



The Messenger

For Presbyterian Women of Village Church

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As we ease (or catapult!) our way into September,

our program year begins in earnest. I hope to see many of you at our Crepes and Conversation kickoff event on the 13th (more on this inside). I also hope many of you will be gathering with a Circle for friendship, fellowship, and study. This year we'll be taking a close look at the Gospel of John. Even if you know these stories by heart, there is always more to learn. In the wake of all that has happened in Charlottesville, one of you asked me, "What does John have to teach us about the world we are living in these days? Will we talk about that at all?"

That question is an important one. We will take the study month by month as previously intended, because the Gospel is always teaching us how to live in our present days. More than anything right now, I am reminded how much we need to know the story we claim as our own. Author (and past Visiting Scholar) Brian McLaren wrote about his experience in Charlottesville in late August. He was present as part of the clergy delegation protesting the "Unite the Right" rally. He was there, he said, in part to understand what could make seemingly reasonable people subscribe to such hateful ideologies. Later, after returning home, he came across an interview with Christian Piccolini, a former white supremacist who had been recruited and radicalized by an extremist group when he was a teenager.

"There are so many marginalized young people, so many disenfranchised young people today with not a lot to believe in, with not a lot of hope, so they tend to search for very simple black-and-white answers," he said, and then added that most extremist groups have no shortage of easy answers. He explained further, "I believe people become radicalized, or extremist, because they're searching for three very fundamental human needs: identity, community, and a sense of purpose." Piccolini has identified exactly what we are all searching for: a sense of who we are, a sense of where we belong, and a sense of why our lives matter.

And here is the truth: if faith communities are not providing these natural human needs, there are plenty of others ready and waiting to fill in the gap. McLaren concluded his essay with these words: "If good religion slumbers and stagnates, bad religion is the alternative."

To study the Gospel, then, to work tirelessly at both immersing ourselves and sharing with others the story and song of our faith, is to take a stand against anything and everything that threatens the imago dei, the image of God, that resides in all of humanity.

I hope you'll join us for our 2017-2018 Circle Study as we seek to do just that. If you are interested in joining a Circle, let us know and we will get you connected.

Peace,
Jenny

SEPTEMBER

Message from the Moderators

“Embracing a Spirit of Gentleness and Humility”

A warm welcome to all women of Village Church as we begin a new year of fellowship and service in our wonderful Presbyterian Women’s community!

Kim and I are very honored to serve as co-moderators for the 2017-2018 year and extend our gratitude for the opportunity as we embrace this year with a spirit of gentleness and humility. We are drawing our inspiration for this year’s theme from Ephesians 4:2. “With all humility and gentleness, accepting one another in love”. Such words of love define the essence of each of us as we serve our God daily with our humble hearts and minds.



We are excited to be part of a new Circle Bible Study this year as we learn more about the gospel of John. Village Church pastor, our inspirational leader and staff advisor, Jenny McDevitt, has developed a special study created just for us! Working alongside Dr. Frances Taylor Gench, Reverend McDevitt presented a wonderful workshop to our circle study leaders, as well as others from area churches on July 29th. We look forward to its launch in September!

We are reminded by past moderator, Julie Foster, the power of circles...“a circle of women is sacred. It is a time to discover life, share joys and sorrows and learn to love one another with an authentic and divine spirit. It is a place where we allow ourselves to be seen and heard, honored and enjoyed, while offering the same opportunity to others. There is something spiritual about circles. The well-known symbol has been celebrated throughout time. It is a reminder of the sacredness of the circle of life, the seasons, the sun, moon, stars and earth. Circles allow that everyone within is equal; everyone and everything is valued. We take guidance; we learn; we receive support; and we evolve. We are strengthened individually and collectively.”

Come learn more about our circles, stage groups and service opportunities at our PW Fall Kickoff event, “*Crepes and Conversation*” on Wednesday, September 13th from 9:30-11a.m. in Friendship Hall. We invite you with a spirit of gentleness and humility to experience all that PW has to offer.

With grateful hearts,
Kim Stratton and Patty Zender



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 promise of God's kingdom.



9:30 -11 a.m. Sept. 13, 2017 in Friendship Hall.

2018 PW Women's Retreat

We are so excited about the 2018 PW Women's Retreat! This semi-annual event will take place, once again, at the beautiful Heartland Presbytery Center in Parkville, Missouri on April 27-28, 2018. Heartland is just an easy 30-45 minute drive away from Johnson County.

This semi-annual retreat is always such a great time to be with the wonderful women of Village Church in a beautiful, natural setting. The meals provided are delicious. There are great walking trails and other outdoor activities available. Don't miss this chance to be "around the campfire" with such a great group! The overnight facilities offer motel-like rooms with bathrooms. Some women choose to attend as a "commuter"...just driving up for the Saturday program and meals.

Our retreat leader will be Rev. Melissa Anne Rogers. Melissa Anne is Pastor of Pastoral Care at First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, MI. Melissa Anne is also a dear friend of our own Jenny McDevitt. Jenny has described her as "the person who taught her much of what she knows"! We know that this weekend will be a fabulous and inspirational experience. We hope that you'll join us!



Operation Breakthrough Reading Program *Making a Difference, One Child at a Time*

2017 Fall Dates

Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. -11

September 20* – October 25

*Complimentary Orientation Breakfast 9 a.m., Weds, Sept. 20

Be a reading buddy. Read to a child. Engage in literacy activities. Men and women volunteers needed. You will make a difference in the life of a child and your own!

For six weeks in the fall and spring, our PW Operation Breakthrough Reading Program brings children from Operation Breakthrough in Kansas City, Missouri, to our church for a wonderful, enriching experience with Village volunteers. Each child is paired with a reading buddy for the hour session. Many of these children do not have a male role model in their lives and we have found that the MEN volunteers are very important to the boys who come to our program.

During each reading session, there will be group songs, guest readers, snacks, one-on-one reading with your reading buddy, and craft time. Each child is able to take home their craft and two books each week to start their own library. If you can't come every week, please come when you can. We would love to have your help!

Questions, please contact: Cindy Whitham ciwhitham@aol.com (913.262.3062). Child care will be available beginning Sept. 20 by calling Pam at 913-671-2352 to make a reservation a week ahead. Donations: Donate a pre-school (3,4 or 5 year old) level book. Donation boxes can be found at the south desk and in the hallway near the children's library. Donations by check payable to *Presbyterian Women* with the notation "Operation Breakthrough Books" are also appreciated.

Things we hear about the program:

"The children are never absent on Wednesdays - they love to come to Village."

"The volunteers have a great time and receive joy from volunteering."

"Reading to these children brings out the best in everyone."



OPERATION Breakthrough

WOW LUNCH AT PINSTRIPES

Women of Wisdom (WOW) begins the fall season with lunch on Thursday, September 28, at noon. We'll dine at Pinstripes, located in Prairie Fire, at 13500 Nall. Pinstripes is known for Bistro/bowling/bocce, but we'll only dine on the bistro side in a lovely, quiet room for lunch. We'll return another day for bowling or bocce ball!



Pinstripes serves exceptional hand-made Italian-American cuisine of the highest standards. They include several reasonably-priced lunch specials on their menu.

Parking is conveniently located on the street or in a parking garage directly across the street.

All women are warmly welcomed at our lunches. Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 27, to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com or 913-209-9608. We look forward to you joining us for delicious food, fun and fellowship with women of PW. Bring a friend!

SAVE THE DATE for WOW WELCOMES WILL

Women of Wisdom (WOW) is excited about a luncheon we're planning, WOW WELCOMES WILL. It will be in the Heritage Dining Room at Village at noon on Thursday, October 26. With Will's enthusiasm, we're sure to be entertained hearing about his decision to return to his childhood church home, Village, as our Director of Music. Watch for upcoming further details.



Women with Spirit

**Watch for an upcoming
2017-2018 Calendar of Events**



Church Women United

Church Women United's mission is to be a racially, culturally, theologically, ecumenically movement celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice. It was founded in 1941.

United Church Women

Grace Covenant Presbyterian (Forum)

Sept. 22 at 9:30 a.m.

For more information contact

Betty Harrison at 913-642-3892 or bettymharrison@aol.com

or Ann Kindred at 816-509-5963 or LaKindred@aol.com



SAVE THE DATE



Friday March 2 & Saturday March 3, 2018 Village Church on Mission

What is True: Theology and the American Story

Rev. Dr. Serene Jones

The 16th President and first woman to head the 180-year-old Union Theological Seminary in New York City

Go to villagepres.org/visiting-scholar for more information.

PW Honorary Life Member

On March 24, 2018 Presbyterian Women of Village Church will honor and celebrate the gifts and talents of women at the Celebration of Faithful Women.

Please take a moment to nominate a woman you know who:

- Supports the mission of the church
Nurtures your faith
Works for peace and justice and
Promotes an inclusive community

Please contact Samantha Sturgeon

slsturge@kc.rr.com

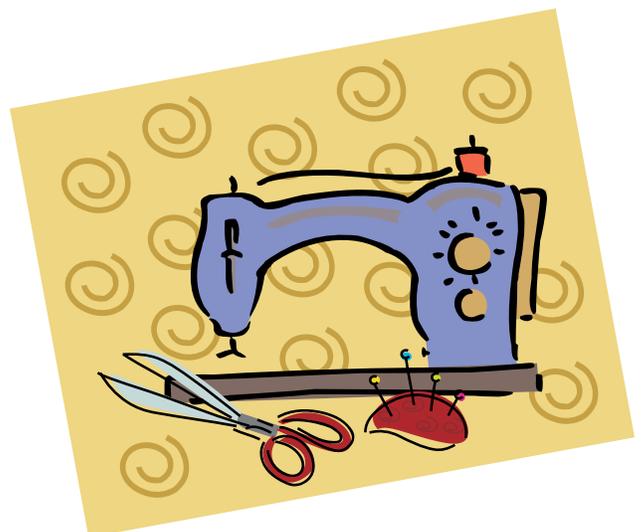
or Dee Gound

dkgound@kc.rr.com

Names will be accepted through October 28, 2017.

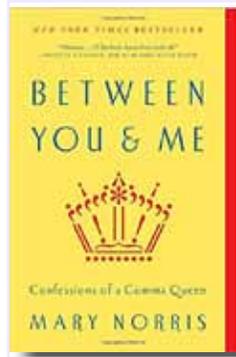
Mission Sewing

Fall is here and it's time to think knitting and crocheting and sewing. We need hats, all sizes; mittens, all children's sizes; baby hats (we have special yarn for these); and scarves, child and adult sizes. We have yarn. We also have at home projects from cutting out items, sewing items, etc. Please stop by the sewing room (Room 115) any Tuesday 8 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, call Edie Hultman @ 913-432-3515.



Page Turners

Page Turners book group meets the fourth Tuesday of every month in room 127 at 9:30 a.m. Page Turners's September book selection is *Between You and Me* by Mary Norris, "confession of a comma queen." It is promoted as "the most irreverent and helpful book on language since the #1 NY Times best seller *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*."



Mary Norris has spent more than three decades in The New Yorker's copy department, maintaining its celebrated high standards. She brings her vast experience, good cheer, and finely sharpened pencils to feature laugh-out-loud descriptions of the most common and vexing problems in spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Examples given are from Charles Dickens, Emily Dickinson, Henry James, as well as *The Honeymooners*, *The Simpsons*, David Foster Wallace, and Gillian Flynn. This is a boisterous language book as full of life as it is of practical advice.

Contact Rosella Hoglund at 913-642-3574 or Judy Lockett at judylocket5@gmail.com for more information.



PW Alive Now

Alive Now is a Bible Study for women who are early risers. We meet each Wednesday from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in the Heritage Dining Room. In addition to studying a passage of scripture, we are a support group for one another and often spend as much time sharing and caring for each other's needs. For more information, please contact Judy Cooper at judycooperjc@gmail.com.

Elaine Franz
Messenger Editor
ebdkfranz@gmail.com

Gentle Therapeutic Yoga Classes

Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. in the youth loft (3rd fl) of Village on Mission.



A regular yoga practice keeps your body young and pain free. Taught by Katie Hurcomb, a registered yoga instructor with 20 years of teaching experience to populations that are 50+. Katie knows first hand the power yoga has to heal injury and maintain a pain free life. She shares her love of yoga with her students as she guides them through poses that are doable and easily modified to fit each individual in class.

Come try the first class for free!
8 classes for \$96

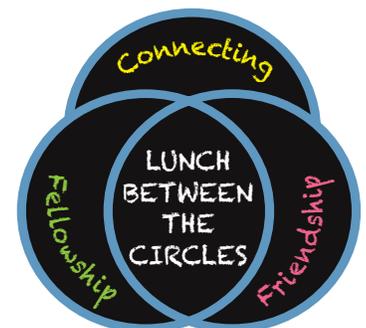
Call with questions or concerns. Katie Hurcomb
913-244-5623, or hurkate@gmail.com.



Lunch between the Circles

Come and join the fun, fellowship and food at Lunch between the Circles. Lunch will be served at 11:30 in Friendship Hall for all PW members, in between morning and afternoon Circles. It will be held on the the second Tuesday of the following months: October, November, January, February, March & April. Chef Emily is preparing delectable delights for all who attend for only \$6. Childcare is available. Please let your Circle Leader or Leslie Conrad (conradleslie@aol.com)

know by the first of the month that you would like to attend. We look forward to seeing everyone there!



Amazing Graces Book Club

If you like to read and enjoy good conversation, you will fit right in to this interesting group! The AG Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month in homes at 6:00 p.m. For meeting locations, reading lists and general information, email Sara Wallace at swallace01@gmail.com.



Amazing Graces Dinner Groups

The AG dinner groups were created so women could gather in smaller groups and enjoy one another. There are several Amazing Graces dinner groups for you to choose from. Each group chooses their own dates and times to meet for dinner, dependent on the needs of their group, always at a different restaurant. We welcome new members. For more information, call Deb Spaulding, 913-219-5503 or deborah.spaulding@hok.com.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- PW Fall KICK-OFF - Sept. 13
- Operation Breakthrough - Sept. 20
- CWU - Sept. 22
- WOW Lunch - Sept. 28
- Page Turners - Sept. 28
- AG Fall Gathering - Oct. 5
- CWU Annual Mtg./Lunch - Dec. 1
- Advent Dinner - Dec. 5
- PW Visiting Scholar - March 2-3
- Celebration of Faithful Women - March 24
- PW Spring Retreat - April 27-28



Box Tops, Coupons and More

Proceeds from the collection of these coupons benefit the children of Menaul School.

History of Menaul School: In 1896, Rev. James A. Menaul, a Presbyterian minister, sought and received Presbyterian mission funding for a boarding school that would serve Spanish-speaking boys in New Mexico, primarily from the northern portion of the state. In 1882, the site that is now the Menaul School campus was purchased through the efforts of local Presbyterians. Menaul School is proud of its tradition of educating students in New Mexico. In 1932, the school became co-educational. Today, Menaul accepts students from all cultural, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds. Fifty percent of the students receive financial assistance, and more than 60% are self-identified as individuals of racial or ethnic minorities.

The children at Menaul School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, thank you for your support.

Note: Please be sure that the box tops and labels you save have not expired.



AMAZING GRACES FALL GATHERING

October 5, 2017
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Home of Kathy Palmer

16 LeMans Court / Corinth Downs
Prairie Village, KS 66208

Special Guest Speaker: **Dr. Rodger Nishioka**

Please make **\$10** check payable to
Presbyterian Women of Village Church
by September 28th and mail to
Deb Spalding 300 W. 22nd Street
Kansas City, MO 64108

Limited to 60 Reservations, Carpools Recommended





Spotlight on Cora Ketterman



It is fitting that as you approach the front door of Cora's home, you are greeted with row upon row of bright, pink surprise lilies; as she reveals some of the fine points of her journey, it is filled with good cheer, faith and wonder.

Cora is a self-described "farm girl" who grew up in the large Mennonite community of Goessel, Kansas. Her parents instilled both the importance of family and a strong work ethic as she was raised with her brother and two sisters; the family grew to include two uncles and an aunt when her grandparents passed at an early age.

She decided to study home economics at nearby Bethel College, only to be encouraged by one of her instructors that she "would make a good nurse," due to her caring and patient nature. She willingly followed the wisdom of that inner voice, and moved to Kansas City to study practical nursing. She boarded at a nearby home, and admits with a smile and twinkle in her eye that she fell in love and married her landlord, Romney Ketterman.

The Ketterman's moved to Prairie Village in 1959 to raise their children, Barbara, Carol, Donna and Roger. They felt it was important that their children were part of a faith community; being inspired by the weekly message of Dr. Meneilly, and the wonderful child care at Village Church, they resolved to join Village Church.

It didn't take long for both she and Romney to get involved. Ladies from one of the PW Circles invited Cora to join their Bible Study, initially to simply "sit and listen." Naturally, Cora enjoyed the camaraderie and she joined a PW Circle. She has served as a Circle Leader, Program Leader, Circle phone caller, and often provides that little nudge to others by offering transportation to Circle meetings. She had numerous other volunteer positions at church including: Care and Counseling work, Children's Choir assistant and helping establish team kitchen.

One unique volunteer experience which Cora assisted with at church was creating a Christmas presentation. Using groundbreaking technology in the 1960's, she and two friends put together a slideshow, which a number of people of all faiths participated. It was shown between worship services and notably reported in the Kansas City Star, due both to the novel technical skills and the practice of building relationships with other faith communities.



Developing a strong faith helped her when she lost her son 4 years ago, and her husband 1 year ago after an extended illness. She experienced and appreciates the compassion, warmth and friendship of our church community. A soothing hug carries significant value to Cora, "it means that God's arms are around you." Likewise, she delights in giving hugs!

Cora enjoys gardening, sewing, handwork and travel. One of her greatest thrills is sharing her love of sewing and embroidery - as well as her box of floss and hoops - with her granddaughter. As with the proverb of teaching a (wo)man to fish, after teaching her the art of embroidery, the benefit multiplied when in turn, her granddaughter taught her own class how to embroider!

Growing up on the farm, she learned the importance of "seeing something in God's creation every time you see something." Without doubt, seeing her reflection reveals a humble and joyful servant, faithful in word and deed.

For Presbyterian Women

Amazing Graces

Gregory Banken, of *Gregory's Fine Florals* delighted the *Amazing Graces* May 4th with an entertaining and informative floral presentation. Gregory is the florist who provides the beautiful flowers we enjoy each Sunday in the sanctuary. Forty women met for appetizers, drinks and conversation at HOK Architecture firm in the Crossroads district.

