

Westminster Presbyterian Women Newsletter

(WPW of Dayton, Ohio) Volume 5: Issue 3 Spring Issue

Presbyterian Women's 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, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

A Message from the WPW Moderator: Jorja Gladden



In early February, I posted this picture of plats of mulch on my personal Facebook page with a message that read "Today at the gas station. Really? It's February 6!!!" A few comments came through agreeing with my sentiment with slapped forehead emoticons, laughing/crying faces, etc. But one comment, from a cousin, simply said "that is hope". That comment made me stop and ponder. I'm thinking it made others do the same as well since no one else made a comment after that.

Hope, as a noun, according to the internet, is "a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen" and as a verb is "want something to happen or be the case". We all have a lot of "desire for a certain thing to happen" and "want something to happen" so it seems there should be an abundance of hope! I think we all know, on the surface, that this stack of mulch really showcases how our commercial, economic system works. Marketing for most events begins months before the actual event. Most, if not all, of us have joked about how the Christmas decorations in stores come out after Easter is over. Heck, even Charles Shultz joked about it in the 1974 prime-time animated TV special, "It's the Easter Beagle, Charlie Brown" as Peppermint Patty and gang go to the

store to get more eggs to color and they pan to Christmas trees and decorations as Sally says “it’s Easter and they already have their Christmas decorations up!”

Economics aside, I am very hopeful. Hopeful that spring will soon be here to stay, flowers will start blooming, trees will sprout leaves, there will be more daylight, and yes, that even that the grass will need mowed! I’m also hopeful that a large majority of us will soon be vaccinated so we can get back to ‘normal’, back to church, back to eating in restaurants, taking vacations across the country and world, etc. The signs of these things are out there – beginning with those plats of mulch!

It was hope - and faith - that pushed the Coordinating Team to move forward with plans for the Pecan Sale and Cookie Walk so we could continue our mission in helping The Food Bank, The Castle, Mercy Manor and others. It was hope that allowed the members of the church to not only support WPW and our mission as usual, but go above and beyond so more money than needed to cover the budget was raised and then donated to The Food Bank. I hope you know how grateful we are. Thank you!

I hope you will enjoy this newsletter, plan to attend the Spring Gathering, join Church Women United, continue to support our mission, pray and work for peace and justice, make a Birthday Offering, volunteer, donate a school bag, enjoy this season of Lent, and pray we will see each other in person in our beautiful church home soon!

Blessings to you and your families!

Jorja Gladden, Moderator

Westminster Presbyterian Women

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17 (NIV)



Pam Helsinger

My journey to Westminster Presbyterian Church has not been a straight path. I grew up in the First Church of God (Anderson, IN). I briefly “flirted” with Presbyterianism after my marriage to my husband, Jim (who had grown up in the Presbyterian church) but it would be at least 20 years before we left the First Church of God to return to Jim’s roots of the Presbyterian church. After a move to Vandalia, four years ago, we discovered Westminster Presbyterian Church – what a momentous discovery.

Our time at Westminster has been one of spiritual growth, a burgeoning of new friendships and an introduction to a new way of service through the ID Ministry.

Before coming to Westminster, I attended and graduated from Miami University (BS Education) and the University of Dayton (M.Ed). I spent 30 years as a high school social studies teacher and high school Media Coordinator (Librarian). I share two daughters with my husband. We have been married for 47 (YIKES!) years and we have six of the cutest and smartest grandchildren! Isn’t it amazing that every grandparent has the cutest and smartest grandkids! Rounding out the family is Bailey, the Goldendoodle, who, like God, loves me unconditionally!

"Don't wait for someone to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul." Luther Burbank

On Peace, Love, and Dishwashing: Respect as a starting point

Here's a t-shirt idea:

SURVIVED 2020?

so many friendships didn't

As of March 2, 2021, just in the US, more than 527,000 people had died of Covid-19, which is slightly more than 20% of worldwide pandemic deaths to the same date. Each one of those deaths put a very real end to countless relationships. Millions will grieve these deaths and suffer from the loss, for generations. For those fortunate to have kept their lives and their health, for many there has been another epidemic of loss: relationships stressed or ruptured by grave divisions exacerbated by 2020's crises. Racial justice, Covid, healthcare, climate, law and order, the role of government: for many of us a new and more virulent strain of disagreement about these topics has severed or weakened family and friendship ties that we had considered unbreakable. The political warping of these issues, and the zillion conspiracy theories about them, forms a dangerous "underlying condition" for American discourse. Even when we were able to seal our homes from the virus, we could not keep out the pain of bitter arguments over the right way to think and act in the world we inhabit. Any reader of this can immediately call to mind examples: people they love separated by harsh words and seemingly irreconcilable beliefs, in conflicts that remain throbbingly painful and unresolved to the present day.

So when we raise the topic of peace in light of our current pain, people either sigh and say "But we can't even talk to each other!" or they roll their eyes and say "Well, we need JUSTICE now. Don't tell me to stop fighting for what's right!" And of course both of those perspectives are correct. Together, they map the path forward. The beautiful art of open-minded listening without betraying our values is something we can observe, learn, and model, and it will increase peace. This year, we are using this Peace & Social Justice space in the WPW newsletter to recommend some ways we can shift our habits, that we might develop in ourselves a contagious peacefulness – a generous openness that attracts others to copy it and to thereby begin to respect the needs of those who do not think, act, or live the way they do. For when we respect others, they frequently begin to respond with respect for us. And we can find common ground that lets us make plans and decisions together.

As Christians, we are instructed to practice love. In his book **How to Love**, Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese monk and international spiritual leader and peace activist, says "**understanding is love's other name.**" He explains that to love another means to fully understand his or her suffering. ("Suffering" here means whatever great struggles a person faces, whether they are visible or invisible to others, named or not named by the person herself.) So we have a mandate to love, and a true

expert in love informs us that love requires understanding. **We have the duty to seek to understand others.**

It's really difficult to make yourself try to understand someone that you see as a threat. And the opposite is also true: it's a lot easier to try to understand someone that you have experienced a lot of sweetness from. That's why community, neighborhood, church, and family gatherings are so important. In life since Covid-19, those opportunities have been significantly reduced.

[Right here is as good a place as any to mention that there are definitely cases where a person is saying to another person "you have no right to exist as you are." In these cases, it should be left to someone else to attempt conversation. It really is not safe or healthy to engage with anyone who says to you that you are not counted among the beloved children of God.]

It's also hard to live mindfully. It takes energy to bring oneself back to one's values and principles a hundred times a day. But there's no question that Jesus has asked us to do that. In Luke when Jesus is asked: "What am I to do?" Jesus leads the questioner to quote scripture: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. And love your neighbor as yourself." But then, seeking to limit this responsibility, the man asks Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" This is when Jesus tells the story of the traveler left robbed and beaten at the side of the road, ignored by the respectable passers-by and rescued by the outcast Samaritan. The parable leads to the conclusion that our neighbor is the damaged, battered, needy, frightened person that "good people" don't care about. "Good people" like us. And the one who is a loving neighbor to you is the person who tends to the damaged, battered, needy, frightened parts of you. The one who understands your suffering.

But how do we learn to be that kind of neighbor? How do we gain the skills to stick it out with folks who think they're better than we are, folks who do harm, people we fear, or people (or even the damaged parts of ourselves) we can't stand? Here's where the dishwasher comes into the story. If you have a dishwasher, how do *you* load the silverware basket? The tines of forks, the bowls of spoons, the blades of knives: are they up or down? My childhood best friend's family answered this question exactly opposite from my family, even though all parties are notably intelligent, thoughtful, and on this question specifically, both focused on safety. (It's not important and I don't want you to take sides, but I will tell you how it broke out: my family – biology major mom, physicist dad – put sharp knives blades-down, and forks and spoons handles-down, reasoning that having the blades up was too risky for those removing utensils from the basket, but that in general the dishwasher was better able to clean and rinse the business ends of the utensils when they were not in the basket. Cristina's family – both of her parents are physicians – focused on germ-related safety. The forks and spoons were handles-up, for keeping the business ends very clean when removing them from the basket. The sharp knives were blades-up, since they were the things most likely to have encountered

raw meat, and Cristina's parents, like mine, believed that in general the dishwasher was better able to clean and rinse the part sticking up from the basket.)

Far more important than who is right in this question is what it can teach us about disagreement. First, even with the same resources (intelligence, science backgrounds, automatic dishwashing machines, the leisure to think about how to load them) and the same priorities (family safety) there was not an obvious solution, though neither of our families doubted the rationality of our own methods of loading the utensil basket. This story points to a simple truth that can accompany us into every disagreement for the rest of our lives, if we choose to learn it: **people rarely do, say, or think things which don't make perfect sense from their perspectives.** The decisions people make come from the knowledge they have and the values they hold. So in that sense, their decisions "make sense." If we disagree, we must have different knowledge or values, or be prioritizing those things in different ways. In most situations it is likely that one or both of us has some information which is inaccurate, and it's almost guaranteed that our perspectives are warped by our emotions (most frequently fear) and by our habits and environments. When we "seek first to understand" those who disagree with us, we often discover where our knowledge, experience, and/or values diverge, but also where they align. We can empathize across the similarities, learn about the differences, and build trust through the simple act of assuming that the other person is neither foolish nor malevolent. This way of dealing with difference is wildly liberating. And it smooths the path in interactions ranging from customer service calls to neighbor disputes, from coworker issues to big family fights.

We invite you to practice this. Tell someone you like that you are trying to become a wiser person, and invite them to do the same experiment. Here's how I work at it: when I notice myself thinking "Wow! That's nonsense!" in response to something someone else is saying, I treat it like a great big alarm bell. I stop myself short, and acknowledge immediately that if someone is saying something to me that strikes me as irrational, then it's pretty much guaranteed that the person is working from significantly different knowledge than I possess. I recognize that in this case it's I who is ignorant of their perspective – that's why it has the power to surprise me. I look into it. I start from the assumption that nobody says anything that doesn't make sense to them. I work until I understand. Because "understanding is love's other name."

My experiment with assuming the rightness of others started in Lent of 2019, and it has yielded beautiful results for me. It has increased both how loving and nurturing I can be AND how much people close to me are able to love, understand, and respect me. Get yourself a buddy and try it. Candace and I can't wait to hear what unfolds for you.

Clip these useful sentences and read them aloud to yourself from time to time. The solo practice will pay off in conversation eventually.

"Where/When did you first learn something about this?"

"Tell me how you see it."

"What part of my decision concerns you most?"

"What are you most interested in making sure happens or does not happen in this situation?"

"Let me know when you think I'm not making sense."

"I'm ready to hear what makes this so important to you."

"Could you please help me see it from your perspective?"

Elizabeth Herr and Candace Powers



[2021 School Kit Mission Project](#)

If you are looking for an opportunity to put your faith into action while remaining safe in your home, you need look no farther. I ask you to consider helping a child go to or return to school by donating or sponsoring one or more of this year's school kits.

WPW assists Church World Services (CWS) through the donation of school kits which are then collected and distributed world-wide. School kits, one of the most asked for means of support, are distributed to school children following disasters as well as to those in need and/or have been displaced so that they might have the means to return to school as quickly as possible.

If you've contributed to this ministry in the past, THANK YOU! As a result of your generous gifts, WPW has already built and donated 300+ school kits; our goal for 2021 is to donate an additional 150 school kits.

Each kit contains 3 spiral notebooks, 6 pencils, a pencil sharpener, a large eraser, a box of 24 crayons, a pair of scissors, and a 12" ruler, packed in a 12" X 14" canvas bag.



School kits are valued at \$15 each; however, because we buy all but the canvas bags on sale prior to the beginning of each school year, we are able to build and cover the cost of transportation (\$2 ea) for \$10 per kit. To contribute to this year's school kit mission project or to sponsor kit(s), please send a check to WPC with an annotation that your donation is for WPW's 2021 School Kit Project or donate/sponsor kits on line at westminsterdayton.org, Westminster Presbyterian Women, noting that your contribution is for the 2021 School Kit Project. Thank you so much for your support of this valued global project!

WPW's 2020 Donation (10 kits per box)

Your contribution is for the 2021 School Kit Project. Thanks so much for your support of this global ministry!! Questions??? Please contact Dominique Myers at 937-310-1311 or d1m54@outlook.com

Search Committee

The WPW Search Committee has completed its slate of officers to be voted upon at the Spring Gathering.

Dominique Myers, Vice Moderator

Jean Bindeman and Jane Rininger, Search Committee

Cynthia Schindler, Coordinator Global Missions

Martha Bell, Treasurer

Sandy Vining, Coordinator Studies and Spiritual Development

I would like to thank the members of the Search Committee for their diligent work of finding candidates for officer positions.

Search Committee Members:

Donna Shell

Ann Barr

Katie Brennman

Barbara Wilson

Chairman



Global Mission Highlights

In sharing with my sisters in Serendipity Circle this past February, I came across this mission that spoke to me. I found it on the <http://www.presbyterianmission.org> website.

We have received, in the media, a lot of negative news on the Mexican border, but our Presbyterian Mission workers, Mark Adams and his wife Miriam Maldonado Escobar, who Mark met in Mexico, are doing amazing things. One of their efforts is the **Café Justo (Just Coffee)** which I will explain momentarily.



Mark Adams is U.S. coordinator of the binational ministry [Frontera de Cristo](#), based in Douglas, Arizona, and Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. Part of the umbrella organization Presbyterian Border Region Outreach, Frontera de Cristo works in six areas of ministry: church development, healthy ministry, family ministry, a community center, mission education and a just trade center.

Miriam connects people and organizations across borders and serves as a liaison of Frontera de Cristo with the Center for Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation and Recuperation (CRREDA in Spanish), Douglaprieta Trabaja, and the Lirio de los Valles Presbyterian Church. She works with Douglaprieta to help the community, schools, rehabilitation centers and families of the church grow their own food, increasing their nutrition possibilities and connection with God's creation and one another.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/the-rev-mark-adams-and-miriam-maldonado-escobar/>

Mark and Miriam Adams along with Presbyterian Border Ministry in Agua Prieta, were instrumental in the organizing of Café Justo (Just Coffee). The PC (USA) Self-Development of People program and Presbyterian Women provided gifts over the years.



Café Justo (Just Coffee) is a network of coffee grower cooperatives that grow, roast, package, and ship their own coffee. The idea behind this program was to empower growers to eliminate the need to migrate to the US for the AMERICAN DREAM. Café Justo provide good wages that unifies the family and becomes the new dream. Café Members of Café Justo are paid 3 times the amount that growers are typically paid in standard commercial operations. Café Justo's work extends into Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Haiti as well.

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2015/1/31/mexico-based-coffee-cooperatives-empower-growers/>

The **Just Trade Center** on the American Arizona/Mexican border has created a Fair Trade plus model. Instead of only paying a fair price to the farmers, Café Justo incorporates the fair trade plus model. This new model keeps the processing, roasting, packaging, shipping, marketing and management in Mexico. Normally, the majority of activity is usually done in the U.S., and the money stays in the U.S. They have gone through a lot of growing pains dealing with the ports, opening roasting facilities in Tijuana, branding (when other towns want to use the name of their town on the coffee), and wanting to get the coffee in the U.S. churches. <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2010/12/15/more-fair/>





About **Café Justo** coffee: it is a pure, organic coffee, cultivated in altitudes between 4,000 to 5,000 feet on a volcano Tacana. It is made from Arabica Robusta and Marago Beans which are organically grown no fertilizers or pesticides using shade tree cultivation.

The coffee is harvested, cleaned and prepared for shipping in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas.

The beans are then transported to Agua Prieta, Sonora. In Agua Prieta, the coffee is roasted, ground and packaged for shipment to our customers.

On a personal note, I ordered organic coffee from the website <https://www.justcoffee.org/> and will be ordering again because it is so fresh, pure, and smooth. The date of roasting is on the packaging. I gave a package to a friend who is a connoisseur coffee drinker and he responded happily when he drank his first cup.

Mark and Miriam are doing so many good things in their ministry this is just one in their long list and the many other missionaries out there making our world a better place.

If you would like to order to help a family - <https://www.justcoffee.org/shop/>

If you would like to email to:

Mark Adams - mark.adams@pcusa.org

Miriam Maldonado - miriam.maldonado@pcusa.org

If you would like to mail a letter to Mark and Miriam:

Frontera de Cristo

P.O. Box 1112

Douglas, AZ 85608

Another good article about Mark's journey in Mexico on the border-

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2014/7/30/brink-death-life/>

Your WPW Coordinating Team (CT)

Executive Committee:

Immediate Past Moderator	Pat Torvik
Moderator	Jorja Gladden
Vice Moderator	Jennifer DeVries
Secretary	Mary McKinley
Treasurer	Martha Bell
Coordinator of Global Mission	Candace Powers
Coordinator of Local Mission	Candace Powers
Coordinator of Studies/Spiritual Development	Sandy Vining
Coordinator of Publicity	Pam Helsinger
Coordinator of Justice and Peace	Elizabeth Herr
Search Committee	Katie Brennaman / Barbara Wilson Ann Barr /Donna Shell

Circle Leaders:

Coffee, Caring, and Crafts Circle	Sheila Hookey / Julie Arnold
Evening Circle	Jane Shirley
Serendipity Circle	Martha Shields / Barbara Wilson
Sunshine Circle	Julie Drumheller

Other Coordinators and/or Mission and Special Projects Coordinators:

Historian	Jane Rininger
Church Women United Key Woman	Martha Shields / Jorja Gladden
Cookie Walk Chair	Dixie Bowsher/Ddominique Myers
Come to the Table (new name/task)	Ruth Neely / Sandy Vining
Memorial Reception Team & Special Projects	Julie Preisser / Julie Drumheller
Pecan Sales Special Projects	Julie Drumheller/Dominique Myers
Finance Committee Chair	Martha Bell
Staff Representative	The Reverend Nancy Hodgkins

WPW CT Meetings

For 2020-2021:

August 25

October 27

November 24

February 23, 2021

April 27, 2021

**NOTE: All
WPW CT meetings
are held in
West Parlor
at 5:30 pm Or via
ZOOM**

Church Women United is a national ecumenical Christian women's movement representing Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian faith communities. Founded in 1941, as the United Council of Church Women, this organization has local and state units across the United States.

The Dayton unit of CWU has approximately 400 members who are members of about 35 churches in the greater Dayton area. Each church has a Key Woman as the representative. There are five at-large gatherings: World Community Day (November), Christmas Tea (December), Emma Murray Prayer Breakfast (March), May Friendship Day (May), and Human Rights Celebration (June). All are free except for the Prayer Breakfast (\$10). The Key Women meet six additional times per year at the CWU Board meetings; each meeting also features one local mission opportunity. Although called "Board meetings," these six gatherings are open to ALL who would like to attend. Mercy Manor (<https://mercymenor.wixsite.com/mercymenor>) was started by CWU and continues to support it. Many other mission projects are supported by this organization. Basic or support membership fees are just \$5 or \$20 — with no obligation to attend meetings.

CWU appreciates the support of WPW members! (See the membership form on the next page.) For more information, visit the local website (above) or contact Key Women Martha Shields or Jorja Gladden.

2021 Birthday Offering

of Presbyterian Women

Let us give thanks for every birthday!

When we give to our annual **Birthday Offering**, we are helping women and children all over the world by providing safer births and enabling second chances. Presbyterian women are **God's hand and feet** to impact the lives of people in need.

The **Birthday Offering** is an annual tradition that began in 1922 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Women's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States; it is now an annual tradition. The offering has funded over 200 major mission projects. When we give in 2021, it will go to the 2022 recipients.

This year's 2021 recipients are:-



Garden Gate Ranch, Inc.
Educational Center Renovation

www.gardengateranch.com

Des Moines, Iowa

\$150,000

The **Garden Gate Ranch** is a Christian organization that provides safe housing and restorative and transitional services for women and children who have been sexually exploited. A year ago, in the spring of 2020, Garden Gate opened a newly reconditioned home that was expected to be at full capacity within a few months. The Garden Gate Ranch occupies a large area and plans to fully utilize the area to support women and children. The **Birthday Offering** will assist Garden Gate Ranch in their mission by providing a separate educational center for programming, therapeutic services and vocational rehabilitation.



**Memorial Drive Ministries, Inc.
Gymnasium Capital Improvements**

<https://mdmatl.org>

Stone Mountain, Georgia

\$77,061

Located in the most diverse square mile in North America, **Memorial Drive Ministries, Inc.**, a partnership between the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and six other churches, provides a welcoming environment for the vibrant ministries that call the Memorial Drive campus home. The **BirthDay Offering** grant will provide a desperately needed roof to replace one that leaks into the gymnasium, where sewing, karate, dance, frisbee, badminton, basketball and other after school activities take place. This costly but necessary fix will ensure that Memorial Drive Ministries can continue to provide a place of welcome to diverse worshipping communities and innovative community services.



**Nkhoma Mission Hospital
Womens Health Center/OBGYN**

www.nkhomahospital.com

Nkhoma, Malawi

\$129,145

The **Nkhoma Mission Hospital** in Nkhoma, Malawi (located in southeastern Africa) offers affordable, accessible healthcare services for all, inspired by the love of Jesus Christ. The **BirthDay Offering** grant will provide funds to build obstetrics - and gynecology - specific operating room next to the existing prenatal and maternity wards. This new theatre will help reduce maternal deaths caused by having to move patients a significant distance across the hospital's grounds. This theatre expansion will aid in the hospital's goals of being a leader in quality Christian healthcare and training in Malawi.

We ask for your support for the 2022 Presbyterian Women *Birthday Offering* to continue the PW commitment to supporting missions that improve the lives of women and children.

To Give to the *Birthday Offering*:

We have attached a *donation sheet* to this newsletter-
mark *Birthday Offering* with the donation.

Thank you,
Candace Powers
WPW Global Missions

Do WPW mission work while shopping at the grocery store!

See how easy it is to contribute to WPW missions — with no additional time or money! If you're like many of us, we are cooking at home more and more.

Just buy your groceries as usual at Dorothy Lane Market or at Kroger's; WPW will get a check at the end of the year! Your grocery bill remains the same. WPW missions benefits from each grocery's commitment to community!

Ask at your store, or go online and register:

- Dorothy Lane Market: Enter you name, email, and Club DLM number.

<https://www.dorothylane.com/club-dlm/good-neighbor-program/>

Scroll down to click on "Westminster Presbyterian Women."

- Kroger's: <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/> Just sign in (or create a new account) and click on Westminster Presbyterian Women (Dayton) WC213" and click Enroll. Shop as normal, swiping your Kroger Rewards card.



Every penny helps!

***Contribute to
mission work***

while you shop — at no cost of time or money to you!

Church Women United in Greater Dayton (CWU)

Church Women United in Greater Dayton is a group of about 300 members from at least twenty-five churches in the Greater Dayton area. Twenty-one of those members hail from Westminster's congregation and/or pastoral staff.



Other churches include: Mt. Enon Baptist, St. Margaret's Episcopal, Corinthian Baptist, St. Annunciation Greek Orthodox, Christ Church United Methodist, Dorothy Lane American Baptist, First Baptist, St. Albert the Great, St. John's Lutheran, Sugar Creek Presbyterian, Sulphur Grove

United Methodist, and many more!

Church Women United is a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive Christian women's movement, celebrating unity in diversity, and working for a world of peace and justice. The Greater Dayton unit is part

of the national organization. The CWU Motto is "Agreed to Differ -- Resolved to Love -- United to Serve."

In these days of the COVID-19 pandemic, our local unit has been meeting via Zoom. Typically, we hold three Ecumenical Celebrations each year: World Community Day (November), May Friendship Day (May) and Human Rights Celebration (June). We also hold a Christmas Tea in early December; during that event we celebrate the pastoral staffs of each of our member churches. A fifth event is held in March – the Emma Murray Prayer Breakfast. Emma Murray, CWU president from 1977 – 1979 dreamed that the greater Dayton area would hold an area-wide prayer breakfast; indeed, that has happened every year since (except for March 2020, due to the pandemic).

Six board meetings are held by our local unit; Key Women from the member churches join together with the executive board to plan events; usually there is a speaker from one of the organizations that help those in need in Dayton. (Past speakers include representatives from Mercy Manor, The Foodbank, Inc., Homefull, Inc., Dayton Metro Library's Volunteer Director (regarding Children's Hunger Alliance, *etc.*). These board meetings are open to ALL members – not just officers and Key Women.

Mercy Manor was started by CWU in Dayton; for more information about this recovery house and its programs for homeless women, please visit: <https://mercymanor.wixsite.com/mercymanor>.

For more information about CWU in Greater Dayton, please visit the website at <https://www.cwudaytonoh.org/> or contact one of the two Co-Key Women: Jorja Gladden (jagladden59@gmail.com) or Martha Shields (martha.shields@earthlink.net).



Article submitted by Martha N. Shields, Co-Key Women for CWU at Westminster

“Expect to have hope rekindled. Expect your prayers to be answered in wondrous ways. The dry seasons in life do not last. The spring rains will come again. “

Sarah Ban Breathnach

Westminster Presbyterian Women Mission Projects

We are in different times and we are not meeting face to face. As a result, this is impacting the mission collections that are coming into our funds.

Please consider making a donation for any or all of the funds:

Amount

Dedicated Giving (given annually) _____

Goes directly to mission projects locally, nationally, and globally.
Ninety-seven percent of WPW income is used for mission. Mission is our mission.

Birthday Offering (collected at Spring Gathering) _____

Since 1922 Presbyterian Women have contributed more than \$36 million to help improve lives at home and around the world.

Thank Offering (collected at Fall Gathering) _____

Since 1988 Presbyterian Women have granted more than \$26 million to nearly 1700 different projects worldwide.

Number of School Kits @ \$10 per kit _____

We are in the process of building 130 school kits to be delivered to Church World Service (CWS). Through this project, CWS gives children in disaster areas, impoverished communities, and refugee camps the basic tools for learning. Because we purchased the supplies during the back-to-school sales, we can build and cover the processing fee for \$10 per kit. Fall collection.

Least coin (least coins from all over the world) _____

TOTAL _____

Name: _____

Please send a check made out to WPW to Martha L. Bell; 436 Brookside Drive, Dayton, OH 45406. OR, you may make your contributions online at westminsterdayton.org. Note that the donation is for WPW missions.

Coffee, Caring, and Crafts (CCC) Circle



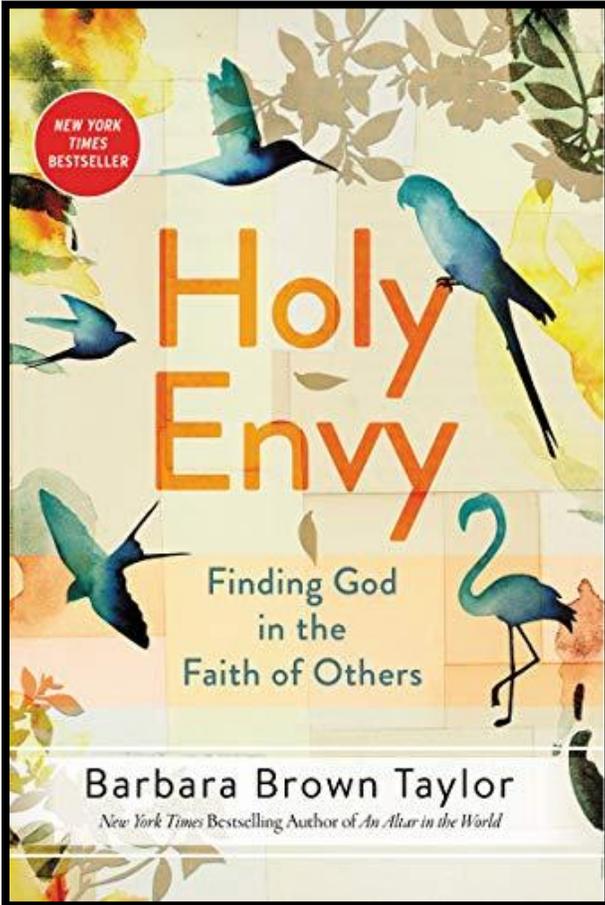
Coffee, Caring, and Crafts (CCC) Circle was busy in 2019 – 2020 and in 2020 – 2021 as they used donated materials to assemble kits for volunteers to sew. The result was a box of dresses that were shipped off in February 2021 to Little Dresses for Africa (L DFA) with headquarters near Detroit; these will be sent to girls in need in our world.

Founded in 2008 as a 501(c)3 organization, Little Dresses for Africa provides humanitarian relief to the most vulnerable of God's children: little girls. While the project started for African girls, the dresses have been sent to girls in need in 87 countries – with 47 of those being in Africa. They have also been sent in times of crisis to Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, The Dominican Republic, The Philippines, Cambodia, South Dakota, and the Appalachian Mountain regions in our hemisphere! In Africa, L DFA works alongside the people of each village to address their specific needs through water, education, and community. When packages arrive, not only are there dresses inside; there is HOPE!

Our CCC Circle made up kits by using the prescribed pattern instructions to cut the fabric; members often made their own matching double-fold bias-tape ready for stitching. They included elastic for the casings. Volunteers then signed up to take kits, sewed the seams, attached the straps, and hemmed the dresses. The finished dresses were sized and sent to Detroit with a donation towards the shipping costs from Detroit to their final destinations.

CCC is grateful to those Westminster women who gave generously of their time and sewing skills to make many of the little dresses! For more information, visit: [https://littledressesfor Africa.org](https://littledressesforAfrica.org)

More Circle News



Serendipity Circle

Serendipity Circle members are thoroughly enjoying our study of *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor. We had started our year with *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* by P. Lynn Miller, but we felt satisfied with what we gleaned from this study after just the first several lessons. Then Co-Leader Barbara Wilson gave us an overview of Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *Leaving Church*. We decided to read together her next book, *Holy Envy*. This book recounts Barbara Brown Taylor's moving discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching the world's religions to undergraduates in rural Georgia. It reveals how God delights in confounding our expectations. We have been meeting *via* Zoom since April 2020, and we are delighted to welcome new member, Cynthia Schindler! Serendipity Circle continues to support two missions: The Foodbank, Inc. and Friends of The Castle in Centerville.

Submitted by Martha Shields, Serendipity Co-Leader

Faith is belief in what you cannot see or prove or touch. Faith is walking face-first and full-speed into the dark. –Elizabeth Gilbert, author

Test your knowledge of important women to celebrate International Women's Day

Who She Is

1. Malala Yousazai
2. Helen Keller
3. Jane Goodall
4. Rachel Carson
5. Harriet Tubman
6. Maxine Hong Kingston
7. Dolores Huerta
8. Wangari Maathai
9. Anne Lamott
10. Kathleen Norris
11. Louisa May Alcott

What She Said

- a. "There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature."
- b. "We cannot tire or give up. We owe it to the present and future of all species to rise up and walk."
- c. "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched-they must be felt with the heart"
- d. "Simple, genuine goodness is the best capital to found the business of this life upon. It lasts when fame and money fail, and is the only riches we can take out of tt)is world with us."
- e. "When I was born, people in my village commiserated with my mother and nobody congratulated my father I was a girl in a land where rifles are fired in celebration of a son, while daughters are hidden away behind a curtain, their role in life simply to prepare food and give birth to children."
- f. "In a time of destruction, create something."
- g. "At its Greek root, 'to believe' simply means 'to give one's heart to:Thus, if we can determine what it is we give our heart to, then we will know what it is we believe."
- h. "Sometimes grace is a ribbon of mountain air that gets in through the cracks."
- i. °Cumulatively small decisions, choices, actions, make a very big difference."
- j. "Honor the hands that harvest your crops:'
- k. "Every dream begins with a dreamer."

Answers: 1.e, 2. C, 3. I, 4.a, 5.k, 6.f, 7.j, 8.b, 9.h, 10.g, 11.d

Presbyterian will be the first woman to serve as U.S. House Chaplain

Communication December 31, 2020

Retired Rear Admiral Margaret Grun Kibben's service includes top chaplain in both Navy, Marine Corps

by Mike Ferguson / Presbyterian News Service



Retired Rear Admiral Margaret Grun Kibben, a Presbyterian clergywoman, was named Thursday as the first woman to serve as U.S. House Chaplain.

LOUISVILLE — Retired Rear Admiral Margaret Grun Kibben, a Presbyterian who served as chief of chaplains in the U.S. Navy and chaplain of the U.S. Marine Corps, [was named Thursday by Speaker Nancy Pelosi](#) as Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives.

According to a news release from Pelosi's office, Kibben is the first woman to be named House Chaplain in the 231-year history of the position. She succeeds Father Pat Conroy, who is retiring.

Pelosi said Kibben's "integrity, experience and patriotism will serve the Congress and the country well as she ministers to the needs of Members."

Kibben entered active duty through the Navy's Theological Student Program. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from [Goucher College](#) in Towson, Maryland; Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from [Princeton Theological Seminary](#); and a Master's in

National Security and Strategic Studies from the [U.S. Naval War College](#) in Newport, Rhode Island.

In her final active duty assignment in the Navy, Kibben was the Navy's 26th Chief of Chaplains. Before that, she was the 18th Chaplain of the U.S. Marine Corps. She also served as the senior chaplain in Afghanistan.

Her assignments have included the [U.S. Naval Academy](#) and Fleet Chaplain of the [U.S. Third Fleet](#) as well as chaplain positions at Marine bases at Quantico, Virginia, and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Her personal awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (two awards), Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (three awards) and Navy Commendation Medal (three awards).

In 2018, [she addressed the 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\) on the day she celebrated her 35th anniversary as a Navy chaplain.](#)



In 2018, Rear Admiral Margaret Grun Kibben addressed the PC(USA)'s 223rd General Assembly. (Photo by Danny Bolin)

Military chaplains, she told commissioners that day, serve not only people from diverse religious traditions but also have many people in their charge who have no religious background. "Many men and women we deal with have never darkened the door of a church, a mosque or a synagogue," she said.

Nevertheless, Kibben said, chaplains are called to "care for each soul in our command and our service." She said chaplains have a unique opportunity to provide a listening ear to military personnel in need. "We have access to every space, every place and every office where people serve, and can come alongside them," Kibben said.

Chaplains, she said, are expected to provide spiritual nurture for people of all ranks, including senior leadership. In addition to serving as a "moral compass" for senior officers, chaplains, she said, are the only people in whom they can confide when they feel lonely or afraid.

Kibben told commissioners that when young people leave their congregations to serve in the military, they can count on chaplains to help with their spiritual needs. She encouraged those present to suggest military chaplaincy as a vocational option for people who believe they are called to ministry.

"If there is any dissonance there, forgive me, but think about it very deeply," she said. "Christ calls us to serve the people who need it most."

SPRING GATHERING

**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE
Westminster Presbyterian Women
VIRTUAL ANNUAL
SPRING GATHERING**

WHEN: Saturday, April 17, 2021

TIME: 10 - 11:30 am

**HOW: Zoom (pre-registration
needed)**

BYOB - Bring Your Own Breakfast

**Please join us for Devotions,
Fellowship, and Installation of
Officers.**

**We're honored to have our
very own SALLY DYER as our
speaker who will share
information about a new
program -**

**Pathways to Home
Ownership.**

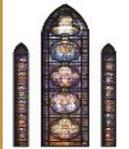
**Sign up at
<https://www.westminsterdayton.org>**

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Westminster Presbyterian Women

Yearbook
2020 — 2021



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**NOTE: Please call or email Jorja to discuss how
you can get involved in WPW!**
937-477-5662 or jagladden59@gmail.com