

THE Link



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

THE ORGANIZED UNIT OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN SHALL BE A COMMUNITY OF WOMEN WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO KNOW GOD AND TO EXPERIENCE FREEDOM AS WHOLE PERSONS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST; TO DEVELOP A CREATIVE, SUPPORTIVE FELLOWSHIP; TO EXPAND CONCEPTS OF MISSION THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH.

VA CONFERENCE UMW NEWSLETTER *THE LINK*

May 2020

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PURPOSE

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know GOD and to experience FREEDOM as whole persons through JESUS CHRIST; to develop a creative, supportive FELLOWSHIP; and to expand CONCEPTS OF MISSION through participation in the global ministries of the church.



President

Mary Jane Rawley

Isaiah 43:1 – "I have called you by name, you are mine." This scripture verse has formed me as it has many of you. I am also deeply aware that the Spirit was working in my life and nudging me into mission through United Methodist Women. I answered that nudging about 27 years ago when I was invited to come to a circle meeting. Being new to UMW, the senior ladies of the new UMC I had just joined nurtured me and taught me all about our mission. Within a year, I was forming a new morning circle for my UMW for those mostly senior ladies who did not want to meet at nighttime. Did I know enough in my short tenure at that time to be a circle leader? No, I did not but I knew how to be a leader and they said they would teach me the rest and they did. Who would have ever thought I would one day be your Virginia Conference President? I am almost 3 ½ years into my 4-year term as your President. The year 2020 has not exactly gone the way I pictured my last year in the President position. The pandemic we are all experiencing has caused us all to miss opportunities to be together as sisters in Christ. The stay at home orders from our Governor has been a way to try to protect us all from this virus. Many of you have been affected by isolation, job and income loss, and your family and friends have either had the virus or know someone who has. Hopefully, our time at home has increased our devotional and reading time as well as gets projects done around the home. We have had our own home projects we have worked on. If you go to Lowes, you will see the mass people there getting supplies for home improvement projects. Many of you have been doing mission during this time as you have fed the hungry, sewn masks, or checked on your elderly neighbors and church family.

As I have traveled around Virginia in my term, I have been inspired by the ways aging women still answer God's call to serve. They continue to pray. They do what they can in the church kitchen, on church and conference committees, in United Methodist Women. They offer Bible studies in prison, put together Days for Girls kits for Africa and other parts of the world to empower young girls, work in food banks, backpack programs and clothes closets. I meet newly retired women who have become more involved because the constraints of working full time have been lifted and they want to offer their gifts and skills through UMW. I mourn the loss of units whose numbers have dwindled to the point they feel they must disband. I hope the few women who are left will continue to pray for, give to, and when possible, attend district and conference meetings that affirm the ministry and mission of United Methodist Women. We are a sisterhood in service. We all know that change is a constant and it is often difficult. Together we can find creative ways to invite young women to join us, to serve with us. We can mentor those younger women. We can find graceful ways to let go of power. We can nurture, empower, and serve together. What an experience! I am so grateful for my UMW Executive Committee who makes up a team of do-ers, supporting each other as we serve together. God has also called me by name. And God has called you. We are God's.

Sisters, let us continue to support each other and our neighbors with prayer and love in the months ahead.

Blessings,
Mary Jane Rawley, President



**Vice-
President**

Nancy Walsh

QUIET TIME

During this “quiet time”, we are prone to reflect on many things, for most of which we have no answers. We have learned that answers to our many questions are hard to come by, but that does not stop us from continuing to ask. For it is in the deep recesses of our longings, that speculations continue to flow. We are by nature curious, and we cannot stop the inner thoughts of our minds or our hearts.

We ask “how” and “why” and “what if”? We want to know “when”, and we want to know “who”. We want to experience the milk of human kindness, and because we are followers of Christ, we want to help, even in the smallest of ways. We may be unaccustomed to such a quiet time. We may be unaccustomed to waiting patiently. *A Statement of Faith of The United Church of Canada* reminds us that

We are not alone, we live in God’s world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
Who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
To reconcile and make new,
Who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the church:
To celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in creation,
To love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Nancy Walsh, Vice President



Secretary

Dottie Thompson

Greetings from the warm days of Spring

Here is a reflection on Mother's Day this merry month of May from the book "A Season of Renewal".

As a mother of three grown daughters that live locally to me, I am very much a part of their busy lives. This encompasses my busy life as a full time grandmother, and babysitting for working-at-home parents during this time of Coronavirus. I am blessed!

"It was hard to let you go:
To watch womanhood reach out and snatch you
Long before the mothering was done.
But if God listened to mothers and gave in,
Would the time for turning loose of daughters ever come?"

It was hard when you went away--
For how was I to know
The serendipity of letting go
Would be seeing you come home again
And meeting in a new way
Woman to woman--
Friend to Friend."

We held a Zoom call this past week with the Secretaries throughout the US, and we congratulated Vidette Mixon on her retirement as National Secretary, and welcomed incoming Secretary, Susan Moberg. Please keep me posted on changes to your UMW information and be safe!!

Dottie Thompson, Secretary



Treasurer

Linda Borrer

The Virginia Conference United Methodist Women met 91% of its Pledge to Mission Giving for 2019 compared to 84% for 2018. Congratulations!!

We are now in the second quarter of our financial year and am aware that it is difficult for units to meet and stay connected with one another. However, I am hearing that UMW members are thinking outside the box and can continue with some of their missions throughout the community. Let us not forget those other projects that our Mission Giving dollars support here and all over the world. I am pleased to report that for the first quarter a total of \$109,229.45 Mission Giving dollars was sent to National in New York. In addition, the following amounts were sent to:

- Call to Prayer & Self-Denial - \$10,770.33;
- Wesley Community Service Center - \$2,237.42;
- Red Bird Mission - \$1,725.00;
- Henderson Settlement - \$400.00;
- VA Projects -\$7,234.55; and
- Legacy Fund - \$1,036.97.

Please be aware that each year all district treasurers will present their books to a certified public accountant or to a person who has a minimum of a four-year accounting degree. This person will review the accounting records and complete a statement Schedule of Cash Activities, which identifies the materials that are to be presented for audit. A copy of the completed statement is given to the district treasurer, district executive committee and the conference treasurer. The district treasurer must account for the use of administrative and membership development funds as well as monies sent to the conference treasurer. It is imperative that this statement be completed each year to ensure that records have been properly kept and all bank statements agree with the checkbook year-end balance.

Scholarships amounting to \$4200.00 were approved by the Executive Committee for the following recipients from the Jean Frances Craig/Agnes C. Burr Fund:

- The Learning Garden Preschool and Daycare – Chesapeake, VA - \$2700.00
- Book bag Program for Feeding Children, Fairview UMC – Stephens City, VA - \$1000.00
- Cambodia Mission Initiative of the GBGM - \$500.00

The collection of stamps is still an ongoing mission and we will sadly miss Rev. Mike Davis who did such an amazing job for us. After Mike's passing, we did have Paul Thompson of the Elizabeth River District volunteer to continue this mission for us. Stamps can be brought to the Annual Meeting in October or mailed to Paul Thompson, 2117 Shade Tree St., Virginia Beach VA 23456. However, it can be expensive to send them by mail.

Start now to become a Rainbow Giver for \$60 and contact your District Treasurer for the form which is mailed to her with your check.

Blessings to each of you!
Linda Borrer, Treasurer
Phone 540-664-5912
Email linda.borrer1@gmail.com





RAINBOW WOMAN FORM VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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.

Yes, **YOU** can become a **RAINBOW WOMAN!!** Anyone can become a Rainbow Giver – church members, spouses, friends – all are welcome to participate in UMW Mission Giving.

A Rainbow Woman gives to all five channels of giving:

\$40.00 to give someone special a Special Mission Recognition Pin

\$ 5.00 Pledge to Mission (this is in addition to your regular pledge)

\$ 5.00 Gift to Mission Card*

\$ 5.00 Gift in Memory Card*

\$ 5.00 World Thank Offering

\$60.00 Total

*Cards will be mailed to you by the District Treasurer for you to give to the person of your choice.

It's easy to become a Rainbow Giver. Complete the form below and give this form to your unit treasurer along with a check for \$60.00. Be sure to write "Rainbow Giver" on the check's memo line.

This program does not replace your Pledge and World Thank Offering, but is another opportunity to contribute to Mission Giving.

Please complete the information and give it to your unit treasurer who should send it on to the district treasurer by the deadline date.

RAINBOW GIVER'S NAME: _____

RAINBOW GIVER'S ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO. _____ **E-MAIL** _____

NAME OF YOUR LOCAL UNIT _____

NAME OF PERSON TO RECEIVE THE SMR PIN _____

(If you haven't yet decided, put on the line "Leave Blank". Pin and certificate will be mailed to 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 service of Christ, peace, special day, thank you, thinking of you)

If you have any questions about becoming a Rainbow Woman, please contact your district UMW treasurer.

Conference Treasurer: Linda Borrer, 849 Grim Road, Stephens City, VA 22655

E-Mail: linda.borrer1@gmail.com



Mission Education & Interpretation

Brenda NeSmith

Greetings Sisters,

I had wanted to have a time of remembrance at Mission Encounter for two persons special to our Virginia Conference United Methodist Women. Since we are not having Mission Encounter, I would like to share a few thoughts now to honor their memory.



REVEREND WALTER WHITEHURST, retired Virginia Conference pastor and retired GBGM Missionary, known to all as "Walt," passed away on January 4, 2020. In remembering Walt, one's thoughts naturally include the mentioning of his wife Dr. Betty Whitehurst, who served as our UMW Conference President, 2005-2006. Walt and Betty were partners in ministry, especially as missionaries in Chile and in leading the Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Volunteers in Mission Office and serving as Consultants for Individual Volunteers with the General Board of Global Ministries. Walt and Betty have been a strong, supportive presence in the work of the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women at all levels, offering their experience and passion for mission as resource persons and study leaders.

I had the personal pleasure of being a member of a Volunteer in Mission Team to Russia, led by Walt in the early 1990's, a period following Perestroika and the fall of Communism in the Soviet Union. The team experience was unforgettable as Walt modeled and led us in relating to our new Russian acquaintances with sensitivity and a spirit of reconciliation. During the trip, Walt led the team in singing the South African hymn, "Send Me, Lord" which I treasure singing to this day. Also, Walt shared his special talents in storytelling, telling jokes and playing his ukulele, all of which are a part of the cherished memory by those who knew him.

AND REMEMBERING



REVEREND MICHAEL DAVIS, a Virginia Conference pastor, was serving as the Founding Pastor of Journey Missional Faith Community on the Farmville District at the time of his passing on February 11, 2020. Michael, known to all as "Mike," is the husband of Betsey Davis, who is our devoted technical support person for our Conference events. Mike and Betsey, like the Whitehursts, have also been known as a dynamic duo, sharing partnership in ministry. Mike was a professional stamp collector with experience and expertise in collecting, sorting, and selling postage stamps. Many UMW members sent their used stamps to Mike who sold them, yielding a monetary return to our Conference mission fund. United Methodist Women of the Virginia Conference are grateful to Mike for serving as our "stamp man."

Our condolences to Betty and Betsey; For faithful servants, Walt and Mike, praise God! Looking forward to the time when we can be together in person again,

In mission together with you,
Brenda NeSmith, Education and Interpretation



Spiritual Growth

Melissa White

This is one thing I know for sure – United Methodist Women have always prepared for “Such a Time as This” whatever that time in our 150-year history happens to be! Nora Asedillo Cunningham is the new Spiritual Growth and Formation Specialist at the United Methodist Women National Office and recently sent each of the Conference SGCs many links to many resources that can sustain us as we navigate our “new normal” in the midst of global pandemic. Imagine my delight when I clicked on this resource: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/blogs/for-a-time-like-this> :



This Blog:

Resources, prayers and advocacy to give support during the Covid-19 health crisis.

FOR A TIME LIKE THIS



Search Titles:

And...Surprise! We know and love this face, don't we!

When you explore this blog, and if you are like me it is often by trial and error, you will find this resource: “If it is Not Possible to Have a Face-to Face Program”. I suppose, like me, many of you are becoming more and more familiar with on-line meetings and worship via Zoom and Facebook Live. (I must admit, I have not tried the hosting part yet!) Thank you, Lord, that we live in the time of technology and can have some face-to-face encounters while staying in touch through calls and cards to those in our community who do not have such access.

Two other resources recommended from Nora's list of suggestions:

UMW Prayer Calendar on Facebook – She says, “I would encourage you to ‘Like’ the prayer calendar on Facebook, if you have not yet already. There are daily posts with prayers and mission focuses. Find a buddy and pray together!”

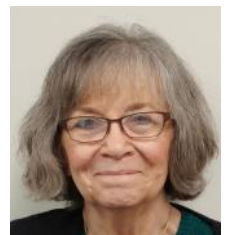
UMW Spiritual Growth Study 2020: Finding Peace in an Anxious World – Nora says, “As you probably already know, the spiritual growth study for this year is specifically on navigating times of anxiety, fear and worry through our faith. My mother's local UMW unit is holding weekly conference calls to go through the book and discuss chapter by chapter.”

During this time of staying at home, I have taken advantage of another resource available from United Methodist Women that I was aware of but had not taken the time to explore: Faith Talks. Here is the link: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks> You can register and listen to the talk as presented or often find archived presentations available to listen to as you are able. I invite you to take a look! I have registered for **Thursday, May 21 at 6:00 pm ET: Faith Talks: Emotion and Anxiety with Trudy Rankin**. Trudy is one of the authors of the Youth Spiritual Growth study that would have been offered at this year's Mission Encounter. I encourage you to explore our exceptional resources available on our United Methodist Women website at Such a Time As This!

God be with you and yours till we can meet again in community!

Blessings and Peace,
Melissa White, Spiritual Growth
Mel49white@yahoo.com

Nominations



Karen Bragg

The Committee on Nominations has met to discuss the 2021 slate and are working diligently to present a great group of ladies to you. Please keep our committee in your prayers.

Karen Bragg, Chair
Braggk17@gmail.com
434 548 3574



Membership Nurture and Outreach

Marlene Dakita

Since the deadline for submitting data to the **2019 Census** was postponed until April 30, I expect that the first draft of the final will be postponed as well. Once I receive it, I will send it to the district presidents and MNOs (or whoever is on my normal distribution list) for modifications to units' initial reporting. District contacts should review their respective section and send to me any adjustments that should be made. I will enter all modifications on the master spreadsheet then submit it all at once to the national office. We will then await the final report!

The **Young Women's Event**, for women ages 18-40, is scheduled for Friday evening - Saturday, September 11-12, at Camp Overlook in Keezletown, Virginia. We should have a good attendance this year since everyone will be more than ready to get away and this may be about the first to still be a "go" at this time! The retreat leader, Rev. Ashley Isernhagen, plans to focus on "Faith with Intention," helping the attendees develop and grow in their discipleship with intentional practices. Please start promoting and encouraging young women to attend. They need not be members of the UMW or even of a church. And encourage those you know to encourage friends to join them. Anyone who wants to attend should not hesitate because of financial need. There are scholarships available from the conference and from districts. District presidents need to contact the conference treasurer or me to ascertain eligibility and availability of funds (See page 61 of the 2019 Annual Report.). Some units sponsor a young woman as well. Please encourage young women to request scholarships early and to register by mid-August if possible, September 2 at the latest. Please see the registration form attached and/or on the [conference website](#).

In reading over the presidents' reports from the March Executive Committee Meeting about their **members' projects and events**, I found many good things going on within units. Amidst the discouraging loss of members and commitment to UMW issues, there certainly is reason for hope. I plan to pull together a list of these encouraging signs in the districts and share them with you soon.

Marlene Dakita, MN&O
mdakita@comcast.net
703-244-4524



Program Resources

Jeanette Yoh

This certainly has been a different kind of year but with our prayers, love, and support for one another we will make it through and once again enjoy each other's company. We had a short break in the Lending Library while we, hopefully, past the worst part of this virus. I will start sending books out the first week of May. Study books for Mission Encounter were not ordered as this event has been cancelled. Please note that 2014 books fell off the reading list as of 12/31/19. Also, if you have seen the movie "Just Mercy" you can count that as having read the book under the Social Action category and it counts as a Bonus read (counts as 2 books).

Jeanette Yoh, Program Resources
(757)871-1459
Jeanette.yoh@gmail.com

Mission Encounter--Smith Mountain Lake, July 24-26 has been cancelled due to Covid-19 uncertainty at this time. We will miss all our friends and are disappointed to miss the fabulous leaders and the studies. At this time, we are unable to declare a date and event location for next year, but we will share it as soon as we are able.

Darlene Runaldu



Social Action

Karen McElfish

These are unusual times! Many of the activities we had planned have been cancelled. Other programs that had been in person have now become virtual. It was just such a program I had the recent opportunity to attend – the Interfaith Power and Light National Conference. I would like to share some of what I learned.

Just as with an in-person event, we attended workshops in virtual breakouts. One such workshop focused on effective lobbying. Build long-term relationships with legislators. Know the demographics and interests of the district. What did the legislator do prior to serving in office? Where did they attend college? What is their religious affiliation? Even what are their favorite sports teams, hobbies etc. Remember, they are people too! If possible, get to know their staff as well.

When the opportunity to meet arises, start every meeting with “thank you”. Maybe just thanks for the meeting, or perhaps thanks for taking an action. Craft your message into a 30 second “elevator ride” length. Show interest in their ideas but let them know when it is not enough. Share what faith communities are doing. End the meeting with “thank you” again. Ask if there is anything you can do for the legislator. Perhaps provide information, or work on an issue. Legislators and their staff must deal with so many issues they cannot be experts in all of them. Become a person available to answer questions, especially through the faith lens. Offer to help review legislation you are knowledgeable about.

After the meeting, engage by writing a thank you, or providing additional information. You may even consider attending a fundraiser or making a donation. As United Methodist Women we have been working with some of our legislators this past year on Paid Sick Days, which we will need to continue to do. These tips to build those relationships may prove helpful!

Another workshop focused on strategies and tools for socially distanced organizing. Here again, relationships are key! Utilize a “snowflake” model of reaching out; first reach out to friends/contacts with the information and/or action, and then ask them to reach out to their friends/contacts. Share the story of why you personally are concerned or affected by

an issue. Listen to their stories, find the shared values and experiences. Use social media to connect. Keep it fun! Communicate regularly, to build and sustain relationships. Share interests and resources. Ask people to join with you. Start first with specific short-term activities or commitments, then build on the involvement.

Finally, one workshop focused on a new tool available to individuals and congregations to calculate their carbon footprint and discover ways to improve it. Cool Congregations is a simple, fun, and social tool developed by the Cool Climate Network and is available on the website coolcongregations.org. Additional information including maps of average carbon footprints is available on the website coolclimate.org. Encourage your congregation to participate, perhaps yearly. It is a great tool for organizing your church green team!

As a physician and a lay leader in Northern Virginia, I was asked to serve on a working group to develop guidelines to help churches resume in-person worship, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our group of clergy, legal and medical professionals have met via Zoom multiple times over the past several weeks, to draft a set of protocols for each stage of reopening. These protocols will be reviewed by the Bishop and Cabinet and will be made available very soon.

Karen

A Plan for Resuming In-Person Worship in the Virginia Conference

We are in the midst of unusual and anxious times. We have needed to embrace new practices and have learned how we can be church without the building. We long to be back together, worshipping in person, but know times ahead will need to be different. As we take steps forward, we need to do so with safety foremost in our minds. We will resume in-person worship gradually and with great care, all the while monitoring the status of the pandemic.

Now is the time to be preparing for how and when our churches can safely resume in-person worship. Many churches are already developing plans for their eventual return. As they prepare, each church is asked to establish a Healthy Church Team, which should consist of representatives of the Trustees and Church Council, lay leaders, the pastor, a medical professional, a legal professional and others as needed. This group would provide advice and counsel to the lead pastor, chair of Trustees, Church Council and S/PPRC, and would coordinate with the pastors, staff, volunteers and the District Superintendent on creating a plan for in-person worship. Consideration should be given to determining the church's readiness, willingness, and ability to move to different forms of worship, preparing the building, accommodating worship to strict social distancing, sanitation needs, and communication of plans with the congregation and community.

Beginning May 24, every church that wants to have members gather in the church parking lot for Drive-In Worship may do so, following strict requirements specified in the plan for resuming in-person worship. These include requiring everyone to remain in their vehicles and prohibiting access to the church buildings including the restrooms. These requirements will be available on the Conference website in the Handbook for Healthy Church Teams. Additionally, there will be the Plan Summary, a Graphical Presentation of the Plan, and a short introductory video from the Bishop. Please look for these soon.

A request has been made for some churches in each district to consider being "pioneer churches", which would move gradually to in-person worship, following strict distancing and sanitation protocols, and provide feedback on what they learned, what are best practices, and what needs to be modified. After sharing their plans with the district superintendents, a small number of churches will be selected to serve in this initial stage of reopening. Ideally these would represent different regions of the Conference and different sizes of churches. The numbers of participants in worship would be restricted to 25 or fewer, test services would be run following strict protocols, and input solicited, all the while monitoring the implementation and reporting to the Council and District Superintendent. The lessons learned from these pioneer churches' worship services would be shared with all other churches in the district.

Clearly some regions in the state are being affected more severely than others. At no point during this staged approach to reopening would a church be required to open. As we move forward, we would do well to remember John Wesley's Simple Rules: Do No Harm, Do Good and Stay in Love with God. We value the health and well-being of all God's people, especially the vulnerable ones. We seek to share God's love. We pray that more and more people will come to know the love of God and stay in it.

For those of you who have the gifts and expertise to serve on the Healthy Church Team for your church, please prayerfully consider serving. All of us need to be in prayer for our churches as we prepare to move towards reopening!

A National Mission Institution of The United Methodist Church
"In the tradition of the historic abolitionist rescue movement in America"

Wesley
Community Service
Center, Inc.

1701 Elm Avenue Post Office Box 1598 Portsmouth, Virginia 23705 (757) 399-0541

April 28, 2020

Dear Friends of the Wesley Community Service Center,

Last fall, Wesley Community Service Center (WCSC) held its first annual fundraising event which turned out to be a wonderful success, thanks in a great part to the support of United Methodist Women and that of many of our United Methodist Churches! We thank you so very much for your past and ongoing support and prayers!

This yearly fund raising and celebratory event is the opportunity to come together as supporters of the WCSC, this important beacon of support to its community in Portsmouth, to honor and share the exemplary work that the Center's Director and Staff, volunteers, and partners contribute to those in need through the programs and projects of our beloved Wesley Center, the only United Methodist Women National Institution in Virginia.

We are prayerfully and hopefully going forward with plans for our Second Annual fundraising event, the Shine Like a Star Award Celebration, hosted by the Wesley Community Service Center to be held on Saturday, November 14 at 7:00 PM at the Melvin O. Marriner Family Life Center - 5910 W Norfolk Rd, Portsmouth, VA 23323. This year we will have the pleasure of honoring Ms. Marilyn Goings, Ms. Gracie Bowers, Monumental United Methodist Church, and the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity (Phi Beta Chapter) as well as JES Foundation Repair. We hope many of you who live in the area will want to attend this festive event! Early Bird tickets are \$45 each; you can reserve a table for 8 for \$300 – get a group of friends together to celebrate with us! Please call or email the Center at 757-399-0541 or 757-977-9107; renyattabanks@gmail.com for ticket information.

Another way to honor and support the work of the Wesley Community Service Center, especially for those units, churches, or individuals too far away to attend our event is to donate to our Donor Wall of Supporters which will be a permanent reminder of who has supported us! Donor Levels for the wall plaques are: \$100 – 8x3 inch; \$200 – 8 x 5 inch; \$500 – 6 x 24 inch; and \$1,000 – 12 x 18 inch.

During this unprecedented time of global pandemic, the Wesley Center continues to reach out as best we safely can, especially with continued food distribution with social distancing guidelines in place and with developing plans for a virtual summer STEM Camp being offered from June 29 – August 3rd to youth presented by two certified teachers. Please follow us on FACEBOOK (@wesleycenterportsmouth) to find out about the great things happening at Wesley Community Service Center! Please keep the Center and its surrounding neighborhoods in your prayers always! We so appreciate our United Methodist Women and Church connections and support since its inception in 1937!

Blessings and Peace,

Renyatta L. Banks

Renyatta L. Banks
Executive Director
Wesley Community Service Center

Melissa White

Melissa White
York River District UMW

Marta Pizzeck

Marta Pizzeck
Elizabeth River UMW

YOUNG WOMEN'S EVENT

Sponsored by
**Virginia Conference
United Methodist Women**

SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2020



Rev. Ashley B. Isernhagen

Rev. Ashley B. Isernhagen is a Provisional Elder in the Virginia Annual Conference. She is a graduate of Randolph-Macon College (BA) and Wesley Theological Seminary (M.Div.). She has pastored a rural three-point charge in South-Central Virginia. Currently Ashley serves as the associate pastor of St Luke's United Methodist Church in Yorktown. In her free time, she enjoys catching as many local baseball games as she can and having good conversation over coffee.



"Faith with Intention"

**Retreat Leader:
Rev. Ashley B. Isernhagen**

Blessings Lodge, Camp Overlook
3014 Camp Overlook Lane
Keezletown, VA 22832

What Might You Expect?

As you "meet with God on the mountain," your retreat leader, Pastor Ashley, will use John 15 to help you develop and grow in your discipleship with intentional practices, such as developing a faith timeline, spiritual exercises for discernment, meditation and discipleship mantras. Use your free time to bond with the group, take a nature walk, or simply relax on the deck and take in the scenic mountains. We invite you to take time away to soak in God's presence during this powerful weekend in a relaxed setting.

Who Should Attend? What Should You Bring?

Hosted by the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women (UMW) for young women ages 18 (out of high school) to 40, you do not have to be a member of UMW or even a church. Bring a friend. Bring Bible, pen/pencil, notepad, alarm clock, maybe a snack to share. We will have coffee, tea, and water ready for you throughout the event.

General Schedule Overview

Friday: Check-in/free time 4:30-6:15 p.m.; Dinner 6:15 p.m.; Group session 7:15-9:00 p.m.; Fellowship 9:30 p.m.

Saturday: Devotions on the deck 8:00 a.m.; Breakfast 8:15 a.m.; Group session 9:15 a.m.-Noon; Lunch 12:15 p.m.; Group session 1:15-2:45 p.m.; Worship/communion/closing 3:00-4:00 p.m.

If you arrive before 4:30 p.m. Friday and during bits of free time, you can relax on the deck or walk the property. You might consider visiting local places on your own on the way to Camp Overlook.

Scholarships

Scholarships may be available from the Conference or your District UMW. Please contact your District UMW President. NOTE: This could take several days to process so earlier is better to inquire!

Directions to and Info about Camp Overlook

From I.81N or 81S: I 81 to Exit 257, left on Mayland Rd, (Rt 259) 370 ft, right on North Valley Pike (Rt 11) 2.1 mi, left on Martz Rd (Rt 806) 3.4 mi, right on Mountain Valley Rd (Rt 620) 1.8 mi, left on Armentrout Path (Rt 722). Overview of Overlook: www.campoverlook.org

Virginia Conference United Methodist Women YOUNG WOMEN'S EVENT September 11-12, 2020

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Church _____ District _____

Emergency Name/Cell _____

Roommate(s) _____
(*2 - 4 per room; for single room, please add \$20 to registration.)

Circle age group: 18-22 / 23-29 / 30-35 / 36-40

Circle if: First Time Attendee / Night Owl / Musical instrument

Food allergies/limitations? List _____

Handicap accessibility needed? _____

Check choice that includes:

_____ Friday dinner, lodging*, Saturday breakfast & lunch: \$75

_____ *Single room: Additional \$20

_____ Saturday only, breakfast & lunch: \$25

Registering:

- Mail form and check (payable to Virginia Conference UMW) to Marlene Dakita, 200 N Pickett St., #1410, Alexandria, VA 22304 or
- Email information requested above to mdakita@comcast.net and use same in PayPal or www.paypal.me/Mdakita to pay fee.
- Scholarship payments – Contact District presidents for procedure.
- Registration and payment will be acknowledged upon receipt.

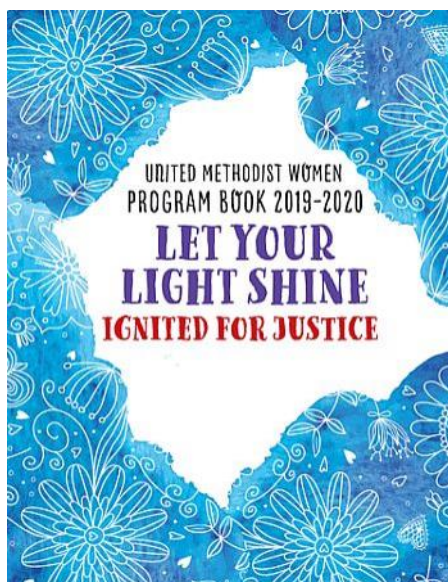
Register by September 2, 2020 (but preferably by mid-August)

Other Information/Questions

Marlene Dakita, Va. Conf. UMW Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator (MNO), at mdakita@comcast.net / 703-244-4524 (cell)

Virginia Conference United Methodist Women 2020-2021 Calendar

September 11-12	Young Women's Retreat, Camp Overlook
October 3	UMW Budget Meeting, UM Center
October 23	Mission Team & Exec. Committee Meeting, Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center
October 24	UMW 48th Annual Meeting, Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center
January 9, 2021	UMW Mission Team Meeting, UM Center
January 28	UM Day at the General Assembly, Richmond
March 27	UMW Executive Committee Meeting, UM Center
May 14-16	UMW Spiritual Life Retreat, Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center
June 5	UMW Day at Ferrum College
June 18	UMW Breakfast at Annual Conference, Hampton
July 23-25	Mission Encounter, Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center
September 10-11	UMW Young Women's Retreat, Camp Overlook, Keezletown
October 2	UMW Budget Meeting, UM Center
October 22	UMW Executive Committee Meeting, Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center
October 23	UMW 49th Annual Meeting, Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center



CONTACT INFORMATION



VIRGINIA CONFERENCE MISSION TEAM 2020

<p>President Mary Jane Rawley (540)820-8692 dwwalley@msn.com</p>	<p>Spiritual Growth Coordinator Melissa White (757)898-1861 mel49white@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Vice President Nancy Walsh (540)662-5055 walshpn@visuallink.com</p>	<p>Secretary of Program Resources Jeanette Yoh (757)871-1459 Jeanette.yoh@gmail.com</p>
<p>Secretary Dottie Thompson (757)675-8958 datgirl1019@gmail.com</p>	<p>Communications Coordinator Frances Ellis (703)476-1127 fwellis@aol.com or umwlink@gmail.com</p>
<p>Treasurer Linda Borrer (540)868-1497 Linda.borrer1@gmail.com</p>	<p>Chair Nominations Karen Bragg (434)369-4666 BraggK17@gmail.com</p>
<p>Education and Interpretation Coordinator Brenda NeSmith (804)323-9134 BrendaNesmith1@gmail.com</p>	<p>Korean Language Coordinator</p>
<p>Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator Marlene Dakita (703)244-4524 mdakita@comcast.net</p>	<p>Hispanic Language Coordinator</p>
<p>Social Action Coordinator Karen McElfish (703)522-6837 James.McElfish@verizon.net</p>	