

75 YEARS

GOOD NEWS

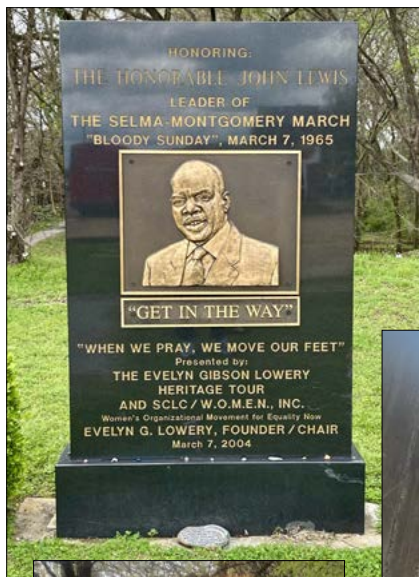
The Village Church Good News is published quarterly for all members and friends of the Village Presbyterian Church. Readers are encouraged to submit article ideas to The Department of Communications, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208, or call 913-671-2375 or email laura.davis@villagepres.org.

Village Church to Lead Pilgrimage to Alabama this Fall

In October, the Building Beloved Community Committee of Village Presbyterian Church will be sponsoring a Human Rights Pilgrimage to Alabama. Building Beloved Community is a committee of the Session, the church's governing body. Its purpose is to work both within and outside Village Church to follow our faith's teaching for justice, inclusion and welcome to all people.

"What is a pilgrimage?" It is a journey, often into an unknown or foreign place, where a person goes in search of new or expanded meaning about themselves, others, or a higher good through the experience. It is more than a big history lesson. It is an opportunity to pray with our feet, with the hope of deepening our understanding and our faith. It can lead to a personal transformation.

The Human Rights Pilgrimage to Alabama Oct. 9-13 will encourage us to study, reflect on and pray about the spiritual values that led the great movement for equal rights and social justice and changed our country over 60 years ago. We will start our journey in Birmingham, then travel by tour bus to Montgomery where we'll enter three sites: The National Memorial for Peace and Justice – A reverent and sacred outdoor site which addresses the legacy of slavery, lynching



and racial segregation; The Legacy Museum – A powerful immersive journey through the history of slavery to mass incarceration concluding with a reflection space and world class art gallery; Freedom Monument Sculpture Park – A 17-acre site overlooking the Alabama River which honors the lives of the 10 million Black people who were enslaved in America and celebrates their courage and resilience.



Then in Selma, we will experience The Footsteps to Freedom Tour which includes The National Voting Rights Museum, The Slavery & Civil Rights Museum, Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, a walk across the historic Edmund

Pettus Bridge and The Lowndes Interpretive Center – A National Park Service site dedicated to those who peacefully marched in 1965 from Selma to Montgomery to gain the right to vote.

Once back in Birmingham we will enter: 16th Street Baptist Church – Site of the 1963 Sunday morning bombing by the KKK resulting in the death of four young girls which is still an active place of worship; Kelly Ingram Park where powerful sculptures depict the 1963 civil rights struggle when 3,000 peaceful protesters were arrested, including 1,000 children; The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute – An affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution depicting the events of the 1963 Birmingham campaign and the Children's Crusade.

Journey with us, to arrive at new spiritual insights on how to live what we believe. Space is limited. Get more details at villagepres.org/beloved-community. Email Nancy Gatewood at nngatewood@gmail.com with questions.

4th Annual Juneteenth Freedom Celebration

As part of Prairie Village's campaign to better know and welcome its diverse neighbors, STAND Up for Black Lives+ Prairie Village, the city of Prairie Village and its Diversity Committee, Village Presbyterian Church and the Johnson County NAACP are sponsoring the 4th Annual Juneteenth Freedom Celebration from 4-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 15, in Harmon Park (7728 Delmar, Prairie Village).

Enjoy food, drink, fun and live music featuring Brass and Boujee. There will also be a wide variety of activities for the entire family including face painting, balloon artists, arts and crafts, games, inflatables as well as a water feature. During the event, winners of the Juneteenth Poster contest will be announced.

Children ages 5-12 are invited to participate in the 2024 Juneteenth Freedom Celebration Poster Contest, "What Juneteenth Freedom Means to Me." Gift card prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25 will be awarded for the top three posters in each age group: 5-7, 8-9 and 10-12 for a total of nine winners. Posters must be submitted by June 7. Get more details about how to enter the poster contest at standupblacklives.com.

BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY



L to R:
Becky Anderson;
Rev. Chad Herring;
Ellen Gatewood;
Andrew Gustafson &
Lindsey Arnold SeEVERS

Building Beloved Community Committee Makes Donation to the Johnson County Museum

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of Village Church, the Building Beloved Community Committee has donated \$5,000 to the Johnson County Museum at the Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center to support the creation of a permanent "Redlined: Cities, Suburbs and Segregation" exhibit that will be accessible through the center's website.

The donation also honors the church's founding pastor, Rev. Dr. Bob Meneilly. A permanent exhibit at the center recognizes Dr. Bob's efforts to welcome Black persons into the church and surrounding community.

The Building Beloved Community Committee focuses on diversity, equity and inclusion in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, identity, age and ability.

The center's original in-person exhibit was viewed by thousands of visitors in 2022, many of whom requested that the exhibit be made a permanent fixture. (The committee sponsored a guided tour of the exhibit in October 2022.) The center is now converting the in-person exhibit to a website.

Redlining refers to the systematic favoring of some populations in favor of others, usually based on race. Through images, original objects and documents, the Arts and Heritage Center presents the foundations of redlining in Johnson County, ways the private practice became federal policy during the Great Depression, and its expansion during postwar suburbanization. The exhibit also examines attempts to dismantle the system during the Civil Rights era and how the legacies of redlining continue today.

The Building Beloved Community Committee, a standing Session committee, meets on the first Sunday of the month at the Mission Campus and is always open to new members. Contact Rev. Chad Herring at chad.herring@villagepres.org for more information.

Village for Gun Sense Encourages You to Wear Orange June 7-9

Village for Gun Sense is a group of concerned people of faith who share the belief that unregulated access to guns is a threat to our children and communities. We advocate for common-ground solutions to protect our citizens through education, collaboration and legislation.

Join us in honoring National Gun Violence Awareness Day and Wear Orange Weekend as Village for Gun Sense and other gun violence prevention organizations unite for this city and this cause on Saturday, June 8, at the Wear Orange rally in Harmon Park, 77th Place and Delmar. Prairie Village Police Chief Byron Roberson will speak at 9 a.m. Make a sign, wear orange or just be present to express your belief that the senseless tragedies of gun violence must end!

Mission Sewing of Village Church will provide orange ribbons and pins for Wear Orange weekend. Those will be available at both campuses on Sunday, June 2. Gun Violence Awareness Sunday is June 9 at Village Church. We encourage you to wear orange to worship. A representative from Village for Gun Sense will speak at all worship services for "Why Village Matters."

INTERNATIONAL MISSION



Higgins Brothers Surgicenter for Hope Receives \$25,000 Grant from Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The grant will help pay for a new ambulance for the Surgicenter for Hope in Fonds, Parisien, Haiti. Surgicenter founder and Village Church member Dr. Ted Higgins said, "The \$25,000 grant from National Presbyterian Women is a wonderful starting point for the \$70,000 ambulance. We are so grateful. We have a matching donation and then we will seek the completion of needed funds."

Ted explains, "Our old ambulance died about five years ago, and we have not been in a financial position to purchase a new one. As the only surgical facility in a region covering approximately 200,000 people, an ambulance is necessary to expedite transportation. We are a trauma center and time is vital to survival. The dirt roads in Haiti are mountainous requiring a durable vehicle."

The Presbyterian Women issued a statement to our 72-person health care team, "We believe in you and want to help." "The value of that statement is priceless. It means as much as the donation itself," said Ted.

The Surgicenter will not be able to purchase this ambulance presently in either Haiti or the Dominican Republic as the roads are not safe to drive it to the location. The Surgicenter looks forward to purchasing the new ambulance when the current situation is more stable and people can be transported safely. Congratulations to Ted and the entire Surgicenter for Hope medical team!

Ted will be speaking about the Surgicenter in "Why Village Matters" in the 9:30 a.m. worship service at the Antioch Campus on Sunday, June 9. He will also speak following worship in their adult education hour from 10:45-11:30 a.m.



Summer Preaching Series: Table Graces

June 2-July 28

Throughout the Bible, the table holds a prominent place in the stories of God's people. From the directions to build a table around which the people may gather in Exodus, to God preparing a table for us in the presence of our enemies in Psalm 23, to Jesus overturning tables in the temple in Jerusalem to his last supper around a table with his disciples, the table is a place of power and hope and justice and righteousness and love. This summer, our pastors will be preaching on passages about the table as a source of grace for us all.

Seeing God

Aug. 4-18

Many people draw a clear distinction between the "sacred" and the "secular." In their worldview, sacred things have to do with God and secular things have nothing to do with God. This view places limits on God's activity in the world. The psalmist reminds us that "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." This means that God is present in all times and places. In this sermon series, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will explore how God is revealed in three films: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*; *The Lion King*; and *Lord of the Rings*.

Aug. 25 Youth Sunday. Our Village youth will lead us in worship.
Sept. 1 Rev. Zach Walker is preaching

Pilgrimage on the
CAMINO DE SANTIAGO
IN SPAIN

Aug. 30-Sept. 13, 2024

with Rev. Melanie Hardison

villagepres.org/camino

75 YEARS | VILLAGE CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Bob Meneilly's Robe and Stole Now on Display

As part of Village Church's 75th Anniversary commemoration, we are displaying the robe and stole of our founding pastor, Dr. Bob Meneilly, in the Welcome Center at the Mission Campus through the end of the year.

Dr. Bob's daughter, Joy Biard, graciously loaned us his robe to display. Dr. Bob often wore a white robe. Most Presbyterian pastors wear black robes. He's seen in this photo wearing his white robe, greeting congregants after preaching his last sermon at Village Church on Dec. 4, 1994. Women of Village Church needlepointed his stole.

You'll find the display case across from the 75th Anniversary historical timeline on the second floor of the Welcome Center.



Photo: Mark McDonald

Celebrating Six Months of Compassionate Care at Prairie Sky Counseling Center

In April, Prairie Sky Counseling Center quietly celebrated a milestone: our first six months serving the community. Since opening our doors, Prairie Sky has provided hope for individuals navigating the complexities of life. With more than 65 clients referred to us, our team of dedicated therapists has conducted more than 230 counseling sessions, offering support and guidance to 41 individuals from all walks of life. From the tender age of 14 to the seasoned wisdom of 93, our doors are open to all who seek solace and healing.

With partner locations at Village Church, the Center for Spiritual Living and Country Club Christian Church, we've cultivated a network of support spanning across the Kansas City metro area. Our busiest hub, the Center for Spiritual Living in Midtown Kansas City, has served as a nurturing sanctuary for many.

Our commitment to inclusivity and diversity is reflected in our partnerships and client demographics. Through collaborations with organizations like Jewish Family Services and the Kansas City Art Institute, we've expanded our reach and enriched our community. It's a privilege to serve a clientele where 20% identify as Jewish. In addition, 25% of our clients are members of the LGBTQ+ community.

As we continue to grow, we are grateful for the addition of talented therapists like Taryn Hodison, LPC, and Elena Weaver, LPC, who bring their expertise and compassion to our team. We are also honored to have psychologist Kathleen Keenan, Ph.D., generously volunteering her time with us.

Looking ahead, we aspire to expand our accessibility by becoming credentialed with private insurance and Medicaid. It's a long process, but we have made substantial progress. With almost 60% of our clients utilizing our sliding-fee scale, we remain steadfast in our commitment to doing all we can to make our services financially accessible.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of the Village Endowment Trust and the unwavering dedication of Village Church members. To them, and to the entire Village community, we extend our deepest gratitude. Together, we've achieved remarkable milestones, and together, we look forward to the journey ahead.



Reducing Village Church's Carbon Footprint

The 2022 General Assembly of Presbyterian Church (USA) tasked all congregations to reduce their carbon footprint by 25% within the next four years. To that end, Village Church is committed to reducing its carbon footprint through energy efficiency improvements. A baseline carbon footprint was determined using 2022 data and a local company has been contracted to conduct an energy audit of Village's four buildings: the Village Church Antioch Campus, Village Church Mission Campus, the Child and Family Development Center and the Food Pantry & Clothes Closet.

The audit will identify energy efficiency measures that can be taken, their estimated cost of implementation and the carbon offset of each measure. This information will allow prioritization of recommendations to maximize the returns on investment in cost and environmental benefit.

The ultimate goal is for Village Church to have zero carbon emissions. Attaining that goal is a work in progress. Creating energy-efficient buildings is a huge first step.

We send out 'green tips' in the Weekly eNews that offer small steps you can take to reduce your own carbon footprint. Sign up to receive the eNews at villagepres.org/subscribe.



A Sneak Preview of Fall Village U Classes

Village U is Village Church's Adult Faith Formation program, encompassing diverse adult learning opportunities in one easy-to-find location. Village Church is a learning community with a long-standing commitment to providing classes for adults of all ages to grow in knowledge and faith together.

The Fall 2024 Village U catalog will introduce some new opportunities.

Pastoral Care & Counseling provides loving opportunities in times of need. Watch for exact dates and times for Growing Through Grief, Grief Share Network and the Widowers Support Group.

William Jewell College Field Trip - On Thursday, Oct. 3, Village Church will provide transportation to our Faith & Culture teaching partner in Liberty, Missouri. We will enjoy a walking tour, lunch and a panel of students and staff to learn what they love about William Jewell College.

In addition, Village U continues to provide courses in art & leisure, children & family, environment, health & wellness, life skills and literature through nearly 40 classes.

If you have interest in suggesting a class, leading a class or know an amazing teacher, please let us know. We love to expand our scope of learning. Child care is often provided. We value your suggestions for class offerings and formats. All ideas welcome.

The fall catalog will be available on Monday, Aug. 5. Registration begins Monday, Aug. 19. Fall classes take place Tuesday, Sept. 2-Sunday, Dec. 22. Visit villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes for more information and to register.

Contact Hillary Mackowski, executive assistant to interim senior associate pastor, Rev. Chad Herring, and Village U coordinator, for more information at 913-671-2341 or hillary.mackowski@villagepres.org.

SUMMER 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

June 1 – **Te Deum Choir presents “Sacred Banquet,”** in the Mission Campus Sanctuary. Tickets at te-deum.org

June 2 – Communion Sunday; 9 a.m. **Sunday Funday** for Village Kids begins, Mission Campus; **Be the Church Education Series with Hope House**, Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. Email hillary.mackowski@villagepres.org with questions.

June 4 – noon **Faith & Grief Support Gathering**, Rooms 232/233-Mission Campus; 6:30 p.m. **PW Amazing Graces hosts its second “Remembering Vietnam” Conversation and Dessert with Lou Eisenbrant**, Friendship Hall, Mission Campus. Lou served as a nurse in Vietnam. Her first-hand experience of the intensity, the atrocities and the truths of the war give her unique insight. RSVP to becky.anderson418@gmail.com.

June 8 – **Wear Orange Rally**, Harmon Park, 77th Place & Delmar, Prairie Village

June 9 – **Gun Violence Awareness Sunday**, both campuses; **Ted Higgins speaks about the Higgins Brothers Surgicenter for Hope in Haiti** during worship at the Antioch Campus and from 10:45-11:30 a.m. during adult ed time for folks who want to learn more about the center and their work.

June 11 – 9:30 a.m. **Village Golf** at Sunflower Hills, RSVP by June 2 to bradsteil@everestkc.net

June 12 – 6-7:30 p.m. **Family VBS**, Friendship Hall, Mission Campus. Register at villagepres.org/summer. Contact Kate Ruecker at kate.ruecker@villagepres.org or 913-671-2350 for more information.

June 15 – 4-8:30 p.m. **Juneteenth Freedom Celebration**, Harmon Park, 77th Place & Delmar, Prairie Village

June 16 – Father's Day; noon **New Member Sunday Luncheon**, Mission Campus*

June 16-22 – **Boundary Waters Canoe Trip** for Village High School Students

June 19 – Juneteenth Holiday – Church Closed; 6-7:30 p.m. **Family VBS** at Meadowbrook Park-Shelter 4, 9101 Nall Ave. (entrance off Roe, two blocks west of Roe on Meadowbrook Parkway by the inclusive playground.

June 24-28 – **Music & Drama Camp for Kids**, Mission Campus. Email jenny.hull@villagepres.org for more information.

June 26 – 6-7:30 p.m. **Family VBS** at the Antioch Campus

June 28 – 5-7 p.m. **49th annual Ice Cream Social**, Mission Campus. Engagement Ministry invites you to join us for this free intergenerational event with activities for kids. It's going to be a blast!

JULY

July 2 – noon **Faith & Grief Support Gathering**, Rooms 232/233 - Mission Campus

July 4 – Independence Day Holiday – Church Closed

July 6-13 – **Village High School Students to Montreat**

July 7 – Communion Sunday

July 9 – 8:30 a.m. **Village Golf** at Fred Arbanas/Longview, RSVP by July 1 to bradsteil@everestkc.net

July 12 – **Cross-Lines volunteer event**. Contact Jim Bolton at jcb3823@gmail.com with questions.

July 14, 21 & 28 – **Summer Choir!** Come to the Mission Campus Chapel at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays in July to learn a simple anthem to sing in worship. No robes and no prior experience needed.

July 21 – Baptism Sunday; Last Sunday Funday of the summer

July 26-31 – **Middle School Mission Trip to Memphis**

July 28 – Family Worship Sunday

AUGUST

Aug. 4 – Communion Sunday; Family Worship Sunday

Aug. 8-11 – **Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in St. Louis**, Missouri. Register at villagepres.org/pw

Aug. 11 – 9 a.m. **Blessing of the Backpacks**, Mission Campus Sanctuary

Aug. 13 – 8 a.m. **Village Golf** at Dubs Dread, RSVP by July 29 to bradsteil@everestkc.net

Aug. 17 – 9 a.m.-noon **Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study Workshop** in Friendship Hall-Mission Campus.

Aug. 18 – noon **New Member Sunday Luncheon**, Mission Campus*

Aug. 22 – 7 p.m. **First Village Choir rehearsal of the season**, Mission Campus.

Aug. 25 – **Youth Sunday**, Mission Campus

Aug. 27 – 1-6 p.m. **Blood Drive**, Rooms 132 & 133, Mission Campus. Call Ann Colston at 913-461-1791 for more info. .

Aug. 30-Sept. 13 – **Pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago in Spain with Rev. Melanie Hardison**. Details at villagepres.org/camino

*Date subject to change.

Good News, Summer 2024

GOOD NEWS

GOOD NEWS: Highlights for the life of your Village Church (ISSN 1542-1090) Published by the Village Presbyterian Church USA quarterly 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

SUMMER 2024
Vol. 62, No. 2

VILLAGE GIVING

Engaging our faith opens us to being formed in new ways. Gratitude is both a practice and a product of our faith.

So often the world around us speaks of scarcity and our shortcomings. And yet, when we pause to recognize and give thanks for God's goodness around us, we are reminded of the abundance of God's blessings.

Faith formation is the practice of bravely walking with others through the depths of loss and the heights of joys. Through faith, we navigate life through union with God.

When we pause in our everyday experiences, we're open to the divine among us.

Thank you for sharing yourself in so many ways with your church family.

IN MEMORY

Mary L. Beveridge
Liz Birkenmeier
John Borden
Donald "Don" Buffon
Kenneth "Ken" Frashier
Virginia Griffith
Frances Hoffman
Carolyn Holtman
Forrest "Skip" Kendall

Stu Knutson
James "Parker" LaBach
Rolland Larson
Hugh Libby
Betty Long
Sandra Loudon
Marilyn McCrory
Marcia Shideler

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**.