

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



UOVP Connecting Link

November 2018

Moderator's Message:

We've had much to be Thankful for in this holiday season but nothing more than the grace that came to earth 2,000 years ago. As women celebrating this Holy Season let us think what it must have been like for Mary to be told she would be raising the Son of God. As mothers, grandmothers aunts, sisters or very good friends of children can we imagine the responsibility that entailed? How was she to instill in Him all the qualities that God desires for His child, love, peace, service, joy, patience etc? How do we do it for the children in our care? Each child is a child of God.

God's Blessings to you and yours for this wonderful holiday!

Your Moderator, Judy Miller

2019 Schedule:

Coordinating Team Meetings: February 7 (A-Team only); May 11 at Seeds of Hope; July 19 at Martins Ferry; November 8 at Martins Ferry.

Spring Gathering at Harrisville Covenant— April 27

Regional Synod Gathering—June 30-July 1

Best Western in Morgantown, WV

Prayer Retreat at Seeds of Hope—August 17

Fall Workshop—Sept 28...To be announced.

Fall Gathering 2018

30th Anniversary of PW (USA)

This years Fall Gathering met at the Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in Bridgeport, Ohio. The meeting was planned to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Presbyterian Women, joining North and South Women's Groups under one umbrella. Mary McElroy and Jann Jancura planned the celebration and the Kirkwood Presbyterian Women implemented a celebration of our anniversary including a scrumptious brunch, complete with balloons and 30th Anniversary cookies!

The program started with introductions from our moderator, Judy Miller. She also explained that our 30 year Anniversary began when our Women's Association combined with the Southern

Presbyterian's womens group under the new banner of Presbyterian Women

(USA). Our logo further defines our Mission. The figure to the left is holding a loaf of bread, reaching out to feed the hungry...both physically and spiritually. The figure on the right holds a Bible or study book to keep us grounded in the faith as we reach out to the world. The figure above celebrates God's Love for us all as we lift our hearts and hands to God in Praise, as children of God.

Rev. Erica Harley presented an overview of this years Bible Study: **God's Promise: I Am with You.**

Before dismissing to the activities, past UOVPW Moderators were honored.



Fall Gathering 2018



Diane Demarest and Jann Jancura are shown featuring the buckets and supplies provided for Flood Kits that will be donated to the RED CROSS Ohio Valley Chapter located in Wheeling W.V. The buckets each had a quart sized bottle of household cleaner, quart of bleach, rubber gloves, scouring pad sponges, and garbage bags.

Also included in the buckets were cards with notes of encouragement to the future flood victims.

With Advent approaching soon, Diane Demarest provided a “Musical Christmas Tree” project. Christmas Music was copied and cut into strips and serated on one side. A paper cone was provided to paste the music sheets around. When completed the ruffles were fluffed to look like tree branches and an ornament was provided for the tree-topper. Nice job, Diane!



Mary McElroy’s group created origami boxes made from Christmas Cards. Although the boxes could be used for decoration at Christmas, Mary explained the many choices of what we “do” with the boxes really makes a difference.

We could just “look at them”; let it sit; or open them. The choice is ours...Just like our relationship to the Greatest Gift God ever gave us. We can acknowledge Christ; we can overlook Christ; or we can absorb Christ by inviting Him into our hearts. The choice is ours, and the Gift is God’s gift to us all!



Synod of the Trinity Presbyterian Women 2018-2019 Mission Project

Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana

Dominican-American Community Outreach

(Medical and Transportation Outreach)

The mission of the on-going mission partnership between the Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania Presbyterian churches (Shenango Presbytery) with Iglesia Evangelica Dominica is to foster medical, educational, and social assistance among the people of Sabaneta de Yasica (and surrounding area), Dominican Republic to those of both Dominican and Haitian descent.

Central to the mission of the partnership, medical providers work with Dominican nurses and doctors, seeing patients of all ages, providing medicines, and determining follow-up care when necessary. This grant would directly target women, children, and those who have a disability by providing mobility assistance such as adaptive strollers, walkers, crutches, and quad-canes. Additional funds are needed to expand our reach to the many disabled children who quickly outgrow their wheelchairs.

Although most medical care is provided at the public health clinic and outlying clinics set up in chapels, medical providers have also made home visits to those who are bedridden or have mobility or transportation issues. In response to the transportation challenges and in response to our Dominican partner's request for specialist care, we want to establish travel funds for physician specialist (dentist, ophthalmologist, physical therapist) who are already committed to joining this ministry. These requested funds would also enable safe travel for children, the elderly, and disabled who are currently unable to attend church services, school, and some medical clinics by aiding in the purchase of a mission bus.

In education, this partnership has helped build the Christian school, conduct teacher training and provide scholarships to students at the Christian school. Teacher education has given teachers the tools they need to be effective in the classrooms of the Christian school.

The mission project goal is to raise \$20,000 to be used for prosthetics and other ambulatory devices, funds for specialist travel, and aid in the purchase of a bus. The Dominicans and Americans have planned and led outreach to the Sabaneta community for 27 years, in medical construction, educational, and spiritual arenas.

Checks must be written to PW Synod of the Trinity and sent to Joyce Johnson,

PW Synod Treasurer, 31 W. Main Street, Brookville, PA 15825



Thank Offering Sunday

Each Presbyterian Women's group determines a Sunday in November for the Thank Offering Sunday. This year Nancy DeStefano delivered the sermon on Thank Offering Sunday at First Westminster Presbyterian Church on November 4th. Nancy is the current Vice-Moderator for the Upper Ohio Valley PW. She is also a recent graduate of Pittsburgh Seminary.



Karen Edwards had the opportunity to have the children's sermon that day. Trista Simeral, Hayden Shrader, and Lily Spencer assisted in a living PW Logo. They and the congregation learned the significance of the PW logo in that women prepare for serving God by studying the Bible, serving others, and Praising God, as the children pictured are by lifting their hands and waving them!

If your church has photos and a story to share, please submit it to the addresses for Karen Edwards, listed below.

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Karen Edwards at 102 Emery Avenue, Mingo Jct., OH 43938. **The cost is \$3.00.**

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Just contact me by mail or email me at ptooke@comcast.net.

The third alternative is to read or download the color copy at the presbytery website:

The Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery Website: www.uovp@uovpresby.org, cost is **\$0.00**