Welcome to Youth Ministry at Village!

Life in middle school and high school is a busy time. Figuring out friends, family, school, activities, and yourself is a complicated, joyous, overwhelming, and ever-changing endeavor. We strive for Village to be a space where students can be themselves and talk openly about life.

No matter who you are, no matter where you have been or where you are now, it is our goal to foster a feeling of safety and home here. We believe God loves all of us without qualifications, and God wants us to lift each other up as we create community and understand one another. We need one another, and seek to love each other as God loves us.

Come and see what is going on in Youth Ministries at Village Church!
Hello Parents!
Research from the National Study of Youth and Religion tells us that the single most important influence on the religious and spiritual lives of adolescents is their parents. We’re here to support you in that. This year we’d like to connect better with you. But, we need your help.

Stop By & Introduce Yourself
We love getting to know the families of the students we spend time with weekly, and it helps us know and care for your student better. If we haven’t met in person, stop by sometime! Our office hours vary, so email or call us to make sure we’ll be here (see staff contact info on pages 20-21).

We love getting to know our students better over coffee or food (on us)! Same goes for parents. Let us know if you’d like to meet for a cup of joe or a bite to eat. We’d love to chat with you about your student, about life, about who we are as an organization, and what opportunities we can offer your student and your family.

Volunteer
Throughout the year, we often rely on parents and adults to help us make Youth Ministry a reality, whether that’s helping us put on our annual fundraiser, helping drive students to an event located off-campus, or simply being an extra set of hands on deck. If you’re interested in volunteering, whether it’s regularly or for a one-time event, we’d love to have you! Check out pages 22-23 in this booklet for a few ways you can help.

Our goal is to be an advocate for the relationship between you and your student. Whatever we can do to partner with you in that, please let us know.

- Zach & Jenna
  PASTOR & ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

villagepresyouth.org
Go to our website for more info about anything in this booklet: contact info, trip details and registration, and interactive, up-to-date calendars for all youth events. You can also sign up to join Capstone or Confirmation, Youth Band or Village Voices choir, see our Instagram, view the monthly newsletter, and see our latest YouTube videos. When in doubt, check the website!

youth@villagepres.org
Email is the primary way that VPC youth staff will communicate directly with parents. Additionally, if your child is involved in Youth Ministry at VPC we will add parents’ email addresses to our mailing list. Don’t worry about spam—we’re committed to sending limited emails that include only important updates and upcoming events! You can email us, including requests to be added to our communication list, at youth@villagepres.org.

Monthly Newsletter
Each month, we email out a youth newsletter (and post it to the youth website) with specific details, reminders, and deadlines about upcoming events. We also include fun anecdotes and additional links for both information and entertainment. The newsletter contains information regarding weekly programming and any new events added throughout the school year.

Social Media
Follow us on social media! We post frequently on these youth accounts to publicize and recap events, so it is a great way to stay informed, especially in the event of last-minute changes. We post all of our special events on Instagram so you know when and where to go. Don’t have Instagram or YouTube? You can view both feeds on the youth website!
**MINISTRY PROGRAMS**

**SUNDAYS**

**Sunday Morning Series**  
9:30-10:30AM • GRADES 7-12

**Confirmation**  
11AM-12:30PM • GRADE 9 (AND UP)

**Capstone**  
11AM-1PM • GRADE 12

**Village Voices Youth Choir**  
5-6:30PM • GRADES 7-12

**SNL (Sunday Night Live)**  
6:30-8:30PM • GRADES 7-12

Youth Band meets at 6pm to rehearse.

**WEEKDAYS**

**Lofternoons**  
TUESDAYS • 4-5:30PM  
GRADES 7-8

**GPS (Growing Personally & Spiritually)**  
WEDNESDAYS • 6:30-8PM  
GRADES 7-8

Youth Band meets at 6pm to rehearse.

**Early Table**  
THURSDAYS • 7:30-8:15AM  
GRADES 9-12

For fuller descriptions, see pages 8-15.

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**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**AUGUST**  
29 • Youth Sunday (9:30am, 11am, & 5pm services)

**SEPTEMBER**  
8-14 • Fall Kickoff Week (Wed-Tues)

**OCTOBER**  
2 • 12th Grade Dinner  
14 • MS Emerald City  
15 • HS Topgolf  
24 • Be the Church Service Night  
27 • Trunk or Treat

**NOVEMBER**  
13 • 9th Grade Dinner  
21-27 • Thanksgiving Break

**DECEMBER**  
5 • Confirmation Info Meeting (Online)  
22-31 • Winter Break

**JANUARY**  
1-5 • Winter Break  
14-18 • HS Winter Park Ski Retreat

**FEBRUARY**  
6 • All Youth Superbowl Party  
19-23 • MS Winter Park Ski Retreat  
26 • 11th Grade Dinner

**MARCH**  
13-19 • HS Dominican Republic Mission Trip (& Spring Break)

**APRIL**  
9 • 10th Grade Dinner  
19 • Graduating Senior Dinner  
24 • Graduating Senior Sunday (5pm service)

**MAY**  
15 • Confirmation Sunday (11am service)

**JUNE**  
5-9 • Youth Week  
17-22 • MS Mission Trip: Minneapolis

**JULY**  
9-16 • HS Montreat Conference  
24-30 • HS Boundary Waters Canoe Trip

All event details (including start times & locations) are listed at villagepresyouth.org/calendar & in the monthly newsletter.
Lofternoons
TUESDAYS • 4-5:30PM • YOUTH LOFT
Lofternoons is our weekly after-school program for middle schoolers. Our
time together is unstructured and students can do anything from dodgeball
to hanging out to homework. Many students walk over to the church
together from nearby schools. If the weather is bad, we’ll pick students
up from Indian Hills in the church van (you can find out if we are coming
to pick up on Instagram @villagepcyouth). Students from all schools are
invited, and bringing friends is encouraged! Snacks are always provided.

GPS (Growing Personally & Spiritually)
WEDNESDAYS • 6:30-8PM • YOUTH LOFT
GPS is our weekly youth program for middle schoolers. Each evening
includes large group games, singing, worship, a message, and ends with
small groups. We strive to make GPS a place where students can engage
with each other and share their joys, concerns, and everyday struggles in
an environment that is accepting and meaningful for all. Students can also
join us for Wednesday Night Dinner beforehand at 5:30 if they’d like (cost
for dinner is $5 per student).

SNL (Sunday Night Live)
SUNDAYS • 6:30-8:30PM • YOUTH LOFT
SNL is our weekly evening gathering for high school students. On Sunday
nights we connect with each other through music, discussion, games,
and small groups. We cover a wide range of topics throughout the year,
focusing on navigating the sometimes confusing and challenging world of
high school. Trying to figure out your own identity, let alone what it means
to follow Christ in the midst of it, takes good friends and community. You will
find both of them here!

Early Table
THURSDAYS • 7:30-8:15AM • YOUNG ADULT ROOM
Don’t know what to do with all that extra time on late start Thursdays? Come
hang out, eat some food, and do a little morning devotion with us before
heading to school. We would love to see you there!
This year we’re trying something totally new on Sunday mornings. Instead of our traditional weekly Sunday School lessons, we’ll be offering five different series throughout the year that are available to all 7th-12th graders (and sometimes parents too)! See the details and sign up online at villagepresyouth.org/sunday-series.

### Sunday Series Topic Schedule

**SUNDAYS • 9:30-10:30AM • YOUTH LOFT**

**GRADES 7-12**

**SERIES 1 • SEPT 12-OCT 7**
Things to Know Before You Graduate

**SERIES 2 • NOV 7-14**
Topic TBD

**SERIES 3 • DEC 5-19**
Teach Me to Pray

**SERIES 4 • JAN 23-MAR 6**
Anxiety as an Opportunity for Spiritual Growth

**SERIES 5 • MAR 27-MAY 1**
Topic TBD

Classes not your thing? We encourage you to attend worship with your family and join us for youth group on Sunday nights (for high schoolers, pg. 9) or Wednesday nights (for middle schoolers, pg. 8)—or any other weekly program (pg. 6).
CONFIRMATION

SUNDAYS, JAN 23-MAY 15 • 11AM-12:30PM • ROOM 232/233

Confirmation is the process by which our youth learn what it means to be in a relationship with Jesus Christ as a member of the church. The class is open to 9th graders, as well as older students who have not yet taken it. We welcome everyone, no matter what your past experience is with church, faith, or God. Confirmation begins in January and goes through the beginning of May. We send out information and details about Confirmation to families of 9th graders in early November, and post information on the youth website as well. At the end of the class, students have the opportunity to join VPC as members, and we host a Confirmation Dinner to celebrate their graduation from the class.

If you are an adult interested in leading a small group, let us know. We’d love to have you!

CAPSTONE

When you leave high school after graduation a lot of changes are in your near future: living more independently, meeting a wide variety of people from different backgrounds, and growing as a person. You change a lot in and after high school, and your faith journey is no different. This meaningful class for high school seniors is where we discuss what life and faith look like in the next chapter of life, and how to approach it thoughtfully and intentionally.

Class will meet five times over the 21-22 school year. At the end of the class, we will take an optional overnight trip to a regional city to celebrate our seniors’ upcoming graduation from high school and journey into the next chapter of life.

CAPSTONE MEETING DATES
SUNDAYS • 11AM-1PM
Sept 19 • Oct 24 • Dec 12 • Jan 30 • Feb 27

villagepresyouth.org/confirmation

villagepresyouth.org/capstone
VILLAGE VOICES

SUNDAYS, 5-6:30PM • ROOM 15 • GRADES 7-12
The Village Voices Youth Choir takes music and performance seriously, but not at the cost of building community and having a lot of fun. The youth choir is open to middle and high schoolers (grades 7-12) of all skill levels: no experience necessary, and no audition required! Typically, the choir performs regularly in worship at VPC, and each summer they participate in a choir tour to a regional city. In the past they’ve traveled to St. Louis, Memphis, Oklahoma City, and more! If you’re interested in joining, spring and fall lock-in retreats are also a great way to get to know other choir members.

DIRECTOR: KEVIN DOLAN
KEVIN.DOLAN@VILLAGEPRES.ORG

SUN TRIP TO SF • JUNE 10-13
Every summer, the choir will travel to a regional city to share their music! They’ve sung at a men’s shelter in San Francisco, a church in Chicago, and assisted living homes here in Kansas City, just to name a few. More information about this year’s choir tour will be released soon. The summer tour is open to members of Village Voices only.

SUMMER CHOIR TOUR • JUNE 10-13
Every summer, the choir will travel to a regional city to share their music! They’ve sung at a men’s shelter in San Francisco, a church in Chicago, and assisted living homes here in Kansas City, just to name a few. More information about this year’s choir tour will be released soon. The summer tour is open to members of Village Voices only.

DIRECTOR: DR. JOSH MAIZE
JOSH.MAIZE@VILLAGEPRES.ORG

YOUTH BAND

The Youth Band is open to any middle and high schoolers who play an instrument: drums, guitars, keyboards, violins, cellos, saxophones, trumpets, trombones, singers, rappers, songwriters, and sound technicians. You name it, we’ll work with it - all are welcome! The band performs on Wednesdays at GPS (for middle schoolers) and Sundays at SNL (for high schoolers). Former band members have become nurses, scientists, musicians, engineers, baristas, mountain climbers, administrative assistants, and parents, but the one thing they all had in common was a passion for music.

The band director, Kevin Dolan, will coordinate directly with band members when to meet for practice and performances, but rehearsals are typically at 6pm on Wednesdays before GPS (for middle schoolers) and 6pm on Sundays before SNL (for high schoolers).

DIRECTOR: KEVIN DOLAN
KEVIN.DOLAN@VILLAGEPRES.ORG

villagepresyouth.org/village-voices

villagepresyouth.org/youth-band
WINTER PARK SKI RETREAT

High School Trip
JAN 14-18 • GRADES 9-12
$600 base cost (not incl. rental equipment or ski/board lesson)

Middle School Trip
FEB 19-23 • GRADES 7-8
$600 base cost (not incl. rental equipment or ski/board lesson)

Come out for a fun weekend on the slopes at Winter Park Resort! All abilities and experience levels are welcome. Lessons are required for all first time skiers or snowboarders. We stay at nearby Snow Mountain Ranch (YMCA of the Rockies) and the weekend includes discussion time and worship in the evenings after we’re finished skiing. Registration opens September 7.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP

MARCH 13-19 • GRADES 9-12
$1,000 (incl. airfare, lodging, food, & transportation)

Each year during Spring Break we travel to the Dominican Republic for a week of service. We work a lot. We learn a lot. We laugh a lot. It’s an amazing opportunity for all who attend. Join us as we do construction work, teach English (through music and art) in a classroom setting, and head out to rural villages to assist a local Dominican nonprofit in health education programs. Not only do we grow as a community, but we impact the lives of those we encounter, finding ourselves changed in the process. Registration opens September 7.

Can’t make it to the Spring Break trip, but still want to go to the DR? Village Church International Mission Department is hosting an all-ages mission trip to the Dominican Republic in November 2021, and there’s still time to join. For more information, contact Lora Garrison at (913) 671-2390 or lora.garrison@villagepres.org.
SUMMER

In the summer we take a break from regular programming and offer different weekly activities for each age group. The detailed summer schedule is released in late April/early May!

Summer Interns
Are you a college student (or do you know a college student) who wants to have a summer full of fun while gaining practical ministry experience and training? Be one of our Youth Interns for the summer of 2022! Find application instructions and learn more about the position at villagepresyouth.org/interns. Open to students sophomore year and up.

Youth Week
JUNE 5-9 • COMPLETED 6TH-COMPLETED 12TH GRADES
Each year we kick off summer youth programming with a week of fun fellowship events for middle school and high school students. This is both the first chance for students to meet our interns and the first time we welcome our graduated 6th graders into the youth department. Youth Week typically includes a variety of activities such as a baseball game, a morning of volunteering at a local nonprofit, Worlds of Fun, hammocking, pickleball, and more! You won’t want to miss it!

SUMMER TRIPS

Village Voices Choir Tour
DATES TBD • COMPLETED 7TH-COMPLETED 12TH GRADES
Each year the youth choir heads out for an amazing adventure, spending four days singing and exploring a different area of the country. You must be a member of Village Voices youth choir to go on this trip. With our new leadership getting settled in, look for tour info later this year!

Middle School Mission Trip: Minneapolis
JUNE 17-21 • COMPLETED 6TH-COMPLETED 8TH GRADES
Join us as we collaborate with the people of Minneapolis, Minnesota on different service projects and volunteer efforts! We'll stay in a church and have a blast with programming, worship time, and more.

High School Montreat Youth Conference
JULY 9-16 • COMPLETED 9TH-COMPLETED 12TH GRADES
Each year we take high school students to attend this incredible youth conference located in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina. We’ll hear from keynote speakers, break into small groups for discussion, and return in the evening for worship. You’ll get to know students from across the country and deepen relationships with fellow Village youth on this trip!

High School Boundary Waters Canoe Trip
JULY 24-30 • COMPLETED 9TH-COMPLETED 12TH GRADES
Come on a week-long canoe and camping adventure in the gorgeous lakes of Boundary Waters, Minnesota (right on the Canadian border!). We only take this trip every other year, so now’s your chance. No experience is necessary. Will there be bears? No idea. Moose? Maybe. Adventure? Most definitely.
Rev. Zach Walker
PASTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES
ZACH.WALKER@VILLAGEPRES.ORG

Zach originally came to Village as a high school student. After heading to Wisconsin to attend Lawrence University, he soon applied to seminary, graduating from Princeton Theological Seminary in 2007. He has served in youth ministry for over 15 years and has served as the Pastor of Youth Ministries at Village since 2013. Zach enjoys pretty much anything outdoors, reads as much as possible, and is an avid runner. He and his wife, Meredith, have two human sons, Silas and Sawyer, and two furry sons, Bernie and Warren, who keep them plenty busy.

Kevin Dolan
YOUTH BAND DIRECTOR
KEVIN.DOLAN@VILLAGEPRES.ORG

Kevin has been working at Village Church for over 20 years as a guitarist, preschool/elementary school educator and Youth Band Director. Kevin’s work outside of the church is focused on early childhood education. He tours the country as a musician and storyteller under the stage name “Dino O’Dell,” working with teachers, elementary schools, and preschools. His home base is Fairway, KS with his wife, Mandy Mae, and son, Danny.

Jenna Soltys
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES
JENNA.SOLTYS@VILLAGEPRES.ORG

Jenna was an active member of Village growing up, and she is happy to be back in KC serving at her home church. While Jenna’s education background includes degrees in Vocal Performance and Graphic Design, her ministry background includes summers working at Montreat Conference Center and KidShine Performing Arts Camp as well as previous church employment in various capacities. You can find her hanging out with friends or family, reading on her porch, or obsessing over her dog children, Icelynn and Tate.

Dr. Josh Maize
YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR
JOSH.MAIZE@VILLAGEPRES.ORG

Meet the new director of Village Voices! For the last three years, Josh has been the Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas, but he’s actually a KC native. He has attended UMKC and KU and has sung a lot around the area. Fun fact—Josh was a Vocal/Choral Intern at Village about 10 or 11 years ago so he’s heard (and even sung with) Village Voices! Josh can’t wait to explore new music and ministry with the Village Voices Youth Choir.

Youth Coordinator

Madeline graduated from Lee University in 2016 with a BA in English, where she was also an active member of a Christian performing arts company. She’s been a freelance website designer, waitress, ESL tutor, and ballet teacher, and is a professional breakfast food researcher. She loves Just Dance 4, thrift shopping, her husband Adrian, daughter Iris, and hiking buddy Xander (the dog).

Youth Intern

Typically we hire a year-long youth intern to help with programming from September to May. This part time position allows an individual to explore and experience the vocation of youth ministry while also sharing perspective and ideas with an already vibrant team of youth workers. If you know someone who might be a good fit for this position, please check out villagepresyouth.org/academic-year or send us an email!
Volunteer Youth Group Leader
COMMITTMENT: 1 SCHOOL YEAR
In addition to our staff, we have several adult volunteers who attend either MS or HS youth group each week. High schoolers (sophomore year and up) are also eligible to be leaders at middle school youth group. Typically this commitment is for one school year, but occasionally leaders roll on or off at the semester.

Help Out at Lofternoons
COMMITTMENT: 1 TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL, AS OFTEN AS YOU LIKE!
This after-school program has historically been very popular, so we appreciate having additional adults (and high schoolers) simply to have eyes around the room and be able to interact and get to know students. This is a great opportunity for someone who is interested in helping out every once in a while, but isn’t able to commit weekly.

Lead a Confirmation Small Group
COMMITTMENT: 1 SEMESTER (JANUARY-EARLY MAY)
Each Confirmation class is taught by either Zach, Jenna, or another departmental pastor/director. But, the class is broken into small discussion groups led by adults like you! Group leaders maintain the same group each class. It’s always a rewarding experience helping facilitate students growing in their faith and a great opportunity for adults to learn as well!

Support List
COMMITTMENT: NONE!
Get on our support list and we’ll call or text you if we ever need an extra set of hands, a driver, help providing food for an event, or other one-time things. Email us at youth@villagepres.org!

Go On a Trip
COMMITTMENT: 1 TRIP
We are always in need of additional adults to chaperone our youth trips. Responsibilities generally include ensuring safety of students, assisting directors in any way necessary, and leading small groups. Trip costs for adult leaders vary for each trip, so contact us if you’re interested in learning more.

Youth Committee
COMMITTMENT: 1 YEAR (UP TO 3 CONSECUTIVE YEARS)
Youth committee is a team of parents, students, and volunteers who meet monthly to discuss and make decisions about our youth ministry and help with our special events. Members are nominated and commit to serve for the duration of a year for a maximum of three years, with summer breaks. Please let us know if you are interested in serving or if you’d like to nominate someone.

YOUTH COMMITTEE 2021-2022

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADULTS</th>
<th>STUDENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pam Brown</td>
<td>Poppy Billingsley (Deacon)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Hanson</td>
<td>Harper McKee (Deacon)</td>
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<td>Pam Logan (Elder)</td>
<td>Madi Moormann (MS Rep.)</td>
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<td>Mike Minor</td>
<td>Andrew Orr (HS Rep.)</td>
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<td>Cheryl Moormann</td>
<td>Katie Parks (Elder)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Muller (Elder)</td>
<td>Christian Vaz (Elder)</td>
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<td>Alison Patterson</td>
<td>Ella Stewart (Elder)</td>
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<td>Finn Sullivan (Elder)</td>
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Jenna Soltys (Staff)  
James Stewart  
Charlie Sun  
Zach Walker (Staff)  
Amy Winter  
Elizabeth Woods
ABOUT VILLAGE

Village Youth is a department of Village Presbyterian Church, a congregation in the PC(USA) denomination. If you don’t know much about Village, here’s some background!

In the late 1940s, the prairie and farmland just west of Kansas City were rapidly turning into suburban neighborhoods. On February 13, 1949, at Village Church’s very first Sunday worship service, 282 charter members filled the chapel. Today, Village Church has over 5,000 members operating out of an 95,000 square foot facility that, though expanded several times over, still seems to burst with activity.

The church also manages a pre-school at the main campus, and the Meneilly Center for Mission at 99th and Mission Road, which includes a Child and Family Development Center and a Food Pantry, serving the surrounding community.

On Feb. 5, 2017, Village Church became one church at two campuses, holding our first worship service at our first satellite campus, Village on Antioch, located at 14895 Antioch Rd. in Overland Park.

Village has always existed to be in service to others, which is no less true today than it was when it was founded. If you would like to know more about Village Church or the PC(USA), check out some info on the web, or feel free to contact us directly.

Village Church
6641 Mission Road
Prairie Village, KS 66208
(913) 262-4200
villagepres.org

Youth Ministry
(913) 671-2302
youth@villagepres.org
villagepresyouth.org