Even though we are unable to gather within our church in person, we can gather in spirit to be good neighbors locally and abroad. From Oct. 18-25, Village Church is offering a selection of service opportunities that you can complete at home and drop off in the bins outside Village on Mission's south entrance or Village on Antioch's main entrance during the week of Oct. 18 (please deliver your service gifts by 6 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 25, at the latest). Check out the service project instructions on our website at www.villagepres.org/bethechurch.

Projects include:

- New and gently used school supplies for Frontera de Cristo border ministry
- Cloth and/or paper face masks for our Dominican Republic Medical Partnership
- Creating Thanksgiving cards for food pantry clients
- Purchasing socks and stuffing them with snacks for the homeless
- Helping make shoes to prevent jiggers in Uganda
- Donating food for the Village on Antioch Pop-Up Pantry (see the shopping list at https://villageantioch.org)

Contact Deborah White at deborah.white@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2369 for more information.
Sponsor a Village Food Pantry Family’s Thanksgiving Meal this Year

The Food Pantry continues to help families in need through its twice weekly curbside food distribution. We also deliver food to 123 low-income seniors in Olathe and Merriam. This faithful service to our community is carried out with a very small staff of volunteers using safe practices.

We are looking forward to our annual Thanksgiving Basket distribution. Turkeys and all the trimmings will be distributed Nov. 4-20. We will not have a food drive this year, but starting this month, you can be a part of this meaningful event by sponsoring a family for $30. Checks made payable to Village Church Food Pantry may be mailed to the Village Church on Mission Business Office (6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208) or you may donate online at www.villagepres.org/thanksgiving. Thank you for your support.

An Update on Global Village

Dominican Republic: While it has not been easy, our Dominican partners at Light A Candle are making great efforts to provide hypertension medication, children’s vitamins and routine food deliveries to every household in DRMP’s 13 supported bateys.

Thwake, Kenya: The Thwake Girls’ Home has been closed since April per Kenyan COVID laws. Our 12 girls are living in short-term residences while we await special approval to reopen. The girls’ matrons, Christine and Eunice, make routine visits to each of the girls and deliver food for her entire household.

Mexico Border: We are still selling 1lb. bags of Café Justo coffee and every penny goes to Frontera de Cristo!

Haiti: Higgins Brothers Surgicenter for Hope (HBSH) is growing and expanding operations to include pediatric, maternal and general medicine.

For questions or to help support any of our ministries above, contact: lora.garrison@villagepres.org.

Front Porch Alliance Virtual Rise and Shine Breakfast

8 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28

Stay in your PJs, pour a cup of coffee, and visit Front Porch Alliance Facebook or YouTube channel from 8-8:40 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28, for a virtual Rise and Shine Breakfast. The featured speaker is Dr. Moira Mulhern, executive director of Turning Point, a nonprofit that focuses on the psychological challenges that often accompany a serious or chronic illness. Dr. Mulhern will be presenting “Creating a Culture of Resilience.” For questions or to register, call 816-921-8812 or visit www.FrontPorchAlliance.org (https://frontporchalliance.org/news-events/rise_shine/). A link to join the breakfast will be sent in advance to those who have registered.

Donate Blood at Village Church on Mission Oct. 27

Give the gift of life. Consider making that gift between noon and 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, in Rooms 132 & 133 at Village Church on Mission Road. Sign up to donate at https://donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/zip and enter the zip code 66208 and date to sign up. Appointments are required. Please wear a face mask to your appointment. Call Ann Colston at 913-461-1791 if you have any questions.
Adopt a STAR Family Online This Year

Village Church will again sponsor “Star” Families from Operation Breakthrough. We will help provide Christmas gifts and holiday meals for low-income and/or homeless families. Stars will be available online starting Oct. 25. We will publicize the sign-up in an upcoming October eNews. Simply go online, select a family you wish to adopt and follow the instructions provided on the website. Also, once you adopt a family, you will need to come by the south entrance at Village on Mission from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7, to pick up your family’s adoption packet. Each child in a family receives at least three new, unwrapped gifts; and, the mom receives a $25 gift card to Target or Walmart. The Operation Breakthrough truck will be in our parking lot to receive the donations on Sunday, Dec. 6.

We also invite you to make a monetary donation to Village Church for Star Family holiday meals. $30 will feed a family of three or less and $60 a family of four or more. Note “Operation Breakthrough” in the memo of your check and send your check to Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208. If you have questions and/or need help with the online adoption process, contact Ann Colston at 913-461-1791 or Marilyn Borel at 913-708-1917.

Inside On-site Worship Services Continue to be Suspended through Nov. 1

The Village Session will revisit and re-evaluate whether to continue the suspension of on-site worship in the Sanctuaries at its Oct. 5 meeting via Zoom. Worship with us online at 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sundays at www.villagepres.org/online. Watch The Gathering, alternative worship, at 5 p.m. Sundays at www.vpcthegathering.org.

Meanwhile, at a called Session meeting on Sept. 1, the Village Session approved Village on Antioch holding an outdoor worship service at 6 p.m. Sundays in the east parking lot through Oct. 25. There are several safety protocols for attendance and other guidelines. Visit www.villageantioch.org/services for more information.

Session also approved holding two outdoor Gathering worship events at Village on Mission. One took place this past Sunday. The second will be at 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, in the Village on Mission south parking lot (weather permitting). Check the website for safety protocols. Join us for Taizé Worship online at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, on www.villagepres.org/online, the Village Music YouTube channel, and the Village Music Facebook page @VillageChurchMusic.

Flowers in the Chancel

You may have noticed the beautiful flowers on the Chancel table during the Sunday morning online services. If you would like to remember a loved one or honor someone on a birthday or anniversary, you may contact Janice Gill at 913-671-2362 to reserve a Sunday.

Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2020!

After completing the remainder of their classes on Zoom in May, this class submitted their statements of faith to the Session, who welcomed them as our newest members of our Village family on Monday night, Sept. 14, via Zoom. Rev. Zach Walker and Rev. Sally Wright also baptized six students in a small, socially distanced service of baptism in the Sanctuary. The service was livestreamed while Session participated via Zoom.


Good News, Oct. 7, 2020
How the Montreat Worship & Music Conference Helped Us
Reimagine Music Ministry for the Pandemic

Recently we spoke with Will Breytspraak, director of music, to learn more about the conference he keeps crediting for Music Ministry’s fall worship and programming initiatives.

Q: Will, you’ve mentioned that you got a group of staff and lay people together to “go to” the Virtual Montreat Worship and Music Conference this summer. What was it like to attend this conference virtually and how did you experience any togetherness doing so?

Will: We had a group of 11 staff and lay people. As I thought about what might be missing from the in-person experience, the puzzle was how to engage in the conference together. When you’re at the Worship and Music Conference (in Montreat, North Carolina) in person, you’re able to process things you’re experiencing and learning with friends and strangers in all sorts of casual conversations on walks and at meals.

So, I decided to have “Evening Camp Fires” every night of the conference. I imagined we’d gather around a “virtual fire” with the peace and satisfaction of a day done, but also with the enjoyment of getting to share our favorite parts of the day with each other. I even used a “background photo” of a campfire on Zoom. The level of engagement in those was really great. Everyone was excited to share what they’d learned and new relationships were formed, and older ones were deepened. Every day, there were lots of comments like, “we could DO that at Village Church!”

We also had “Morning Coffees” right after yoga for just the time between Yoga and Morning Prayers. They were very casual, and just whatever people felt like talking about. I used a “coffee shop” Zoom background for those.

Q: What were some of the “takeaways” from the conference that maybe we’ve been seeing at Village this fall?

Will: We learned things that we were eager to try but, even more importantly, we felt convicted because of the conference itself that there were real ways to help people connect and grow during this time. For example, several of the faculty of the conference talked about the chance to explore matters of faith more deeply with our choirs, to sharpen skills, and to come out of all of this stronger.

Q: It sounds like there were lots of programming and worship ideas at the conference. How did you hone it in?

Will: We actually made a survey of all kinds of possible offerings - classes, special worship services (learning from the format of Montreat), forums for talking about worship, little recitals that could be benefit recitals, virtual projects, social distanced ringing and hymn sings. What we came up with has the Worship and Music Conference all over it.

Q: Can you tell us about some of the programs that came directly from the conference?

Will: “Musicianship Mondays” came from the idea that we can use this time to sharpen our skills--hone our gifts--in music ministry. Using our survey, we decided that it would be enough to do short 15 minute sessions. Examples are “See the Sights: Sight-Reading Tips and Tricks,” and “Musical Terms: from the Mundane to the Marvelous.” Jan Kraybill and I are teaming up to offer this one.

Another is our “Worship Reflections” which Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka is leading. At Montreat, “we loved attending their daily behind the conversations” with the very collaborative pastors, liturgical artists and musicians--it really brought us in--and we could even ask questions of them.
Q: What have you done to do “choir” at this time when we can’t have rehearsals in person?

Will: Our Thursday night virtual choir this fall is called “Choral Encounters”. We learned so many things about what choir could and could not be at Montreat. We used that training to come up with something that would fit these times. A chance, as Matthew Shepard coined it, to “encounter,” choral music in different ways. A deeper look than normal into the history of a piece. Or the text. Or the musicianship required to “pull it off”.

Q: Do you think your singers will feel like they can make a difference even at this time?

Will: I do. The most audacious thing we felt leaving Montreat was that we could actually “serve” at this time. We have made that a front and center priority. We worked with Deborah White and the Mission Committee to make the 2nd Thursday Recitals, which usually are not benefit concerts, benefit concerts for Harvesters. We also are using video to allow lay people to do welcomes for our Taizé services, for our classes, for our 2nd Thursday Recitals, and for our choir experience. It’s all because we had this feeling after the conference that anything is possible!

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

Village Being Village
Oct. 25-Nov. 8

Rev. Tom Are is preaching all three Sundays for his stewardship series “Village Being Village.” Tom talks about the series: “It sounds silly enough, but the most important work of the church is to BE the church. The gospel is not an idea or a program, but a community. When we give, it seems so individualized. There is that element. The money I give comes out of my bank account, which for most of us, except trust fund kiddos, comes from the fruit of my labor. But that individual choice makes possible the communal reality in the world. Apart from this, the church evaporates from the ground. God is calling the church in our day to be a community of redemption, grace and peace.”
Pastoral Care

Keeping Your Tank Full—For many of us, our spiritual, emotional, and physical “tanks” have been emptied. Join Pastors Melanie and Sally as they continue the series of brief conversations with tips focused on keeping our tanks filled in these challenging days. They are published each week in the Village on Mission weekly eNews and on our Village Facebook Pages.

Parking Lot Pastoral Care—Pastor Melanie or Pastor Sally are 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 (4:30-5:30 p.m. each Wednesday through Dec. 16, weather permitting).

Pastoral Care On the Road—We are ready to travel for pastoral visits outdoors—in your driveway, on your porch or at a park. We invite you to call 913-671-2327 and set up a time for us to meet, socially distanced and masked. Of course, we remain available to visit via phone or Zoom as well.

Stephen Ministers Provide Christ-Centered Care During COVID-19

Stephen Ministers are managing to continue their caring relationships during the pandemic.

“It was especially challenging when ‘stay at home’ orders were in place. In-person visits are still not permitted in most of the area’s residential care, medical treatment facilities, and retirement communities,” says Jim Bolton, a member of the Stephen Ministry leadership team.

“In order to maintain contact with care receivers, we rely heavily on regular telephone contact. Other forms of maintaining contact have emerged including visits outside, practicing social distancing and using FaceTime or Zoom to keep in touch,” Jim stresses. “Some send cards, letters or flowers to those who have difficulty speaking or hearing.”

Stephen Ministers are available to assist those facing a difficult time. Contact Rev. Becky Chamberlain at 913-449-0713, becky.chamberlain@villagepres.org or see Stephen Ministry on our website at www.villagepres.org/pastoralcare.

Endowment Trust 2019 Annual Report Is Online

The Village Presbyterian Church Endowment Trust is a non-profit, charitable foundation that enriches the church’s mission and ministries, funds new initiatives and leaves a legacy for future generations. It raises and manages funds to provide resources for the future and also supplements the Church’s annual budget. The Endowment Trust was established by the Session and is managed by a separate board of directors. See the annual report online at www.villagepres.org/endowment-trust-annual-report.

Scout Troop 91 Annual Holiday Evergreen Sale

We will miss seeing you all at this year’s sale but you can still order your beautiful evergreens online. Please visit www.sherwoodfundraiser.com/Troop91/VPC to place your order. We will be offering curbside pickup from noon to 3 p.m. on Sundays, Nov. 22 and 29, in the south parking lot of Village Church on Mission Road. Or, we would be happy to deliver to your doorstep if you prefer. Thank you for your support of our Scout Troop 91!

Email RachellBoyce.Troop91@troopmaster.email or call/text Rachel Boyce at 913-481-8329 with questions/concerns. The deadline to place orders is Sunday, Oct. 25.
Second Saturdays Family Fun

We had an awesome “3rd grade Bible presentation” during our Dino O’Dell concert on Sept. 12. Pastors Tom, Zach and Sally were on hand to connect with these kiddos and their families—and to present their bibles. It was a beautiful morning of singing, dancing, playing outside and connecting in-person (socially distanced, of course).

Second Saturday Halloween Party

Our next Second Saturday is a Halloween Party Oct. 10. BYOP (pumpkin for carving). Costumes encouraged. It’s from 9-10 a.m. in the Village on Mission south parking lot.

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. Join us on Instagram @villagepreskids or Facebook @villagechurchkids to connect.

Village on Mission Preschool & Kids Day Out Welcome Back Children This Week

The sound of young children returned to the hallways at Village on Mission on Monday, Oct. 5. The Preschool’s COVID policies are based on the recommendation of KDHE guidelines for opening a center:

• Preschool arrival and dismissal will be outdoors
• Upon arrival each child’s temperature will be checked
• Children’s hands will be sanitized upon arrival and handwashing will occur throughout the day
• The VOM Preschool hallway will be closed except for the staff and children

Preschool and Child Care staff welcome children to Village on Mission for the fall semester. (L-R) Pam Southerland, Marjean Lindquist, Sarah McKee and Debbie Smith.
PLEDGE SUNDAY IS NOV. 8

Village Giving

Giving to the Church is a practice of faith. Giving helps us. God does not need our money, even though giving is an act of worship that God desires. Giving to God helps us reaffirm God’s goodness, in expressing gratitude, and in demonstrating our faith. Giving to God brings us closer to God.

The truth about God, as we’ve been taught through the years, is that God is generous. God gave to us...his only son. God gave so that we would know something of his amazing grace and generosity. We give because God gave and continues to give. We give back what God first gave us.

As we move into our Commitment season later this month, please be mindful of what Village Being Village means to you. You are part of something bigger than yourself. Together we can do so much to work towards God’s promised day.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of your giving to Village in 2021. You can make your 2021 commitment online at www.villagepres.org/commitment-form.

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

Allan Beauchamp
Tanya Cromwell
Martha Eaton
Kathy Palmer
Helen Perucca
Mary Sue Smith
9-10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, Second Saturday Halloween Party, south parking lot at Village on Mission
6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12, via Zoom. Village U: Income Disparity, taught by Charles “Chick” Keller
6:30-6:45 p.m. Oct. 12, 19 and 26, “Musicianship Mondays” with Will Breytspraak and Dr. Jan. Kraybill
7-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 13, 27, Nov. 10, 24, via Zoom. Village U: Worship Reflections, led by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka
6-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 13, 20, 27 (Workshop options 1) and Nov. 17, 24, and Dec. 1, 8 (Workshop options 2), via Zoom. Village U: Discover Your Child’s Natural Instincts, Nov. 3,10 (Introductory Class options), led by E3 Academy
6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 14-28, Nov. 4, via Zoom. Fall Village U: Myth, Memory, Monks and the Middle Ages, taught by Trenton Smith
11 a.m.-noon Thursdays, Oct. 15-29, Nov. 5-19, via Zoom. Village U: Gospel Boot Camp: To See Jesus More Clearly, taught by Dr. Gus Breytspraak
7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, Te Deum performs Brahms’ Requiem--online livestream at www.te-deum.org
7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, Taizé Online Worship: Readings, Prayers, Music and Silence
5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, Outdoor Gathering Service-Village on Mission south parking lot; 6 p.m. Last Village on Antioch Outdoor Service for this fall
4:30-6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, Youth Ministries Drive-Thru Chili Dinner and Kids Trunk or Treat–south parking lot of Village on Mission

7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1, Te Deum performs Brahms’ Requiem–Online Livestream www.te-deum.org
7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2, via Zoom. Village U: Solving Climate Change, taught by Charles “Chick” Keller
1-1:45 p.m. Tuesdays, Nov. 3, 10, 17 and 24, “A Divertimento with Destiny: Music Appreciation You Can Relate To!” taught by Destiny Ann Mermagen
6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 4-18, via Zoom. Village U: Systemic Racism, taught by Bob Krenzel
6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 4-18, Dec. 2-16. Village U: Book of Job, taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

Find more details on our website at www.villagepres.org/upcoming-events
For Village U Classes, go to www.villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes
For Music Events, visit www.villagepres.org/upcoming-music-events
Or call 913-262-4200
For tips on how to use Zoom, visit www.villagepres.org/zoom
**Village Church Road Trip Tour**

*9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 24, Village on Mission*

Connectional Ministries is planning a special Road Trip Tour to reinforce the messages of Tom’s Road Trip Sermon Series from 9 am.-noon on Saturday, Oct. 24, at Village on Mission. We are creating a hybrid scavenger hunt that will have participants traveling in their cars to four locations prepared to find requested items, along the route.

Locations include Village Church on Mission (the starting point), Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, Village Church on Antioch and the Meneilly Center for Mission (final destination). All roads will lead to the Meneilly Center at 99th and Mission Road for a final Road Rally experience led by the Youth team (energizers!) with refreshments and a commemorative photo. Steve Davis, Jr. will also be present at 99th St. with his new DRONE to capture this occasion. No registration required. Load your family in the car and invite your friends to join the road trip tour. Come to Village on Mission (south parking lot) at 9 a.m. to receive your information packet, and you’re on your way to adventure!

Contact Cindy Wilcox at cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org with questions.

**Curbside Pickup Wednesday Family Meals**

Curbside Pickup Wednesday Family Meals prepared by Chef Andrea and Chef Larry are available for $5 a person. The deadline to order meals online is noon on Monday. Order and pay online at [www.villagepres.org/Wednesday-family-dinners](http://www.villagepres.org/Wednesday-family-dinners). Food may be picked up in the south parking lot of Village Church on Mission between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

**October Menus:**

- Oct. 14: baked ziti, seasonal vegetable, and garlic bread
- Oct. 21: baked ranch chicken, roasted butternut squash, wild rice pilaf, and dinner roll
- Oct. 28: regular OR vegetarian chili, cornbread & gooey butter pumpkin cake

**Drive-Thru Kids Trunk or Treat at Village on Mission**

*4:30-6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28*

Village Church Youth Ministries invites you to a drive-thru chili dinner and kids Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, Oct. 28! Come by the VOM south parking lot between 4:30-6 p.m. to get your curbside pickup chili meal. Children and families are also invited to participate in a drive-thru Trunk or Treat hosted by our youth. Costumes are highly encouraged. The chili dinner is $5 and will be provided by Chef Andrea and Chef Larry. Additional donations will go to support youth missions.