

**Westover View
Westover Hills Presbyterian Church
November 2020**



Mt. Nebo, Dardanelle, Arkansas. Picture taken by Jane Estes

Congregation Bids Transitional
Pastor Rev. Kris Good-bye



On October 10, the congregation celebrated Pastor Kris Crawford and her time with us at Westover Hills with two "distanced" events sponsored by the Fellowship Committee!

In spite of threatening weather, Kris greeted from the safe distance of the Preschool sidewalk while younger and older (9 month-old Josephine Rogers attended along with Aunt Lyric, Mom Elizabeth, Grandmother Deanine and Grandfather Don) stopped to chat from their cars. Some had decorated their vehicles with "Good-bye" signs; others wore hog hats! Many waved and handed Kris cards and other remembrances.

That same evening, Fellowship Moderator Nancy Passini MC'ed a Zoom "Wine & Toast" celebration for a screenful of people. Some toasted Kris with remembrances and stories and others told jokes; as Nancy put it in the invitation, "jokes that could be told before a sermon"!

Pastor Kris has shared a challenging year with us. We wish her the best as she celebrates the birth on October 27 of a sixth grandchild (4th grandson, Boone Thedford Strong) and in December begins her new installed pastor position in Gonzales, TX.





Session Notes

Session Notes, August 9, 2020

The Session, meeting by Zoom:

- Black Lives Matter signs would not be reinstated on the church lawn.
- Approved the email voting policy.
- Heard Treasurer Tammy Pflug's report that receipts for July were \$16,179 and pledge receipts for the building were \$5,035. Mortgage Loan Payable is \$1,559,937.35. Year to date receipts amount to \$8,498 above expenditures.
- Reviewed Prayer List Guidelines and referred them back for revision before a 2nd reading.

- Heard that Rev. Amos Disasa, senior pastor of 1st Presbyterian Church Dallas will be the Cotham lecturer on September 20 and 21.
- The adult class was authorized to study *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James Cone.
- CE Committee noted with gratitude Nancy Passini's ongoing efforts to stay in touch with the children of the congregation.
- Deferred consideration of the Advocacy Sign Display policy.
- Approved Mission and Advocacy Committee projects for August-November.
- Approved posting AR Peace Week signs on the church lawn.
- Heard of Preschool plans to open for staff on August 17 and for teachers on August 24.
- Accepted an anonymous donation to purchase equipment for live streaming of worship services.
- Approved two proposals by the Reopening Group:
 - Proposal #1– That WHPC use the following criteria to determine when to re-open the church for worship and small group meetings in the fellowship hall:
 - Criterion A: When an adequate sound system is installed in the fellowship hall.
 - Criterion B: When the 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases in Pulaski County shows a clear decline (15% or more) for 14 days. If the moving average begins to trend higher again, we will pause in-person worship services until the 14-day declining trend returns.
 - Proposal #2: Approve sending a snail mail letter to the congregation to describe actions taken to prepare for re-opening and the criteria we have agreed upon for a re-opening date.
- Heard that the Transition Team has been holding small group meetings to discuss members' views of historic challenges WHPC has faced and to give ideas for future direction.
- Reviewed a draft of all committees' responsibilities and activities.

Session Notes, September 16, 2020 – meeting by Zoom

Acknowledged receipt of thank you's from Cara Lockridge (graduation gift); Ferncliff, Life Quest, PCUSA, University of the Ozarks, and Vera Lloyd for (all for benevolence contributions); and Joy Thomas (opportunity to speak with session). Noted with sadness the death of Jane Davie on July 8, 2020.

Approved the outline of Session Committee Structure, which lists session committees and the activities and responsibilities “belonging” to each committee.

Treasurer Tammy Pflug reported that pledge receipts for August were down some and pledge receipts for the building were \$5,556.25. Year to date receipts are \$6,187 more than expenditures.

The Preschool opened for students on August 24 with 30 pupils (as compared to a more typical 55). 4 teachers have not been renewed and payroll is reduced by \$5,000 per month. Session agreed to defer Preschool payment to WHPC for three months (October, November, and December) with session to review church and Preschool finances each month.

Approved Prayer List Guidelines.

Heard Fellowship Committee plans for celebrating Pastor Kris Crawford with a car parade and a Wine and Toast via Zoom.

Approved Mission and Advocacy projects: October - support of the Arkadelphia Community Family Enrichment Center; and November - supporting the hygiene kit ministry for coastal regions of Louisiana and Texas which were hit hard by Hurricane Laura.

Added at-large member Ray Koone to the Personnel Committee.

Returned job descriptions for Child Caregiver and Sexton for 2nd reading.

Livestreaming will be considered by the Sound and Stage Task Force.

Heard from Committee on Ministry liaisons that we have options for a full or part time interim or supply pastors. Worship & Arts Committee will be responsible for filling the pulpit during the weeks before we have a more formal structure in place.

Approved DAR use of the fellowship hall on September 26 and October 10.

Session Notes - October 11 Meeting

Session approved the WHPC Statement on Racial Equity.

Treasurer Tammy Pflug reported that September contributions to the building fund were \$4,373; we need about \$10,000 per month. She also reported that other income is down. Whereas we expect to have received 75% of pledges and building rental income by now, actual receipts are 67% of pledges and 31% of building rental receipts. So far this year, WHPC has spent \$7,558.67 more than we have received.

Passed a recommendation from the Finance & Stewardship Committee to move money from the Westover Wednesday account to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Approved giving Pastor Kris the laptop that WHPC had bought for her use and to invite the congregation to offer in her honor a love gift to be used to purchase a new computer for the next pastor in need of a computer.

Approved the Signage Display Policy offered by Membership & Communication. Approved purchasing from Membership & Communication budget five different social justice messages on signs which will be placed consecutively, two weeks at a time, on the church lawn.

Approved the Statement on Racial Equity on 3rd reading.

Accepted the Transitional Pastor's Report as information.

Asked the Mission & Advocacy Committee to formulate a virtual Alternative Christmas Market for 2020.

Heard a report that the Preschool now has 33 students compared to usual enrollment of 55 and in September paid the church the regular monthly payment of \$2,883.34. Since the Preschool ledger was short \$5,868 in September, the Preschool used \$4,000 from savings to cover expenses.

Approved moving forward with the low bid we have for the repair of the Church's damaged sidewalk and curb/gutter that parallels South Street and pour a concrete pad to place the existing trash dumpster on. All of this repair work is on the north side of the church.

Approved allowing the Central AR Veterans Healthcare System to use the South parking lot for a drive by baby

shower for women veterans on Friday, October 23 from 9am to 4pm.

Thanked the Reopening Group for its service, with the understanding that the Session can reconvene the group should it be necessary.

Heard that the Worship & Arts Committee is lining up supply pastors during the interim time.

Voted to use Fellowship Committee funds to order Ferncliff's Advent in a Box for children of the congregation.

The Transition Search Committee is lining up leadership to provide elder/deacon training.



WHPC Staff enjoyed a goodbye lunch with Pastor Kris. From left to right: Ulysses Neyland (Sexton), Pastor Kris Crawford, Jane Estes

(Administrative Assistant), and Tammy Pflug (Bookkeeper)

Christiana Eseme-Kuwong



Christiana was born in Cameroon, a country in Central Africa. She raised her family there and immigrated to the United States in 1987 with her daughter and son-in-law. Currently she lives with a son, who immigrated later, and is the proud grandmother of six grandchildren and three great-

grandchildren. Four of her children and their spouses still reside in Cameroon.

Christiana likes sewing and helping people. She was quick to join other Presbyterian Women volunteers when Presbyterian Village needed masks made early in the COVID-19 epidemic. Christiana also enjoys cooking and attending the Women's Circle. She finds comfort in her strong faith and in listening to favorite hymns her children often tape for her.

A Presbyterian from birth, Christiana began attending St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church the Sunday after she arrived in Little Rock from Cameroon. When St. Andrew's Church later closed, Christiana came to worship at Westover Hills and has remained a treasured member ever since. Christiana always has a warm smile, greeting and hug for members and visitors alike when Peace is Passed among the congregation. She is also appreciated for making phone calls to check in with members "just to see how they are." Westover Hills is truly blessed by her open and loving heart for God and for all his children.

Adult Christian Education

Adult Christian Education

The WHPS Christian Education Committee is working with the Matthew 25 Task Force to bring adult educational opportunities to Westover and friends, beginning with the first of the PC(USA)'s three Matthew

25 initiatives, addressing systemic racism in the church and in society. Join the 5:00 Sunday evening class by Zoom at:

[https://zoom.us/j/9436833707?](https://zoom.us/j/9436833707?pwd=TU1WMWtnU3JwZ0xNcW40VEZUc3gydz09)

[pwd=TU1WMWtnU3JwZ0xNcW40VEZUc3gydz09](https://zoom.us/j/9436833707?pwd=TU1WMWtnU3JwZ0xNcW40VEZUc3gydz09)

Meeting ID: 943 683 3707; Password: WHPC2020

Or -- dial in at 301 715 8592 or 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 943 683 3707; Password: 389453

2020 Cotham Lectures Bring Viewers from Near and Far

Rev. Amos Disasa, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas, Texas, delivered the 2020 Cotham Lectures on Sunday and Monday, September 20 and 21. More than 175 logged in for the Zoom event on Sunday night and more than 185 on Monday night. Rev. Disasa also preached in the Sunday morning worship service and visited virtually with a group of pastors and other religious professionals on Monday. Thanks, as always, to Ralph and Mary Frances Cotham for making these stimulating and inspiring presentations available to Westover and to our friends in the Little Rock area and, this year, from coast to coast via Zoom.

Mission and Advocacy Committee

Arkansas Peace Week



WHPC Mission & Advocacy Project for October 2020

The MAP Project for October will support the Community Family Enrichment Center (CFEC) in Arkadelphia. We invite you to help us support the work of West End Presbyterian, our sister church in Arkadelphia, and the CFEC; please send your check made out to WHPC, designated "October 2020 Mission and Advocacy Project."

Membership & Communication- Online Worship and More

Viewing Website and Attending Virtual Worship: It appears that more people are “attending” the WHPC Sunday worship services online than would have been in the church building on Sundays before the coronavirus shutdown! Questions had been raised as to how to monitor/discern the number of “hits” to our church website. After Charlie Frith discovered that the data is already being collected, Damaris started our process of gathering and distributing it and Jane is continuing the process. Sermons are far and away the most popular section of the website. People also access worship services through FaceBook (“RC Nash” or “Westover Hills Presbyterian Church”) or at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) (under “WHPC Worship Service”).

Church Signage: The Committee approved purchasing and placing signs on our church lawn (much like when we have guest speakers) that show the WHPC website address for accessing worship and the Sunday 5pm adult class.

Second AED: We have received a \$1000 grant from Blue & You towards the purchase of a second automated external defibrillator (AED). Current thought is to place it near the Fellowship Hall. We will require additional monies in order to purchase - but this is a great beginning !!

Emergency Task Force – Reopening the Church

Reopening for Worship?

The session has said that our readiness benchmark will be *when the 7-day moving average of COVID-19 cases in Pulaski County shows a clear decline (15% or more) for 14 days.*

We know that some people would like to return for in-person worship and others would not. The session, above all, wants everyone to stay safe. So – for that great day when we can reopen, the Reopening Group has arranged as safe a worship environment as possible:

- **Everyone will enter through the central sanctuary doors, where there will be a touchless sanitizing station, a touchless thermometer, and a registration pad (for contact tracing purposes)**
 - **Pre-packaged regular and gluten-free communion elements**
- **Two secure offering collection boxes – no offering plates will be used**
- **Signage on doors according to AR Department of Health guidelines**
- **Ushers and greeters trained to help you sit at a social distance**
 - **Masks required**
- **A cleaning calendar developed and shared with Ulysses and Jane**

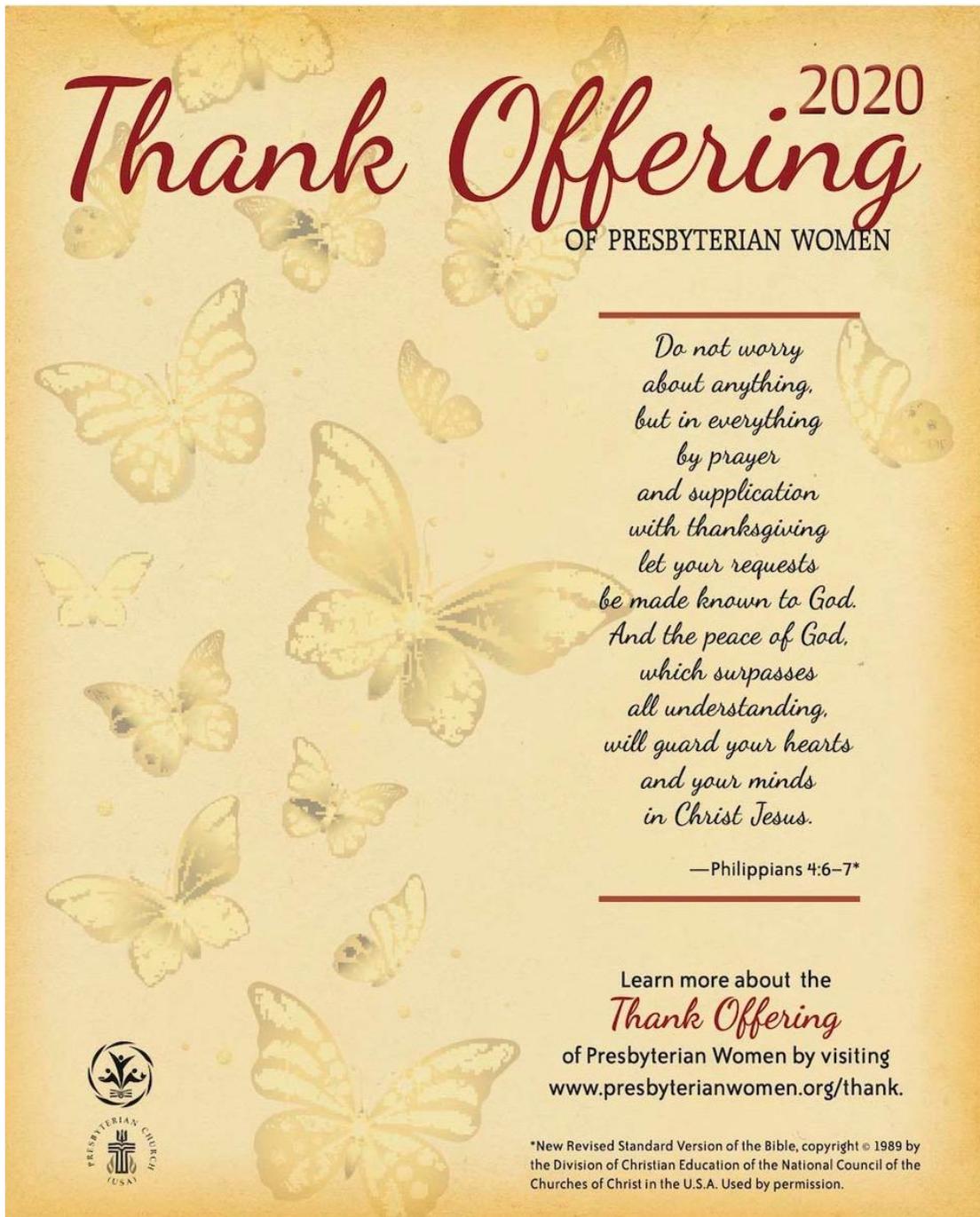
Thanks to the Reopening Group, Adrienne Kulousek, Ray Koone, Ray Stephens, Mac Balkman, and H.K. Stewart, and Liz Branch, who have spent an inordinate amount of time discussing safety measures, procuring the “stuff” for safety, placing the “stuff” at key locations, and working with Ulysses on cleaning protocols. They have had your safety in mind.

When reopening time comes, the Reopening Group will train ushers and greeters and tend to other details; the Worship and Arts Committee will arrange the necessities for worship, and Property and Maintenance will work with Ulysses to be sure the sanctuary is clean and ready for worship.

“Alternative” Alternative Christmas Market

The Westover Hills “Alternative” Alternative Christmas Market is coming soon safely **and virtually** to you in your home—YES—you will be able to shop directly and at your convenience with the following Westover Hills vendors: Charlie’s Calendars, FMH Coasters, Jann’s Stars, Fair Trade Coffee, Liz’s Solar under the Sun, and Presbyterian Women’s Many Mission Projects. As you begin to prayerfully think about your 2020 Christmas shopping, remember to safely shop from home at our Alternative Christmas Market -- where the gift you purchase gives twice. Watch for a detailed “Special Announcement” through the Careline on Monday, Nov. 2nd. Then let’s all start shopping!

Presbyterian Women (PW) News



Thank Offering 2020
OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*Do not worry
about anything,
but in everything
by prayer
and supplication
with thanksgiving
let your requests
be made known to God.
And the peace of God,
which surpasses
all understanding,
will guard your hearts
and your minds
in Christ Jesus.*

—Philippians 4:6–7*

Learn more about the
Thank Offering
of Presbyterian Women by visiting
www.presbyterianwomen.org/thank.

*New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission.



About the Presbyterian Women Thank Offering

Each November, Presbyterian Women have a special collection of funds called the “Thank Offering.” In the season of thankfulness and thanksgiving, it reminds everyone that contributions from Presbyterians worldwide can make a big difference for many programs and services in areas far beyond our shores, and even in our community. The Thank Offering will be Sunday, November 14. (Although gifts are welcome all month - please note on your check it is for the Thank Offering).

This year, the Thank Offering will fund a truck for Ferncliff to keep up the good work of sending disaster kits for places in need.

Synod of the Sun, Presbytery of Arkansas
Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center
Transportation for Disaster Kits, \$30,000

<https://ferncliff.org>

Many churches make disaster kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance but there are no collection depots in 12 southern states. Ferncliff is expanding the program by finding churches to serve as depots. The Thank Offering grant will be used to purchase a box truck for picking up disaster kits from these new depots in the south, thus helping eliminate shipping costs, raising visibility and growing this hands-on mission program.

Westover volunteers often inspect the disaster kits that are received for “quality.” This means that the kits have the items that are supposed to be in the kit (bar of wrapped soap, toothbrush in a package, wash cloth, etc.) and not extraneous items like shampoo, bug spray, tissues, face cream, etc.). If you would like to volunteer for this monthly program contact Kay Stephens at 501.765.1661.

Other grants will go to:

- Ethiopia to build a women’s dormitory for female theology students;
- Ohio to teach women how to be impactful leaders in setting Medicaid state policy
- Washington, D.C. to help pregnant women learn about better nutrition for themselves and their babies.

PW member Betty Glenn stocks up on Fair Trade coffee. You can too by stopping at the church office 9am-2pm Monday-Thursday to purchase Mind, Body & Soul ground coffee regular (\$6.90) or decaf (\$7.90). Barista extraordinaire Carolyn Nash says if you want pods or other coffee choices text or call her at (501) 680-6097.

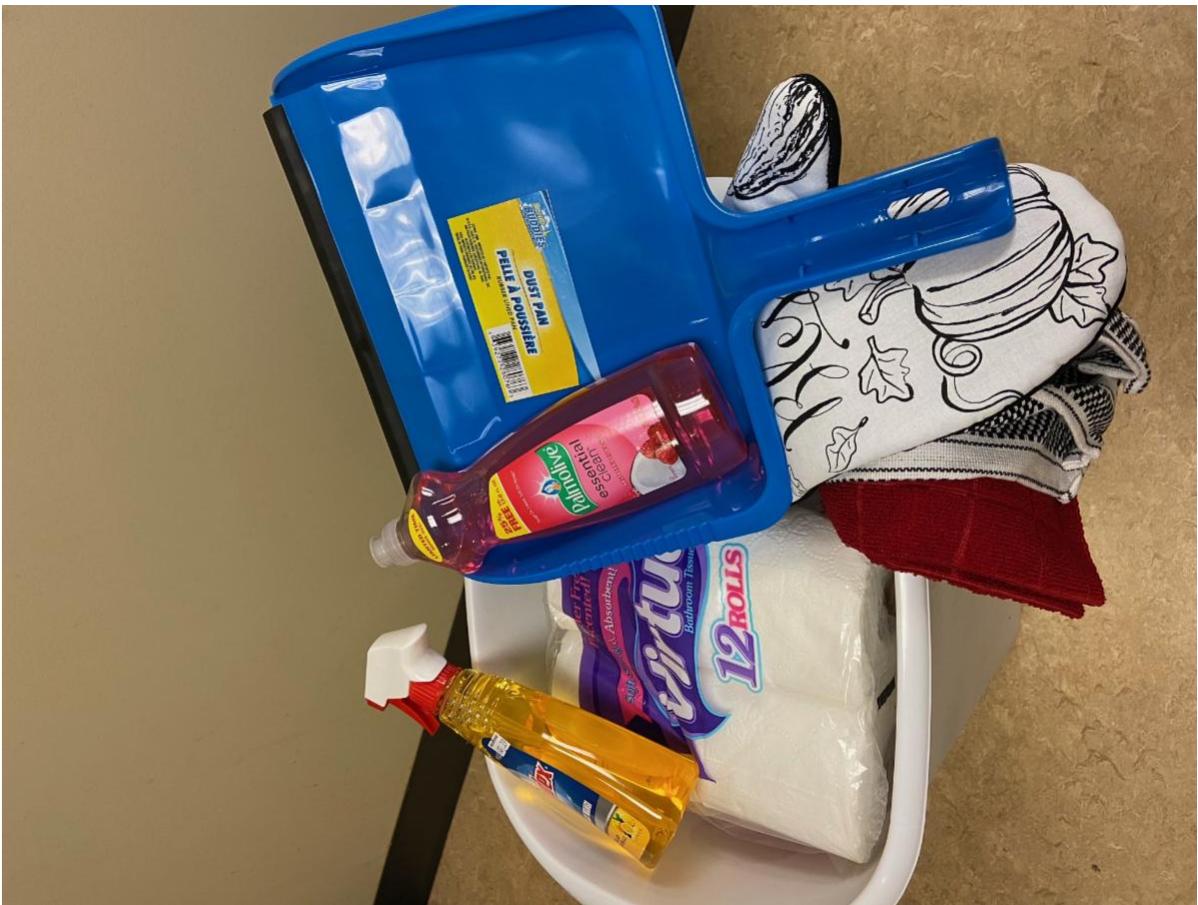


Coupon clipper extraordinaire Mary Chrisman reports that our Troopons are struggling in the year of covid.

Unlike 2019's record breaking numbers, so far we are at \$29,557 in coupons mailed to Support Our Troops. Until the pandemic is resolved and church is open for services, Mary is taking a sabbatical.

But, it is temporary! Westover loves our service members and looks forward to helping the troops with this creative endeavor.

- > Nothing says Welcome Home, like having a mop, broom, laundry detergent, and cleaning supplies to start your new beginning. This is what Westover's Presbyterian Women provide to families leaving Women & Children First to leave for their new homes.
- > Since August, Kay Stephens (current Westover PW co-moderator) and Carolyn Nash (Mission & Service Coordinator) have shopped, put items together and delivered 12 new home baskets to Women and Children First. Wishing the best to the families as they begin new chapters in their lives.



Presbyterian Women Incarcerated Programs

The Hunger Games has been a hit with the Pulaski County Detention Center men's literacy class. They finished the book and were treated to popcorn and the *Hunger Games* movie on the last day of the book wrap-up. The novel, if you have not read it, is very dystopian and the men readily made reference to life in jail/prison as similar to the book's setting. The essays they did weekly helped us get to know them and drew some very interesting pictures about their lives.

From one, about special memories, a long weekend trip to Destin, FL with his pregnant wife and two daughters made for lasting memories. The color of the water, the sand and beach time are things he remembers every day, and they named their third daughter Blue - just like the water's color.

Another answered the question, "Who do you trust?" writing, "My grandma... They practically raised me. I spent every night at their house during the week. They made sure I had everything I needed and that I got to school. While they didn't always give me everything I wanted, they always made sure I had everything I needed... My grandpa died but ... to this day my grandma is still there for me and her love is unconditional."

The women's class is just starting to read the first volume of *The Hunger Games*. The book, which has been removed from school library shelves and classrooms across the US, is in the top 100 list of banned books according to the American Library Association. While considered a young adult book, it is also a modern classic and is often assigned for class reading in Jr/Middle School. Several copies of books two and three of the *Games* trilogy have been ordered so the students can find out what happens to the main characters and not remain in suspense.

Hallowe'en treats were distributed at the Pulaski County Detention Center for the teen unit, Re-Entry Program, and Literacy classes, and also to the kids at the Pulaski County Juvenile Detention Center.

Poetic Justice and Westover Literacy Team Bringing New Program to Arkansas

In 2017, Ellen Stackable and Hanna Al-Jabouri were speakers at the Central Arkansas Library's Literary Festival focusing on their program, Poetic Justice. The foundation is a nonprofit that facilitates restorative writing classes for incarcerated women in Oklahoma prisons. While the women were in town, they graciously agreed to teach the women's literacy class at the Pulaski County Detention Center and demonstrate how the program works.

Following a brief meditation about a "safe spot," the women were told to forget about spelling, formatting and other poetry rules and to focus on their safe place. Where is it? How does it make them feel? What sounds do they hear? Is there a taste? Is there a smell? Is anyone else there? After ten minutes each woman was asked to share her poem. After the early eye rolling at the announcement of the class focus, soon there were tears and clapping as the women bared their hearts, and shared amazing work about grandmother's kitchen, fishing by a lazy creek, embracing a loved one, gardening or just having an afternoon at home with the family.

The class was cathartic; the same thing happened when the Hawkins Think Legacy class did the meditation and poetry writing exercise. To say it was "therapeutic" is a misnomer – it brought one woman out of her shell and

she began talking for the first time. It is boundary breaking, self-expression at its best and a way to share if the student chooses or to journal if that works better for the woman.

We knew Westover wanted to be part of the program but couldn't figure out the logistics with Wrightsville Prison Think Legacy and Juvenile Detention Center art program, also online. With the onset of COVID-19, there has been more time to look at options and target other organizations for volunteer recruitment. So, in September, Kathy Rateliff talked to Ellen and Hanna and then submitted a letter to the Poetic Justice (PJ) Board. In late September, in a Zoom meeting with the Board, she discussed current Westover programs and why we would be a good organization to choose as the Arkansas affiliate. (Currently there are affiliates in San Diego, CA & Tijuana, Mexico.)

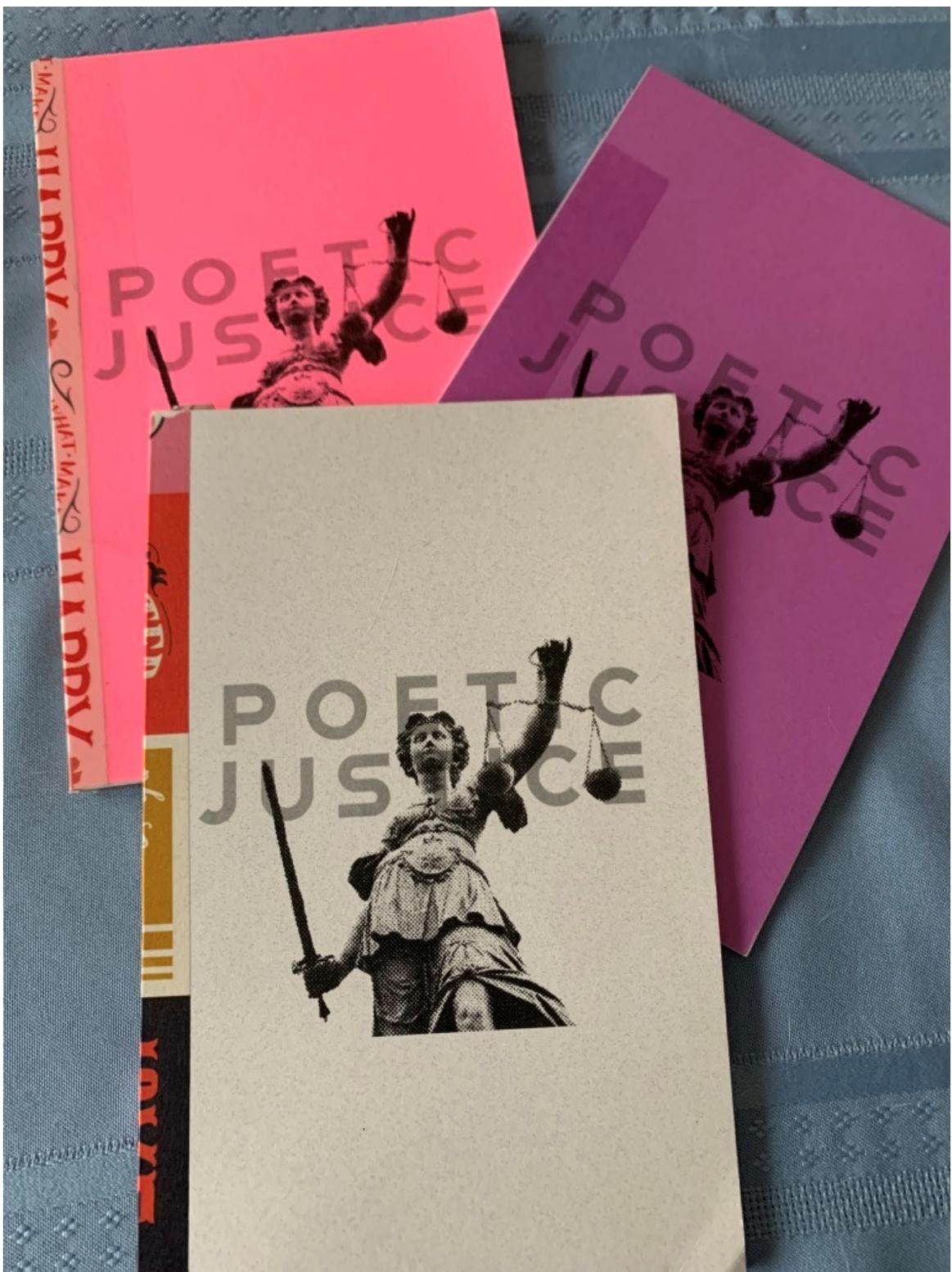
In early October, the PJ Board voted to select Westover Hills Presbyterian Literacy Team as the Arkansas Affiliate for Poetic Justice! These words from their website say it so beautifully, "Poetic Justice classes empower women to change as they engage in self-reflective, therapeutic writing. By using poetry, women who have never written in their lives find the confidence to write from their hearts. The voiceless one finds her voice and with that comes healing, hope, and the power to change."

Ellen Stackable, the organization's founder, was a CNN Hero last year (and one of the finalists for the Hero of the Year).

Interested in volunteering for this program? Call or text Kathy Rateliff at 501/944-4244. Poetic Justice will provide training for all volunteers via zoom. Everyone will also have to take a one-day volunteer orientation at the Arkansas Department of Correction. Logistics are still being worked out.

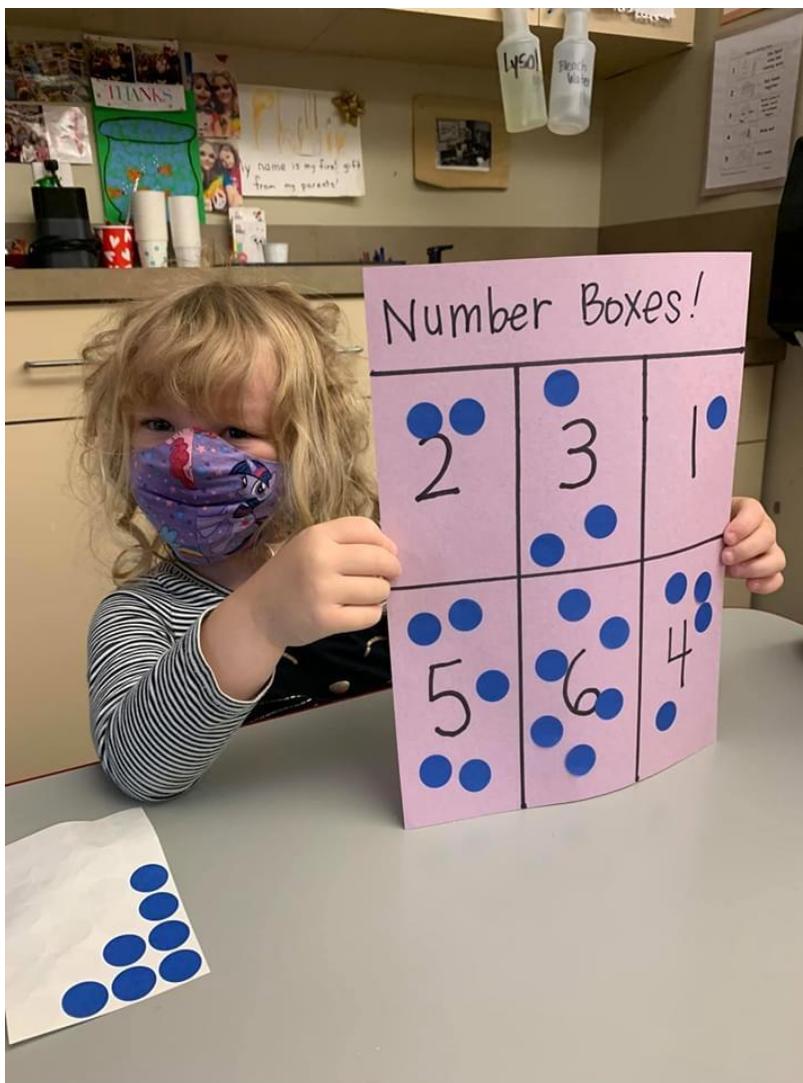
For more info, here is the website link: <http://poeticjustice.org>

Pictures for Poetic Justice



Poetic Justice prints booklets featuring poetry written by each class from Oklahoma women's prisons. (Each class meets for 12 consecutive weeks.) Each student writer selects one or perhaps more of her pieces to be published in the printed anthology at the end of the program. This may be the only time the woman has ever or will ever have her work published.

Preschool Update:



Preschool students protect themselves.



Preschool students protect their pet toys, too.

Family Promise Families and Westover Hills

In an effort to contain the spread of the Covid-19 virus, churches, including Westover Hills, have been closed to Family Promise families. This has meant that Family Promise has housed them in a motel in North Little Rock and we hosting churches have provided food for three meals a day to fulfill our week's hosting commitment. June 14 - 20 was Westover Hills' week to host the families.

With donations from our congregation and the outstanding food preparation of a number of members, two family Promise families, 10 people total, enjoyed a wonderful variety of meals and plenty of breakfast and lunch food as well as snacks. The family members who met us when we delivered warm food were very appreciative and gave us virtual hugs and kisses through their face masks and open arms. St. Paul United Methodist members joined Westover members in providing evening meals. One of Family Promise's projects during this time of Covid-19 contagion has been to set up four hand washing stations in downtown Little Rock. Westover Hills donated \$250 toward keeping these stations supplied with hand sanitizer. One of the hand washing stations is located across the street from the Stew Pot so diners can clean their hands prior to

eating. (Many of us take for granted this simple act of hygiene, which is especially important during a pandemic.)

Since fewer churches are hosting Family Promise families right now, the weeks for church hosting have been reduced to times when children are out of school for summer and holiday vacations. For Westover Hills, the next week to host will be December 27 through January 2. Besides hosting, the Family Promise program has responded to many requests for assistance with rent and mortgage payments as well as temporary housing. Westover Hills members have always been generous in caring for families in Family Promise. Our hosting in June was no exception. Thank you for your donations of time and money and love.

Transition Team Update

The Transition Team is taking a three week break due to vacation time and the COVID-19 increase in numbers. I would like to say thank you to all the women who came out to our small group discussion meetings. Your input is so valuable and appreciated. We will resume the first of August with several men's groups and continue with our Transition Team duties. We will be compiling a report to share with the Pastor Nominating Committee to coordinate information needed to form a Ministry Information Form to be posted for candidates. Everyone stay safe and blessings to you all.
--Team Moderator Ellen McEwen

Honorarium



Honor Gifts August-October 2020

Honoree Donor

Vivianna McAtee Betty Glenn for PW Mission Fund
Vivianna McAtee Mary Lois Stanfield



Memorials August -October 2020

Honorees Listed first, then Donors:

Jack Patterson

Kay & Ray Stephens for Bldg. Fund

Lisa Hart

Kay & Ray Stephens for Bldg. Fund

Dr. David Dyer

Donna & Tom Callaway

Dr. David Dyer

Ann Bell

Dr. David Dyer

Kay & Ray Stephens for Bldg. Fund

Dr. David Dyer

Presbyterian Women

Mildred Appleton

Kay & Ray Stephens for Bldg. Fund

Virginia Faulkenberry

Kay & Ray Stephens for Bldg. Fund

Mary Knopf

Betty Glenn for PW Mission Fund

Jean Davie

Betty Glenn for PW Mission Fund

Jean Davie

Kathy Rateliff

Jean Davie

Tracy Rice

Jean Davie

John Mac Leod for Bldg. Fund

Jean Davie

Vivianna McAtee

Jean Davie

Donna & Tommy Callaway

Jean Davie

Presbyterian Women

Andrew Quinn

Donna & Tommy Callaway

Andrew Quinn

Kathy Rateliff

Andrew Quinn

Kay & Ray Stephens for Bldg. Fund

John Pauly

Betty Glenn for Whitmore Preschool Scholarship Fund

Esther Darrow

Kay & Ray Stephens for Bldg. Fund

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