Imagine a greater Kansas City community in which everyone who needs mental health services has access to the services they need affordably and conveniently.

This is the dream envisioned by Village Church members Alice (Carrott) and Al Eidson following the April 2014 shooting at the Jewish Community Center. After five years of research and planning, Al and Alice submitted a proposal for Village Church to lead the way in creating an interfaith initiative among area congregations and mental health providers that will greatly expand counseling services in our area.

Mental health professionals will be hired to offer counseling services in locations across the city, such as churches and community centers (much the way Village offers counseling services one day per week with Dr. Dave Ehman).

A key element of the plan is managing each client’s cost for services. All clients will have the option to pay on a sliding scale, meaning they pay what they can afford.

The initiative will be affiliated with, and accredited by, a national organization, The Solihten Institute. Solihten’s team has been generous with their time and counsel including a visit to Village and introductions to Solihten facilities. Alice and Al have visited eight Solihten Centers around the nation, including Chicago, Dallas, Denver and Sarasota.

The Eidsons’ proposal was adopted by the Pastoral Care and Counseling Committee in April, at which time the Committee pledged $10,000, and it was blessed by the Session in May. Starting in June, the Eidsons have reached out to 89 personal contacts (primarily church members) to share their vision and proposal, and these visits have resulted in pledges from a total of 24 households over the next three years.

This initiative is in the early stages of assembling a task force to form a non-profit corporation and apply for 501(c)(3) status. An initial task force will include Alice Carrott, Dr. Harvey Grossman, Rev. Melanie Hardison, Stacey Janssen and Bob Sperry, with additional task force members being added from other congregations in the coming months. The momentum is growing such that we want to share the good news with the whole Village family!

We invite you to you prayerfully consider how you might support this initiative. If you feel moved to support this initiative financially, please contact Bob Sperry: bob.sperry@villagepres.org or 913-671-2325. If you have questions or would like to learn more, contact Al and Alice Eidson at alice.carrott@yahoo.com or 913-522-4870.

As we have done for years, Pastoral Care and Counseling continues to make professional counseling available to church members one day per week with Dr. Dave Ehman. To learn more about Dr. Ehman or schedule an appointment, visit www.villagepres.org/pastoralcare.
Poinsettias Brighten the 2020 Christmas Season While Honoring Loved Ones

Each year Village brings a poinsettia to a homebound member. In this extraordinary year, 300 members are staying safe in their homes and communities. Each poinsettia delivered is made possible through the purchase of a plant in memory of a loved one. To honor the memory of a loved one while celebrating Christmas with a homebound member, please send the printed memorial name and a check for $10 to the Village Presbyterian Church (6641 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS 66208) by Dec. 21. Make your check payable to “Village Church” and send to the attention of Janice Gill. For more information, call Janice at 913-671-2362.

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 through Nov. 26 and the Pastoral Care page of villagepres.org.

VILLAGE ON ANTIOCH

Clare Stern-Burbano Awarded Grant for Racism, Antiracism and Beliefs Project with Area Youth

Clare Stern-Burbano, director of children & youth at Village on Antioch, has been awarded a $1,000 grant from Interfaith Youth Core that will benefit youth at Village on Antioch and in the Kansas City area. Clare shares:

"Like so many other folks in the community and country, I gained a deeper sense of urgency to act with love and listen more deeply and sacredly to my black and brown brothers and sisters. This sense of urgency was formed not just by what I was seeing and hearing daily, but also my call to a Christian life. Part of my baptismal and confirmation covenant asks me to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself and strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being. These parts of my covenant have inspired and guided me in the majority of my decisions in life, so when I clearly saw my brothers and sisters who are black and brown not being treated fairly and provided the equity they needed, I knew I needed to weave my faith, community and skill set together for a project.

Before I arrived at Village on Antioch, I led an interfaith teen group and so much of what we talked about and acted upon were shared values (community service, hospitality, care and love of neighbor). It seemed natural to me to extend and widen the table so all people can learn how to become more antiracist. Each of us is called to serve and sometimes that means listening and learning so we can better love and serve our neighbor. We cannot become antiracist alone. We must do this in community. I firmly believe that we can do better and be better if we start this work at the youth level.

The grant making organization, Interfaith Youth Core, is one that I have been a member of since summer of 2012. When I saw the call for grant proposals, I knew I wanted to apply.

The project is called: Racism, Antiracism and Beliefs. This project started in late September and will run through spring 2021. Youth from VOA as well as youth from other religious and non-religious backgrounds are welcome to participate. Clare and Lois Ansay will lead the project. Each participant will receive a free copy of Jason Reynolds and Dr. Ibram X. Kendi’s “Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You.” Youth will also receive free admission to the Jazz and Negro Leagues Baseball Museum here in Kansas City to explore how race influenced arts and sports at the local and national level. We will attend as a group. Additionally, this series will highlight guest speakers from different religious and non-religious communities who are persons of color. Our guests will speak about their experiences with race and how they have utilized their beliefs to encourage positive change in their community. Each speaker will receive an honorarium.

If a youth would like to join this project, please email Clare Stern-Burbano at clare.stern@villagepres.org.
Session to Re-Evaluate When to Return to Inside In-Person Worship

At the time the Good News was sent to the printer on Oct. 27, the Village Session had not convened for its Nov. 2 Session Meeting. Back in September, the Session had voted to continue suspension of inside in-person worship through Nov. 1. A COVID-19 Covenant will be discussed. Look for updates from Rev. Tom Are in his Friday video eNote or in our weekly eNews. To subscribe, go to www.villagepres.org/subscribe.

UPCOMING SERMONS

Sunday, Nov. 8 – Rev. Tom Are concludes the series Village Being Village with “The Heart of Mission” on Pledge Sunday and Signature Mission Sunday. We’ll hear from Gillian Helm, the executive director of Literacy KC, our signature mission for 2021.

Sunday, Nov. 15 – Guest preacher Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin

Sunday, Nov. 22 – Rev. Zach Walker preaching

Sunday, Nov. 29 (1st Sunday of Advent) – Rev. Tom Are begins the Advent Sermon Series “Worth the Wait: God, We’ve Made a Mess of Things. Can You Fix It?”

During this season when the COVID-19 virus has chased us indoors and in many ways away from one another, it is common to yearn for things to get back to normal. That’s what we have been waiting for. Advent is a spiritual season of waiting. As people of faith, we are not waiting to “get back” to anything. We are waiting for a promised day that we have yet to see, but it is a day on which we base our lives. In this sense, the church lives every day in the season of Advent. We are waiting for God’s promised day.

Worship Reflections led by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

7-7:45 p.m. Nov. 10 and 24 via Zoom

During this time of worshipping online only, we so miss the opportunity to be together and to engage one another in conversation and reflection. We will gather as preachers, liturgists and musicians for an interactive conversation about the previous worship services. We will hear about the sermon, the call to worship and prayers, and our music including hymns, anthems, and prelude and postlude. Join us and ask questions and share your thoughts and insights as we gather together to discover more about our worship. Register online at www.villagepres.org-village-u-community-classes.

Taizé Worship: Readings, Prayers, Music and Silence

7 p.m. Tuesday, 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 villagepres.org/online, the Village Music YouTube channel and the Village Music Facebook page @VillageChurchMusic.
PW Mixes In a Few New Ingredients to Make a Sweet Advent Celebration in 2020

This year our PW Advent Celebration will be a participatory streaming event on Tuesday, Dec. 1. Advent Celebration Committee Co-Chair Suzanne Willey shares, “Village Church women pastors (from both current and recent years) will offer words of Christmas joy. Our online event will also include songs with Dr. Elisa Bickers and other musicians, as well as communion. Because it’s been a rough year for everyone, we are aiming at making this a more joyful celebration. It will still be a holy experience infused with lots of holiday cheer!”

In order to be inclusive and engaging in this crazy year of isolation, we will have pick-ups of Advent goodies at Village on Mission and Village on Antioch ahead of the event. Women of Village Church can pick up sacks/boxes of tealight advent candles, a holiday cookie recipe book and other goodies at three different times and two locations: 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, in the Village on Mission south parking lot; 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at Village on Antioch; and 10-11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, in the Village on Mission south parking lot. For those of you who are unable to come to the church to pick up your Advent Celebration box, we will be making some special deliveries to senior living facilities. Or if you are sheltering at home, let us know you would like a delivery calling Laura Hobbs at 913-671-2333.

Also, beginning Dec. 1 through Dec. 24, we will celebrate the days of Advent with photos or videos highlighting the different recipes in the recipe book, along with those offering the recipes. The bakers/providers of the recipes will be pastors, plus a variety of other PW women. Those will be shared each day on Facebook, Instagram and on our PW web page www.villagepres.org/pw. The recipe book essentially ‘comes to life!’

“We wish we could all be together for one of our most beloved Village Advent traditions. COVID just doesn’t make that possible to keep everyone safe. We look forward to the day when we can be together again. This year will be different, but rest assured that Presbyterian Women are doing our very best to make sure it’s special and meaningful,” Suzanne said.

“We hope to bring the warmth, sweetness and comfort of Advent into each Presbyterian woman’s home by sharing each other’s recipes and Advent messages,” said Laura Langdon, Advent Celebration Committee co-chair. “Although we cannot gather inside the church this year, we want to provide seasonal, special connections to other Presbyterian Women as we simultaneously light candles during worship, sing favorite Christmas songs, partake in communion, enjoy holiday cookies, and even participate in Epiphany activities well into the new year.”

The PW Advent Celebration will be broadcast at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, on www.villagepres.org/online and the Village Church main Facebook page www.facebook.com/villagepres. It will also be available “on demand” to watch at your convenience at www.villagepres.org/pw. For those of you without access to the internet or a computer or mobile device, you can call 913-203-1301 to listen to the Advent Celebration service. Email laura.hobbs@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2333 if you have any questions.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Session welcomed five new church members who requested to join Village Church via the Zoom Session meeting on Oct. 5. Our newest church members are Brittany Bailey, Lisa and Jim Markley, and Peggy and Dick Wink.
Adult Sunday Morning Classes

Faith Journey, 9:30 a.m. Sundays, via Zoom, facilitated by Kathy Ray – For the first three weeks in November, we will discuss 3 TED talks and "Looking at Racism in America" through different lenses to expand our understanding and its impact on everyone, and how we as Christians can make a positive impact in our community. Email Kathy Ray at kathydray@gmail.com to register.

Village Forum, 10:30 a.m. Sundays, via Zoom, facilitated by Bob Fletcher and Gus Breytspraak – On Nov. 15 and 22, we will watch and discuss "Soul Searching: The Journey of Thomas Merton," a documentary about the monk, activist, poet, author and highly influential spiritual writer and teacher of the last century. The film provides provocative insights into the interior landscape of one of the spiritual giants of modern times. Email laura.hobbs@villagepres.org to register.

Why The Incarnation Matters, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Sundays, Nov. 29-Dec.13, via Zoom, led by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka-Theologian J.I. Packer wrote that “nothing in fiction is so fantastic as the truth of the incarnation.” The very idea that God would become human flesh in the form of a baby is what C.S. Lewis called the “central miracle of the Christian faith”, greater even than Jesus’ resurrection on Easter morning. That is why the Christian year officially begins with the season of Advent – the season of waiting for Jesus’ birth. Contact laura.hobbs@villagepres.org to register.

Music Ministry

Thanksgiving Community Hymn Sing Online
7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19

“Even though we have so much that concerns us this year, we give thanks to God,” said Will Breytspraak, director of music ministry. “We sing our praises and songs of thanksgiving in a hymn sing unlike any other. We will give thanks for those on the front lines of COVID-19. We will give thanks for our beautiful planet. For our neighbors. For our church. For all the saints before us. For hope. For each other.”

The Thanksgiving Community Hymn Sing will be broadcast online at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, on your choice of three platforms: www.villagepres.org/online, the Village Music YouTube channel and the Village Music Facebook page.

Connectional Ministries

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. 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.

November Menus:
Nov. 11: chicken marsala, creamy herb polenta, seasonal vegetable, and dinner roll
Nov. 18: Thanksgiving meal: roasted turkey breast with gravy, green bean casserole, cornbread dressing, and dinner roll
Nov. 25: No dinner. We hope you have Happy Thanksgiving! Curbside Pickup Wednesday Family Meals resume Dec. 2.
Welcome Back to Village Preschool

It was with great anticipation and joy that staff welcomed back students into the preschool classrooms at Village on Mission and Village on Antioch this fall. Brooke Latas, director of Children & Family Ministry rejoiced, “I forgot just how much I missed the sounds of kids on the playground until they were here again!”

Sarah McKee, director of the Village on Mission Preschool, says that though protocols are certainly different this year, fun is being had as 48 students, ages 3-5, returned to the building for preschool beginning on Monday, Oct. 5. The Village on Mission Preschool currently employs nine teachers who run five classes: two 3-year-old classes, two 4-year-old classes, and one pre-K class.

“When we actually had a start date, all the emotions flooded through me: excitement, optimism, anxiety, apprehension, anticipation and even fear,” says Anne Huxtable, one of the Village on Mission preschool teachers. “But once we greeted the students and started our first days, all those emotions turned into happiness. I’m so glad to be back working with kids!”

The first day of preschool at Village on Antioch was Sept. 14. “Things feel about the same here,” says Paula Benefiel, director of the Village on Antioch Preschool, “it’s just smaller.” There are 42 children in her program right now, which is about one-third of the typical enrollment. The six teachers are required to wear masks but the children are not, which is also the case at Village on Mission Preschool. Parents are not allowed inside the building so all drop-offs and pick-ups occur outdoors. But opening prayers, snack time, craft projects and school photos are all happening.

On Thursday, Oct. 8, the Village on Mission Kids Day Out program kicked off, welcoming back the younger set. Eleven kids, ages 22 months to 3 years, joined two teachers from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and for some, it was their first time away from home in a school-like setting. One of the larger accommodations for Kids Day Out in 2020 is the drop-off procedure; parents must adhere to a “drop-and-go” format rather than get their child comfy in the classroom before leaving. Although enrollment is about one-third of a typical year, Marjean Lindquist, director of child care, says that it felt wonderful to re-open the doors. “We missed it even more than we realized,” she said.

Calling All Leftover Halloween Candy!

We’re sending care packages to college students and we need your help, Village! Bring us your leftover Halloween candy to include in the care packages. Please drop off candy donations in the plastic tub by the south entrance to Village on Mission. Thanks for helping make a college student’s day a little brighter.
Classes & Events Nov. 8-Dec. 2

**November**

7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8: Kansas City Wind Symphony Online Concert. Info about how to watch the online concert will be posted on [www.facebook.com/kcwinds](http://www.facebook.com/kcwinds).

7-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Nov. 10 and 24 via Zoom: Worship Reflections - Led by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka. Email [laura.hobbs@villagepres.org](mailto:laura.hobbs@villagepres.org) to get the Zoom information.

6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 11 and 18, via Zoom: Systemic Racism – led by Bob Krenzel, Village Church member, veteran, author and trainer. 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.

6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, Nov. 11-18, Dec. 2-16: Book of Job – led by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka. Class participants 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.

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

12:15-12:45 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12: Second Thursday Online Recital with soprano Judy Bliss. Second Thursday Recitals are FREE with an online offering for Harvesters. The recital will be broadcast on villagepres.org/online-look for the button under the livestream screen RECITAL BROADCASTS, the Music Ministry Facebook page @ VillageChurchMusic and the Music Ministry YouTube channel.

1-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14: Second Saturday Bike Rodeo. Bring your wheels and your helmets for epic racetrack fun in the Village on Mission south parking lot. From 1-2 p.m., 4-5th graders can help create a racetrack with chalk and cones. From 2-3 p.m., come ride the course with your kids’ preferred set of wheels. We will be handing out Advent wreath kits to families (that you get to make at home)!

7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17: Taizé Online Worship: Readings, Prayers, Music and Silence. Taizé will be broadcast at villagepres.org/online, the Village Music YouTube channel, and the Village Music Facebook page @VillageChurchMusic.

7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19: Thanksgiving Community Hymn Sing Online. Join us online on your choice of three platforms: at villagepres.org/online, the Village Music YouTube page and the Village Music Facebook page.

**December**

7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1: PW Advent Celebration Online – Join us on [www.villagepres.org/online](http://www.villagepres.org/online) or on the Village Church main Facebook page [www.facebook.com/villagepres](http://www.facebook.com/villagepres).

Get more details about all Village Church events at [www.villagepres.org](http://www.villagepres.org) or call 913-262-4200.
**GOOD NEWS**

**VILLAGE GIVING**

**Nov. 8 is Commitment Sunday**

The work of Village Church is only enabled by your annual giving. Village Church provides wonderful worship and a warm, welcoming community. We are blessed with a talented staff, creative and diverse programs, and the opportunity for mission work in our community and in far-reaching areas of the world. That’s Village Being Village!

This is the time of year when we ask you to consider your financial commitment to Village Church for next year. To make your commitment for 2021 you may:

- Mail your Commitment Card to Village Presbyterian Church, Attn: Bob Sperry, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208
- Or
- Fill it out online at [www.villagepres.org/commitment-form](http://www.villagepres.org/commitment-form).

Village couldn’t be Village without YOU.

**ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sundays
[www.villagepres.org/online](http://www.villagepres.org/online)

The Gathering Music and Prayers
5 p.m. Sundays
[vpcthegathering.org](http://vpcthegathering.org)

**Call In** to Hear 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**

Susan “Sue” Biggar
Gloria Crawford
Cameron Foerster
Perry Handy
Carolyn McCaul
Kathryn “Kathy” Taylor