

The Purpose

Winchester District
United Methodist Women on a Mission



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

August 2020

INDEX

- President Pg.1-2
- Vice President Pg.2-3
- Save The Dates Pg. 2
- Treasurer Pg. 3-4
- Membership Nurture and Outreach Pg. 4
- Prayer Pg.5
- Social Action Pg. 6-7
- Program Resources Pg. 7
- District Mission Encounter Pg. 8
- Historian's Corner Pg. 8
- Reading Program Form 2020 Pg. 10

ARE YOU WONDERING.....

As many of you may know the Clarion Hotel and Perkins Restaurant have closed and been leased to Shenandoah University for additional living space, as well as more dining space. The Banquet room that housed our annual prayer breakfast will be used as additional classroom space.

We have been in touch with Shenandoah University to talk about options that might be open to us there. They are currently getting ready for the academic year in this most challenging year. They have assured us that as soon as possible we will look at the options that might be open to us.

This is an opportunity for us to look at other possible options, and we welcome any ideas you might have to share.

Considering the challenges we face with Covid-19 and no vaccine or viable treatment, we are also considering moving the Prayer Breakfast to later in the year, possible August 2021. Again, we welcome your input and ideas into these possible changes.

As we continue to move through this most challenging and difficult time, we continue to pray for God's continued grace and blessing for each of you and all those you hold dear.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT

As I begin this article the realization is that the last time we saw one another in a UMW setting was on March 7 at the prayer breakfast. This is a year unlike any other that any of us have experienced. It is my hope that each of you, your families and all whom you hold dear have been well and will continue to remain so.

At our zoom executive meeting we discussed our Mission responsibility and how that continues on, and the need is likely greater for our mission projects in light of the pandemic. We understand that meeting our district pledge is difficult, especially since many units depend on fund raisers for their

pledge that have simply gone away. A suggestion was made that each individual/unit choose a UMW mission project and research it, using either the prayer calendar, the national website, or Response magazine, and then use that project as just one example of how UMW mission money is spent. We can be creative and come up with some clever but safe ways to raise money, x amount of money for each light bulb in your house, each doorknob, chair, window, etc. We hope you will try this so you can make your pledge and the district can make theirs. For the units on the district where individual members make a pledge, please encourage your members to send their pledges to their unit treasurer. There are so many vulnerable women, children and youth who depend on United Methodist Women and their loving, generous support.

Although we have not had any events since the prayer breakfast, we will be having a virtual Annual Meeting on September 27. More information and format will be coming from conference soon, and it will be sent to your unit presidents.

As we move into fall, please remember our school children, teachers, and staff as they attempt to find creative and safe ways to teach and learn. We all pray for wellness and safety as we continue to find beauty in the common sphere of daily living, joy in love and friendship and strength in constructive service.

Blessings,

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FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Social distancing is hard, especially when you long to give someone a hug and can't. Well, guess what? There is a way to "hug" your loved ones whether they are six feet away or across the state. It's easy. Just tell your loved one to do this:

*Put your right hand on your left shoulder, and put your left hand on your right shoulder.
Now squeeze. Hold this pose as long as needed.*

If you follow these directions right now, then you will have received a long-distance hug from me!

Elsewhere in this newsletter there is a beautiful prayer written especially for these difficult times. Its words cover it all. I hope you find them as meaningful as I did.

SAVE THE DATE

- **PLEASE NOTE:**

- The Winchester District Mission Encounter scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 9 AM-4PM at Stephens City UMC in Stephens City, VA has been CANCELED.

- **Sunday, September 27th**

- Virtual Annual Meeting (More details to be sent from conference soon to unit presidents)

Love, prayers, and “hugs” to you all.

Mary Preston, District Vice President

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FROM YOUR NEW DISTRICT TREASURER

Greetings. Hopefully everyone has been staying safe and healthy these last several months. The unprecedented and challenging times in our lives have not abated regarding COVID-19. We still trust and rely on God for strength and protection as we continue to deal with the situations we are faced with. In the weeks and months ahead, I pray for everyone’s wellbeing as we all continue living our lives and hold fast to God’s hand as we navigate our road ahead.

The quarterly news and reminders...

Unit Pledge for 2020. A grateful thank you to all the units that were able to meet their annual pledge by the 2nd quarter. It was appreciated more than ever this year. At the end of the quarter, we were only at 39% of our 2020 goal of \$54,000. I also know the last several months have been difficult for many units who rely on and have not be able to have the Spring and Summer events and activities that help their unit meet its mission pledge for 2020--I get it. So, our leadership is asking all units to put on those thinking caps and find activities that can be done remotely and/or safely with social distancing. Hopefully, you can reach out widely and still get more folks than just your unit participation, by including your church, family, community. One idea can include pledging a specific amount for a rally event that counts the number of doors, doorknobs, pairs of shoes, dresses/suits, ties (for the guys), windows--not windowpanes or you may go broke! The amount can be dollars, quarters, or other amount you decide. An easy fundraiser our church has done is each person gives a dollar for each year of their age (or what they can). A soup or chili sale is another good idea, since most people love food; this grab and go event is perfect and pre-orders can make it easy.

I know it will be a daunting task to get back on track and reach to our District goal. But we’d at least like to get close enough to it... kinda like you do in horseshoes! We really need our units to think outside the box and find creative, new, and different ways to support our mission giving, which is sorely needed during these widespread, difficult times for so many. I know it is a daunting task ahead, but United Methodist Women are strong and giving when others are in need. UMW missions all over the globe are suffering and need our help much more than ever before.

3rd Quarter Remittance. With the 2nd quarter end, five units have not yet sent in their AM&D--"Who, Me?" you ask. Don’t worry, I’ll send you a reminder, so please get it in this quarter. 3rd quarter remittances are due on September 8th, so let’s try for earlier than later given all the reports and other goings on due the end of August, early September to get done before our annual meeting. Again, be mindful of the few days it takes for your letter to reach me via the postal service “snail mail”, which is predicted to be slower/busier this September due to increased mail-in voting. **Please Vote!**

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. Because UMW really needs your mission giving funds this year, become a Rainbow Giver by August 25th (mailed) and still be counted. Fill out the information and send the form directly to the District Treasurer with your check for \$60.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

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“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH (MN&O)

Greetings dear ladies of the Winchester District UMW.

I am happy and proud to report during these trying times that I was able to collect and report our 2019 Census to Virginia Conference in a timely matter – again, thank you.

Your unit’s **DECEASED MEMBERS REPORT** is due to me by **September 1, 2020**. Name of person deceased between 9/1/19 – 8/31/20. This report also serves to recognize and remember our departed United Methodist Women during our District Annual meeting. I will be sending an email to remind each unit. (there is no formal form for this report.)

I know this has been a difficult year for all our units in all areas of achievements, but remember each **M**embers – through this solitude, **N**urturing one another and **O**utreach in love and concern.

Love and Blessings!

Pauline Skiles, Membership Nurture and Outreach
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The following prayer was written by The Right Reverend Richard Bott of the United Church of Canada, March 2020.

In this time of COVID-19, we pray:
When we aren't sure, God,
help us be calm;
when information comes
from all sides, correct and not,
help us to discern;
when fear makes it hard to breathe,
and anxiety seems to be the order of the day,
slow us down, God;
help us to reach out with our hearts,
when we can't touch with our hands;
help us to be socially connected,
when we have to be socially distant;
help us to love as perfectly as we can,
knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."
For the doctors, we pray,
for the nurses, we pray,
for the technicians and the janitors and the
aides and the caregivers, we pray,
for the researchers and theorists,
the epidemiologists and investigators,
for those who are sick,
and those who are grieving, we pray,
for all who are affected,
all around the world...
we pray
for safety,
for health,
for wholeness.
May we feed the hungry,
give drink to the thirsty,
clothe the naked and house those without homes;
may we walk with those who feel they are alone,
and may we do all that we can to heal
the sick—
in spite of the epidemic,
in spite of the fear.
Help us, O God,
that we might help each other.
In the love of the Creator,
in the name of the Healer,
in the life of the Holy Spirit that is in all and with all,
we pray.

May it be so.

SOCIAL ACTION

Isaiah 41:10 fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

The news we see on our screens and read in our papers and the conflict in our world is at times overwhelming and discouraging. How can we as United Methodist Women help bring about social justice in times such as these?

Be encouraged! We are not alone in our work. Our righteous God is with us giving us peace, wisdom, and strength to do what is right. We are also part of a global fellowship of Christian women seeking freedom in Jesus Christ for all persons. And we are building on the accomplishments of those women who came before us.

In that spirit, I am sharing the new Social Justice Priorities sent out by Molly James-Vickery our Director of Mobilization and Advocacy.

What are UMW's Social Justice Priorities for the 2021-2024 Quadrennium?

- **Climate Justice**, with a particular focus on *Just Energy 4 All* campaign
- **Mass Incarceration/ Criminalization of Communities of Color**, with a particular focus on the *Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline* campaign

Why are we only doing two priorities? What about Maternal Health and Economic Justice?

As we move forward in this moment, we do so with a great sense of intention and discernment. To be impactful, we are constantly assessing what is needed in this moment and where our strengths lie. Reducing the number of priority issues for this quadrennium enables us to focus the resources and time of members and national staff, go deeper into each of the issues we're engaging, and develop stronger local and national partnerships in these areas.

In this time of diminishing resources, this kind of focus makes us more effective to have greater impact for good.

As we wind down our work on Maternal and Child Health and Economic Justice/Living Wage by year end, we are confident that the organizations we've partnered with over the past quadrennium will continue to advance justice and equity in these areas. Resources on these issues will continue to be available on the United Methodist Women website through 2022 for use by members.

Priority work on Mass Incarceration/Criminalization of Communities of Color and on Climate Justice will continue to explore the economic justice and women's health implications in these areas.

What about our work on gender equity and racial justice?

United Methodist Women is a women's mission organization whose founding and subsequent work evidenced the efficacy of women to lead, achieve, and answer God's calling in a time when women's role in church and society were stymied. **Gender justice and women's leadership development are part of United Methodist Women's core commitments and will always be a key component of our work.**

Likewise, United Methodist Women has a long-standing commitment to eradicating racism. We began this work over 100 years ago and regularly re-commit to anti-racist work to dismantle structural racism. We know that all people are beloved in God's eyes, and until they are loved in the eyes of all, our work persists.

Recent videos of extrajudicial killings of George Floyd and other people of color have forced the church and the nation to confront the inequities in law enforcement and institutional racism. Our work on Mass Incarceration/ Criminalization of Communities of Color and the Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline campaign and Climate Justice are most important at this time. Our work on these issues consistently reveals the intersections with gender inequity, racial and economic injustice, placing us in a unique position to lead as the nation assesses the role of systemic racism.

Rita Biggs, Social Action Coordinator
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PROGRAM RESOURCES

Hi everyone!

If you are like me during these last few months, you have had more time to get caught up with reading. I hope you had a chance to get into some of the UMW Reading Program books. Our reading year ends this month but don't worry, the new one starts again September 1. Although the new 2021 reading program books haven't been announced yet, any book that has been on the reading lists in the past five years will count for 2021.

The Secretary of Program Resources for each unit should turn in to me the form included in this newsletter by September 1, 2020, so I can compile the information to send in to the conference and also get the UMW Reading Program Certificates back to the unit presidents in a timely manner.

If you have any questions about the form or the Reading Program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Happy reading!

Debbie Jones, Secretary of Program Resources
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DISTRICT MISSION ENCOUNTER

Greetings to all.

I pray that all of you are well and safe. Spring has come and gone, and we celebrated July 4th in a different way.

I am saddened to tell you, as you probably know, that Mission Encounter for 2020 at the Conference level and District level has been canceled. We will wait to see what next year's decision will be. We will keep you informed. So in the meantime, continue to pray for each other.

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Blessings,

Lillian B. Sloane, lsloane@centurylink.net -540 635 2623
Jeraldine Ridgway, Co-Chairs, budd3@comcast.net 540-635 5483

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

My right knee was surgically replaced on January 28th. Very gradually my body has decided to rise and shine at 7 a.m. This week I want to cook. Now, that is a big change for me. From 1976 until ???, Loudoun County had an arts and crafts festival, August Court Days, in August. For a bunch of that time I was in charge of refreshments for the colonial enactors who strolled the main street talking to the tourists. The following cold potato soup is a take-off on vichyssoise and was a big hit with them. It is quick, easy, and delicious: 1 can potato soup, 1 cup sour cream, 1 cup chicken bouillon or 1 can of chicken broth, and 2 Tbsp chopped onions. Blend all in a blender or food processor. Chill. Add crushed chives for garnish. Can add crabmeat, shrimp if you would like. You may like a dash of lemon juice or tabasco sauce. While looking for this recipe, I found a clipping from Heloise of gelatin salads with cinnamon candies that she published. Heloise's #1 choice of 4 was a recipe from Fay Sonner of Strasburg, VA. If you would like a copy of it, please phone or email me. Will you share a favorite with me?

Blessings,

Janice Webb, District UMW Historian
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EXCELLENT WAY TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH UMW EVENTS

TYPE *UMW.Winc.VA* IN THE SEARCH BAR

THEN ONCE YOU FIND OUR PRIVATE GROUP

CLICK JOIN GROUP



UMW Reading Program Report for 2020

Due: September 1, 2020

From (Name of unit) _____

Name of person making this report _____

Contact information: Phone _____ Email _____ Text _____

Total number of reading program books read by ALL ADULTS between 9-1-19 and 8-31-20 _____

Total number of reading program books read by CHILDREN between 9-1-19 and 8-31-20 _____

Please list below the names of the adults who completed a program plan. Use separate page if needed.

PLEASE PRINT

Name of Adult Reader	Number of Books read	Plan Completed (I, II, III or IV)	Response read? yes/no
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On the back of this sheet please make 2 more lists:

1- Names of adults who read one or more reading program books but did NOT complete a plan and the number of books read.

2- Names of children who read one or more reading books and the number of books read.

-Did every member of your unit participate in the reading program?

-How many subscriptions of Response Magazine do your members and/or units have?

Please return by email or regular mail no later than **September 1, 2020**. If you have any questions feel free to contact me. Debbie Jones 119 Rosedale Dr. Stephens City, VA 22655 drdjonesy@yahoo.com text/phone: 540-409-8260