

Retreat Service Project: Collecting Children's Books



This year we will be gathering new (or gently used) children's books, which will be distributed throughout Arizona to prepare students for school success. Did you know:

- Reading is a mental workout that expands vocabulary, boosts critical thinking, and improves writing and communication skills.
- Reading educates students on other times and cultures, while building empathy with others and understanding of various points of view.
- Books offer philosophical exploration and character depth that is often limited in faster-paced visual media.
- Reading provides an escape into another world, building creativity and wonder.
- Reading is the foundation to success in school and life-long learning.



Obviously, reading is a very important skill to develop! Unfortunately, many Arizona children live in homes with no books! They cannot develop the necessary skills. **61% of children living at or below the poverty line have no books in their homes. 67% of American 4th graders read below grade level, setting them up for difficulty in school and in later life.** Please change their worlds by bringing books for children of any age! Ask friends and family to contribute, too. Let's stock the state with wonderful reading experiences!

Putting the Fun in Fundraiser: Gift Card Raffle

Our state-wide DWM organization provides the funds for scholarships, events, service and, of course, this retreat! To continue to keep those functions going, we need to support them financially. But that can also be fun! Again this year we will hold a gift card raffle, with the money supporting our own Regional DWM. We are asking each attending congregation to contribute gift cards, based on the following chart:



1-4 retreat attendees = 1 gift card worth \$25 or more

5-9 retreat attendees = 2 gift cards worth \$25 or more each

10+ retreat attendees = 3 or more gift cards worth \$25 or more each

Coffee and dessert gift cards are always popular, but it is fun to have a variety! Maybe movie, bookstore, restaurant or craft store gift cards? Be creative! Also, we welcome extra gift cards in any amount from individuals. If you have a gift card lying around, why not donate it? The more gift cards, the more winners in our raffle!

Sunday Service: Offering Opportunities That Change Lives

Disciples women cultivate life-long habits of giving out of a spirit of thankfulness—and our monetary gifts combine to make a significant blessing in the lives of others! Disciples women support operations that help women live out their call via leadership development, spiritual formation/renewal, and advocacy in many areas. If your DWM group collects blessing box funds, please combine them and bring a single check made out to Christian Church of Arizona (with memo "Blessing Box"). This year we are highlighting a special organization, **Hope Walks**, which provides colorfully painted braces to help babies born with club feet recover and heal. We will have a workshop where these braces will be created, and we will be supporting them through a free-will offering to their organization. Visit hopewalks.org to donate or learn more about this cause. QR codes will also be available at the retreat for your donations.

