

The Purpose

Winchester District
United Women In Faith on a Mission



United
Women
in Faith

April 2022

FROM YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT

INDEX

- President Pg.1
- Vice President Pg.2
- Save The Dates Pg. 2
- Treasurer Pg. 3-4
- Membership
Nurture and
Outreach Pg. 4
- Social Action Pg. 5
- Mission Encounter
Pg. 5-6
- Historian's Corner
Pg. 6
- Spiritual Growth
Pg. 6-7

Yes, we have a new name -- "United Methodist Women" is now "United Women in Faith". It may take time to "retrain our brains," but we will get there!

Yes, we have a new -- and totally different -- logo. The current issue of *Response* explains it this way: ***"Our new logo represents the past, present and future of our organization. The symbol refers to our Christian roots. The multicolored pieces of the cross coming together represent the diversity we aim for and the inward and outward reflection we engage in as women of faith. The typography is solid, modern and bold, showcasing our power to support the causes in which we invest."*** (*Response* magazine, March/April 2022, vol. 54, No. 2, pg. 33)

And yes, there are other changes afoot. If you're like me, maybe you've found that adjusting to change has gotten harder with each passing year. We get in a nice comfortable rut, and we tend to plant our feet and stay there! But we live in a changing world, and we too must change if we are to continue doing the work God has called us to do.

A lot of changes, yes, but do remember this: Our PURPOSE remains the same as it has been for over 150 years -- and that is to serve the needs of women, children and youth, both locally and beyond.

Thank you for continuing to do your part!

Love and prayers,
Mary Preston, District President
landline: 540-338-4152
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FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings from your District Vice President!

The VA Conference is asking for

Hygiene Kits: https://umcmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Hygiene-Kit-Assembly-Instructions_September-2019.pdf

&

Cleaning Kits: https://umcmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Cleaning-Kit-Assembly-Instructions_September-2019.pdf.

These will be taken by truck from various collection sites around VA to Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA. Other kits, including any school supplies, will be distributed locally. **Canned food items** will also be collected and distributed locally to our district's church food pantries. If you have a food pantry or participate in a backpack ministry at your church, please fill out the survey found in the Winchester District UMC newsletter to inform the district office. Also volunteers are needed at Duncan Memorial UMC on collection day.

Where- Duncan Memorial UMC 210 E. Main St. Berryville, VA 22611

When- June 4, 2022 from 9am-noon

What- Canned goods and UMCOR kits (Preferably hygiene and cleaning kits)

UMCOR asks for \$1 a kit (\$1.50 for Cleaning Kits) for processing and shipping and an additional \$1 for toothpaste for each hygiene kit which they buy in bulk. One check should be written out from each church and made payable to "Virginia Conference UMC" and earmarked for *kits Advance #901440* and mailed any time prior to conference to

Treasurer, Virginia Conference of UMC
PO Box 5605
Glen Allen, VA 23058

SAVE THE DATE

- Apr. 23 -- Spring Event
 - 9:30 – 11:30am
via Zoom
- May 14 -- Spiritual Life Retreat
 - 9:00am –
12:30pm via
Zoom
- June 30-Aug. 4 --
Mission Encounter
 - Thursdays at
7pm via Zoom
- July 10 -- next District
Executive Committee
meeting
 - 2:00-4:30pm
via Zoom

Please Do Not Bring any checks to Duncan Memorial UMC or to Annual Conference!!

Debbie Jones, District Vice President
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FROM YOUR DISTRICT TREASURER

United Women of Faith, Welcome to Spring 2022 (although it doesn't feel like it! Check out the news and reminders below for 1st quarter 2022 district "money matters".

NOTE: With the name change to the United Women of Faith, please do not make any changes to the name associated with your financial and banking matters until advised differently. Keep your current bank account UMW name the same; continue to make your checks payable to the Winchester District United Methodist Women. It will take a few months for the new name to be implemented for banking matters. Thank You.

District Pledge for 2022

For the 1st Qtr., we're at 20% of our \$40K Pledge. We were a wee bit under my quarter goal of at least 25%. Thanks to the 16 units who got us off to a decent start.

Unit Pledge for 2022

If your unit that hasn't specified a 2022 pledge amount to please do so, as knowing this helps to predict whether we'll meet our district pledge. It's your best effort goal, but you're not held to it if things change.

Four units have fully paid their 2022 pledge to mission, in the 1st quarter, and half of our units paid their A&MD for 2022. Thank You!

2nd Quarter Remittance and Form

Please be diligent with mailing your 2nd quarter remittance to arrive in my mailbox no later than June 8th. I want all Treasurers to meet the deadline, so their unit remittance gets recorded in the proper quarter and I get my check to the Conference Treasurer on time.

Become a Rainbow Giver. Two "early bird" members became Rainbow Givers already this year! The 2nd quarter is the peak time when Rainbow Givers sign up—can you make the commitment?

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. All Rainbow Giver forms are due August 10th.

Cruising into 2022, most of our units are slowly getting back to more normalcy and getting things done via email or in new ways. We're regularly meeting more via Zoom video conference, phone/teleconference, or other means. So, let's continue to stay in touch and committed to our mission work and helping others.

Contact me if you have questions. Blessings!

Angela Lane, District UMW Treasurer
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“We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 1:3)

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE, AND OUTREACH (MN&O)

An Easter Greetings Ladies:

UNIT SURVEY (FORMERLY CENSUS)

The 2021 Unit Survey (formerly, Census) will be on www.uwfaith.org by the end of April. The plan is for it to be open for six months. It will help the National office identify whether and how units and circles are thriving (inspiring, influencing and impacting) and will guide them in providing resources to help members to thrive in our purpose (which remains unchanged), mission and vision. I will be contacting each unit to give further instructions.

Again, I know this has been a difficult year for all our units in all areas of achievements and changes. We are saddened to hear that four units (Crum’s, Duncan Memorial, Fairview, and Linden-Markham United Methodist Women) have become inactive. We are so sorry for these losses – all will be missed – love and prayers go out to them.

UMW units do not disband; they become inactive or consider other ways of engaging. The Book of Discipline says that there will be a unit of United Methodist Women in every church.

We now have 26 units for the Winchester District.

Please remember each ***Member** – still being so limited in our meetings and activities.
***Nurturing** one another and ***Outreach** in love and concern.

Love and Blessings!
Pauline Skiles, Membership Nurture and Outreach
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SOCIAL ACTION

Understanding and Preventing Youth Suicide

Winchester District Spring Event April 23, 2022

A Virtual Event via Zoom 9:30-11:30 (sign in begins at 9 am)

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. Romans 8:37

Our speaker, Paula Johnson will lead us in looking at the causes of youth suicide and how we as women of faith can provide support to troubled youth. Paula has many years of experience working in the domestic violence, sexual assault, and mental health fields. She is a pastor's wife (Shiloh Baptist Church, Winchester VA) and has two grown sons. She has entitled her presentation- *More than Conquerors*.

A Zoom invitation will be e-mailed a few days prior to the event. Invite your friends now and share the Zoom invite when it comes out.

Rita Biggs, Social Action Coordinator

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MISSION ENCOUNTER

It's that time of year when we turn our thought to Mission Encounter 2022. Because the Conference Mission Encounter will again be online -- which makes it more accessible (and a lot less costly) to everyone -- our district will not sponsor a separate M.E. event.

This year's theme is "Who Can We Be Together? Building Communities of Hope and Joy," based on Luke 13. The dates are every Thursday June 30 through August 4 at 7 p.m. There are also courses available for youth and children. The registration fee is \$10. Study books (all levels) cost \$10 each and can be ordered from Mission Resources at umissionresources.org.

For full course information and to register, go to www.vaumc.org/me2022. The deadline to register is June 15. If you do not wish to register online, mail-in forms and payment can be sent to Betsy Hanmer, P. O. Box 206, Keysville VA 23947.

Please share this information with your church, friends, and family. If you have any questions, contact any member of the district's M.E. committee listed below.

Blessings, peace and love,

Lillian B. Sloane, Co-Chair, lillian_sloane@comcast.net

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Rita Biggs, biggs40@gmail.com

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

Well, I didn't read far enough for the report in this space last time. 1920 correction: The local preacher's license was extended to women in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the MEC, South, women were given laity rights. In 1922, 18 ladies were seated as delegates at their General Conference.

In 1939, the Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal, South and Methodist Protestant churches merged. The Central Jurisdiction was formed as part of a compromise to create The Methodist Church.

This jurisdiction was based on race and covered most of the African American churches in the Southeastern, South Central states and North. The Central Jurisdiction was abolished at the merger of The Methodist Church and Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968 to form the United Methodist Church. In 1956, women in The Methodist Church gained full clergy rights. In 1980, Marjorie Matthews was the first woman to be elected bishop of the UMC. Also, she was the nation's first woman to sit on the governing body of a major religious denomination. Just so you know, John Wesley formally let women preach beginning in 1771.

Janice Webb, District Historian
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SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Scripture for May: “Go eat rich food, and drink something sweet,” [Nehemiah] said to them, “and send portions of this to any who have nothing ready!...Don’t be sad, because the joy from the Lord is your strength!” Nehemiah 8:10

Spiritual Life Retreat; “Blessed Wrestling”

A spiritual retreat for United Women in Faith to find encouragement, support, and hope as we wrestle with where God is calling us to be at this moment in time.

When: May 14, 2022 9:00am – 12:30 pm by virtual (Zoom)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Jessie Colwell, Author and Director of Clergy Excellence for VAUMC

Go on-line to register at Virginia Conference UMC/Spiritual Life Retreat, then click on **Click Here to Register**. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email from Zoom containing information about joining the meeting.

Mission Encounter: This year's study has also a spiritual growth theme. Full information can be found on pages 5 & 6.

Devotional: RAINY DAYS: Psalm 147:8 He covers the heavens with clouds; He prepares rain for the earth; He makes grass grow on the hills.

As a child, you likely considered a rainy day to be a ruined day. Perhaps as an adult, however, a good storm makes your heart happy. It's easy to lose yourself in the sound of a steady rain. Often a nice downpour allows a person to set aside whatever she may have planned and simply enjoy the rain and consider the way God cares for His creation.

The rain falling from the heavens to the thirsty earth below is a visible reminder of the way Jesus is Living Water to our thirsty souls. We may not realize what we need until the rain begins to fall, but God knows and is prepared. He knows how to make grass grow on the hills and how to refresh weary souls (Jeremiah 31:25).

So, when the rainy days come, don't consider them to be ruined days. Accept them as a gift. Sit on the porch or in a room, close your eyes, and listen to His love rain down on you.

Thank you, Lord, for bringing times of refreshment to my soul. Thank You for the way that You care for Your creation. When my soul is dry, I only need for You to rain down on me. Amen

Ref: Stacy Edwards, Devotions from the Front Porch, P. 67

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