

Don't Forget!!!

- Grab a friend and make a No-Sew Blanket before March 15th.
- WOC Book Club is right around the corner. Pick up the book and join us March 11th.
- If you have been a Briarwood member less than 18 months, then plan to join us April 1st for our Ladies Connection!

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**Prayer Blankets:
No-Sew Fleece Blankets**



Purpose: To provide homebound church members and those in assisted living homes with blankets. We want to encourage them and remind them that they are still a part of our covenant community and we love and care for them.

Goal: 50 blankets

Cost: Varies. Roughly \$20 per blanket depending on the fleece you purchase.

Needed supplies:

- Purchase 2 yards of fleece fabric (*no-pile is the best*) in a solid color and
- Purchase 2 yards of fleece fabric in a coordinating print. (*Joanne's Fabric has been putting fleece on sale recently. Wal-Mart and Hobby Lobby carry fleece as well.*)
- You will need sharp fabric scissors, and a 5 inch cardboard or cardstock square

Directions:

- Lay the fabric out and cut off the rough edges.
- Place both pieces together with the wrong sides facing each other and smooth them out and line them up.

Cut, as needed, so that both pieces are the same size.

- Keeping the fabrics together cut a 5 inch-square piece out of each corner. (Use premade 5 inch cardboard/cardstock squares.)
- Working through both layers together, go down each side and make cuts for your fringe 1 ½ to 2 inches wide. Try hard not to cut in more than the 5 inches. A ruler, or the cardboard square, is very helpful as a guide! Make your cuts on all four sides before you start tying the fringe.
- Time to Tie – Tie each group of strands in a knot. *Tie all of the knots the same way on each side of the blanket.*
- For pictures of instructions, visit briarwood.org/women

Once the Blanket is made:

The Women's Ministry Team has set up the drop off date on March 15th from 9:00 am – 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall E when each woman can drop her blanket off at the church. (*For those of you who work or cannot come on the 15th, you can drop off your blanket the Sunday or Wednesday night before March 15th in A-106 – the Women's Ministry Office.*) At the drop off we will provide a tag for the blanket to let them know the blanket is from the women of the church. We will fold each blanket, tie with a ribbon and attach a tag.

Prayer: Pray as a group for all the women who will receive the blankets.

Follow-Up: We will coordinate with the Lay Pastors as to the best way to deliver the blankets to our Briarwood Women.

UHope Success Academy - See website for more information

UHope Success Academy is a program of Urban Hope Development. Urban Hope Development was started by Sandra Hardy in 2013. UHope Success Academy is an incentivized, summer learning camp which seeks to help at-risk students and families toward long-term, sustainable growth through various educational programs. Our goal is to stop Summer Learning Loss that so many of our urban, at-risk students experience during the Summer months. Currently, we serve 40-50 rising 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students attending Fairfield City Schools, with some rising 9th and 10th grade students also participating. This upcoming Summer of 2019 camp will be the 6th year we

have been given the opportunity to work with the students in Fairfield, with many of our students participating year after year. UHope Success Academy runs M-TH during the month of June 3rd-27th, from 12-4pm each day. Our students earn a stipend called "Scholar Dollars" for each day they are present and actively participating during our program. UHope Success Academy is a month long program, which focuses on math, language arts as well as other topics designed to motivate our students. We take our students on educational field trips as well as have key community leaders speak with them to encourage and motivate them to do their best. Our students come away with a sense of

knowing what their next steps are and what they have control over to create the future they want to see for themselves. We emphasize academic success, which also includes steps to obtaining secondary education. Our Summer ends with a big celebration dinner, where the students are the center of attention. Our students and their families are treated to a catered meal, gifts, drawings and the students receive their "Scholar Dollars" to cap the end of our program each Summer. During the school year, we tutor our students who need it and offer grade incentives for maintaining grades in their core classes. We also assist the school system as needed to support in any way possible.

Ladies Connection: New Members - April 1st

The Women's Ministry is hosting a dessert for women who joined the church in 2018 or 2019. The dessert will be on Monday, April 1st in the Fellowship Hall E & F 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm.

We are calling this event: **Ladies Connection**. Our desire is that during this time we can help connect new members with other new members, with long-term members of Briarwood, and connect new members to opportunities through the Women's Ministry.

2018 & 2019 New members should receive a postcard about the **Ladies Connection** in the mail in March. It will have information about registering for the dessert.

If you do not receive a postcard invitation or if you have questions about the event, please contact the Women's Ministry Office.



Easter Baskets - Daniel Cason's Ministry



Daniel Cason will be hosting an evangelistic event for the families of Bessemer on Good Friday, April 19th. As part of this outreach event, Daniel has asked that the Briarwood WOC provide Easter Baskets to be handed out to the children who attend.

The following is recommended:

- Purchase pre-made baskets that are wrapped in cellophane (keeps everything in tact in transit).
- If you make a basket, please wrap it in cellophane.
- Please do not spend more that \$20 on a basket.

Please drop off your baskets in the WOC Office (A-106) between **Monday, April 15 - Wednesday, April 17**. Do not drop off prior to the dates mentioned. Thank you for any help in this event.

WOC Book Club - March 11th

WOC Book Club
Monday, March 11th
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Caroline House

Give Me This Mountain is the autobiography of Dr. Helen Roseveare, graduate in medicine from University of Cambridge in the late 1940's. A well-known missionary doctor and author, she worked in the north-eastern province of the Belgian Congo with the Heart of Africa Mission in the 1950's & 60's. She established a substantial pioneer medical service and assisted the churches before Congo's independence in 1960, and



continued there for some years after, at a time when many had to flee for their lives.

Helen tells her story, from playing cricket for the ladies' university side (a liberated woman even then) to her return to Britain after five months as a hostage in rebel terrorist hands. Her candid account is an antidote to any delusion that missionaries are saints who float about an inch off the ground and see a blinding light from heaven when they receive "the call." She

almost failed in missionary school. Her own admitted stubbornness, pride, know-it-all attitude, and inability to work with others made her a liability. The final decision to send her overseas came when an incident with a broken washing line proved that she at least had a sense of humour in the face of adversity!

Physical dangers and her personal ambition in the Congo often almost sank her, but her faith and hard work brought her through. Her story is one of bright mountains, conquered after experiencing the dark valleys and learning to give the glory to God.

WOC Mission Trip to Greece

We are so thrilled that God has opened the door for Briarwood Church to go to Greece this year through a short term mission trip for women. It is going to be such a blessing to go and work with the Community House Damaris in Athens, Greece.

The Community House Damaris is a Christ-centered safe house based in Athens, Greece offering a long-term recovery program (from 3 to 7 years) for women, age 18 to 35, and their children who have been or are at high risk of sexual exploitation or trafficking. The program is designed to guide survivors into full rehabilitation and reintegration into society through four steps:

- Intake Phase
- Phase 1 – recovery program
- Phase 2 – job shadowing program
- Phase 3 – aftercare

Our team will be participating in Phase 1 of the program. We will specifically serve at the end of Phase 1 during the Celebration Week. The focus of the Celebration Week is therapeutic crafts and relationship building. We will have opportunity to share our faith and encourage the women in the Lord. Part of our focus will extend to encouragement and support of the staff who daily care for the women of the Community House Damaris. In addition to our time serving at the Community House Damaris we will have opportunity to engage with the Petaluda Roma kids ministry as well.

The Community House Damaris is part of the various ministries that are run by our Briarwood supported missionaries: Argyris and Dina Petrou.

Due to the nature of the work we are doing, this team is a small team of four women including Lynda Lamb, Linda Keffer, Heather McDougall and Kristie Harrick. The team will depart for Greece on June 4th and return on June 15th.

We do ask that you would pray for our team as we prepare, raise support, and seek the Lord's guidance and preparation of our own hearts as we seek to follow Him in serving the Community House Damaris.

***The WOC's desire is to plan short term mission trips specifically designed for women to go and serve in ministries where only women would have access to serve. If you are interested in future teams, please email kharrick@briarwood.org. We hope to start planning for 2020 in the next few months.

Mark Your Calendars! See website for more information.



Thursday, April 11
“An Evening with Friends”
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

WBL Spring Outreach Lunch

Date: Thursday, April 4th

Time: 11:30 am—12:30 pm

Location: The Club

Former Briarwood member, Dr. Lauren Whitt will be the speaker. Dr. Whitt is currently leading the prevention and well-being efforts at Google. She is based at the Googleplex in Boulder, CO where her team is responsible for launching initiatives designed to create the happiest and healthiest employees in the world.

We are excited to have her share her story with us!

To reserve your spot:

<https://wbllspringluncheon2019.eventbrite.com/>

Hispanic Women’s Conference: February 16th



Saturday,
 February 16th
 the Briarwood
 Hispanic
 Congregation
 hosted a

Women’s Conference for women whose first language is Spanish. The conference covered the topics of covenant, church, and Biblical womanhood and was taught from a Reformed Presbyterian viewpoint all in Spanish. Let’s praise the Lord for over 60 women who attended the conference! Also—continue to pray for Joel and Gladys Acevedo as they follow up with the women who attended the conference.

Thank you to the 27 men and women from Briarwood who volunteered to serve through greeting, registration, set-up/clean-up and through providing food for the conference’s luncheon. You freed up Joel and Gladys Acevedo’s team so that they could participate in the conference.



Missionary Coffee Pictures: February 26th

We had a wonderful time in prayer and fellowship as we gathered to encourage and strengthen the hands of the missionary women in the Lord! Thank you to everyone who gave to the missionary bags, served in preparation for the event, and were able to attend this year's coffee.

Let us continue to lift up our missionaries in prayer as they labor on the frontlines around the globe.



Women's Retreat Pictures: February 1-3

What a fantastic and restful weekend! We were encouraged in the Word by our speaker, Abby Hutto. We had time of focused worship through music led by our own Baylee and Elizabeth. We had meaningful small group discussions. We ate some fantastic food at Bravo's Italian. We had a chance to meet new friends. And, the Lord blessed us with fantastic weather on Saturday! ❤️

