

Urban Village 2024 Annual report

Urban Village has experienced remarkable growth during this year. We have started numerous new outreach ministries to children and their families including an After School Program, Summer Camps, Vacation Bible School, Preschool Play Circle, and TaeKwon-Do classes. Through these programs we have seen children grow in maturity and in community, becoming friends with others whom they may never have met if not for Urban Village and trying new activities and experiences. These programs continue to grow and be a cornerstone of our mission and ministry in Nicholasville. Through them we are living into our call to be a place of welcome and grace for all people, especially those who struggle in other settings.

The middle school and high school youth group continues to be a valuable ministry to our community and to local PC(USA) congregations. Each Sunday evening around ten tweens and teens from Jessamine, Fayette, and Woodford counties gather for dinner, Bible study, and fellowship. This group is truly growing in faith, wisdom, and friendship. For our youth Bible study, Rev. Beth Garrod-Logsdon is developing lessons based on the book *100 Things Every Child Should Know Before Confirmation* by Rebecca Kirkpatrick and using the CEB Student Bible, edited by Elizabeth W. Corrie, which includes prayers and reflections written by teens around the world. These lessons and this edition of the Bible are giving these youth, some who have never read a Bible before, a solid foundation in Biblical knowledge and a growing interest in faith-filled living.

In addition to the youth Bible study, former members of the Nicholasville Presbyterian Church have met several times at Urban Village for a Bible study. This group is being led by Elder Susan Bradish. We hope that hosting this group will strengthen the bonds between the members of that congregation and their legacy ministry at Urban Village.

A second adult faith formation group will begin meeting in late November. This group, Tuesday Table, will meet each Tuesday at 6:00 to share a light meal and conversations based around Pub Theology weekly topics as well as other topics or questions that arise. The goal of this group is to be a safe place to ask questions and seek answers. It is open to people of all faiths, no faith, and struggling faith.

In September 2024, Urban Village was awarded a \$30,000 Investment Grant from the Presbyterian Mission Agency, 1001 New Worshiping Communities. This grant is undesignated and is intended to be used by the recipients to help sustain the ministry over the next eighteen months as we continue to grow into our vision of being a place where *all people are welcome and where each person can grow in mind, body, and spirit.*

Thank you to all the congregations, individuals, and groups who have helped in this adventure. From donations of time and money to helping lead camps and youth group to supporting the staff and volunteers with prayers...you are not only part of this ministry, but an integral reason that Urban Village is growing into what God has already ordained it to be.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Beth Garrod-Logsdon
Urban Village Executive Director