

SEVEN RIVERS VILLAGES CHURCH



Assistant Pastor Packet

Seven Rivers Villages Church (PCA)

<https://www.sevenrivers.org/seven-rivers-villages-church>

For more info, email MGilbert@sevenrivers.org

We are very glad that you're considering whether God might be calling you to help us at Seven Rivers Villages Church as we bring the Gospel to The Villages, FL.

The story of Seven Rivers Villages Church (SRVC) begins with the vision and burden of the leadership of Seven Rivers Church (PCA), which is located about 45 minutes west of The Villages. The leaders saw the great growth of The Villages and recognized a great opportunity for the gospel because it is the fastest growing metropolitan area in the United States. Every month retirees and workers from all over the US move to The Villages and start over, looking for a new life in a new community.

After much prayer and the generous donations given during a capital campaign, Seven Rivers called Stephen Speaks in 2019 to serve as church planter for The Villages. SRVC launched weekly worship on October 1, 2021. Our vision is to be a Multi-generational Community of Grace on Mission. Now, as we enter our second year, and as our church family grows, we are looking for an Assistant Pastor to help us fulfill our mission and vision.

We hope this packet communicates who we are and who we're looking for. We look forward to hearing from you!

Grace and peace,

Stephen Speaks

Pastor of Development and Implementation

POSITION OVERVIEW

Seven Rivers Church is seeking an Assistant Pastor with complimentary gifts to the Senior Pastor to join the pastoral team.

QUALIFICATIONS

Master of Divinity from a qualified Seminary

Ordained/ordainable in the PCA

Ministry Experience

Heartily agrees with SRVC mission and vision as stated in core values (www.sevenrivers.org/believe)

MAIN ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Administrative

Assist in Vision Development and Implementation

Oversee Small Groups, Life Groups, Onboarding process

Recruit, train and encourage new and existing leaders

Teach adult education classes periodically

Preach and lead worship as assigned (preaching 12 or more times per year)

Encourage and nurture the ministry to young couples and families.

Share in Pastoral Duties (Counseling, Weddings, Funerals, Care for the sick and grieving, and Pastoral Leadership)

Participate on pastoral team through collaborative meetings and execution of ministry. This includes informal shepherding of members as well as formal discipline cases.

Help develop long term and personal outreach into the community

CHARACTER

Strong experiential grasp of the gospel of grace

Evidence of spiritual maturity and godly character

Healthy marriage & family life

Humble team player

Shepherd's Heart

Heart for the lost & hurting

Has proven administrative gifts and experience.

Emotionally Intelligent leader

Pastoral Instincts & Insight

Self-starter/Initiator

Excellent communicator

Adaptable

Enjoys learning and growing

Not afraid of failure or change

Rhythm of Life Together

Florida

Florida has become America's playground, with millions each year visiting Florida's theme parks, natural springs, miles of coast line, and culturally rich cities. Over a thousand people from all over the world move to Florida every day. (Yes, you read that correctly.)

The Villages

The Villages was the fastest growing metropolitan area of the country from 2010-2020. It originally started as a small trailer park retirement community in a part of central Florida once composed of just farmland and small southern towns along the I-75 corridor an hour north of Orlando. It has now grown into a billion dollar retirement community with over 144,000 retirees 55 and older, spanning 3 counties, and is poised to double in size in the next decade. Nearly 4000 brand new homes were built in The Villages in 2020. 115 Senior adults move into The Villages every week from all over the US relocate here to enjoy a more active lifestyle in Florida's warmer climate. The Villages itself boasts 693 holes of golf, along with numerous swimming pools, biking trails, restaurants, clubs, and shopping districts. And, yes, golf carts are everywhere... around 50,000!

The growth of The Villages has created an interesting cultural dynamic. Retirees from all over the US rub shoulders with locals with small town, Southern sensibilities, many of whom now work for The Villages. Many young families from all over the US have also relocated to the area for work. The Villages is by far the largest employer in the area, hiring people in construction, administration, service, education and medicine.

The Villages has begun construction on a community geared toward young families with a state-of-the art Charter School and plans for a medical center in an area to the south that stands to double the population of The Villages. The church plant is meeting in the Wildwood Community Center in Wildwood, FL, on the western edge of The Villages.

Seven Rivers Villages Church Plant

Seven Rivers Villages Church launched on October 1, 2021. Our desire from the beginning was to establish a gospel-centered, multi-generational church. God has been gracious to bring us both retirees and young families in our first year. We have a part time Children's Ministry Director overseeing the nursery and children's ministry, and we recently hired one of our members as a part-time Youth Director. He has begun meeting with our Middle and High School students.

The Villages really is a beautiful place, but putting greens, parties, and pickle ball can't distract for long from the darkness of the brokenness of the world. Since moving to The Villages area in 2020, we see more and more the necessity for the church to minister in The Villages with the grace and truth of the gospel of Jesus.

Among the residents who live in and around The Villages, about 65% of people claim no religion. Somewhere close to 125 churches currently meet in and around The Villages, but the opportunity for ministry continues to grow along with the population in this community. We believe that a Gospel-driven, multigenerational church of families and retirees will make a difference in individual lives and in this unique community for generations to come.

What we Believe

Our vision is to bring the clear message of Jesus into The Villages with such a Gospel focus that both the religious and irreligious experience the freedom and transformation that come only from Jesus.

Beliefs

We hold happily to the system of theological understanding communicated in the Westminster Standards.

Core Hopes

- That Christ will create us to be a worshipping community that will experience the grace, joy and freedom of the gospel.
- That Christ will make us a loving and honest community in which sins are confessed, sinners are accepted and lives are changed through the power of the gospel.
- That Christ will make us a welcoming community, open to the skeptic, the seeker, the new convert and the struggling Christian.
- That Christ will make us a serving community that loves The Villages and surrounding areas to the point of working toward real change through the ministries of word, justice and mercy.
- That Christ, in and through us, will meet real needs (spiritual, physical and social) and allow us to experience His life in our midst.
- That Christ will make us a growing community that establishes other churches in our area.
- That Christ will make us a mission-driven church for the world sending not only our money but also our people out in service to Christ.

Worship

We currently meet on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM at the Wildwood Community Center, which is located halfway between the northern and southern ends of The Villages. We would describe our worship as conversational with Presbyterian liturgical elements. Our services seek a balance of worshipful and enriching liturgy, teaching, and music ensuring they are also approachable for newcomers and enriching for regular attenders.

Our Vision

Our mission is to lead retirees and young families in The Villages area into a growing relationship with Jesus, so that they experience Renewing Grace, enter into Redemptive Community, and participate in Relentless Gospel Mission.

Renewing Grace

At the heart of SRVC's mission and ministry is the Gospel of God's grace. Not only do we believe that the gospel of Jesus is the means by which people experience forgiveness from and reconciliation to God, but we are convinced that gospel is the power for living a new life of joy, freedom, and love for other people. Since the church launched, we have heard retirees, who grew up in Christian contexts, say that they are experience the reality of God's love for the first time in their lives. We consciously model humble confidence in the finished work of Jesus, dependence on the Holy Spirit, and hope in the promises of God every Sunday and in every weekly interaction.

Redemptive Community

We also believe that the Gospel of Jesus has the power to forge a new community. God's purpose in history is not simply to save individual souls but to create a new humanity, a people with a communal life that reflects, to some degree, the future kingdom of God. We want to see people united in love who could never have been brought together without the power of the gospel of grace to humble, affirm and transform their identity. The grace of God is a great equalizer. The only way any of us can be right with God is by grace through faith, which changes not only the way that we see ourselves in relation to God but the way that we see ourselves in relation to other people. No one is beyond the need of God's grace, including me, and no one is beyond the reach of God's grace. This changes the way that we interact with others and begins to create a new kind of humanity and a new kind of community. Out of belief in the gospel, we believe that people are led by the Holy Spirit to live out a new kind of life characterized by truth, love, hospitality, and kindness. The gospel binds us to one another in Jesus. Christians are, therefore, not simply to connect to a church to receive inspiration and information but are to give themselves to real community and personal relationships. Everyone who comes in faith in Jesus is given Spiritual gifts so that they can participate in vital ways within this new community.

Relentless Mission

The gospel of grace transforms the way that God's people enter the world. It creates a new kind of freedom. Out of a belief in the gospel, we live a passionate life of joy, humility, and gratitude where we live, work, and play. We celebrate what God has done in creation, literally eating and drinking to the glory of God! There will be a sense of longing and hope in our midst as we wait for the new heavens and the new earth and the final consummation when all is set right. Our God is a God who redeems and restores, and this gospel reality leads us not away from the broken world but into it with a redemptive mindset. We move into, not out of, the city and the world. We don't withdraw. We engage with new redemptive fervor and anticipation of what God will do. Through the gospel, God blesses us and makes us a blessing to our neighbors. Christ meets our needs so that we may serve God and others!

Our Church Community

We appreciate your interest and would love to talk to you if you are interested or have questions. We know that reading a synopsis does not give you a real sense of a place or of a church. It's really about the people and getting to know them, so take a look at these pictures. We hope that they will give you a better idea of who we are and how God is at work.

