

## Prayer Shawl Ministry Description/Guidelines

**PURPOSE:** The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a group representing all ages who gather together to enjoy our love of knitting or crocheting for the purpose of creating prayer shawls and a wide variety of hand crafted articles for those in need of being comforted or nurtured in the trying, difficult, or happy times of their lives. We welcome all skill levels, church members as well as non-members, men and women, young and old to participate in this quiet but powerful ministry at Worthington Presbyterian Church. We pray together, share our finished products, and simply enjoy each other's company for an hour of fellowship each month.

**BACKGROUND:** The Prayer Shawl Ministry began at WPC over a decade ago by then Associate Pastor Amy Avery Hampton and member Arnon Reichers. They had become aware of this growing ministry ([www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com)) throughout the country and decided to bring this nationwide ministry to Worthington Presbyterian Church. At the beginning there was a daytime and an evening group that met at the church. The daytime group was later disbanded due to lack of involvement.

Initially the Prayer Shawl Ministry solely created prayer shawls for distribution to those in need of comfort during difficult times in their lives or in times of celebration. As the group grew and evolved, we began to make lap robes for those in wheelchairs. Later on, we decided to knit or crochet Military Watch Caps to be worn by US military personnel under their hard equipment to keep them warm in the colder climates in which they served our country.

Our mission and means of gifts has changed over the years. We sent prayer shawls to the caregivers who worked at and served the orphans at Montana de Luz (a WPC sponsored mission). We broadened our giving by providing them with a tangible expression of our gratitude and God's love. We have made baby blankets for orphanages in Haiti following a devastating earthquake; washcloths for women imprisoned in Romania; chemotherapy caps for women and men who lose their hair during their treatments; neonatal blankets for baby's who pass away due to their premature births. Around the holidays we enjoy working on hats, scarves, and the occasional mitten, for the annual Mary Lou Paton/Emma McCormick mitten tree.

**LOCATION/DATE/TIMES:** We meet regularly on the first Tuesday evening of every month at 7pm in the church "Living" room.

### **GUIDELINES**

When we gather together each month, we light a candle and offer our prayers for those we know and for those we shall never meet. Our hour together is mostly prayer, inspiration, and fellowship. Our ministry is a simple and silent ministry where most of our work is done in the comfort of our homes and at our own pace. We knit,

crochet, and pray for those in need of God's love. We create the projects of our ministry with love, prayer, and the talents given to us by God.

A very **basic** knowledge of knitting or crocheting is required to participate. Additional teaching of new techniques may be provided, though, to support a new project/pattern that we decide to implement.

We have a supply of donated yarn that is kept in a closet in Hazelton Fellowship Hall. It is free for the taking should anyone wish to use these yarns that come in from time to time through various donations. We also have patterns galore to be shared throughout our ministry for all of the projects that we lovingly create. We have obtained a substantial collection of books for reference and inspiration.

While it is wonderful to see members at our monthly meetings, some members are unable to attend the monthly meetings and they work at home and turn in their completed articles to the designated drop-off box which is housed in a closet in the Hazelton Fellowship Hall.

#### **HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

Simply come to our monthly meeting to receive the basic information packet or contact the leader to have the information submitted to you.

#### **BRIEF PRAYER**

[www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com)

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Gracious and loving God, as we light our candle we remember Your Light which shines into darkness, Your Son whose life, death and resurrection gives us hope,  
Your Spirit which permeates every corner of our lives.

Be present here as we knit these shawls and enjoy each other's company.

We remember all those for whom we knit these shawls:  
Those who are lonely and need to know they are loved,  
Those who are ill and yearn for healing of body, mind and spirit,  
Those who face challenging decisions and search for guidance,

Those who are grieving and welcome comforting words and actions,  
Those who are celebrating newness of life and rejoice in the warmth and  
richness surrounding them.

Again

Bind us together in one community of love, founded on the faith that Your love and  
grace are everlasting. Amen