

# The Messenger

For Presbyterian Women of Village Church

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## Advent: A Holy Invitation

The secret of life "...is simply to show up. It's about witnessing it all, even the pain, and letting it touch you and make you not harder, but more tender. Showing up, feeling it all--this is my new kind of prayer. I call it praying attention, and it's how, for me, everything turns holy," writes author and speaker Glennon Doyle. Sarah Are sees this same invitation to "show up" in the season of Advent.



The Rev. Sarah Are

Sarah Are is the grateful daughter of Tom and Carol Are, and a child of Village Presbyterian Church. She grew up at Shawnee Mission East, before heading to college and seminary in pursuit of a Bachelors in Social Work and a Masters of Divinity. Sarah was ordained at Village in October 2017 and currently serves as the Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas. Sarah describes herself as an optimistic extrovert who is wiggly, a coffee-shop addict, and a work in progress. She is competitive about puzzles, loves being outside, thinks the world of her brother, aspires to be as joyful as her mother, and dreams of having a library like her dad's one day. It is her deepest joy to be coming home for the holidays during this special Advent season.

Sarah captures the essence of her meditation as follows: "When the angel tells Mary that she is going to bear God's son, the angel invites Mary to participate in what God is doing in the world. Mary cannot see the road ahead, and she certainly could not have anticipated what was to come. However, the angel doesn't ask her to have all the answers, he simply invites her to be present. I think the invitation of Advent is an invitation to show up which is to live like we're not afraid, and to live like God is active in the world. Advent is an invitation to lean on those we love, and to take the next step even when we don't know the road ahead of us. Advent is a holy invitation to show and witness to what God is doing in the world. It may sound simplistic, because we often  
*(continued on page 3)*



# Message from the Moderators



Lexa Carr and Becky Anderson  
PW Co-Moderators 2019-20

**We are thankful** for the many ways Presbyterian Women gather together. We laugh together, cry together, pray together and comfort each other. We deepen our faith through Bible studies and missions of service, and we share each other's stories. These connections are the building blocks of faith and love and the way our light shines through us. We give thanks for each other, our families and all the blessings that God has given us.

Our faith is strengthened in so many ways, but none more than the wonderful lessons from our circle study for the year, "Love Carved in Stone, A Fresh look at the Ten Commandments." It brings a new and enlightened perspective to each "word" of the Ten Commandments. If you haven't been to a circle meeting to share in this study, you might want to visit one of the circles to hear these beautiful messages. All are welcome.

We are also thankful for the Presbyterian Women that are hard at work to make this a year full of light and joy and for the diligence of the outstanding staff we have to support and encourage us. And we are thankful for all the women of Village Church who gather in community with each other.

**May your light shine throughout this lovely season!**

With grateful hearts,

*Lexa and Becky*

Becky Anderson  
[becky.anderson418@gmail.com](mailto:becky.anderson418@gmail.com)

Lexa Carr  
[lexalcarr@gmail.com](mailto:lexalcarr@gmail.com)



"We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing... beside us to guide us, our God with us joining."

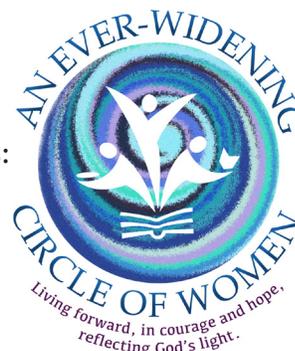
*Let us come*  
**INTO**  
**HIS**  
*presence,*  
**with**  
*thanksgiving*

Psalm 95:2

## 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 promises of God's Kingdom

Advent: A Holy Invitation

featured speaker  
Reverend Sarah Are

Tuesday, December 3rd  
Village on Mission, Friendship Hall  
Fellowship & Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres – 5:30 p.m.  
Program to follow in the Sanctuary

Reservations are \$18.00  
Tickets available between services on Sunday, Nov. 3rd, 10th, 17th or  
online on the PW website November 3rd-24th.

For child care reservations, email Pam Southerland at  
[pam.southerland@villagepres.org](mailto:pam.southerland@villagepres.org) by November 26th

Presbyterian Women of Village Church

Online Reservation Link



<https://vpcpvks.brushfire.com/presbyterian-women/458272>

*(continued from page 1)*

like to think about our faith as asking more of us than simply showing up. However, in the hustle, bustle and stress of day to day life, I think we often miss this preliminary step in the life of faith.

Advent is a season of waiting, watching and listening. In other words, Advent is a season of showing up.”

Please join Presbyterian Women as we gather for this inspiring evening as we begin the Advent Season. We will enjoy heavy hors d’oeuvres in Friendship Hall starting at 5:30 pm, then transition to the Sanctuary to hear the Rev. Sarah Are give the evening’s meditation.

Reservations are \$18.00 and can be purchased between all services at VOM and VOA November 3rd, 10th and 17th and, starting October 28, online at <https://vpcpvks.brushfire.com/presbyterian-women/458272>. For child care reservations, contact Pam at [pam.southerland@villagepres.org](mailto:pam.southerland@villagepres.org) by November 26.

For questions please contact Nancy Cantril at [nancy.cantril@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.cantril@gmail.com) or at 913-638-8049.

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

Operation Breakthrough thanks YOU! Thank you all for your donations of new and gently used books for the Operation Breakthrough Reading program and for the many wonderful volunteers who make this program possible. There were 420 books given away and 204 hours of volunteer service!

During the 6 week fall session of Operation Breakthrough Reading, 34 volunteers take the hand of their reading buddy for an hour on Wednesday mornings. Each child receives 2 books to take home. The teachers are given the Circle Time reading books to take back to their classrooms to share again and again. It's amazing to see the variety of donated books and the happy reading buddies.

This fall, the preschool children were intrigued by guest readers, snacks, and crafts during our sessions. In October, the Village Church Preschool invited the Operation Breakthrough children to visit their farm animals petting zoo. The day was crisp and leaves were falling as the children were able to see and pet a variety of creatures. The faces of the children show how much enjoyment they had from this experience. The Operation Breakthrough fall session ended with an exciting and fun trick-or-treat around the church. The spring session of Operation Breakthrough will begin March 25. We look forward to seeing you then!



The spring session of reading will begin on March 25, 2020. Plan to join us!



Making a difference, one child at a time.

## Star Family Information



*Star light, star bright first star I see tonight  
I Wish I may, I wish I might,  
Have the wish I wish tonight...*

Happy holidays! You have the opportunity to bring Christmas cheer to families in our Kansas City community. "Star Families" (100) from Operation Breakthrough will be available for adoption in Friendship Hall on Sundays, November 3rd and 10th, 9am to noon.

It's often fun to partner with another family to adopt your Star family and shop together! Monetary donations to Village Church will be accepted for holiday meals. Make checks payable to Village Presbyterian Church (please note Star Families in the memo). We request that each child receives at least 3 new, unwrapped gifts and the parent receives a gift card to Target or Walmart.

The Operation Breakthrough Truck will be in our parking lot on Sunday, December 8th to receive the donations. For questions, contact Marilyn Borel [mborel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mborel@sbcglobal.net) or 913-708-1917.

PW Circle  
at  
Village  
on  
Antioch

Monday, November 11  
6:00 pm

Bring a sack supper!

Enjoy fellowship  
before the  
meeting and  
Bible Study.

“Love Carved in Stone”  
Lesson Three, a fresh  
look at familiar scripture,  
the Ten Commandments.

All are welcome. **Always.**

PW Circles  
November 12

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

Village on Antioch  
November 11  
6:00 pm

Questions for VOM?  
[conradleslie@aol.com](mailto:conradleslie@aol.com)

Questions for VOA?  
[joycebardeen@gmail.com](mailto:joycebardeen@gmail.com)



# Community Table

connecting  
fellowship  
friendship

## Lunch Between the Circles

If you made a reservation by November 1, we look forward to seeing you on November 12 for Lunch Between the Circles.

There is no scheduled Lunch Between the Circles in December. We look forward to seeing you in January!

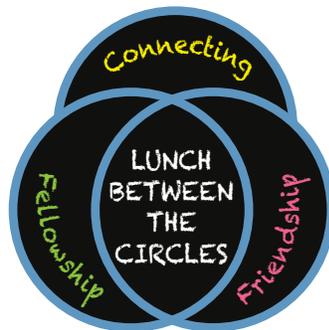
Contact Lesile Conrad at [conradleslie@aol.com](mailto:conradleslie@aol.com) for questions.

Celebration of Faithful Women  
Saturday, March 21

PW Spring Retreat  
April 24 & 25

VOA Spring Luncheon  
Saturday, May 2

serve



## VOA Fellowship Dinner

Monday, November 25  
Panera Bread  
6800 W. 135th  
6:00 pm

Questions?  
[kellythomason61@att.net](mailto:kellythomason61@att.net)

thankful

## Welcome to Village Church!

Presbyterian Women will welcome new members who are new to Village Church for a gathering on Sunday, November 10th from 2:00 - 3:30 pm, hosted at the home of Rebecca Seyferth.

It's a great opportunity to meet other new members while learning more about all Village Church and Presbyterian Women offer. We look forward to seeing everyone! Please RSVP to Ann DeFeo at 816-863-0074 or [annddefeo@gmail.com](mailto:annddefeo@gmail.com).

Are you new?

**START HERE**



# Mending the soul!

Churches in America have traditionally been associated with making and sewing. The Amish quilting communities and the Gee's Bend group in Alabama are prime examples. At Village Church, however, sewing is paired with an emphasis on mission, thus the group's name, Mission Sewing. Our visionary leaders who pioneered the program include: Shirley Meneilly, Helen Taliaferro, Edie Hultman and Karen Stone.

It's SEW wonderful in Mission Sewing; room 115 is buzzing with the whirl of the machines and chitchat as volunteers gather each Tuesday and, new this year, on Thursday in a newly refreshed sewing studio. This activity hub serves to connect the production and distribution of products for the benefit of over a dozen health and social service agencies. Other volunteers select yarn for home projects, transforming them into adult and children's hats, mittens and scarves.

In 2016, Rev. Tom Are announced a surprise, embraced with gladness and delight. A generous donation of brand-new Janome sewing machines! After completing training on the new equipment, volunteers created brightly colored matching machine covers to protect this treasured gift. The sergers, ironing centers, new ergonomic cutting tables and a handwork center complete the space. The fabric, much of which is donated, is organized by colors and stored in a closet with sample items with corresponding instructions. The redesigned area allows for efficient production and facilitates warm fellowship among the group.

## Mission Sewing... by the numbers

942	•	40	•	30-45	•	20	•	12
items in September		dream bags		women per week		different products		community agencies

Mission Sewing leaders receive numerous requests for needed items from Community agencies. This long list includes: nightshirts and laundry bags, chemo caps and scarves, peanut pillows (surgical recovery), heart and comfort pillows, large size dresses, little girl's dresses and nightgowns, walker bags, receiving blankets, seat belt protectors for those with IV ports, burp pads for preemies, memorial gowns for stillborn infants made from donated wedding gowns, and eyeglass cases for hospital patients. In November, Mission Sewing will present 600 Christmas bags to City Union Mission to be filled for their clients. The Thursday group has developed its unique project, Dream bags (see article on page 8).

Our volunteers rotate in and out all day on Tuesdays, and on Thursday mornings. The unsolicited thank you from a surgical patient, even non-church members, who take notice of the Mission Sewing label on an eyeglass case, the family who buries an infant in one of the memorial gowns, or the person enjoying a stylish new walker bag while adjusting to a new knee or hip, is most rewarding. A recent recipient of a walker bag reported, "I now know how important pockets are, and my floral bag even matches my décor!"

Our purpose is to serve the community and minister to one another with friendship, compassion and in the spirit of faith. Loving kindness is visible in the dedication of these women who find ways to show up, produce and be grateful in spite of life's bumps. Many have been known to sew for a few hours prior to the next chemo treatment, to return to structure and friendship following the death of a loved one, and be fortified in the spirit of making, giving, and fellowship. Women of all faiths are invited to find their place in Mission Sewing. Putting one's hands to work truly mends the soul.

# Invitational...

**Mission Sewing** is now meeting on Thursday mornings too. The inspiration to expand Mission Sewing came from our ministers at Village Church who challenged us to be invitational, magnetic and formational. Utilizing the space, equipment and giving Village Church members and non-members an opportunity for forming another small group just makes good sense.

The Thursday group has focused on four projects up to this point: Nightshirts, Christmas Bags, Dream Bags and Peanut Pillows. We completed two projects for City Union Mission, nightshirts and Christmas bags. We used sheets and lightweight cotton hotel duvet covers for mens nightshirts, which were used for those who sleep at their facility. We worked with the Tuesday group to create drawstring Christmas Bags, which City Union Mission will fill with toiletries and distribute to those in need.

Currently, the primary focus is stitching up colorful Dream Bags for Project Warm Embrace. In combination with the Kansas Department of Children and Family Services, including five counties surrounding northeast Johnson County, the Dream Bag is given to children who are being removed from their homes and placed into Foster Care. Many children, who have often been given a trash bag and 15 minutes to collect their belongings, may now receive a bright Dream Bag when they leave their home. As well as holding their belongings, it serves as a pillowcase upon their relocation to a new home. Certainly, a "bright spot" promoting comfort, maintaining dignity, and a feeling that someone cares for them.



Blessing the teacup quilt, which was made with loving hands, for a child hoping for a better life.

In October, the Rev. Sally Wright joined the Thursday Mission Sewing group for a blessing of the many projects. We commissioned a large bundle of items, felt the Holy Spirit among us, prayed for those who will receive these comforting items and deepened our relationships among the team of women who show up to DO for others.



Nancy Cantril says, "We find meaning in working alongside friends, drawing inspiration and creativity from others, encouraging faith sharing in a community of women and doing something we love to do!" She adds, "I'm so very grateful for the women of Mission Sewing, Presbyterian Women, and our Pastors who encourage us to take action, to do a new thing and come together in Christ." We welcome all to join us, simply show up!

Gracious God,

Bless these gifts as they touch the lives of people around the world. Bless the children who will receive safety and love. Bless the women who will receive medical care, job training and safe housing. Bless those who will receive home care, transportation, gardens and feelings of worth. For this and the many blessings we receive, we are grateful. Amen

## *A Vision of Gratitude...*

Eliza Clokey of Springfield, Ohio, planted the seed for Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering in 1888 when she urged each woman to give one dollar over and above her usual contribution to the Women's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. Year after year, women have responded to this call and have raised millions of dollars for mission at home and around the world.

In February 2019, the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women chose 18 grant recipients from 75 applicants. Twelve of the projects serve people in the United States and six are international. This year's recipients provide the tangible love of Christ through food for children who are hungry, education for women, support for immigrants who need friends, shelter for those without beds and homes, and healing for patients at home and abroad.

The troubles of this world are so deep and so great, we know that our individual gifts to the Thank Offering cannot address every need. We have faith that God brings us together to accomplish significant ministry to people in need. Though we may not see the end of hunger, homelessness, fear and pain in our lifetimes, we can work together to provide God's care to people now.

One of the recipients for the 2019 Thank Offering is Arab Christian Fellowship, right in our own Heartland Presbytery. Many immigrant and refugee families struggle in their new American community with learning the language, finding a job and suffering from homesickness. They will receive \$25,000 for Walking Together, a program to help newly arrived families, primarily Syrian refugees, who are seeking safety and a new home. This grant will be used to fulfill some of their primary needs like food, clothing, utility bills, learning English and finding employment. Visit [www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank) for more information on other 2019 Thank Offering recipients.

*Thankful*

Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:12-13



Practicing Gratitude



## Gentle Therapeutic Yoga

This is small group training that resembles physical therapy mixed with yoga. This class is wonderful for keeping you strong and pain free. Must be able to get up and down off the floor with ease. Try a free class before you commit. Must reserve your free class by TEXTING Katie Hurcomb at 913-244-5623.

Mondays and Wednesdays  
Youth Loft  
1:30-2:30 pm  
\$50 = 4 classes per month  
\$96 = 8 classes per month



## Yamuna Body Rolling

This class focuses on self administering deep tissue massage to work out the adhesions in fascia. This is an amazing system of healing. Come see what it's all about! TEXT Katie Hurcomb at 913-244-5623 to reserve your visit.



Mondays and Wednesdays  
Youth Loft  
12:30-1:30pm  
\$50 = 4 classes per month  
\$96 = 8 classes per month

## 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, contact Judy at [judycooperjc@gmail.com](mailto:judycooperjc@gmail.com).

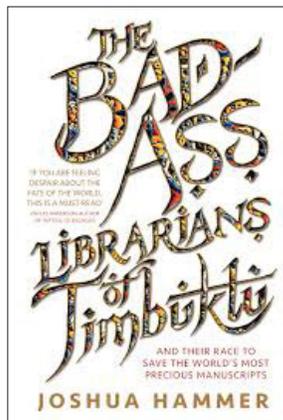
Messenger Editor  
Julie Foster  
[foster.julie@icloud.com](mailto:foster.julie@icloud.com)



## Page Turners Book Club

Calling all Bookworms, Bibliophiles, and Readers of all interests! All are welcome to join the group for lively discussions of books selected by consensus from a variety of sources. We encourage you to come! Page Turners meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. in room 127.

November's discussion at Page Turners will be about the book **THE BAD-ASS LIBRARIANS OF TIMBUKTU**, a true story. Some who've already read the book have given varying reports. Most praise the book, but because it describes activity by al Qaeda militants, there are several scenes that some readers have chosen not to read. They say they've gotten the whole story, even by not fully reading such unpleasant descriptions. This is the real life adventure of brave and inventive librarians who enacted a plan to keep an extremely rare collection of Islamic manuscripts from falling into the hands of the al Qaeda - and certain destruction.



Page Turners meet at 10:AM in room 127 on the fourth Tuesday of the month. In November that's the 26th. Remember, there is no meeting in December.

For more information contact Judy Lockett at [judyloket5@gmail.com](mailto:judyloket5@gmail.com) or Barbara Lee at 217-891-3557 or [lhlee@att.net](mailto:lhlee@att.net).