

Winter 2020

**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.

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# Westminster Presbyterian Women Newsletter (WPW of Dayton, Ohio)

## Moderator's Message ...

The Westminster Presbyterian Women 2019-2020 Program year is now half over. We look back to 2019 satisfied that we were able to accomplish many of our goals. We have had a very successful pecan sale that will help us fulfill our budgetary commitment to several local missions. We have had a very successful cookie walk that allowed us to provide additional funds to both the national Presbyterian Disaster Fund for tornado relief and to our local tornado relief efforts. And, we have made plans for another school supply project.



**Pat Torvik,  
WPW Moderator**

Our circles are deep in their various studies and mission projects. Many of us are finding the study of the Ten Commandments, "Love Carved in Stone" by Eugenia Anne Gamble, much more interesting and challenging than we expected. We all know the Ten Commandments and what they mean, right? Well, maybe not. If you are not in a circle and therefore, not so deep into this study, you might find interesting reading in the copy of the study in the library. Check it out.

Our next big event is our Spring Gathering on April 25 at 10 a.m. I was thinking of this event one day last week as I was catching up on my reading. As an avid gardener, I have enjoyed reading the Farmers' Almanac over the years. Even though I now live in a condo, the gardener in me still needs to be fed at times, so I picked up a copy of the Almanac. Much to my surprise, there was an article in there titled "The Mothers of Modern Government" celebrating 100 years of women's right to vote. It fit right in with my other recent reading as we will have Dianne Herman, from the Dayton League of Women Voters, talking about the Suffrage movement at the Spring Gathering. I ran into Dianne at a party over the holidays and she shared with me that the league has been overwhelmed with requests for this particular program this year. We will be fortunate to have her with us. Put this event on your calendar and remember the Spring Gathering is open to all men and women of the church. You might even want to bring a teenager or two.

### SAVE THE DATE: Spring Gathering!

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.— Fellowship Hall**

**RESERVE YOUR SEAT** before April 20 by contacting Martha

Bell: [junebug436@att.net](mailto:junebug436@att.net) or 937-277-6216. \$5.00—pay at the door

Speaker: Speakers Bureau Chairperson, Dianne Herman

"Let the Women Vote: The Long Quest for Suffrage"

(The League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area)

Other donation opportunities: Birthday Offering and Stuffed Animals



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**NOTE:** Please call or email Pat to discuss how you can get involved in WPW!  
937-643-2225 or [torvikpa@gmail.com](mailto:torvikpa@gmail.com)

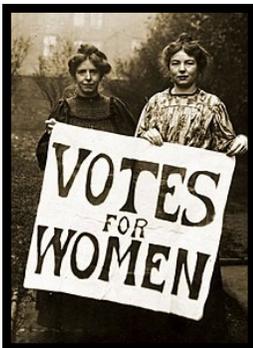
Peace and Social Justice

Local Mission

Global Mission

These three committees have been collaborating to focus WPW's attention on celebrating voting in this 100th year of U.S. women's suffrage.

Here are some ways to put your faith into action by supporting voting as a human right and as a Christian action.



Peace and Social Justice, Local and Global Mission  
(Submitted by Candy Powers and Elizabeth Herr)



*How do we take action?*

	<p><b>Put your <u>VOTE</u> to work -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get educated about issues and candidates.</li> <li>• Attend council meetings, call on representatives.</li> <li>• Run for office. Call on Representatives.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Put your <u>HANDS</u> to work -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handle details for causes that resonate with your discipleship: enter data, stuff envelopes, make food.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Put your <u>VOICE</u> to work -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use social media to highlight successful programs and to encourage others to support them.</li> <li>• Use social media to spread the word about where justice is lacking.</li> <li>• Write a letter to the editor about local concerns.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Put your <u>FEET</u> to work -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on voter registration and access to the polls for working people and the elderly. Drive a voter to the polls.</li> <li>• Knock on doors for a candidate who bears the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Gal. 5:22-23)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Put your <u>CREATIVITY</u> to work -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create, design a poster, write, or use media to promote voting, or a candidate, or a cause.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Put your <u>WALLET</u> to work -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donate to organizations that educate voters and promote voter registration and campaign finance reform. (e.g. League of Women Voters)</li> <li>• Donate to organizations that work to eradicate social ills, not just to ameliorate their effects.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Put your <u>MIND</u> to work -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer your special skills and knowledge to causes that resonate with your discipleship.</li> <li>• Open up your mind: ask someone who disagrees with you to explain their position. Only listen. Look for the feelings under the ideas and beliefs.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Put Your <u>SMILE</u> to work -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You are a word about The Word, before you ever say a word.</li> <li>• A loving welcome is the birthright of every human. Make your friendliness reliable for people who have been hurt.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Put your <u>HEART</u> to work -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before you try anything, after you've tried everything, and all along the way: praying for peace and justice is always time well spent.</li> </ul>

**How can you take action?**

**Use your gifts:**

- Vote
- Hands
- Voice
- Feet
- Creativity
- Wallet
- Mind
- Smile
- Heart

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**A very helpful website is that of the League of Women Voters:**

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

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**Voter Registration:**

- **The deadline to register to vote in Ohio’s spring Presidential primaries is February 18, 2020.**
- **The Spring Presidential primary and voting day is March 17, 2020.**

**How to make sure that you can vote in March:**

1. Go to [voteohio.gov](http://voteohio.gov), hit “Check My Voter Registration”; follow the prompts.
2. If your name appears as a registered voter, you are registered. Just show up at the polls on March 17, or you can vote early by mail or in person at an early voting center.
3. If your name doesn’t show up as a registered voter on the Secretary of State’s website, you need to register again. Click on “Register to Vote” and follow the instructions.

## Additional Notes:

- Several circles support Mercy Manor with monetary and/or wish-list items.
- Additional money is budgeted annually from the WPW funds.
- To view Mercy Manor's wish list, visit <https://mercymanor.wixsite.com/mercymanor/wish-list>.
- To join, or to learn more about Church Women United, visit the CWU website, <https://www.cwudaytonoh.org> or contact our CWU Key Woman, Jorja Gladden.
- Mercy Manor, 25 Grosvenor Ave., Dayton, OH 45417 937.268.0282 Fax: 937.268.0297 Email: [mercymanor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mercymanor@sbcglobal.net)
- Executive Director: Barbara Hudson-Banner Phone: 937.268.0282 or 937.554.2239

## Mercy Manor: Reshaping Lives!

(Submitted by Jane Shirley)

Judgement is without mercy to those who have shown no mercy, but mercy triumphs over judgement. (James 2:13)



Sister Jean Foppe had a dream: a spiritual, drug and alcohol-free living environment for women recovering from addiction, domestic violence, and incarceration that would provide support, social services, and addiction recovery assistance.

This dream became a reality in 1992, with leadership from Church Women United. The first iteration of Mercy Manor provided six-month residential programs for up to five women at a time. In 2001, Mercy Manor moved to its present location on Grosvenor Street, which is a larger facility, making it possible to house up to ten women at a time.

Since its inception, Mercy Manor has served hundreds of women in its residential program, and more have received services through Mercy Manor staff, community agencies, the religious community, and volunteers.

Today, Mercy Manor has changed from transitional housing to a recovery house for women. Length of stay is no longer limited to six months, but is determined by individual needs, individual progress, and willingness of the individual to abide by rules of the recovery program in collaboration with Mercy Manor's Executive Director and House Managers.

Individual goals are tailored to address development of the whole person, including physical, psychological, intellectual, spiritual, and interpersonal aspects.

Program components include peer-to-peer support, drug-free living support, spiritual growth experiences, short and long-term goal setting, employment guidance, medical and dental care, life skills training, group counseling, mentoring and role-modeling, financial management and budgeting assistance, and reconnecting with family when appropriate.

Success rates for women who have stuck with Mercy Manor's programs exceed success rates often seen in other programs:

- 50 - 65% obtain permanent housing within 6 months;
- 70% find employment while at Mercy Manor and remain employed;
- 50% implement an education plan within 4 years;
- 60% remain clean and sober.

**MERCY MANOR RECEIVED A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS FROM THE WPW COOKIE WALK.**



## Mission Project: The Castle and Friends of The Castle

Located on Main Street in Centerville, The Castle is a gathering place of trust and friendship which supports people with mental illness and disorders to achieve their highest level of competence and independence. The Vision includes dignity, health, and quality of life for people with mental illness and disorders through trust and friendship. The Castle is a vital part of the mental health delivery system in Montgomery County. As a social club, The Castle provides a place for peer support, a place to have fun while learning responsibility, accountability, and gaining some empowerment over leisure time; it is a compliment to other clinical services in the region.

Serendipity Circle has chosen The Castle to be one of their two mission projects. At Christmas time, the members gathered funds to go towards summer camper-ships; the previous year, the circle's contributions went toward art project materials. (Submitted by Martha Shields)

The  
Castle



The November meeting of the Sunshine Circle was held at the Dayton YWCA. Betsy Whitney, who has been active on the Y's Board of Directors, organized the tour of the newly renovated facilities. Marshall Weil, Director of



Left to right: Barbara Wiedlund, Julie Drumheller, Betsy Whitney, Joy Dawson, Jeanne McIver, Dixie Bowsher, Linda Lane, Sally Frost, Jean Bindeman, Janet Ryan, Gail Evans, Brenda Tims and Judy McCormick.



Development and Corporate Giving, led devotions and a tour of both the emergency housing for women and the apartments for rent. Earlier this year, WPW donated the money needed to purchase a washer and dryer for the use of those seeking emergency housing. Our Sunshine Circle also provides toiletries and other personal items for women sheltered there. (Submitted by Julie Drumheller)

**Follow-up:** On December 12, N. Wilkinson St. between W. First and W. Third Streets was approved by the City of Dayton Commission to be designated "Betsy B. Whitney Way" in honor of Betsy's being YWCA's longest-serving volunteer! More info: <https://www.mostmetro.com/the-featured-articles/ywca-honors-betsy-whitney.html>.

Sunshine  
Circle  
to YWCA

AND...

Betsy B.  
Whitney Way

## Results from the WPW Pecan Sale and the Cookie Walk!

Thank you to all who supported these two mission projects! Here are the results! The Pecan Sale netted over \$3500 and the Cookie Sale netted \$3300. At this time, \$1000 went to each of the following: Mercy Manor, Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund, and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The remaining funds will go toward the WPW budgeted mission projects.

Pecan Sale  
Results and  
Cookie Walk  
Results



Jane:

My college years and beyond became somewhat like the movie Forest Gump.

Alto soloist...

Choir director...

Elementary music teacher...

## Meet Jane Shirley, WPW Coordinator of Local Mission

I grew up in that part of Ohio known as the Toledo Strip: that strip of land that runs from the western end of Lake Erie to the Indiana state line and was once claimed by Michigan. (But that's another story.) Both of my parents were teachers... in the school I attended. Fortunately, I was a pretty good student, whereas my younger brother was famous for being the class clown. Both of us were in the school band, and we went on to further our musical careers. I went to Bowling Green State University where I earned my bachelor's degree in music education, and he became a Navy musician.

My college years and beyond became somewhat like the movie Forest Gump, in that a nobody began to rub elbows with famous people. As a member of the BGSU marching band, I helped cheer on Bernie Casey, a classmate who became a professional football player, noted artist, and nationally known actor. As a singer, I got to have dinner with Marian Anderson, world-famous contralto championed by Eleanor Roosevelt. Traveling with the Collegiate Chorale, I got to sing in Boston's Old North Church, and traveling with the BGSU Symphonic Band, I played a concert in Bay Village, Ohio. Band members were housed over night in homes of local band members. My friend and I were guests of Osteopathic physician, Dr. Richard Shepherd, brother of Dr. Sam Shepherd, who was much in the news back then, mistakenly accused of killing his wife. In the spring of 1960, a young senator visited the campus, and I was one of many students who shook hands with and heard a speech by John F. Kennedy.

After graduating, I got married to a Navy musician who had been stationed with my brother at the Navy Music School (which later became U. S. Music School shared by both the Navy and the Army). We moved to Great Lakes Naval Training Center In Illinois, where my first teaching job was in Grayslake, IL. That's when I first encountered a gifted French Horn player who grew up to be Cherie Paddock. Our daughter was born in Illinois, and we decided we should find a church. So we found First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, Illinois, where I was hired as alto soloist, and our daughter was baptized there. Shortly thereafter, we returned to Bowling Green, where I had teaching jobs and my husband earned his degree in music. Our son was born in Bowling Green and baptized at First Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green where I directed children's choirs and enjoyed UPW activities. For two summers, My husband and I directed Junior Music Camp at Camp Premauca, which was owned by the Maumee Presbytery, and later sold due to cost issues. My favorite teaching job during this time was with Bowling Green City Schools, where I taught elementary vocal music. An ornery fifth grade student I had grew up to be Scott Hamilton, Olympic gold medal figure skater.



Induction into Golden Falcon Society, Bowling Green State University



Jane with her daughter, Giovanna, and son, Rick.

## Meet Jane Shirley (continued from page 6)

In 1970, we moved to Huber Heights, Ohio, and became involved in Faith Presbyterian Church. Once again, I developed a children's choir that ultimately did an annual musical and sang at the Dorothy Love Home, the Dayton VA, and we were guests in some area churches. For five years, I was a member of the Miami Presbytery Worship and Arts Committee, and became involved with Kirkmont programs, acting as a counselor for Mary Arnette's junior music camp, and then directing the Presbytery's MADD camp.

Life changed when our daughter neared college age. I was hired onto the music staff of First Baptist Church of Dayton, where I ultimately spent 30 years. During this time, there was a divorce, and a new career path, and an empty nest. Daughter Giovanna went off to BGSU to study nursing, and son Rick became an Army musician and now is the dad of six fabulous children, a letter carrier, and Wichita's



Ann Mather and Jane when they were on a Mystery Dinner Train with Yudi Hance in Blissfield, Michigan

best bass player. For eleven years, I worked for Defense contractors as a technical librarian, then technical writer and editor, and ultimately a project manager. In midlife, I figured out what I wanted to do as a grown up, and completed a master's degree in mental health counseling, shortly thereafter earning my independent license. I still find fulfillment in this career 26 years later.



Jane with friends Ann Mather, Dixie Bowsher, Yudi Hance, and Kay Kelbbley at Maumee Bay State Park

In 2011, I found my way back home to the Presbyterians. My belief was that Westminster is a large enough church that I could just sit in the pew and be a sponge. Thanks to then-pastor Laurie Davis, this didn't happen. She recruited me for the Earth Stewardship Ministry Team. Joyce Ferguson invited me to Evening Circle where I have found a wonderful sisterhood. Then my friend Dixie and I volunteered to help in the kitchen, got involved in the Memorial Reception Team, joined a small group, and found lots more interesting things of which to partake. Westminster is a very special place with tons of wonderful people. It is good to be home.

Westminster has four circles: Coffee, Caring, and Crafts (CCC); Evening; Serendipity; and Sunshine. The focus for each includes:

- **CCC:** Crafts for charity (WISE Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and more)
- **Evening:** Horizons Bible Study with support for other charities.
- **Serendipity:** Horizons Bible Study; support for The Foodbank / The Castle.
- **Sunshine:** movies, books, meal socials, tours, Bible Studies; support YWCA.

Please consider joining a circle this year (**or start a new one!**)! Contact WPW President Pat Torvik at 937-643-2225 or email her at [torvikpa@gmail.com](mailto:torvikpa@gmail.com). Circle information is in the WPW Yearbook (2019-2020); contact Pat.

MV Presbytery  
Involvement...

Life  
changed ....

During this time,  
there was a  
divorce, and a  
new career path,  
and an empty  
nest.

In midlife,  
I figured out  
what I  
wanted  
to do as  
a grown up ....

It is good  
to be home!

WPW supports  
4 circles:

- Coffee,  
Caring,  
and Crafts
- Evening
- Serendipity
- Sunshine

# WPW Newsletter Winter 2020

## Westminster Presbyterian Church

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Dayton, OH 45402  
www.westminsterdayton.org

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## ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

### Consider adding one or more of these to your Spring 2020 To-Do List!



- Did you miss an issue of the WPW newsletter? Catch up on back issues at: <http://westminsterdayton.org/adults/presbyterian-women.html>.
- Include some scripture and inspirational books on your reading list!
- Explore joining a circle. (Call Pat Torvik at 937-643-2225 for help with this.)
- Ensure NOW that you are registered to vote and then VOTE at every opportunity!
- Offer your name as someone who'd like to serve on the WPW board or committee!
- Add one of the mission projects to your personal calendar and/or your financial contributions. (Contact Pat Torvik for info.)
- Join Church Women United SOON and attend an event. (Contact Jorja Gladden.)
- Make sure these dates are on your personal calendar:
  - Tues., Feb. 25 (5:30 p.m.): WPW Coordinating Team (CT) Meeting (West Parlor)  
(NOTE: All are welcome to attend CT Team meetings!)
  - Tues., Mar. 17 (9:30 a.m.): Church Women United Emma Murray Prayer Breakfast  
(Contact Jorja Gladden to make your \$10 reservation.)
  - Sat., Apr. 25 (10:00 a.m.): Spring Gathering (Fellowship Hall)
  - Tues., Apr. 28 (5:30 p.m.): WPW Coordinating Team Meeting (West Parlor)
  - Sat., May 9 (1:00 p.m.): Church Women United (CWU) May Friendship Celebration
  - Mon., Jun. 8 (1:00 p.m.): CWU Human Rights Celebration / Annual Meeting
  - Fri., July 17– Sat., July 18: PW Synod of the Covenant Gathering, First Presbyterian Church, Dearborn, MI
  - Aug. 5 — 8, 2021: Triennial PW Churchwide Gathering, St. Louis, MO