Presbyterian Church.

A glance at the new offerings this spring reveals a variety of courses that invite us all to . . .

- Live Jesus’ call to “love your neighbor as you want to be loved” applied to all peoples but in these days, especially with our Muslim sisters and brothers, many of whom are uncertain of how Christians feel toward them.
- Explore the power of poetry as a way for inmates at Lansing Correctional Facility to share their struggles and joys and to live into hope.
- Examine the four women who have served or are currently serving on the United States Supreme Court, their impact on the court and its deliberations.
- Journey through the season of Lent in ways that both draw us in and send us out to be more faithful companions of Jesus as he makes his heartfelt and dreadful journey to the cross.
- Care for the earth as our common home through the moving and powerful words of Pope Francis. In this amazing letter to all the world’s people, the Holy Father reminds us that God expects us to be stewards of God’s wondrous creation.
- Discover what it means to be “Presbyterian” and to understand the ways that our Presbyterian heritage offers unique gifts to the rest of the Christian church and indeed, to the whole world that is so in need of the good news of Jesus Christ.
- Sit at the feet of Jesus as he preaches his first sermon on the mount according to Matthew and his sermon on the plain according to Luke – proof that at least according to Luke, Jesus was really a mid-westerner after all.
- Drive electric as one small yet significant way to make a difference in a world that is suffering from the devastating results of climate change and human abuse.
- Travel to different locations throughout the greater Kansas City area to engage in dialogue with other faithful followers of Jesus who are part of the network of mission sites which Village Presbyterian Church supports and through which we learn how to be more daring and courageous for Jesus Christ.
- Identify ways that individual Village Church members cannot only be more hospitable but especially more active in inviting others to join in our ministries here and beyond our sites at 66th and 99th streets on Mission Road.
- Create a more vibrant and sticky faith in our children so that now and in years to come, their faith in God and their trust in Jesus will grow as they do. This course is focused especially for parents and stepparents and caregivers of children.
- Grow a garden bursting with butterflies and moths and potentially the glorious Monarch butterflies who this spring will make their amazing annual migration back to their summer nesting grounds in Canada. God has ordained spring as a season for growth and renewal. Come grow and renew with us at Village U!

The spring Village U catalog will be available online and in print in early January. Registration for Village Church members begins on Wednesday, Jan. 11 and for community members on Tuesday, Jan. 17.
Thank You for Making Their Apartment a Home

In 2014, Village Presbyterian Church began sponsoring an apartment in conjunction with Hillcrest Transitional Housing offering homeless families, singles and youth a disciplined, educational program with a caring, supportive environment. Unlike many organizations whose focus is one-time or emergency care, Hillcrest’s primary objective is to move clients from homelessness to self-sufficiency within 90 days by addressing the total life situation of the homeless families they serve.

In exchange for rent/utility-free housing, adults are required by written agreement to find full-time employment, obey program guidelines and attend weekly volunteer-taught classes in life skills, employment, community living and budgeting.

In addition to sponsoring an apartment, Village Church provided money to Hillcrest for the purchase of its first four apartments in Johnson County located at 9306 Bluejacket in Overland Park.

Hillcrest of Kansas’ 2016 accomplishments include expanding their Johnson County programs:

• adding another 4-plex to house homeless youth
• building two additional apartments in the basements of the JOCO facilities (making them 5-plexes)
• creating a thrift store at 79th and Quivira (open 2017) which will both provide clothes and home goods for their residents and generate revenue for their programs.

Village has been a strong supporter of Hillcrest this year. In addition to our financial support, Village members provided boxes and boxes of gently used linen and kitchenware.

A big thanks to those who provided loving meals and gifts to the Hillcrest residents during 2016 (apologies if anyone’s name has been omitted):

Yana Beranek        Brandi Pool        Carolyn Wear
Donna Dehn          Sherri Robeson      Mike Whitsitt
Ed Dexter           Marcia Shideler      Marilyn Wineinger
Nancy Gatewood      Lisa Veglahn        Stella Fenn
Laurie Hughes

Food Pantry

Everyone at the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet would like to thank all those who have supported our mission throughout the year. Your donations are what make it possible for us to serve families in need. The Pantry will be open through Friday afternoon, Dec. 23. The building will be closed all the next week so that our volunteers may spend time with family. We will reopen after the Holidays, on Tuesday, Jan. 3. We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.
Weekly Wednesday Church Dinners  
All Are Welcome!

Dine before or after your class. Salad bar opens at 5:15 p.m.; hot food buffet is open 5:30-6:30 p.m. These dinners offer an opportunity for everyone to enjoy a well-balanced, convenient meal. Full meal with salad bar & dessert is $7. Salad bar and dessert is $6. Children ages 3-10 is $3 and children age 2 and under-no charge. Contact Liz Middleton (913-671-2359) or liz.middleton@villagepres.org for reservations by noon Monday.

Menu:
Jan. 11 – Honey Dijon chicken with apples, scalloped potatoes, green vegetable
Jan. 18 – Beef stew, vegetarian stew, mini corn dogs
Jan. 25 – Baked tilapia with caper sauce, baked boneless chicken breast with corn and tomato relish, rice pilaf

Wednesday Night Classes- Village U
For questions or registration, call 913-671-2333 or email marianne.weber@villagepres.org. See class descriptions in the Village U Catalog or at www.villagepres.org.

CL.005 The Jesus Fatwah: Loving Your (Muslim) Neighbor as Yourself, Dr. Gus Breytspraak, 6:30-8 p.m., Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1 & 8, in Room 124
LS.001 January Computer Tech Nights, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Jan. 11, 18 & 25, Room 316.

Gauging Interest for Singles Adult Ministry at Village Church Dinner Friday, Jan. 20

Dear friends,
I have been sharing conversation with Dr. Rodger Nishioka about assessing the need for specific programming for single adults at Village Church. We would like to include you, in this conversation. So, all single adults (age 40 and up), are invited to gather together for a meal at Red Snapper Pan-Asian Restaurant from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20. Three classic Red Snapper menu items (vegetarian, chicken, and beef) will be available for a special cost of $9 per person (payable at the event). The priority for this gathering will be to determine the level of interest for a Single Adult Ministry. Contact liz.middleton@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2359 to RSVP.

Cindy Wilcox,
Director of Connectional Ministry

All-Church Winter Bowling Event Sunday, Jan. 29

Connectional Ministries is sponsoring an “ALL-Church” Bowling Event for our Village Church Family from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, at Ward Parkway Lanes at 89th and Stateline. We have lanes specifically reserved for Village Church at a special rate of $5 per person (includes shoes!) for two hours of play. Indoor fun for all ages in the midst of winter. RSVP to 913-671-2359 or liz.middleton@villagepres.org.
Dr. Rodger Nishioka joined Village Church on Monday, Oct. 3, 2016:

Rodger Nishioka lives in Mission and is the director of Adult Educational Ministries here at Village Church. He enjoys reading and outdoor activities. Rodger joins Village by Letter of Transfer.

New Members who joined Village Church Nov. 13, 2016:


Jessica Baker lives in Overland Park with her husband Logan and sons Jameson and Jacobi. Jessica is a customer service rep and her hobbies include crafts, reading and learning new things. Jessica joins Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Liz Brechbuhler lives in Overland Park and is a mechanical engineer. Liz joins Village by Letter of Transfer.

Amelia Howard lives in Kansas City, and is an athletic advisor for Academic Support for Student Athletes. She enjoys reading, photography and being with friends/family. Amelia joins Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Jean Janecek lives in Overland Park, and is a home-provider and caregiver. She enjoys reading, art, nature, and promoting children’s books and literacy programs. Jean joins Village by Letter of Transfer.

Alison and Andrew Lagerstrom live in Fairway with their children Avery and Graham. Alison is a stay-at-home mom and Andrew is an accountant. They both enjoy working out, craft beer brewing and cooking.

Alison and Andrew join Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Howard and Jennifer Martin live in Westwood Hills. Howard is a retired UMKC professor and enjoys poetry, traveling, exploring art, and spirituality. Jennifer is a consultant for Martin Four and enjoys gardening, music, theatre and reading historical fiction. Howard and Jennifer join Village by Letter of Transfer.

Dale and Marcia Ramsey live in Kansas City. Dale is a retired minister and musician and Marcia is a retired music teacher. Marcia enjoys knitting, cooking, and volunteering in the Grandview schools in their Early Childhood program. Dale and Marcia join Village by Letter of Transfer.

Elisha Schuepbach lives in Fairway with her husband Matt and three sons. She enjoys running, sewing, reading, environmental and political issues, and spending time with her husband and children. Elisha joins Village by Affiliate Membership.

Kylie Southwick lives in Overland Park. She is a self-employed nutritionist and enjoys working out, horseback riding, sewing and being with friends and family. Kylie joins Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Laura Southwick lives in Leawood. She is a dietician with Brighton Gardens and enjoys entertaining, gardening and traveling. Laura joins Village by Letter of Transfer.

Caitlin Southwick lives in Leawood. She is an evening hotel manager and enjoys drawing, traveling, reading, cooking and is a movie buff. Caitlin joins Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Continued
Welcome New Village Church Members

Joe Vaughan lives in Prairie Village. He is an author/publisher and owner/president with Joe Vaughan Associates. He is an avid Royals fan! Joe joins Village by Letter of Transfer.

Matt and Nicole Waldron live in Prairie Village with their daughter Paige. Matt is a physician and enjoys golf, traveling and sports. Nicole is a speech pathologist and enjoys crafts/DIY, reading and traveling. Matt and Nicole join Village by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Advent Sermon Series

The Advent season is a season of waiting. We will wait in lines and we will wait in traffic. That’s part of the season. But the spiritual waiting that we do is different. The waiting we do as people of faith is determined by our hope. And waiting in line is passive, but Christian waiting is active. It takes all you have. So, what are you waiting for? For what do you hope?

Christmas Eve
Christmas Day

Love Came Down
The Christmas Story from Presbyville

Music Ministry

Second Thursday Recital Jan. 12
Featured Artist: Soprano Jee-Yeun Kim

She wowed us with her spectacular solo in O Holy Night in Tidings of Joy on Dec. 18. Please join us at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, in Village Chapel for a 30-minute recital with Village Church soprano intern Jee-Yeun Kim. The program will include works by Samuel Barber, Francis Poulenc, Vincenzo Bellini and Giuseppe Verdi.

Jee-Yeun Kim is a graduate student (D.M.A) in vocal and opera at University of Kansas. Jee-Yeun began her vocal studies at age nine as a member of the Seoul Metropolitan Junior Chorus in her native Korea. She sang with them for 10 years before continuing her studies at the College of Vocal Music at Yonsei University in Korea. During that time, she also pursued voice study in the Summer Master Class program of the Hoschule Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. Following her graduation she began teaching in high school, while also working as a church choir director. After moving to the United States of America, Jee-Yeun started to study again in voice and choral conducting at Pittsburg State University. She was a first place winner in the West Central Region of the National Association of Teachers of Singing in 2012 and a first place winner in the Barry Alexander International Vocal Competition.

She made her Carnegie Hall debut in the winner’s recital for the Barry Alexander International Vocal competition on January 27, 2013. At Pittsburg State University, Jee-Yeun received the Outstanding Student award at the PSU Honors Convocation in Spring 2013 and 2015. She received an “Excellence in Scholarship” award at the Graduate Banquets in Spring 2013, 2014 and 2015. She performed with South East Kansas Symphony Orchestra as a winner of the Concerto Aria competition held in the spring of 2013. Jee-Yeun has had several roles in KU opera productions.

Good News, Dec. 21, 2016
Giving Permission

In elementary school, I had a brief but intense career as a Christmas criminal. My third grade class was scheduled for a field trip to see The Nutcracker at the Fox Theater in downtown Detroit. It was mere days before Christmas break, we didn't have to wear our school uniforms, and there would be hot chocolate afterward. I was nearly delirious with eight-year-old holiday anticipation. My friends and I were in agreement: this would be the Best Day Ever.

There was only one problem: I forgot to get my permission slip signed ahead of time. On the day it was due, I looked down in horror at the blank line where my mother's signature should have been. I grabbed my pen, glanced around furtively, and signed her name with a flourish. Just like that, I gave myself permission to travel with my classmates.

Unfortunately, it's not always that easy. We can't always do it for ourselves. So this Christmas season, the Pastoral Care and Counseling Department is giving you a gift: we're giving you permission.

We're giving you permission to be sad. Holidays can be tough times. Christmas carols insist that this is “the most wonderful time of the year,” but for many people, that just isn't true. After all, a season that emphasizes friends and family can sharpen the ache we feel over a loved one who isn't at the table for Christmas dinner. A season full of angels singing and bells ringing can intensify the silent struggles of our hearts. So hear this: if you aren’t in a celebratory place, that is okay. Whether your grief is brand new or years old, give yourself space to honor your feelings. The Light of the World is coming. Jesus isn't offended by your sadness. After all, he comes to redeem a broken world.

We’re also giving you permission to be happy. This sounds a little silly, doesn’t it? Who needs permission to be happy? You might be surprised. “I feel like it’s not fair for me to be happy,” she said. “When I find myself laughing or enjoying something, I catch myself. How can I be happy when [my husband] isn’t here? It feels like being happy would mean I don’t miss him anymore.” This isn’t an unusual comment. So often, those who are grieving feel as though any spark of joy dishonors their loss or their concern for others’ pain. Know that this is not true. It’s okay to find happiness. It doesn’t lessen your love, your loss, or your concern. It is a reminder of the gospel truth we claim: there is a Light that no amount of darkness can overcome.

We’re giving you permission to be however you are this Christmas season. Christmas is coming. Whether we are happy or sad, delighted or angry, grateful or frustrated, ready or not. Christmas is coming, and Jesus will meet us where we are. That’s what incarnation is all about. And that’s very good news.

—Rev. Jenny McDevitt

Contact your Pastors of Pastoral Care any time:

Rev. Jenny McDevitt     Rev. Len Carrell
913-671-2367      913-671-2347
jenny.mcdevitt@villagepres.org    len.carrell@villagepres.org

Better Communication, Better Relationship, Better New Year!

Your relationship with your partner can be even better with improved communication skills. Couple’s Communication, a four-week series, starts Tuesday, Jan. 3 and will be from 6-8 p.m. in Room 232. We even provide dinner and childcare. Registration is limited to 10 couples; the class fee per couple is $50 and is due by Dec. 27. Please contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

Growing Through Grief – New Series Starts Jan. 11

If you are grieving, consider coming to Growing Through Grief, a five-week class where you can meet others who understand your struggles and be reminded that God is with us through even the hardest of moments. The next series is from 4:30-5:45 p.m. every Wednesday, Jan. 11 – Feb. 8, in Room 124. The series is offered at no cost. Registration is required; contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org for more information or to register.
**Women with Spirit’s Cafe & Crepes, le Tour**

*9:45 a.m. Friday, Jan. 20, at the Roasterie*

It’s been said coffee is a language in itself. So what better way to kick the new year off right than with a warm cup of joe with your sisters from Village?! Join us for a tour as we see, smell and taste how The Roasterie’s won the hearts of KC for nearly 25 years! The Roasterie is located at 1204 W. 27 St. in Kansas City, Mo. Immediately following, around 11 a.m., we’ll head over to Chez Elle, 1713 Summit St., for the perfect pairing . . . crepes! Coffee & Crepes ladies . . . ooh la la, it’s a good thing! See you at The Roasterie! Email Carol Solenberger to RSVP at carol4977@yahoo.com. Child care is available from 9:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For child care reservations, email pam@villagepres.org by Jan. 13.

**WOW Lunch at Tatsu’s**

All ladies are welcome to join WOW (Women of Wisdom) for lunch at Tatsu’s French Restaurant at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 18. Tatsu’s, ranked as one of the top five restaurants in KC, is located at 4603 West 90th in Prairie Village, near 90th and Roe. One of WOW’s favorites, Tatsu’s serves consistently excellent French food, with warm and gracious service, in a quaint, white tablecloth dining room. Come from the warmth of your home to the warmth of WOW, and join us for January fun and fellowship. RSVP by noon Tuesday, Jan. 17, to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com, 913-209-9608.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION**

**Christmas Lights Recycling Drive • Now-Jan. 8**

Now through Jan. 8, please bring your old or broken Christmas lights to Village Church and place them in the barrels that will be located inside the north and south entrances. In addition to keeping lights out of the landfill, this recycling project has the benefit of providing challenging work for over 160 employees with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They remove the light receptacles from the wire and then separate and recycle each component.

Call Gary Tegtmeier at 913-362-8596 with questions.

**VILLAGE CARES FOR GOD’S CREATION**

**Village Earthcare**

Another benefit from L.E.D. lighting? If you install an L.E.D. bulb in a baby’s nursery, expect not to change it until he or she is headed off to college. Look for the Energy Star label on all L.E.D. products.
ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

Upcoming Village U classes include:

The Kings vs. the Shepherds – Last Night Tonight
The gospels of Matthew and Luke tell different stories about the birth of Jesus. The wise men only appear in Matthew and the shepherds only appear in Luke. Why is that? In these three sessions, Dr. Rodger Nishioka will examine both the familiar and perhaps the unfamiliar components of these two stories comparing and contrasting them with one another. Why would the gospel writers differ with one another? How do they contradict one another and how do they complement one another? And what does this have to do with our faith anyway? Come discover what God is revealing to us as we prepare to welcome the incarnation of God in the birth of Jesus once again. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, in Room 127.

God in the Arts: Hamilton and Rent – Last Night Tonight
In this new course, Rev. Len Carrell extends his popular “Finding the Face of God in Art” course from the spring. Hamilton, a Broadway musical that won a record 11 Tony awards this spring, is a story of this nation’s founding fathers told in an urban musical style of hip-hop and rap with the entire cast being of mixed race and ethnic diversity. But before Hamilton there was another little show that took the nation by storm twenty years earlier called Rent. Both have altered the way stage productions are conceived and brought to life. They both address the challenges and the terrors of their time. They take on the issues of inequality, inclusion and community. They face the realities of race and sexuality, addiction and death. And both are richly significant in the language of faith. We will look at each of these shows and the theological marks they have left on our world. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, in Room 132.

NEXT Church 2017 National Gathering To Be In Kansas City

About NEXT Church
NEXT Church is a network of leaders across the Presbyterian Church (USA) who believe the church of the future will be more relational, more diverse, more collaborative, more hopeful and more agile. We provide hopeful space for robust conversations about the theology, culture, and the practice of ministry, to serve as a catalyst for new mission callings, and to support strong leadership in a time of adaptive change. We are fostering a conversation about how to follow Christ in our particular day and age. We are a movement seeking to change the culture of connection in the PC(USA) so that we continue to share faithfully the good news of the gospel in ways that bear fruit in a fractured world.

We host a national gathering each year and then multiple, smaller regional gatherings throughout the year where we carry out these reflective conversations on culture and ministry as well as make and deepen connections in the church. This website provides resources and ideas to spark creativity in ministry.

Learn more at http://nextchurch.net/.
Holiday Schedule for Child Care and Church School

There will be no Sunday School classes on Christmas Sunday or the following Sunday, Jan. 1. This includes all Preschool Church School, Kids’ Kingdom and Club V6 (6th Graders). Classes resume on Sunday, Jan. 8.

There will be no nursery or child care for infants and toddlers on Christmas Sunday, but there will be for New Year’s Day.

Diapers in December

Children & Family Ministry is once again collecting disposable diapers throughout the month of December to benefit the Food Pantry. Last year, your generous donations lasted for more than six months. Let’s beat that! Diaper donations can be left in the crib located in front of the Children’s Library or at any of the Food Pantry drop-off locations.

It’s time to sign-up for Summer Camp!

Camp Heartland is where relationships are made and we believe God changes lives through them. Not sure of your summer schedule? Have no fear! It only takes a $75 deposit ($50 for day camps) and you can change weeks any time at no extra charge. For more information about the various overnight camps and day camps provided by Heartland, go to http://www.heartlandcamps.org/completed-2nd-6th/.

Village Preschool Enrollment

Enrollment for the 2017-18 school year at Village Church Weekday Preschool begins in January! Current preschool families and Village Church members may enroll Jan.17-20. Enrollment opens to community families on Jan. 23. Forms are available on www.villagepres.org. For more information, contact Terri Gaeddert at 913-671-2338.

NEW SERMON SERIES

I know that’s what it says, but that’s not what it means!

The Bible is a complicated book, written over hundreds of years in various context and diverse circumstances. And then, it is read 2,000 years later in a world and culture the Biblical writers could not have imagined. Given all of that, it’s easy to misunderstand the Bible. When it is misunderstood, the good news can often sound like bad news for some folks. When it is misunderstood it can often make the Bible more difficult to trust. In this sermon series, we will take just a few passages that have often been confusing and see if there is a life-giving word for us.

Jan. 1 The Story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation
Jan. 8 “Women Keep Silent?” This Doesn’t Sound Like Good News
Jan. 15 Family Matters and the Cost of Following Jesus
Jan. 22 “Divorce” – Why the Church has Read this Text to the Wrong People
Jan. 29 “You Must be Born Again!”
Feb. 5 “Jesus is the Only Way to Salvation.” This is not about you. This is about God.
Feb. 12 “Be Perfect as Your Heavenly Father is Perfect.” Intimidated yet?
Feb. 19 The Only Safe Place for Hatred
Feb. 26 Pray Without Ceasing

Good News, Dec. 21, 2016
GOOD NEWS: Highlights for the life of your Village Church (ISSN 1542-1090) Published by the Village Presbyterian Church USA monthly
6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, Kansas 66208-1799 Periodicals Postage paid at Kansas City MO POSTMASTER: Send address changes to GOOD NEWS: Highlights for the life of your Village Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208-0050

DECEMBER 21, 2016
Vol. 53, No. 24

VILLAGE COMMITMENT

Time is running out!

If you have not had time to complete your 2017 commitment, please consider doing it now. Everyone's commitment added together, informs the budget committee and the Session on how best to plan for 2017. Please take a moment to help us make 2017 a great year here at Village Church.

• You can go to http://www.villagepres.org/commitment-form.html Just complete the form and submit.

• Another way is to complete the form that was mailed to you and return it in the envelope that was enclosed with the form.

• Finally, if you need help in completing your form, call Molly Sirridge at 913-671-2325. She will be glad to help you.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

VILLAGE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS
Traditional – 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m.
In the Sanctuary
The Gathering – 5 p.m.
In Friendship Hall

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Services
Saturday, Dec. 24 - 5 p.m. Children and Family Worship with music by The Gathering Band
7 & 9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Services
11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Communion Service

Sunday, Dec. 25 - We will have one worship service at 10 a.m. on Christmas Day. Children are encouraged to worship with their families in the Sanctuary.

www.villagepres.org

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