

THE LYNCHBURG DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

THE JOYFUL MESSENGER

1st Quarter-March 2022



President's Corner

Blessings, my sisters in Christ,

Are you looking forward to SPRING???. I know I am. It feels like it was such a long winter; I think those couple of weeks of snow & very cold temperatures took a toll on us all. **SPRING** what does it mean? For some, it's a time of planting gardens, flowers, etc.; for others a time of cleaning out and refreshing everything in the home. Spring is a time of renewal in all these ways, but in our Christian faith, it should be a time of reflection and re-committing ourselves to our God. Many changes are coming to our conference, our UMW as we know it, and this is an excellent time to re-evaluate our devotion. This coming year 2023, our district and the Danville district will become one, which will give us the chance to meet more of our UMW sisters. The UMW is also changing, and we have a new name, UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH. This is not the first time in over 150 years, the name has changed, we will have new colors, a new logo, and a new website, and although we don't like change, our mission remains the same, to help women, children, and youth.

But if you think about renewal, rebirth, etc., they mean change, begin again, and even though we don't think about it, we do it every morning when we wake up. It is a new chance for us to make the most of the time God has given us. My Daddy has always hated days when he can't get outside, work in his shop, or do something productive. He says he feels he's wasted the day God gave him. But sometimes, we need to take some time just to BE and appreciate those days.

So, as we begin a new season in a few weeks, let us do so with grateful hearts, knowing that God is always with us no matter what changes come. There is a Jason Crabb song that I love; the chorus goes like this:

He never promised that the cross would not get heavy
And the hill would not be hard to climb,
He never offered a victory without fighting
He said help would always come in time.

Just remember when you're standing in the valley of decision
And the adversary says, "Give In,"
Just hold on, **Our Lord** will show up
And He will take you through the fire again.

Be Blessed,

Kim Millner, President
savedbygraceofgod2@gmail.com;434-238-2399



Vice-President Corner

Greetings Ladies,

I trust that everyone is doing well and anxious to see spring arrive. We look forward to the Easter season and the opportunity to celebrate in person at our churches. We also look forward to meeting again as United Methodist Women. We are planning to hold our Lynchburg Mission Encounter on April 30th. I apologize for not having all the particulars in place at the printing of this Joyful Messenger issue. Kim will email unit presidents when a place and speaker are finalized. Please be watching for this. The Mission Encounter will be an inspirational day so save this date on your calendar. Our UMW/UMM picnic has had poor attendance in the last few years, so we decided to forgo it this year. If you have ideas about how we can increase attendance for that event, please voice them to any mission team member. I wish you a joyful Easter season and look forward to seeing you on April 30th. Please keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers. I pray that there will be an end to their suffering soon. Blessings to you
Blessings to you,

Teresa Watson, Vice-president
(434) 258-8372; terrybkool@aol.com



Secretary

Hello, United Women in Faith,

Questions regarding our name change are addressed in the March/April issue of the response magazine. United Methodist Women is still our legal name, so bank account names do not need to be changed. Our national website - www.unitedmethodistwomen.org - will now redirect you to the new website - www.uwfaith.org . Check it out and see where things are on the new website. I know. Change is hard, particularly as we get older - enough said.

The 2022 directories were mailed out to each UMW unit. Some of the Conference officers have changed since the directory was sent out. You can see which ones at www.vaumw.com. If you have changes to your unit, please email me.

Blessings,

Sue Funderburk, Reading Resource
sfunder369@aol.com, 434-369-6802



Spiritual Growth

Greetings, United Women in Faith,

As I write this article, it is the 5th day in the season of Lent. As Christians, we all know that we are called during this forty-day period to self-examine and reflect upon our relationship with God and grow spiritually as Disciples of Christ. The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring temptations from Satan and preparing for his ministry.

A few years ago, I was in the process of explaining the Season of Lent to a Sunday school student when out of the blue, she asked me, "Is that like the "stuff" that comes from washing and drying clothes?" She was referring, of course, to lint. My immediate response was, "No, of course not"!

However, as I continued in my explanation, her question began to resonate within my spirit. Perhaps this young believer was closer to the heart of the Lenten Season than I first thought!

In 2 Corinthians 13:5, Paul exhorts us to "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you unless, of course, you fail to meet the test" (NRSV)

In its simplicity, this yearly process of self-reflection and self-examination before Easter could be viewed as the soul's washing machine or a modern-day hyssop branch. A spiritual means whereby, through prayer, fasting, and scripture reading, God can remove some of the unwanted "stuff" like fragments of past sins, loose threads of doubts, what if's, and regrets that cling to the filter of our hearts. We should cry out like David in Psalm 51 vs.7: "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

Praying that God's sustaining, powerful presence and love will enfold each of us as we grow spiritually together in this new season as United Women in Faith.

Blessings to each of you,

Grace H. Dean-Spiritual Growth Coordinator
Gracedean1723@gmail.com, (434)847-7656



Treasurer

Greetings and Happy 2022!

2021 was a very giving year for our District. We sent \$18,454.40 to the Conference for Mission Giving (6 channels). We also sent \$3,137.62 for Mission Support (Call to Prayer, Henry Fork, Stone Ridge, etc.) and gave an additional \$100 donation to Henry Fork and Kingsway Outreach.

The Remittance Form I have received from each treasurer has been working, and many have modified it to adapt to your local unit. Please remember to include Candleburning in the section under Mission Giving. You may also fill in any projects your unit frequently supports in the Projects area. A&MD funds of \$3 a member should be sent yearly. This is money the District UMW uses to fund its budget. Each quarter remittance is due no later than the 10th of March, June, September, and December. I have to have them into the State Treasurer by the 20th. Please include your unit's pledge for this year with your next remittance if you have not done so.

Checks to the District should continue to be payable to Lynchburg District United Methodist Women. Please do not make them out to me.

An audit of unit monies should be conducted annually, and a copy given to your Church for their records. Please get in touch with me if you need help with this.

The new website uwfaith.org should have financial information and forms on it soon.

Thank you to all units who continue to send in Mission Giving monies. You truly support our mission of "Turning Financial Gifts into Miracles for Women, Children, and Youth."

Blessings!

Kim Beuerle, Treasurer
kimcabtj@aol.com, 434-237-4598



Reading Program

Welcome to a new opportunity to read, learn, broaden your understanding and horizons, and share what you've learned with others! What a better way to stay connected with the UMW Goals! Understanding is the doorway to action!

Many of the books listed for 2022 and previous years are available in the Bedford Library District. They may be available at your library, also. The following are at the local library: #Not Your Princess, Indian No More, Rise, The Unstoppable Garret Morgan, and Follow That Map. Some are available online! It doesn't matter if they are books for youth or adults. Some value can be found in all genres.

Why not read a book to youngsters at your Church or your children or grandchildren. You could read a portion of a book at your UMWG meeting and to the men and women of your congregation! There is something for everyone! Some people might read a book for youth because they have little time to spare or do not like to read. There will often be additional info for adults at the end of the book: the case for Garret Morgan and the book Rise about Maya Angelou! These books might be a stepping stone to want to learn more and share with others!

I am looking forward to hearing about your experiences this year! God continues to hold you close and bless you! Renee

PS I loved #Not Your Princess! (a collection of Art, Poetry, and Writings that will touch your hearts)

Blessings to each of you,

Renee Nadens, Secretary of Program Resources
thenadens@yahoo.com, 732-600-1968



Social Action Corner

Many opportunities to be involved in Social Action are sent to me via our conference chairman Jeanette Yoh. I will be delighted to pass them on to you if you send me your email address. I get several a week. Please share what your UMW is doing in social action with others.

I checked on Frannie's House - a domestic abuse shelter in Altavista- which closed during the pandemic. It still has not been reopened. I need to check on the reasons why. The Lynchburg YWCA manages Frannie's House. Many people and churches in the surrounding area contributed much time, money, talents, and efforts to start this project, so I would like to see it reopened soon. Of course, the Lynchburg YWCA is taking in domestic victims at their facility.

Our prayers are with the Ukrainian people and the many refugees from their country. UMCOR is a good, safe place to donate, and the money given goes directly to good causes. You can do this through your churches.

Sue Funderburk, Chairman of Social Action
sfunder369@aol.com, 434-369-6802



Education & Interpretation Corner

Once again, our delivery last December of items to Park View Ministries was met with great appreciation.

Our UMW members always come through with tangible and monetary donations to our mission focus areas. It is a pleasure for Danny and me to deliver items that provide hope

and help to those in need. We bring blessings and end up being blessed ourselves! I sincerely thank you, and God thanks you.

We are looking forward to our April event, where our focus will be on Miriam`s House. It is a shelter for battered women and their children.

Items on Miriam`s House`s wish list include:

paper towels, tissues, toilet paper

dishwater detergent, laundry detergent, soap, bathroom cleaner

Black heavy-duty trash bags, 13-gallon kitchen trash bags

In looking ahead to future gatherings, we will collect items and donations for Henry Fork and Veterans Valor Farm. Also, Park View and Kingsway Ministry.

We hope that this will allow more folks in need to benefit from our concern.

My heart is always filled with pride in our UMW members for their thinking of others. In these challenging times that we are all experiencing, NOW, more than ever, is the time to share our blessings with our fellow "human beings" on this earth. Remember global ministries in our Purpose. If we cannot give, please pray for our missions.

There but for the grace of God, go I.

Love in Christ,

Linda M. DeJarnette, Education and Interpretation

lindadejarnette@yahoo.com

Virginia UMW NEWS

Considering how YOU can serve? Let the Committee on Nominations help

As spring approaches bringing new beginnings, and after another pandemic winter, aren't you excited to get out and become involved in life again?

Do you have a heart to serve but aren't quite sure how or where?

Has God been speaking to you, giving you that gentle tap on the shoulder, letting you know that if you consider a new challenge in his name, he promises to be with you every step of the way? Even if you're hesitant of your abilities, have confidence in God's!

United Women of Faith can help you. There are opportunities to serve your district and conference and contribute in ways you may not have imagined. Consider sharing your gifts and talents with United Women of Faith during this exciting, transformative time.

Did you know ...

You can still be a vital member of United Women of Faith even if:

- Your local unit has become inactive?
- You are not a member of the United Methodist Church?

What an exciting time to be a member of our organization!

Contact me or your District Committee on Nominations Chair for more information.

Blessings,

Debbie McDaniels, Chair, CON

VA Conference United Women of Faith



Spiritual Life Retreat

Saturday, Apr. 30, 2022

9:00 – 12:00

- Where:** Emmaus UMC
2282 Meadow Spur Road
Bedford, VA 24523
- Cost:** \$5.00 lunch afterwards
- Retreat Leader:** District Superintendent Denise Bates
- Mail checks to:** Kim Beuerle
107 Chesterfield Rd.
Lynchburg, Va 24502

Please have money to Kim Beurle by April 22, 2022.