

# Urban Village

May 2024

Urban Village is busy and growing!

On April 6, 2024, Urban Village celebrated our first anniversary by holding a community-wide birthday party for ourselves. This birthday celebration included open play time, free food, carnival games, and face painting. Around 200 people came to celebrate with us! It was a success because of our awesome board, staff, and volunteers. Thank you to all who came out and helped with this event!

This spring we also began offering Taekwon-Do classes for children. These classes are being taught by 9<sup>th</sup> degree black belt, Grandmaster Len Kirschbaum. Len brings with him 40+ years of martial arts teaching experience. In fact, his first martial arts studio in Nicholasville was in the building where Urban Village is not located! Len shares Urban Village's vision for mission, outreach, and ministry. He sees his calling as working with families who cannot afford the more expensive dojos in town (even though he trained many of those who are teaching in those facilities.) We currently have 15 students in the 7 and up class and 8 students in the 6 and younger class. Len offered a women's self-defense workshop in early May. On July 20, 2024, through his work with the Disabled Martial Arts Association, he will be offering a self-defense class for people with disabilities. We are hoping to engage the financial support of sponsors for this event so that the class can be absolutely free for all participants. As it is, we will not turn anyone away based on their inability to pay the suggested donation for this class.

Each Sunday evening, we continue to have around ten fifth through eighth grade students who gather for youth group. This group is slowly beginning to connect and interact together. I am thankful to Sheena Roller (Beaumont PC) and Rev. Hannah McIntyre (Pisgah, Versailles) for their help with this ministry! If you would like to volunteer with this youth group, please let me know. Also, if you are from a congregation with just a few youth looking for a youth group experience, your youth are welcome!

As I write this report, we are one week away from completing our first semester of the After School Program. Even with some glitches and growing pains getting this program started, we were able to offer low-cost after school care for nine preschool through fifth grade students. The families were very appreciative and are looking forward to returning for the 2024-2025 school year and we look forward to increasing this program to fifteen students for next school year.

As summer approaches, things are not slowing down! We have eight weeks of summer camp planned followed by a week of Vacation Bible School. The summer camp is being organized and led by one of our amazing board members, Nicole Osborne. Nicole is an elementary school teacher and is looking forward to spending her summer at Urban Village with our kids! Vacation Bible School will be led by members of Wilmore Presbyterian Church and any other folks who would like to join us - again, just let me know!

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that we are *still* working through the purchase of the building. Maybe by presbytery meeting we will have closed on the property!

Finally, and most importantly, thank you all for your support! Without your prayers, your sweat equity, and your financial gifts, Urban Village would not be able to do what we do, impacting the lives that we are for the glory of God's kingdom!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Beth Garrod-Logsdon, Executive Director/Mission Developer