

Celebration of Faithful Women Moves Outdoors to Recognize Four PW Honorary Life Members

We hope you will join us from 11:30-1 p.m. Saturday, April 17, in the south parking lot at Village on Mission as we celebrate the gifts of all Village Presbyterian Women and acknowledge our 2021 honorees Dee Couch, Patty Grossman, Michelle O'Neal and Kelly Thomason. Rev. Sally Wright is our featured speaker.

About Our Honorees



Dee Couch dedicates a large amount of her time and talents to PW and Village Church. Prior to the suspension of in-person worship, Dee serves most Sundays as an usher, and also coordinates the communion servers. She is the education team lead for the Computer Ministry, chairs the Connectional Ministries Committee, and serves on the Village Emergency Response Team. Dee also co-leads a Village Connect small group and is an ordained deacon and elder.

Patty Grossman's involvement at Village Church, and with PW, is deep and wide. She has shared her time and talents in the Village Church choir, a deacon, communion server, Village Connect small group leader, Stephen Minister, DR Mission trip (and board member of the DRMP) and the chair of the Care & Counseling Committee. Patty is an ordained elder currently serving on Session. Within PW, Patty is a member of Circle 2, Amazing Graces Committee, Amazing Graces dinner group, spiritual growth coordinator, co-moderator elect, PW Retreat Committee, Advent Committee co-chair, co-moderator and Nominating Committee co-chair.



Michelle O'Neal has been sharing her time and talents with Village since 2004, including serving as a Sunday School teacher, Stephen Minister, The Gathering Committee, Village Connect small group facilitator, PW Retreat planning committee. She has served as the VBS director and co-director. Michelle is the fearless leader of Circle 4, and has served on the APNC commissioned to hire Children & Family Ministry Director (Brooke Brundige), and two Pastoral Care pastors (Revs. Melanie Hardison and Sally Wright). Michelle also serves on The Feast Leadership Team with Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka. Michelle's most recent position with Village is with the Mission Committee, and in May 2020, she joined Village staff as social media coordinator.

Kelly Thomason has been involved with multiple programs and activities with PW at the former Presbyterian Church of Stanley and PW at Village Church on Antioch. She has served as an elder, Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School team leader/guide, and a mission trip youth sponsor for six trips. At Village on Antioch, Kelly has served on several committees including PW luncheon and hospitality, coordinating council, and sound board. In addition, she was part of the initial PW Circle membership team and serves as Circle treasurer. She has also served as an office worker, bulletin printer, painter of Sunday School rooms, and bathroom tiler. Kelly truly feels that working for the church and the church family is what we are "called to do."



About Rev. Sally Wright's Meditation

Rev. Sally Wright will speak on "Being Present for the Future." Nine times in the Bible God tells God's people to do a new thing. Perhaps, God is trying to tell us something. You and I make decisions based upon the information that most easily comes to mind. Advertisers know this well. That is why you see the same commercial 15 times in the same one-hour TV show. This also happens within the church context – that might be why the church is known to repeatedly say, "We've always done it that way." There are times when doing something the same way is the most efficient, time tested, trusted way to get a task accomplished. Yet, there are other times when God calls us to break out of ruts and do a new thing. At the Celebration of Faithful Women, we are going to train ourselves to see where God is doing new things and learn to trust and follow.



Registration Closing Soon

Register by Monday, April 12, at www.villagepres.org/pw or contact Ann DeFeo at annddefeo@gmail.com or 816-863-0074. Due to planning for the kitchen, meal purchases are no longer available.

Parking will begin at 11 a.m. on April 17. We'll follow social distancing guidelines. You have the option of bringing your own chair for outside seating or remain in your car. Our rain date is Saturday, April 24. We look forward to seeing you at the Celebration of Faithful Women.

Bloom where you are planted.

PW STAY-CATION 2021



APRIL 23



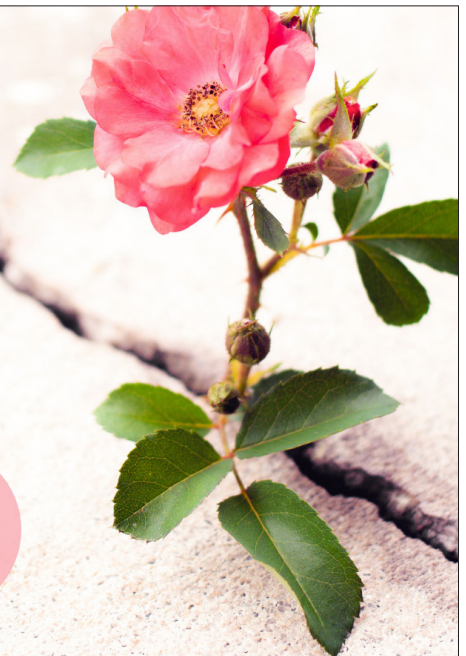
APRIL 25



APRIL 30



MAY 1



**PW Retreat Stay-cation
April 23-May 1**

Presbyterian Women are offering "Bloom Where You Are Planted, a PW Retreat Stay-cation" this spring between April 23 and May 1 in lieu of a retreat. Over the course of eight days, we are planning four fun, outdoor, COVID-safe events: volunteering at the Community Garden, gentle movement meditation, a scavenger hunt and outdoor worship at Village on Antioch led by Rev. Sally Wright. Register and find more information about each specific event at www.villagepres.org/pw. Our hope is that you will feel 'rooted and grounded in love' (Ephesians 3:17).

Reopening Update

At its March 1 meeting, the Village Church Session convened a Reopening Task Force that will guide how and when Village Church will reopen and resume on-site in-person worship. Members include Rev. Tom Are (senior pastor), Jim Tilden (senior director of business operations), medical professionals and church members Dr. Barbara Bollier, Dr. John Hall and Dr. Scott Beall, public health professional and church member Donna Martin, church members Charlotte Davis, Tyler Nottberg and Drew Thomas, and community representative Kate Breytspreek. The decision of when to reopen is made by Session. Currently, on-site in-person worship at both campuses is suspended through May 2, 2021.

MISSION

They're Baaacckk!

On Tuesday, March 9, several Mission Sewing volunteers returned to the Village on Mission Sewing Room—fully immunized, masked and ready to work! It was a joyful sight to see them in the building again after a one year absence due to COVID-19. The pandemic hasn't slowed their efforts, however. Working from home, they have sewn more than 2,000 masks to fight coronavirus, among other projects, in the past year.

Members are working in rotations so all who want to participate may do so. The team that cuts and prepares the fabrics for sewing is working a week or two ahead of the others to jump-start the assembly process. What a happy moment to celebrate!



Village on Antioch Pop-Up Food Pantry Requests Pasta & Canned Spaghetti Sauce for April

The Village on Antioch Pop-Up Food Pantry would appreciate donations of pasta and spaghetti sauce in April. We love cans of Best Choice and Hunt's spaghetti sauce. (No glass jars please.) Bring your donations to the marked bins at the south entrance of Village on Mission or the east entrance of Village on Antioch. Please check the list at www.villagepres.org/antioch before donating other items. Thank you!

Donate Blood at Village Church on Mission Tuesday, April 27

Give the gift of life. Please consider making that gift between noon and 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, in Rooms 132 & 133 at Village Church on Mission Road. You can sign up to donate at donate.savealifenow.org/donor/schedules/zip and enter the zip of 66208 and date to sign up. Appointments are required.

Please wear a face mask to your donation. If you do not have one, the Community Blood Center will provide you with a mask upon your arrival. Remember to bring a photo ID or donor ID card.

Community Blood Center staff members are trained in universal precautions to help prevent the risk of spreading infections. If you have any questions, contact Ann Colston at 913-461-1791.

UPCOMING SERMONS

- April 10** All New Things - Rev. Sally Wright preaching from Revelation 21:1-6
April 18 New Wine and New Wineskins - Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka preaching from Mark 2:18-22

New Sermon Series: You've Got A Friend April 25-May 23

Jesus was accused of being a friend to the wrong people. He also had high expectations for friendship, as once he said the greatest love is in one who lays down their life for a friend. One of the ordination vows proposed to elders, deacons and pastors is this: Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry? Friendship is important. Over the year, we have had to get creative in how to practice friendship with one another. In this series Rev. Tom Are will explore why friendships matter and identify barriers that some friendships must overcome.

MUSIC MINISTRY

April Taizé Moving Outside to the Courtyard

Join us at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, for an outdoor, in-person Taizé worship. Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Dr. Elisa Bickers and director of music Will Breytspraak will lead a service of song, silence and the Lord's Supper in the Village on Mission Welcome Center Courtyard. Participants will be seated a safe distance apart and must remain masked for the duration of this service. Seating is limited to 30 people. Email Carol Dale at carol.dale@villagepres.org for sign-up information.

PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Stephen Ministers... helping those in need improve their lives

Stephen Ministers listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people going through a difficult time.

"Being a Stephen Minister is rewarding beyond anything I could imagine," Andy Harris says. He's been meeting with his care receiver for two years, helping him through a difficult situation.

"We meet regularly to discuss a variety of issues he needs to address," Andy explains. Through visits with Andy, the care receiver was able to develop processes to resolve issues and utilize his faith in God to support and guide him.

"His health improved, he landed a perfect job and his outlook turned totally positive," Andy says. His family is grateful that his faith, dedication and Stephen Ministry supported such positive results.

If interested in meeting with a Stephen Minister or training to become one, contact Rev. Melanie Hardison at melanie.hardison@villagepres.org or 913-713-3098.



APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 10 – **Adult Sunday Morning Classes** via Zoom

Faith Journey facilitated by Kathy Ray at 9 a.m. Sunday, via Zoom. We are studying the book "Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, & Loving the Bible Again" by Rachel Evans through the end of April.

Village Forum facilitated by Dr. Gus Breytspraak at 10:30 a.m. Sundays, via Zoom. The Sundays after Easter until the end of the spring term we will be discussing A-J Levine's video series on The Sermon on the Mount. In "Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven," Dr. Levine introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount, explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today.

April 12 – Registration deadline for **Celebration of Faithful Women** (event only). Register at www.villagepres.org/pw

April 14, 21, 28 – Two Village U Classes taught from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays, via Zoom

Controversies in Feminist Theology: Language Matters - Taught by Dr. Kris Kvam, professor of theology, Saint Paul School of Theology.

Introduction to the Old Testament – Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka will explore key themes of the Old Testament and discover how these ancient words still shape our lives today.

April 16 – 5:30-7 p.m. **Bike Rodeo & Family Dinner** in the Village on Mission south parking lot

April 17 – 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. **Celebration of Faithful Women** in the Village on Mission south parking lot

April 20 – 6:30-8 p.m. Village U Class: **Discover Your Child's Natural Instincts** – taught by E3 Academy in Room 132, and from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, April 28, in Room 232; 7 p.m. **Taizé Worship** in the Village on Mission Welcome Center Courtyard

April 22 – **Earth Day** – Find Earth Day resources at www.villagepres.org/environmental-action

April 23-May 1 – **Bloom Where You Are Planted**, a PW Retreat Stay-cation

April 23 – 5:30 p.m. **Virtual Art & Hors D'oeuvres** premieres online at www.villagepres.org/artgallery

Looking Ahead to May

May 5 – **An Evening with Dr. John Hall** - Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka hosts this Village U class from 6:30-8 p.m. in Rooms 126 & 127 at Village on Mission. John Hall, M.D., is a long-time Village Church member and a published poet. In addition to his own practice, he has volunteered for years with a community health clinic. Drawing on his experiences as a physician and his faith, he has published a number of books of poetry. During this evening, he will read poems from his latest book, "Doggerel from a Friend," published in 2020, and share thoughts and reflections.



Visit www.villagepres.org/upcoming-events or www.villagepres.org/village-u-community-classes for details and to register.

Look for Easter Lily Memorial names in the May 5 Good News.

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@vpc_pres_women



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CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Second Saturday Family Fun Moved to Friday, April 16

April's Second Saturday happens to fall during Shawnee Mission School District's Spring Break...

So no Second Saturday in April! Instead...

Join us from 5:30-7 p.m. Friday, April 16, for a little family fun in the south parking lot at Village on Mission. It will be a Bike Rodeo & Family Dinner. More details coming soon at www.villagepres.org/upcoming-events.

Kids Summer Programs Registration Now Open

Register online and get more information at www.villagepres.org/summer_programs

Programs and Dates

Creations by Kids Summer Camp for Ages 4 and 5: Starting June 7 and ending July 2

Classrooms will be on the 1st floor at the 67th and Mission Road campus.

Director: Debbie Smith, debbie.smith@villagepres.org

Kids Day Out (KDO) Ages 2-5: Wednesdays for 4 weeks June 9, 16, 23, 30

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Director: Marjean Lindquist, marjean@villagepres.org

Music & Drama Camp for Ages entering 4th, 5th or 6th grades: June 7-12

This year's production is "What's Up, Zak?" Children will learn the stories of Zacchaeus and the healing of the blind beggar through acting, singing, stage arts and this year, video recording. Camp is held 12:30-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday with a video performance on Saturday at the Village on Mission campus. More information and a complete schedule will be sent via email in May.

Director: Jenny Hull, jenny.hull@villagepres.org

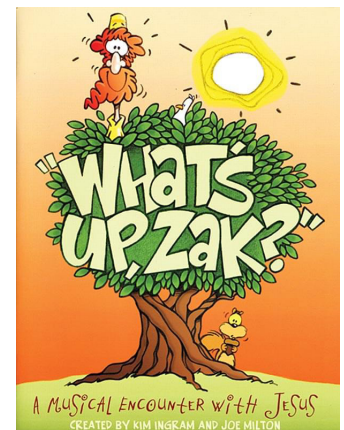
Village on Mission and Village on Antioch Vacation Bible School: July 12-16

Completed grades K-5 and Preschool (age 3 years by Sept. 1, 2020) thru Pre-K

We are planning a VBS-ending concert and celebration. Details forthcoming. Stay tuned for more information about this epic adventure.

Village on Mission Program Director: Brooke Brundige, brooke.brundige@villagepres.org

Village on Antioch Program Director: Clare Stern-Burbano, clare.stern@villagepres.org



Pam Southerland Retires After 30 Years

Pam Southerland's life story is deeply tied to Village Presbyterian Church. She was baptized here, grew up here, and was married here in 1984 by our founding pastor, Rev. Dr. Robert Meneilly, and Rev. Charles Fredrick. Pam was volunteering in the infant room (her daughter was in child care) when Rosemary Marshall asked if she might like to work as an office manager. That was 1991.

"I soon realized the job was much more," Pam says. "Each day was different—working to offer the best child care possible. It's a busy office with people in and out. Some needing help, some sharing stories or just saying, 'hi.' We supported them, laughed with them, cried with them and built lasting relationships."

One of her favorite aspects is getting to know families and helping them make connections of their own in the church. Another is working with incredible people. She says, "Having these creative, spiritual, loving people by my side has shaped the person I am today."

Pam also counts her longtime partnership with Marjean Lindquist, director of child care, as a distinct bonus. "It's pretty extraordinary to work so well for so long with one person," she says. "We are often called and answer to each other's names! It has been a joy to work with Marjean and has given us a lifelong friendship."

Marjean echoes these sentiments. "I've been so blessed to work with my friend, Pam, for many years. Pam is kind, nurturing, generous, positive and supportive. She has given great love and care to the children, families and staff here at Village. She is always ready with a kind smile, reassuring word and calming touch. She will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing and working with her. I will cherish the memories of our years working together and wish her all the best in retirement."

Brooke Brundige, director of children and family ministry, agrees on all counts. "Pam treats every kid like her own. Both kids and adults alike feel so comfortable and connected to Pam. We're going to miss her around here!"

Pam and her husband, John, are ready to travel in retirement: "We have family, friends, mountains and beaches to visit." And she is thrilled to spend more time with their grandchildren: Layne, Charlie, Luke and a granddaughter due in April. She also looks forward to finally having time to garden and volunteer. Where? Village Church, of course.



Pam with long-time friend and colleague Marjean Lindquist.



Pam and her family.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE VILLAGE GIVING COMMITTEE

Your financial gifts to Village keep our church vibrant and alive. In concrete terms, we need your gifts to help keep the buildings and facilities in good condition. Without your generosity there would be no Village U, no child care, no excellent music programs, no mission work, no youth programs, no Wednesday family dinners, no outreach, no ministers. Village relies on YOU! Thank you so much for your continuing support and prayers. It's as simple as VILLAGE BEING VILLAGE.

VILLAGE
GIVING

ONLINE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sundays
villagepres.org/online

The Gathering Music and Prayers
5 p.m. Sundays
vpcthegathering.org

Call In to hear the
9:30 a.m. worship service
913-203-1301

Listen to Worship on 1660 AM
8 a.m. Sundays - a week-delayed
radio broadcast of the
morning worship service

IN MEMORY

Bob Closser
Sue Coleman