



The Messenger

For Presbyterian Women of Village Church

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Celebration of Faithful Women 2019



Top Left: PW Honorees Susie Dixon, Ann Colston, Lucy Tidwell. Top Right: Ann Flanders, Rev. Jessie Light-Well, Niki Krenzel. Middle Right: Lucy with Troop 91 Boy Scouts, who served as greeters. Bottom left: Linda Stevens, Ann Raikula, Cora Ketterman, Donna Wilson, Janice Gill, Rev. Glenda Watts. Bottom Right: Margo Wagner, Carol Solenberger.

What a wonderful celebration – our hearts are full! Thank you for making the Celebration of Faithful Women a meaningful and heartwarming event.

A big thank you to the COFW Committee: Melissa Clark, Kenyon Vrooman and Margo Wagner – led by Sandra Stephens and Carol Solenberger; these ladies went above and beyond!

We enjoyed learning about and celebrating the many accomplishments of our three lovely honorees, Ann Colston, Susie Dixon, and Lucy Tidwell.

Our guest Speaker, Rev. Jessie Light-Well, spoke on “The Gift of a Cloud” which reminded us of the cloud of witnesses in our daily lives.

Thank you all for your support for this event – we are truly grateful.

Message from the Moderators

Happy Spring!

Soon the flowers will be blooming and the grass will be growing, so let's take a minute to admire the beauty of God's creation. While it is hard to sometimes take just a minute to stop and breathe, try and make of stopping every day to enjoy your surroundings. It is truly amazing how much a few extra minutes of sunlight a day can improve your spirit.



As we look forward to Easter and the gift of the resurrected Christ, let's not forget the journey we take to get there. Put before us are many choices to make that ultimately become our journey to who God wants us to become. God is always with us, even though at times it might not seem that way. He has told us, "Look, I myself will be with you every day" (Matthew 28:20). We must persevere and never lose sight of the gift God has laid out for us. Let's remember to embrace this holy journey and find joy in the fact that we are not alone.

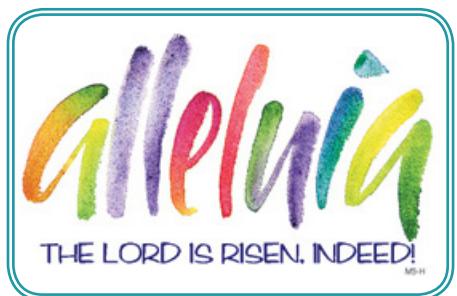
We hope that you will all be able to celebrate Easter surrounded by friends and family.

He is Risen... He is Risen Indeed!
Sharing God's Love,

Ann Flanders
annflanders1@aol.com

and

Niki Krenzel
susannkrenzel@aol.com



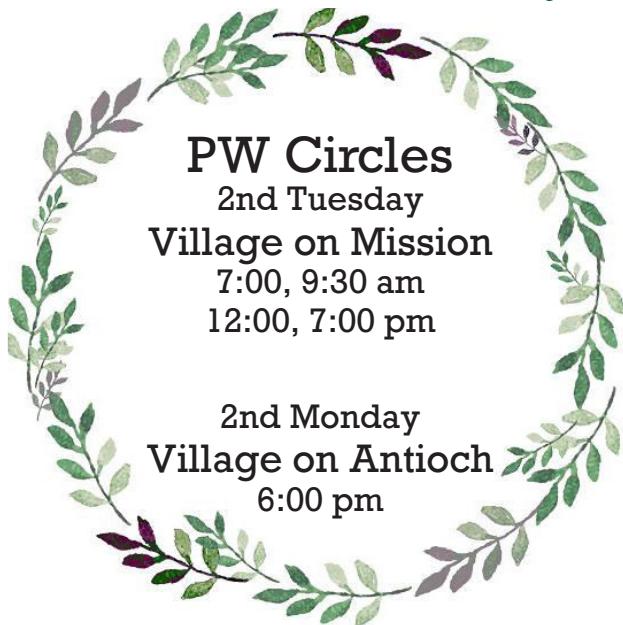
Niki and Ann



BEHOLD,
I AM WITH YOU
ALWAYS,
EVEN TO THE
END
OF THE AGE.
AMEN

MATTHEW 28:20

All are welcome. Always.



Questions for VOM?
conradleslie@aol.com

Questions for VOA?
joycebardeen@gmail.com

Tending the Garden

The Village Church Environmental Action Committee is tending our church's pollinator and butterfly garden at the Meneilly Center campus. Under the guidance of master gardener Marie Hunter, volunteers do weeding, planting, staking, watering, and mulching.

During the growing season, a watering rotation of five volunteers supplements Mother Nature's

To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul.
Alfred Austin



intermittent precipitation. In the spring, annual flowers were planted by the Day Care children. In June, Village Church youth help by weeding and mulching. Bees, butterflies, moths, humming birds, and a resident toad have been seen in the garden.

We are always seeking additional volunteers to help out for an hour or part of a day. To volunteer, please contact Jerry Rees at reesveenstra@aol.com.

Mary Beveridge

PW Honorary Life Member from VOA

Mary Beveridge is a wonderful, bright, joyful Presbyterian woman! She enjoyed a long career as a librarian at Fort Scott Junior College, and teaches, whenever someone takes the time to listen. She has one son and one grandson, and takes pleasure in learning about and taking care of others.



Mary Beveridge

Mary is wise academically, politically and socially. She taught Sunday School for many years, coordinated many Presbyterian Women activities, including Lenten breakfasts, has been a member of Mariners couples groups in her churches, and is a member of many Bible studies. She is a life-long learner, with theology being one of her passions.

She is gracious, kind-hearted, giving and joyful. In her many leadership roles, she is always there to challenge us, as well as encourage us.

As you know, the last few years have been a difficult test of our faith for many members of Stanley Presbyterian Church. We have transitioned from the loss of leaders and friends, to the welcoming arms of Village Church. Mary was a dynamic supporter of the alliance, and used her voice to maintain a "socially-just stand." We are in awe of this small in stature woman, who stood side-by-side with fellow PC(USA) members, working for justice and peace, and supporting the mission of the church worldwide. Join the celebration on April 27 at VOA!



Mission Sewing News

Mission Sewing can use someone who likes hand sewing and pillow stuffing. If you are looking for something to do on Tuesday afternoons, we have some free machines available.

We are starting to work on Christmas items and our Christmas fabric supply is getting low. At least one yard pieces, cotton and cotton blends.

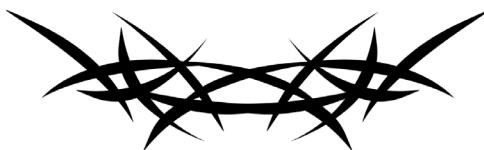
Tax Forms are available, simply include your name and address. For more information, contact Edie Hultman at 913-432-3515.

Congratulations Edie Hultman...
Volunteer of the Year at Shawnee Mission Medical Center!

Christmas Fabric Donations Welcome!

(1-yard lengths,

Thank you
for your
donations!



Be the Difference!

From time to time, our Pastoral Care department receives requests from individuals who would be grateful for a meal or two while they recover from an illness or loss, or a health challenge.

If you are able to provide a meal, please contact Linda Alley, Coordinator of Pastoral Care at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

What is prayer?

Prayer doesn't only happen when we kneel or put our hands together and focus and expect things from God.

Prayer is wishing good for others.

Giving hugs to a friend. Cooking to nourish family and friends. Sending off dear ones with "be safe." Giving your time and energy to help someone.

Forgiving someone.

Prayer is a vibration. A feeling. A thought.

Prayer is the voice of love, friendship, genuine relationships.

Prayer is an expression of your silent being.

Keep praying always.



Women of Wisdom

Come with Women of Wisdom (WOW), in the Village van, to lunch Tuesday, April 30, at Thelma's Kitchen, 3101 Troost. We'll drive you door-to-door and enjoy conversation and fellowship along the way. If you prefer to drive yourself and meet us there by noon, just let me know when you RSVP!

Thelma's Kitchen is the Village Church 2018 Signature Mission, a gathering place where all are invited. They serve 100-125 lunches daily to the community on both sides of Troost, bringing neighbors together for access to affordable, healthy food. This provides a safe and vibrant gathering place, building strong community ties.

Our delicious lunch will consist of a choice of soups, salad, an entrée, dessert and drink, all for one affordable price. In support of the Village 2018 Signature Mission Grant, we'll experience this mission's impact on the community, by providing neighbors in need a donate-what-you-can, healthy lunch. Word has it that the food is delicious and the atmosphere is warm and vibrant.

The Village van will depart from the south entrance of VOM at 11:30. Don't be late! We plan to return to VOM no later than 2:30.



If you've been wondering what Thelma's Kitchen is about, here's your chance! RSVP to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com, 913-209-9608 no later than April 29. We'd love for you to join us!

Carpool with Women of Wisdom to Thelma's Kitchen!

• • • • •

May Day Bouquet!

Wednesday, May 1 at 6:00 pm

Gregory's Florist will help everyone make a bouquet!

Refreshments to follow at Kay Findlay's home.

Limited to 40 people!

Amazing Graces

Reservations (\$10) will be available between services on April 7 and 14.

Questions?

Martha Tatman at matatman@hotmail.com

Laura Edgington In the **Spotlight** served as a Navigator in the Air Force Reserve,

Laura Edgington grew up in Prairie Village in an artistic, musical family, who spoke openly about matters of social justice, encouraged learning, and welcomed discussion with kindness and laughter. Her mother, Susan Labunski, a student of the Art Institute, was passionate in portrait painting and the woven arts. Her father, Stanislaw Labunski, was an engineer who served as a Navigator in the Air Force Reserve, and retired after teaching in the Business School at Rockhurst and William Jewell.

To fully comprehend the depth of musical talent in the Labunski family, you must look beyond the perfect pitch possessed by her father and grandfather. Her grandfather, Wiktor Labunski, moved to Kansas City from Warsaw, Poland to head the Conservatory of Music at UMKC. She remembers ballet dancing with her sister as her grandfather and uncle, world-renowned pianist Arthur Rubinstein, played on the two Steinway pianos in their home. All her siblings were encouraged in the arts, particularly music and theatre. She loves to sing and plays both the viola and piano.

Upon high school graduation from Shawnee Mission East, in search of anonymity, she attended Wichita State University. Imagine her surprise on the first day of class when her music theory teacher, who was taught by her Uncle Felix, remarked, "You must be related to Felix Labunski!" She studied vocal music, sociology, psychology and English.



Carla Labunski, John Rubinstein, Ania Labunski Johnson, Laura, Robin Edgington

Her career began as a floral designer at Legg Florist, where she enjoyed the creative outlet. After a few years, she worked at a publishing company. At the encouragement of a friend, she joined the choir at St. Andrews Episcopal church, where she met her husband. Following her divorce, she went back to work selling high-end furniture at Orman's, then at Traditions. Her son, Robin, lives in Kansas City and works in the insurance business.

Her love of literature began as a child, "our noses were always buried in books," says Laura. Their home was filled with overflowing shelves of books in art, history and music. Present day, being a long-time customer and great supporter of Rainy Day Books, Vivien Jennings approached her one day about working there, she eagerly replied "yes!" You will find her welcoming smile there when you walk in the door.

Laura's grandparents were members of Village Church, and she joined sometime in the 1970's. She has been active as a choir mom, PW Board member and Honorary Life Member, choir member and Circle 10 leader "for life." She feels grateful for all the women in the evening Circle 10 who are supportive, involved in church and have a wonderful sense of humor.

Laura also loves her choir "family." Years ago Mark Ball encouraged choir members to become Facebook friends so people could really get to know one another. Initially, she was very careful about posting, and has now found her "voice."

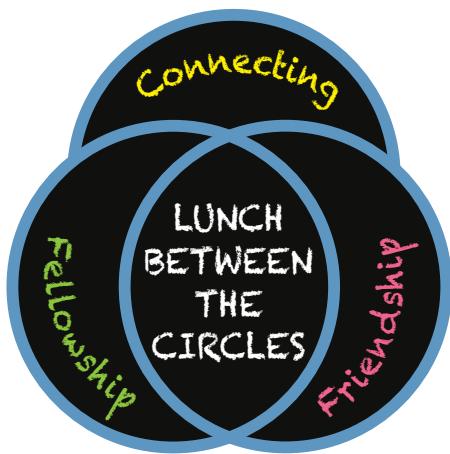
The Labunski family instilled a great sense of social justice in Laura, her two sisters and brother. This is largely due to the fact that her great uncle, Bronek Mlynarski, was detained - yet somehow survived - as a prisoner in Auschwitz. She remembers her mother advocating for equal rights, who was determined to march in Selma, Alabama in the 1960's, yet changed her mind upon hearing of the violence, to attend to her responsibility of motherhood.

Laura considers her friendships to be from both sides of the political aisle. She welcomes open discussion and says, "you don't stop talking to people simply because you don't agree with them." She likes to be informed, and regards sources both liberal and conservative; daily she reads the Washington Post, New York Times, Kansas City Star, Wall Street Journal, New Yorker and several other newsletters.

I hope you will take a moment to say "hello" when you are at church or Rainy Day Books, or send her a friend request on Facebook. I guarantee you will enjoy the pleasant, friendly and educational conversation!

The Community Table

connecting ❤ fellowship ❤ friendship



Lunch Between the Circles

Come join the fun at the last Lunch Between Circles on April 9 (no lunch in May) from 11:30-12:30. Chef Emily prepares a wonderful lunch and you will have plenty of time to catch up with friends old and new.

Please make a reservation (\$6) by contacting your circle leader or Leslie Conrad at conradleslie@aol.com or 913-341-2734. Deadline for April lunch reservations is April 1. Note: Vegetarian meals must be requested when you make your reservation.

Child care available if requested at the time you make your reservation.



VOA Fellowship Dinner

Monday, April 29

Panera Bread

6800 W. 135th

6:00 pm

Questions?

kellythomason61@att.net



All are welcome!

Spring Luncheon

Saturday, April 27

Village on Antioch



Kelly Sisney

Featured Speaker

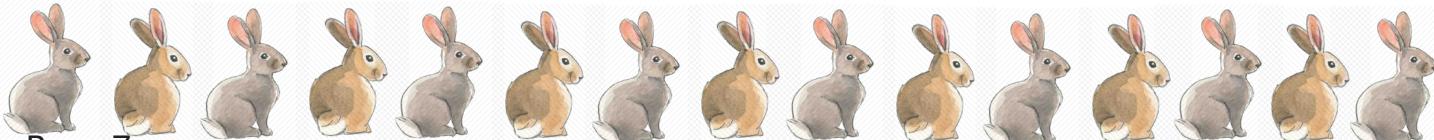
11:00 am

\$12/person

For reservations, please contact Laura Patton at

laura.patton@villagepres.org

or at 913-681-8180.



a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

Operation Breakthrough Reading

Spring Session, Wednesdays through April 24, 9:30-11:00 am

Volunteers and Operation Breakthrough children had a wonderful time in March! During our welcome back session, Marilyn Pattison read Fill A Bucket. The children made small buckets and talked to their reading buddies about ideas to make others happy. Everyone's buckets were filled with the laughter and smiles of the little reading buddies returning to Village Church.

A special treat for all was our second session where Dr. Elisa Bickers invited the children to see the organ up close! And Will Breytspraak read the book All Creatures Great and Small. The children loved being in the beautiful sanctuary.

April offerings will include The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Lola Reads to Leo and The Golden Egg. Come and shake your sillies out and join us! The Operation Breakthrough spring reading session continues on Wednesday mornings through April 24.



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 promises of God's Kingdom

Let the Sunshine In!

It's a bright day in Adult Ministry with Sunni Battin as the new program coordinator. Sunni was most recently a part-time librarian in the Leavenworth, Kansas library system. She is a graduate of Avila University (English undergraduate degree and Organizational Development graduate degree) and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (graduate degree in library science). Much of her work has been as a writer, journalist, teacher and librarian. We appreciate you, welcome to Village Church!



Sunni Battin & Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka

Birthday Offering 2019

Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering gives us a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in our lives. At every PW Circle meeting around the world, women are asked to contribute their age in "pennies" during their birthday month. The Offering is providing funding of four projects this year, in amounts varying from \$75,000 to \$150,000.

Disaster Response Team - Charlotte, North Carolina

The Disaster Response Team will expand its ministry to support people affected by human-made or natural disasters. PW's grant will help provide a warehouse, parking lot and security fencing. This new space will hold household goods, food, hygiene, school kits and clean-up buckets, and will house mobile shower units and disaster recovery trailers.

Effingham Child Development Center - Effingham, Illinois

This inclusive play environment will set the tone for successful future relationships. The Center serves children and families of differing abilities and is paving the way for all kids to learn and play together. PW's grant will improve the center's playground by helping to provide a protective play surface and all-inclusive play equipment.

Presbyterian Homes and Services of Kentucky - Phelps, Kentucky

Caring for people who are sick, poor, lonely or vulnerable due to infirmities of age and poor health, this project will improve the quality of life and safety for nursing center residents. PW's grant will help provide new wardrobes, bedside cabinets, over-bed tables, nursing beds, mattresses and lift recliners.

Wings of Refuge - Iowa Falls, Iowa

This refuge provides a safe and healing space for women victimized by human trafficking. Without safety and shelter, there is little healing. PW's grant will help fund a larger long-term safe home where many more women will find restoration, identity, community, opportunity, hope and help with the transition into independent living.

Loving God,

We thank you that through our donations to the Birthday Offering we are able to help fund real solutions in areas of health, education and the needs of women, children and the elderly. We ask that you bless these projects and the work they do. Amen



Birthday Offering





Gentle Yoga

Gentle Yoga is taught by Katie Hurcomb on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30 - 2:30 pm in the Youth Loft.

Cost for 8 week session is \$96, (one class per week) and walk in price is \$15/class. Please bring your own yoga mat!

Box Tops for Education

For coupons and participating brands check out the website boxtops4education.com.



Drop off your coupons at the north or south entrance of Village on Mission. Contact imnotsandrad@gmail.com for questions.

PW Alive Now

Alive Now is a Bible Study for women who are early risers. We meet each Wednesday from 8:00 to 9:30 am in the Heritage Dining Room.

We study a passage of scripture and we are a support group for one another, often spending as much time sharing and caring for each other's needs.

If you would like more information, please contact Judy at judycooperjc@gmail.com.

April 14 - 20



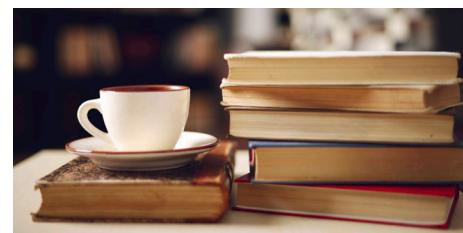
holy week

Pageturners

opening books opening minds

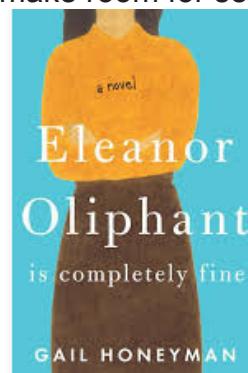
Calling all Bookworms, Bibliophiles and Readers of all interests! All are welcome to join this group for lively discussion of books selected by consensus from a variety of sources. We encourage you to come!

Page Turners meets the fourth Tuesday of each month in room 127 at 10 am.



The book chosen for our March discussion had such a long waiting list at the Johnson County Library, it has been put off for our meeting on April 23. We are hopeful that enough copies of Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine will be available for that date. (By that time we will have met to discuss Lilac Girls.)

Eleanor is a quirky character who is completely alone in the world, an out-of-the-ordinary heroine whose deadpan, weirdness, and unconscious wit make for an irresistible journey. To survive, Eleanor learns she must let go of old hurts, make room for self-acceptance and friends --- to open her heart.



All are welcome to join in the Page Turners' discussion on April 23. For more information contact either Judy Lockett at judylocket5@gmail.com or Rosella Hoglund at 913-642-3574.

Messenger Editor
Julie Foster
foster.julie@icloud.com

