

Westminster Presbyterian Women Newsletter

(WPW of Dayton, Ohio) Volume 4: Issue 1 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: Jorja Gladden



Best-laid plans. Be careful what you wish for. Don't challenge worse. Time flies.

I'm sure most, if not all, of you have heard these sayings. How many of us had big vacation plans for this year? How many wished things would just slow down and wish you had more time at home to get things done? Did any of you say things can't possibly get any worse? I don't know about you, but I cannot believe it is back-to-school time 'already'!

There is no doubt 2020 will definitely be one for the record (and history) books and there's still more records and history to be made. What will be said about us – our church, our mission, our groups, the WPW? In light of Covid-19, civil unrest, unemployment, death, divisiveness, political unrest, and on and on, are we doing enough? Have I done enough? What's enough?

So far there have been a lot of questions. Unfortunately, I have no answers. What I do know is that things have not stopped just because we are quarantined, social distancing, working from home, retired, unemployed, whatever your current status is. If anything – we are needed more than ever. Needed to be the voice of reason, to provide hope, show faith, be compassionate, lend a hand, show empathy, shine a light. The church goes on, albeit, differently. WPC is now having virtual worship services, virtual prayer groups, and virtual meetings.

With fall looming, plans are being made for the church's 'new year'. That includes WPW. We are not throwing up our hands and giving up – too many are relying on us. On June 30, members of the incoming and outgoing Coordinating Team met and put together a calendar for the year not having any idea whether we'd be able to meet in person or only via Zoom. I'm happy to say we are moving forward with a schedule that looks a lot like our past schedules – several CT meetings, 2 gatherings, and 2 fundraisers. Everything is going to be done differently and look different but the mission is the same...to provide unique opportunities for fellowship, study, leadership, and service. We hope you will join us in our endeavors – even (especially) if you've never participated in WPW before.

WPW goes digital! Whether it's because it's 2020 or because we're in the middle of a pandemic or to save resources/time/money (whichever reason you'd prefer or all of the above), you will be receiving these newsletters, the yearbook, calendar updates, etc., via email and as much as possible they will also be found on the church website. This will also allow us to more frequently keep things updated and current. If you know someone who doesn't have email who would need a printed version, please let me or Pam Helsing know and we'll try to accommodate. And, the WPW Facebook page has been revived and is being updated regularly. If you're on Facebook and haven't yet 'liked' and 'followed' our page, please check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/WestminsterPresbyterianWomen/>.

We're excited, during these times, to be pushing forward our Peace and Social Justice efforts with a special speaker/presentation at the Adult Education Class on Sunday, August 30 from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm via Zoom. Dianne Herman from the The Greater Dayton League of Women Voters will be presenting ***Let Women Vote: The Long Quest for Suffrage***. Please watch for more information on how to join in on this presentation and conversation so critical during this election year.

Our next Coordinating Team meeting will be Tuesday, August 25 at 5:30 pm via Zoom. All are invited to attend. Watch for sign-in information, agenda, etc. We'd love to "see" some new faces!

It is my hope many of you are planning to do the Horizon Bible Study, ***Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*** by: **P. Lynn Miller**. "In this nine-lesson study, Lynn Miller revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world. One of the foundational points of the study is that, in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that doesn't fix things in the moment—the injustice, the loss still exists—the lamenter is strengthened to face the world and to hope. And for us as Christians, hope is not just an emotional response or an attitude of pie in the sky. Hope implies movement: both God's inherent movement toward justice and our movement toward God. Recovering lament may be one of the church's most timely gifts to the world." Could there be a more perfect study or reason to come together right now? As we have done in the past, Richard will give us an intro into the study at our Fall Gathering (yes, there will be one) on Wednesday, September 23 via Zoom. Watch for more information. Studies are starting in September so if you're interested, let me or a Circle leader know. If we get enough interest (and a leader), maybe we could add a time or two for a study outside of a circle. Any volunteers to lead a Bible Study? There's also information on the Presbyterian Women website at <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/bible-study/into-the-light/>.

Before we know it, our kitchens will have the aroma of holiday baking. That has to mean it's time for our Pecan Sale. See more information on that in this newsletter. We need this fundraiser to really get us going this year so please spread the word that we'll be having this sale and watch for information on how to order and pick up.

Like WPW, Church Women United (CWU) is moving forward on their plans for the year and they need us more than ever, too. I've known about CWU for many, many years, but never really quite understood how important they were until I actually joined and became more active. What a blessing to be among so many women of different faiths, denominations, races, etc., all coming and working together for the same purpose. Please consider joining and making a donation, if possible.

This newsletter is filled with other great information and news. It is my hope you find it informative and will check the website and facebook often for updates. If you have any questions, concerns, ideas, etc., please feel free to reach out to me, Jennifer or Pam. We're all here to serve you.

Wishing you all good health – physically, mentally, and spiritually!

Your WPW Moderator,

Jorja Gladden



Vice - Moderator's Message

Jennifer de Vries has a long history with Presbyterian Women. Her mother, Berendina de Vries, was a long standing active member of her Presbyterian Women's circle at her home church in Kent, Ohio, which is the church where Jennifer was baptized and confirmed and ordained as an elder.

Jennifer graduated with an MD from NEOMED (formerly NEOUCOM) in 1991 and did her residency in Anesthesiology at The Cleveland Clinic Foundation with additional training in pediatric anesthesiology at Akron Children's Hospital.

She then moved to New Jersey where she joined Wyoming Presbyterian Church and was active in the choir and was ordained as a Deacon.

Jennifer moved to Dayton in 1999 to accept a position at Dayton Children's Hospital as a Pediatric Anesthesiologist, and joined Westminster Presbyterian Church that Fall. She has been here for over 21 years. Jennifer became active in WPW after being invited by her sister-in-law Jeannie de Vries when Jeannie and Jennifer's brother Wietze, were members of Westminster Presbyterian Church in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Jennifer was active in Evening Circle for several years, even having the "Ladies of the Evening Circle" be her honorary bridesmaids at her wedding in 2003. The marriage didn't last, but the friendships did!

After her divorce, she married her current (and hopefully final!) husband, Steve Molton, in 2018, and got back into Evening Circle. Steve is a retired police officer who is currently a dispatcher for the campus police department at Wittenberg University. She has two adult stepsons, Sam and Jacob. Sam is a corrections officer at the Montgomery County jail and is also a combat engineer in the Ohio Army National Guard. He is married to Amber, who is a blood bank technician at Kettering Medical Center. Jacob is a Petty Officer third class with the US Navy and has just completed his training to be a "Nuke" (nuclear engineer) on a submarine and is awaiting his first set of orders.

Jennifer and Steve have a small menagerie of two elderly cats (Forrest, age 21, Jingles, age 12) and two younger dogs (Rufus, age 7, and Ada, age 1).

At Westminster, Jennifer has served as a Deacon as well as an Elder, was on the Pastor Nominating Committee that called Richard Baker, and numerous other committees. Jennifer is an avid reader and knitter (often doing both at once thanks to the magic of audiobooks!).

Last year, Jennifer attended the Synod of the Covenant PW meeting in Columbus and was looking forward to this year's meeting in Michigan until it was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hopefully the PW Churchwide Gathering in 2021 will be able to occur!

WPW Pecan Sale

Julie Drumheller/Dominique Myers – Pecan Sales Coordinators



It would not be autumn at Westminster without the annual Pecan Sale! This yearly event, sponsored by the WPW, will happen again...with only minor modifications!

WPW will, again, be selling “fresh from the Alabama grower” pecans this fall.

Order forms for this Annual WPW Pecan Sale will be available in September with an order deadline of October 19, 2020. Delivery dates will be in November in time for Thanksgiving baking and gift giving.

To place an order, you may obtain the order form from the church website (www.westminsterdayton.org) or by contacting Julie Drumheller (937/657-5581) or jdrumheller@woh.rr.com or contact Dominique Myers (937-367-8719) or dbm54@woh.rr.com . Payment can be made online or by sending your check and order form to Julie Drumheller or Dominique Myers. Questions? Contact Julie or Dominique.

Pecan options include pecan halves, pecan pieces, 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 of the profits go to WPW missions. Please help us make this fundraiser a success while enjoying delicious pecans. **Note:** what better (and easier) way to do your Christmas gift giving can you think of than giving spiced and regular pecans to your loved ones, friends and staff.

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:38

WPW School Kit Project 2020

Looking for a mission project that reaches reach out to those in need near and far yet keeps you safe at home? This might be just what you are looking for. Westminster Presbyterian Women (WPW) is building 130 school kits to be delivered to our local Church World Services (CWS) school kit collection point on September 12th 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 costs ~\$15 to build, plus CWS asks that we include a \$2 processing fee per kit. 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 we bought all supplies during the back-to-school sales, we can build and cover the processing fee for \$10 per kit. If you would like to sponsor one or more kits, please donate on line 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.

CWU Yearbook

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 (<https://www.cwudaytonoh.org/>) is part of the national organization. Currently there are about 400 women from over 40 churches in our area who are members. Won’t you join the more than twenty women of Westminster who are members? Basic membership is just \$5.00 per year. Membership forms are on the unit’s website. Please contact Jorja Gladden (jagladden59@gmail.com) or Martha Shields(Martha.shields@earthlink.net) for information.

Fall Gathering

Due to Covid-19, the Fall Gathering will be held via ZOOM. So, mark your calendars for: **SEPTEMBER 23, 2020**. Richard will present the introduction to the Horizons Bible Study for 2020-21.

There will be an opportunity to donate \$10 / kit for the Church World Service School kits. Further, donations of stuffed animals will be appreciated! (These go in police cruisers to help soothe children in crisis situations. Stay tuned to the church website for more information on how to donate to these projects since the WPW will not be able to meet in person this Fall. More information on this virtual meeting will follow at a later date.

Devotional – Thoughts to Ponder

During this time of uncertainty – like none of us have lived through – we are called to look beyond that which inconveniences our daily lives. This appeared as the devotion in the July/August 2020 *Horizons*. May we seek to understand the additional uncertainties which never touch those of us in the white majority. May our ears be opened, our hearts be touched, and may we work toward building a “life anew”, together.

Sandy Vining, WPW Coordinator for Studies and Spiritual Life

“Fill Us with Life Anew”

By Cecilia Amorocho Hickerson

“I can’t breathe.”

The last days of October 1948 were the last days of life for 20 residents of Donora, Pennsylvania. They—along with rest of Donora’s 14,000 residents—fought to breathe as thick, gray smog blanketed the town. By November 1, nearly half of the population had suffered severe—in some cases, fatal—respiratory or cardiovascular problems from breathing the toxic air. The town was used to the dirty air belched out of industrial steel and zinc smelters, but unprepared for the effect of the stagnant, concentrated pollutants being trapped close to the ground by a warm air pocket overhead. Widely publicized reports about pollution-related illnesses and deaths in Donora and in other locations brought national attention, scientific studies and, in 1970, the passing of the first Clean Air Act.

We, our earth’s stored treasures
 spending,
foul its soil and stain its seas;
we, our human grasp extending,
landscapes bruise, proud towers raise.
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, kyrie
 eleison,
lead us home from wasted ways.

“I can’t breathe.”

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, we are learning about the unique and/or disproportionate impact it has on disadvantaged communities versus its impact on the general population in the United States. Long-term systemic underfunding in health care and infrastructure, and social injustice for indigenous peoples and people of color have made the most basic amenities, like access to running water, hard to get – an egregious, even life-

threatening injustice, as we know how vital hand washing is to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Living in overcrowded housing makes social distancing impossible. For many, medical treatment is too far away, inaccessible or too expensive. As a consequence, compared to the general population, a disproportionately high number of people in indigenous, Black and Latinx communities are infected and killed by COVID-19.

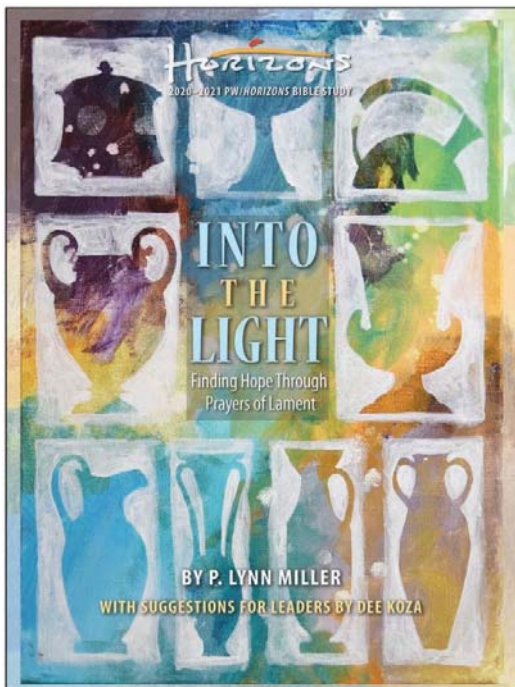
*Heal us, feed us by your Spirit:
all earth's torment is you own.
Name us, send us each as servant,
working, bearing Christ's shalom.
Maranthana, maranthana, maranthana,
so we pray: Christ Jesus, come.*

"I can't breathe."

George Floyd is not the only Black man in police custody who died gasping "I can't breathe." Videos of three separate incidents show Javier Ambler II in Austin, Texas, Manuel Ellis in Tacoma, Washington and Eric Garner in New York City crying, screaming, whispering "I can't breathe." It does not matter to me how these men lived their short lives. It matters to me that they were deprived of their lives. Every time my husband comes home late or talks about racial profiling he has lived through or gets followed by a police cruiser while walking in the park with our teenaged daughter, I pray, "Dear God, let him keep breathing." God whispers "I'm with him": and I breathe.

For our wounded world, for all of her inhabitants, for my family and for myself, I pray:

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I my love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.*



[Please join the Women of Westminster for the Fall Bible Study!](#)

The Bible Study for 2020-2021 is certainly timely: ***“Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament”***. Who could have known when this study series was produced a few years ago, that we would be experiencing a global pandemic! God does work in mysterious ways. “When we lament, we move from suffering to faith. In our faith there is hope. We lament in order to hope.” (p.7, *Into the Light*) If you do not belong to a circle, and are interested in participating in this year’s Bible study, please contact one of the Circle Leaders listed on page 6.

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*

LOCAL MISSIONS

One of the missions that we support is in need . . .



The Friends of the Castle –a nonprofit organization, is a safe haven for individuals suffering from mental illness, participants share with friends who are experiencing the same problems and who understands the difficulties of being part of the mental health system. They provide lunch 5 days a week, creative activities, outings, transportation to and from the facility, peer support program and much, much more. During COVID they are bringing just a

few individuals in at a time. COVID is hitting this individual population hard due to the isolation and lack of normalcy. The needs are high for cleaning supplies and donations to keep this facility going. The Castle re-opened on June 3rd with 6 individuals that were most adaptable and could adjust to the new routine. As appropriate, they add 2 more people, having original members help the new ones with the routine. There are now up to 12 members coming to the Castle, following the guidelines to be safe in the pandemic; this is a true blessing. The members need to call first and they are not able to do walk-ins. They are supplying cloth masks, an item they go through quickly. During the lockdown, The Castle distributed food, games and essentials to member's residence.

You can support the Friends of the Castle by sending donations to:

**Friends of the Castle
133 N. Main Street
Centerville, Ohio 45459**

Meet 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

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://mercymanor.wixsite.com/mercymanor>) 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.



WPW CT Meetings For 2020-2021:

August 25
October 27
November 2
February 23, 2021
March 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 IN GREATER DAYTON

Membership form for 2020—2021

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/mailing 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? _____

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

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!

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!

Just ask at your store, or go on line and register:

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

<https://www.dorothyane.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!

Consider adding one or more of these to your Fall 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 the list of circles to see if one might be a fit for 2020—2021.
(Call Jorja Gladden at 937-477-5662 for help with this.)
- 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 Jorja Gladden for info.)
- Lead a Bible Study, start a new circle or group etc.
- Make sure these WPW dates are on your personal calendar:
 - CT meeting (August 25, 2020/October 27, 2020/November 24, 2020. These will be ZOOM meetings.)
 - Fall Gathering – September 23, 2020 (ZOOM Meeting)



Fall 2020 To-Do List (continued)

- Order your **Pecans**
- Watch for more information on donating to the **Cookie Walk**: Dixie Bowsher and Dominique Myers – Co-Chairs
- Join **CWU**(Send Membership form to Martha Shields) and attend the CWU Events



New Drop-In Circle Forming

All women of the Westminster family are invited to participate in WPW's smaller groups, called circles. These meet at regular intervals for fellowship, study, mutual support, and to work together to serve others. The circles (Sunshine Circle, Coffee, Caring and Crafts, Evening Circle, and Serendipity Circle) organize themselves, follow their own schedules, and often share members. Please refer to the (New! Fabulous!) Westminster website or your WPW directory for more information on the circles, their membership, current leaders, and schedules.

As of September these lovely "round" groups are getting a new little sister, and all who are interested may join in helping discover how she will be. A few details of the new circle are set already: first, this circle will meet virtually, via phone, as a conference call. This new circle is designed to be drop-in, in the hope of forming a primarily nourishing, as opposed to educating or outside-serving, place for women and women. Here's the vision as it currently looks: at 10 am on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, participants will be able to dial in to a conference call that will provide them some companions for contemplation in or with nature. We invite you to place yourself in nature in time for our meeting. If you can't go outside, you could hold a stone, a stick, or a fruit; a root, a seed, a bone, a shell. You could float a leaf in a dish of water, or keep some sand on hand to stir. You might choose to use speakerphone if you are alone in a quiet place, or headphones if you will be walking or stretching during the time we meet. We will have five minutes on either side of the hour to arrive at the call, and then a leader (Jennifer de Vries, Tracy Knechel Sturgis, or Elizabeth Herr to start) will share a prayer and a devotional that aims to assist participants in "listening to their lives," to borrow the words of Frederick Buechner. While the idea of a new circle was sparked by the need for a Covid-appropriate option for being together apart, it also seeks to serve women for whom the other circles were not the right fit at this time. We don't have a name yet, but please consider trying us out in our first two or three months. Your reward for early participation will be getting to help select a name!

Note: we are aware that our current plan for this circle might exclude people with hearing loss. A real-time transcription, or signed interpretation, can be made available, if desired.



Mercy Manor

The CWU August 25 Board Meeting speaker will be Barbara Hudson-Banner from Mercy Manor!

Please bring these items to donate that day:

paper products, cleaning products, \$10, \$20, and \$25 gift cards (Kroger or Walmart); hair products; RTA bus passes or tokens. Please see examples at the bottom of this article.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021 FOR OUR ANNUAL FOUNDER’S DAY LUNCHEON AND FUNDRAISER!

Thanks to everyone for your donations, expressions of concern and support during this COVID-19 epidemic.

Canceling our Annual Founder’s Day Luncheon and Fundraiser was extremely a hard thing for us to do, but not just because of the loss of financial support. We sincerely missed the camaraderie of all our friends, family, and supporters. Your spirit and support made that day extremely enjoyable for everyone. Mercy Manor graduates also missed seeing each other, meeting the new ladies of Mercy Manor, and all the love and support that they receive from everyone at the luncheon.

WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT! We would also like to thank everyone for donations that you gave us for the banquet. This was a major financial relief for Mercy Manor. We are forever grateful for all your continued support during this time. Financial funding has begun being challenging. We are asking the churches/members of Church Women United (CWU), other congregations and organizations, if they would please consider making an annual financial contribution to help retain this worthy ministry for women.

MERCY MANOR WISH LIST: We would like to thank everyone for your prayers, your love, and donations. When the women arrive at Mercy Manor, they have nothing but the clothes on their backs. Your donations are instrumental in our daily operations and helping the women to get back on their feet, get a job, a place to live and to successfully move back into the community. Due to the coronavirus we have eliminated accepting used items as donations as we are aligning our processes with how our partners are managing donations during this time. We are in need of paper goods (toilet tissue, paper towels, facial tissues, trash bags – tall kitchen and large), cleaning products (laundry detergent, body soap, Pine Sol, bleach, Windex, Lysol cleaner and spray), gift cards to Kroger and Walmart (\$10, \$20, and \$25), hair products (hair spray, conditioner, hair gel, hair oil); RTA Bus Passes or tokens (monthly passes \$55, weekly passes \$19).

(For more information, visit the website for more details: <https://mercymanor.wixsite.com/mercymanor>.)

(NOTE: This CWU Meeting will be a ZOOM meeting; drop off/mail donations to Mercy Manor.)

Westminster Presbyterian Women

Yearbook
2020 — 2021



Westminster Presbyterian Church
125 N. Wilkinson Street
Dayton, OH 45402
Westminsterdayton.org

WPW Newsletter — Volume 4 Issue 1
(Late Summer 2020) Published Quarterly
Westminster Presbyterian Women
125 N. Wilkinson Street, Dayton, OH 45402
Contact editor: namelahe@woh.rr.com

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

“The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democracy.” Rep. John Lewis

Over the course of the last year, the newsletter has allowed WPW’s Peace and Social Justice and Local and Global Mission team to use this space to consider the ways our faith motivates us to act around issues of politics and voting. We have talked about the reasons to bring our values to our politics, the tools available in addition to our votes, the power and process of civility and Christian love in our discussions of who and what our government is and should be, and the importance of ensuring the voices of all of God’s children are heard in our hearts and in our elections.

Now we are at the threshold of the most fraught election of our lifetimes, not least because there is enormous uncertainty about the election process itself. Will enough voting locations be available? In enough places? Who will be eligible to vote? How will people get absentee ballots if they want or need them? Is there a way to ensure our vote is counted on Election Day? How do we ensure that the whole citizenry is fully enfranchised, which is to say, has equal access to the most basic right of democracy, the right to vote?

Friends, believe this good news: We have your answers!

We can't tell you how to vote; let your **heart** do that.
We CAN tell you **How to Cast your Ballot:**

1

Confirm you are registered here: [Ohio Voter Lookup](#)

What you need to register online: Ohio driver's license or state ID with number;

What you need to register by mail: name; date of birth; address; last four digits of your Social Security number.

MUST REGISTER BY OCTOBER 5, 2020

2

Get ballot REQUEST form here: [Ohio Absentee Ballot Request Form](#)

3

Take or mail completed form to YOUR COUNTY'S Board of Elections office.

[County Boards of Elections Directory](#)

4

Watch your mailbox for absentee ballot coming via USPS when Boards of Elections begin sending them out, starting October 6, 2020.

5

Complete ASAP and hand deliver ASAP to your county's Board of Elections, OR send by mail if you are very early. May require extra postage. If I were uncertain I would add an extra stamp.

<https://www.facebook.com/ohvoteroutreach/>

Presbyterian Week of Action



August 24–30, 2020

Why are we saying that “Presbyterians Affirm Black Lives Matter”?

Simply put: because Black lives do indeed matter. They/we matter to God, which means they/we should matter to God’s people.

Facing Racism: A Vision of the Intercultural Community, the PC(USA) Churchwide Antiracism Policy, first adopted in 1999 and revised in 2016, proclaims the following:

“While recognizing that racism victimizes many different racial ethnic groups, we acknowledge its unique impact on the African American community. Given the particular forms that anti-Black racism has taken in the United States of America both historically (including slavery and Jim Crow) and today (including mass incarceration, disproportionate policing, economic inequality, and continuing acts of racially oriented violence and hate), we state clearly: GOD LOVES BLACKNESS. Too many have denied this basic truth for too long. Our choice to align ourselves with love and not hate requires both a rejection of racism and a positive proclamation that God delights in Black lives.”

But don’t *all* lives matter?

Saying unequivocally that “Black Lives Matter” in no way means that all lives do not matter. It is rather an acknowledgment that many lives – specifically Black lives – are systemically devalued. As a community that tries to follow Jesus, we proclaim that such a devaluation of our siblings is an affront to the Living God. The *Confession of Belhar* reminds us “that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged.” Specificity toward Black lives is necessary, particularly in this moment, so that we may acknowledge and address the inequities that prevent the whole community from living as if all lives matter.

Does that mean we are claiming affiliation with the Black Lives Matter organization?

As an organization, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has no affiliation or official status with the Black Lives Matter Movement. Presbyterians across the country are members of Black Lives Matter Global Network chapters, and many congregations actively support BLM efforts in their local communities.

I fear that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is getting too political and hopping onto the latest bandwagon.

Presbyterians have long been “political.” Civic engagement has always been part of the life of the church. The American Revolution and the structure of the U.S. government were heavily informed by Presbyterians. More nefariously, our articulation of the faith has also been used in service to the eradication of Indigenous people and the enslavement of African people on these lands. Prophets such as Henry Highland Garnet, Francis James Grimké, Gayraud Wilmore and Katie Geneva Cannon have all reiterated the gospel’s clarion call for liberation and engagement with the state, even when we would not listen to them. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of the antecedent Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, was one of the organizers of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963. From the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Scots Confession, to the Theological Declaration of Barmen and the Confession of Belhar, our confessions have always instructed us on our role as Christians in the public square.

But before all these things, Christians were calling Jesus “Lord,” which is a civic designation. Christianity is inherently political. The word “political” has its root in the Greek word for “people.” Jesus commanded us to love God and neighbor. Our faith can never be extricated from our concerns for people.

Affirming that Black Lives Matter is very much in line with who we are as Presbyterians, and while the gospel of Jesus Christ is political, it is not partisan. It is not in service to any one political party or leaning, but challenges all of us to have righteous relationships with one another. We believe that justice for the oppressed is not and should not be a partisan value. Justice is a gospel value, one that all who claim Jesus as Lord should hold. We may have different ideas of how to live into the value, but as Christians we are beholden to it.

Text is from [PC\(USA\) Webpage on Week of Action](#)