

Columbia Explorer

Columbia District United Methodist Women

May 2020



Calendar of Events

Spring & Summer

2020

Our Spring Events were all canceled this year!

September 11-13 *Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event* has been rescheduled for this date.

Mission u Will have a very different format this year. The study *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* edited by Erin James-Brown will be done as a webinar virtually. The details will be available later.

There will be 3 ways you can participate.

- Participate in the webinar virtually.
- Stream/access it a later time when it has been posted online, and view on your own.
- Meet as a unit or cluster or District to participate using a combination of the webinar and small group discussion.

You CAN order your study book *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* edited by Erin James-Brown at www.umwmissionresources.org/shopping.

At this time the Fall Events will take place as scheduled. We will let you know if changes need to be made.

Purpose of United Methodist Women

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.

President's Message

Once upon a time, when women were birds, there was a simple understanding that to sing at dawn and to sing at dusk was to heal the world through joy. The birds still remember what we have forgotten, that the world is meant to be celebrated. Terry Tempest Williams

Dear Sisters in Christ:

First – I pray that each of you, your family and friends are strong, healthy and finding hope in this strange world in which we are now living. It isn't easy but I know that you are resilient and filled with the love of Christ.

The Executive Team met via Zoom on April 30 and I asked each of them how they are spending their time during the pandemic. We are not sitting still, that's for sure! We are walking, reading, knitting, making quilts, blankets, and face masks; cleaning closets, working in our yards, doing more cooking and baking; keeping in touch with family and friends through phone calls, letters, and the internet. We are participating in Zoom or other on-line worship experiences and Bible study, taking webinar classes through UMW, General Board of Global Ministries and General Board of Church and Society. I expect that many of you are doing the same!

Though several events have been cancelled, others have been tentatively re-scheduled and will be looked at in a few months to determine if we can move forward. Our UMW connections are so valuable and important to us, it's difficult not to meet periodically! There is information elsewhere in the newsletter which will give you updates on what to expect.

As we continue to live within the current restrictions, know that I pray for you daily as I expect we all pray for each other, that we keep the strength of our faith, not only for ourselves but to share with others in whatever ways we can.

*My heart is confident in you, O God;
no wonder I can sing your praises.
For your unfailing love is higher than the heavens.
Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.
Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens.
May your glory shine over all the earth." Psalm 108:1, 4-5*

Keep Singing!

Janice Stevens,

President Columbia District United Methodist Women





Room Manager:

SOS (Sharing Our Savings) \$\$\$

These are certainly complicated times for all of us. We cannot gather together physically for fear of spreading the virus, but it is important to remember that the work of the United Methodist Women is more critical than ever!

Unfortunately our District has been falling short of its pledge over the last three years. One cause for that is that our district also has fewer giving units than in the past. Meanwhile, because no UMW meetings and other events are happening, no offerings are being collected.

But there is an opportunity to reverse the trend in giving! While the District Board was contemplating the possibility of lowering our pledge going forward, several women remarked that they actually find themselves saving money while “sheltering in place.” You may find it true as well: not spending on entertainment, gas, dining out, travel, shopping, etc. Or maybe you didn’t really need the full amount of the stimulus checks that were distributed in the last few weeks. For some of us, anyway, there may be spare money that could be donated to the wonderful outreach of UMW!

Let’s Consider Sharing Our Savings!

Perhaps your unit would like to make a special gift, or you want to help keep the good work going yourself. This unexpected savings could become part of our global missions. Please, consider sending a check made out to Columbia District UMW. Write SOS and your Unit on the memo line.



Thank you so much for considering this plea!

Yours in Christ,

Suzanne Wardenaar, Columbia District United Methodist Women Treasurer
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As we are staying home now and summer arriving, this may be the perfect time to pick up a good book. There are a wide variety of books on the 2020 list for the United Methodist Women Reading Program. Included in the list this year are a number of entries from previous years that are worth looking at. I'd like to highlight a couple.

The first book is called "The Watcher" by Nikki Grimes and illustrated by Bryan Collier. Nikki Grimes takes the words of Psalm 121 and transforms them into "golden shovel" poems that speak about compassion and faith. This is powerfully illustrated by Bryan Collier.

The second book is called "Which Way, Lord" by Robert Fuquay and is a 6-session study that can be done individually or in a group/book club. It is a journey of discovery that you are created for purpose and equipped to live a life of significance. This book uses the life of Paul as a guide. Along the way the following issues are covered: How do we respond to times when you can't live out your purpose as you would like. Exploring ways that God can use you and your life experiences. Rely on God when experiencing adversity.



These books are no longer shipped from United Methodist Women Program Resources, but can be found at the public library (when opened again) and on Amazon, under United Methodist Women.

Please note: If you have any books from the UMW reading list that you would like to pass on, please let me know and I will help get the word out. We might be able to circulate some of these books.

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Spiritual Growth

Recently I shared this when asked about how and what I am doing during this time of “Social Distancing” We live about 10 miles above Yamhill in timber country....we are surrounded by trees, birds, butterflies and for a bit (before it got warmer) we had on the average 3-5 deer coming into the yard for an afternoon "snack"....we chose to isolate up here on family property about 8 years ago from Portland....but it feels different to be told to "isolate" rather than the choosing toanyway, might meet a neighbor when we get the mail....I ordered a book for the Church book club and it ended up coming out of Illinois....it was fun to watch it travel via emails from Illinois to Las Vegas to Reno to Portland to Carlton and then finally to me.....and then when I got it, it was the wrong book (nimble fingers and computer glitches)!! But didn't really mind so much because the journey had been so fun to watch!! Celebrated a birthday during April!! Who knew that face masks and toilet paper would be such special gifts!!! Last year I had a Hanging Pansy basket on the Porch...I would pick off the dead ones and throw them in the yard.....yep!! You guessed it!! This year I have a few beautiful blossoms showing their tiny heads!! God's plan (promise?)!!!

I am sure many of us could share stories similar to this.....I miss all my UMW sisters as well as (and in particular) the Deaconesses and Home Missioners around country. Zoom calls have helped but not quite the same. And I am thankful that we all are taking steps to try and keep as many people safe and healthy as we can....

I have noticed that with my mind not so “cluttered” with “stuff” sometimes I start to focus on the negative and hurtful things that have happened. In one of the mediations I read, it suggested to turn these thoughts around and pray for the person that you were thinking about. And I would expand that, work to forgive them. What I have learned about forgiveness is that one is not necessarily saying that whatever happened was “okay” but that you are not going to let it/them have power over you....not always easy to do but powerful. Suggested resource for mediation: Ramadan2020: Learn and Pray (day 2) The link https://mailchi.mp/50e8cb3316e7/ramadan2020-learn-and-pray?fbclid=IwAR0BaSMFNkgZ6cw7_ioFidD9BtPooQ3IIvbUCS-7Avv903Mv46a3JX10uM4

I have also been reading the book “Searching for Sunday” by Rachel Held Evans. It has been helping me process some of my thoughts and feelings about the church and the world at this time. I didn't discover Ms. Held Evans until she had passed and people were sharing about her on Facebook.

Hope to see you sooner than later....remember that United Methodist Women around the world are still serving and working for women, children and youths...How about you?

Peace & Health, Gloria



United Methodist Women’s Quilts and Blankets for Children



Remember last fall when we could walk around freely without facemasks and gather in groups and even hug each other? Well, way back when, we had our Conference UMW Annual Meeting in Newberg, we talked about a project to make quilts and blankets for children at risk in our Conference. The plan was that each District would try to make at least 40 quilts or blankets and we would all bring them to the Northwest Episcopal Area joint annual conference in Puyallup, Washington this June.

Well you may have heard the old joke, people plan and God laughs! We could never have anticipated what has occurred with the CORVID-19 pandemic which has upset a lot of our plans.

But we can count on the Districts of UMW to fulfill their commitment to making the quilts and blankets (you still have time). Quilt makers are to take pictures of their quilts and send them to Claudia Roberts by September 15, 2020. A slide show of the quilts will be shown at the Columbia District UMW Annual Meeting in September 2020. Claudia will also send the pictures to Jo Ann English so that they can be shown at the OR/ID Conference UMW Annual Meeting in October 2020. That is assuming of course, that these meetings will take place even if some precautions will need to be in place. Keep your quilts for now until plans have been made by the District about where they will be placed.

If your church does not have an UMW Unit, you can let me know if you have new quilts or blankets to donate. Blanket and quilt sizes: 45" X 45"; 45" X 60"; 56" X 84". You can email me pictures at clarobb@juno.com.

Have a good summer and we hope to see you all in person at our District Annual United Methodist Women Meeting in the Fall.

Claudia Roberts, Social Action Coordinator, Columbia District UMW

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- Look for these articles.
- President's message
- Columbia District's
- Pledge to Mission
- Spiritual Thoughts
- District's Quilt Plans
- Mission updates