

Westminster Presbyterian Women Newsletter

(WPW of Dayton, Ohio) Fall 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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- 125 N. Wilkinson Ave. Dayton, OH 45042
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A Message from the WPW Moderator: Jennifer de Vries



As I was learning more about Artemis Center, one of the two recipients for the virtual cookie walk proceeds this year, I was educated about the hidden epidemic of domestic violence and the increase in violence during the pandemic.

From forbes.com

- Globally, even before the COVID-19 pandemic began, 1 in 3 women experienced physical or sexual violence mostly by an intimate partner

- Emerging data shows an increase in calls to domestic violence helplines in many countries since the outbreak of COVID-19.
- Sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women continue to occur on streets, in public spaces and online.
- Survivors have limited information and awareness about available services and limited access to support services.
- In some countries, resources and efforts have been diverted from violence against women response to immediate COVID-19 relief.

Extra stress in the COVID-19 pandemic caused by income loss, and lack of ability to pay for housing and food has exacerbated the often-silent epidemic of intimate partner violence, suggests a University of California, Davis, study published in February 2021.

“The pandemic, like other kinds of disasters, exacerbates the social and livelihood stresses and circumstances that we know lead to intimate partner violence,” Clare Cannon, the lead author of the study, said. She explained that increased social isolation during COVID-19 has created an environment where victims and aggressors, or potential aggressors in a relationship, cannot easily separate themselves from each other. The extra stress also can cause mental health issues, increasing individuals’ perceived stress and reactions to stress through violence and other means.

“Compounding these stressors, those fleeing abuse may not have a place to get away from abusive partners,” Cannon said.

Growing evidence shows the pandemic has made intimate partner violence more common—and often more severe. “COVID doesn’t make an abuser,” says Jacky Mulveen, project manager of Women’s Empowerment and Recovery Educators (WE:ARE), an advocacy and support group in Birmingham, England. “But COVID exacerbates it. It gives them more tools, more chances to control you. The abuser says, ‘You can’t go out; you’re not going anywhere,’ and the government also is saying, ‘You have to stay in.’ ”

The Covid-19 pandemic has put a spotlight on numerous ongoing public health crises, including violence within the home. As state mandates relax and people begin to live a new version of normal, clinicians, public health officials, and policymakers cannot stop addressing the layers of social inequities in our communities and the ways in which they affect people’s access to care. The pandemic has highlighted how much work needs to be done to ensure that people who experience abuse can continue to obtain access to support, refuge, and medical care when another public health disaster hits.

We are fortunate to have a resource like **Artemis Center** in our community. Since 1985, Artemis Center has made great strides in the community, helping more than 100,000 victims and their children through crisis intervention, safety planning, information and referrals, legal information, court accompaniment, emotional support, support groups, and assistance with getting Protection Orders and applying for Crime Victim Compensation. The name, “Artemis Center,” comes from Artemis the Greek goddess. She is known as the goddess of light and protector of the vulnerable.

In 2020, 4,512 hotline crisis calls were taken by Artemis Center advocates and 5,921 survivors of domestic violence and their children were provided life-saving services by Artemis Center. Please join us in supporting Artemis Center and the Tornado Survivor’s Pathway to Homeownership by participating in the virtual cookie walk fundraiser this year.

Moderator's Message continued :

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/lakenbrooks/2021/10/13/domestic-violence-has-increased-during-covid-19-heres-how-to-create-a-quarantine-friendly-safety-plan/?sh=382ab4c72b76>

<https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/covid-19-isolation-linked-increased-domestic-violence-researchers-suggest>

<https://time.com/5928539/domestic-violence-covid-19/>

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2024046>

Woman Wisdom

Instructions for Loving, Living, and Giving

Proverbs 8:32-35

And now, my children, listen to me:
happy are those who keep my ways.

Hear instruction and be wise,
and do not neglect it.

Happy is the one who listens to me,
watching daily at my gates,
waiting beside my doors.

For whoever finds me finds life
and obtains favor from the Lord.

In these verses from the book of Proverbs, we encounter wisdom personified as a woman who was active in creation and continues to instruct, guide, and proclaim God's activity in the world. Much like a street preacher, Woman Wisdom cries out at the city gates and in the doorways of homes, teaching us that righteousness and faithfulness is a treasure to be sought. As she might say, being right with God and our neighbor is an important part of the way of wisdom. Woman Wisdom ends this lesson by declaring the joys of those who find her, saying that those who find her, find life and favor from the Lord. May we all seek and find wisdom in all her forms and at all her gates.

May the Wisdom of the Holy One and the lived examples of women who have come before, lead you with a renewed spirit. May you journey into this broken and hurting world with the full assurance that by listening, watching, and waiting, you will find life. And may the Wisdom, Power, and Grace of God be upon you now and through all your days. Amen.

Horizons, Summer 2021, excerpts from pages 24-25

Church Women United - Key Woman position is open

Are you looking for a way to serve Westminster Presbyterian Women and are interested in connecting with other local women of faith? Look no further! The WPW position of Key Woman to Church Women United of Dayton is open and you'd be the perfect person to fill it. The biggest duties of the year are done - collecting membership forms and payments from folks and turning them in to the local CWU treasurer. The remaining duties are acting as a Liaison between CWU and WPW - attending CWU gatherings and sharing information back to the WPW Coordinating Team and the Circle Leaders so that information can be disseminated.

The Key Woman is appointed by her local church/organization to serve as its representative to Church Women United in Greater Dayton. Duties shall include:

1. Serve as liaison between her church/organization and Church Women United in Greater Dayton;
2. Serve as an active member of the Church Women United Board;
3. Secure and give to the CWU Treasurer the organizational membership (a minimum of \$25) of her local church/ organization annually;
4. Secure individual memberships from her church/organization and give the names and contact information to the CWU Treasurer.
5. Promote the participation of her church/organization in the programs of Church Women United through a variety of available media;
6. Serve as liaison to secure meal reservations from her church/organization and report them to the CWU Reservations Committee;
7. Maintain contact with the Denominational Secretary and advise her when unable to serve as Key Woman.

Church Women United (CWU) is a national ecumenical Christian women's movement representing Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian women.

Church Women United's mission is to be a racially, culturally and theologically inclusive Christian women's movement celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice, specifically for women and children. CWU strives to provide for its' members resources and information on a wide range of social justice issues, opportunities for worship and action, and an expansive network of women and women's organizations working to ensure a better world for all.

Church Women United holds four annual worship celebrations: World Day of Prayer, Human Rights Day, May Friendship Day, and World Community Day. These ecumenical worship celebrations are the centerpiece of CWU's ecumenical life and spiritual thrust. Each is celebrated around an annual theme, written by CWU members. The celebrations energize and mobilize the movement and enable Christian friendship and spiritual growth.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact the former CWU Key Woman for Westminster, Martha Shields at martha.shields@earthlink.net



LOCAL MISSION –

Tornado's Survivor Pathway to Home Ownership

One of the many projects Westminster Presbyterian Women supports is the **Tornado's Survivor Pathway to Home Ownership**. As you know on May 27th, 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 had to move out of the area.

To help with this mission, Sally Dyer member of Westminster, is our contact person and involved for many years in Presbyterian Disaster Assistance participates in making this mission work. The Tornado's Survivor Pathway to Home Ownership project works in conjunction with faith-based volunteer groups and local non-profits focused on affordable housing.

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate existing properties with good bones or build new homes and price them in line with the other homes in the neighborhood. The homes are sold to applicants who are verified tornado-impacted renters who are also mortgage ready determined by the MVLTRG – Miami Valley Long Term Recovery Operations Group.

As of August 2021, 31 applications have been received by the Homeownership Center. Of those, 27 are African American and 25 represent female heads of household. Twenty-two have children and several applicants are disabled. Most of them are spending between 36-40% of their income on rent. Five applicants have met the threshold of being mortgage ready and have selected homes by putting down a deposit. The first approved applicant is a single woman, an African American veteran who will be the first in her family (8 siblings and mother) to be a homeowner. Applications continue to be made to the Pathways project every month by survivors.

Pathway Project planned sites

Homes will be built or rehabbed in an initiative to provide tornado survivors previously renting with the ability to become homeowners.



- A.** 4189 Saylor St., Harrison Twp.
- B.** 4658 Marlin Ave., Trotwood
- C.** 4646 Marlin Ave., Trotwood
- D.** 56 Strader Drive, Trotwood

- E.** 171 Baltimore St., Dayton
- F.** 4125 Natchez Ave., Trotwood
- G.** 104 W. Worley Ave., Trotwood
- H.** 4080 Fleetwood Drive, Harrison Twp.

Source: Miami Valley Long-Term Recovery Operations Group

After the applicant is approved by the Pathways to Home ownership and purchases the home. The money from each sold home goes back into the pipeline so that the next home can be built or rehabbed by volunteer teams and non-profit groups.

This project is reaching its goals, and work is already underway on 6 homes.

The Tornado's Survivor Pathway to Home Ownership project is a solution that works with other organizations addressing systematic poverty and structural racism that has created barriers to home ownership. Home ownership is the first step to secure housing, which becomes a secure investment. Home ownership can be an investment for future generations, while also contributing to wellbeing and overall health. Home ownership is life changing.

Donations to the Cookie Walk will be going to Tornado Survivor's Pathway to Home Ownership and Artemis Center.

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

Wednesday Evening Circle

Evening Circle meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7PM via Zoom. Anyone interested in joining this circle, please let Susan Day or Kathleen Lauri-Lewis know in person or at greymaster98@yahoo.com. Due to continuing concerns about Covid, the Circle decided at the last meeting that they would not be doing the typical December dinner get together but continue with the Zoom meeting. The group is currently discussing the Presbyterian Women's **Horizon's** Bible Study, *What My Grandmothers Taught Me* by Meryll Blair. In December, the Circle will work on lesson four about "Ruth and Redemption." New members are encouraged to join!!

COOKIE WALK – 2021 VERSION



Cookie Walk 2.0: Due to ongoing pandemic concerns, the 2021 WPW Cookie Walk will, once again, be held via a fundraiser this year. Dixie Bowsher, a dedicated WPW member and Cookie Walk “expert” has provided us with a walk down memory lane since the Church cannot walk the aisles for the Cookie Walk again this year.

“Greetings, Cookie Walk fans. I feel like I have been working on the Cookie Walk for ages. I know I worked for this fundraiser in 2014 but I cannot recall if that was my first Cookie Walk event. The only good thing about being 87 is that I can blame things on OLD AGE!! The cookie Walk has been a great project for me – I bake lots of cookies for this fundraiser but, the day before the actual walk is special. The volunteers separate all the cookies into “nuts” and “no nuts” and from there, the cookies are plated so that after the morning service everyone may go down the aisles in the Fellowship Hall and choose the cookies they want. The cookies are then weighed and paid for by the pound. Cakes, pies, candies, and other wonderful, sweet treats are also available. Some of these items are bid on and that brings in more money. Some cakes and pies have sold for more than \$30.00!!

The best part of Cookie Walk, though, is that the proceeds go to benefit organizations such as PCUSA Hunger Fund, The Castle, Artemis Center, The Food Bank and other worthy causes. I have missed being able to do the work involved with this mission. And, unfortunately, we will be unable to host the Cookie Walk again this year due to COVID but I pray that next year will be better.

. Also, even though we will not have the cookies again this year, I ask that you consider a

donation. Last year, approximately \$3000 was donated. All of the money goes to very worthy causes. This year, the money raised from the Cookie Walk 2.0 will go to the Tornado's Survivors Pathway to Home Ownership and the Artemis Center. These organizations have been described in this newsletter if you need more information about their purposes. The Westminster congregation has always been wonderfully supportive. We appreciate your continued support. Thank you all, Dixie Bowsher"

We hope that you will prayerfully consider what you might be able to donate and mail your check to Westminster (or donate via the online giving page!) - with the notation "WPW Cookie Walk". God Bless You! You have been wonderful in the past and we hope that you will continue your generous support of this wonderful project.

I believe that appreciation is a holy thing, that when we look for what's best in the person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does; so in appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something truly sacred.—Mister Rogers

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! Psalm 107:1

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 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. Note that the donation is for WPW missions.

Pecan Sale



Once again, the WPW had to improvise on its' annual Pecan Sale due to Covid-19 restrictions. So, in case you missed ordering pecans or need additional pecans, extra are available in each of the following types: packaged in 1 pound bags – mammoth halves (\$13), medium pieces (\$13), brown sugar/cinnamon spiced halves (\$15) and herb spiced halves (\$15). Please contact Julie Drumheller at 937/657-5581 or jdrumheller@woh.rr.com to purchase any of the remaining pecans.

As always, WPW appreciates the support of the congregation for this fundraiser!!

SAVE THE DATE



Spring Gathering – April 23, 2022



Westminster Presbyterian Women

Westminster Presbyterian Church

125 N. Wilkinson Street

Dayton, OH 45402

www.westminsterdayton.org

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