

OZARKS WEAVINGS

NOVEMBER 2020

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Sue Groves, President

Hello everyone. It is almost Thanksgiving. We do need to think about all the blessings we do have and/or have received even through this trying time. I give thanks each day for our freedoms that we have been taking for granted. The freedom to worship our God as we please even if some churches are not holding the big services as they were before covid. In Missouri we have been fortunate with not being held back from many things. Some have not been so fortunate—they have been chastised for their faith. We need to pray for religion in America.

Even when we are not in person contact, we can still contact each other in other many ways. We can call, write a note, send an email or text, or skype/zoom. I encourage you to touch base with others during this time. Everyone needs some encouragement especially now.

I wish some of you would email me and let me know what is happening with you and your family.

My family is doing well. We zoom with our family on the East Coast. There was a new great niece born just before the beginning of the shut down. It is good to be able to see the little ones as they grow.

Please let me know if your UMW unit is meeting, if so, how. Also, if I can help with anything, please contact me and I will do what I can or find someone who can help you.

The Mission Team will be meeting to discuss next year. We will let you know soon about the plans.

It is with regret that the Mission Team accepts the resignation of Linda Presley as the Spiritual Growth Coordinator. Linda has been active on the Mission Team since 2009. She has served in many positions including president of Ozarks North. Linda will receive the tenure pin in recognition of her years of service.

President Continued

Karla Lowe-Phelps has graciously accepted the opportunity to serve as Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Ozarks District. Karla is very active in the Lebanon UMC and UMW. She is serving currently as the Lebanon UMW president. She is the Ozarks District Woman in Mission this past year.

I hope many blessings come your way. Look forward to a better 2021.

Remember Job and all he went through. We, too, can go through tough times. The old saying that though times only makes you stronger or tough makes you tougher. So, let's Fully Rely On God (FROG)!

Linda Presley, Spiritual Growth

Barbara Vestal from Marshfield did not get on the list of ladies for the Memorial of members who went to be with Jesus in 2019. Barbara was such a huge part of UMW.

Please continue: 1) Reading your Bible every day, even if it is only a few verses. Allow enough time for God to lead you further and deeper once you take that first step!

2) Adding to your list of ways God is blessing you each day. Is your tablet getting full? **Did you remember to add your God given right, that because you were born in a "free" America, you have the right to cast your Vote for the people who govern our "great United States of America"**

3) Continue to pay your pledge to your Local Unit so that they in turn can pay to the District and they in turn can pay the Conference which can continue to fund our Mission for children, youth and women around the world. (this is a very important part of our organization).

4) Don't forget to check out books listed in the Spiritual Growth section of the Reading Program.

Something to Challenge You Answers to last month's challenge

1) What was Moses 1st son's name? **Answer:** Gershom son of Moses and Zipporah Exodus 2:22

2) Who went with Moses to the King of Egypt? Answer: The elders of Israel and Aaron Exodus 3:18 7:10

New Challenge for November During the Exodus, Egypt was hit by many plagues.

1) How many Plagues were there?

2) Why did Moses send the plagues?

3) In the order of the plagues, what number was the plague of rats?

4) How many times did God part the Waters so that the Israelites could continue their travels?

Let me know if there is anything you need.

God's Blessings and Grace on you all!

Connie Daughtrey, District Treasurer

THANKS to all the Unit Treasurers who have sent in Pledge payments this year, despite a disrupted meeting schedule. It's like dropping pennies into a Piggy Bank as a child – all those individual pennies working together can add up. And that's what we **must** remember. Perhaps your unit isn't meeting, or meeting sporadically; and perhaps your giving isn't what it was last year. But remember, all the pennies of the Ozark District, combined with the pennies of the MO Conference, combined with..... You get the picture. It takes **all** of us working together to help meet the goals of providing for the mission needs of Missouri, the United States, and UMW globally.

So don't be embarrassed by the fact that your remittance isn't what it used to be – be **PROUD** to be helping out where you can!

In the Annual Meeting held virtually on September 26, Liz Rooks (MO Conference Treasurer) presented the 2021 Conference Budget and the Proposed A&MD Quarterly amount which is paid to each District for their operating expenses. It goes without saying that 2020 incomes are significantly less than anticipated. Here are the figures:

Ozarks District's 2020 Pledge was \$40,000 vs. \$19,500 for 2021
The A&MD quarterly income for 2021 is now \$500/mo or \$2,000 yearly

This will greatly impact the spending for Ozarks District in the upcoming year. Depending on when we are able to begin planning 2021 events, we will have to re-structure our budget accordingly. Recently, I gave the Conference permission to keep our 4th Quarter 2020 A&MD monies to be used toward reaching the Conference Pledge. However, we still have a sufficient balance in our banking account for any expenses that should arise for the remainder of this year.

UPCOMING DEADLINES FOR TREASURERS:

Last date to submit 202 Pledge monies will be December 15 to receive 2020 credit.

Before December 15, please email me your anticipated Pledge for 2021.

Please give me a dollar figure versus "same as last year" to prevent any errors.

THANKS for your efforts in 2020 and I look forward to working with you next year. If you ARE NOT continuing as Treasurer for the coming year, please let me know.

You'll notice I began and ended this message with one word – **THANKS**. *And it is heart-felt!!*

~Connie

Ruth Spargo, Membership Nurture & Outreach

The district Women in Mission for 2020 were named and honored at the Fall Conference. Since it was held virtually, I have no picture of the honorees!

Karla Lowe-Phelps, the Ozarks District Woman in Mission was nominated by her unit, the Lebanon UMW, and I have included their nomination letter.

For the past 3 years, Karla has carried the dual roles of Unit President and Social Action Coordinator.

As president, she makes UMW mission visibility a priority with quarterly Mission Minutes during worship highlighting the Reading Program, service projects and spiritual growth.

Under her leadership, she has mentored two new Board members and created a Hands-on-Mission Day for members and potential members.

After attending the 2018 Assembly, she developed and presented a program on African American women and Maternal-Child Health. Following reading Just Mercy, she presented a program on School-to-Prison pipeline. She has made both programs available to the district.

In the past two years, she recruited 4 new members into her circle.

She received the Dortha Mae Olsen Scholarship for the 2018 Legislative Event.

Subsequently, she served as scholarship chair and mistress of ceremonies for the 2020 Legislative Event.

Her concerns for youth led her to co-spearhead a UMW-sponsored supper program at the local youth shelter.

In 2017, she encouraged the board and church outreach to co-initiate Laclede County Diaper Bank, which provided 42,585 diapers to families in 2019.

Congratulations—and thank you, Karla and Lebanon UMW

I've always tried to encourage women to share things that are happening in their units. I would like to share two things from my (Asbury) unit.

UMW Sunday: We have frequently had a speaker representing a not-for-profit agency from the Springfield area, keeping the theme of meeting the needs of women, youth and children. (Last year we had a big celebration for the 150th birthday with a presentation by Rev. Max Marble.) This year trying to plan at a time when we had just resumed (with a very limited attendance) an in-person service with most of our “attendance” still “virtual.” Since we didn't feel we could ask a person to come in person, our church “tech-ie” worked out a videoed message from Yvette Richards, the national UMW president 2014-2018. She gave an outstanding message on “Faith, Hope and Love in Action.” And to show you how God works, our choir director had our virtual choir sing “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” —without knowing the title of the sermon when she planned it!

Fran McDaniel, Secretary Program Resources

Program Resources Update on the Reading Program! In the November Response magazine, it was announced that the reading program's new offerings will now span **two years**, 2021-2022. There are many wonderful books in all categories that I hope you will find of interest and available to you. The most recent books selected are listed in the magazine but also can be accessed on line here: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogramcatalog2021>

But before you dive into next year, it's not too late to finish a 2020 Reading Plan and get some recognition for accomplishing something good in this challenging year! Choose and follow one of the four plans as described here <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram/plans>.

When you have read the required number of books and magazine issues, report your completion to your Program Resources Coordinator (me!) at mcdaniel.fran@gmail.com.

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/downloads/reading-program-report-form.pdf>

Titles read from the 2015-2020 period will be credited through December 31, 2020.

With good reading days ahead of us, I encourage everyone to continue to read through these days and in the days ahead. Though our library is currently in shelter, I am attaching the digital catalog and reading program. Many of these books may be available in your local libraries or unit's resource library. <http://online.fliphtml5.com/eiek/orzk/#p=1>

We continue to crave that face-to-face contact with our sisters in Christ but when Face-to-Face Programs Are No Longer Possible, many of us have found creative ways to stay Knitted Together!

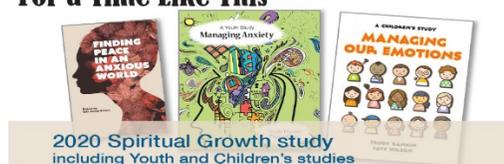
Technology offers wonderful solutions to help us to continue our fellowship, even in trying times. From video conferencing, to adapting programs, to recording meetings - find helpful tips in our resource handout:

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/Media/PDF/DistanceProgrammingResources.pdf

Faith Talks podcasts have been excellent and very relevant! Highly recommend!

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks>

RESOURCES For a Time Like This



Study: Spiritual Growth studies like Finding Peace in an Anxious World explores ways to discover peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines so that we can be rooted in God and energized to live fully, as disciples of Christ. Available here: <https://www.umwmissionresources.org/>

I would like to offer one more resource for your unit or individual use. We had planned on having a **Mai Gray program** in October with guest speaker Karla Lowe Phelps leading a discussion on the book Just Mercy, by Bryan Stevenson. Due to our inability to gather in large groups, we were able to record the program with the assistance of one of our tech savvy members and Karla's willing spirit. If you would be interested in using this resource for your unit, please contact me and I will send you the link. Karla did a wonderful job addressing the issue of school to prison pipeline helping us to see our collective obligation to "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God".

I'm sure you have found creative ways to stay in touch, encourage one another and grow in Christ through these trying times. If I can be of any assistance with resourcing your unit's needs, please contact me at mcdaniel.fran@gmail.com

Connie Gabbert, Green Team

Climate Justice: ALL people deserve quality, affordable energy, and for that reason it is so important we take good care of God's Creation by guarding, protecting & preserving it.

The climate is changing so much faster than Scientists have predicted as it is hotter than it's ever been. In the next 10 years (2030) CO2 omissions need to be cut by 25% before the Globe collapses. United States has 5% of the worlds' population, yet we emit more CO2 than other nations because we are more dependent on fossil fuels to run cars, homes, businesses & industry.

We need to start choosing a different lifestyle by changing our ways of being in the world. Wind & Solar energy need to be a big part of this change. There are proposed legislation in both Missouri House & Senate addressing these issues. It is important to set up regulations to comply with the Paris Climate Accord, establish Community Solar Gardens & Energy districts, Electric charging stations, Rooftop Solar installations, and support the Grain Belt Express (Wind energy). Always remember to do the 3R's— Reduce/Recycle/Reuse.

Houston UMW Christmas Project

The Houston MO Unit of United Methodist Women has hosted a "Christmas Shoppe" at our local Houston House nursing home for at least 20 years. A tree is set up in the narthex of the church and our members donate new and gently used items for women, men, teens, and children for the UMW ladies to take to the nursing home on a designated date for residents to "shop" free of charge for their family and friends or even themselves. They can pick 5 gifts, which are wrapped by our ladies and given to the resident to distribute to whom they wish. Most of them await their turn anxiously and those who have done this more than once, are very excited for their "Christmas gift shopping day." Due to Covid restrictions this year, we are not allowed to host this joyful event, so we decided to use UMW treasury monies to purchase 3 practical gifts for every resident (9 men and 51 women) and deliver them for the nursing home staff to distribute some Christmas cheer from the Houston UMC.

Our UMW group has also purchased Daily Guidepost devotional books annually for our shut-ins and recent widows and delivered them personally to show how much we care for them. Again, due to covid, the personal visit is out, but we will deliver tp their place of residence with a card reminding them of Christ's love and ours.

See the pictures on the next page.



Pictured are Carol VanderVeen and Cindy Haley Houston UMW members along with Stephanie a nurse at Houston House. Together they delivered the bags outside the door.

