

# Westminster Presbyterian Women Newsletter

(WPW of Dayton, Ohio) Spring Issue - 2021

## Presbyterian Women's Purpose:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves:

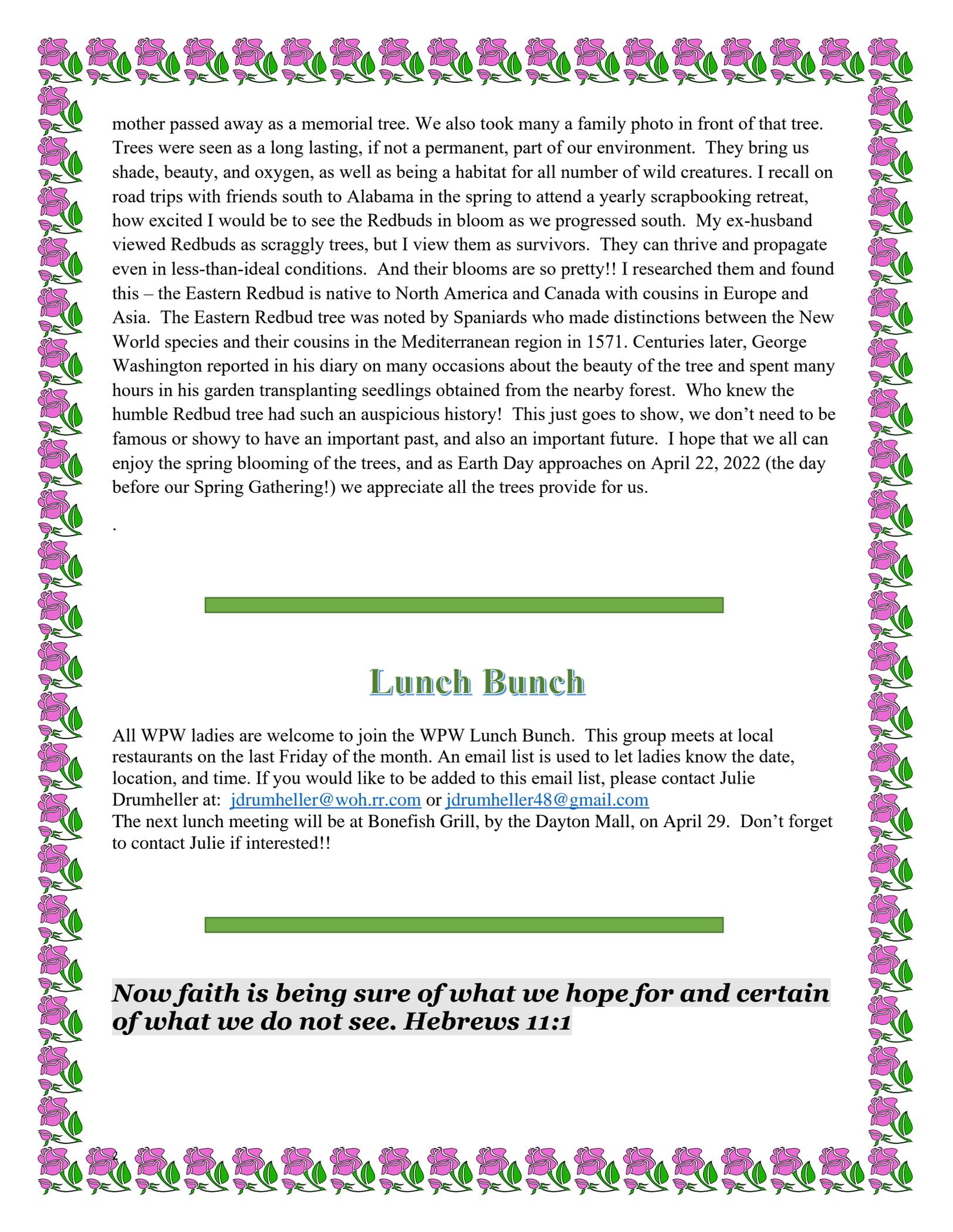
- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.
- WPW Newsletter - Volume 5 Issue 2
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- Westminster Presbyterian Women
- 125 N. Wilkinson Ave. Dayton, OH 45042
- Contact Editor: Pamela Helsinger (pamelae@woh.rr.com)

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## *A Message from the WPW Moderator: Jennifer de Vries*



My husband, Steve, and I have been reading together the church Lenten Devotional *For the Beauty of the Earth* by Leah D. Schade. Week 4 of Lent focuses on trees. The Devotion for the Fourth Wednesday of Lent asks us to ponder our family's attitudes towards trees and the natural world. When I was young, my parents planted a tree in the middle of our front yard. Often my parents would take photos of me and my middle brother (oldest brother having already left the house to start his own family) in front of that tree, documenting our growth as well as the growth of the tree. It was remarkable to me as a child to see how the tree outstripped our growth and quickly became taller than we were! My mother donated a tree to our family church when her



mother passed away as a memorial tree. We also took many a family photo in front of that tree. Trees were seen as a long lasting, if not a permanent, part of our environment. They bring us shade, beauty, and oxygen, as well as being a habitat for all number of wild creatures. I recall on road trips with friends south to Alabama in the spring to attend a yearly scrapbooking retreat, how excited I would be to see the Redbuds in bloom as we progressed south. My ex-husband viewed Redbuds as scraggly trees, but I view them as survivors. They can thrive and propagate even in less-than-ideal conditions. And their blooms are so pretty!! I researched them and found this – the Eastern Redbud is native to North America and Canada with cousins in Europe and Asia. The Eastern Redbud tree was noted by Spaniards who made distinctions between the New World species and their cousins in the Mediterranean region in 1571. Centuries later, George Washington reported in his diary on many occasions about the beauty of the tree and spent many hours in his garden transplanting seedlings obtained from the nearby forest. Who knew the humble Redbud tree had such an auspicious history! This just goes to show, we don't need to be famous or showy to have an important past, and also an important future. I hope that we all can enjoy the spring blooming of the trees, and as Earth Day approaches on April 22, 2022 (the day before our Spring Gathering!) we appreciate all the trees provide for us.

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## Lunch Bunch

All WPW ladies are welcome to join the WPW Lunch Bunch. This group meets at local restaurants on the last Friday of the month. An email list is used to let ladies know the date, location, and time. If you would like to be added to this email list, please contact Julie Drumheller at: [jdrumheller@woh.rr.com](mailto:jdrumheller@woh.rr.com) or [jdrumheller48@gmail.com](mailto:jdrumheller48@gmail.com)  
The next lunch meeting will be at Bonefish Grill, by the Dayton Mall, on April 29. Don't forget to contact Julie if interested!!

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***Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1***



## Memorial Service Receptions

Once again, WPW will be allowed to offer memorial receptions. These receptions, however, will occur in a somewhat scaled down version. We rely on volunteer help to make cookies and finger sandwiches as well as to help set up, serve, and clean up following the reception. If you would like to be added to the list of those we contact when a death occurs and a reception is scheduled, please contact Julie Drumheller at [jdrumheller@woh.rr.com](mailto:jdrumheller@woh.rr.com) . This is a vital service provided by WPW that is very much appreciated by the grieving families.

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## SPRING GATHERING

We are back in person for the Spring Gathering!!

Please join us Saturday, April 23, 2022, at 9 am.

This will be a hybrid event with a Zoom link for anyone who is still hesitant to meet in person (or those like Jennifer (ahem) who will be out of town but still want to attend) and there will also be an IN-PERSON option to join us in the Fellowship Hall. There will be light refreshments.

We look forward to presentations by Susan Gottschalk from Artemis Center (Artemis Center was one of the two recipients of our funds raised by the 2021 Virtual Cookie Walk) and our new Designated Pastor for Congregational Care, The Reverend Dr. Caitlin Deyerle; she has graciously accepted an invitation to share her call story with us.

The Birthday Offering will be accepted at the Spring Gathering. For more information on this offering, please see page 8 for WPW Mission Projects.

Please register in advance on the church website.

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## WPW School Kit Project 2022

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 participate in this year's Music, Art, Dance, and Drama (MADD) Camp, will build 200 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 item 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 will be bought during this summer's back-to-school sales, we expect to build and cover the processing fee for \$10 per kit. We would very much appreciate church-wide sponsorship and ask that you consider sponsoring one or more school kits this year. Sponsorship is easy, you can donate in person at the upcoming Spring Gathering, on-line through WPC's website or send a check to WPC, marked "school Kits". Please be assured that each kit you sponsor will be most appreciated by the lucky child who receives it.

Dominique Myers, School Kit Mission Project Leader

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## Wednesday Evening Circle

Evening Circle is still happily meeting via Zoom on the first Wednesday of the month. The beginning part of the meeting is socializing and business. Then, we do the Bible Study, "*What My Grandmothers Taught Me*" by Merryl Blair. When we finish this Bible Study (May), we'll discuss the plan going forward. Everyone is welcome; please let Susan Day or Kathleen Lauri-Lewis ([greymaster98@yahoo.com](mailto:greymaster98@yahoo.com)) know if you'd like to join us. We'd love to have you!



## LOCAL MISSION –

# Tornado's Survivor Pathway to Home Ownership **Update**

One of the many projects Westminster Presbyterian Women supports is the **Tornado's Survivor Pathway to Home Ownership**. As you know, on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 15+ tornadoes struck the Central OH area and a few tornadoes did catastrophic damage in the Dayton area. Five large apartment complexes, mostly located in Trotwood OH (population 30K) and Harrison Township (home to 22K) saw the destruction of more than 1500 units - many of them subsidized rental units. Finding affordable housing for those displaced families continues to be a huge problem, and some have had to move out of the area.

There is **Good News!** Concerning this project.

In 2021, Westminster Presbyterian Church/Westminster Presbyterian Women/Tornado Survivors Pathway to Home Ownership applied for a 2022 Thank Offering grant. The Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women selected our project for a grant of **\$13,000**. We are so truly grateful.

And, the first home is closing soon!! The first-time homeowner is a hard-working woman who is working full time and is currently in training classes.

This project **IS** making a difference in our Dayton community!

At any time, if you would like to donate to this worthwhile project, please do so online at Westminster's online giving site entering the name of the mission or mail a check made out to WPW with a designated mission on the comment line.

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

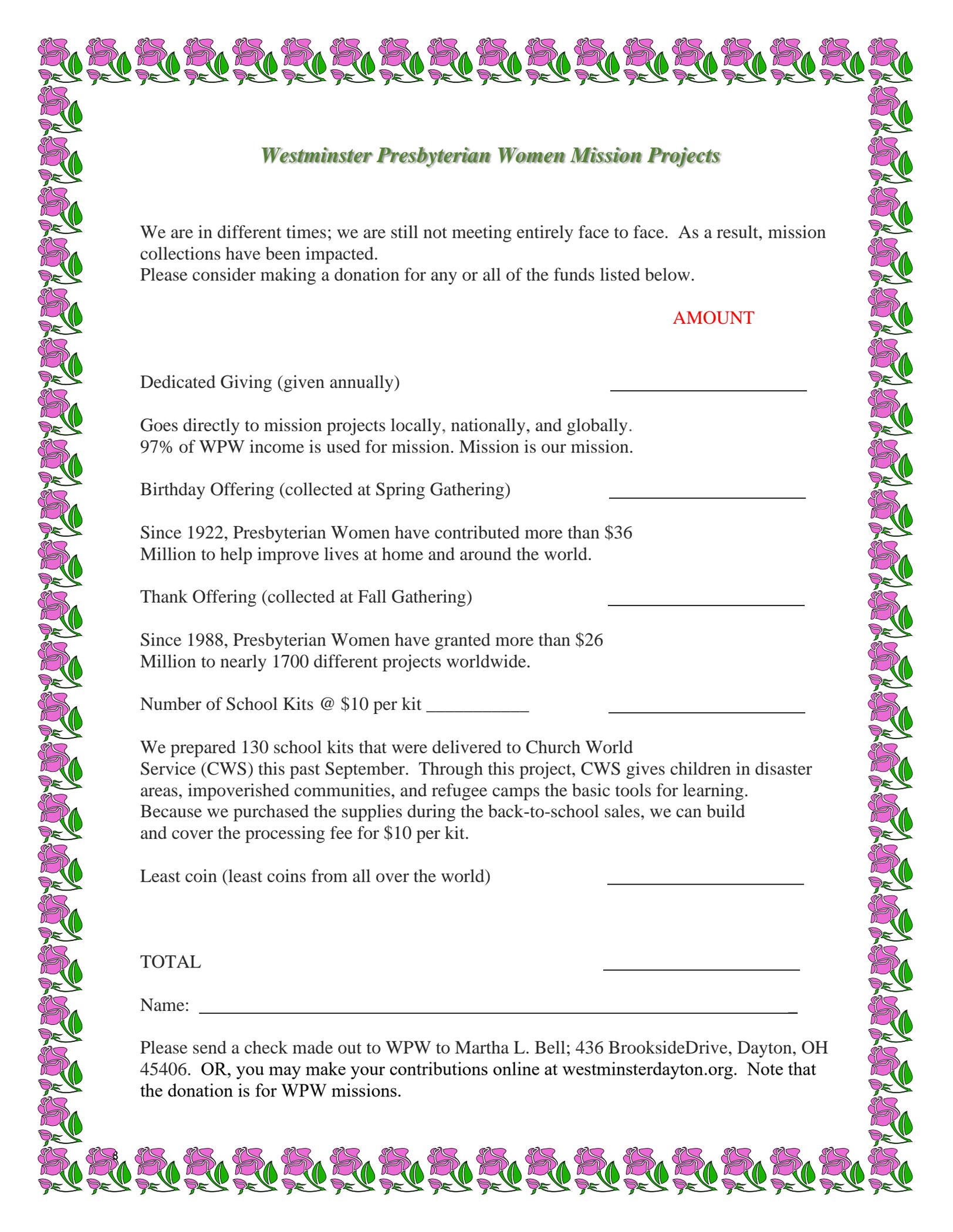
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## *Pecan Sale*



WPW appreciates the 100 + people that bought pecans for the mission fund raiser last fall. WPW sold over 600 pounds of pecans and made approximately \$3500 for local, national, and global mission projects. Please consider ordering again when the Presbyterian Women start their 2022 pecan sale in September.





## *Westminster Presbyterian Women Mission Projects*

We are in different times; we are still not meeting entirely face to face. As a result, mission collections have been impacted.

Please consider making a donation for any or all of the funds listed below.

**AMOUNT**

Dedicated Giving (given annually) \_\_\_\_\_

Goes directly to mission projects locally, nationally, and globally.  
97% 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 prepared 130 school kits that were delivered to Church World Service (CWS) this past September. 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.

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](http://westminsterdayton.org). Note that the donation is for WPW missions.



*Celebrating a Century of Giving and Receiving*

*Celebrando un siglo de dar y recibir*

나눔의 100년을 기념하며

## 2022 BIRTHDAY OFFERING

### **What exactly is the Birthday Offering?**

Presbyterian Women has two major offerings: the Thank Offering in the fall, coinciding with the timing of the Thanksgiving holiday, and The Birthday Offering during the spring celebration of our own renewal in Christ's resurrection.

The Birthday Offering funds **up to five projects each year, in amounts of \$75,000 to \$150,000 each.**

Primarily supporting capital improvement projects, the Birthday Offering helps fund domestic and international ministries. These important missions focus on areas such as agricultural development, childcare, community organization, criminal justice, drug counseling, economic justice, elderly care, employment training, homelessness, literacy, violence, or specific women's concerns.

Your gift to the Birthday Offering helps provide meaningful solutions in the areas of health, education, and economic development to at-risk women and children.



### **Qualifying for the Birthday Offering Grant**

Grant requests come from a variety of national and international sources, such as PC(USA) governing bodies, health agencies, overseas churches, ecumenical councils, community groups, educational institutions, and church-related groups. Due to the financial risk and benefit involved, qualifying for the Birthday Offering Grant is a rigorous process requiring organizational transparency. For projects less than three years old attempting to obtain a capital improvement grant, proving financial viability is just one of these challenges. Applicants must:

- have a clearly defined purpose that meets basic human needs. The purpose must be in accordance with mission goals and policies of the Presbyterian Church;
- indicate how the project will work with women, children, youth, young adults, persons of diverse races and/or ethnicities, and/or persons with disabilities, to enhance their quality of life;
- provide a form of aid that has been requested or identified to meet the needs of the people served; and
- ***be a project less than three years old or an existing project moving in a new direction.***

## 2022 Recipients

*Mission at the Eastward (MATE) \$80,000*  
*McCleary House Transitional Housing, Farmington, Maine*

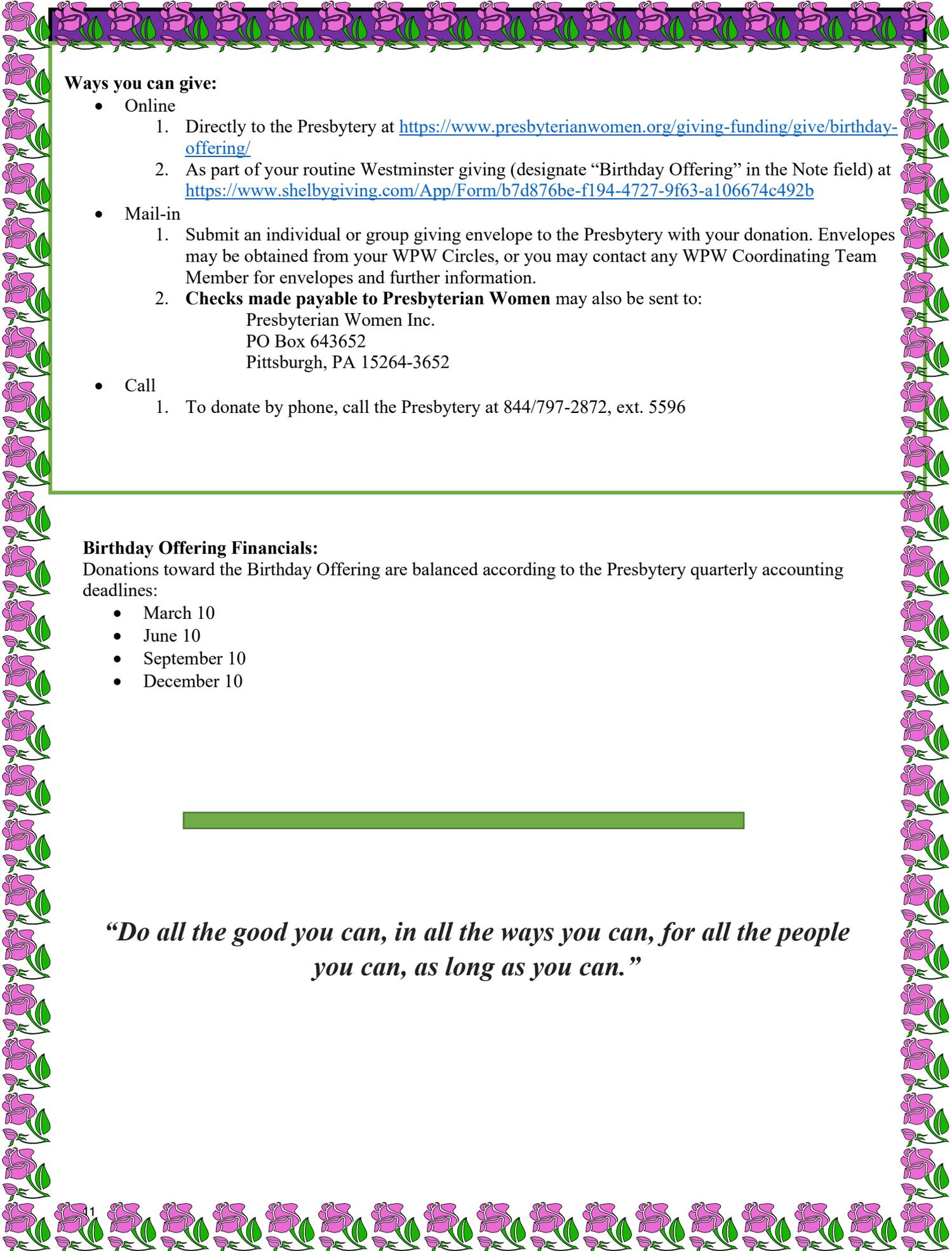
The Birthday Offering grant will help renovate McCleary House for people experiencing homelessness. Poverty has been increasing in Maine, with a growing number of vulnerable people losing their homes due to job loss, eviction, sickness or economic hardship—all complicated in the last years by the pandemic. This transitional home will provide a warm and healthy place to live for 3-4 families or 6-8 individuals over the course of the year, as most guests stay just a few months. The renovated home will provide a safe space for individuals to begin the psycho-social, educational and vocational work needed to move forward with their lives.



*Iglesia Presbiteriana de Lares, Puerto Rico \$105,000*  
*Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand, Lares, Puerto Rico*

Following Hurricane Maria in 2017 and the January 2020 earthquakes in Puerto Rico, the Presbyterian Church in Lares has become the go-to location in the community for food, purified water and personal items. With much of the population elderly and infirmed, they rely on the church for help with necessities. Because the church's kitchen is small, dated and not code compliant, upgrades are needed to continue providing this ministry. With funding from the Birthday Offering, all appliances, wiring, lighting and plumbing will be replaced and the facility will be made ADA accessible. Solar panels and a heavy-duty generator will be installed to provide uninterrupted electrical service and water availability.





**Ways you can give:**

- Online
  1. Directly to the Presbytery at <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding/give/birthday-offering/>
  2. As part of your routine Westminster giving (designate “Birthday Offering” in the Note field) at <https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/b7d876be-f194-4727-9f63-a106674c492b>
- Mail-in
  1. Submit an individual or group giving envelope to the Presbytery with your donation. Envelopes may be obtained from your WPW Circles, or you may contact any WPW Coordinating Team Member for envelopes and further information.
  2. **Checks made payable to Presbyterian Women** may also be sent to:  
Presbyterian Women Inc.  
PO Box 643652  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3652
- Call
  1. To donate by phone, call the Presbytery at 844/797-2872, ext. 5596

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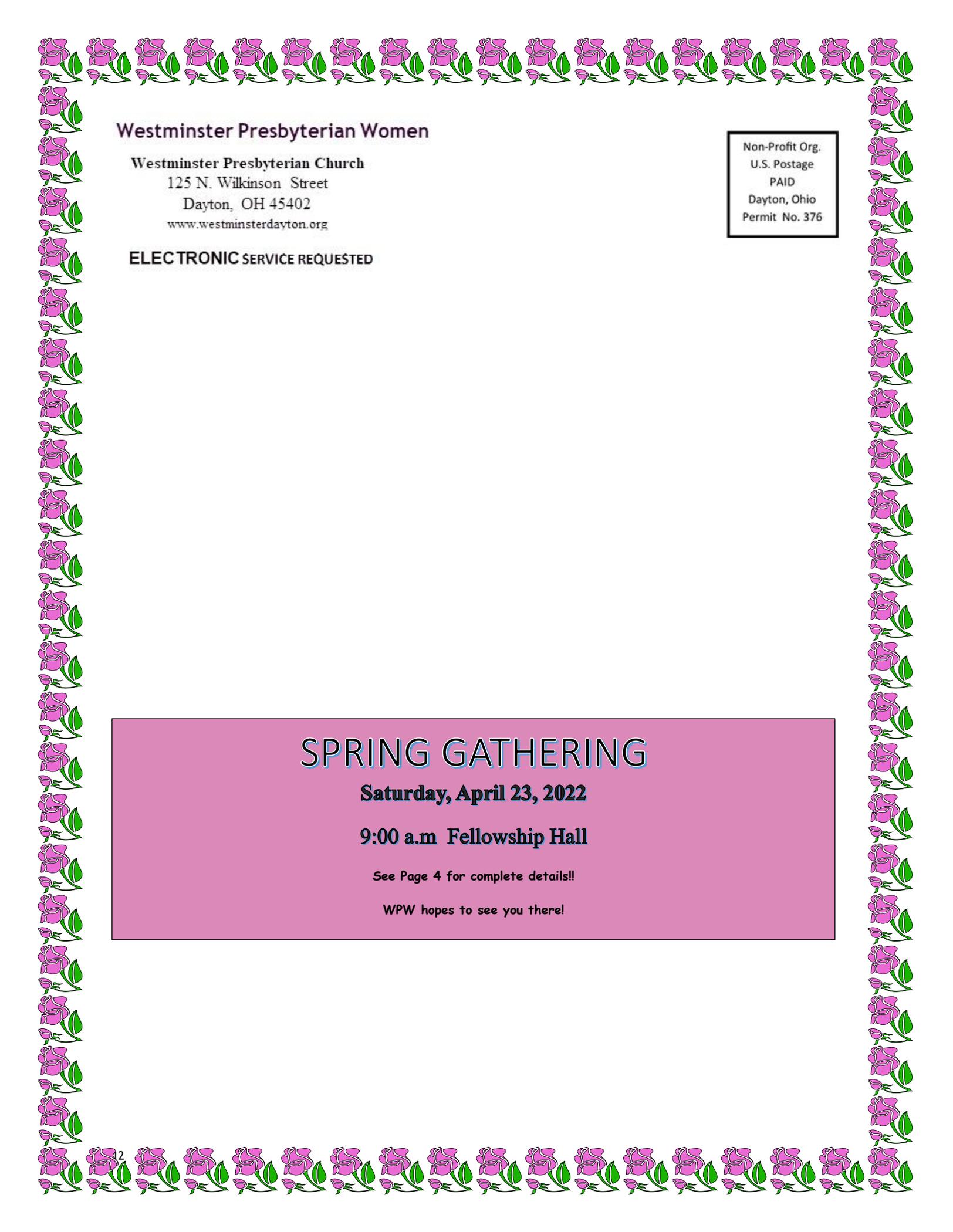
**Birthday Offering Financials:**

Donations toward the Birthday Offering are balanced according to the Presbytery quarterly accounting deadlines:

- March 10
- June 10
- September 10
- December 10

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*“Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, for all the people you can, as long as you can.”*



## Westminster Presbyterian Women

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
125 N. Wilkinson Street  
Dayton, OH 45402  
[www.westminsterdayton.org](http://www.westminsterdayton.org)

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**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

# SPRING GATHERING

**Saturday, April 23, 2022**

**9:00 a.m Fellowship Hall**

*See Page 4 for complete details!!*

**WPW hopes to see you there!**