

The Messenger

For Presbyterian Women of Village Church

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Celebration of Faithful Women

Hallelujah! After more than a year of waiting, the Celebration of Faithful Women took place in the south parking lot at Village on Mission on Saturday, April 17. Though the temperature was cool and the sun teased us by coming and going, it did not matter. More than 100 attendees gathered to celebrate the 2021 Honorary Life Members of Presbyterian Women of the PC (U.S.A). Our honorees, Dee Couch, Patty Grossman, Michelle O'Neal, and Kelly Thomason provided the warmth, spirit, and love that this event represents. The honorees shined, not needing the sun to reflect their commitment to doing God's work. This has been a tough year. Each of us seems to be searching for the good, for stories of the best of humanity. That is what we heard as the stories of Dee, Patty, Michelle, and Kelly were told. It was a day of celebrating each of them and the gifts of all Presbyterian Women.





It has been an honor this year to be your PW Co-Moderators. The grace and support you have provided us has allowed us to dream and be creative in this unusual year. From drive-thrus to pop-ups; cookbooks to meditation in the courtyard; online Advent celebrations to parking lot celebrations. And Circles meeting any way they could. These are only a smattering of the offerings we had this year. Take a look through these pictures and see God's handiwork through it all. We love you PW, we couldn't have done it without you. Thanks for an amazing year.

With hopeful hearts,

Carol Solenberger and Sandra Stephens
carolsolenberger@gmail.com imnotsandr@gmail.com
Sandra Stephens & Carol Solenberger
PW Co-Moderators 2020-21

Moderators' Corner





village on antioch

Monday, May 10

Zoom gatherings continue twice each month, the second and fourth Mondays at 6 pm. To be included in the email information, contact Joyce Bardeen at joycebardeen@gmail.com. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89014027477?pwd=MDEra0VDRUdiaHVnTmNsWFdVVFJFQT09>
Meeting ID: 890 1402 7477
Passcode: 983691

Tuesday, May 11

The Circles are meeting either virtually or in person, and are a great way to connect with other women and learn more about God's Word through engaging Bible study and discussion.

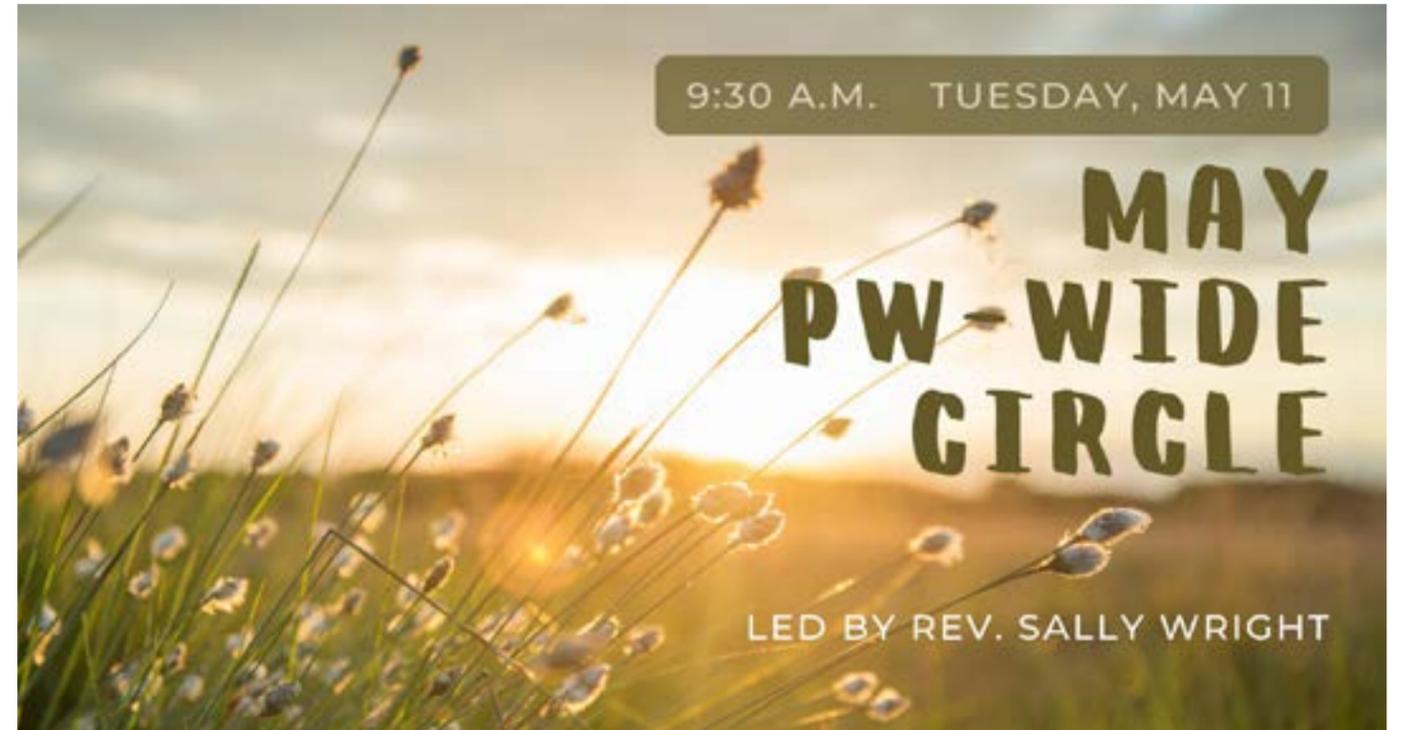
If you have interest or questions about Circles, contact PW Circle Coordinator Sherri Robeson at srobeson49@gmail.com.

village on mission

The Circles are meeting virtually by Zoom. Look for information in your email regarding some of the Circles meeting in person for May, with social distancing guidelines. To connect, contact Sherri Robeson at 913-219-9925 or srobeson49@gmail.com.

The greatest thing we can do is let people know they are loved.

- Fred Rogers



Into the Light

The next Zoom Bible Study hosted by Presbyterian Women will be held on Tuesday, May 11 at 9:30 am. The Rev. Sally Wright leads the study with insightful wisdom and creative prayer.

Plan to join us, every month, on the second Tuesday, you may click on the following link to access the Bible Study: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87315640023?pwd=TEtvdKxod1dWeVBzakh0OGVCTmMzUT09>. Meeting ID: 873 1564 0023 and Passcode: 406346

All are welcome, you need not be part of a Circle to participate in this Zoom Bible Study. Please contact Laura at Laura.Hobbs@villagepres.org if you would like more information.

LIVE IN THE LIGHT OF THE RESURRECTION

...and renewal of this world, and of yourself, in a glorious, never-ending, joyful dance of grace. - Timothy Keller

#ConnectBeKind challenge

In light of our theme this year, Connect and Be Kind our PW Board encourages the women of Village Presbyterian to connect with our surrounding community. Each month, we will be issuing a Kindness Challenge.

For the month of May, let us reflect on the beauty of our natural world and how being surrounded by it heals our souls. Let's share the joy by inviting a friend or family member to take a walk in the neighborhood, a park, or an arboretum. For those still needing to stay inside - cut some flowers from your garden or pick up a bunch to share. Flower power always brings a smile.

Take pictures or video of your kindness and we will post it to PW's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/PWofVC) using #ConnectBeKind. Email your photo to: imnotsandrad@gmail.com.

AND INTO THE
FOREST I GO,
TO LOSE MY MIND
AND FIND MY SOUL.
- JOHN MUIR



Thursday Mission Sewing is baaaack too!

Having spent much of 2020 and parts of 2021 sewing at home, we gathered on Nancy Cantril's patio in March to reconnect and receive our new kits for sewing. We have been meeting in the sewing room, #115, in April on the 1st, the 15th and the 29th. If you are interested in sewing and have a few hours to spare on Thursday mornings, 10:00 – 12:00, please join us. You will see old friends, make new friends and sew on projects for our partner community agencies. If you feel more comfortable sewing from home, we can make that work too. You can leave finished items on Nancy's porch with your name attached and pick up new items to work on. In the sewing room we will wear masks, observe the social distancing rule and follow the church's guidelines for returning.

In May we will meet on the 13th and the 27th, 10:00-12:00.

Totals for March 2021: 132.5 hours for 12 sewists.
We created: 26 IV pillows—27 peanut pillows—10 dream bags—27 cot covers—5 baby doll blankets yielding 95 finished items.

Thank you for your efforts to further the Mission Sewing Ministry. We are making someone else's life brighter by sharing our gifts. May our Easter season continue to be filled with blue skies, peaceful moments, and lighthearted joy! We are a NEW creation in Christ! Let it be so!

Tuesday Chairs

Cheryl Brady:
cba50@mindspring.com
816.589.0513

Anna Staton:
jim_anna_staton@yahoo.com
913.669.6743



Thursday Chairs:

Nancy Cantril:
nancy.cantril@gmail.com
913.638.8049

Dee Gound:
dkgound@kc.rr.com
913.961.7473



Spiritual Growth
written by
Susan Creidenberg

Village Church has been my home for over 10 years now. That makes me a youngster in the Village family. I marvel that so many families have been in attendance through many generations. I've heard lots of stories about Dr. Bob, the beginning of the church, the generosity of mission and the role Village has played in our community. The stories that are held in the walls of the church building are enough to fill volumes of books.

During this pandemic, I have realized how much I miss the physical building that Village is. That may seem strange but that building holds so many familiar interactions with old friends, opportunities to meet new friends, classes that expand my knowledge of the Bible and my faith, not to mention the beautiful worship that fills my cup each Sunday for another week ahead. Don't get me wrong, I'm so appreciative of the Zoom classes, online worship, pop-up events and small interactions that the staff has arranged. They are the true heroes in these days. We are all doing the very best we can.

It reminds me of the story of the temple in Jerusalem. "If I understand the text", the belief that God uniquely dwelled in the temple was fundamental to Jewish belief. That meant, to the first century Jews, that Yahweh was held in those very walls. When the temple was destroyed and the Jews were scattered, it was then that the true nature of God was discovered by many. God was present everywhere...in the dirt of the roads, in the walls of homes, in the relationships of families, in the clouds, sky and green grass. That was an adjustment for our ancestors.

I've looked for God in all the places outside the building of Village. I remember last March when things were shutting down, I sensed new life budding on the trees, grass turning green and my garden blooming. I noticed entire families out for a walk, more people biking, a generosity of spirit amongst strangers and friends alike.

Community without walls. I was certain that was God's way of showing up to remind me that she had not given up on us. We, as Village people, adjusted to worship online. That continued to lift my spirits as I sat in our kitchen each Sunday morning, worshipping on a screen. We, as a city, worked together to feed those less fortunate and get food, shelter and clothing to the people more affected by the pandemic than others. There are many examples of seeing the face of God when I was looking.

However, it was so easy to look away too. It was easy to be in my warm home, cooking healthy food, reading books and focusing on me and my family. The world continued to spin but it felt like it was spinning out of control. Black Lives Matter, social isolation, political division. Those were the times when I missed the physical building of Village the most. Because I knew if we were to gather together we would be reminded to look for God again, work to usher in the kingdom of God. Be the hands and feet of Jesus...look closely. Look toward God's promised day and have hope.

It's been a long, hard, cold winter but I'm seeing God! It's not because she is just now showing up again. It's because I'm choosing to stop and look for her. The world is springing up with new life, new opportunities, new vaccines, new normals. There is a light at the end of the tunnel and because I'm choosing to look for it, I'm seeing it. Some days that light is brighter than others, but light just the same.

It will feel so exhilarating to be back in that lovely building on Mission when it's safe. The hallways will be echoing with children in pre-school, staff working their magic to pull together worship, classes brimming with people eager to learn and grow together, and music playing all day every day! And this will be special because we will see one another again face to face, unmasked and real. And I'm hopeful that when we are back in person, hugging and laughing, clapping and singing together I will remember it's not the building that holds our loving, gracious God. It will be in and amongst God's people....you and me in community.



small but MIGHTY

Special Offerings

Presbyterian Women have a long history of supporting mission projects throughout the world. Two special offerings collected during the year ask for very little, less than a dollar. When these small offerings are combined with those from women around the world we see how much we can accomplish.

The Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women began 99 years ago in 1922; challenging Presbyterian Women to give a penny for each year of her life as a "birthday gift" to provide grants to improve the lives of women and children. The Birthday Offering has funded over 200 major mission projects that continue to impact people in the United States and around the world.

This year's recipients are:

- Garden Gate Ranch (Des Moines, Iowa) Education Center Renovation \$150,000
- Memorial Drive Ministries (Stone Mountain, Georgia) Gymnasium Capital Improvements \$77,061
- Nkhoma Mission Hospital (Nkhoma, Malawi) Women's Health Center/OBGYN Theatre \$129,145

"Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." This is what many circles at Village say at the end of their meetings while standing shoulder to shoulder in a circle and passing a container to collect the Fellowship of the Least Coin. This global ecumenical prayer movement celebrates 65 years of inviting women from around the world to set aside the least coin of their country as a concrete symbol of prayers for peace, justice and reconciliation.

Grant recipients are selected by the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. The goal is to fund projects of evangelism service, ecumenical solidarity, awareness-building among women and relief throughout the world. The committee studies the applications, prays about them, discusses them and decides on each project without knowing how much funding will be available for the grants. An act of faith, especially during a global pandemic.

If your circle meets in-person in May you should be able to contribute to the Birthday Offering and the Fellowship of the Least Coin there. Presbyterian Women interested in giving to these offerings online can do so at presbyterianwomen.org/give.

If you have any questions contact Janet Bates jbates@everestkc.net.

About...

Becky Anderson
Co-Nominating Coordinator



Becky Anderson & family

How did you come to Village Church? My husband and I moved to Leawood in 2003 because we wanted to be near our children and grandchildren who all lived in the area. We joined Ward Parkway Presbyterian when we first got here. Sadly, Lark's cancer returned in March of 2005 and he passed away that September. A few years later one of my daughters and her family moved here from Lawrence and they were going to join Village so I decided to join with them. It truly was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

Tell us about your family. My family consists of my daughter Bonnie and her children, Jamie, Sara and Anderson Maddox, my daughter Susan, her husband Matt and their children, C.J. and Maggie Leonard and a son, Mitch, his wife Christie and their children Lark and Rhett Anderson. I love that I am able to go to games and school events with them and have them all over for dinners.

Tell us about your education and career. My alma mater is SMU in Dallas (a great place to go back for reunions!). Lark and I were married right after college and Lark's job in commercial real estate kept us moving many times. I sold residential real estate in New Jersey then again in Dallas and worked as a loan closer in a title company when we moved to Denver and Kansas City.

What are your favorite things about Village Church? There are so many things to love about Village that is hard to narrow it to just a few, but best are the wonderful friendships I have made here. Not long after joining Village I went on an all women's trip to France with other women from Village. I didn't know many people at the time but took the plunge and went on the trip. What a wonderful experience. The women I met on the trip introduced me to so many other activities at Village and it wasn't long before I knew I had found a home.

How have you been connecting with others? This past year I have been making connections thru Zoom for book clubs, circles, PW and other meetings. I have also met with friends outside when the weather permitted. And as we are getting vaccinated there have been more gatherings in person. Yahoo!!

What kindnesses have you noticed? I have been so touched by the response to give to others during these tough times. The PW theme this year has been "connect and be kind" which prompted a member of my connect group to suggest that we contribute to a fund to give to Thelma's Kitchen. The outpouring was immediate and generous.

Tell us about your other interests. I am an avid reader, devoted yogi, love to work in the yard and I do a lot of sewing.

About...

Lexa Carr

Co-Nominating Coordinator



Lexa & Scott Carr

How did you come to Village Church?

After my mother passed away in 2002, the need to find a new church home was tugging away at my heart. My home church at First Presbyterian Church in Carthage, MO, held great memories, and I witnessed my female family members lead passionately at this church. However, one of my aunts lived in Johnson County and worshipped at Village so naturally I chose to visit Village. It was during the Lenten Season in 2003 I began worshipping here and Scott soon followed.

Tell us about your family.

We are a family of four – Scott, Erin, and Peter. Our Erin lives in NKC with her fiancée, Lauren, and their puppies, Caddie and Lula. Erin is a loving, humorous, and remarkably intelligent woman who is an ASE Certified Mechanic and about to celebrate her 40th! Our beloved son, Peter, passed away at age 23 in 2008. We can only imagine how he would have changed the world. After 22 years in banking, my husband, Scott, founded and is President of Transport Funding, a financial lending institution within Volvo Trucks North America. Now after 25 years, he is looking retirement in the face!

Tell us about your education and career.

I graduated from Wichita State University with a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene. My only position ever outside the home was that of Registered Dental Hygienist. It's what I always wanted to do...and did! Gratefully, I retired after 25 years in dentistry to be home with our children making and building memories.

What are your favorite things about Village Church?

Community! And there are so many opportunities for involvement...just let dear Cindy Wilcox tap you for a commitment! In my experience volunteering, it has rewarded me with dear friends from various aspects of committee work through Monday Flower Ministry, Deacon, PW, DRMP, Session, and a certain APNC among others. And as for one of my favorite moments in worship, it is when we all say the Lord's Prayer as one voice. Oh, my heart!

How have you been connecting with others?

During these "irregular" days, keeping connected has looked different but still fun...meeting on the phone, in the backyard, or any outdoor space, just to stay in close touch with friends and loved ones.

What kindnesses have you noticed?

Two specific things come to mind with this question. The first is RJ, my delightful friend with a hearing loss at the market, who not only provides kindness to all but goes above and beyond to bear witness to that. I see it every time I am there. This past year has also brought a renewed vision, eyes wide open one might say, to see how others pass kindnesses in the everyday and even in the smallest of ways. It is always a joyful sight.

Tell us about your other interests.

I love to walk in nature wherever that might lead. It is where my mind is happiest. We love road trips and traveling to new places, sharing time at a table with dear ones, and I always need a creative outlet with container gardening, painting, and cooking. The future might hold golf again with my hubby, a new bridge foursome, and maybe learning to throw pottery.

kindness
NO ACT OF KINDNESS HOWEVER SMALL IS EVER WASTED.

Aesop

gentle
YOGA



Join Katie Hurcomb in her weekly Zoom Gentle Yoga, Core Strength, and Fascia Therapy classes. If you are interested, simply send an email to Katie at Hurkate@gmail.com.

connect

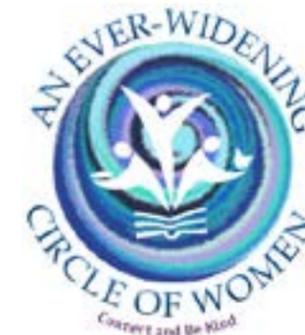


VPC_pres_women (Instagram)
<https://www.facebook.com/PWofVC/>

Presbyterian Women Purpose

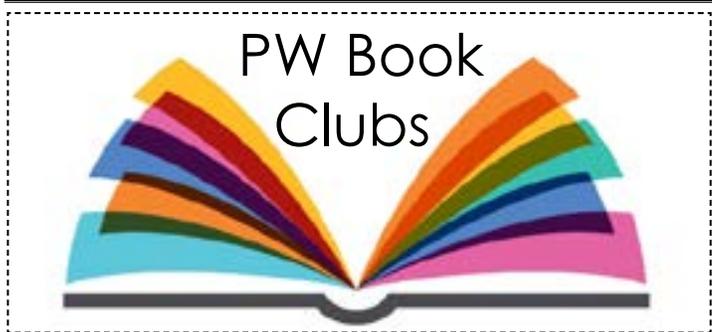
Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

- * 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



**PW
Giving
Online**

1. Go to villagepres.org/giving
2. Scroll down to the Online Giving section and select the CONTINUE TO ONLINE GIVING button.
3. Select GIVE NOW at top of page.
4. Click on the "Choose a Fund" box and select "Presbyterian Women" from the list.
5. Enter the amount you wish to give, then complete your Credit Card or Bank Account information and click the SUBMIT! button.



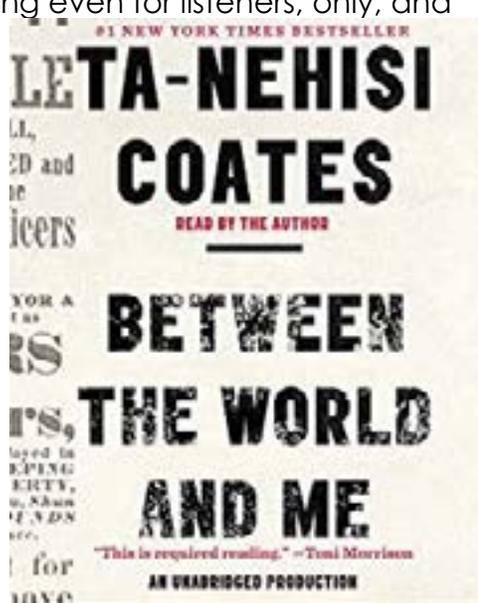
Page Turners Book Club

In May, Page Turners will meet Tuesday, May 25th at 10:00AM via Zoom (unless decision is made for in-person meetings at church, in which case notice will be given).

Our discussion will be about the book *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, a national correspondent at The Atlantic. He has written a mesmerizing meditation on race in America framed as a letter to his young, teen-age son. It includes tales of his own childhood, his time at Howard University, and experience in Paris. It is both memoir and meditation exploring several themes. He asks and attempts to answer difficult questions that plague modern society. This powerful little book may serve as a primer for anyone interested in a candid perspective on the headlines and history of being black in America.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend, having read the book, or not. The lively discussion is interesting even for listeners, only, and the group is open and welcoming to newcomers.

Please contact Barbara Lee (lhlee@att.net) or judylocket5@gmail.com to be included in Zoom invitation.



Amazing Graces Book Club

Book club will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo (May 5th) with the first in-person meeting in over a year. The meeting will be outdoors with masks required and social distancing guidelines followed. The book to be discussed is *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni. If the weather cooperates, we will gather at 6pm in the backyard of one of our members.

To receive the email with additional information, please contact Sara Wallace swallace01@gmail.com.

Connect with VOA on ZOOM!

Our next 4th Monday "stay home Panera dinner" for PW of VOA will be on Monday, May 24th at 6:30 pm. Join us for informal conversation and fellowship with Village friends! We gather virtually so that we may catch up with each other and enjoy encouragement and laughter.

To get connected with this group, contact Joyce Bardeen at joycebardeen@gmail.com.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88030896552?pwd=VzYxK3RybzlUOShFvQmw2azBIQndUdz09>

Meeting ID: 880 3089 6552
 Passcode: 156881

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