

# Columbia Explorer

## Columbia District United Methodist Women

### February 2022



### Mark Your Calendars

**March 12 - Every Member Enrichment Event (EMEE)** “Making a Difference. Sharing Stories”- How UMW is responding to the social justice issues locally. (See page 3)

**April 23 - Spiritual Retreat**  
“Hello to the Imagination” – The stories we can share.

**July 14-16 Mission u**  
**July 28-30 Mission u**

**September 10 - Annual Meeting**

#### Items Due

**Unit Pledges for 2022—NOW**

**Healthy Vital Unit Reports—NOW** Send to Turdy Pollard,  
305 N Lombard St. Portland, OR 97217

**March 1—Reading Program Reports** send to Clarice Kruschwitz  
2514 SE 66th Ave. Portland, OR 97206

#### 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.

### Land Acknowledgment:



I acknowledge that my home in Clackamas, Oregon, is within the unceded lands of the Upper Chinook and Clackamas Tribes, who are part of the 30 tribes and bands of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. I have learned that the ratified and unratified treaties between the Tribes and the United States Government from 1853 through 1855 resulted in the forced removal of the tribal members from their ancestral homelands. I recognize the strong and diverse native communities in our region today, and offer respect and gratitude for their stewardship of these lands.

*Submitted by Lydia Henry*



### SOCIAL JUSTICE

As United Methodist Women continue to advocate for Social Justice for all, I want to invite you to two upcoming events.

● **Just Energy for All** on February 17 and 18 at 12 Noon, Eastern Time. Did you know that more than 40% of the U.S. is breathing dirty air and that in 46 of our states communities of color are exposed to higher levels of air pollution than white communities? WE have the power to take action! Join the webinar, *Breathe Again: Healthy Air is Health Care*. Learn more about air pollution, the climate crisis and the public health impact.

● **Roll Down, Justice:** Join United Methodist Women for a weekly Lenten study, six weeks beginning Thursday, March 3, 10-11AM, Pacific time. Led by Janelle Gayle and Faye Wilson with music and reflections by Mark Miller.

You can access registration and information at:  
[unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org) *Submitted by Janice Stevens.*



## *President's Message*

### **The View from my Window** - Lydia Henry

The view from my window today is foggy, which is how I am feeling as churches and group gatherings are still on hold and friends are sharing the requests for prayers as loved ones struggle with COVID, illnesses, difficult living and job situations. I have wondered what I'd write this month as we celebrate Black History as racism and tension continues across our nation. In my prayers I asked for guidance and woke in the middle of the night with an answer. Today I offer you the words of one of my favorite poets, Maya Angelou and the poem that touches my heart knowing that so many times in adversity and loss, we, in our own way, "Still Rise".

#### ***"And Still I Rise"***

You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may trod me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?  
Why are you beset with gloom?  
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells  
Pumping in my living room.  
Just like moons and like suns,  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,  
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?  
Don't you take it awful hard  
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?  
Does it come as a surprise  
That I dance like I've got diamonds  
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame  
I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
I rise  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise

Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors  
gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the  
slave.

I rise

I rise

I rise

# Making a Difference

## Every Member Enrichment Event

March 12, 2022

9:45 am —12:00

Schedule:

- 9:45 am      Join us for a time of fellowship
- 10:00 am     Business Meeting
- 10:30 am     Conversations with Adam Jenkins, Regional Coordinator for Second Home and Michael Berry, Graduate of the Second Home program, around houselessness and other social issues and the impact on youth.
- 11:55 am     Closing Prayer/Adjourn



My name is Adam Jenkins. I am a Regional Coordinator for Second Home, a program of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. We coordinate family based housing options for youth by working with local area hosts willing to lease space in exchange for educational or career development program participation. I enjoy working to develop creative housing options providing youth with choice when in need of housing services.



My name is Michael Berry and I'm a youth of many passions; from policy work to acting and from writing to baking. I'm an early graduate of Centennial High School's class of '21 and am currently taking college courses to become a pharmacy technician.

*To make a difference in someone's life you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect. You just have to care.*  
-Mandy Hale

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**There are three ways to register**

1. Register online (you may need to copy and paste this link to your computer) : <https://forms.gle/wGz5nkU6izHVkC8BA>
2. Send an email to the registrar: [lydiahenry626@gmail.com](mailto:lydiahenry626@gmail.com). Title your email – EMEE registration; include your name, unit, and email address
3. Mail your registration to: Lydia Henry, 15102 SE Myra Lane, Clackamas, OR 97015

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Registration for EMEE, March 12, 2022

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Spiritual Devotion



*“Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”* 1 John 4:7

In February our culture turns to love in all its frivolity and seriousness. In this time of Covid, it is bumped off its pedestal a bit, but it is still out there commercially alive and well.

As Christians we take a close look at “love” as it is a core commandment to love God and love each other as well as ourselves. We have a pretty good picture of what love looks like from Pauls’ beautiful 1 Corinthians chapter 13. We know it means patience, kindness, keeping our thirsty egos under control. It looks like choosing not to boast because we don’t want others to feel less than. Love looks like choosing to be humble and lift others up, rather than insisting on our own way and importance. This is almost counter-cultural in times of Instagram, Face-book and “spin doctoring” images. Love looks like collaboration and compromise because we value everyone in our community, not just ourselves. This seems to be a lost concept in our political world!

Love looks like accepting the truth, even when it is uncomfortable. Love sticks with you through hard times, believes better is possible, holds on to hope and endures. Love is hard work that none of us do perfectly.

So what does it mean to love God? What do we have God needs or even wants? God does not need our words, but we need to say them, just as we need to worship to express our love for God; but God does not need our care, because God is the source of everything.

So how do we love God?

God wants us to express our love for God by loving one another...



We are made in God’s image and God so loved all creation he gave us Jesus to show us what love looks like. So we are called to walk with great love, living love as a spiritual practice – a rule of life. Fear not, if we will just hang in there and hold onto hope, God will show us and make a way where we cannot see a way. Help us be what we cannot imagine being...God holds us in infinite grace and everlasting love.

*Submitted by Donna Metcalf, Spiritual Growth Coordinator*



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



## A Perspective on Black His-



Who is Ruby Bridges? That question might be on a Black History quiz this month. Searching through shelved books at my home, I came across ***Goes to School, My True Story*** by Ruby Bridges. What amazing photographs, allowing the reader to be immersed in the story! Published in 2009 and intended for 2nd grade readers, it gives a clarity to the struggle for racial justice. Ruby was 6 years old in 1961 when Marshals accompanied her on the journey - along the sidewalk, up the steps and through the front door of William Frantz School. WE WON'T GO TO SCHOOL WITH NEGROES - a homemade sign held by a young boy - and, WE WANT WHITE TENANTS IN OUR WHITE COMMUNITY - posted along the street are photos featured in the book. But one photo of the 6-year-old eyes of Ruby, on the cover of the book cuts to the heart of courage and compassion.

Integrating the nations schools during the 1960s may seem like a distant happening, but over the past 60 years we are still called into courage and compassion for creating equity for all students. Ruby Bridges is 67 years old now, still advocating for children, schools and teachers, a light for our pathway toward justice.

As I perused the Black History Resource list posted by the UMW, one listing caught my attention. ***Just Mercy*** by Bryan Stevenson is a lifetime most memorable book and has been made into a movie. A devastating, yet hopeful narrative of defending death row prisoners, this book includes poignant heroic story.

Other books acquired through the UMW Reading Program include, *The Beatitudes, From Slavery to Civil Rights*, written by Carole Weatherford / illustrated by Tim Ladwig. Amazing paintings of the hold of a slave ship, the family of Emit Till, lunch counter sit-ins, the Freedom Rides and more are featured in this beautiful picture book. With Medicine and Health Care being a focus this month, one could find much enlightened reading in *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. How much influence over our health care system can one unknown person have? This might be the question answered in this book as well as why Henrietta never knew of this truth.  
*Submitted by Loretta Milton*

## The Amazing UMW Reading Program!

I believe that our UMW Reading Program is one of the best parts of United Methodist Women! The books are varied, thought-provoking, tear-jerking, laugh-out-loud, "anger" provoking, and excellently written. These are a few that I've read and enjoyed this past year:

***Gum Moon:*** A Novel of San Francisco Chinatown: Based on a true story it brings to light the cruelty of young girls being sold to brothels when their families cannot afford to care for them. A young Methodist woman rescues Mei Chun Lai and her in a home for abused and trafficked girls. Gum Moon is still in existence and is one of our UMW Missions. *Education for Mission*

***#Not Your Princess:*** Voices of Native American Women: A collection of poems, essays, interviews and art. A beautifully compiled, heart-wrenching narrative of the powerful voices of Indigenous Women. *Leadership Development*

***Indian No More:*** Based on the true story of the author's grandmother, Regina has always been Umpqua. But the federal government enacts a law that says her tribe no longer exists and she and her family become part of the Federated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The story follows their move from Oregon to California and the life they experience in new and different ways. *Nurturing for Community*

***Ferguson and Faith:*** Sparking Leadership and Awakening Community: When Michael Brown is shot by police in St. Louis, area clergy step up to support the leaders in their protests, often in prayerful, silent solidarity. Interviews with many clergy and others, including United Methodist leadership. *Social Action*

***Love is the Way; Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times:*** By The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, presiding bishop and primate of The Episcopal Church. He is the first Black person to lead the denomination and delivered the sermon at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. What Is This Thing Called Love? What Desmond Tutu and Dolly Parton Have in Common are just two of the chapters in this heart-warming and thought-provoking book. It is easy to substitute the United Methodist Church for The Episcopal Church!  
*Spiritual Growth* [Join me in reading for 2022!](#)  
*Submitted by Janice Stevens.*

### The Story of Us! Montavilla UMW

“Doing United Methodist Women” over the past two plus years has been difficult. Many units decided to discontinue meeting, as in person wasn’t an option and zoom may not have been possible for everyone. Other units came up with new and creative ways to be in touch and continue our connection. Montavilla UMW has been working to keep that connection going mostly virtually though we have had a few in person meetings when possible.

- Book study of Finding Peace in an Anxious World which was the 2021 Spiritual Growth study for Mission u, virtually.
- Sending birthday greetings to missionaries, deaconesses, UMW staff who share our birth dates. We are continuing this for 2022!
- Holding an in person Christmas party.
- Collecting “undies” for young children at our neighborhood grade school at Christmas - everyone was invited to participate.
- Making, dedicating, and delivering quilts to the Transitional School in Portland.
- An in person meeting in October which included Call to

Prayer and Self-Denial and a book report on Indian No More.

- Last month we had a virtual but incredibly uplifting, spiritual, prayerful meeting led by a UMW member who is also a Spiritual Director.
- We are inviting our entire congregation to participate in the World Thank Offering and will present the funds at our UMW Sunday in March, hopefully in person!
- We have a new circle as well! Our prayer shawl knitting group is now the Tabitha Circle.
- Many women continue to read, read, read the wonderful UMW Reading Program books.

Many of these programs don’t require an actual meeting. Reading, sending birthday greetings, donating to the World Thank Offering can all be done at home. But...keep in touch via phone, text, email, letter - that’s most important!

Hopefully we will be able to meet again in person soon. Prayers for each unit as we all work together to become “whole persons through Jesus Christ!”

*Submitted by Janice Stevens. E & I Montavilla UMW*

Clarice Kruschwitz  
2514 SE 66th Ave.  
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