



The Messenger

For Presbyterian Women of Village Church

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Candlelight Advent Dinner

"No matter how old we get or far we roam, there is something in us that yearns to be home for Christmas." The Rev. Jenny McDevitt reflected as she spoke on this year's Candlelight Advent Dinner theme, Home for Christmas.

But where is home for The Village Presbyterian Pastor of Pastoral Care?

Rev. McDevitt originally hails from Livonia, Michigan. She graduated with a Creative Writing degree from Ohio's Kenyon College in 2001 before graduating in 2009 from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia.

Before coming to Village in 2012, Rev. McDevitt served at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, Michigan and Bayside Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach.

"The idea of 'home' is an important one for me," said Jenny. "I've moved a lot in my adult life, and my parents no longer live in the town of my childhood. In some ways, when I think of home, I think of Livonia; in other ways, when I think of home, I think of Westwood, Kansas. I think of Village Church. I think of all of you," said Jenny.

Anyone who knows Jenny knows her words to ring true. Village Church members will be the first to tell you although Rev. McDevitt is a gifted storyteller she is even happier to listen to others.

"That's the very essence of Jenny," said Village Member Linda Lee. "She focuses on each individual, just as Jesus listens to us."

At Rev. McDevitt's first Advent Dinner in which she presented, she tickled listeners with an amusing McDevitt Family Christmas tale. She promises another this year. "Spoiler alert, they haven't gotten any calmer," laughed Jenny.

We certainly hope not!



Within the chaos that encircles many family Christmases, so too does the promise of Jesus.

"No matter what the circumstances, Christmas is about the love of God coming to us right where we are and saying, 'you belong with me, and I will always be right here with you,' said Jenny. "Everyone has a place within this holy, Christmas story."

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Message from the Moderators

Thanks Be to God

"For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies"

"Lord of all to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise"...

I don't know about you, but every time I hear this song my heart sings out with praise for this Thanksgiving season~ for the beauty all around us and the generous spirit we witness in our daily lives. We are grateful for the women who give of their time and talents to PW and Village Church in so many ways...reading to children through the Operation Breakthrough Early Reading program; working at the Village Food Pantry to make sure food and clothing needs are met for those who are hungry and needing assistance; providing the Back Snack program for elementary children who need extra care by taking home food lovingly packed for their weekend nourishment...all done in the name of love, caring for others and serving God.



"For the wonder of each hour, of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of night"

"Lord of all to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise"...

To feel the wonder of each hour, living in the present moment, giving of ourselves to each other and experiencing God's love as we gather together at circle meetings to study the gospel of John. Taking time to be present with our children and seeing with wonder the world through their eyes...we are very grateful for Village Church and its mission for all of our children and their families. Appreciating God's beauty and wonder with the changing seasons...

"For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and minds delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight"

"Lord of all to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise"...

The JOY we experience as we listen to our fabulous choirs led by our new Director of Music Ministries, Will Breytspraak; the visual wonder of the creative Jenny McDevitt as we gaze heavenward in our sanctuary; the heart and mind delight as we embrace the message of Places Hope Takes You delivered by Tom Are and Rodger Nishioka in the most recent sermon series...for the mystic harmony experienced during worship, "thanks be to God".

And finally the stanza...

"For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild"

"Lord of all to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise"...

To you and all the friends and family who gather around the table this Thanksgiving...may the blessings of love and peace be with each of you.

With grateful hearts,
Patty and Kim

**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.



Continued from Pg. 1



We couldn't agree more and genuinely look forward to sharing this one with you.

Please join Presbyterian Women as we celebrate the promise of Jesus with dinner, song, meditation and Holy Communion. Reservations will be sold for \$16 per person beginning 9 a.m. Sunday, November 12 and on the 19th at all three locations. Village on Mission, Village on Antioch, and online at villagepres.org. Seating may be purchased individually or for up to eight per table. Payment is required at the time of reservation. For additional information please contact Kay Patterson at klutjenpatterson@gmail.com or 913.481.3612.

For childcare reservation please contact Pam Southerland at pam.southerland@villagepres.org or 913.671.2352 no later than Nov. 27.



Church Women United

Church Women United in Johnson County has been in existence for many years. They are joined together with women throughout the nation and world, to worship, pray, study, and serve God through projects, activities, and celebrations. This movement began the week after the 'Pearl Harbor bombing disaster' with the help of Eleanor Roosevelt, and has continued that legacy since then.



During the past years it has become increasingly difficult to find church members who are willing to serve as officers, or member churches to host the Celebrations. Attendance has declined as the women who have served for many years are older and involved in the responsibilities in their own church.

Due to the decreasing membership, CWU cannot continue representing the Johnson County Unit effectively. With prayerful consideration, the Johnson County chapter will be voting to disband at our Annual Celebration. We ask that you consider joining us for our Annual Celebration lunch on December 1, 2017 at 11 a.m. in room 232/3, with a Christmas sing-a-long at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Support from Village Presbyterian Church has meant a great deal to CWU through the years, and we would appreciate you celebrating this wonderful organization on December 1. Tickets are \$6 per person, and can be mailed to Marianne Weber by November 17.

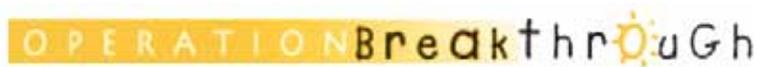
Operation Breakthrough Reading Program

The fall session of the Operation Breakthrough Reading Program ended with a grand finale where the children went trick-or-treating throughout the church. The children loved seeing such a beautiful, big church and getting treats from friendly staff members along the route. Everyone had a great time!

During the fall session, the children learned about the alphabet, fishing, elephants, spider webs, and reading! They seemed to love the one-on-one attention as they got to know their reading buddies. They loved being able to explore different mediums when working on crafts. Of special interest were the days that they were able to make fish bowls, play doh animals, foam strip spider webs, and spinning hats. The children were introduced to a new concept- tearing up paper to make paper collages for a "broken vase". Many had never tried that before!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered this fall- and to the wonderful guest readers: Marilyn Pattison, Laura Langdon, Mary Don Beachy, Ann Colston, Cindy Wilcox, Anellen Neill, and LeAne Story.

Please come visit us in the spring and "Make a difference one child at a time"!



Star Families-Operation Breakthrough

“Star Families” from Operation Breakthrough will be available for adoption in Friendship Hall on Sundays, November 5th and 12th. Each child receives at least 3 new, unwrapped gifts and the parent receives a gift card to Target or Walmart. Monetary donations to Village Church will be accepted for holiday meals.

New this year: Presents will also be collected for an Operation Breakthrough Holiday Store at the OB Warehouse. If you would like to volunteer to set up the holiday store on December 17, 2017 (2:30 p.m.), please email holiday@operationbreakthrough.org.

The Operation Breakthrough Truck will be in our parking lot on Sunday, December 10th to receive the donations.

Questions? Marilyn Borel rmborel@sbcglobal.net, 913-708-1917



*Starlight, star bright- the first star I see tonight;
I wish I may, I wish I might,
Have the wish I wish tonight.....*



Women With Spirit

Roasterie + Blue Bird Bistro

9:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. November 28, 2017

1204 W. 27 St., Kansas City, MO 64108

Enjoy a good cup of joe? This outing's for you! Join us for this Tuesday morning tour of the famed Kansas City Roasterie. For \$5 learn about cupping, roasting and blending with 'flights' of coffee to follow! You can choose cold or hot brew to taste. Immediately afterwards head over to the Blue Bird Bistro, 1700 Summit St., Kansas City, MO, for a bite with friends! Per establishment request RSVP no later than Nov. 20. Email shelbykrumm@yahoo.com with your rsvp.

Need childcare? Make your reservation with Pam by Nov. 20 at pam.southerland@villagepres.org
Drop off begins at 9:30, pick-up time is 12:30.



Women Of Wisdom

WOW won't be having any events during the months of November and December.



Friday March 2 & Saturday March 3, 2018

Village Church on Mission

What is True: *Theology and the American Story*

Rev. Dr. Serene Jones

The 16th President and first woman to head the 180-year-old Union Theological Seminary in New York City

7 p.m. Friday, March 2
Session 1: *Sin*

9 a.m. Saturday, March 3
Session 2: *Grace*

Session 3: *Redemption*

Online ticket sales begin November 1.

Go to villagepres.org/visiting-scholar to purchase your ticket or for more information.

2018 PW Women's Retreat

We are so excited about the 2018 PW Women's Retreat! This semi-annual event will take place, once again, at the beautiful Heartland Presbytery Center in Parkville, Missouri on **April 27-28, 2018**. Heartland is just an easy 30-45 minute drive away from Johnson County.

This semi-annual retreat is always such a great time to be with the wonderful women of Village Church in a beautiful, natural setting. The meals provided are delicious. There are great walking trails and other outdoor activities available. Don't miss this chance to be "around the campfire" with such a great group! The overnight facilities offer motel-like rooms with bathrooms. Some women choose to attend as a "commuter" ...just driving up for the Saturday program and meals.



Our retreat leader will be Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers. Melissa Anne is Pastor of Pastoral Care at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, MI and also a dear friend of our own Jenny McDevitt. Jenny has described her as "the person who taught her much of what she knows"! We know that this weekend will be a fabulous and inspirational experience. We hope that you'll join us!



Mission Sewing

Mission sewing will be closed the month of December so all Christmas hats need to be in by November 21st. We are working hard to finish some special requests and some extra items to our agencies to cover their December needs. If you would like to join this productive and fun group give it some thought. We need non sewers as well as machine sewers. Call Edie Hultman, 913-432-3515 or drop in any Tuesday, room 115, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. for more information.



Circle 3

Meets: 9:30 a.m.
Room 232

Leader: Janet Bates
(913-972-7645)
jbates@everestkc.net

A friendly group of women that you will find participating in many areas of the church. Some have enjoyed circles for many years and others are newer to them, but all enjoy exchanging ideas and time of fellowship.

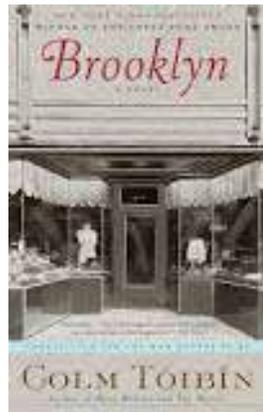


Elaine Franz
Messenger Editor
ebdkfranz@gmail.com

Page Turners

Colm Toibin's New York Times best selling novel, BROOKLYN, is about a young Irish immigrant to Brooklyn in the early 1950s. One reviewer described Ellis Lacy as "one of the most unforgettable characters in contemporary fiction."

An Irish priest offered to sponsor Ellis in Brooklyn, helping to arrange a room for her in a boarding house for young women and to secure a job in a department store on Fulton Street. Ellis left her physically frail mother and her encouraging sister behind for a new life in America.



With all that is new to Ellis, she also finds love. Tony, from a large Italian family, slowly wins her over with patient charm.

Just as their love is growing, however, Ellis receives devastating news from Ireland - threatening the promise of her future.

BROOKLYN is our book for discussion in November. Meeting is on Tuesday, the 28th, in room 127 at 9:30 a.m. As always, all are welcome to enjoy the discussion. Contact Rosella Hoglund at 913-642-3574 or Judy Lockett at judylockett@sbcglobal.net for more information.



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.

Gentle Therapeutic Yoga Classes

Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. in the youth loft (3rd fl) of Village on Mission.



A regular yoga practice keeps your body young and pain free. Taught by Katie Hurcomb, a registered yoga instructor with 20 years of teaching experience to populations that are 50+. Katie knows first hand the power yoga has to heal injury and maintain a pain free life. She shares her love of yoga with her students as she guides them through poses that are doable and easily modified to fit each individual in class.

Come try the first class for free! 8 classes for \$96

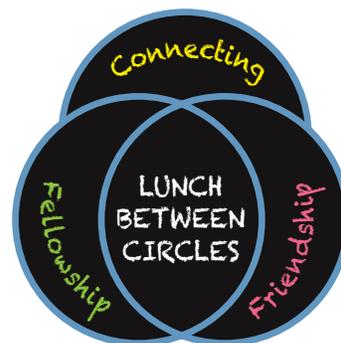
Call with questions or concerns. Katie Hurcomb 913-244-5623, or hurkate@gmail.com.

Lunch between Circles

Remember that there will be no Lunch Between Circles in December. Make your reservation at December circle meetings for the January lunch. The cost is only \$6 for a delicious meal prepared by Chef Emily, and the wonderful fellowship is included for free! So plan to stay after your morning circle meeting or come a little early for your afternoon circle meeting and join us for lunch from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on January 9. It will be a great way to start the new year!

- Sign up at your circle meeting the month before the lunch
• Contact your circle leader by the 1st of the month
• Contact Leslie Conrad (conradleslie@aol.com or 913.341.2734) by the 1st of the month

We look forward to seeing you there!



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.



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.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Star Family Adoption - Nov. 5 & 12
- Advent Dinner Ticket Sales - Nov. 12 & 19
- Circle Day - Nov. 14
- Page Turners - Nov. 28
- WWS Roasterie/Blue Bird Bistro - Nov. 28
- CWU Annual Mtg./Lunch - Dec. 1
- Advent Dinner - Dec. 5
- PW Visiting Scholar - March 2-3
- 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.

History of Menaul School: In 1896, Rev. James A. Menaul, a Presbyterian minister, sought and received Presbyterian mission funding for a boarding school that would serve Spanish-speaking boys in New Mexico, primarily from the northern portion of the state. In 1882, the site that is now the Menaul School campus was purchased through the efforts of local Presbyterians. 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.



*Operation
Breakthrough*

photos continued from Pg. 4



WOW Lunch at Pinstripes



For Presbyterian Women

AG Fall Event

We met October 5th at the home of Kathy Palmer. 58 women attended. Dr. Rodger Nishioka was our speaker addressing "The Heros in Our World" during all the recent tragedies.

