

Urban Village

Urban Village has had another successful year of serving our community and the presbytery. We are thankful for all of the support that individuals and congregations continue to give us through the sharing of their time, talents, and treasures. We are especially grateful for the presbytery's Church Transformation and Innovation Commission for helping us fund the remodeling of our bathrooms to make them ADA compliant, the Copia Family Foundation who gave a grant for our After School Program through which five students from Nicholasville Elementary School are able to attend our program free of charge, and to congregations and individuals who sponsored summer camp participants.

Here is a bit of a recap from the year in ministry at Urban Village:

- The 2024-25 school year ended with seven students participating in our After School Program. The 2025-26 school year began with twelve students participating in this program with several more families interested in joining after the winter break.
- Our second year of summer camps also saw a huge increase in participation. During our 8 weeks of summer camp in 2024, we had an average of 7 campers each week, in 2025, that average grew to 15 campers each week (with over 30 kids participating in at least one week of camp).
- So far in 2025, we have hosted 32 birthday parties, with 6 more on the calendar before the end of the year and some already booked for the early months of 2026.
- We have hosted children's groups from RadArtz Homeschool Co-op, Pisgah (Versailles) Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church (Lexington), Second Presbyterian Church (Lexington), and have been contacted by several other congregations to schedule visits.
- Our youth group remains a solid 11 core students in grades five and up. These youth represent Wilmore Presbyterian Church, Beaumont Presbyterian Church, and Eastminster Presbyterian Church, as well as youth from the Jessamine County community.
- The newest ministry that has happened this year is the development of the *Jessamine County Autism Moms Support group (JAMS)*. This started after a couple moms with children on the Autism Spectrum attended an open play time last winter. The next month they started a community-wide support group that meets once a month. During this time the children play and are supervised by the staff of Urban Village while the moms, dads, and other caregivers share conversation and support. This has been such a success that Urban Village began hosting "parents night out" specifically for this group as their kids are comfortable and familiar with Urban Village and our staff. As one parent said, "We've never been able to do a parents' night out before. This place and its staff is a godsend."

In short, Urban Village continues to grow in our mission and ministry. We continue to be a place of grace for all people. And we are looking forward to more opportunities to share God's love in 2026.

As always, we hope that you are inspired by what God is doing through this ministry and will remember Urban Village in your 2025 end of year giving and in your 2026 budget. Your gifts and support, along with God's Spirit, are what makes all of this possible.

Submitted By,
Rev. Beth Garrod-Logsdon
Urban Village, Mission Developer