Come Along for a Virtual Road Trip with Village Church this Fall

Your pastors and staff are working hard planning new and innovative opportunities for us to BE THE CHURCH this fall. There is much to look forward to as we worship, serve, connect, grow and care for each another in these extraordinary days. Most of our programming will be virtual. Some will be at the church following Village safety procedures. We invite you to come along with us as we start our journey with Rev. Tom Are’s preaching series “Road Trip.”

Road Trip: A Village Church Sermon Series with Rev. Tom Are
Leaving home is a common hunger. To escape an overbearing parent, to search for a missing loved one, to find excitement, or to find ourselves and live an authentic life. These road trips take a few different forms…some stories are prodigal stories. We leave so that we can come back home again for the first time. A favorite of our time is there is no real destination, the journey is the road. Some are refugee journeys…leaving what you thought was home is search of a place to belong. Starts Sunday, Sept. 13.

Behind the Scenes of Online Worship
Each Sunday you see our Village pastors leading us in online worship, Brooke Latas and Clare Stern-Burbano leading Children's Time, and our Village musicians bringing you beautiful music. We want to introduce you to the faithful hands who have been working diligently behind the scenes these past six months to record, produce and edit the online worship services each Sunday.

The Sanctuary AV Team – Brad Hull, Nathan Bliss and Kirk Patton
From Brad Hull: Kirk, Nathan and I all work together to support the ministry and music teams recording the weekly worship services. Kirk is the audio guru, I do all things lighting, and Nathan and I divide the camera work. Nathan does wonderful things with our cameras! We’ve cross-trained so that the three of us can handle the different disciplines. While shooting, Kirk is monitoring audio levels so everything sounds consistent on the recording, I work to make sure the lighting is consistent and even from shot to shot, and Nathan and I take turns running the cameras, framing up each shot, switching between cameras as the mood and emotion of the service ebbs and flows.
And we all run down from the balcony between the different segments and move pianos/podiums/communion tables to get ready for the next shot. It’s very similar to what you would see in a real live TV studio. In fact we often joke that we’re all working for VPC-TV.

We’ve set up the Sanctuary so that we can quickly change between “sets” as we move through a shooting session. About an hour of prep is needed each week to get ready for the shooting session. For a typical session, we need to shoot takes of Elisa at the organ, then move to the chancel to record music folks performing hymns and anthems. Lastly, we shift to the pulpit area where the clergy record prayers and sermons. All three areas have unique requirements and it takes about 45-60 minutes to shoot each location.

Anything shot at Village on Antioch requires the AV team to pack up audio, lights and cameras and take them to our Antioch location—with the goal being to keep the level of production quality consistent between our two campuses.

Once all of the footage is recorded, those files are handed off to Dr. Ron Patton, the media production coordinator.

Bit by Bit, Putting It Together
Ron Patton – the Video File Distributor and Archives Editor

From Ron: A thumb drive with the recorded files for the week is brought to me and I upload it to a shared folder for others who create the weekly worship service to access. As requested by worship leaders, I edit out specific portions of previous services (usually music) and share those for use in creating the worship services. After the services finish airing Sunday morning, I edit out the sermon portion, upload it to our streaming archive and notify the marketing & communications team to post the sermon video on the website. I then create the audio portion of the worship service, which the marketing team forwards to the radio station.

Jenny Hull – Children’s Time video editor

From Jenny: Every week Brooke or Clare send me their recorded videos, and any accompanying pictures if they’ve got them. If children are responding to questions, the parents send the videos to me to include. I combine them all and hope that it matches what Brooke and Clare envision!

The Finishing Touches Editing Crew – Laura Davis and Sean Tatschl

Laura Davis and Sean Tatschl in the marketing & communications department work closely to pull the full service video together. Once Laura has received and reviewed all the video files (15-20 per Sunday), she begins writing highly detailed editing instructions that serve as a road map for Sean to build the service video. She includes all the on screen text for names, scripture, hymn lyrics, etc. Once the editing instructions are complete, she passes everything on to Sean to begin the final editing phase.

As Sean edits the service, he evens out audio levels of all the files that come from various sources, adding text to the screens and makes transitions between scenes. Sean sends a draft to Laura and the preaching pastor for review and approval before he imports the service video to our livestream provider’s website, sends a link to the file to IT Director Robb Rumold to upload to our alternate/backup livestream player, and schedules the broadcasts.

Sean also creates an audio file of the worship service to upload to our phone livestream provider’s website. This is how we are providing the worship service to folks without access to computers, smartphones or the internet. Call 913-203-1301 at 9:30 a.m. Sundays to listen to the full Sunday morning service.

Continued

After the Sunday morning services have aired, Sean posts the full service and the sermon video to our website. Then he builds and uploads the sermon podcasts that are available on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify and Stitcher.

Behind the Scenes of “The Gathering”

Every week The Gathering is created by Rev. Hallie Hottle, with the help of all our worshiping community. Our worshiping community, Our Gathering music leaders, Becky and Nathan Bliss, come to us from their home recording studio to lead us in music in our own living rooms, and have even found ways to bring together our gathering band via video. Brad Hull, our Gathering AV coordinator, adds the lyrics to our music every week so all can sing along, and has used his photography skills to begin creating original background videos that lead us throughout worship.

But the real Gathering magic is created by the rest of our community, who have learned to video themselves, and bravely added their faces and voices into worship every week. Susan Satterlee has organized communion servers into Zoom calls, Marc Cantril consistently welcomes us at 5 p.m. via YouTube chat, Meredith Holladay continues to remain on call for when Hallie realizes she needs another voice late in the week, and so many others have responded to invites to participate with energy that is contagious. We continue to realize why Jesus prioritized children, as our own kids have been leading us here, encouraging us to dance even at a distance. The young members of the Thomas, Stephens, Groebe, O’Neal, Russell and Davis families have kept us steeped in joy.

While Hallie has had to quickly learn the art of video-making, getting to weave together the work of this community so that we can “see” each other while we remain apart has become a new and passion-filled part of this call. She says, “God doesn’t remain distant, no matter what we face in our days. Liturgy, music, the art of worship—all of it is meant to bring us into relationship with the Holy, and in my lifetime, there’s never been a time when that’s more important than it is now.”

Gathered Online is under 30 minutes, filled with music and liturgy to lead and feed us throughout the week. It’s available every Sunday at 5 p.m., and remains available forever after to fit your schedule. Find it online at VPCTheGathering.org. Watch when it premiers at 5 p.m. to chat along live!

We are so grateful to all who work in front of the cameras AND behind the cameras to deliver what we hope you are finding a high quality online worship experience.
Village Church Signature Mission for 2020-2021:

**Literacy KC Entry to English and High School Equivalency Program Expansion**

Every year, the Village Church Mission Committee invites selected nonprofit organizations to apply for Signature Mission funds. This fund, which is generally combined with the Least of These Fund and Mission Legacy Fund from Endowment, provides the monies for a larger than customary gift from Village Church to a community nonprofit. These funds may help start new programs, expand infrastructure, and/or serve new clientele. In general, Signature Mission provides funds to help a local organization grow. It offers an authentic opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ through service work and an identifiable place to grow in relationship with God. The Village Church Mission Committee has selected Literacy KC’s Entry to English and High School Equivalency program expansion for this coming year’s Signature Mission.

Literacy KC was founded in 1985 to provide a one-on-one volunteer tutoring reading program. It has since grown to offer a robust portfolio of basic reading and writing, digital/computer skills, workforce readiness and English language skills.

In August 2018, Literacy KC relocated to the intersection of 31st Street and Troost. The new location provides five classroom spaces, increased visibility, access to wrap-around services, and a convenient location for their public transportation-dependent student population. In 2019, Literacy KC served over 2744 students and families annually across all programs.

Shortly after the relocation, Literacy KC launched their Entry to English (ETE) program for English Language Learners (August 2018) and the High School Equivalency (HSET) program in March 2019. The need for these programs in Kansas City is significant. According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, 225,000 Kansas City adults lack basic literacy skills and 145,000 function at the lowest literacy level. In addition, the Kansas City Public School graduation rates are at only 71.2%, and many area neighborhoods host foreign born populations of over 40% who are struggling with English language skills.

Literacy KC’s HSET and ETE programs will increase over the coming 18 months, serving 2460 more individuals at 15+ locations throughout the metro; thereby increasing opportunity in workforce development, economic mobility and post-secondary education spaces for adults. Students work simultaneously on earning workforce credentials, and/or placement in post-secondary education. With this expansion, Literacy KC expects to be able to serve a total of roughly 5000 students when at full capacity.

Funding from Village Presbyterian Church will be used to further renovate Literacy KC’s space at 3036 Troost Avenue with an additional classroom allowing them to run up to 5 classes concurrently in their home site, while still managing classes at various partner sites in the community.

With $50,000 from Village Church Endowment and Mission operating budget along with donations from Kansas City foundations, companies and individual donors, funds for the HSET and ETE program expansion will hire qualified staff to run the operations and provide programming that will double Literacy KC’s capacity. Furthermore, Literacy KC has a vibrant volunteer program where individuals can work directly with students as tutors. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can get involved, call 816-333-9332. You can also learn more about Literacy KC on their website at [https://www.literacykc.org](https://www.literacykc.org).
Village Connect Small Group Ministry
Village Connect, a small group ministry of Village Church, is a place where friendships can be found and nurtured. You are invited to participate in this meaningful ministry (most groups meet using Zoom).

This year Rev. Tom Are and Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka have collaborated to produce “Joy Even on Your Worst Day.” These eight brief videos will feature a new look this year, as the videos are professionally produced. The content will explore Paul’s letter to the Philippians, a letter that in spite of being written in prison is a letter full of joy. It is a timely word and there is much the apostle can teach us about being joyful, even on a hard, maybe even our worst day.

The materials will be ready for groups to begin, either socially distanced or by Zoom, in early October. Contact cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org to join a group.

Curbside Pickup Wednesday Family Meals
Connectional Ministries offers curbside pickup home-cooked meals at Village on Mission on Wednesdays. The cost is $5. Menus and online ordering information are posted on our website (villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners). We are offering complimentary meals to Village Church families who have been directly affected by unemployment caused by COVID-19. Email cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org to learn more.

Sept. 9: chicken & dumplings, seasonal vegetable, cheddar biscuit
Sept. 16: lasagna, vegetable medley and garlic bread
Sept. 23: pot roast with gravy, potatoes, carrots and dinner roll
Sept. 30: BBQ ribs, baked beans, braised greens and cornbread

Take Me Out to the Village Drive-Thru Ballpark Event
You’re invited to attend this free event from 5-7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27, in the south parking lot of Village Church on Mission. Come enjoy ballpark food and fun!

Village Church Road Trip Tour
Join us for a “scavenger hunt” type of event—a road trip tour in your car to multiple locations from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 24. Wear Hawaiian shirts or other tourist attire. Our tour begins at Village on Mission. You’ll receive a packet with instructions and destinations. Tour guides will “stamp your passport” and take photos. The tour ends at 99th & Mission (field adjacent to the Village Food Pantry) for snacks, youth-led energizers and closing prayer (socially distanced and masks required to keep everyone safe).

Get Your Flu Shot at Village on Mission
Healthy Solutions will be on site in Rooms 132 & 133 at Village Church on Mission from 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, to offer regular flu shots as well as high-dose for over age 65. Flu shots will be available for children age 5 and up. An appointment is required. To schedule an appointment, call the Village Church on Mission reception desk at 913-262-4200 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Come to the south entrance to sign in prior to receiving your shot.

Please wear a face covering and bring your insurance card. We will follow safe social distancing guidelines. Contact Cindy Wilcox at cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org with any questions.

Here is a sampling of Music Ministry “pit stops” on your road trip this fall. Keep up with us on Facebook and villagepres.org for more meaningful and fun activities.

MONDAYS

“Musicianship Mondays” with Will Breytspraak; 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Sept. 14, 21, 28, and Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26
Are you feeling “rusty” on your musicianship during this time? Join Will for seven, fun 15-minute “tune-ups” on Zoom. Musicians of all levels of skill and experience will enjoy and benefit from these short sessions! Email Will at william.breytspraak@villagepres.org if you would like to participate.

TUESDAYS

Taizé Worship: Readings, Prayers, Music and Silence; 7 p.m. Sept. 22, Oct. 20, Nov. 17
Join Elisa Bickers, Matthew & Laurel Schaich and a Village Church pastor for a short, but special reflective time of worship. Taizé will be broadcast at www.villagepres.org/online, the Village Music YouTube page, and the Village Music Facebook page @VillageChurchMusic.

“A Divertimento with Destiny: Music Appreciation you can relate to!” Taught by Destiny Ann Mermagen 1-1:45 p.m. Tuesdays, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24
Discover a fresh, fun and accessible approach to listening to classical music that will enliven your spirit and help you to understand how and what to listen for. You’ll find fulfillment in the reward of understanding great art, and what’s a great road trip without great music? Email Destiny at destiny.mermagen@villagepres.org if you would like to participate. The course will happen on Zoom.

WEDNESDAYS

“Black Music Matters: Scriptures and Music of Slavery and Freedom” Co-Taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka and Will Breytspraak, with special guest(s); 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 9, 16, 23, 30
Join Rodger, Will, and black musicians to explore scriptures and music of slavery and freedom. Share in interesting discussions about what these scriptures and songs mean in your life, learn more about the African American experience, and return from your road trip understanding this music in a deeper, more spiritual way. Email laura.hobbs@villagepres.org for more information about how to join the Zoom.

THURSDAYS

Second Thursday Recitals
FREE with online offering for Harvesters
All recitals will be broadcast on three platforms: www.villagepres.org/online; the music ministry Facebook page and the music ministry YouTube channel.
12:15 p.m. Sept. 10 - Destiny Ann & Michael Mermagen, violin and cello
12:15 p.m. Oct. 8 - John Deahl, organ
12:15 p.m. Nov. 12 - David Gamble, horn

Thursday Evening “Choral Encounters” (on Zoom)
With Will, Elisa, and Matthew, and singers from Village Church and the Wider Community; 7-7:45 p.m. (Weekly)
We hope you’ll join us for these weekly “choral rehearsals” that will include devotions, warm-ups, two to three choral selections and a closing prayer. If you are in a Village choral ensemble, you will be invited over email. If you would like to participate, but are not in a Village choral ensemble, just email Carol Dale at carol.dale@villagepres.org. Starts Sept. 17.

Thanksgiving Community Hymn Sing; 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19
The Thanksgiving Community Hymn Sing will be broadcast at www.villagepres.org/online, the Village Music YouTube page and the Village Music Facebook page.
## Road Trip Sermon Series
With Rev. Tom Are  
Begins Sunday, Sept. 13  
8:30 and 11 a.m.  
villagepres.org/online

## Musicianship Mondays
With Will Breytspraak  
6:30 p.m. Sept. 14-Oct. 26  
Fun 15-minute tune-ups on Zoom

## Two Tuesdays each month
Worship Reflections led by  
Rev. Dr. Rodney Nichols  
7-7:45 p.m. via Zoom

## Wednesday, Sept. 16
Presbyterian Women Fall Kick-Off  
Drive-Thru Breakfast  
8-10 a.m. VOM North Parking Lot

## Wednesdays
Curbside Pickup Wednesday  
Pastoral Care  
Visit with Pastor Melanie or Pastor Sally  
when you pick up your curbside meals

## Each Wednesday
Village U Classes  
Caring for Self & Others in a Pandemic  
Led by Rev. Melanie Hardison  
6:30-8 p.m. Sept. 16-30, via Zoom

## Thursdays
Choral Encounters  
Weekly choir rehearsals  
7-7:45 p.m. via Zoom  
Starts Sept. 17

## Saturday, Sept. 19
Pickle in the Park  
All 7th-12th graders join us from 1-3 p.m. for Pickleball in Meadowbrook Park

## Sunday, Sept. 27
Drive-Thru Ballpark Event  
5-7 p.m. VOM South Parking Lot  
Free ballpark food and fun!

## Second Saturday
Halloween Party  
9-10 a.m. Oct. 10 in Village on Mission’s south parking lot  
Costumes encouraged.

## Monday, Oct. 12
Gun Violence: Going Beyond Thoughts & Prayers  
A Virtual Community Forum with Rev. Tom Are speaking  
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

## 2nd Thursday Recital
12:15-12:45 p.m. Oct. 8  
Guest Organist John Deahl  
Benefiting Harvesters  
villagepres.org/online

## World Communion Sunday, Oct. 4
Lessons We Have Learned from the Road  
Peace offering to support Presbyterian peacemaking efforts

## Village Connect Small Groups
Joy Even on Your Worst Day  
A Christian Ed Series with Rev. Tom Are  
Groups begin early October- virtual and in person

## Theology Thursdays- Young Adults
When Happy Thoughts Don’t Help: Developing a Theology of Hope  
Starting Oct. 1

## Village Church Road Trip Tour  
9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 24  
This Hawaiian-themed tour includes fun-filled stops throughout the area, starting at VOM, then to VOA, culminating at the Meneilly Center for Mission.

## Village Being Village: A Sermon Series with  
Rev. Tom Are  
Starting Sunday, Oct. 25

## Tuesday, Oct. 27
Prairie Village  
Bread Drive  
Noon-4 p.m. by Appointment  
Village on Mission

## Sponsor a Village Food Pantry Family’s Thanksgiving Meal  
Late October/Early November  
A $30 contribution feeds a family of four

## Starts Tuesday, Nov. 3
Music Appreciation You Can Relate To!  
Taught by Destiny Ann Mermagen  
1-1:45 p.m. Tuesdays through November via Zoom

## Thursday, Nov. 19
Thanksgiving Community Hymn Sing  
7 p.m. online at villagepres.org/online

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Find more information and additional opportunities at [www.villagepres.org/virtualroadtrip](http://www.villagepres.org/virtualroadtrip)

But wait! The journey doesn’t end here. These are just a few highlights of the many opportunities to explore along your Village Church virtual road trip.
Village U Fall 2020

Come grow with us! Registration is now open for all Village U courses for fall 2020. Village U is the broad collection of adult learning courses through Village Presbyterian Church. While our offerings are reduced this fall due to the current global pandemic, we are excited to offer a wide range of classes on a variety of topics led by excellent instructors. Nearly all of the classes will take place online via Zoom. For more information about these courses and adult faith formation at Village Church, contact Laura Hobbs at laura.hobbs@villagepres.org.

Continuing Watercolor – Bill Yates, instructor; Year-Round, via Email Instruction

We will select subjects from nature and life to demonstrate techniques for paintings of your choice. A copy of the drawing with some directions, the painting at various stages of completion, and a finished view will be emailed to classmates who will do the painting at their own pace at home.

Beginner Hula Hooping & Hoop Dancing – Sireanna Beyer, instructor; 5:45-6:45 p.m. Wednesdays Year-Round at 2608 W. 70th St., Prairie Village

This upbeat fitness class includes a stretch, a warm-up and basic hula hooping instruction to popular music. Easy hoop dancing routines, fun games and challenges are included that do not require any hula hooping skills.

Tech Talk with Tony – led by Tony Liu; 7-8 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1, via Zoom

Tony Liu will lead a discussion of ways to use technology solutions, such as various ways to join a Zoom meeting using a smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer.

Black Music Matters: Scriptures and Music of Slavery and Freedom – led by Will Breytspraak, director of music ministry, and Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate pastor. 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 9-30, via Zoom

Join Rodger, Will and several black musicians in interesting discussions as we explore the scriptures and music of slavery and freedom.

Worship Reflections – led by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka; 7-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 15, 29, Oct. 13, 27, and Nov. 10, 24, via Zoom

For two Tuesdays each month this fall, we will gather as preachers, liturgists, and musicians for an interactive conversation about the previous worship services.

Caring for Self and Others in a Pandemic – led by Rev. Melanie Hardison, associate pastor for pastoral care; 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 16-30, via Zoom

Participants in this course will explore how we can give and receive care so that we are able to do more than survive day-to-day. God's intent for God's children is life abundant, even in the midst of a global pandemic.

Boomerangs – Judy Bliss, facilitator; 10 a.m.-noon Tuesdays, Sept. 22-Dec. 15, south parking lot of Village on Mission (weather permitting) or via Zoom

The Boomerangs welcome women to join them in fellowship and fun as they work on a range of projects from knitting, rug hooking and needlepointing, to balancing a checkbook. This group is designed for Baby Boomers and older.

Discover Your Child’s Natural Instincts – led by E3 Academy; 6-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 22, and Nov. 3, 10 (Introductory Class options), Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 (Workshop options 1) and Nov. 17, 24 and Dec. 1, 8 (Workshop options 2), via Zoom

Learn how the E3 Academy encourages parents to embrace their child’s natural way of communicating their instinctive strengths. This program fosters your child’s ability to lead and develop relationships, letting their instincts blossom.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes Bible Study – led by Newton Graves & Reggie Marselus; 7:30-8:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 23-Dec. 16, via Zoom

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes Bible Study will be meeting every other week on Wednesday morning via Zoom. We will do this until this crisis has passed. We are open to new attendees.

Gospel Boot Camp: To See Jesus More Clearly – led by Dr. Gus Breytspraak, Village Church member and emeritus professor of religion and culture at Ottawa University; 11 a.m.-noon Thursdays, Oct. 15-22, Nov. 5-19, via Zoom

The four gospels that tell the story of Jesus Christ have been compared to seeing Jesus from four different perspectives. Dr. Gus Breytspraak will help participants gain a clearer understanding of Jesus Christ through the gospels.

Solving Climate Change – led by Charles “Chick” Keller; 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2, via Zoom

This class will review the cause of global warming, as well as discuss how to solve global warming.

Systemic Racism – led by Bob Kenzel, Village Church member, veteran, author and trainer; 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 4-18, via Zoom

Participants in this class will explore the definition and meaning of “systemic racism” and will discover practical, effective ways to combat and dismantle the oppression of racist structures.

Book of Job – taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, senior associate pastor; 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 4-18, Dec. 2-16

Participants in this class will read the Book of Job and will explore the theological themes that emerge, as we understand what the story of Job has to say to us today.

Huguenot-Anglican Movement in Colonial America – taught by Rev. Dr. Lonnie Lee, retired Presbyterian pastor and scholar of the Reformation and Post-Reformation periods; 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 11, 18, Dec. 2, 9

This class will explore little known but important features of the Huguenot migration to America including the controversy among the refugees over their Protestant identity.

“...we are excited about our Village U courses for this fall,” said Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka. “Like everything else, we have had to adapt and change some things from our usual pattern. To keep people safe, the vast majority of our courses are online this fall. While not the ideal, I am looking forward to all that the Holy Spirit has in store for us. I hope folks will come and grow with us!”

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Good News, Sept. 2, 2020
**VILLAGE ON ANTIOCH**

Village on Antioch has been busy this summer with a Pop-Up Food Pantry to meet the needs of the people negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue these community food distributions through the fall. Our September dates are Wednesdays, Sept. 9 and 23. If you need food assistance or know someone who does, go to www.villageonantioch.org/food. You may also contact Rev. Brandon Frick at brandon.frick@villagepres.org with questions. All requests for assistance are kept confidential.

We’re also planning a few special events at VOA in the coming weeks, such as an outdoor worship service in coordination with Ryan Main. Get the latest info at www.villagepres.org/antioch.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

The PW Board is imagining this year in PW with the current COVID-19 pandemic. Please share your appreciation with the PW Board for their leadership during this unprecedented year.

Fittingly, the Bible Study this year will focus on prayers of lament. It is a perfect year to examine the Bible to look for God’s relief of the world’s pain. The study will be held on Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on the Second Tuesday of the month (September-May), email Laura Hobbs at laura.hobbs@villagepres.org if you are interested in joining us on Zoom.

We invite you to the Fall Kick-off Drive-Thru Breakfast on Wednesday, Sept. 16, in the Village on Mission north parking lot. Stop by anytime between 8 and 10 a.m. Get a delicious treat and pick up your PW directory. Stay in your car or stop for a visit in socially distanced chairs. Please bring your own drink.

**GOOD NEWS**

**What’s New?**

**Second Saturday Family Fun Drive-Thrus** – Come join us on the second Saturday of each month for a little drive-thru family fun. Stop by anytime between 9 and 10 a.m. We’d love to see your sweet faces and say “hello” in-person. We’ll wear masks…you’re welcome to as well. We’ll supply your family with a little FAMILY FUN. We’ll also provide a couple opportunities for your families to serve others. Here are details for the next two months:

- **Sept. 12 Second Saturday - Fall Lighthouse Kick-Off** – We will celebrate our fall Lighthouse ministry kick-off with a Dino O’Dell concert from 9-10 a.m. in Village on Mission’s south parking lot. Families will socially distance from one another while enjoying some favorite Dino tunes. (Bring your dancing shoes) More info to come.

- **Oct. 10 Second Saturday - Halloween Party** – BYOP (pumpkin for carving) 9-10 a.m. in Village on Mission’s south parking lot. Costumes encouraged. Socially distanced FUN.

And please continue to join us for:

- **Sunday Morning Lighthouse Videos** – We create fun videos for our kiddos each Sunday morning complete with music from Dino and a teaching segment by one of our awesome volunteer teachers. These are posted on our Facebook page @Village Church Kids and Instagram @villagepreskids.

- **Children’s Times** – Join us virtually during Sunday morning “big church” services for a little “kid speak” – a few moments to remind kids that the messages are relevant to them, too. And we always include a few kiddos from our community to hear their perspectives.

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

**Fall BBQ Kick-Off**

We’ve been apart for months, and our souls are hungry to be together, even at a distance! We’ll gather for a night (outside, distanced, with masks) to begin another strange season. RSVP is required, so we can plan for safe numbers in advance! www.VillagePresYA.org/fall2020.

**Theology Thursdays, October 2020**

When Happy Thoughts Don't Help: Developing a Theology of Hope

Where is the hope? We’ve asked it. We’ve sometimes answered it. But in days as wild as these, the “positive thinking” of past generations and cultural ‘optimism’ of our nation come up short. When things really are as bad as they seem, can we still find hope? For these 5 weeks we’ll lean into Jürgen Moltmann, MLK, Miguel A. De La Torre, Alice Walker, and others, as we investigate our own construction of “hope” and discover how our faith equips us to endure. We’re making in-person and online options available! Sign up: www.VillagePresYA.org/fall2020.

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Pickle in the Park**

All 7th-12th graders join us from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19, for Pickle in the Park! We will meet by the Pickle Ball courts at Meadowbrook Park; you bring a blanket and your awesome self, we’ll bring some snacks and pickle ball equipment.

**Youth Group Kickoff**

And don’t forget we kick off youth group at Village on Mission with a special schedule and considerations due to COVID – 5:30-6:45 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13, with 9th/10th grade SNL at and 11th/12th grade SNL from 7-8:15 p.m. Middle school youth group kicks off on Sept.16 with 7th grade GPS at 5:30-6:30 p.m. and 8th grade GPS at 7-8 p.m. Bring your mask and enjoy some time together with activities and meaningful discussion!
Making Sure You Keep Your Tank Full

Parking Lot Pastoral Care – Pastor Melanie or Pastor Sally will be parked in the south parking lot of Village on Mission for pastoral visits. We will be masked, socially distanced and ready to talk with you during curbside dinner pickup hours (4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday).

Keeping your Tank Full – Look for tips to keep your spiritual and emotional tank full. Find them in weekly Wednesday eNews and on social media.

Pastoral Care On the Road – We are ready to travel for pastoral visits outdoors - on your drive-way, porch or at a park. We invite you to call and set up a time for us to meet, socially distanced and masked, and ready to talk. Of course, we remain available to visit via phone or Zoom as well.

Stephen Ministers – At times we all need a companion. Stephen Ministers listen and walk with you during stressful times. All conversations are held in confidence. Contact Pastor Becky at 913-449-0713 for more information.

Village Presbyterian Church Encourages You to Vote!
The Social Witness Advocacy Task Force of Village Presbyterian Church encourages you to use your voice and vote in the General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Register to vote, check your registration status, request an absentee or mail-in ballot, learn the voter ID requirements, find all the dates, deadlines, and your polling place, and sign up to get a reminder to vote. Registration deadline is Nov. 2, 2020.

Be informed. Know who is running and understand the issues. See your ballot and election information in advance at www.Ballotpedia.org. Let your voice be heard. Vote and invite your family and friends to vote!

Gun Violence: Going Beyond Thoughts & Prayers
A Virtual Community Forum with Guest Speaker Rev. Tom Are
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12

After a gun tragedy, thoughts and prayers for the victims come easily and predictably. Never, however, can they be an effective substitute for the hard work of collaboration, action and change.

Hear proactive local leaders from business, government and the faith community discuss what important steps they’re taking that go beyond thoughts and prayers in preventing gun violence.

Cost to be a forum viewer is $25. You can submit questions during the event. To register, visit www.moksgagv.org/community-forum/.

Good News, Sept. 2, 2020
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

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Village Giving

There are people who enjoy investing. Investing offers a promise of return: we get excited at the thought of our money growing. When the Church asks us to give we are really being asked to invest, to invest in ministries and programs that change the lives of people. Often these are programs that have changed or enhanced our own lives: meaningful worship, education, mission. It’s not hard to feel good about such investments. Thank you for investing in Village Being Village!

Give online, by mail or by text–Giving is a faith practice. Giving helps us in showing gratitude and demonstrating our faith. We give because God gave and continues to give. We give back what God first gave us. villagepres.org/giving. If you have any questions, contact Bob Sperry at 913-671-2325 or bob.sperry@villagepres.org. Your church very much appreciates your continuing support.

ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sundays villagepres.org/online

The Gathering Music and Prayers 5 p.m. Sundays vpcthegathering.org

Call In to listen to the 9:30 a.m. worship service 913-203-1301

Listen to Worship on 1660 AM 8 a.m. Sundays - a week-delayed radio broadcast of the morning worship service

IN MEMORY

Janet Baird
Ed Bayless
Joyce Bol
Robert “Bob” Butler
John Campbell
Alan Cook
Betty Curton
Sybil Diehl
John Fahey
Yvonne Hook
Eleanor Lowe
Beverly “Bev” Mullarky
Betty Jean Smith

Online Worship Exclusively Continues Through Nov. 1

At the Aug. 3 Session meeting held via Zoom, the Village Church Session voted to continue to suspend in-person worship through Nov. 1, 2020. The Session will continue to re-evaluate and update the congregation when our church leadership determines it is safe to return to on-site worship.