



**VILLAGE
CHURCH**

Presbyterian (USA)

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.

The Rev. Tom Are Chapter Comes to an End at Village Church

On Sept. 12, Rev. Tom Are made the announcement that after nearly 20 years of ministry at Village Church, he was leaving to become interim senior pastor at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago.

Tom said, "Village, you are strong and faithful and a shining light...we have done good things together and you will be the highlight of my ministry. You taught me how to be a pastor and a leader. And you loved my children and my wife. Change can be good. I trust it will be good for all of us. But I will miss you deeply. With Rodger [Nishioka] here, there are no questions about the quality of pastoral leadership in the next chapter. He is an extraordinary leader of this pastoral team."

In his final sermon delivered on Sunday, Oct. 15, Tom preached, "I see the commitment in your heart to do the good that is yours to do. And I don't know where that will lead you, but I know it will be good. There are more stories that are coming, and I don't know who will tell them or what they will describe, but they will again describe glimpses of that day that God has promised us. And God will be faithful. It's a day when all that has gone wrong will be made right."

At the Oct. 17 farewell gathering for Tom and Carol Are, Lighthouse Kids' teachers gave special thanks to Carol Are for her many years of teaching children on



Sunday morning. "Carol always went above and beyond in the classroom...praying wholeheartedly with the kids about things that were truly affecting their lives, their joys and concerns... She has shined God's light on more kids than we can count."

Tom and Carol's daughter, Rev. Sarah Are Speed, spoke directly to her dad, "When violence has threatened to break us and the pandemic isolate us, you kept preaching hope. And that is an accomplishment of spiritual importance. I also want to lift up your intentional effort to lead in a way that has kept people at the table. We live in a world that often says this is right and this is wrong. And in your 20 years at Village, I have watched you resist the trap of dualistic thinking in an effort to create an environment where all of us can learn from each other."

George Satterlee was chair of the Pastor Nominating Committee that brought

Tom and Carol to Village Church. George said, "Thank you, Tom, for 20 years of loving us and serving us and helping us know what it is to do Christ's work in the world."

Tom's closing words were, "Thank you for trusting me. You have been a great church to me. You are an amazing congregation. Unforgettable. I love you!"



A Letter From Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

Dag Hammarskjold, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and 2nd secretary-general of the United Nations said, "For all that has been, thank you. For all that is to come, Yes!"

I can relate. As we said goodbye to our pastor of nearly 20 years, our hearts are full of gratitude to Tom and Carol and of course, to God. And as we look to the future that the Holy Spirit is unfolding for us, all we can say is, "Yes!"

Eight years ago, when I said I felt called to come serve here at Village, you remarkably said, "Yes!" Then this past January, when it was proposed that Tom and I serve as co-pastors, you said, "Yes!" again. Little did we know that eight months later, Tom would be called to serve as the interim senior pastor of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago.

Last May, when Rev. Shannon Kershner felt called by God to leave Fourth Church as their senior pastor, Tom and I were both surprised. Shannon has been in a pastors' group with Tom for years and was a former student of mine at Columbia Seminary. When Fourth Church decided to seek an interim senior pastor, someone to lead them while they conducted a lengthy search for a permanent, long-term pastor, I was certain they would ask Tom if he was interested. He and I began to pray together to seek God's guidance. Mostly we prayed that God's will would be made clear.

So, when their interim pastor search committee reached out to Tom in June, neither of us were surprised. Tom had a lot of questions. So did they, of course. Then things went quiet in the summer so both Tom and I thought the search committee had moved on to other candidates. Turns out, they were struggling to find time to meet. Their search started up in earnest in the middle of August and further conversations took place.

I have long thought it a remarkable thing when a group of disparate people comes together as one and agrees on a single candidate. I have always thought it a "God thing." For a call to be true and real, both the committee and the individual have to agree that God is calling. Both the committee and the pastor have to be able to see a possible future together. I remember talking with Tom and asking him, "Can you see yourself there? In their pulpit preaching? With their staff? With their people?" And smiling when he quietly and thoughtfully said, "Yes." When the interim search committee called and said they were unanimous that Tom was their choice (and believe me, this is Fourth Church of Chicago—they had MANY other choices), I knew he and Carol were going to go.

I know for some it seemed fast, and in some ways it was. But for me, because I had been living with this possibility for several months, it did not feel rushed. It was God's timing and I have come to rely on that over and over.

Truthfully, Fourth Chicago wanted Tom to come right away, and he said he could not. He knew he had to give us time to say "thank you" and "goodbye."

I miss Tom greatly. We have shared Monday lunch together for nearly eight years. At our last lunch together, he looked across the table at me and said, "You're going to do fine. Village has already been blessed with your leadership. Village will keep being Village." I am trusting that he is right.

Some of you have asked some questions. Let me try to answer two of the most common ones.

Why are you still co-pastor? That is still my official title until the Session, and you, decide differently. I know it seems a little odd to be co-pastor without another co-pastor. I am talking with our Personnel Committee and Session about that. It is possible we will look for another co-pastor, but honestly, I am feeling the Spirit leading us away from that. Co-pastors work best when they deeply know and trust one another. Tom and I worked well because we had years of friendship as our foundation (and lots of lunches!). I think it's more likely we will be looking for a senior associate pastor or an executive pastor to help lead us. When the Session decides the time is right, you'll hear from them about a change in my title.



What does it mean that Rev. Chad Herring has been called as interim senior associate pastor? Probably the most significant word in Rev. Herring's title is "interim." When a church calls an interim (e.g., temporary pastor), that is the action of the Session alone. That's what happened with Tom at Fourth Church. The Session alone voted to call Tom, not the whole congregation. Our practice here is when an interim pastor is called, our Personnel Committee meets with the candidate and makes the recommendation to the Session.

Our last interim pastor was Rev. Sally Wright. We needed a pastoral care pastor right away to fill in while we searched for a permanent pastor. Sally was interviewed by the Personnel Committee at Tom's and my recommendation. They recommended Sally be hired and the Session approved. Then, thankfully, Sally was interviewed by the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, and they recommended to the congregation that she be called and installed, and we voted to call her. I am very glad the Holy Spirit led us to Sally as our interim and then as our permanent pastor!

With Tom's departure we knew we needed help right away, and to our delight, Rev. Chad Herring was available. He had finished eight years serving as senior pastor at John Knox Presbyterian Kirk of Kansas City, Missouri, and most recently, a one-year chaplain residency. He was open to a one-year interim. So, our Personnel Committee, following our process, interviewed him and unanimously recommended to Session that we call him as our interim senior associate pastor. His presence will help me immediately by taking on some of my responsibilities. I am grateful that he's here.

So, what comes next? We have formed an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to search for an associate pastor for young adult ministry and we held a congregational meeting to approve that search. The Session has also approved a search committee for the director of music ministry position. We hope to have both positions filled by this summer.

The comment I have heard most often has been something like: "I am going to miss Tom so much. And I am so glad we have you with us!"

Remember the Hammarskjold quote? For all that is to come, Yes! I look forward to living into that Yes! together!

Gratefully,

Rev. Rodger Nishioka, Ph.D.

Co-pastor

Good News, Winter 2023

The Photographer Behind the Village Church Pastor Portraits

Mark McDonald has been taking pictures of Kansas City since 1982 when he graduated from the University of Kansas. "I was going to be a newspaper photographer. There were no jobs available. So, I've been working freelance. It's been the best thing that ever happened."

Mark and his wife, Debby, became members of Village Church in 1990. Over the past 33 years, he has taken all four Village head pastor portraits that line the 2nd floor bridge at the Mission Campus.

"We came to this church because of Dr. Bob Meneilly." Mark recalls, "I was originally hired to take that picture of Dr. Bob for, I think, Ingram's Magazine for an article at the time of influential leaders in Kansas City. That's when I had my first one-on-one time with him. He was just such a gracious and incredibly humble man. We took that in front of the round window in the Sanctuary that is now covered up by the organ."

"Then I took Dr. Bohl, Rev. Tom Are when he first came in 2004, and then Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka this fall. All incredible men. I'm happy to be a part of this church."

Mark's son and daughter grew up at Village. "Both went all the way through this church, were very involved in the youth groups. I went on Village Youth ski trips for 10 years. I've done three of the mission trips to the Dominican Republic with them."

Mark also plays trumpet in the Village Brass. "I played into college and then quit. And then when my daughter [also a trumpet player] was in high school, we were in church one morning [in 2009] and the brass was playing in the Sanctuary. She said, 'You know, we should do this.' And I said, 'You know, that's great!' She was about 16 years old at the time. And so, for the next however many years until she left for college, we had our standing date on Wednesday nights to go to the rehearsals at Village Brass. How often do you really get to spend that much time with your teenage daughter?" Mark's daughter now lives in Pennsylvania, but he has continued to play in Village Brass. "It's fun. It's a thing I do once a week that's nothing like anything else I do."

Mark's first passion is photography. What does he love so much about it? "That I can actually capture a moment in time," said Mark. "I'm not an art photographer. What I do is more like billboards. You've got to capture somebody's attention in like two seconds as they go by it. I need to clearly communicate something. I just tell stories with pictures instead of words."

Mark has been helping tell the Village story with the pastor portraits that grace The Bridge hallway and other assignments. "It's been fun to be involved with this church. I am incredibly honored to get the chance to document the great mission work that this church does."



SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Village Church Joins the Good Faith Network—An Interfaith Justice Organization

In August, the Village Church Session approved the Social Justice Ministry committee's recommendation that Village join the Good Faith Network—an interfaith group composed of more than 25 congregations across three faith traditions in Johnson County, Kansas—with a mission of pursuing justice around our community's most pressing problems. Learn more at thegoodfaithnetwork.org.

This year, the Good Faith Network has been researching the root causes of injustice around mental health, housing and homelessness. Email Carol Gee at carolgee419@gmail.com for more information about the Good Faith Network or Social Justice Ministry and how to get involved.

Mark Your Calendars for Visiting Scholar 2024

Introducing Rev. Dr. Scott Black Johnston, the 2024 Meneilly Visiting Scholar who will lecture at the Village Church Mission Campus on Friday evening, March 8, and Saturday morning, March 9, and preach on Sunday morning, March 10. The program is free and open to the public.

Dr. Johnston is easy to describe by his degrees: B.A. in history and religion (St. Olaf's College); M.Div. (Yale Divinity School); and Ph.D. (Princeton Theological Seminary). He's also easy to describe by the jobs he's held, or as he says, "gigs": senior pastor, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Atlanta; professor of homiletics, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary; and currently senior pastor, 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church, in New York City. And he's the author of several books. "Elusive Grace: Loving Your Enemies While Striving for God's Justice" is his most recent.

The title of Dr. Johnston's lecture is "Fight Like Jesus: How Faith Can Inform Conflict." Fight like Jesus!? Is that a thing? Most people training for an upcoming



boxing match probably wouldn't turn to the "Prince of Peace" for tips. Jesus excels at many things. Mixed Martial Arts is not one of them.

On the other hand, Jesus does talk a lot about conflict. Jesus tells story after story about family members who are at odds with each other. He acknowledges that forgiveness is hard for us. He reminds his followers that anger can eat holes in a person's heart. When preaching, Jesus regularly challenges people to treat their neighbors with respect, and yes, he goes way out on

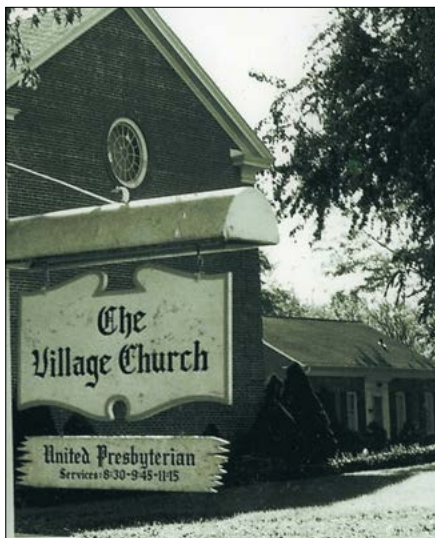
a limb and commands that we love and pray for our enemies.

What do you say? Got conflict in your life? Need a few pointers—a new strategy? Feeling uncertain about whether you even want to walk down a path that could lead to reconciliation?

Come hear this timely topic and fascinating speaker! Learn more at villagepres.org/visiting-scholar.

Photo courtesy: Porter Binks

SAVE THE DATE



75th Anniversary Celebration: "A Story of Faith, Mission and Good Cheer"

7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13 - Mission Campus

The 75th Anniversary Celebration Committee has been busy planning for a very special evening to celebrate Village Church. Committee members include Barb Brown, Andrea Chamblin, Kathy Collins, Nancy Gatewood, Carol Gee, Kim Higgins, Annette McLaughlin, Scott Stanley and Elizabeth Zakaryan. Charles Schultz will emcee the evening.

Feb. 11 is our Worship 75th Anniversary Sunday. The Village Heritage Committee is creating a permanent historical display which will be outside the Heritage Dining Room, located on the second floor of the Mission Campus near Friendship Hall.

Look for more details as they become available at villagepres.org/75



Rev. Anna Owens is the Guest Speaker at the Advent Celebration

Join us at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Mission Campus for the women's Advent Celebration. Rev. Anna Owens, our Antioch campus site pastor since April of 2023, will share her thoughts about preparing our hearts for the Lord. Rev. Owens was a student of Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka's at Columbia Theological Seminary before serving churches in other states. There is no cost. The Advent Celebration free will offering beneficiary is Amethyst Place, a long-term supportive housing program for women and children recovering from generational poverty, substance use and trauma. Located at 28th and Troost in Kansas City's Midtown, Amethyst Place been transforming lives for 23 years.

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Stephen Ministers Are Here to Offer Support this Season

Do the holidays seem extra challenging this year? Are you or someone you know struggling with loneliness, anxiety, grief, financial strain, job loss or other unexpected life challenges? If so, you don't have to face it alone. Village Church's trained, compassionate and caring Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support. A Stephen Minister is available to meet confidentially with you (in person or by phone or video chat). For more information, contact Rev. Melanie Hardison at melanie.hardison@villagepres.org or 913-671-2367.



Don't Miss This Rare Opportunity to View The Saint John's Bible

Drop by the Welcome Center between 9 a.m. and noon on Saturday, Dec. 2, and see a work of art that unites ancient text with contemporary images. All seven volumes of The Saint John's Bible will be on display in the Welcome Center at the Mission Campus. A thrill in both sight and substance, it will be an extraordinary opportunity to see a contemporary illuminated manuscript of the whole Bible.

Get Your 2024 Star Word on Jan. 7

Star Words are paper or wooden stars featuring one word related to our spiritual life in Christ. Simply draw a star out of the basket (rather than hunt through the basket for a word you like) and thus let the word choose you. The idea is to journey with your word through the coming year—to notice where it shows up, how it moves your heart and the ways it brings you closer to God. Anyone unable to come to the church in person to receive a Star Word Jan. 7 is welcome to email Pastor Melanie Hardison and she will draw a Star Word for you: melanie.hardison@villagepres.org.

JANUARY & FEBRUARY EVENTS

JANUARY

Jan. 6 – 8:30 a.m. **Moms of Teens (MOTS)** meets for coffee in the Village Cup Coffee Shop, Welcome Center-Mission Campus. Email brooke.brundige@villagepres.org with questions.

Jan. 7 – Rev. Melanie Hardison preaching. Get your Star Word for 2024 today!

Jan. 8 – 9 a.m. **Registration opens for Spring Village U classes.** Classes will be posted on the website by Jan. 3. Register at villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes

Jan. 11 – 12:15 p.m. **2nd Thursday Recital with the Kansas City Wind Symphony Chamber Players**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Admission is free.

Jan. 12-16 – **Village Youth High School Ski Trip**

Jan. 13 – 4-5:30 p.m. **Prairie Village's 3rd Annual I Have a Dream (Vote) Action and Celebration Event Honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, Mission Campus Sanctuary & Welcome Center. STAND Up for Black Lives+ Prairie Village, the city of Prairie Village Diversity Committee, the Johnson County NAACP, Village Presbyterian Church and 2 the MAAXE Audio/Visual are sponsoring the event. Admission is free. The program will also be livestreamed at villagepres.org/online

Jan. 14 – **New Sermon Series begins: "75th Celebration; The Stories We Carry with Us"; Ordination & Installation of New Elders and Deacons**, morning worship service. Our new elder trustees will be Donna Patton, Linda Stevens and Stan Woodworth. Our new elders will be Ann Flanders, Diane Lawson, Dane Manis, Amy Nunnelee, Cindy Parks and Sharon Valasek. New deacons will be Kate Beebe, Reed Beebe, Anika Brim, Miriam Frey, George Heymach and Sharon Marsh, Steve Morrison, Lana Strickfaden and Walt Tegtmeier; **Family Worship Sunday** – No Lighthouse Kids.

Jan. 15 – **MLK Holiday** – Church Closed

Jan. 21 – **Baptism Sunday**

Jan. 23 – 1-6 p.m. **Blood Drive**, Rooms 132 & 133, Mission Campus

Jan. 24 – 6:30-7:45 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 24-Feb. 21, William Jewell Center for Faith & Culture class through Village U: **"Bridge Building Toward a Flourishing Life for All: Deepening Solidarity in the Quest for Social and Racial Justice."** This class is taught by Rev. Dr. Vernon Percy Howard, Jr., pastor, St. Mark's Church.

FEBRUARY

Feb. 4 – 3 p.m. **Kansas City Wind Symphony Chamber Winds**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. This free concert is a celebration of works written for smaller ensembles of winds and percussion.

Feb. 6 – noon **Faith & Grief Support Gathering**, Friendship Hall-Mission Campus

Feb. 7 –10 a.m. **Coffee & Conversation**, Room 306-Mission Campus. Pastor, life coach and founder of Compassion Fix, Ginger Rothhaas, will bring encouragement, support and tangible tools for perseverant, joyful, intentional living.

Feb. 8 – 12:15 p.m. **2nd Thursday Recital with UMKC piano pedagogy professor Christopher Madden**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Admission is free.

Feb. 11 – **75th Anniversary Sunday Worship**

Feb. 13 – 7 p.m. **75th Anniversary Special Service**, Mission Campus Sanctuary

Feb. 14 – **Ash-n-Dash** drive-up ashes and prayer in the Antioch Campus parking lot. Enjoy hot coffee and donuts from 7-8 a.m. and again from noon-1 p.m.; 8 a.m. **morning prayer service**, Mission Campus Chapel; 7 p.m. **Ash Wednesday services**, Mission & Antioch campuses. The Mission Campus service will be in Friendship Hall in The Gathering style, led by the Gathering band; **Lenten video devotionals begin**. Join us each day (Monday-Saturday, Feb. 14-March 30) for a short video devotional offered by our pastors and church leaders. Subscribe to receive these emails at villagepres.org/subscribe or subscribe to our YouTube Channel @villagepresbyterianchurch.

Feb. 17 – 7:30 p.m. **Salve Mundi Salutare Concert featuring Te Deum, Dr. Elisa Bickers on organ and Bach Aria Soloists.** Get tickets at te-deum.org or at the door prior to the concert.

Feb. 17-21 – **Village Youth Middle School Ski Trip**

Feb. 18 – **First Sunday of Lent; Family Worship Sunday** – No Lighthouse Kids.

Feb. 24 – 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Presbyterian Women's Retreat**, Fiorella's Event Space (9000 W. 137th St.) in Overland Park. Full details will be available, including an online registration link starting Jan. 1, at villagepres.org/pw

Get more event information at 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 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

WINTER 2023
Vol. 61, No. 7

VILLAGE GIVING

In this "Giving Season," we are incredibly thankful for the many, many ways you share your gifts. Whether serving on committees, singing in the choir, playing instruments, interacting with our children and youth, building homes for Habitat, sorting canned goods at the Food Pantry, reading to children, rocking babies, greeting visitors at worship, attending services, loving each other... we could not be Village Church without you. Thank you for all your gifts.

—The Village Giving Committee

IN MEMORY

Janet Allen	David Gill
David Bell	John "Ken" K. Higdon
Jim Blackwell	Glyna Jackson
Helen Coulson	Newell Mitchell
Martin Crow	Al L. Pugsley, Jr.
Nancy Culbertson	Joseph "Neal" Sawyer
Bill Eddy	Doris Witt

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**.

Christmas at VILLAGE

Now-Jan. 6 – The **Village Star** is back for the fourth year. Our 3D illuminated Village star is on the front lawn of the Mission Campus through Epiphany, Jan. 6, 2024.

Dec. 3 – 1st Sunday of Advent. **Advent Sermon Series: For Unto Us a Child is Born** - The prophet Isaiah tells of the birth of a child born for us; a son given to us. Authority will rest on his shoulders, and he will have four names: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. These names resound in the magnificent chorus of Handel's "Messiah." Through the Sundays of Advent, Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will explore each of these four names and how Jesus embodied them in his birth and life among us.

"The Power of a Name" Advent Art Installation – Isaiah uses many names for the coming Messiah. Do you play many roles? Do you answer to many names? Come to add those to our collaborative Advent art installation in the Welcome Center at the Mission Campus or in the Antioch Campus lobby. Write your names on shiny vinyl pieces and we will add their sparkle to the wall.

More Dec. 3 Activities

11 a.m.-noon **Family Advent Workshop**, Fellowship Hall-Antioch Campus

5 p.m. **Community "Messiah" Singalong**, Antioch Campus Sanctuary

Dec. 4-23 – **Advent Video Devotionals** delivered to your email inbox. As we wait together for Jesus Christ to be born, join us each day (Monday through Saturday, Dec. 4-23) for a short video devotional offered by our pastors. Sign up at villagepres.org/subscribe

Dec. 4 – 7 p.m. **Kicks Band Christmas**, in the Antioch Campus Sanctuary. Join us for some of the best big band Christmas music around. Free admission.

Dec. 5 – 6 p.m. **Women's Annual Advent Celebration** "Prepare Your Heart for the Lord" with speaker Rev. Anna Owens, Mission Campus Sanctuary. A social time with light refreshments will be in the Welcome Center from 6-6:45 p.m. The service starts at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Prepare your heart for the Lord with music, fellowship and communion. There is no cost, but reservations are needed at villagepres.org/pw

Dec. 6 & 13 – 6:30-8 p.m. **Village U Class: Emmanuel: God with Us...From the Manger to the Temple**, taught by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka in Rooms 132/133 at the Mission Campus. The story of God coming to be with us in Jesus Christ begins with the announcements to Mary and Joseph, and then after Jesus is born, moves to the temple where Jesus is presented. Together, these scenes show us the identity of Jesus and the role he is to play in the world. We will explore how the story of the incarnation is made complete by Simeon and Anna seeing Jesus in the temple, and further, how Jesus' being "lost" in the temple as a 12-year-old is part of the incarnation story, too.

Dec. 6, 10 and 20 – 6:30-7:45 p.m. **William Jewell College's Center for Faith and Culture Class: From Holidays to Holy Days**, taught by Rev. Shanna Steitz, senior minister at Community Christian Church, Kansas City, Missouri. Based on the book, "From Holidays to Holy Days: A Benedictine Walk Through Advent" by Albert Holtz, O.S.B., join us as we gather amidst the Plaza lights to re-imagine how we balance these often competing interests and reclaim the holiday traditions in holy and meaningful ways.

Dec. 8 – 6-8:30 p.m. **Christmas Night Out**, Mission Campus. For children 2-8 years old. Parents may enjoy shopping, dinner out or just some peace and quiet before the holidays enter full swing! Kids will enjoy a variety of fun activities and crafts. The cost is \$25 per child with a \$50 family maximum. **Register by Dec. 1 at bit.ly/VillageCNO**. Questions? Contact Sandra at 913-671-2322.

7:30 p.m. **St. Petersburg String Quartet**, Mission Campus Chapel. This local chamber ensemble features Village's Gathering service cellist, Sascha Groschang. The group recommends a suggested donation of \$20-\$40.

Dec. 10 – 10:45 a.m. **Names for the Messiah**, taught by Rev. Anna Owens, Fellowship Hall-Antioch Campus. In Isaiah 9:6, a divine utterance is given to us using four royal titles—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. Join us Dec. 10 as we explore Walter Brueggemann’s “Names for the Messiah.” This small book ponders each title and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title.

Dec. 10 – 3 p.m. **Service of Remembrance**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Share gratitude for loved ones who have passed at this moving candlelight service. The service will also be livestreamed at villagepres.org/online

Dec. 13 – 5-6 p.m. **Christmas Dinner** with all the fixings, Friendship Hall-Mission Campus. The cost is \$9 for adults and \$4 for children. Purchase dinners by noon Monday, Dec. 11, at villagepres.org/wednesday-family-dinners.

6:10 p.m. **Children’s Christmas Musical “Chimes in the Night,”** Mission Campus Sanctuary. Children will tell the story of a cathedral with an enormous tower of bells that plays the most magical music on Christmas Eve.

Dec. 14 – 12:15 p.m. **2nd Thursday Recital featuring percussionist Theo Musick**, Mission Campus Sanctuary. Come hear our beloved Village music coordinator play classical and holiday marimba literature. Admission is free.

Dec. 16 – 8-10 p.m. **Young Adult Christmas Party** at Miracle on Main (1924 Main St., Kansas City, Missouri). Register at bit.ly/YAChristmas23.

Dec. 17 – 9:30 a.m. **Children’s Christmas Pageant**, Antioch Campus Sanctuary. The pageant is during the worship service.

3 & 6 p.m. **Tidings of Joy** featuring the Village Choirs & the Fountain City Brass, Mission Campus Sanctuary. A free will offering will benefit our 2023-2024 Signature Mission - Cherith Brook Catholic Worker and Care Beyond the Boulevard.

Dec. 19 – 7 p.m. **Te Deum Chamber Choir presents Lessons and Carols for Today**, featuring a modern take on Lessons and Carols with new lessons by Kansas City poet Natasha Ria El-Scari. Purchase tickets at te-deum.org.

Dec. 24 – **Christmas Eve Services**

Mission Campus – 10 a.m. service, Chapel; 3 & 5 p.m. Children & Families Service with The Gathering Band, Sanctuary; 7 & 9 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service, Sanctuary; 11 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion, Sanctuary. Child care is available for the 3, 5 and 7 p.m. services. Christmas Eve services will be livestreamed at villagepres.org/online

Antioch Campus – 9:30 a.m. Family Service; 7 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion

Dec. 31 – **New Year’s Eve Services** – 9:30 a.m. service, Antioch Campus; 10 a.m. service, Mission Campus

Ways to Give During the Christmas Season

Angel Tree – Support our long-standing tradition of working with Prison Ministry Fellowship by providing a gift for our Angel Tree families. Pick out an angel in early December, with Angel Tree gifts due back at the Antioch Campus on Sunday, Dec. 10.

Diapers in December – Help Village kids collect diapers and baby wipes for Village Church Food Pantry families. Preschool: bring baby wipes. K-1st grade: size 3 diapers. Grades 2-3: size 4. Grades 4-5: size 5 and Grade 6: pull-ups. Bring to the Children & Family Ministry office, Mission Campus.

Dec. 1-31 – **Sponsor a holiday meal for an Operation Breakthrough Family**. A \$50 donation covers the cost of a holiday meal for a low-income family or family experiencing homelessness in the KC area. Write “Star Family Holiday Meal” in the memo line to contribute to this collection and mail checks to 6641 Mission Rd., Prairie Village, KS 66208.

Dec. 3-24 – **Decorate our Tress with Diapers, Hats and Mittens**. We invite you to put hats, mittens and diapers (all sizes including adult large and XL) under our Mission Campus Christmas trees so that we can offer them to families served by the Village Food Pantry & Clothes Closet. Trees will be in the Welcome Center and at the south entrance, Mission Campus.

villagepres.org/Christmas



VILLAGE CHURCH
Presbyterian (USA)