

Columbia Explorer

Columbia District United Methodist Women

Spring Edition

2019



Happy 150th Birthday United Methodist Women

March 23, 2019



President's Message

United Methodist Sisters:

There have been numerous articles, face-book posts, emails, etc. about the recent decision of the General Conference. So, I am not addressing anything further regarding this. Instead let's look at the Season of Lent and what it can mean for each of us.

I am no theologian nor biblical expert. I just know that this time of year is, for me, a time for reflection, prayer, contemplation, preparation and repentance.

There is no one way to find meaning during this time. Some people fast, others give up something (chocolate, coffee drinks, etc.), others choose to give of themselves to others. About 20 years ago during Lent I began taking time most mornings for prayer, reading Psalms and journaling.

We are encouraged to have a time of rest or Sabbath and be in God's presence. Maybe on Sunday or maybe not – whatever works for you. Many of our churches have weekly meals and worship together as well.

My prayer for each of you is to take time to BE with God. One of my favorite scripture verses is the first line of Psalm 46:10, very familiar to all of us I'm sure and often recited thus:

"Be still and know that I am God."

"Be still and know that I am..."

"Be still and know..."

"Be still..."

"Be..."

In Christ's amazing Love,

Janice Stevens

Calendar of Events 20

March 22 & 23 *Spiritual Retreat*

Alton L. Collins Retreat Center

Facilitator: Lois Wagner

March 23 *Day of Giving (150 Legacy Fund)*

April 6 *Every Member Enrichment Event*

Portland First UMC

July 12 & 13 *Mission u* Boise, ID

July 19 & 20 *Mission u* Roseburg, OR

August 2 & 3 *Mission u* Lake Oswego, OR

August 9 & 10 *Mission u* Burley, ID

September 14 *Columbia District Annual Meeting*

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.



**THE LEGACY FUND
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN**

Every Member Enrichment Event

April 6, 2019

Portland First United Methodist Church

1838 SW Jefferson St. Portland, OR



9:00—Registration

12:30—1:15 Lunch Break

1:15 –2:15 Enrichment Fair

2:15—Closing

* **Speakers:** *Cupid Alexander* from Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler's office who will be speaking about Portland's housing crisis. *Juli Oso* of Community Transitional School. Juli will be speaking about the school which provides K-8 schooling for kids who do not have permanent housing.

* **Enrichment Fair:** Units are invited to bring a display of projects they are working on which highlight the mission and ministry of United Methodist Women. Please contact Judi Hanson, hansonjudy@hotmail.com, 541-226-8800 to let her know what you are bringing.

- Coffee and morning snacks provided.
- Bring a salad for our potluck lunch.
- Reading Program Certificates and Healthy, Vital Unit Awards will be presented.
- Our offering will go to United Methodist Women missions.
- You are encouraged to bring a donation for Community Transitional School (see list).

There is ample parking at First UMC but carpooling or taking MAX is strongly encouraged.

If you have any questions please contact Janice Stevens, grandmamaj@comcast.net, 503-860-1452, or Clarice Kruschwitz, clarohn@msn.com, 503-309-4328.

Hope to see you at our Every Member Enrichment Event!

Community Transitional School Wish List

Please note: Thankfully at this time, our shelves (and reserves) are stocked full of spiral notebooks, binder paper, crayons or glue.

Teachers' Classroom Wishes

- Crayola multi-cultural crayons
- Crayola multi-cultural colored pencils
- large pencil boxes
- construction paper – individual packets of red, blues, pink, purple, green, yellow and orange
- 28 count Crayola oil pastels
- Pads of water-color paper
- bottled water colors (with 6 assorted colors in each pack)
- packages of flat paint brushes sizes –with sizes 0-5
- packages of round paint brushes –with sizes 0 – 4/0
- colored masking tape (jumbo roll)
- Sharpie permanent markers ultra-fine
- afternoon snack items: goldfish, individually packaged fruit snacks, granola bars, rice-krispie treats, etc.
- Trapper Keeper zippered binders for middle schoolers

Office & Misc. Supplies

- Kleenex tissue paper
- postage stamps
- #10 peel and seal envelopes
- hand soap



Columbia/Cascadia Districts Spiritual Retreat

9:30 am — 3:30 pm.

Facilitator: Lois Wagner

Alton L. Collins Retreat Center

Come either the Friday or Saturday, which ever fits your schedule. We will close out the day with a Birthday Celebration for United Methodist Women celebrating our 150th year!

Registration is still available for a short time, the cost of Registration at this point is \$35.00. Register on line at umoi-reg.brtapp.com/UMW2019 Or by phone: 503-637-6411

EMO Interfaith Advocacy Day

The morning was spent at St. Mark Lutheran Church, listening to speakers and attending Workshops.

Issue Workshops and notes from some of Columbia District UMW attendees.

- **Climate Justice**— Shilpa Joshi from Renew OR, championed the *Clean Energy Jobs Bill HB2020*. The largest emitters of greenhouse gases paying for every ton of “climate pollution they put into the air” Money will be reinvested in OR Clean Energy Solutions.
- **Criminal Justice Reform** – The state is working on reducing jail time for some and spending that money in the communities to help prevent crimes and to help folks after they are out of jail. Right now, more money is spent on prisons than on education.
- **Gun violence Prevention**— Focus was on the Military-Style Weapons & Large-Capacity Magazines and how they belong on battlefields, NOT in our Schools, Churches, Streets or Communities. *Lift Every Voice Oregon* submitted 2 bills to the OR Legislature: *HB3223 (Assault weapons)* & *HB3265 (Large capacity magazines)*. These bills do not criminalize gun ownership, but requires licensing for some of the most dangerous weapons.
- **Health Care** — The #1 cause of homelessness is the lack of good mental health care. Being homeless is hard for anyone who needs to be on medication on a regular basis. Health care is a right not a privilege.

EMO Interfaith Advocacy Day

March 4, 2019



Gathering on the front steps of the OR Capitol



Rabbi Michael Cahana of Temple Beth Israel in Portland, speaking outside the Capitol on the 2 gun measures in the Legislature.

EMO Interfaith Advocacy Day (continued)

- **Hunger**
- **Immigration**— *HB2015 Equal Access to Roads Act*-the person would have to provide identity, proof of OR residency and proof of driving skills. Many refugees, immigrants and homeless people do not have those documents. This would be a Standard Class-C Driver License. *HB2508 Welcoming Refugees* bill. These are refugees that have been vetted and have waited for years to enter the US. This is to help them with proper support and case management. *Equity Corps of OR*: Funding currently is available in Portland and Multnomah County to help secure funding for lawyers to help immigrants with legal fees.
- **Housing**—In Oregon, the graduation rate for homeless students is around 50%.

The afternoon was spent with each one our Representatives or Senators.

Celebrating our 150 Years! - March 23rd!

Day of Giving—March 23, 2019

Ways to Give:

Online: unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund

Mail: United Methodist Women National Office
475 Riverside Dr. 15th Floor

Attention: LEGACY
New York, NY 10115

By Text: Text 41444 on cell and enter in the message
LEGACY amount and your Name.

How are you Celebrating?

In our next Newsletter, I would like to have some articles and pictures about what you have done in your unit to Celebrate? How many books did your Unit read for the 150 Book Challenge? (Contact Clarice Kruschwitz)

Resources. The March/April *Response* Magazine has some wonderful articles on our history along with some historical pictures. If you don't subscribe to the magazine, perhaps your unit or friend has a copy.

Attention Presidents: Census Reports due March 30th.
www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2018

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Help Wanted for these Position!

Vice President — Education & Interpretation

Membership Nurture & Outreach

Nominations Chair — Nominations Committee

Please let us know if you would be interested in filling one of these positions or know of someone that would be good in filling these positions. Please contact one of the officers!

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