

# Westminster Presbyterian Women Newsletter

(WPW of Dayton, Ohio) Late Summer 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: Jennifer de Vries*



## Greetings!

Hello sisters in faith! I am currently (intermittently!) reading a really lovely book titled *The Next Right Thing: A Simple, Soulful Practice for Making Life Decisions* by Emily P. Freeman. Within the book description on Goodreads it states, “whether you’re in the midst of a major life transition or are weary of the low-grade anxiety that daily life can bring, Emily helps create space for your soul to breathe so you can live life with God at a gentle pace and discern your next right thing in love.” I don’t know about you, but I have surely been living with low-grade

anxiety as the world moves through the COVID-19 pandemic. It's so hard to know "the right thing" to do - "Can I travel? Should I? How do I do so safely?" "How do I feel about staying overnight or even just visiting indoors in a family member's home who isn't vaccinated, and they refuse to wear masks?" The fact that science is a living field of study with new information every day is amazing, but it's also confusing! I know that I was certainly hoping that with the roll out of the vaccine(s) that we were past the worst of things and that the world would open back up. I long to reconnect with friends and family, but spikes in infection rates are very troubling. I have gone back to wearing a mask in public places where I can't distance (like the grocery store). At my work (Dayton Children's Hospital), we never stopped requiring wearing masks even when many of us had been vaccinated and the requirement for a face shield in patient facing encounters has returned (it had been dropped briefly). My hospital is literally full - every day for the past several weeks when I log in to our electronic medical record system, I get a "HIGH CENSUS" warning - and we are having a surge in RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) infections. RSV is typically a "winter" infection, not a middle of the summer one. But we didn't have the big surge with "RSV season" last winter because much of the population was wearing masks and kids weren't together in schools. I'm glad schools are opening up again; it's crucial that children get the socialization as well as the education provided in those situations, but I'm still anxious for friends who work in the schools as well as the children themselves, praying that their administrations put in place measures to keep everyone safe. Where am I going with all of this?

**The Fall Gathering.** It's been weighing on my heart and spirit. In the spring, we on the WPW Coordinating Team thought it was a done deal that we'd be able to meet in person again for the Fall Gathering, and even have our traditional salad dinner. Oh, how we were looking forward to a "return to normal." But as the summer has progressed, and the Delta variant has reared its ugly head, I've spent hours trying to discern the next right thing to do. I've surveyed members of the Coordinating Team and I have prayed a lot about this. Ultimately, I think the right thing to do that keeps everyone safe and allows all to participate is to have the **Fall Gathering** on Zoom. I look forward to a wonderful Gathering and hope to see you all there (as little faces in boxes on my laptop screen!).

Jennifer de Vries

---

*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)*

**FAITH STEP:** *Write a list of ten things you're grateful for and put it on your fridge. Each time you open your fridge today, read the list aloud and thank Jesus.*

## Cynthia Schindler, WPW Global Missions Coordinator



I was born in Toledo during the bicentennial, year of the dragon, element of fire. Jimmy Carter became the 39<sup>th</sup> President of a country divided over the outcome of the Vietnam War. Sesame Street and Mister Rogers turned into The Great Space Coaster and eventually that was replaced with MTV, Michael Jackson, and Cyndi Lauper. My parents had little, but gave us everything, and I grew up thinking we were well-off when quite the opposite was true.

Our house in the Olde West End neighborhood of Toledo was frequently robbed and vandalized. I thought this was normal; this was just how people lived. Things were often stolen from our porch and garage – as simple as pots of flowers. My brother, then twelve, was mugged at knifepoint on his paper route. When my father got an offer from his company (Ohio Bell, which became AT&T, which became Lucent Technologies) to relocate to Dayton, he jumped on the possibility for a better life. We moved here when I was in fifth grade, living in a hotel for some of that time – five of us plus cat in one room at the Knight's Inn. It was the opposite of glamorous. And then we moved into a brand-new house! We each had our own room, a big backyard, and a safe neighborhood with nearby parks. While I was a very sullen and moody pre-teen at the time, I look back and count my blessings that we had this opportunity.

My parents always supported my music through piano lessons, miserably failed ballet lessons, and performances in musicals. I earned my first Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at Wright State University, fully intending to zip around the world singing my heart out. Then I was diagnosed with epilepsy right before graduation. Several years into my diagnosis, I became a candidate for a vagus nerve stimulator (VNS) for uncontrolled seizures. The VNS wires in my neck caused my vocal cords to flutter like I was speaking into a fan or as I called it, “my robot voice.” I thought I would never sing again. My meds were \$900 a month out-of-pocket, and I panicked. I found the first job with insurance I could – and ended up staying in the medical field for about a decade. I found I really enjoyed not only the people, but medical coding. It seemed to just come naturally. So...I went back to school, thinking I would do the pre-requisites for medical school. I got a second Bachelor of Science in Psychology, yet again with the best intentions.

And got my Master of Science in Engineering instead.

That's right: I am a woman engineer and I very much run this household with two spoiled little cats. Eventually, with the help of the VNS, I was able to taper down to one medication and get my seizures under control. Today, I am delighted to tell friends I work at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. There was a time that I very much resisted the idea of being in small-town Dayton and tried as hard as I possibly could to “escape.” I got married, moved to Missouri, and experienced divorce, which is a heartache I would not wish upon anyone. When I earned my engineering degree, I did quite the tour of the rust belt early in my career – Cincinnati,

Columbus, Detroit. And then I lost my father, the absolute role model and love of my life. While I was helping my mother during dad's illness, I found the Dayton community so supportive, so caring, that I could not help but notice the difference between here and other places I had lived. I packed up and came back, taking a job at a nonprofit before finding engineering work at the base. I have not felt so welcomed, so "at home," before coming home.

Westminster Presbyterian sits directly next to my father's old office building. It's a uniquely welcoming and comforting sign every Sunday. I have sung at Westminster since Spring 2018 and became a member in Fall 2020. Like others, I thought I might just sit back and enjoy the scenery but am now involved in several ministries at Westminster and absolutely love it. Through Westminster, I have met people who have helped me purchase my first home, mentored with experienced church elders, and refined my resume for stable employment. Our church has so much to offer to both members and the community. I am humbled and honored to be a small part of that by His love and grace.



**"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"  
(Philippians 4:13).**

## WPW Pecan Sale

# PECAN SALE



WPW's Annual **Pecan Sale** will be happening again this fall. These are new crop mammoth pecans, direct from the grower in Troy, Alabama.

Order forms will be available in September with an order deadline of October 18, 2021. Delivery dates will be in November in time for Thanksgiving baking and gift giving.

Order forms will be available each week in September and early October following church services and at the garden table. They will also be available on the church website.

Pecan options include pecan halves, pecan pieces, brown sugar/cinnamon spiced pecans and herbed pecans. Prices will remain the same as last year at \$13 per pound for halves and pieces and \$15 per pound for spiced pecans.

All profits go to WPW missions. Please help us make this fundraiser a success while enjoying delicious pecans. What easier way is there to do your Christmas gift giving for friends, relatives, neighbors, and staff than giving pecans.

For information, contact:

**Julie Drumheller**, 937/657-5581 or [jdrumheller@woh.rr.com](mailto:jdrumheller@woh.rr.com)

**Dominique Myers**, 937/367-8719 or [dbm54@woh.rr.com](mailto:dbm54@woh.rr.com)





## Church Women United in Greater Dayton: 2021 - 2022

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 300 members who are members of about 25 churches in the greater Dayton area. Each church has a Key Woman as the representative. About 22 members of Westminster have chosen to support CWU with their memberships.

Locally, CWU supports such organizations as Mercy Manor (<https://mercymanor.wixsite.com/mercymanor>), Dayton International Peace Museum, Good Neighbor House, Homefull, DayBreak, Greater Dayton Christian Connection, and more! We are the “pass-through” for Fellowship of the Least Coin, UNICEF, and other collections. We also support and encourage Church World Service projects; last year we donated 159 Hygiene Kits and 212 School Kits for a total of 371 kits. (In October, CWU members drove some of the kits to a depot in Indianapolis and the rest to a depot in Jackson, Ohio – including a group of 130 school kits that happened thanks to the major efforts of Dominique Myers! For more details about what these kits entail, please see the Summer 2020 WPW Newsletter.

There are five at-large gatherings scheduled for 2021 -2022: World Community Day (November 6 at 1:00 p.m.), Christmas Celebration Recognizing Church Staff (December 4 at 1:00), Emma Murray Prayer Breakfast (March 15 at 9:30), May Friendship Day (May 7 at 1:00), and Human Rights Celebration (June 6 at 1:00). All are free except for the Prayer Breakfast (\$10). The Key Women meet six additional times per year at the CWU Board meetings (fourth Tuesdays at 1:00) in August, September, October, February, April, and May. Each board meeting often features a speaker from one local mission. Although called “Board meetings,” these six gatherings are open to ALL who would like to attend, not just the officers and key women. NOTE: The National CWU has declared that there will be no face-to-face meetings of CWU nationwide through December 31, 2021; therefore, the above listed meetings during that timeframe will be held *via* Zoom.

Basic or support membership fees are just \$5 basic membership or \$20 supporting membership — 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 (below) or contact Westminster’s Key Woman.

**CWU Website:** Details about CWU may be found on the website: [www.cwudaytonoh.org](http://www.cwudaytonoh.org).

(Please stop by the Photo Gallery!) **CWU Newsletters:** Newsletters are mailed four times a year: July, October, February, and April. The newsletters are also posted in full color on the website.

<https://www.cwudaytonoh.org/newsletters.html>. **Questions:** Please contact WPW President Jennifer de Vries.

**NOTE:** The membership form says to mail the payment and form to your Key Woman; until one is named for Westminster, mail your form/payment to Jennifer de Vries, 241 Kingsley Park Dr., Dayton, OH 45429-2069.

## Meet Your WPW Coordinating Team (CT)

Immediate Past Moderator	Jorja Gladden
Moderator	Jennifer de Vries
Vice Moderator	Dominique Myers
Secretary	Mary McKinley
Treasurer	Martha Bell
Coordinator of Global Mission	Cynthia Schindler
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	Jean Bindeman / Jane Rininger
	Ann Barr /Donna Shell

### **Circle Leaders:**

Coffee, Caring, and Crafts Circle	Sheila Hookey / Julie Arnold
Evening Circle	<b>Position Open</b>
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	<b>Position Open</b>
Cookie Walk Chair	Dixie Bowsher
Come to the Table (new name/task)	Ruth Neely / Sandy Vining
Memorial Reception Team & Special Projects	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 2021-2022**

**August 31, 2021\*\***

**October 26, 2021**

**November 23, 2021**

**February 22, 2022**

**March 22, 2022**

**May 24, 2022**

**NOTE: All**

**WPW CT meetings**

**Will be on ZOOM at**

**6:30**

**\*\*The 8/31/21**

**meeting will be at**

**2:30**

# CHURCH WOMEN UNITED IN GREATER DAYTON

## Membership form for 2021—2022

Please turn this form in (with payment) to your church's Key Woman

Questions? Contact President Cecelia Long at cealong48@gmail.com or 937-972-7045.

Please Print:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Key Woman: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check/complete ONE of these three payment OPTIONS:

**BASIC DUES ONLY: \$5.00** \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: The BASIC dues option goes toward printing/mailling costs.)

**SUPPORTING DUES ONLY: \$20.00** \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Supporting dues option includes \$5.00 Basic dues  
and \$15.00 donation to our local CWU's ministry.)

**OTHER: \$5.00 + donation of** \_\_\_\_\_ **= total of** \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Your donation beyond the \$5.00 goes to our local CWU's ministry.)

### For CWU Officer Use Only:

Certified by Treasurer:

\_\_\_\_\_

Certified by Membership Chair:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Were you ever a CWU member in the past? \_\_\_\_\_

Were you a CWU member last year? \_\_\_\_\_



# *Fall Gathering*



Once again, unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the Fall Gathering will be held via ZOOM. **The Fall Gathering** will be September 22 from 7:00 – 8:30 so mark your calendars!! Richard and Anna will present the introduction to the Horizons Bible Study for 2021-22. This year, the Horizons Bible Study is: *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*.

Stay tuned to the church website for more information on the zoom **Fall Gathering**!!

---

## *2021 Presbyterian Women's Synod Gathering*

Please click on the following link to register for the 2021 PW Synod Gathering. The gathering this year is September 18; it will be held via Zoom from 9:00 – 11:30.

<https://synodofthecovenant.org/2021/07/21/2021-presbyterian-womens-synod-gathering/>

## ***Money Matters***

**Jennifer de Vries – Moderator – Westminster Presbyterian Women**

No, I'm not talking about the importance of money (though it is important to funding our mission activities) but I'm talking about money affairs or concerns. When I was younger, my parents gave me an allowance and at some age, my Mom let me be responsible for tracking it - x amount weekly - written in a notebook like a homemade savings account. I could buy things (LLBean clothing orders come to mind!) and I'd deduct what I spent out of my "funds." On occasion, Mom and I would talk "money matters" - check that the bookkeeping was accurate and up to date, etc. So, let's have a chat about WPW money matters. Firstly, all of us on the Coordinating Team are so grateful to all our members - you all were very generous last year in supporting WPW and our missions. especially to our special offerings like the Birthday Offering and the Thank Offering, and general circle and undesignated giving. We also had a fantastic response to Pecan sales and the Virtual Cookie Walk - THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! As we reviewed the numbers at our last Coordinating Team Meeting, we were puzzled by a few things, though. The Virtual Cookie Walk donations seemed like a "weird" number - \$3067.34. Yes, we were thrilled to get that much money to share with our neighbors experiencing hunger and/or food insecurity via the FoodBank - but - 34 cents? That seemed really random. Then an astute voice (thank you Julie Drumheller!) said - that's because of the credit card fees. Aha! Off to go information gathering I went. I chatted via email with Craig Showalter, and he shared the following: "The procedure for income to Westminster via credit card is that the associated fees get deducted from the total of the gift. The donor (that's you, dear reader) gets credit for the full amount, but the purpose being funded (that's the church) gets only the net amount. For each credit card transaction, the fees are 3.5% of the amount, plus 45 cents. This does not apply to ACH transactions from bank accounts. For those transactions, the purpose being funded (again, that's the church) gets the full amount of the income. What that says in down to earth terms - if you link your bank account via the online giving page (eservicepayments) the church gets 100% of the money. If you give via credit or debit card - there's a 3.5% fee plus a flat fee of 45 cents. For example, if you give \$100 via credit card, you get credit for giving \$100 for your taxes and for your pledge tracking, but the church only gets a little over \$96, something like \$96.05. It's not a huge difference but it adds up, as well as generating wonky numbers on a treasurer's report. Also, from Craig: We began accepting electronic gifts in 2002. At that time, the only transactions allowed were from bank accounts. We did not start taking credit cards until 2007. In this whole time, we have not experienced any instances of fraud with any of our transactions. So, IF you are comfortable linking your bank account (checking or savings) to the eservicepayments page for WPC, please do so, and delete that credit/debit card information. The church will then get ALL the money you intend for it to get, which means more money for mission and other essential work!

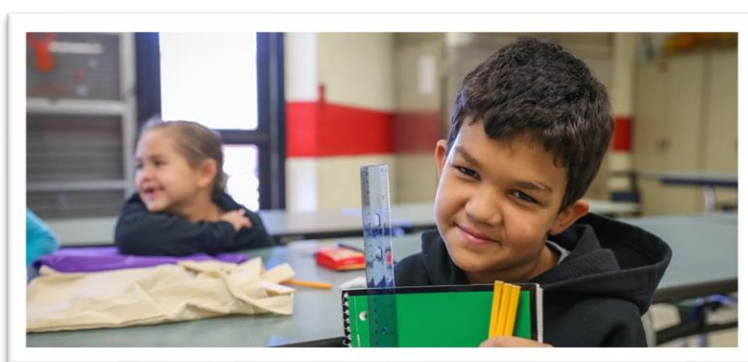
# WPW School Kit Project 2021

Looking for a mission project that reaches out to those in need near and far? This might be just what you're looking for. Westminster Presbyterian Women (WPW), ably assisted by the campers who participated in this year's Music, Art, Dance, and Drama (MADD) Camp, have built 150 school kits to be delivered to our local Church World Service (CWS) school kit collection point in September for distribution worldwide.



Through this

project, CWS gives children in disaster areas, impoverished communities, and refugee camps the basic tools for learning. School kits, each of which includes a pair of scissors, three 70-count bound notebooks, a 12" ruler, a hand-held pencil sharpener, a large eraser, six new, unsharpened pencils, and a box of 24 crayons, stored in a 12"X14" canvas bag, are the most requested items they provide.



Each kit is valued at \$15, plus CWS asks that a \$2 processing fee per kit be included to cover shipping costs. This fee helps offset the cost of renting space on trucks, boats and planes, paying for gas, insurance for each shipment and other delivery fees. However, because all supplies were bought during back-to-school sales, we built and will cover the processing fee for \$10 per kit. If you would like to sponsor one or more kits, please donate online through WPC's website or the send a check to WPC, marked "school Kits". Be assured each kit you sponsor will be most appreciated by the lucky child who receives it.

## Westminster Presbyterian Women Mission Projects

We are in different times and we are not meeting face to face. As a result this is affecting 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.**

