



The Messenger

For Presbyterian Women of Village Church

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Rev. Dr. Serene Jones



7 p.m. March 2

9 a.m. March 3

What is True: *Theology and the American Story*



Rev. Dr. Serene Jones, is the 2018 Visiting Scholar. Since 2008, Dr. Jones has been President of Union Theological Seminary in New York City, the pre-eminent nondenominational seminary in the US. She is the first woman to hold this post and occupies the Johnston Family Chair for Religion and Democracy. Dr. Jones is the Immediate Past President of the American Academy of Religion, which annually hosts the world's largest gathering of scholars of religion.

An Oklahoma native and daughter of a psychotherapist mother and a seminarian father, educated at University of Oklahoma and Yale, Dr. Jones is ordained in both the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. She has been a leader in integrating religious studies with critical social issues: women's studies, gender and sexuality issues, globalization, democracy itself.

Presbyterian Women started Visiting Scholar 15 years ago to bring well-known Bible scholars to Village Church and to the broader community. Dr. Jones says people are hungry for a deep morally-oriented story about the meaning of life. She will challenge us to consider courageously who we are, as a country, and what are our deeply-held moral convictions.

Tickets are available online at villagepres.org/visiting-scholar. They will also be sold February 4, 11, 18 and 25th in Friendship Hall.

For more information call 913-671-2333.



Message from the Moderators

Dear Friends,

It is with Love, Joy, Hope and Faith that our hearts and minds continue to reflect on Advent and God's promise of his never ending love for us.

As we look to the new year ahead of us we heartedly...

"give thanks with a grateful heart;

give thanks to the Holy One;

give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son"

Kim and I give our thanks to all of the women of Village Church and the lives of faithfulness they lead each and every day. It is our New Year's hope that each of you this year will...



Come be enlightened...

as we hear the message of Truth from the Rev. Dr. Serene Jones when she speaks to Village Church through the Visiting Scholar Series March 2nd and 3rd. She will enlighten us on *What is True: Theology and the American Story*. We hope to see many of you there!

Come celebrate with us...

as we honor our three wonderful recipients of this year's Honorary Life Member award on Saturday, March 24th. This beautiful tradition continues as we honor *Margaret Dalke, Vicki Graham and Jennifer Sawyer* for their commitment and years of service to PW and Village Church. We hope you can join us!

Come be inspired...

at our 2018 Womens Retreat April 27-28 @ Heartland Presbytery Center in Parkville, MO. Our renowned retreat leader will be Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers from First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, MI. She will inspire us with "*Speaking Truth with Faith, Hope and Love*". We cannot wait!

As we look ahead to the new year of 2018, we are continually reminded on how gratitude for God's goodness changes our perspective on our everyday life. Come be enlightened, celebrated and inspired by his goodness.

With grateful hearts,

Patty Zender and Kim Stratton



Happy New Year
2018

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.



PW Annual Candlelight Advent Dinner.

It is not Christmas until everyone is home. This, the theme felt by 350 women who gathered in Friendship Hall December 5, 2017 for the Presbyterian Women's Annual Candlelight Advent Dinner.

As is tradition, this year's Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Memberships were announced. Margaret Dalke, Vicki Graham and Jennifer Sawyer are PW's 2017 Honorary Life Members. These women have made significant contributions to PW and Village Church. They are nominated in the fall and voted on by the PW Board.

PW Moderators Kim Stratton and Patty Zender as well as Advent Dinner Co-Chairs Ann Flanders and Niki Krenzel welcomed guests and kicked off the festivities.

The Breystpraak family, including little Nell, lit the Advent Candle as Dr. Elisa Bickers filled the room with Come Darkness, Come Light.

Chef Emily and company served a delectable beef sauerbraten and vegetable dinner.

The Rev. McDevitt reminded all present that God's love is for each of us. God knows us by name and the Christmas story cannot be told without you.

"You are loved by the one who hung the stars in the night sky, " said Jenny. "You are loved by the one who changed the world forever."

The Lord's Supper was served by intinction after which the room filled with song; Silent Night and O Little Town of Bethlehem rang out.

Indeed, true to the theme, each present was home and gifted with a personalized ornament to remember the evening by.

God's children joined hearts, hands and song in the name of The Holy One who always has and always will bring us together in His name. Thanks be to God!



OPERATION Breakthrough

Star Families



Thank you Village Church!

We are so thankful for each and every one of you for your part in helping make "Star Families" wishes come true. Each year, Village Church families, groups of friends, and Circles look forward to shopping for Star Families.

This year, Village Church adopted 100 families and generously donated money to make holiday meals a reality for the Operation Breakthrough families. In addition to the Star Families adoption program, Operation Breakthrough (OB) and Village gathered toys for children who do not attend the daycare but still live in the same urban community. The program helped an additional 750 children.

Operation Breakthrough is the largest, single-site childcare center in the state of Missouri—caring for over 400 children everyday. 89% of enrolled children are from families living below the poverty level, a family of four often making less than \$15,000 a year. Operation Breakthrough provides before and after school and summer programs for children in the urban core.

The center offers emergency services, food, clothing, diapers, on-site medical and dental care as well as occupational, speech and play therapy and case management for parents and caregivers.

We are especially grateful for the "truck elves", Sara Gilson, Kim and Dr. Ted Higgins, Wade Whitham, and Niki and Bob Krenznel, who collected the presents with smiles and willing hands. Giving is truly one of the highlights of the Christmas season!

Thank you all! Marilyn Borel, Ann Colston, Cindy Whitham



Wade Whitham, Niki Krenznel



The Star Family Organizers- Deborah White, Ann Colston, Cindy Whitham, Marilyn Borel



left to right- Ted and Kim Higgins, Bob and Niki Krenznel, Sara Gilson

Women with Spirit

Book Brunch, with a Twist!

9:30-11:30 a.m., Friday, January 19

Village on Mission Small Dining Room



Please join Women with Spirit for one of our most popular events! Laugh, Chat, Chew, Share... Read! Simply wrap one of your favorite books (new or used) to swap for another's good read. And in the spirit of giving, a twist! Please also consider bringing a gently used or new book (not wrapped) for a sweet child at Operation Breakthrough, ages 0-13.

Your check of \$7 made out to PW of Village Church will serve as your official RSVP. Please write "WWS Book Brunch" in the memo line and either drop in the WWS envelope at the south reception desk at VOM or mail to Julia Scammahorn, 15705 Dearborn St., Overland Park, KS 66223. For the food preparation, check should be received no later than Friday, Jan. 12.

Need childcare? Email Pam at pam.southerland@villagepres.org no later than Jan. 12.

See you at brunch!

Amazing Graces at **kemperMUSEUM**
of contemporary art

Thursday, March 8th, AG is planning a tour at the Kemper Museum
with drinks/plates at Café Sebastienne.

Tickets will be on sale in February between church services

Women Of Wisdom

Welcoming 2018 at Café Provence

Women of Wisdom (WOW) invite all women to kick-off the new year with lunch and warm fellowship at Café Provence at noon on Wednesday, January 10th. Located in the Prairie Village Shopping Center at 3936 W. 69th Terr., this charming restaurant serves authentic French cuisine in a cozy setting with a quiet ambiance.



On what is likely to be a cold day, warm up with us at a delightful lunch at a dining spot that has long been a favorite for the WOW group. RSVP to Diane Lee, 913-432-4321, or dianelee@att.net, by Monday, January 8th. It will be so nice to have you join us!

The Celebration of Faithful Women

10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 24

Village on Mission

Friendship Hall

We hope you can join us for brunch and recognition
of our Honorary Life Members:

Margaret Dalke, Vicki Graham and Jennifer Sawyer

More details to come in upcoming Messengers

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!





Julie O'Connor has been a member of Village Church since 1964 and is a member of Circle 1. She makes calls to homebound church members through Telecare, knits for the Mission Sewing group, bakes cookies for lunches at CrossLines, and volunteers at the Reception Desk. She's a former Sunday School teacher and Stephen Minister.

Julie was married for 58 years to Tom, who passed away two years ago. She and Tom moved several times, but never very far - every home was in Fairway! Her daughter Karen and son-in-law Billy Knabe live in the area and are also members at Village. She has three grandsons: Connor is a KSU graduate and a professional golfer, Corey is a student at KU, and Cal is a senior at SME and sings in the Village Voices. Her family also includes canine Misty, who is very spoiled but an outstanding companion!



Born in the hospital on the MU campus in Columbia, Missouri, Julie moved with her family to Kansas City when she was 10 years old. She returned to Columbia during her college years and has a degree in education from MU and a graduate degree from UMKC. She taught elementary school for two years in Milwaukee and for 27 years in the Shawnee Mission District. She taught at Corinth and Tomahawk and her last 12 years were at Prairie Elementary. She loves running across former students and parents wherever she goes! After she retired, Julie was a reading tutor for Blue Stem for several years. She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional teacher's group, and has served as President.

Julie has always loved to travel. During her teaching career, she spent four weeks one summer observing and teaching in a small village in England. On the weekends the visiting teachers took many interesting side trips around the region. One of her most memorable trips was when she and Tom went to Italy for their 50th Anniversary. Her all-time favorite destination is the Provence region in France. She is really looking forward to a trip planned for April - a river cruise to see the tulips bloom in Holland.

A few interesting random facts about Julie:

- She is a former Musette for the Kansas City Museum, where she led tours at the museum and traveled to Kansas City schools with the Children's Theater group.
- She was an avid tennis player at Homestead for many years.
- She loves to entertain friends at her home.
- She enjoys reading on her screened porch.
- She loves Elvis Presley!

If you can catch up with this busy woman, you might spot Julie lunching with friends at a local restaurant or attending a movie, play, symphony, or opera. You might also see her any day of the week walking the streets of Fairway with Misty. On Tuesdays and Thursdays you could likely find her playing bridge at Panera's, and on Mondays be sure to look for her smiling face greeting you at the Village Church Reception Desk!



Circle 7

Meets: 12:15 p.m. Rooms 126-127

Leader: Debbie Richardson (913-631-8050 or 913-707-1856)
dcourser@kc.rr.com

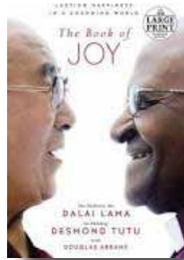
Known for their now quarterly luncheons and décor, this larger group enjoys lively fellowship and Bible lesson discussions.



At their December circle meeting, Circle Seven members participated in a delicious potluck in candlelight with very festive decorations. They collected a variety of personal items to donate to the food pantry! Happy New year!

Page Turners

"How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering?" His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, both Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, have survived more than fifty years of exile and the soul crushing violence of oppression. In 2015 the Archbishop traveled to India to help celebrate the Dalai Lamas 80th birthday. They looked back on their long lives and tried to answer that burning question, hoping to provide a gift for others.



The BOOK of JOY offers us a rare opportunity to experience their extraordinary week together filled with laughter and punctuated by tears.

This is the book for discussion at Page Turners' meeting January 23rd. The group meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month in room 127 at 9:30. 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 judylockett5@gmail.com for more information.

Elaine Franz
Messenger Editor
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.

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.

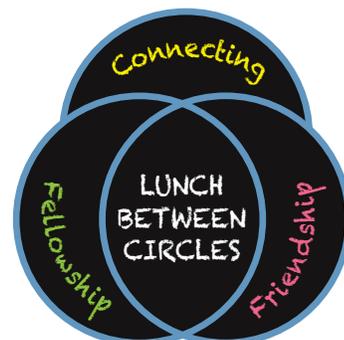
Please call her or text with any questions.
913-244-5623



Lunch between Circles

The next Lunch Between Circles will be on February 13 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Sign up at January circle meetings or contact Leslie Conrad or your circle leader by February 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 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.

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

Circle Day - Jan. 9

WOW Lunch - Jan. 10

WWS Book Brunch - Jan. 19

Page Turners - Jan. 23

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.

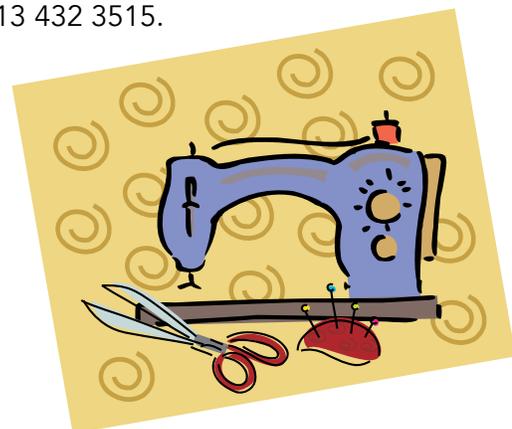
Menaul School is proud of its tradition of educating students in New Mexico. In 1932, the school became co-educational. Today, Menaul accepts students from all cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds. Fifty percent of the students receive financial assistance, and more than 60% are self-identified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

Mission sewing will resume our regular Tuesday schedule on Jan 2. If you would like to join us, come in any Tuesday. We need machine sewers as well as hand sewers, pillow stuffers, and pressing. Come and go as your time allows. More machines are available during the afternoon hours, 1:00 -3:00. For more information, call Edie Hultman @913 432 3515.



*Annual Candlelight
Advent Dinner*





*Annual Candlelight
Advent Dinner*

