



THE UMW APPALACHIAN DISTRICT NEWS

2nd Quarter 2020

President's Message:



My dear Sisters in Christ,

It is with joy and thanksgiving that I greet you today. May the peace and grace of Christ be with you on this day and the days ahead. We have truly had our lives re-arranged recently with the many changes we have seen in our lives and our Appalachian District with the Prayer Breakfast and the Mission Study events. We will have our Memorial Service on Saturday, August 29, at our Annual Celebration at Wilkesboro United Methodist Church, hosted by the Wilkesboro UMW, located at 309 W. Main St., Wilkesboro. Our Mission Study will be scheduled for the fall if at all possible. Thank you to everyone for your support during these unprecedented times. God remains faithful. Every day let us give Him thanks for the many good things He does in our lives. For "Great is His Faithfulness" and as the hymn lyrics continue, "All I have needed Thy hand hath provided" (words by Thomas Chisholm) ring true for me, and hopefully for you as well.

Please contact me if I may be of assistance. I am saddened that we cannot be together with our UMW Sisters in June at the Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska nor at Pfeiffer University in July for Mission U 2020. Please continue to check your emails, the Appalachian District UMW Facebook page, and WNCC UMW at www/wncumw.org website for UMW program updates. Bishop Paul Leeland announced the decision to postpone and downsize the WNCC Annual Conference to an afternoon meeting in August. We, as the WNCC UMW, have followed Bishop Leeland's lead in canceling the Spiritual Growth Retreat which was scheduled one week prior to the Annual Conference. Financial details will be forthcoming about the \$25 early registration fee as well as Lake Junaluska housing deposits/full payments.

Please continue to pray for our leaders and all who find themselves in need during this time. Also continue to pray for the mission of United Methodist Women. I am keeping you close to heart and praying daily for you. In faith, hope and love, let us go forth and serve.

Peace be with you,

Sherry Summerlin, (828) 234-0850

sherrysummer@charter.net

Vice-President:



Greetings to all,

Our Appalachian District Officers are off to a good start, and we thank everyone for all you do. Due to our understanding of recent news surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to rethink our plans for gatherings. We have cancelled the UMW Prayer Breakfast; however the Memorial Service is scheduled to be held in August at the UMW Appalachian District Celebration.

When we get back to normal, don't forget to invite your Local Unit Visitation (LUV) nurturing partner to your meetings.

Let us all be in prayer for the changes in our world, and follow the decisions of our Bishop Paul L. Leeland, and Governor Roy Cooper. If you have any questions, feel free to call me.

Prayers & Blessings,

Annette Echard, (828)754-5526

Secretary:



Greetings to all,

I do hope you are staying home as much as possible and staying well. Many of you may see this as an online edition before we are able to print and mail, but we hope to get updated information out to all as soon as possible. If anyone is interested in serving as Secretary or Communications Coordinator starting next year, please feel free to reach out and ask me any questions you may have about either or both positions. Also, please take note of the new

Mission Today criteria on page 5 and 6 of this newsletter. Revisions are highlighted.

Blessings, Jan Taylor
(336) 468-0313/j.kay.tay@gmail.com

Spiritual Growth:

Happy Spring Time! As we sit in our homes waiting, we can enjoy all the beauty of Spring. Maybe that is what God planned for us at this time; to slow down and enjoy what he has created.

As your SG Coordinator, I just wanted to bring you up to date on what is happening in the Appalachian District. The Prayer Breakfast was cancelled, but the Memorial Service will be in August at the District Annual Celebration. Sadly, we just received word that the Spiritual Growth Retreat 2020 is canceled. So, until we meet again, stay safe, enjoy your family time, pray and place your Faith over all your Fears.

Your Sister in Christ,
Judy Sipe
jlsipe09@gmail.com

Nominations:

Yes, we continue to seek out United Methodist Women willing to serve with the Appalachian District United Methodist Women Leadership Team. Your Sisters in Christ from our District have faithfully served in the following positions and will be leaving these positions this year:

Secretary
Mission Education & Interpretation Coordinator
Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator
Social Action Coordinator
Communications Coordinator
Nominations Committee Members

Please contact Brenda Kimberlin, bkimberlin@caldwellschools.com, or Penny Ledbetter, pennygrietje@gmail.com, to volunteer to serve or to nominate a member to serve in one of the above positions.

Mission Education and Interpretation:

Greetings to all my UMW Sisters!

It saddens me that our Mission Study is postponed until further notice because of the Coronavirus that is taking place throughout the world and our country.

The question is... Where do we go from here? Stay calm, stay focused, and be mission-minded!

Regarding Mission u 2020, please note information provided in a letter from Patricia Moore, Dean of Mission u, on page 8. Be encouraged Sisters, and let us stay in prayer for our entire world!

Peace and Love,
Roberta Walker

Social Action:

The following is an excerpt from a fact sheet on what we can do about COVID-19 found on our WNCC UMW website. To view the entire fact sheet and additional information, go to <https://wnccumw.org/covid>.

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matthew 22:36-39)

What Can We Do About COVID-19?

Wash your hands! Stay Home!

But that’s not all...

United Methodist Women members are responding to the Coronavirus pandemic by supporting our households, our congregations and communities, and ourselves while also reaffirming our commitment to Social Justice Advocacy for women, youth and children. The pandemic has made visible the fractures in our society, where the most marginal communities are already being hard hit. This is true of many people in our nation, among them: Native American tribes, Asian Americans facing racist vitriol, low-wage workers facing lay-offs with inadequate safety nets, women facing domestic violence while in quarantine, incarcerated people in close quarters unable to protect themselves from the virus, frontline workers, poor families who do not have reserves to stock up on groceries, people without homes to shelter in, undocumented immigrant workers who face job loss and cannot access federal programs, farm workers who pick our food yet don’t get paid sick leave or decent wages, children who do not have computers and internet to continue their schooling online, people with other chronic illnesses who continue to need medical care, and many, many others....

Emergency relief programs passed by Congress are important steps in expanding unemployment insurance, making cash payments, covering short-term sick leave and virus testing, extending loans to small businesses, and including self-employed and gig economy workers in emergency benefits. As debate over further packages continues, United Methodist Women urges members to advocate for federal relief and stimulus packages that put people and the earth first and build towards permanent solutions to economic inequality, structural racism, gender inequality and climate injustices.

Actions you can take to love your neighbor and reduce the impact of COVID-19 in your community:

- **Economic Justice:** Call on Congress to include in their fourth stimulus package universal paid sick days and paid family and medical leave for all employees, transferable from one job to another. These policies should be in place not only during the crisis but on a permanent basis. Contact United States Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121.
- **Mass Incarceration:** Contact your governor today to urge the reduction of the prison population, prioritizing the immediate release of medically vulnerable people who pose no risk to public safety but would be themselves gravely endangered during a COVID-19 outbreak. Take action here: p2a.co/Jvxf2cE.
- **Climate Justice:** Contact your elected officials and urge them to include a moratorium on water and utility shutoffs and prioritize people and a regenerative economy in the next relief and stimulus package. Take action here: p2a.co/33iJHcC.
- **Domestic Violence and Women’s Health:** Quarantine can be a dangerous situation for women and children who experience domestic violence. Support domestic violence hotlines in your community or nationally that are experiencing higher demand as people are isolated.
- **Racial Justice:** Bust racist myths and stereotypes and call out discrimination and abuse that target Asians and Asian Americans. Educate yourself, educate others and don’t allow a medical crisis to give cover to racism. Read GCORR’s statement here: gcorr.org/gcorr-denounces-trumps-racist-and-xenophobic-chinese-virus-language/. Learn more about anti-AAPI hate crimes: nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/asian-americans-report-nearly-500-racist-acts-over-last-week-n1169821 #WashTheHate

Treasurer:

We are living in times of uncertainty, but the one thing that is certain and never changes is God's love, grace, and mercy.

One thing that should not change in this time of uncertainty is your generous Mission Giving through United Methodist Women. Every gift, great or small, helps empower and improve the lives of women, youth, and children in the United States and around the world. You can read many stories of ways your Mission Giving is making a difference by visiting the United Methodist Women website and reading *response* magazine. **YOU** make a difference.

I encourage your unit to give to the Five Channels of Mission Giving - Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering. The first step in giving in all Five Channels is to make a pledge and then meet that pledge. So, if your unit has not mailed in their Pledge and Officer Information Form - 2020 (yellow slip of paper), it is not too late.

The following units gave to the Five Channels of Mission Giving in 2019:

Barbara Heck	First North Wilkesboro	Mount Hermon
Boone	First Taylorsville	Mountain View
Charity	Hudson	Shiloh - Sparta
Clifton	Millers Creek	Union Grove
First Elkin	Mt. Bethel (Alexander Co.)	Wilkesboro
First Granite Falls		

Due to the District Prayer Breakfast cancellation, as your District Treasurer I need to know from the following units if your unit wants a refund for the registration or the funds to go toward your unit's Mission Giving:

Baton	First Taylorsville	Shiloh
Broad Street	Hiddenite	Stony Point
Cool Springs	Monticello	Union Grove
First North Wilkesboro	New Covenant	

If you have any question and/or concerns, you may call, email or TXT me.

In His Service,
Nancy Johnson
nananurse85@charter.net
828-612-6142

Membership – Nurture – Outreach:



Sisters,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and sane! With all the distancing, I know it is impossible to hold in person meetings and actually visit units! A few suggestions: Zoom meetings, personal phone calls, prayers, short notes, FaceTime your UMW sisters, and I am sure you can think of many other creative ways to reach out! This may be just the time when a non-member of UMW needs to hear from us! If you are on the district team, please remember to send me your “visit” numbers!

Until we meet again,
Denise Harris
704-437-2794/denise.harris2105@gmail.com

Program Resources:

We are all trying our best to be good neighbors and stay at home to keep safe. So we have a perfect avenue to read, read, and read! Now the problem that I see is that we can't get together to exchange books, even within our own units. Why not try to download some of the online books. Google "umw reading program 2019" and you will see numerous books for the Kindle. One book that I recommend is on the 2020 list. "How the Women at the Well became the Well Women" by Donna Rhodes is a wonderful memoir of how the Bible story of the woman at the well affected her. It is inspiring, but also might show us how to learn from the characters in the Bible. You can access it at AmazonDigital.com.



Micki Earp
828-632-6769/13micki@gmail.com



United
Methodist
Women

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SAVE THE DATES IN 2020.....

EVENTS FOR WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

Sept. 11-13 WNCC UMW Annual Celebration

Lake Junaluska

Oct. 10

WNCC UMW Ubuntu Day of Service

(various locations)



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Appalachian District United Methodist Women 2020 Programs

District Annual Meeting/Celebration

Wilkesboro United Methodist Church
Saturday, August 29, 2020
Celebration will include the Memorial
Service from our canceled Prayer Breakfast
Details TBD

Leadership and Member Development Training

Mt. Bethel UMC
Saturday, November 14, 2020
Details TBD



Mission Today 2020

United Methodist Women
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Western North Carolina Conference
Become a Mission Today Unit!!

NEW IN 2020:

Mission Today Gold – Complete 12 criteria: 7 with asterisks (*) and 5 other.**

Mission Today Silver - Complete 10 criteria: 5 with asterisks (*) and 5 other.**

Mission Today Bronze - Complete 8 criteria: 4 with asterisks (*) and 4 other.**

**Note: "Other" may also include items with asterisks (*).

The purpose of promoting a Mission Today Unit is to:

Energize United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action. Increase contacts between units and mission personnel and mission projects so the United Methodist Women understand where their money goes. Encourage the use of mission resources through United Methodist Women. Expand concepts of mission, including social justice as mission.

What is a Unit?

A unit is any organized group of United Methodist Women within a church or district. Some units are composed of several circles, which periodically get together for a unit meeting.

How Do We Become a Mission Today Unit?

In order to be recognized as a Mission Today Unit, (Gold, Silver or Bronze) UMW **units** must complete a number of the following criteria as indicated above. **#1 of the Criteria is not optional. You must complete this one to become a Mission Today Unit of any level.** Activities conducted between January 1-December 31, 2020, will be recognized at annual meetings in 2021. This is an ongoing program, so strive to become a Mission Today Unit!

CRITERIA:

***1. The Unit will make and meet its Pledge to Mission. (Must be completed.)**

- *2. The unit will use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting or circle meeting of the unit to pray for persons in mission and our mission work with women, children and youth. A new Prayer Calendar is printed each year and may be ordered from the Mission Resource Center.
- *3. The unit will use at least two programs from the Program Book during the year. A new Program Book is printed every year and may be ordered from the Mission Resource Center.
- *4. The unit or circle will conduct or participate in at least one mission study each year. Contact your district or conference Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation to learn what the studies are for each year. (If members of your unit attend the conference Mission U or your District Mission Study and your unit takes an action growing out of the study, Gift to Mission, ministry related to the study, etc., your unit will meet this criteria.)
- *5. The unit will have at least two members subscribing to **response** (1 member subscribing with units less than 15 members; Local unit subscription may count as one.) Order information is printed at bottom of page 2. \$24.00 for a one-year print subscription (includes digital subscription); \$20 for a one-year digital only subscription.
- *6. The unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice in at least two ways during the year. Possibilities are:
 - a. Have members read and discuss books and articles about other races and cultures;
 - b. Sponsor or attend an interethnic event between two or more units;
 - c. Intentionally recruit women of other ethnic groups to be members and officers of the unit;
 - d. Use the Resources for Racial Justice Available on our conference website on the "Downloads Available" page under "Mission Resources."
 - e. Write to elected representatives to support legislation affecting issues such as immigration, affirmative action, low-income programs, civil rights, etc.

If you are a "Justice Today" unit, you have met this criteria. See "Downloads Available" on conference website.

- *7. The unit will have a program and/or complete an action addressing one of the Issue Priorities for 2016-2020. These are 1. Climate Justice; 2. Maternal and Child Health, 3. Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration; and 4. Economic Inequality. Find information at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/general-conference/issuepriorities2016-20
- *8. The unit will add at least two new members (one member for units with less than 15 members) to its roll.

*9. The unit will have one program from the [Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2017-2020](#).

Available at www.Cokesbury.com for \$3.99 plus tax and shipping.

*10. The unit will contribute to all Five Channels of Mission Giving.

*11. The UMW Purpose will be recited at each general and/or circle meeting.

*12. The unit will contribute \$186.90 or more to the Legacy Fund in 2020.

13. At least one member of the unit will attend Mission u and report back to the unit on classes and events they experienced.

14. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members) will attend the district or conference annual meeting and report back to the unit about the event and what they experienced.

15. The unit will have at least one person joining the United Methodist Women's Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information at least three (3) times a year. To join, contact the United Methodist Women Washington Office, 100 Maryland Avenue NE, Room 100, Washington, DC 20002. Phone #: 202-488-5660 or Visit: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/action Attach the issue and action that was taken to Mission Today report.

16. Members will correspond with five persons listed in the Prayer Calendar at least once a year.

17. The unit will co-sponsor, with the local church, a Children's Sabbath. (This is a worship service highlighting the needs of children.) The United Methodist Women National Office and the Council of Bishops support this effort. Children's Sabbath materials are on our national website: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org Type "Children's Sabbath" in the search box.

18. Each unit or circle meeting will include a "response Moment" where an item from *response* magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.

19. The unit will sponsor one teen member (ages 12 to 17) and/or one young woman member (ages 18 to 39) to at least one conference event during the year.

20. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members) will attend a district Prayer Breakfast, district Day Apart, conference Spiritual Growth Retreat, or any other special district or conference event other than Ubuntu Day.

21. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members) will participate in an Ubuntu Day Event.

22. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members) will complete Plan 1 of the Reading Program and give a report to the unit on one of the books read.

23. The unit will invite a district or conference officer, other than a member of the unit, to one of the unit meetings during the year and/or for their United Methodist Women's Sunday. This Qualifies as a Local Unit Visit (LUV).

24. The unit will add one new teen (ages 12 to 17) and/or one young woman (ages 18 to 39) circle during the year, or one new teen member (ages 12 to 17) or one new young woman member (ages 18 to 39) during the year.

25. 100% of the unit's active members will make a gift of at least \$18.69 to the Legacy Fund

26. The 2020 Conference Financial Goal is: To increase unit pledge giving by at least \$5.00 per member. The unit will help accomplish the goal by increasing giving in this channel by at least \$5.00 per member over 2019.

27. Each unit will be responsible for supporting at least one local mission project and participate in one Conference Hands-on Mission Project during the year. The local project should be listed on your Mission Today report.

Be a Mission Today Unit!

Mission Resource Center

Website: www.umwmissionresources.org UMW Mission Resources, PO Box 742349, Atlanta, GA 30374-2349;

Phone: 1-800-305-9857 (toll-free); Fax: (770)280-0061; e-mail: cs@umwmissionresources.org

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Conference Website: www.wnccumw.org

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A LETTER FROM MISSION U:

Mission u 2020

We have received word from the National Mission u office that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mission u onsite training and activities have been cancelled for 2020. After much prayer and discussion, the Mission u team and United Methodist Women senior leadership team agreed that it is too great a risk to gather in person this summer.

We, the WNCC UMW Mission u Steering Committee, completely agree with the National Office staff—your health and safety are of upmost importance to us. We are saddened that we will not move forward with Mission u this summer. At the same time, we look forward to 2021 to gather at Pfeiffer University.

The *Pushout* study will be carried over to next summer since it was already scheduled. You will have more time to complete your reading, and additional resources on this very important subject will be made available. If you have not gotten your book yet, we will place more information on the web site about pre-paid ordering through your District resource person. Remember, once you have finished the book it will count towards your Reading Program credits. Even better, *Pushout* is a Bonus Book and counts as two books for Reading Program purposes.

At this time the *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* study is not slated to be on the schedule for next summer. Instead, “the National Office staff will collaborate with study leader trainers to bring elements of this study and *Pushout* online this summer. The exact format and timeline for each study is still in development and more information will be coming as those pieces take shape. However, it is our hope that those in the Mission u community and the wider church will still be able to engage and benefit from these timely studies from the safety and comfort of their homes.”

I personally will miss the spirit-filled plenary sessions, the early morning praise gatherings outside in nature, the time of serious discussions in class, but most importantly the opportunity to fellowship with one another knowing that God is ever present with us. Next summer, how good and perfect it will be to gather in His name.

Let Psalm 18:2 give you peace at this time.

“The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”

Patricia Moore
Dean, Mission u

