

The Purpose

Winchester District
United Methodist Women on a Mission



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

October 2021

FROM YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT

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Zone meeting – Saturday, Nov 6, from 9 a.m. to noon via zoom:

At Zone meeting time last year, our focus was on “How Do We Restart Our Motor?” Now here we are one year later. How has it been for your unit?

*Have you been able to meet – either virtually or in person?

*Have you been “thinking outside the box” for ideas?

*Have you been able to have any fundraisers?

*Are you struggling financially or membership-wise?

*Do you feel that your motor is stuck in “idle” mode and you are almost ready to call it quits?

We will address these concerns and more at the Zone meeting this year. The theme will be “**HOW CAN WE KEEP ON KEEPING ON?**” All units in all zones are invited to attend. Presidents, if you yourself cannot attend, please try to make sure that at least one other person from your unit can.

Presidents’ packets:

These will be assembled soon and will be either mailed to you or hand-delivered. The packets will contain certificates and rainbow giver pins, plus information you will need for the coming year.

2022 Prayer Breakfast – Saturday, March 19:

Yes, we are going to plan for it! However, planning doesn’t necessarily mean that the event will actually take place. Conditions re Covid next February may dictate cancelation. We’ll see.

Presidents, between now and Zone meeting please poll your members regarding this question: IF – and that’s a big “IF” -- come next March the pandemic is really over and there are no restrictions re meeting and eating and mingling, would you be willing to attend the Prayer Breakfast in person, OR would you rather attend virtually even if there were no restrictions at all?

I’ll email you a reminder about this poll soon.

And now a little food for thought:

We all know “The Serenity Prayer” by Reinhold Niebuhr:

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.*

Now consider this statement attributed to social activist Angela Davis:

*I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change.
I am changing the things I cannot accept.*

Something to think about.

Love and prayers,
Mary Preston, District UMW President
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**SAVE THE
DATE**

➤ Saturday, November 6th
9am to 12pm

Zone Meeting via Zoom:
HOW CAN WE KEEP ON
KEEPING ON?

FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

UMCOR Kits- Last March our UMW District assembled, collected, temporarily stored and transported 1,147 UMCOR School and Hygiene kits to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA where they were stored until needed. We will wait and see if Annual Conference will be held in person in June of 2022 and things get back to their normal ways of sending them. However, if your unit has some kits already assembled and boxed (they prefer banana boxes so all are the same size) you can make arrangements with me to get them and transport up to Mission Central on my next trip up there. I go up to see family every 2 or 3 weeks, but my little car can only hold about 6 boxes at a time. So if you wish to send any UMCOR kits up to the distribution center, please get in contact with me and we can make arrangements to meet. They do ask for a donation of \$1 a kit to help with shipping costs, and the check can be made out to "Mission Central".

Thanks!
Debbie Jones, District Vice President
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FROM YOUR DISTRICT TREASURER

It's October, and time to share the 3rd quarter district "money matters". So, check out the news and reminders.

District Pledge for 2021

For the 3rd Qtr., we're at 54% of our \$48K Pledge. We're not quite at our quarter goal, but we're doing what we can and remain thankful to God for getting us this far. As we move into our last quarter for 2021, we ask each unit to do their best to give just a little more, if you are able. We'd like to get our mission pledge to above 60% to close 2021 (31 of 34 units sent in pledge amounts). Continue to be prayerful for financial blessings and improving times.

Unit Pledge for 2021

Nine units have paid their full 2021 pledge to mission. We pray more units will be blessed in the final quarter to achieve their pledge goal. Hopefully, your unit is getting back together in a manner that works for you to continue support UMW efforts. We are still needed and called upon to help serve others.

Glory to God! 80% of our units have paid their A&MD for 2021. District expenses have been minimal for the year; however costs and expenses will increase for the 2022 planned events and activities that are happening again.

Thank you to the units that sent their unit pledge after Annual Meeting. Unit Presidents please don't forget to tell me your unit pledge for 2022. The pledge form or just the information can be emailed. Your unit pledge helps our leadership know if our individual pledges will be enough to meet our 2022 District Pledge to Mission.

4th Quarter Remittance and Form

Please mail your 4th quarter remittance to arrive in my mailbox **no later than December 8th**. It takes at least 2-3 days to arrive after it's postmarked. A few Treasurers missed a deadline this year, so ensure your unit makes gets it in for the 4th quarter 2021 year-end. The deadlines ensure District remittances get to our Conference Treasurer on time.

Legacy Fund

The Legacy Fund endowment lives on. Feel free to send donations direct to New York instead of through the district treasurer, the address and instructions are on the conference website www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund.

Become a Rainbow Giver

Thank you to 12 Rainbow Givers this year! You will get your RB pin delivered soon!

Being a Rainbow Giver lets you personally give to five of the six channels of Mission Giving with your gift of \$60. Get the form from your unit or District Treasurer. Fill out the information and send the form along with a check for \$60 to your unit treasurer or send directly to the District Treasurer by **August 10th**—it's never too soon!

2022 Forms.

Treasurer forms will be in the post-Annual Meeting packet your unit President will get—ask for them: Unit Remittance (one for each quarter), Rainbow Giver, Special Mission Recognition, and Unit Pledge to Mission.

Congratulations!

Update the Annual Meeting Report--Market Street achieved 6-Star Pledge to Mission unit status. 2021 continues with it challenges and uncertainties, yet we persevere. We've adapted different ways to meet and stay in touch, get back to business and get things done, and continue doing our important UMW mission work.

Blessings! Contact me if you have questions.

Angela Lane, District UMW Treasurer
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“May the Lord answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.” (Psalm 20:1)

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Congratulations to the following units for their achievements in “Living Into Our Purpose”:

Gold level: Agape, Bethel-Warren, Bluemont, Brucetown, Front Royal, Greenwood, Kernstown, Leesburg, Marshall, Refuge

Silver level: Burnt Factory, Duncan Memorial, Harmony, Mongague Avenue, Mt. Zion-Leesburg

Bronze level: Bethany, Grace, Linden/Markham, Mt. Pleasant/Lamps, Stephens City

Now an apology. The LIOP section of the annual meeting program was incorrect. Marshall UMW was listed in the wrong column. So sorry! 😞

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH (MN&O)

Winchester District UMW Deceased Members Report

September 1st, 2020 – August 31st, 2021 (20 total)

Agape (2)

Ruth Basil Scott

Almeta Lee

Bluemont (1)

Our pastor, Rev. Pam Baldwin

Braddock Street (1)

Jean Ecelberger 12/20/20

Brucetown (1)

Evelyn Shirley

Burnt Factory (2)

Nancy Hulver 01/16/21

Helen Shriver 08/17/21

Harmony (2)

Shirley Crosen

Catherine Fox

John Mann/Wesley (1)

Carolyn Gaither Young Morris

Kernstown (1)

Phyllis Tharpe

Leesburg (1)

Betty Dameron 07/21

Market Street UMW (7)

Judy Fogle 11/18/20

Sandra Glover 12/3/20

Mary Grim 4/3/21

Martha Stewart Lauck 7/21/20

Susan Peer 12/16/20

Betty Shackelford 3/25/21

Betsy Whitehead 12/18/20

Refuge (1)

Doris Jones 4/21/21

Respectfully Submitted,

Pauline Skiles, Membership Nurture and Outreach

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SOCIAL ACTION

Vote for Women and Children!

There are so many current issues that are affecting the women and children of our world. Law enforcement resource officers in our schools, violence in our communities, immigration, LBGTQ and gender issue, Critical Race Theory, Virginia history/removing statues/reparations, food insecurity, COVID, living wage, global warming/climate justice, racial justice, and access to healthcare are just some of our concerns.

On November 2, 2021, we will go to the polls to elect a new Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates, and many local offices. It is important to find out how these candidates stand on the issues. Pray before you vote. But most importantly vote, remember those who fought for the right for women to vote. Make your voice for women and children known.

Rita Biggs, Social Action Coordinator
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HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Our choir director asked me to sing on communion Sunday. I chose “Come to the Banquet” by Nancy VanZant. Nancy is an accomplished musician from the Lynchburg area. For many years she was the pianist of choice at Conference UMW functions. She also played trumpet and handbells. In later years she did duets with a recording of her on the piano as she played handbells in person.

Remembering this led me to search my music stash for compositions by Nancy and by Sandra Baker. Those two were rather prolific in the 1980s. Sandra wrote “through it all...God” and “Mission Is” (also titled “Mission - - Our On – Going Journey”). Nancy wrote “Life Abundantly” and “Go Ye Into the World”. On “Come to the Banquet”, Nancy composed the music and Mable Knotts wrote the verses.

When I became involved with District UMW, Mable was a nurse and her hubby was pastoring Strasburg UMC. Sandra Baker and Eugene, her clergy husband, were members of the EUB church. After the merger of our two churches, she was part of the committee work that resulted in the UMW and Women's Division. Sandra was serving as UMW representative to the United Nations when I first met her. In 1992 She was elected President of the Virginia Conference UMW. She served thru 1996.

Janice Webb, District UMW Historian
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SPIRITUAL GROWTH

PRAYER BREAKFAST – it is yet to be determined if we will have a prayer breakfast next Spring. It depends on the status of COVID 19.

THANKSGIVING -- As we approach our holiday of Thanksgiving in November, we are reminded of the scriptures commanding us to give thanks to God.

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Be anxious for nothing, 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 comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

These scriptures were written by the Apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit. From this scripture is a framework for prayer called **ACTS**. This acronym stands for: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication.

We are commanded to pray with thanksgiving – not just when we feel like it, but as an act of our will and obedience. Regardless of what’s happening in our lives, we’re to thank God for the good, for the difficult, for the unknown, for the big decisions we’re facing, and even for the challenging relationships.

When we actively and proactively give thanks, it forces us to take the focus off our problems and on to who God really is. Thanking God changes our perspective and gives us peace, especially when feeling overwhelmed. When we are discouraged, we need to thank God in our prayers. As we thank God, He promises that we will begin to experience more of his peace, kindness, compassion, and his love.

Ref: Chip Ingram

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The Purpose, October 2021

