Shining a Light on Kindness!

Presbyterian Women continue to find a way to gather and sprinkle kindness, even in a socially distanced atmosphere! Susan Satterlee and Peggy Gray, PW Spiritual Growth Coordinators, planned a cheerful Drive-thru Breakfast on Wednesday, September 1, at VOM.

We enjoyed Chef Andrea’s delicious pumpkin bread as we distributed the new PW directory and gifted a special PW mask to everyone. Special thanks to our friends who brought pasta or gave donations to buy more pasta, which has been donated to the pop up VOA Food Pantry.
As we move through this Fall season, I find myself joyful that some things have “returned to normal.” Although, that normal looks very different. As I sit and watch my children go back to school, I watch them “go back” by way of a computer screen. I find grief in my joy. Thankful that my children have the opportunity to be taught by amazing teachers, but not in a traditional classroom. This is just one example of sadness caught up in joy.

I recently read a story by Glennon Doyle of the first time she saw the Mona Lisa; she was approached by another person in the crowded room who shared this story “Mona Lisa and her husband lost a baby. Sometime later, her husband commissioned this painting from da Vinci to celebrate the birth of another baby. Mona Lisa sat for Leonardo to paint her, but she wouldn’t smile during the sitting. Not all the way. The story goes that da Vinci wanted her to smile wider but she refused. She did not want the joy she felt for her new baby to erase the pain she felt from losing the first. There in her half smile is her half joy. Or maybe it’s her full joy and her full grief all at the same time. She has the look of a woman who has just realized a dream but still carries the lost dream inside her. She wanted her whole life to be present on her face. She wanted everyone to remember, so she wouldn’t pretend.”

Whether you’ve experienced the pain of losing a child, or having a child, we have all had the experience of losing something we’ve pined for. When God finally realizes that dream for us, we are also carrying with us all of the emotions that delivered us to that place. I encourage you to fully embrace it all. Lay your joys and burdens down at our Savior’s feet and allow him to carry you through. Celebrate the joys, and the sorrows.

Praying for you, dear sisters, in these uncertain - and most certainly odd days.

With Grateful Hearts,
Carol Solenberger and Sandra Stephens
Co-Moderators
Circles

Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization.  Mahatma Gandhi

Village on Mission (VOM)

The Circles are a great way to connect with other women and learn more about God’s Word through engaging Bible study and discussion. The PW Board will be visiting Circles this year, taking pictures, meeting their members and learning about how they are connecting with each other. If you are interested in joining or have questions about Circles, please contact Sherri Robeson, srobeson49@gmail.com.

Circles are meeting either virtually or in person. There was a lot of enthusiasm and creativity put in to the September meetings. Women were so happy to be together and catch up with one another. Join us!

Village on Antioch (VOA)

PW of VOA will continue Zoom gatherings twice each month, the second and fourth Mondays at 6:30 pm. October 12 is our circle meeting and Bible Study, Chapter Two of “Into the Light”.

To be included in the email information, contact Kelly Thomason at kellythomason61@att.net, or Joyce Bardeen, joycebardeen@gmail.com.

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

Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time. RBG
Presbyterian Women is hosting a Bible Study on Zoom, monthly through May, the second Tuesday of every month at 9:30 am. The theme this year is Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament. It will be a perfect Bible Study to accompany you through the 2020-2021 year. If you are interested in learning more about this Bible Study, led by the Rev. Sally Wright, please contact Laura.Hobbs@villagepres.org for the meeting information.

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=TEtvdkxod1dWeVbzhk0OGVCTmMzUT09. Meeting ID: 873 1564 0023
Passcode: 406346

As we adapt to our present circumstances, we look forward to connecting virtually with friends, both long-time and new.

Gracious Lord, make me pure in heart so that I may see you. Amen.
Treasured
Giving to Presbyterian Women Online or by Mail

Be rich in good works and generous to those in need.
I Timothy 6:18

Giving online is not hard to do, especially if you already fulfill your church commitment online. You can make an immediate donation or schedule payments throughout the year using the Village Church website. For step-by-step instructions email Janet Bates at jbates@everestkc.net.

We are so grateful for your commitment to Presbyterian Women!

Who?
Anyone may make a donation!

Celebration Giving to PW is always completely voluntary. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

What?
Support the mission of PW in Village Church, in Heartland Presbytery, in the Synod of Mid-America and in the Church Worldwide. These donations are over and above a member’s pledge to the church.

Where?
Villagepres.org/giving
No login is required.

Or, you may choose to login to FellowshipOne, for this option, please visit the home page at villagepres.org.

When?
Do it today! Donations online or by mail can be made anytime it is convenient for you.

Why?
It’s an easy way to support PW. If you prefer, write a check, payable to Village Church, Memo: “PW Pledge” or “PW Celebration Giving.” Mail to Village Presbyterian Church, 6641 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208.

adj 1: free in giving or sharing 2: noble syn open-handed
A Meaningful Greeting in Extraordinary Days

Village Church continues to grow even though we are unable to gather in person. We feel very frustrated that we cannot meet and greet our newest members as we have in the past. As we navigate these extraordinary times many of us feel as if we want to do something meaningful and productive within our church community.

If that resonates with you, consider this out-of-the-box volunteer opportunity to support our PW theme this year of Connect and Be Kind by reaching out to a new member. Reaching out could be writing a personal note of welcome or a monthly phone call to introduce yourself and check-in on how the new member is doing. It’s a great way to connect, and we would really appreciate your help. To volunteer, contact Ann DeFeo at annddefeo@gmail.com or 816.863.0074.

May the grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you!
The Hurting Times

Have you ever loved so loud
Every part of you came pouring out
Bustin the seams of things you’ve never felt

Have you ever hurt so deep
For another soul in need
That you forgot yourself, felt like you could barely breathe

It’s a blessing, it’s a curse
to love so much it hurts
I wish I could take your pain away
I hope you believe me when I say

I’d give you my heart, I’d give you my heart for the hurting times
I wish I could give you my heart, give you my heart for the hurting times

I had never lost my ground
Not until you came around
Now suddenly everything is changing how I see

When you’re smiling up at me
Full of curiosity
I just wanna hold you tight, try and protect you from everything

Yeah it’s a blessing, it’s a curse
to love so much it hurts
I wish I could take your pain away
I hope you believe me when I say

I’d give you my heart, I’d give you my heart for the hurting times
I wish I could give you my heart, give you my heart for the hurting times

My whole
Life I’ve been praying for
Someone I’d feel that way for
Never knew never knew never knew I could feel like this

I’d give you my heart, I’d give you my heart for the hurting times
I wish I could give you my heart, give you my heart for the hurting times

Barnaby Bright

Becky and Nathan Bliss remember the words of the Rev. Tom Are, telling them a childhood story about how his grandmother would say to him “I wish I could give you my heart for the hurting times,” whenever he would unload all his stresses and burdens on her. When he was a boy, those words didn’t mean much to him, but as an adult, his grandmother’s words took on new meaning.

“Years later while his wife, Carol, labored at the hospital with their first child and eventually delivered a baby who wasn’t breathing and began to turn blue, his grandmother’s words hit him like a ton of bricks,” says Becky Bliss. “In that moment, all Tom wanted in the world was to give his breath, his heart, his life, so that this helpless, precious baby would be okay.”

As we know, in the end, it was a happy ending, and the baby girl, Sarah, was fine, but the story, and those words, stuck with Becky and Nathan, who later fleshed it out on “The Hurting Times.”

The song was originally written three years ago, Becky says, “Little did we know, the song would find its completion in the middle of a pandemic with racial tensions at an all time high and political divides deeper than ever.”

This tender and graceful song is filled with messages of hope and healing. We are grateful for their soulful voices in these very uncertain times.

The Hurting Times: https://youtu.be/Eb7aUpuz88U
#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 and each other. Each month, we will be issuing a Kindness Challenge.

For the month of October, we challenge you to connect with 3 people you don’t usually visit with, haven’t heard from in awhile or who are new to you. Send a letter, a card, a text, an email... or a fax! A hey... hello... howdy, just to let them know you are thinking about them.

Take a selfie with your connections and we will post it to PW of Village Church Facebook page (www.facebook.com/PWofVC) using #ConnectBeKind.

Simply take a moment to email your photo to imnotsandrad@gmail.com. Who knows, there may be a prize for someone at the end of the month! Remember, the world needs as much kindness as we can give!

Looking to connect with PW friends - old and new? Join us each month for our PW Pop-Up Events! The PW Board is planning fun and creative events to help keep us connected all year!

Join us on Thursday, October 29 at 9:00 AM at Meadowbrook Park, in the covered picnic area by the playground, 9101 Nall Avenue. Bring your coffee/beverage and mask! We’ll also have the PW Directories if you still need one.

Feel free to invite a friend, bring your Circle or small group, or anyone that is looking to enjoy being outdoors! Everyone is welcome.
Thank you to the PW Moderators for donating funds to Operation Breakthrough through Opportunity Giving. It is most appreciated. And thank you to all the volunteers who donated to Operation Breakthrough. What a blessing it was to deliver a full carload of these wonderful gifts - sanitizers, paper goods, puzzles, crayons, masks, books, school supplies and more! The staff and children at Operation Breakthrough were thrilled.

Star Family Adoption will begin in late October - it will be an online adoption this year. Village Church has agreed to adopt 100 families again so please consider this for your Circle Groups!

Reading is the key that opens doors to many good things in life. Reading shaped my dreams, and more reading helped make my dreams come true.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

when we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.

Maya Angelou
During these unsettled times, the summer Presbyterian Women Book Club provided an outreach to those who were feeling the need for camaraderie and connections to Village women. Being new to PW myself, the book club empowered me to widen my horizons, learn from others and establish new and meaningful friendships.

Throughout our Zoom sessions, I enjoyed hearing many insightful opinions which led to lively conversations about the book and life itself. Many of us were experiencing life changing events and the supportive environment led to new friendships and spiritual growth. I look forward to keeping up with and seeing these special ladies in person soon!

The PW theme “Connect and Be Kind” was truly heartfelt throughout the summer sessions. Jesus calls us to live out our faith with one another, listening to and learning from each other. I feel very blessed to belong to Presbyterian Women where I have the opportunity to do just that!

How might you reach out and connect with someone you haven’t seen these past few months? How is God calling you to “Connect and Be Kind”?

explore.experience.expand
How did you come to Village Church?
I met my husband, Dan, in Paris France when we were both attending a summer study program at the Sorbonne. Dan grew up at Village, so when we were married in 1972, I began attending with him and later joined the church when our children were born.

Tell us about your family.
I grew up in Parsons, Kansas. Dan and I have 2 children; son, Dan, Jr. and his wife Laura, have a son, Danny. My daughter, Hayley Cacioppo, her husband, Dave, have 3 children, Parker, Mira, and Rory.

Tell us about your education and career.
I graduated from UMKC with a degree in Business & Accounting. Prior to my retirement, I spent 14 years as Accounting Manager at Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care.

What are your favorite things about Village Church?
I am always inspired by Sunday morning worship, and the many opportunities we have at Village for connecting and educating ourselves in the Christian faith. Some of my most meaningful experiences have been mission trips to Thwake, Kenya and the Dominican Republic. I've also enjoyed teaching Sunday School to 4 year olds, PW Circles, the PAL volunteer program at Faxon School, Amazing Graces Book Club, Alive Now Bible Study and Village Connect Groups.

How have you been connecting with others?
During these last several months, I have luckily been able to stay in touch with others through (lots of) Zoom meetings, phone calls, and occasional socially-distanced porch, patio, driveway get-togethers. I connect with my grandchildren by reading to them on FaceTime or Alexa almost every day.

What kindness have you noticed?
I am amazed to see examples of kindness everywhere I look – friends, family, neighbors, even strangers, going out of their way to share a kind word, a note, a smile or even “paying-it-forward” by buying my coffee at the Starbucks drive-thru!

Tell us about your other interests.
I enjoy reading, walking with friends, yoga, gardening, and most especially, spending time with my family and 4 grandchildren (even though we are masked and staying 6 feet apart).
How did you come to Village Church?
I grew up in the Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky. In 2016, I visited several churches in order to find a new church home. Village was the second church on my list and I never made it to numbers three and four.

Tell us about your family.
I have been married, 41 years, to Michael. We have a daughter, Sara, who is the Development Manager for the Society of Fellows at the Nelson-Atkins Museum. Her husband, Nick, is the in-house counsel for Boulevard Brewery so we are all about art and beer! We have three grandchildren: identical twin boys, Huxley and Everett, and sister, Linden. And then there is Lily, our 13 year old goldendoodle.

Tell us about your education and career.
I worked in the field of Special Education for 42 years, retiring in 2011. Prior to retirement, I worked as a Speech and Language Pathologist, Special Education teacher, and the final 33 years as a Special Education Coordinator. My degrees are from the University of Tennessee, a BS in Speech Pathology and Audiology, and the University of Missouri, a MA in Learning Disabilities. I began my career in Cocoa Beach, Florida before moving to Miami, then Los Angeles, and finally landed in Kansas City.

What are your favorite things about Village Church?
Being a deacon! It is a true joy as it provides me with opportunities to serve by welcoming people to church each Sunday. The PW Board introduced me to members I may not have met otherwise and provided another opportunity to serve our membership. Both have made a positive impact on my spiritual growth. I also love the sermons each week, in person or online, they are so powerful and relevant to our daily lives.

How have you been connecting with others?
I am making calls to check in on members, emailing new members and visiting them. By ringing their doorbells and standing on their porch, I feel the connection. It’s also been fun to connect at socially-distant PW meetings and activities.

What kindness have you noticed?
Delivering PW Welcome Bags to new members has spread kindness as it has let our newest members know that even though we don’t see them now, we know they are there and we value their choosing of Village Church as their place of worship. A couple of new members have shared stressful situations with me. When asked if they would like for me to connect them with our pastoral staff, they let me know that the pastoral staff is already providing them consistent support and kindness. That always makes me smile.

What are some of your other hobbies and interests?
My primary interest is our three grandchildren; time with them is pure joy! I am part of several groups of women who gather regularly to socialize and support one another. I am reading to develop a deeper understanding of racism in our country. I also really love planting pots and using those to create outdoor rooms.
Celebration of Faithful Women

The scheduled celebration for March 21, 2020 is on pause. It will be rescheduled in the spring of 2021 once we are able to gather in person to celebrate all of our honorees: Dee Couch, Patty Zender Grossman, Michelle O’Neal and Kelly Thomason. The honorees have been notified of the plan for rescheduling.

Registrants who have paid for the luncheon can either leave their payment as a donation to PW or request a full refund from Kenyon Vrooman at kenyon.vrooman@villagepres.org by 10/1/20.

Page Turners

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 are pleased to resume meeting at our regularly scheduled day and time, the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10 am. September 22 found us gathering on Zoom, where our book was The Clockmaker’s Daughter written by Kate Morton.

Our October 27 meeting will be held at an outside setting. At that time we will discuss Into the Wild, a story of danger and adventure in the Alaskan wilderness. One reviewer says, “The power and luminosity of Jon Krakauer’s storytelling blaze through every page.”

We encourage you to join us! For more information please contact Barbara Lee at lhlee@att.net, or 217-891-3557 or Judy Lockett at judylockett5@gmail.com.

We send prayers for good health, comfort and peace for all.

Connect with VOA on ZOOM!

Our next 4th Monday “stay home Panera dinner” for PW of VOA will be on Monday, October 26 at 6:30 pm. Share dinner and conversation with Village friends! We enjoy gathering where we catch up with each other and enjoy encouragement and laughter.

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

Messenger Editor
foster.julie@icloud.com

Join Katie Hurcomb in her weekly Zoom Gentle Yoga, Core Strength, and Fascia Therapy classes. Email her at Hurkate@gmail.com.