

# The Purpose

Winchester District  
United Methodist Women on a Mission



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

April 2020

## FROM YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT

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As I look out the window and see trees and flowers blooming and feel the warm sun, I realize that spring is upon us even if it is still March. It feels different this year and not just about early blooms and warm days. This spring brings a lot of anxiety and concern about the Corona Virus. I am confident that a gracious and loving God will guide us in this very difficult time.

We were able to have our prayer breakfast on March 7, with 280 of our sisters and guests in attendance. We enjoyed the music of Heart and Soul, the praise band of Refuge United Methodist Church. Dr. David Johns, President of Ferrum College, challenged us in a clever and delightful address to shine our light forward. We collected gift cards for four deserving organizations. The Winchester District UMW always amazes and humbles me with their generous spirit and you certainly did again. We collected approximately \$4040.00 in gift cards to be shared with the recipients.

Due to the Corona Virus, we have several calendar changes. Our Spring Event on April 25 has been postponed. We hope to reschedule this event and will let you know when we have a new date. The conference Spiritual Life Retreat has been canceled and moved forward to May 14-16, 2021. UMW Day at Ferrum has also been canceled. We will keep you up to date on any further changes that might take place.

In these unprecedented times, it is important for everyone to stay safe following the guidelines of our officials. While we are isolated in our homes, it is important to find ways to stay in contact with church members, friends and those who might be suffering loneliness. We can find ways to serve as United Methodist Women even at a distance.

Love and Blessings,  
Carolyn

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## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Ladies,

This space is normally used to convey information about upcoming district and conference UMW events. However, these are not normal times. Our district's Spring Event scheduled for April 25 has been postponed, the conference Spiritual Life Retreat in May has been canceled, and the conference Mission Encounter in July has been canceled as well. Will our district Mission Encounter be held in September? At this point, we just don't know. There are a lot of things that are uncertain now. However, here is something to keep in mind: *We may not know what the future holds, but we do know Who holds the future!*

Mary Preston, District Vice President  
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## FROM YOUR NEW DISTRICT TREASURER

Greetings. I hope each of you is well and staying safe and healthy during this unprecedented and challenging time in our lives with COVID virus within our midst. Through it all, God continues to be our strength, protector, and refuge during this crisis. I pray that each of you will Take care, Be safe, and Stay healthy in the weeks ahead.

Now, on to news and reminders...

**Prayer Breakfast.** What a wonderful gathering we had at the District Prayer Breakfast. This year we chose to change our Annual Prayer Breakfast mission giving action from collecting food and durable items as done in past years, to collecting Walmart and Target gift cards for the four designated mission projects: Northwestern Regional Educational Program (NREP), Red Wagon Ministry, Phoenix Project, and Una Familia. The gift cards donated by our United Methodist Women exceeded our expectations. We were able to donate 277 gift cards having a total value of \$4,040.00! This generous collective allowed each of the four missions projects to receive over \$1,025 in cards value. We know those missions are very grateful for the generous gifts they received to help support the services they provide to persons in need. What a financial blessing from a loving and giving group of women! Thank you.

## SAVE THE DATE

- **PLEASE NOTE:**
  - Our Spring Event that was scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> has been postponed.
  - Spiritual Life Retreat has been canceled for this year. Next year's dates are **May 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2021**
  - UMW DAY at Ferrum has been canceled
  - Conference Mission Encounter 2020 has been cancelled.
- **Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>  
2-5PM**
  - Executive Committee Meeting Zone I (Roszell Chapel UMC, Philomont)

**Unit Pledge for 2020.** I am still looking for units to let me know your 2020 pledge amount, so I can see if our anticipated pledges will get us to our District pledge of \$54,000. We definitely need to hit that mark! For the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, with 24 units sending in a pledge to mission, we are at 23% of our goal. I hope more units step up in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and get us above 50%. A few units were able to send in their entire 2020 pledge—Clap, clap, Thank you.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Remittance.** If your unit missed the deadline for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter remittance--try to make it up this next quarter. The Second Quarter Remittance should arrive in my mailbox no later than **June 8<sup>th</sup>** to allow time to send them on to our conference treasurer. Be mindful that it takes at least two days for your letter to reach me via the postal service “snail mail”. Also, if your unit was one in the mix that missed A&MD... please send in your unit’s Administrative and Membership Development (A&MD) fee this quarter. Remember, this fee covers the bills.

**CORRECTION! UMCOR Remittances.** Color me red and blushing! I erroneously stated in the January Purpose that UMCOR mission donations were no longer to be sent through the treasurer--**YOU CAN.** UMCOR is on the remittance form and these donations are still being accepted through the Treasurer. Sorry for the confusion.

**Become a Rainbow Giver.** Being a Rainbow Giver lets you personally give to five of the six channels of Mission Giving with your gift of \$60. Try to do this early so you receive your Special Mission Recognition Pin and Gift to Mission and Gift In Memory cards in time for those upcoming special times of remembrance. You can check with your unit Treasurer for the form (it’s in her Treasurer packet). Fill out the information and give the form to your treasurer with a check for \$60. The Rainbow Giver form is also included in this Purpose newsletter. Due to the government’s stay at home safety guidance, the form along with a check can also be sent directly to the District Treasurer. The Rainbow Giver form must get into the District Treasurer’s hands no later than **August 10th.**

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

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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*

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## MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH (MN&O)

Greetings and well wishes to all! I wish to express my thanks and appreciation for all (and I mean all) District units for your 2019 UMW Membership Census. I have completed my reports to the conference/national level – another year accomplished. Below is a quick summary of this Census for our District.

Jan. 2019 membership	new members	loss/death	Dec. 2019 Memb.
<b>Totals 808</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>786</b>

2019 WINCHESTER DISTRICT CENSUS REPORT

Again, thanks and blessings!

Pauline Skiles, Membership Nurture and Outreach  
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## SOCIAL ACTION

Like many of you, I am experiencing a myriad of emotions as I write this article.....anxiety about my health and the health of others, sorrow over the many deaths, concern for the persons in my community they are not receiving services or experiencing the loss of a job, a sense of helplessness, fear of the unknown, isolation, missing my grandchildren, disappointment at canceled events. At the same time, I am filled with gratitude that we have a God who is with us... a God who comforts, heals, protects, and saves. It has been a blessing to use this time for reading, prayer, and reflection.

At this time, our **Spring Event** scheduled for April 25th from 9-noon at Bethany UMC in Purcellville is **POSTPONED**. Please be watching for updates.

***“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself”***

What Does Love Look Like? -Shining Light on Social Action – a Bible Study facilitated by Rev. Heather Ray, Deacon and Director of Connect Ministries, Leesburg UMC. This program is a little different than our usual presentation by a speaker. We will be looking at the Biblical foundations for our social action campaigns. I am excited about the study content and the format.

**April is Earth Month.** Have you noticed in the news as people stay home and many businesses have closed, our atmosphere is clearing? The earth appears to be healing-interesting to think about A series of webinars from Virginia Interfaith Power and Light will take place on Fridays next month from 12-1 pm.



**virginia interfaith  
power & light**

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## PROGRAM RESOURCES

I hope everyone is safe at home and using some of your now free time to read books from the UMW Reading Program. If you saw the movie *Just Mercy*, a 2019 drama that tells the true story of Walter McMillian who, with help from his young defense lawyer Bryan Stevenson, appeals his murder conviction, you can count it as a book in Social Action! Unfortunately, it is no longer in the theatres and the theatres are closed anyway but I will be looking to see if it shows up on Netflix and will let you know. DVD and Blu-ray release is set for April 14, 2020 so you might be able to rent it soon.

Happy reading!

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## DISTRICT MISSION ENCOUNTER

Peace and grace to all,

I wish to remind you again to continue to save the date, **Saturday, September 12, 2020**. As of now we continue to plan for the Winchester District Mission Encounter to be held at Stephens City UMC.

Our theme for this year is "The Way of Peace: Our Longing for Community."

The studies to be offered are:

Spiritual Growth Study: Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety

Anniversary Study: United Methodist Women Anniversary Study (continued from last year, using the same study book)

Study books are available through the Resource Center. Books can be ordered through **Debbie Jones**, our District Secretary of Program Resources, **no later than June 25, 2020**.

**drdjones@yahoo.com** or through **Jeanette, jeanette.yoh@gmail.com** by **July 5, 2020**. The books are **\$10.00 each**. If you need assistance please feel free to contact any member of our committee.

We are in the process of getting our Plenary speaker and Study Leaders and that information will be in our next Newsletter.

Many thanks to the Stephens City UMC and the United Methodist Women of the church for hosting us another year.

Please continue to pray for each other, our churches, those suffering, our health care providers and for healing. Lord in your mercy hear our prayers. Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:24

Blessings,

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

In the Summer of 1985 I was a 33 yr. old wife, employed by a local business, who had just completed 2 yrs as Winchester District's UMW Mission Coordinator for Social Action. One day I received a phone call – would I serve as district president at least 2 yrs?, probably 4? After discussions with my husband and Mother, I said “yes” and thus began 35 years of extended service with United Methodist Women. I remember my first Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) meeting. The VA Conference chartered a bus and we travelled to Buloxi, MS., visiting missions, schools, and sight-seeing as well as attending the seminars and classes. I would love to share with you stories of our trips by bus, train or plane to these regional and national UMW meetings. In the early years officers from Women's Division would come to our conference to expand our knowledge on various aspects of UMW work. A financial seminar so impressed me that I recruited the District Treasurer to help me replicate it for our local women! Last Fall when the SEJ meeting and VA Bus Trip for 2020 was announced, I was physically and financially unable to attend. In February, as I was recuperating from knee replacement surgery, a phone call from Joyce Winston, Trip Commander, offered me a partial scholarship to attend. Still groggy from meds, I declined; but Joyce gave me some weeks to reconsider. I did reconsider and accepted. Because of the virus crisis, jurisdictional meetings have been postponed until Fall. I figure God has provided a way for me to attend so I plan to do so.

My point in telling you all of this is 1) to encourage you and your women to participate in all levels of UMW; 2) Say “yes” if asked to serve a) enjoy new people and experiences b) gain new information about our mission work c) the spiritual growth is unlimited; 3) graciously provide financial help – as a circle, unit or individual – for a member to attend conference, jurisdictional or national events. I am almost positive that my “scholarship” was provided by one or more individuals; 4) don't forget to invite me to share the 2020 SEJ meeting with your unit!

AND if I am unable to attend, **BE BOLD (2018 Assembly slogan)** – speak up – and use the scholarship.

Janice Webb, District UMW Historian  
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## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The book of Psalms has many comforting scriptures to remember during this time.

“God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble” Psalm 46:1

“The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.” Psalm 46:11

“My soul waits in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be shaken.” Psalm 62:5-6

We are living through very difficult times as we fight the Novel Coronavirus 19.

I hope that all of you are well and finding encouragement in God's word. Romans 15:4 says, "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." May you find encouragement, comfort, hope, and peace through God's promises to His children.

I read the following from religious leaders in our country, which may be helpful to you.

FEAR AND FAITH  
HAVE SOMETHING  
IN COMMON, THEY  
BOTH ASK US TO  
BELIEVE  
IN SOMETHING  
WE CANNOT SEE

Joel Osteen

**CALM**  
Celebrate  
Ask God for help.  
Leave your concerns with God  
Meditate on good things.

-Max Lucado

PRAYER: Heavenly Father – Thank you for the beautiful Spring days that we are having and the flowers that are arising from the ground. This reminds us of Your birth, death, and resurrection. Be with us during this difficult time as you promised to be with us in times of troubles. Watch over our country and the world. Bring healing to those who are suffering and comfort to those who have lost loved ones. In Jesus Name We Pray. Amen

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# Become a Rainbow Giver 2020



The Virginia Conference United Methodist Women started the Rainbow Giver program in 2010 to provide an opportunity for you, as an individual, to personally give to five of the six channels of Mission Giving.

Your gift of \$60 will make you a Rainbow Giver:

\$ 5 is for Pledge to Mission

\$40 is for a Special Mission Recognition pin (to honor someone special)

\$ 5 is for a Gift to Mission card\*

\$ 5 is for a Gift in Memory card \*

\$ 5 is for World Thank Offering

*\*Card will be mailed to you for you to give to the person of your choice.*

It's easy to become a Rainbow Giver. Just fill out the information called for below and give this form to your unit treasurer along with a check for \$60. Be sure to write "Rainbow Giver" on the check's memo line. All components must be submitted to your unit treasurer at one time. While it is not mandatory, we suggest that your Rainbow Giver gift be in addition to your regular Pledge to Mission and World Thank Offering.

Anyone can become a Rainbow Giver -- church members, spouses, friends -- all are welcome to participate in UMW Mission Giving. *(Please note that a unit may not be a Rainbow Giver -- it's for individuals only.)*

**DEADLINE: Your Rainbow Giver gift and form should be given to your unit treasurer in time for her to get it in the district treasurer's hands no later than August 10.**

## INFORMATION ABOUT YOU, THE RAINBOW GIVER (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF YOUR LOCAL UNIT \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PERSON TO RECEIVE THE SMR PIN \_\_\_\_\_

*(If you haven't decided on the recipient yet, put on the line "Leave Blank." Pin and certificate will be mailed to you, the Rainbow Giver, for you to fill in and give to the person of your choice.)*

WHICH GIFT TO MISSION CARD DO YOU WANT? \_\_\_\_\_

*(Choose from: baby, birthday, Christmas, congratulations, in the service of Christ, peace, special day, thank you, thinking of you. Your unit treasurer has a picture of what these cards look like.)*

If you have any questions, please contact your district UMW treasurer:

Angela Lane, 1110 Huntmaster Terr., NE, Apt. 301, Leesburg, VA 20176

Email: [angln46@comcast.net](mailto:angln46@comcast.net) Cell: 703-298-4068

**One added note: When you become a Rainbow Giver, your unit also gets credit for each of those five Mission Giving categories and automatically becomes a 5-star unit.**