



# The Messenger

For Presbyterian Women of Village Church

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## Celebration of Faithful Women

Presbyterian Women are planning their annual luncheon on Saturday, March 24, to celebrate the gifts of all women at Village Church. Coffee will be served at 10 a.m. in Room 232, and lunch will follow at 10:30 a.m. in Friendship Hall. We will be honoring three Village Church members - Margaret Dalke, Vicki Graham and Jennifer Sawyer – as PW Honorary Life Members. Sarah Brouwer will be the keynote speaker.

Sarah was born to a Presbyterian minister father and attorney mother and raised in Wheaton, IL, where she was given the gift of faith and affirmed in her call to ministry at First Presbyterian. She attended St. Olaf College where she sang in the choir, “jogged” cross country, and majored in studio art and art history. She earned her Master’s of Divinity from Luther Seminary, where she was under the care of Westminster’s session.



Sarah began her work as an ordained minister at Second Church in Indianapolis as a Lake Fellow Resident in Pastoral Ministry. There she was mentored by seasoned pastors in a very large church setting and was able to experiment with different worship styles and liturgical art.

In 2011, she was called to serve as Associate Pastor for Member Care at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, MO. There, she developed a thriving ministry that expanded pastoral care, created a hospitality team that trained more than 100 greeters, planned large-scale fellowship events, revived a young adult ministry, and launched several successful social media and print campaigns. She also wrote a personal blog about ministry and recently became a member of a new clergy peer group of young pastors called By The Vine.

In Minneapolis, as Westminster’s Associate Pastor for Congregational Life, Sarah oversees communications, hospitality, and fellowship, including the young adult group WestConnect.

Sarah and her husband Ben are parents to their two young children.

Join us as we celebrate all women at Village Church. May we all be refreshed and renewed as spring begins to blossom!



## *Message from the Moderators*

Dear Friends,

"One sees clearly only with the heart. Anything essential is invisible to the eyes".

This quote from a cherished book, "*The Little Prince*" by Antoine de Saint-Exupery, reminds us of the valuable lessons in a life defined by love. The virtues of friendship, compassion, integrity, honesty, loyalty, courage, and perseverance woven throughout this story all begin and end with love. The beautiful truth to embrace is LOVE.

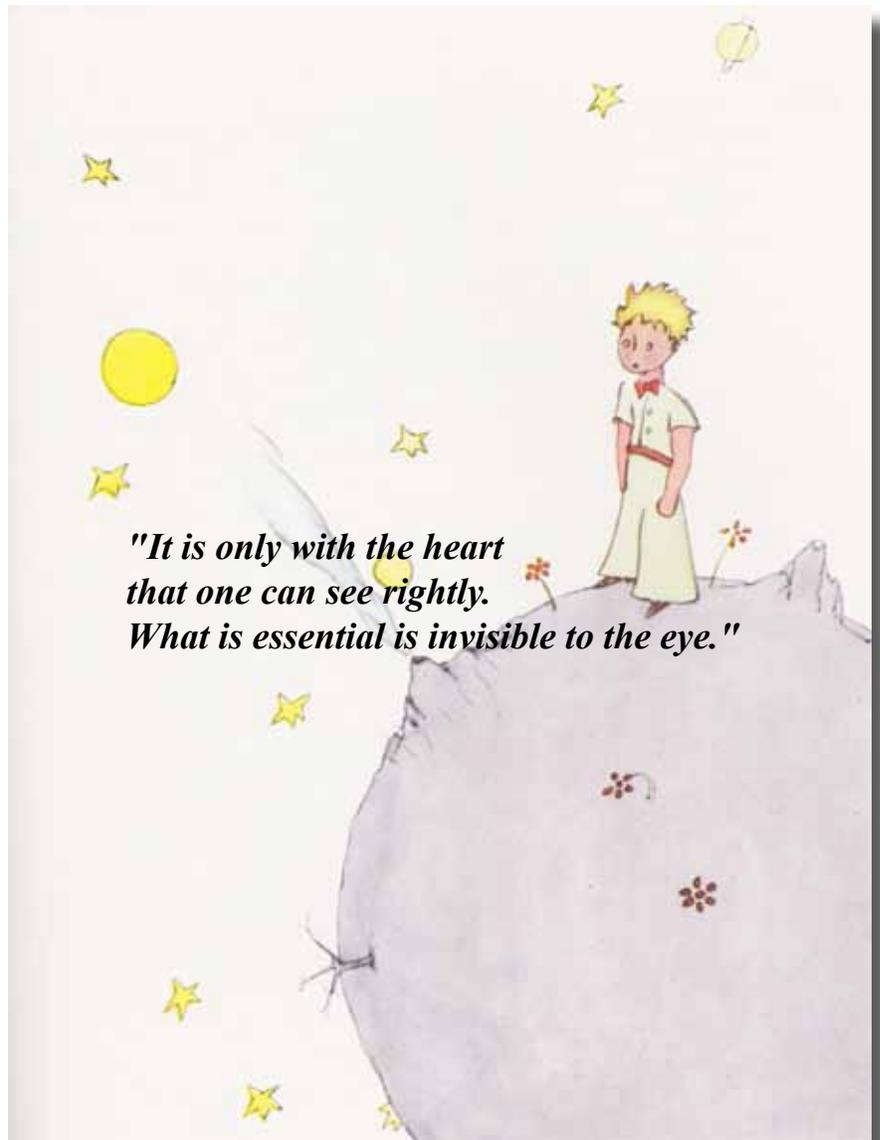
"Love. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."  
1 Corinthians 13:7-8

It's been said that when God puts love and compassion in your heart toward someone, he's offering you an opportunity to make a difference in that person's life. You must learn to follow that love. Don't ignore it. Act on it. Someone needs what your heart has to offer.

It is our hope and prayer that we all reach out in love and compassion daily with courage and conviction following God's promise of deep and abiding love for all.

With grateful hearts,

Patty Zender and Kim Stratton



**BE COMPLETELY HUMBLE AND GENTLE; BE PATIENT;  
BEARING WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE**

EPHESIANS 4:2

## Presbyterian Women Purpose

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

- ◆ To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study
- ◆ To support the mission of the church worldwide
- ◆ To work for justice and peace
- ◆ To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.



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## *Celebration of Faithful Women*

Reservations will be taken starting Sunday, February 25 in Friendship Hall and online at [www.villagepres.org](http://www.villagepres.org). Cost is \$16 per person. The reservation deadline is March 18.

Read more about our three Honorary Life Members in the March Good News.



Margaret Dalke



Vicki Graham



Jennifer Sawyer

## Celebration of Faithful Women

10 a.m. Saturday, March 24, in Friendship Hall



Rev Sarah D. Brouwer will speak on "Open Doors. Open Futures"

Reservations are \$16/person

Reserve your spot online at [villagepres.org/pw](http://villagepres.org/pw) or in Friendship Hall after the 9:30 a.m. service

Reservations are open until March 18.

VISITING SCHOLAR



Rev. Dr. Serene Jones Rescheduled for

7 p.m. Friday March 9

9 a.m. Saturday March 10

Village on Mission

What is True: Theology and the American Story

Tickets are available online at villagepres.org/visiting-scholar. They will also be sold February 4, 11, 18, 25 and March 4 in Friendship Hall. For more information call 913-671-2333.



OPERATION Breakthrough

Hello Friends!

Please Save These Dates for the Operation Breakthrough Reading Program Wednesday mornings March 21 through April 25 from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Happy New Year! If your resolutions for 2018 include goals like find the good in every day, take care of others or make the world a better place, then mark your calendar for the Spring session of reading with the Operation Breakthrough children at Village Church.

Darrelle and all our friends will be returning! Looking forward to gathering once again with all of you,

Cindy Whitman



Tour of Operation Breakthrough

On Wednesday March 7 we will have the opportunity to go to Operation Breakthrough for a tour of their facility. We will gather at the church and leave at 9:15 a.m. A car pool will be organized or you can meet us at OB at 9:30. The car pool will return to the church around 11 a.m. Anyone interested may contact Marilyn Borel for details. rmborel@sbcglobal.net or 913-708-1917

## Women Of Wisdom

The Cheesecake Factory at 6675 West 119th St. in Overland Park is the lunch destination for Women of Wisdom (WOW) on Tuesday, Feb. 20th, at 11:30 a.m. Please note the earlier start time which is necessary to reserve a table.

WOW enjoyed an especially nice lunch at Cheesecake Factory several years ago, and we anticipate another enjoyable visit there. The extensive menu features small plates, salads, sandwiches, and lunch specials, as well as over 30 choices of tempting cheesecake. So, bring your appetite and enjoy warm fellowship with some delightful ladies. RSVP to Diane Lee at 913-432-4321 or [dianelee@att.net](mailto:dianelee@att.net) by Monday, Feb. 19th, and we'll look forward to seeing you. As always, all women are most welcome.



## Amazing Graces at **kemper**MUSEUM *of contemporary art*

The AG Spring Event will be Thursday, March 8 at the Kemper Museum. We will meet at 5 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres/wine/sparkling water at Cafe Sebastian. A docent led tour will begin at 6 p.m. There is a \$10 fee and drinks are not included. We will be selling tickets during services on February 11,18 and 25.

Dee Gound is collecting mail orders. Her address is: 8208 Cherokee Cir., Leawood, KS 66206

You are invited to save the date for...

### Presbyterian Women's Retreat

April 27 and 28, 2018

The Heartland Presbyterian Conference and Retreat Center  
Parkville, Missouri



We are excited to welcome Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers as our guest speaker. Please join us for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and inspiration as we explore how to speak truth in faith, hope and love. Tickets on Sale in February

For more information, please visit:  
[villagepres.org/pw](http://villagepres.org/pw)





## Spotlight on Rachel Ciordas

Each month the PW Messenger spotlights a woman who we would like to know better. This church is filled with women of faith and dedication, most of whom work quietly and efficiently with little recognition. If you've ever taken a cooking class through Village University, you've probably been instructed by Rachel Ciordas. Rachel is a cooking instructor and certified wellness coach.

Rachel is happiest spending time in the kitchen, and with her family. She says, "when you cook, you create a sense of home and place, you explore new ideas and cultures and revisit those that are special to you. You also nourish [...] the important people in your life."

Rachel met her husband, Ionut, on a college summer internship at Yellowstone National Park as a manager at the Canyon Lodge Restaurant. Ionut was a foreign exchange student from Romania.

From the encouraging words from her mother, Rachel and Ionut began to take their relationship seriously. That summer was the beginning of an intercontinental relationship for the pair. They made every effort to visit each other when time and finances permitted. Rachel and Ionut had a wedding here in Kansas City, and a wedding in Romania to celebrate with her new family there.

They moved to Kansas City from Columbia, MO in 2007 after Rachel receiving her MBA and Ionut a Masters of Computer Science. They've called Kansas City home since then. In 2014 they became members of Village Presbyterian. It didn't take long for both she and Ionut to get involved. Ladies from one of the PW Circles invited Rachel to join their Bible Study, initially to simply "sit and listen." Naturally, Rachel enjoyed the camaraderie and she joined PW Circle 4.

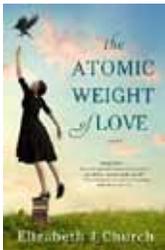
This past year, they have had to overcome some seemingly impossible health circumstances. Rachel has stated that without the love, care, and support of Village Church, specifically PW and Pastoral Care and Counseling, it would have been near impossible to come out on the other side with a deeper faith and love for God, each other, and their children.

Today, Rachel and Ionut have 2 boys, Adam (5) and Nicholas (2). Rachel is on the Art Ministry committee where she helps create and organize classes for Village University. She also volunteers her time with the Celebration of Faithful Women committee.



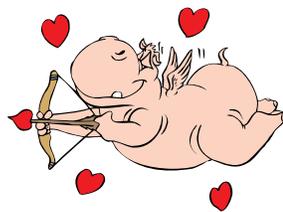
### Page Turners

The book for our February 27 discussion is "The Atomic Weight of Love", by Elizabeth Church. This story features the "traditional" marriage between a physicist husband and his wife who had earned advanced degrees in ornithology before their marriage. Later, the wife, realizing what sacrifices she has made, revives her previous life, but at what expense?



Page Turners meets every fourth Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in room 127. Newcomers are always welcome, and having read the book is not necessary to enjoying the discussion.

Contact Rosella Hoglund at 913-642-3574 or Judy Lockett at [judyloket5@gmail.com](mailto:judyloket5@gmail.com) for more information.



Elaine Franz  
Messenger Editor  
[ebdkfranz@gmail.com](mailto:ebdkfranz@gmail.com)

### PW Alive Now

Alive Now is a Bible Study for women who are early risers. We meet each Wednesday from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in the Heritage Dining Room. In addition to studying a passage of scripture, we are a support group for one another and often spend as much time sharing and caring for each other's needs. For more information, please contact Judy Cooper at [judycooperjc@gmail.com](mailto:judycooperjc@gmail.com).

### Gentle Therapeutic Yoga Classes

Mondays and/or Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 p.m.  
Gentle yoga for joint health.

8 classes for \$96  
New students: first class is free.  
Please bring your own yoga mat.



Class location: The Youth Loft on 3rd Floor.

Class Description: Must be able to get up and down off the floor relatively easy. Knee, wrist, and hip issues welcome. This is Very gentle yoga that leans towards the therapeutic and functional side of things.

Instructor: Katie Hurcomb has been teaching therapeutic methods for the last 20 years and loves to help illuminate the pathway of awareness so her students can heal and strengthen themselves.

Please call her or text with any questions.  
913-244-5623

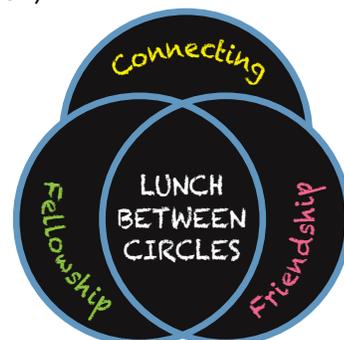


### Lunch between Circles

The next Lunch Between Circles will be on March 13 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Sign up at February circle meetings or contact Leslie Conrad or your circle leader by March 1. The cost is only \$6 for a delicious meal prepared by Chef Emily, and the wonderful fellowship is included for free!

Questions?

Contact Leslie Conrad ([conradleslie@aol.com](mailto:conradleslie@aol.com) or 913.341.2734)



## Amazing Graces Book Club

If you like to read and enjoy good conversation, you will fit right in to this interesting group! The AG Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month in homes at 6 p.m. For meeting locations, reading lists and general information, email Sara Wallace at [swallace01@gmail.com](mailto:swallace01@gmail.com).

## Amazing Graces Dinner Groups

The AG dinner groups were created so women could gather in smaller groups and enjoy one another. There are several Amazing Graces dinner groups for you to choose from. Each group chooses their own dates and times to meet for dinner, dependent on the needs of their group, always at a different restaurant. We welcome new members. For more information, call Deb Spaulding, 913-219-5503 or [deborah.spaulding@hok.com](mailto:deborah.spaulding@hok.com).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Circle Day - Feb. 13

WOW Lunch - Feb. 20

Page Turners - Feb. 27

PW Visiting Scholar - March 2-3

Tour Operation Breakthrough - March 7

AG at Kemper Museum - March 8

Celebration of Faithful Women - March 24

PW Spring Retreat - April 27-28



## Box Tops, Coupons and More

Proceeds from the collection of these coupons benefit the children of Menaul School.

Menaul School is proud of its tradition of educating students in New Mexico. In 1932, the school became co-educational. Today, Menaul accepts students from all cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds. Fifty percent of the students receive financial assistance, and more than 60% are self-identified as individuals of racial or ethnic minorities.

The children at Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, thank you for your support.

**Note:** Please be sure that the box tops and labels you save have not expired.



## Mission Sewing

Knitters and sewers, time to sit back and start your knitting and sewing. Knitters, stop by the sewing room and pick up your yarn and patterns and sewers, come in any Tues. and stay and sew, or if you would like to pick up fabric and patterns you can do at home projects. We also need hand sewers to close pillows and other non sewing projects. If you would like to just spend the afternoon, we have more available machines after lunch. Call Edie Hultman @ 913.432.3515 for more information.



*Women with Spirit  
Book Brunch*



*Book Brunch  
Donation Pictures*



*Circle 4*

Meets: 9:30-11:30 a.m.  
Room 132

Leader: Michelle O'Neal  
(913-205-6095)  
[moneal1119@gmail.com](mailto:moneal1119@gmail.com)

Comprised mostly of mothers of young and school-aged children who gather for fellowship, friendship and food! They participate in scholarly Bible discussions.

Discussions also include how to be faithful to God as well as the joys and challenges of motherhood.

