
Miami Valley UMW May 8 E-News

1 message

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Miami Valley United Methodist Women May 1, 2020



Weekly Miami Valley United Methodist Women E-News

The Miami Valley United Methodist Women leadership team is here and are providing this WEEKLY E-NEWS with updates, information and articles on how we can stay connected as UMW, stay informed and take action!



The work you do as United Methodist Women in your local church in community and in the world is important now more than ever. How can we come together to support each other and those around us in greatest need? This week we want to focus on the Good News that we can bring and how we can share with others out of our blessings.

You may want to regularly check the West Ohio UMW website for updates and updated information and possible rescheduling on UMW events. Check the West Ohio Conference UMW calendar here: <https://www.westohioumw.org/calendar-of-events>

The Mission u study, "Finding Peace in an Anxious World" is being developed so that we can join together to study, but in a different way. Please order your book and keep watching these newsletters on how you can join in for discussions and explore new ways to help you grow in your faith during these uncertain times. Our devotional each week near the end of this newsletter will highlight this excellent book.

Order *Finding Peace in An Anxious World* by clicking **HERE**

There's always time to join with your MIAMI VALLEY UMW family in a time of prayer & meditation

As believers in the power of prayer, we know that coming together with a shared intention can have profound impacts on our lives, on our communities and on the world. No matter the size or scope of the group, being together can strengthen our connection and support of each other.

And when they had
PRAYED,
the place where they
had **gathered together**
was **SHAKEN,**
and they were all
FILLED
with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak
the **WORD of GOD**
with
BOLDNESS.
-ACTS 4:31

Topic: Prayer Circle on Saturday Morning
Time: May 9, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time

Join the Prayer Circle through Zoom Meeting by clicking on:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83245228293>

Meeting ID: 832 4522 8293

Anyone who is interested in taking part in a virtual prayer/meditation practice is invited to email Beth Vanoli at vanolibeth@gmail.com to receive more information about this opportunity. It is open to everyone - not just United Methodist Women so invite your friends and family who might be interested. Join us for this time of prayer!



Use this segment of the **UMW PRAYER CALENDAR** to remember those in Mission around the globe! Prayer requests and a mission focus story are available [HERE](#) for the week of May 10 - 16.

Many thanks to Linda Miller UMW District President of Capital Area South for compiling this useful resource for prayer.

THE 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."

Your MISSION GIVING is important now, more than ever!

Throughout the 151 years of United Methodist Women and their predecessor organizations from the Brethren, Evangelical and Methodist traditions, women have organized for mission to reach around the world to bring physical and spiritual life to women, children and youth in need.

During this time when all of us have been affected by the pandemic, we reflect upon the work of these amazing women during the times of world wars, the Spanish Flu pandemic and the Great Depression that left many people out of work, food and even homes. But United Methodist Women persevered even then by founding Immigrant Women's homes, educational institutions, orphanages and Settlement Houses. Our history is full of women who continued to serve others and carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to multitudes of people even in the hardest of times.

Our task now is just the same - Mission Giving, the pledge, the amount sent to your district and on to the conference and national organization fund many mission programs. One that is very timely and important is that of the **Regional Missionaries**. Click on the picture below of Finda Quiwa for a video of how your Mission Giving makes a difference!



Take Action Stop Utility Shut-offs!

Tell Congress to make **people** the top priority and provide **people-focused** federal relief and stimulus packages as well as a moratorium on all electric and water utility shutoffs, waiving late-payment charges and reinstating disconnected services.

Click **HERE** to learn more and advocate for others!



Our weekly devotional thought from our Mission u study, *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*

Our devotional thought today continues with examining the **Serenity Prayer**. Has this prayer helped you to understand how difficult times can actually bring you peace and lead you closer to Jesus and the Holy Spirit?

The Serenity Prayer follows the invocation of peace with the command for acceptance. . . How do we understand the line in the prayer that states:

"God, Grant me the Serenity to **accept** the things I cannot change."

The author of Chapter two of *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*, Brittany Isaac, writes this: "I find this sentence to be the most difficult line of the prayer. The verb, to accept, doesn't sound busy enough for me. Acceptance feels passive and contemplative. I'm much better at changing things than accepting things. . . If we could change the things we cannot accept through our collective efforts, we may be able to usher in the kingdom of God. This idea sounds too good to be true, and that's because

it is. In fact, I would argue that much of our anxiety actually comes from our inability to change things coupled with our inability to learn to accept them.

The prayer cannot begin with ourselves and our ability to control things. That is a self-centered prayer. Serenity and acceptance, these two actions ground us in the idea that something bigger - God, God's creation, and God's sovereignty - is at play." (*Finding Peace in An Anxious World*, p. 34-35)

Read and reflect on how Jesus used acceptance as a source of spiritual power in Mark 14:32-36. Here Jesus holds the pain and injustice of his betrayal in prayer, he prayed for change, he prayed for goodness, he prayed for the disciples. "But most of all, he prayed for acceptance - that not his will but God's will would be done, and that he would accept that will, whatever it brought into his life." (p.36)

Use the **Serenity Prayer** this week to seek God's wisdom and follow Jesus' example in accepting those things that cannot be changed. Invite the Holy Spirit to remind you that God loves you and as we go to prayer, we understand that prayer is powerful, transformative and that "God-rooted acceptance" might be given to us.

**God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
As it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
If I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him
Forever and ever in the next.
Amen.**

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OUR LOCAL MISSION
PROJECTS IN THE MIAMI VALLEY that YOU or YOUR LOCAL
UMW ORGANIZATIONS CAN SUPPORT with your DONATIONS
during these difficult times:**

DAYTON:

ST PAUL OUTREACH MINISTRY - Please remember St. Paul with your prayers. We still need canned vegetables, fruit, meat, and soup; shelf milk;

pasta and sauce; pork and beans; bread and crackers. If you can help financially, checks can be sent to: St. Paul Outreach; [101 Huffman Ave.; Dayton OH 45403](#). Or visit their website to donate at: <https://www.stpauldayton.org/donations>

WESLEY COMMUNITY CENTER - Is in need of your help during this time of COVID-19. Even though many activities have been temporarily closed down, the needs of women, children and youth do not stop for Wesley Community Center, our UMW National Mission Institution in Miami Valley. Please consider sending an extra donation check to:

Wesley Community Center, [3730 Delphos Ave., Dayton OH 45417](#) OR donate through Wesley's website at: <https://wesleycenterdayton.org>

Also a special WISH LIST has been created on Amazon for you to send items directly to the center. The items are limited it to Diapers, Feminine Hygiene products, Beans, Rice, and Water. When ordering be sure to click on the Wesley Center, click [HERE](#) to go to Amazon, Wesley Center shopping.

PREBLE COUNTY:

JACOBS LADDER - "Eliminating hunger, one child at a time" Serving children and teens in Preble County www.jacobsladder-ohio.org; Mail: P.O. Box 626, Eaton, OH. 45320

SOJOURNER RECOVERY CENTER - Comprehensive alcohol and drug addiction treatment facility for women. Call 513-868-7654; [1881 US 127, Eaton, OH 45320](#); their website is [HERE](#)

SHELBY COUNTY:

ALPHA COMMUNITY CENTER - Serves the community through meals, food pantry, children/adult programs and rent/utility assistance. 937-498-9758; email: info@alphacommunitycenter.org or www.alphacommunitycenter.org

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY:

SYCAMORE HOUSE - Provides hope and assistance for women, infants and children. 937-653-3737 or [315 Sycamore St., Urbana, OH 43078](#)

CLARK COUNTY:

THE OPEN HANDS FREE STORE - Supports the material and spiritual needs of people in Springfield and Clark County with groceries, clothes and household items. 937-323-5815

GREATER MIAMI VALLEY:

OASIS HOUSE - Offers hope and support to women victims of sexual exploitation with life skills, program referrals, personal and household goods and mentoring. Call 937-898-7811 for specific needs; located at the Life Enrichment Center, [425 N Findlay St., Suite 308, Dayton, OH. 45404](#)

Welcome Spring!

During this time of keeping ourselves and those around us safe and healthy, we will publish good news and information for spiritual growth and social action. Also updates of what is happening in UMW at the local, district and national organization levels.



Do you have a story to tell? Or do you have a question about UMW?
We want to stay connected with you! Please send stories, pictures, questions and suggestions to Marcia Florkey at mlbflorkey@gmail.com.

We appreciate your help in keeping your postal addresses and e-mail addresses up to date, so we don't have to spend money on returned mail! Please send any changes to MV UMW secretary, Evelyn West at ewest0345@gmail.com. THANK YOU!!

Miami Valley District United Methodist Women | [10700 S. Charleston Pike, South Charleston, OH 45368](#)

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