



**VILLAGE  
CHURCH**

Presbyterian (USA)

# GOOD NEWS

The Village Church Good News is published monthly (September-May) for all members and friends of the Village Presbyterian Church. Readers are encouraged to submit article ideas to The Department of Communications, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208, or call 913-671-2375 or email [laura.davis@villagepres.org](mailto:laura.davis@villagepres.org).

## Small Acts Done with Great Love

April is Global Volunteer Month, a time to recognize volunteers and others who actively support their communities and engage in civic actions that change the world. National Volunteer Week was established in 1974 thanks to the 37th U.S. President, Richard Nixon, who established the tradition with an executive order. It has grown exponentially each year and is now celebrated in both the U.S. and Canada with thousands of service projects and special events scheduled throughout the week. This year it is April 16-22, and the theme is "Celebrate Service." Volunteerism empowers each of us to use our passion, seek our purpose and turn it into meaningful change.

Village Church would be a vastly different church without our wonderful volunteers and all the good work they do across our ministries. With grateful hearts, we celebrate all of you for your faithful service. As Rev. Tom Are, Jr. often says in his benediction, "God's love calls you by name. Let that love instruct and inspire you to do the good that is yours to do, share the love that is yours to share, and trust that God will use that to lead us toward God's promised day."

There are many ways to inspire and be inspired at Village Church through mission and service. You can volunteer at the Food Pantry, teach Sunday school, chaperone at a Youth event, tend the community garden, deliver meals or flowers and so much more. Visit [villagepres.org/local-outreach](http://villagepres.org/local-outreach) or email Rev. Dr. Dionne Boyice, director of mission & engagement, at [dionne.boyice@villagepres.org](mailto:dionne.boyice@villagepres.org) to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

### Volunteer Spotlight

#### Lois Ansay and Jan Zimmerman

Lois Ansay and Jan Zimmerman are the backbone of



Jan Zimmerman and Lois Ansay

children's ministry at our Antioch Campus. For decades, these two superstars have managed everything from Sunday school, Christmas pageants and summer Vacation Bible School programs.

Lois shares, "One of the things I love about teaching Sunday school is my interactions with the kids. Helping them to experience the Bible stories in a meaningful and fun way is very fulfilling for me. I find myself learning right along with them. Also getting a hug or a cheery, 'See you next week!' after class is an extra, heartwarming benefit. It's been a joy for me to

have worked with kids in the church for more than 40 years."

Jan Zimmerman shares, "When I was a child, it seemed to me that most grown-ups had forgotten what it was like to be a kid. I made myself a promise that I would never forget what it was like to be kid." Inspired by two women who later became her dear friends and treasured colleagues—Judy Cooper and Ruth Davidson—Jan was the director of children's ministry from 2000–2010 at the Presbyterian Church of Stanley (now, Village Presbyterian Church on Antioch).

She says, "For 10 years, I was blessed to do something that was my passion. Since retiring, God has continued to bless me with opportunities to do the thing I love most: Working with kids and amazing people like Lois Ansay, Sara Hutsell and so many other adults who, by the way, remember what it's like to be a kid."

If you are interested in helping with the children's programs at Antioch, email [lisa.harrison@villagepres.org](mailto:lisa.harrison@villagepres.org).

## Village Church Food Pantry & Clothes Closet Update

by Dennis Cobb

I have been the director of the Village Church Food Pantry and Clothes Closet for more than a year. On a daily basis, I am reminded how much we rely on the skills and the gifts given by our volunteers. Each month in 2022, an average of 165 individuals gave more than 1,500 hours of volunteer time to fulfill the mission of supporting our neighbors in need. Most of our volunteers are retired and able to commit to serving on the same shift each week. That continuity is the foundation of a smooth-running operation. And you might be surprised to know that only about half of our volunteers are associated with Village Church. The rest are giving-minded community members who appreciate and support the Pantry's care of those experiencing food insecurity.



The other "volunteers" we rely on are our donors—both financial and of food and goods. Right now, the Clothes Closet is low on items of all kinds: clothing (spring and summer), kitchen items, household goods, linens, towels, etc. Please look in your closets and cupboards and send those things you don't need our way. We have neighbors who will put them to good use.

Our volunteers and donors team up each day to make the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet a caring, active and vital ministry in the KC metro. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated and in so many other ways supported this work for the past 25 years!

### Meet the Heritage Committee; Preserving Village Church History

Around 2008, Heritage Committee chair Judy Cooper first talked with Rev. Tom Are, Jr. about starting a task force to preserve the church's history. "Tom gave me permission to ask folks to serve on the task force," Judy recalled. "It was not long until we realized that this was not a task force with a beginning and an end.



So, I talked with Tom again and he said we should form a committee. Our first meeting as a Heritage Committee was in 2011. We have accomplished a lot over the past 12 years."

**Members of the Heritage Committee:** (Front Row L to R) Diann Markley, Judy Cooper (chair), Trudy Anthony and Virginia Winston (Back Row L to R) Sally Barhydt, Virginia Fambrough, Darla Hajinian, Joy Biard (founding pastor Dr. Bob Meneilly's daughter), Jack Rowe and Leslie Conrad. Other members of the committee not pictured are Sherri Robeson, Fred Stemme and Barbara Wilson.

As Village Church approaches its 75th anniversary in February of 2024, the Heritage Committee is gathering pictures that will be used in a 75th-anniversary display. "We are also Zooming with the Records Archivist at the Presbyterian Historical Society and archivists from other PC(USA) churches on a regular basis to learn more about the importance of maintaining church records," said Judy. "We have sought the expertise from Village Church member Jamie Rees who is an archivist at the KU Medical Historical Records Center. Sherri and I visited with Anne Jones, the Johnson County Museum's director of collections, who showed us their system of storing and identifying their collections. The more we learn, the more excited we become about preserving the history of this great church!"

## UPCOMING SERMONS

April 9 – **Easter Sunday** – Rev. Tom Are, Jr. concludes his preaching series “Get a Life: Walking in Peter’s Footsteps.”

**Easter services** are at 8, 9:30, 11:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Mission Campus with child care available at the 9:30, 11:15 and 5 p.m. services. Additional parking is available at Prairie Elementary School across the street from the church. The Antioch campus service is at 9:30 a.m.

April 16 – **“You Name It, You Take Care Of It.”** – **Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka preaching**

In the second creation story in Genesis, God gave the human the power to name all the creatures. With the naming comes the responsibility to care for all of earth’s inhabitants. As we come upon Earth Day, we are reminded that God calls us by name to care for the earth and all her creatures.



April 23 – **Rev. Dr. Darren Kennedy is guest preaching.** Darren grew up in Village Church and is currently serving as a professor of theology and the academic dean at Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt. He was ordained at Village and served as director of senior-high ministries from 1993-1996 (and worked as a summer intern in 1991-1992). Village Church has supported his work as a PC(USA) co-worker in Egypt since 1999. Darren studied the politics and economics of the Middle East as an undergraduate at Princeton University. He earned his M.Div. at Princeton Theological Seminary and later his Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh. He is married to Rev. Dr. Elisabeth Kennedy. Their two boys were born in Cairo (Calvin in 2000 and Sammy in 2003).

April 30 – **“Jesus and the Least of These”** – **Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka preaching**

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read of a time when all peoples of the earth will be judged not according to our wealth or power but according to how we treat a

special group of persons: the least of these. Why? Because in caring for the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and the prisoner, we care for Jesus himself.



May 7 – **Rev. Tom Are Jr. begins a new sermon series, “Do I Have a Story for You!”** The first stories in the Bible are both familiar as well as complicated. You know the names—Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, as well as that story of the Tower of Babel. These old stories are not about people who lived at the beginning of humankind. They are stories about the whole human family. The ancient wisdom found in these first stories point to our place as well as our responsibilities in God’s world. In this series, we will walk with God “at the time of the evening breeze.” We will see what we can learn from a talking snake. We will discover how familiar the first brothers can be to us. And we will discover the risk to us all when “the whole earth had one language and the same words.” These are stories our ancestors in the faith loved to tell. After all these generations, they still reveal truth about ourselves that we need to know. The series runs through May 28.



### Meet the New Associate Director of Youth Ministries



Angel Patterson joined the Village Church staff as associate director of youth ministries on March 20. Angel is a southern California native who relocated to Kansas a little more than three years ago. She attended Azusa Pacific University where she fell in love with humanities and studied theology. Her love of theology continued to grow. She attended Fuller Theological Seminary where she earned her master's degrees in 2022. It was during her time there that she felt called to ministry.

Angel's favorite things include trying new restaurants, exploring cities, swimming and all things Disney. She is married to her high-school sweetheart, Trevor. They have two girls, Riley and Zoey, who are bursting with personality. Please welcome Angel to Village Church!

### Village Says Farewell to Martha Atkinson

Martha has worked as an accountant in the Village Church business office since May of 2015. After almost eight years of service to the church, Martha left Village in March to become business manager at Second Presbyterian Church in Brookside.

For many years, Martha was a controller for various organizations. Martha said, "I decided it was time to move on from my position with Village because I took this position when my girls were young, and I needed to take a step back in my career to a part-time job that was simple during the child-rearing years. My daughters are now a junior in high school and a freshman at Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas. Now that they are older, I can resume my original career path by accepting more responsibility and engaging more with church managers and committees by being business manager at Second Presbyterian.

I have always been more of a 'big fish in a small pond' type person, so my eight years at Village where I have been a 'small fish in a big pond' was perfect for what I needed at the time but is no longer a good fit for where I am in my life. I have genuinely enjoyed my years at Village and will miss my co-workers the most. I plan to stay in touch!"

We are grateful for Martha's service to Village Church.



### Coming in the May Good News...



**We will introduce you to Rev. Anna Owens, the new site pastor at the Antioch Campus.** Anna is a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, and has served congregations in Ohio, Alabama and Indiana. She and her husband, Josh Sweeney, and toddler, Charlie, will join us later this month.

We will share more about Anna and her family in the May Good News.



**Village calls Alice Whitson to serve as associate pastor for media ministry.** The call was officially extended at the Annual Congregational Meeting on March 14. Alice has served as director of media ministry since August of 2022. Pending approval by Heartland Presbytery, Alice will be ordained and installed

in the Village Church Mission Sanctuary later this spring. We will hear from Alice about her dreams and vision for media ministry in the May Good News.

Village celebrated three extraordinary Presbyterian women as Honorary Life Members at the April 1 Celebration of Faithful Women.



**Charlotte Davis** has served in a variety of ministries at Village Church: as a ruling elder, deacon and on the following committees: Children and Family Ministry, Meneilly Visiting Scholar, Adult Faith Formation, Worship & Music and Building Beloved Community. Other groups that have been a critical part of her faith journey include the Discover Your Calling Task Force and Village Connect. Charlotte also serves as a Faxon School PAL. "Each opportunity to serve here has been a privilege—working with other women and men who seek to honor God and do our very best to build up this community of faith," Charlotte said. "At all times we've been aware that we stand on the shoulders of giants."

Charlotte was born in the Flint Hills of Kansas and is proud to be a fifth-generation steward of a piece of that tall-grass prairie. She earned her first degree in elementary education from Kansas State University; various other universities gave her additional opportunities to learn and grow. She moved to Kansas City to teach at Prairie Elementary School. After spending an extended time in mostly elementary classrooms, she left the district to write curriculum for a small educational publishing company.

**Desiree Reinke's** service to Village Church spans more than 20 years and includes serving as a ruling elder and currently as a deacon at our Antioch Campus, usher, a Disciple Bible study facilitator, a Stephen Minister and Stephen Ministry leader. She has been the chair of the Congregational Care Committee at Antioch, chair of the Pastoral Care committee, and has served on the following committees: Adult Education, Children's Ministry, Youth and Mission. Desiree worked with Antioch's Pop-up Food Pantry and the teams for the PW Advent Celebration and the Feast. She also tutors at Franklin Elementary and Front Porch Alliance.



Born in San Antonio, Desiree's family moved six times by the time she was five years old. They later moved to Moore, Oklahoma, where Desiree graduated from high school. It was there that a youth-group friend introduced her to husband David. They were married several years later and have two children, Essie and Jared, and one granddaughter, Lucy. While Desiree's degree is in secondary education, her career has spanned everything from accounting, legal discovery work, marketing, Christian education & preschool director and director of the Indian Nations Presbytery Resource Center. She currently works with elementary-age, intensive resource students in the Blue Valley district.



**Carol Solenberger's** involvement with Village Church spans decades, with service to multiple generations. She is serving her second term as a deacon and is on the Youth committee and a Helping Hands volunteer. She has served on the Children & Family Ministry committee, taught Sunday School and was a VBS volunteer. Carol has devoted much time to serving Presbyterian Women—membership coordinator and co-moderator, and as a committee member for Women with Spirit, Celebration of Faithful Women and Advent Celebration Dinner.

Carol was born in Birmingham, Alabama. Her family moved about every two years—living in Alabama, North Carolina, Indiana and Tennessee—before finally settling in El Dorado, Kansas in her freshman year of high school.

Carol received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Kansas State University. She then earned a master's in higher education administration at UMKC, after which she took a position in the Student Life Office. Carol worked for the Girl Scouts' teen program for 11 years. In 2000, Carol met her husband, Dan, on a blind date. They have two children: Reagan and Landon. Currently, she teaches the 5-year-old class at the Village Church Mission Campus Preschool.

Congratulations to the 2023 honorees! Look for pictures from the event on our Facebook page.

## Consider a Donation to Mission Sewing

Mission Sewing has been busy—so busy that our fabric stash is running low. Please consider a donation of:

**Fabric** – Upcoming projects need cotton prints of assorted designs, especially those suited for children or Christmas. Each print should be a minimum of 1 yard, clean and unused.

**Blankets** – Hospitals need blankets for adults receiving chemo. Mission Sewing also has free yarn for those who would like to knit or crochet a blanket.

The Sewing Room, located on the first floor at the Mission Campus, is open from 8 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. every Tuesday. Or you may call Mary Jo at 913-788-0712 to arrange another time to drop off your donations. Thank you from everyone at Mission Sewing.



## CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

### Everyday Earth Day with Environmental Theologian & Author Rev. Dr. Patricia Tull

10 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 22 - Mission Campus

Scripture’s ancient writers were keenly aware of their absolute dependence on, and interdependence with, the natural world that was their home. They developed a rich theology of creation, which people of faith are now reclaiming. As we do so, we discover not only joy in a powerful world beyond ourselves, but urgency to do all we can to assure its thriving—for the sake of those we love. Although many find environmental problems either too remote or too frightening to face, the actions needed to change our course are both practical and doable. From 10 a.m.-noon on Earth Day, guest speaker Rev. Dr. Patricia Tull will discuss what it looks like to make creation care integral to everything we do as Christians and why it matters so urgently now. This free event will be in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. There will also be an Electric Car Expo from noon-3 p.m. on Earth Day in the south parking lot.

Dr. Patricia (Trisha) Tull is A. B. Rhodes Professor Emerita of Hebrew Bible at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary and author of several books, including “Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible and the Ecological Crisis” and the 2024-2025 Horizons Bible Study on environmental justice. A GreenFaith fellow, Climate Reality presenter, former program director for Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light and 2016 recipient of the William Gibson Eco-Justice Award, Dr. Tull devotes her life’s work to environmental theology.



## APRIL/EARLY MAY CALENDAR

April 12 – **Village U: Spiritual Journeys from the Saints** – Led by Bob Fletcher, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, April 12, 19, 26, Room 126-Mission Campus

**Village U: Transgender Persons, Faith, the Bible and the Church** – Led by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, April 12, 19, 26, Rooms 132/133

April 12-May 10 – **Growing Through Grief**, a five-week series that offers support and comfort, is at 6 p.m. Wednesdays in Room 124-Mission Campus. The series is offered at no cost and is open to all. Contact Linda Alley to register at 913-671-2327 or [linda.alley@villagepres.org](mailto:linda.alley@villagepres.org).

April 13 – 12:15 p.m. **2nd Thursday Recital with French horn player David Gamble**, Mission Campus Sanctuary

April 14 – Deadline to register for **Village Golf**, the first outing of the year at the Fred Arbanas/Longview Golf Course (11100 View High Dr, Kansas City, MO 64134) on April 25. Tee times starting at 8 a.m. Cost is \$40. Email Brad Steil at [bradsteil@everestkc.net](mailto:bradsteil@everestkc.net) to sign up.

April 15 – 7:30 p.m. **Piazzollo's Four Seasons of Buenos Aires – KC Premiere!** Features the Village Players Students & Professionals Side-by-Side and violinist Destiny Ann Mermagen, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Admission is free.

April 18 – **Village U: My First Year Album** – Led by Pam Wood, 9:30-11:30 a.m. in Room 232-Mission Campus

**Village U: Parents' Night Out** – Child Care department, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Drop off in nursery

April 22 – 10 a.m.-noon **Everyday Earth Day presented by environmental theologian Rev. Dr. Patricia Tull** from Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. The event will coincide with an **Electric Car Expo** in the south parking lot.

**Village U: Locating and Organizing Files, Folders and Pictures on an Apple Computer** – Led by Dee Couch from 10-11:30 a.m. April 22, Tillotson Building Conference Room, 9960 Mission Road

April 23 – 10:15 a.m. **The Gospel According to Ted Lasso**, Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. Join Rev. Melanie Hardison for informal conversation about the storyline, characters and life lessons learned in this Apple TV series. Although "Ted Lasso" may not be an explicitly Christian show, do you detect Christian themes? Let's gather over coffee and discuss from 10:15-10:45 a.m. Sunday, April 23, May 14 and June 11. Look for the "BELIEVE" sign!

3 p.m. **Classic Jazz in Four Hands with stride pianists Stephanie Trick & Paolo Alderighi**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Tickets are \$20 at the door. A reception follows the concert.

April 25 – noon-6 p.m. **Blood Drive**. Stop by Room 132 to donate blood through the Community Blood Center of Greater Kansas City

April 30 – 3 p.m. **Light Eternal Concert**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. The Village Choir and More Love Chorale will perform a 'Requiem' by James Bingham and the healing 'Echorus' by Philip Glass. Admission is free. An offering will be taken for the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. The gift will be given in memory of Mark Ball, former Village Church music director, who passed away in 2019.

## EARLY MAY CALENDAR

May 2 – noon **Faith & Grief Support Gathering**, Friendship Hall-Mission Campus

May 3 – 10 a.m. **First Wednesdays Coffee & Conversation with Ginger Rothhaas**, Room 306-Mission Campus;

6:30 p.m. **Moms of Teens (MOTS) Support Group**, Room 307-Mission Campus

May 5 – 5-7 p.m. **Art & Hors d'oeuvres** in the Mission Campus Welcome Center & Friendship Hall. Come stroll through displays by artists of all ages and enjoy tasty hors d'oeuvres from our own Chef Andrea.

Email [sarah.pickrell@villagepres.org](mailto:sarah.pickrell@villagepres.org) for more info.

Get more details about upcoming events at [villagepres.org/upcoming-events](https://villagepres.org/upcoming-events).



## GOOD NEWS

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

APRIL 5, 2023  
Vol. 61, No. 4

### VILLAGE GIVING

**Jesus looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."**

—Luke 21:1-4

A reminder that God does not judge how much you give, only that what you give is truly meaningful to you. All gifts, big and small, are used to further the mission of Village Church, through three campuses and a multitude of programs that spread the word and compassion of God.

We thank you for your continued support of Village Church!



### SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### MISSION CAMPUS

6641 Mission Rd.

Traditional - 9 & 11 a.m.

In the Sanctuary

The Gathering - 5 p.m.

In Friendship Hall

#### ANTIOCH CAMPUS

14895 Antioch Rd.

Overland Park, Kansas

Traditional - 9:30 a.m.

In the Sanctuary

Call in to hear the previous Sunday's 9 a.m. Sanctuary worship service on our phone line **913-203-1301**.

### IN MEMORY

Barbara Allen

Mildred "Millie" Brown

Fred Dunmire

Viola "Vicki" Johnson

Margaret 'Ann' Pankratz

Janet Russell

Alberta Summers

Duane White