What kindnesses have you noticed?
I am amazed, surprised, and thankful for the number of people who are reaching out and offering help. We’ve had offers to shop, deliver and share excess supplies. We got a note in our mailbox offering to shop for anything we needed, just to tie a ribbon on our mailbox flag and put a list in our mailbox, and what we needed would be delivered to us the next day. I find that so heartwarming, so very kind, and unbelievably generous. God’s blessings to everyone. Marvie Sneegas

Any ideas for dealing with anxiety?
This virus is a harsh reminder on a global level that we control much less than we like to acknowledge. One simply cannot miss the irony of Sally’s cancelled topic, “Divine Scheduling,” for our COFW luncheon! Daily, plan to set aside time to stop, be still, and listen. It’s not easy, but make it quiet time for reflection, meditation, and gratitude. Remain steadfast in gratitude for our blessings. Following that, if you need structure, begin organizing and making lists! Personally, I write three goals for each day. It gives you a purpose for the day and a feeling of productivity. Limit time spent watching the news. Try to walk every day, read more, and maybe plan carry-out with friends. We each must find our own way through this unchartered time but I believe that if we can stop, be still, and listen, that path will become clear to us. The power of prayer is giving me hope! Ann DeFeo

What is your new everyday activity?
It’s always helpful to clean the house! It brings a lot of joy when you write people in nursing homes or call shut-ins. I have also enjoyed long walks, online yoga with Katie Hurcomb and trying new recipes. Marilyn Borel

(continued on page two)
Any practical advice?
Try to look upon this time as an opportunity to slow down, take care of ourselves and reflect on what's truly important in life. One thing I’m planning to do is to clean room-by-room and take my time, focusing on enjoying the process and not think of it as a chore. Carol Solenberger

How do you find Holy time?
I am currently struggling with creating Holy space. I can feel God nudging in, but it feels very different than the way I am used to feeling God. I am finding it necessary to limit: news, television, work, the number of cookies I eat and even how much I stress. This allows me to make room for more of the positive things, like playtime with my kiddos, playing on the deck or making a great dinner. My heart knows that my hope lies in God and I recall the comforting words of Psalm 121:1,2, “I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” Rev. Sally Wright

Do you have a daily word to reflect on?
Hope... when you have hope, nothing can shake you. These words from Romans 15:13 got me through breast cancer and other challenging times, “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope.” It is definitely a verse for now. Remember also to take time to be still, consciously breathe, and thank God for all of His blessings. Linda Alley

What about daily devotional?
Since the beginning of our social distancing and staying home, my husband and I have expanded our shared daily devotional time to include scripture, The Upper Room daily devotional and prayer, reading the Presbyterian Mission Yearbook (see https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/) and sharing the Presbyterians Today Lenten devotional readings, and other classic devotionals. We also view the daily videos by the Village pastors. With so many online services posted for various worshipping communities, we’ve even been able to share our son and daughter-in-law’s church in Brentwood, CA. Friends from our CA days in the 80’s are doing a nightly hymn sing from their home via Facebook Live. What blessings abound! Joyce Bardeen

Please share some wisdom...
Part of my role in the spirituality course, The Feast, was to facilitate the conversation around the chapter on Sabbath. In the book “Soul Feast” by Marjorie Thompson, there is a quote that really resonates with me. “If you are wise therefore you will show yourself a reservoir and not a canal. For a canal pours out as fast as it takes in; but a reservoir waits till it is full before it overflows, and so communicates its surplus...” I believe that most of us are canals, pouring ourselves into our children, spouses, work and volunteer opportunities. We don’t always pause in meaningful ways to fill our cups up. We become run down and so thirsty. Now, we have been given the gift of time. We can settle into some holy Sabbath, filling our cups, becoming reservoirs that then overflow from a place of wholeness and peace. Susan Satterlee

Is anything bringing you joy?
Today my response is from Psalm 100, “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord.” Our son lives alone in Brooklyn in an apartment in a sea of apartments. Neighbors on his street have joined together online to stay connected and monitor who might need assistance. Taking a cue from scenes in Italy, Drew is organizing musical performances from the patios and balconies. I may even open our fifth floor balcony door and play for the pigeons who won’t mind if I miss a note here and there! I bought one of the old hymnals when they bought new ones. I’m no Elisa Bickers, but I can still make some joyful noise! Cheryl Brady
Message from the Moderators

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Welcome Holy Week and Easter!

Welcome the promise of a Risen Son. Welcome the joy in the renewal of the earth.

At this moment in time, we can take a breath and lean into this season. We also are praying for a renewal of our church, our community, and our world as we proceed taking singular steps in our own homes. The hope that God provides for us each and every day will sustain us until we gather again. What a joyful occasion this will be!

Within this issue of the Messenger we are providing some inspiration for you to consider for Holy Week as well as everyday life. These extraordinary times call for us to connect in creative ways. Please reach out to all your sisters and frequently.

Our Nominating Coordinators, Ann Flanders and Niki Krenzel, and their committee have been ever so diligent in putting together this group of faithful and wise women to lead us into the next year and beyond. It is our pleasure to announce the Slate of Officers for the 2020-2021 year (refer to text box below). As you know, the vote was taken electronically.

We are grateful for these women in saying yes to serving all the women of Village Church. May they be blessed and may they be a blessing to all of us.

It truly is with hope and courage that we will all live forward reflecting God’s light and seeking God’s light in these remarkable days.

Alleluia!

Becky and Lexa

He is not here he is risen just as he said.

Matthew 28: 6

- Co-Moderator
  Sandra Stephens (replacing Rebecca Seyferth)
- Co-Moderators Elect
  Laura Langdon & Suzanne Willey
- Treasurer
  Carlene Anderson
- Circle Activities Coordinator
  Sherri Robeson
- Christian Action Coordinator
  Beth Brame
- Spiritual Growth Coordinator
  Peggy Gray
- Communications
  Leslie Stulken
- Messenger
  Julie Foster (through Nov.) then Lara Shelton
All of our PW activities will resume once Village Church has determined it is prudent to begin activities. Please check villagepres.org for updates.

“Strength for today bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside.”
*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

**PW Circles**

**Village on Mission**
May 12
7:00, 9:30 am
12:00, 7:00 pm

**Village on Antioch**
May 11
6:00 pm

Questions for VOM?  conradleslie@aol.com  Questions for VOA?  joycebardeen@gmail.com

All are welcome.  Always.

**ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S RETREAT**

PW Spring Retreat is RESCHEDULED for April 23-24, 2021

**Be in the know!**

**Horizon’s Bible Study Book 2020-2021**

We strongly encourage you to sign up for a personal copy of “Into the Light,” the Horizons Bible Study book, at the April and/or May Circle meeting. To purchase, we require a $10 payment of cash or check to Village Church. Large print versions are available for a cost of $15. For questions, please contact Leslie Conrad, Circle Activities Coordinator, at conrad.leslie@aol.com.

**BE THE REASON SOMEONE BELIEVES IN THE GOODNESS OF PEOPLE.**
Community Table

VOA Fellowship Dinner
Monday, May 25
Panera Bread
6800 W. 135th

Lunch Between the Circles

No lunch in April or May. See you in September!

Only in the darkness can you see the stars.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

Questions?
kellythomason61@att.net

TODAY did you?

- Think about **gratefulness**?
- Check on anyone?
- Connect with someone?
- Get **outside**?
- Get any **exercise**?
- Create any beauty?

VOA Spring Luncheon
Saturday, April 18

April 2020

• Think about **gratefulness**?
• Check on anyone?
• Connect with someone?
• Get **outside**?
• Get any **exercise**?
• Create any beauty?

Only in the darkness can you see the stars.
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Prayers for Holy Week

Opportunity to hear the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit

Sunday, April 5 - Palm Sunday
Gracious Lord, Prince of Peace, In this season of uncertainty like none we have ever known, we seek comfort in your love and shout Hosanna in our hearts. For the message of this Holy Week is hope. Guide our lives to be powerful expressions of your love and hope in your kingdom here on earth. Equip us to be your loving presence in our communities. Strengthen us to sustain our spirits through troubling times. Help us see you in those around us. Keep our hearts joined with yours through this Holy Week and beyond. Hosanna, Amen.

Monday, April 6 - Holy Monday
Lord, In our hearts we parade with palms, sing beloved hymns and offer you praise. As we return to our new routines - busy with work, busy with worry - there is so much stress, anxiety and fear. Help us stand firm in our faith. Help us discern what this holy week is about. Help us embrace Easter, not as a season but a way of life. We know you care for the world, Lord. Let us see and feel your presence. Fill us with your love. Give us courage and patience to follow you. Amen.

Tuesday April 7 - Holy Tuesday
Dear Heavenly Father, we come before you on this Tuesday of Holy Week a bit anxious and excited. We know what tragic and amazing things happen during this week. We are reminded that on Tuesday of Holy Week Jesus spent time in the temple sharing parables and being tested by the Sadducees and Pharisees. Jesus shared that the greatest commandment is to Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and soul and to also love your neighbor as yourself. We pray that during this time we can focus on these two commandments. Help us to set our eyes, hearts, and minds on loving you, Lord. We must be vigilant as we continue to grow in our journey with you. Encourage us to get creative on how that looks today. We ask that you will provide avenues to love our neighbors as ourselves. We pray that you will continue to show us how and where to be the church in our own communities. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Wednesday, April 8 - Holy Wednesday
Lord God, We remember even in the midst of your betrayal, you continued to pour out a spirit of goodness, mercy, and courage. We offer our praise for your enduring love in these challenging times. With a humble heart, we ask that you grant us your spirit of hope, patience and resilience for the coming days. We believe, help our unbelief. Amen.
Thursday, April 9 - Maundy Thursday  
by Patty Zender Grossman  

Lord God, on this holy Maundy Thursday it is your love and grace we remember. Help us to be your disciples on this earth, washing the feet of our neighbors as we serve with tender compassion and love for all. As we pray and break bread together it is your commandment, “to love one another as you have loved us,” that we hold deeply in our hearts. May our words and actions show this love. Remind us in these unsettled times that YOU are the bread of life, our redeemer and Savior who will show us the way. We trust in your abiding love for us, your grace in all things each and every day. May we joyfully lift our prayers of gratitude to you...for all you have given us, your children...and may we humbly rest in your peace. Amen.

Friday, April 10 - Good Friday  
by Lisa Schellhorn  

Holy Lord, On this day, Jesus was crucified. He was nailed to the cross, forced to wear a crown of thorns, given vinegar to drink, and felt forsaken by God. It was a bleak day for all who were following Jesus. But we know that in the midst of the unknown, God was there. These are uncertain times. Instead of reaching out to others and bringing them closer to us, we must keep our distance. We are feeling isolated physically and emotionally. We have no idea when this pandemic will end. But we know that in the midst of the unknown, God is here. We believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We believe that God is at our side during our darkest hours. Fear of the future may overshadow our faith, and it will be hard to feel the presence and love of Jesus in our lives. But we know that in the midst of the unknown, God will always be with us. Amen

Saturday, April 11 - Holy Saturday  
by Judy Cooper  

Oh, God, we know that the Saturday after the crucifixion was the darkest of days for the disciples. All of their hopes for what Jesus would do to make it a different world were dashed. Their closest friend was dead. God, we are experiencing dark days even today. People are out of work and aren’t sure where their next pay check will come from. Hopes of loved ones for proms, graduations and celebrations are dashed. Homeless people cannot even rest in the library. We feel afraid to even go out among people for fear of becoming ill from this fast moving virus. It is a time of dark days. However, we know the end of the crucifixion event. We have hope. We know that when we celebrate Easter, Jesus is alive and lives among us. So in the darkness of these days, O God, we cling to that promise that you love us and are with us every step of our journey, even in dark days. Amen

Sunday, April 12 - Easter Sunday  
by Rev. Sally Wright  

Christ is risen! Yes, risen indeed!! O, Christ, God has brought you back from gates of death. In our world so filled with illness, death and chaos, we at times feel we are at those gates with you. Yet, ancients words passed to us by our ancestors remind us that your light shines even in the darkness. You can create order even when there is none. Even at the gates of hell, you are there to bring us home. But, O God, in these days show us your radical, transformative hope. Show us how to be your people, who believe in your power of transformation. We know in our bones that even when the world is descending into chaos, that your call to us is to proclaim the news of Jesus’s resurrection to this world - to show that in any circumstance hope can be found in you. We are your Easter people! Amen!

Holy, Holy, Holy, merciful and mighty, perfect in power, in love and purity.
Operation Breakthrough Reading Volunteer Tour

Reading Program cancelled until fall 2020!

“Every day is a new day, every day is a clean slate.”
Mary Esselman

On March 4, a group of OB reading volunteers went to visit the site at 31st and Troost, KCMO, to learn more about the programs at Operation Breakthrough.

Mary Esselman, Executive Director, and Mary Mulkey, Education Director, spoke with the volunteers and inspired us with the many accomplishments at Operation Breakthrough. They currently serve 650+ children a day with programs for tiny babies through age 14. At least 80% of the families using OB live on less than $12,000 per year. Mary Mulkey describes Mary Esselman as “Magic - what she envisions comes to be!”

You may be familiar with the building on Troost, but there is a new wing across the street which is accessed by a bridge that spans Troost. Symbolically, it connects the east and west sides of the city. There, children learn to cook, garden, invent, use technology, do yoga and dream.

Students from 5 area schools visit the Maker Space to learn about textiles, robotics, cooking, and studio arts. In the Chef’s corner, young people learn how to fix high quality simple meals such as cheese omelets.

There are full service clinics, both Medical and Dental, for sick and well-child visits. Also, Occupational, Physical and Speech Language therapists.

Yoga is for everyone! Each child at OB has one yoga class per week. The children learn relaxation, self-regulation and are able to apply those skills to their everyday lives!

After the visit, the group enjoyed a wonderful lunch at Thelma’s Kitchen! Although the Operation Breakthrough Spring Reading session is cancelled for this year, we hope to see you in the Fall.
Welcome Rev. Lynn Miller, author of the 2020-2021 PW Horizons Bible Study. The study revives lament as a response to difficult situations in our world. The one who laments remembers God, and in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. Hope implies movement: both God’s inherent movement toward justice and our movement toward God. Recovering lament is a timely gift to our world.

Rev. Lynn Miller, author and artist, is a minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). She received her MDiv from Union Presbyterian Seminary and the DMin from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in conjunction with University of Aberdeen in Scotland. She has served as a workshop leader, graphic designer and keynote speaker for conferences on theology, worship, spirituality, education and the arts.

Registration Form for Horizons Bible Study Workshop - DUE by July 31!

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Checks payable to Village Presbyterian Church memo - Horizons Bible Study Workshop Only = $20/person Workshop + Bible Study Guide = $30/person

Mail Form with Fee to:

Village Presbyterian Church
6641 Mission Road
Prairie Village, KS  66208

For Questions please contact: Laura Hobbs, Adult Ministry Coordinator at 913-671-2333 or laura.hobbs@villagepres.org.
Since 1922, Presbyterian Women’s Birthday Offering has helped fund mission projects that improve lives. The following projects have been chosen to receive grants in 2020. The amount they receive will be determined by the amount of money collected.

Center for Social Assistance to the Disabled, Family, and Children
Preobrazheniye, Assisted Living Facility, Davydovo, Russia

In Russia, facilities for adults with disabilities are state nursing homes that are inadequate to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of their patients. The goal for the center is to create a Christian model of housing and community. The Birthday Offering grant will help construct a new home that provides suitable living conditions, constant medical support, and an environment in which the residents can realize their rights to freedom of religion and work.

GAP Ministries of Augusta, Georgia
Expand Access and Service Space, Northeast Georgia Presbytery

For 40 years GAP Ministries has served a community on the margins of society, helping with food, clothing, toiletries, prescription assistance, photo IDs and storage bins for homeless persons. By renovating their historic church building and adding an elevator, GAP can address other needs such as a Saturday service for the working poor, expanded health assistance and meeting spaces for partner ministries.

Community Presbyterian Child Learning Center in Payson, Arizona
Child Care and Prekindergarten Facility, Presbytery of the Grand Canyon

Established in 1979, the Community Presbyterian Child Learning Center provides daycare and prekindergarten programs for children in Payson, Arizona; the Tonto Apache Tribe; and neighboring communities. The center currently uses two historic buildings and a modular structure that is small and not well-suited for child care. This grant will help build a modern facility that will increase the number of children served and provide infant care that is currently not available in Payson.

Liberty Community Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota
Northside Healing Space Expansion, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

The Northside Healing Space is part of Liberty Community Church, the first and only African American-led Presbyterian congregation in Minnesota. This community-driven “healing homeplace” provides supportive housing, workforce development, access to healthy food, K–12 school initiatives, and care for survivors of trauma and commercial sexual exploitation. The Birthday Offering grant will help renovate their historic building and expand programming based on the expressed needs of the community.

Dedication Prayer:
Caring God, there is no shortage of pain in your world. We are surrounded by unjust systems that treat your children as though some are more deserving than others. We dedicate this offering today to celebrate all of those who are doing your work in the world through these projects. May we continually praise you by caring for one another.

Amen
It is well-known fact that gardening is good for your health, it feeds your soul and makes your heart happy. We consulted some of our Master Gardeners - Vicki Graham, Jan Liu and Alice Carrot - for a little advice and some good cheer.

**Start by adding Preen to your flower beds.** It will prevent new weeds from germinating in your flower and vegetable garden. As in the garden, cultivate goodness in your thoughts. The words of Galatians 5:22-25 say, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law.*

**Weeding is important.** The first weed Jesus warned of is the worries of the word, the anxieties of this age. *Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you.* 1 Peter 5:7

**Clean your flower beds.** *Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.* Jeremiah 29:5

**Consider the idea of foodscaping.** This means incorporating vegetables in with those aesthetic plants to create an edible landscape. It can transform your neighborhood by giving purpose to your space, decreasing chemicals in the environment and create a sense of community by sharing your produce with your neighbors. As we are called upon in Romans 12:13, *Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.* Check out this article featuring acclaimed gardener, Brie Arthur: [https://joegardener.com/podcast/foodscaping-how-to-create-an-edible-lanscape/](https://joegardener.com/podcast/foodscaping-how-to-create-an-edible-lanscape/).

**Container gardening is an option.** One can always incorporate herbs and small vegetables in with the flowers and foliage of a container. If you think about the thriller, filler, and spiller theory of planting those two can act as fillers in the midst of the floral to also add texture. Eucalyptus, lavender, or lemon balm all add a lovely fragrance.

**Prepare for the harvest!** *The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.* Song of Solomon 6:2-3

Recommendations for planting:
- Pansies, Zinnia from seeds, Hellebore, Lenton Rose, Herbs
- Onions and garlic, Microgreens (young vegetables with aromatic flavors and concentrated nutrient content)
Page Turners

If our April meeting is possible, Page Turners will discuss Into the Wild, by Jon Krakauer. One reviewer made this observation, “It may be non-fiction, but it is a mystery of the highest order.”

In April, 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. But only after having given away his savings to charity ($25,000) and abandoning his car and most of his possessions, inventing a new life for himself. Without revealing the outcome, the New York Times called it terrifying, eloquent and a heartrending drama of human yearning. Others describe it as haunting, riveting, absorbing.

Is that enough to peak your interest? Join the conversation on Tuesday, April 28, 10 AM, in room 127. All are welcome, always, having read the book or not.

For more information contact Judy Lockett at judylocket5@gmail.com or Barbara Lee at 217-891-3557 or lhlee@att.net.

All good thoughts and prayers for good health, peace and comfort for all.

Katie Hurcomb is taking yoga to zoom! Join in her weekly Gentle Yoga, Core strength, and Fascia Therapy classes by emailing her at Hurkate@gmail.com!