Inside September 2020

Be a Light Library 8
Celebration of Faithful Women 5
Kindness Challenge 12
Mission Sewing 6
Moderators’ Corner 2
OB Reading 9
Page Turners 12
PW Circles 3
PW Fall Event 1
PW Horizons Bible Study 4
Spiritual Growth Corner 10
Stage Groups 11
VOA Circle 3
Welcome New Members 8
Yoga on ZOOM 12

**Presbyterian Women**

**Fall kick-off**

**Drive-through Breakfast**

**Wednesday, September 16**
(north parking lot of VOM)
**Stop by anytime between 8-10 am**

*Get a Delicious Treat*
*Pick up Your Directory*

Stay in your car or stop for a visit in socially distanced chairs
*Please bring your own drink*

"Connect and Be Kind"

**Sprinkling Kindness Everywhere!**

Come to the north parking lot Wednesday, September 16 from 8-10 am to be greeted by our PW Board, receive a tasty breakfast snack prepared by Chef Andrea, pick up your directory and receive a PW surprise! Weather cooperating, we invite you to stay and catch up with one another, following socially distant guidelines. Outdoor seating will be provided for you. No RSVP needed.
Dear Friends,

As Co-Moderators, we had the privilege of selecting the theme for Presbyterian Women this year and after some thought and reflection, our 2020-21 theme is “Connect and Be Kind.”

Brené Brown defines connection as “the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgment; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship.” We thought if there was ever a time to connect, it is now. As we look forward to the first few months of the PW year, our focus is to find ways to help connect us together. This year may look a bit different but we hope with your grace, understanding and support we will be able to discover and explore ways to Connect and Be Kind to ourselves, each other, our community and our world.

We encourage you to follow PW on social media with Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date with all things PW. The Messenger, our monthly newsletter will be online this fall, followed by monthly Plugged-In email blasts. In the coming months, look out for PW’s Connect and Be Kind Challenges and Pop-Up Events!

It is our sincerest hope that you find connection – spiritually, emotionally, and socially as we navigate this unpaved road together. If you have ideas, feedback or questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out.

We’re thankful to be on this journey together!

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

carolsolenberger@gmail.com
imnotsandrad@gmail.com

“Connection is the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued.”

BRENÉ BROWN
All are welcome. Always!

Diversity is having a seat at the table, inclusion is having a voice, and belonging is having that voice be heard. Liz Fosslien

Circle Spotlight

With this year’s Presbyterian Women theme of Connect and Be Kind, we’re going to help you connect with a Circle each month starting in October. 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.

Circle Giving

As we adapt to our changing times, Presbyterian Women Circle leadership is working to determine ways for Circle participants to make pledges to their Circle. See below for online giving and be on the lookout for more information in a coming issue and from your Circle Treasurer.

Circle Giving Online

"Presbyterian Women" is now an option for those who prefer to make their gifts online through villagepres.org/giving. Donations will support Presbyterian Women missions and events. If you have any questions contact Janet Bates, PW Treasurer at 913.972.7645 or jbates@everestkc.net.

VOA Circle Bible Study

PW at VOA will be meeting via Zoom September through December on the second Monday of the month for the Horizons Bible Study.

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

Be the person who makes others feel included.
Presbyterian Women will be hosting a 9 part Bible Study on Zoom, September through May, the second Tuesday of every month at 9:30am. 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, beginning September 8, 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
Passcode: 406346

Please consider purchasing the study book at: https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/.

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

GOD WANTS YOUR SAD SO HE CAN TRANSFORM IT WITH HIS HOPE.
On Saturday, August 15, Rev. Lynn Miller, the author of this year’s Horizons Bible Study, presented an excellent Zoom presentation on “Into the Light; Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament”. When her proposal for this bible study on lament was selected in 2017, she could never have imagined that our country would be in the midst of a global pandemic in 2020.

Rev. Miller provided great guidance and suggestions to the Village PW leaders who will be presenting the study this year and also made it more personal for us by creating a “Kansas Edition” of her presentation. We came away with the understanding that “You lament in order to hope”, which is certainly relevant this year. In the second part of the presentation Rev. Miller, who is also an artist, led us in an art workshop in which she guided and encouraged us through the creation of a painting.

We are sorry she was not able to be with us in person this year as planned, but we appreciated that she made this personal connection through Zoom.

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 our honorees - Michelle O’Neal, Dee Couch, Patty Zender-Grossman, and Kelly Thomason. The honorees have been notified of the plan for rescheduling.

Registrants who have paid for the luncheon may choose to either leave their payment as a donation to Presbyterian Women or request a refund from Kenyon Vrooman at kenyon.vrooman@villagepres.org by October 1, 2020.

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
The Sewing Room in #115 may have been shuttered in response to the coronavirus, but Mission Sewists have not been. Both the Tuesday and Thursday groups moved their efforts to home-based sewing mid-March, culminating this summer in donations of over 150 masks to the child care staff, Sunday School volunteers and preschool staff.

Currently the groups are exploring how to build on the success of home-based sewing. While mask wearing and hand sanitizing are givens, social distancing among the machines and other equipment in the sewing room would be limiting. The room has been disinfected; all items ready for sewing have been removed. At an outdoor gathering in August, volunteer sewists selected projects to take home to finish – eyeglass cases and peanut pillows for surgery departments, laundry bags and dream bag pillow-cases for displaced youth and adults, walker bags for orthopedic patients, Christmas bags for the homeless to name a few. Completed items will be returned to marked bins near the benches at the South doors for pickup and delivery to the cooperating agencies.

The agencies we serve are in various stages of reopening their volunteer services. Flexibility and ingenuity will be key in keeping our volunteers safe and productive. While the response to the virus has taken priority, the health and social service needs we address continue.

NOTE: Fabric and notions donations are temporarily suspended until further notice.

Tuesday: Cheryl Brady and Anna Staton, Chairs
Thursday: Nancy Cantril and Dee Gound, Chairs

The soul’s joy lies in doing.
William Shakespeare
I’ve been thinking about the way, when you walk down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs to let you by. Or how strangers still say “bless you” when someone sneezes, a leftover from the Bubonic plague. “Don’t die,” we are saying. And sometimes, when you spill lemons from your grocery bag, someone else will help you pick them up. Mostly, we don’t want to harm each other. We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot, and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder, and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass. We have so little of each other, now. So far from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange. What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these fleeting temples we make together when we say, ‘Here, have my seat,’ ‘Go ahead - you first,’ ‘I like your hat.’

Danusha Laméris
Village Church continues to grow even though we are unable to gather in person. It is frustrating 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, here is a 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. To volunteer, contact Ann DeFeo at anndefeo@gmail.com or call her at 816.863.0074.

Be a Light!
Stand against, speak against and work against racism. All are welcome to borrow from or drop off books with an Anti-racism theme at VOM or VOA.

If interested, visit our wish list at https://www.villagepres.org/pw.html.

Make a difference in a place that needs change!
We missed seeing our little reading buddies and all the volunteers when the Reading Program was cancelled in March. Since we will not be meeting this Fall, we have instead asked Operation Breakthrough what else we could do for them in this moment.

The good news is that there are still concrete things we can do for our little buddies at OB to help them stay well as they grow and learn every day. Their top priority needs are for children’s face masks and paper products as they prepare for the fall semester. Operation Breakthrough will be distributing, wearing and washing hundreds of masks each day, so they need quite a supply.

Consider purchasing or making cloth children’s face masks for ages 3 thru 8, it is an ongoing need. The masks need to be two-layers of washable cloth with stretchy or adjustable ear loops or ties. A filter pocket is optional. Sizes will vary, but so do children. If you would like a pattern, please contact Cathy Hess at hessacres@att.net or 913.526.8966. Whether you are ordering online and having them shipped directly to OB or making masks and mailing them, the shipping address is as follows: Attn: Mary Mulkey, Operation Breakthrough, 3039 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64109.

There are many masks available online, but here is a grandmother approved link from Ann Colston as a suggestion. https://www.amazon.com/Reusable-Bandanas-Protective-Breathable-Anti-Haze/dp/B08BXN56PJ.

Donations of paper products especially toilet paper, facial tissue and feminine products are also needed and can be shipped directly to this same address.

If you would prefer to drop off your donated masks or paper products, there will be front porch collection boxes out on Sept. 1, 2 and 3 at our houses and we will take them to Operation Breakthrough.

Marilyn Borel    8019 El Monte, Prairie Village
Cindy Whitham    5208 W. 64th St, Prairie Village

We may not be able to read to the children and hold their hands as we walk through the church, but doing these things feels like another way to keep them safe while we hold them in our hearts and prayers.
“Rather than life being hills and valleys, I believe that it’s kind of like two rails on a railroad track, and at all times you have something good and something bad in your life.

No matter how good things are in your life, there is always something bad that needs to be worked on. And no matter how bad things are in your life, there is always something good you can be thankful for.”

Author Rick Warren

I have been thinking about these parallel train tracks a lot during this pandemic. As I have wrestled with the loss of so many of the things in my life that bring it normalcy, meaning, rhythm and purpose, I have tried to practice gratitude for all that I have to be thankful for. But gosh darn it, some days that is really hard!

Every day, I am aware that there are some really difficult things going on in my life and the lives of those I love, and every day I try to remind myself that although life is hard, God is good! I think of my friend, Ashley. Her young daughter suffers from seizures and lately they have been occurring every few days. She recently posted a beautiful picture of her daughter and son playing, with this caption:

“This week has been pure turmoil. Had to sit back and watch life play out for a few seconds tonight to remind myself that I can be sad and grateful at the same time. It’s ok to sit there.”

I believe that not only is it “ok to sit there,” it is healthy. We need to name and acknowledge our pain and loss. And, each day we need to look for all the ways that God is blessing us. The practice of gratitude can change the lens through which we see our circumstances and along the way it can change our hearts.

Here are just a few practical ways to put this into practice:

1. Write down the things that you have lost or are grieving… name them.
2. Find a trusted friend and have an honest conversation about how you are feeling. Share joys AND sorrows.
3. Keep a gratitude journal and name the things you are grateful for each day.
4. Seek out ways to bless someone else each week.
5. And always, share your heart with God. He wants to hear from you.

This is the day that the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it! 
Psalm 118:24
Women of Wisdom

Ladies, we miss each other! It has been a long time since we have been able to gather together in fellowship and conversation around a restaurant table. I think we have all missed that too! Unfortunately, the immediate future doesn’t look too promising for gathering together to eat in a restaurant as a group. We will be watching closely and following advice from our church and from the health experts in our community.

We will resume our fellowship as soon as it is deemed safe and smart for us to gather. In the meantime, let’s individually take the opportunity to reach out to our church friends to rekindle our friendships - by phone, text or hand-written note. It is my hope and prayer that you are doing well during this pandemic and have found ways to stay healthy and happy. I am optimistic about continued progress in the control of this virus, and I look forward to our return to activities that we all love.

I send my best to all of you. If any of you have suggestions of activities that might be possible during this time, please share them with me. Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com or 913.209.9608.

Dear Amazing Graces,

When I took over for Martha Tatman following her 4 years of fabulous leadership, little did I know that we would be in such an unprecedented time. I know we all miss gathering together, sharing experiences while enjoying some good eats and drinks! But, since our events usually have 50+ attendees, it looks like we are in a holding pattern.

Until we all can gather again safely, I wish health and peace for all of you. And hopefully we can enjoy fellowship again sooner than later. Best to all of you, Kay. Contact Kay Findlay for questions at kay.findlay@gmail.com or 913.709.7160.

Hello Women With Spirit,

Last year when I agreed to take over WWS from Shelby Krumm I had visions of fun events and good fellowship with some of my favorite people. Fast forward to 2020 and well, here we are, social distancing, juggling kids, careers, loneliness, home offices, illness and education in all new ways. We’re learning how to do almost everything at home, relying on technology to stay in touch and if you are anything like me yearning for the friendships we’ve formed over the years! This year will be different for Women with Spirit, we will gather when we can, and when that isn’t possible I urge us all to take a few moments every once in a while to contact our WWS sisters, to send a text, write a letter, make a phone call and just check in. Let’s stick together ladies even when we have to be apart!

~ Rachel Ciordas, rachelciordas@gmail.com.
A Kindness Challenge!

In light of our theme this year, Connect and Be Kind, Sandra and Carol, our PW Co-Moderators want to encourage the women of Village Presbyterian to connect with our surrounding community. Each month, we will be issuing a Kindness Challenge.

For the month of September, we challenge you to donate your old books, that may or may not be collecting dust. It’s a simple challenge, easy to accomplish. Bring your books to a little free library in your neighborhood, or bring your children’s book to Operation Breakthrough.

Take a selfie of you with your donations and we will post it to PW’s 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 it.

#ConnectBeKind

Challenge

Page Turners

1. Anatomy of a Miracle
   by Jonathan Miles
2. Before We Were Yours
   by Lisa Wingate
3. Between the World and Me
   by Ta-Nehisi Coates
4. Code Girls
   by Liza Mundy
5. Educated
   by Tara Westover
6. Less
   by Andrew Sean Greer
7. The Library Book
   by Susan Orlean
8. Longitude
   by Dava Sobel
9. The Pioneers
   by David McCullough
10. The Wright Brothers
    by David McCullough

2021 Book List

Connect with VOA on ZOOM!

Our 4th Monday Zoom meet ups for PW of VOA start at 6:30pm on September 28. Share dinner and conversation with Village friends! To get connected, please contact Susan Pittman at sipittman@comcast.net.

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.