



WOMEN AT THE WELL

July 2020

President

My hope is that this note finds you all healthy and safe in this crazy world we are in right now. Philippians 4:13 "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength".

Many of your churches are still not meeting within your church. Some are meeting outside, weather permitting, and online. My church, Portage UMC, has a small congregation and have been having services in our church. We have had to make some adjustments, but it has worked out very well. Most of our congregation is back to worship. I pray yours will be able to worship in your churches very soon.

Please be sure to read the information on Mission u. You can register online on the West Ohio UMW web site. Also, Beth Vanoli who is a Conference Officer is holding a 2 Part Conversation on the book "So You Want To Talk About Race". You will have 2 opportunities to take part in this conversation. The first will be on Tuesday, July 21st and 28th from 3:00-4:00 pm. The second conversation will be on Thursday, July 23rd and 30th from 7:00-8:00 pm. This will be on zoom and you must register. You can contact Beth at vanolibeth@gmail.com.

We are still working on the details for the Fall Annual Meeting in September. The final details will be in our Monthly Up-date around the beginning of August. Please be sure to read all

articles as there are some changes and a lot of information.

We hope to see at the Annual Meeting in September. I pray you and your family remain healthy and safe.

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MNO

As Membership, Nurture & Outreach officer, I bring you greetings from the Maumee Watershed District and hope that this finds each of you feeling good and thanking God for each new day.

With the COVID-19 pandemic that we are all living through, or trying to do our best to get through this, I know that all meetings of our churches have been on hold, as well as any gatherings over 10 people. The District team was sorry that we had to cancel our UMW Annual District Spring Event, which was scheduled for April 25th.

We are now scheduled for our UMW Annual District Fall Event to be held September 19th. At the present time, finding a church to host us is a problem. We may have to go virtual and have our program on Zoom. I hope we will be able to work something out more personal.

Our theme for our September 19th Event is "Peace in the Storms of our Lives", Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God". Some days it seems impossible to find peace in all that is going on, not only in the United States but all around the world:

one protest after another, some marching for peace and justice, and others for different reasons. At some point, whether peaceful or not, one bad move and then bad things happen. What has happened with our love for one another? Respect for one another? As UM Women, we must pray that things will settle down soon. That the protests will stop. That the vaccine for COVID-19 will be available, which, we hope, will slow down this virus. I look forward to the time when everyone: black, white, yellow, red, whatever the race may be, that we can join hands and say to each other, "I love you" and "I want to be your neighbor in Christ". This has got to happen before we can be unified.

Maybe by September or October, all UMW Units will be able to meet comfortably again. If you are like me, I miss my friends, the fellowship, and especially the wonderful refreshments. Please try to make every effort to keep your UMW Units strong. Be sure to invite your Shepherdess to one of your Unit meetings, or to all of them. We look forward to getting together with you and share ideas.

The Memorial Service will be at our Sept. 19th meeting, I need names of any deaths of UM Women in their Units, that have occurred between April 1, 2019 to Augusts 31, 2020.

Hope to see you on September 19th in person or via Zoom. God bless!

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Treasurer

This has been quite a year – a year of many changes in our lives! A year when wear a mask, keep your social distance, and wash your hands have become phrases we hear over and over again. A year when many local UMW units have not been able to meet in person. (Perhaps some of you are meeting virtually.) Some of you have also had to cancel fund-raising events. Consequently, as you might expect, mission giving in our district is down. Through June 30, 2020, I have received \$5,097.50, which is 24.24% of our goal of \$24,000. (Normally, we have reached 30-40% of our goal by this time of the year.) Unfortunately, the needs of UMW missions have not been reduced; but at many sites needs are greater than ever. So as we approach the last few months of the year, prayerfully consider your support for UMW missions. Remember, I need to receive UMW mission giving dollars for 2020 by November 30, 2020.

Treasurers – **please take note.** Many of the local units send money specifically designated for a particular mission site. Our West Ohio Conference Treasurer has requested that all gifts for specific mission sites be sent directly to the intended recipient. (Be sure to keep track of these gifts and note them on your Mission Today form.) This ensures that the money will be available for the site's use much sooner (instead of being sent to district, to conference, to national, to mission site). Addresses of some of the most common site recipients are as follows (and monies should be sent directly to them):

Legacy Fund United Methodist Women
Office of the Treasurer, 475 Riverside Drive,
15th Floor New York, NY 10115

UMCOR GBGM
458 Ponce DeLeon Ave. NE, Room 226
Atlanta, GA 30308-1836

National Missions in Ohio

Community Development 4 All People
946 Parsons Ave. Columbus, OH 43206

Friendly Center 1324 N. Superior St.
Toledo, OH 43604

Wesley Education Center
525 Hale Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45229

Wesley Center Community Center
3730 Delphos Ave. Dayton, OH 45417

Other frequent recipients

Red Bird Mission, #773728
70 Queendale Center
Beverly, KY 40913

Henderson Settlement, #773365
P. O. Box 205 Frakes, KY 40940

Please continue to send all mission giving dollars (pledge, special mission recognition, gift to mission, gift in memory, and world thank offering), Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, and Brighter Future for Children monies to me. If you have any questions, please call or email me.

Marsha Klingbell 419-476-1145
mklingbeil@daviscollege.edu
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Social Action

Over the past few weeks, our nation has been in turmoil with the killing of African Americans by the police. There have been marches in many cities as we have seen people asking for justice and families having to try and figure out

how to go on after their loved ones have been killed. Almaud Arbery was killed in Georgia while jogging. Breonna Taylor was killed in Louisville while sleeping in her bed and George Floyd was held down by a police officer as he stated that he could not breathe until he died in Minneapolis.

So, people have taken to the streets and joined Black Lives Matter asking for change.

Harriett Jane Olson, General Secretary, United Methodist Women stated "The United States is an unsafe place for people of color. This is something we must see, believe and change. Our majority white institutions and leaders have created these systems to benefit people considered white. White people must act with persons of color to make change: Put aside disbelief in the testimonies of discrimination. Support Black-led organizations in your community working for criminal justice reform and police accountability. Engage with the United Methodist General Commission on Religion and Race and the church's racial ethnic caucuses on shared objectives.

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Spiritual Growth

I recently read an interview of one of my favorite authors, Max Lucado. He remarked that "this is a time of upheaval unlike any I have ever seen, unlike anything the world has ever seen. It's global. It's physical. The Covid-19 can attack my body. It's emotional. I'm isolated from the people I love. It's financial. The severe setbacks people are facing." He says that what is important "is to look for what has not changed. For the person

of faith that means the existence of God, the sovereignty of God, the plan of God. Turn to those and believe. We serve an unchanging God." A prayer he finds himself praying is "Lord, what are You doing? By permitting this pandemic, by showing us these racial issues?" When asked if he heard an answer, he replied that one morning when he prayed he heard the word, "calling." He understood that to mean that God is calling people back to Himself. Calling us to walk more closely with Him. Calling to those who don't know Him, getting their attention. We are being reminded of how frail we are. The Bible verse he turns to is Jesus walking on the water. The whole idea of it. Coming to His disciples in the middle of the storm. He could have kept that storm from ever coming, but He let it. He let the storm come, then He showed up. Jesus will show up in the midst of this storm, too. Ladies of the UMW, keep bringing Faith, Hope and Action in all the ways you can to all the people you can until this storm is over. If you have not already ordered this year's spiritual growth study Finding Peace in an Anxious World, I highly recommend that you get a copy and share it with your unit. Mission u will offer the study using Zoom, an internet meeting application, but even if this isn't an option for you, the book is really inspirational. The book's editor, Erin James-Brown, tells in the May/June 2020 issue of *Response* how the book examines the pervasive struggle with anxiety using examples of both daily activities and complex social issues. The book uses the Serenity Prayer, written by Richard Neibhur just before the United States entered WWII, to examine a healthy spiritual approach to coping with anxiety. The writing of this book began in 2016 to be published in 2020. God's timing couldn't be more perfect.

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Communications

As you have seen we are trying to do a monthly update with items throughout the conference. If you have an item for us please send to me and we can include it. With so many things being cancelled I am trying to get them out for everyone to know. If you have an email instead of mailing your newsletter it comes a lot faster and you can let other women know. If someone wants to be added to the list and you do NOT need to be an officer to receive these.

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S.C.R.A.P

We aren't doing SCRAP this year. So sorry. Will miss everyone. Hope to be back next year.

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FRIENDLY CENTER GUILD GARAGE SALE:

HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

MWD UMM PILL BOTTLES/BOOKS *Ends August 15*

The MWD United Methodist Men have decided to stop collecting Pill Bottles and Books. They will be collecting through August 15. Supplies can be dropped off at Stony Ridge UMC (Shed behind Church). For large quantities contact Denny to arrange for Pick-up. Any person wanting to assume the Mission, please contact Denny Walker at edw_denny@yahoo.com

Conference Representative Nominations:

After asking permission, Al had been getting drinking water from my former church for several years. His family's rental home across the street had bad tasting water so he filled jugs and 2-liter bottles every week or two.

He called the office one day and asked if his niece could do any volunteer work at the church. She needed some hours to continue receiving food stamps. He put her on the phone - she was crying, could hardly talk. She had just found out she needed 44 volunteer hours within the next two weeks!

Brea came over the next day, nervous and unsure. We worked out a schedule of hours at the church to assure that she and her daughter, Sadra, would remain on the food list for another month.

Brea was on time, a good worker, loved to clean and organize, was creative with displays. And there were no more tears! In fact, in my rounds through the church one day, I heard her singing! Brea and Sadra started attending church, too.

After sharing about her volunteer work and the reason for it, several church people responded, "They **should** have to do **something** for that free food!"

I learned more about this family. Al was illiterate and trying to get back on SSI after a difficult divorce; Al's stepfather lived with them - he had cancer; Al's brother had a job; Al's son was looking for work; and there was Brea and 10-year-old Sadra. Brea said it was all about family and they were trying to make it in today's world.

A quote from a 2014 **response** article speaks to me:

"How many poor people do you know personally? How many would attend your funeral? If we follow Jesus' example, we are friends to the poor, the immigrant, the sinner, the homeless. Giving money and food certainly helps but it is easy to keep our distance that way. Jesus made connections with

those in need - they were his friends and he helped them move beyond their problems."

At the Conference level, we are always looking for women who feel called to serve United Methodist Women and missions. If you are interested or know someone with special talent, please contact Kathy or me.

Blessings on your journey.

Becky Ruple, 408 Adrian St., Delta, OH 43515;
419-822-3728 or 937-237-
7468; rlruple@hotmail.com

Friendly Center Update

Our Toledo Friendly Center national mission institute is "taking a hit" like so many other non-profits, organizations and businesses due to COVID-19. A very promising fundraiser scheduled during this time had to be rescheduled then canceled. A much-anticipated redo of the upstairs at the house was halted mid-stream due to lack of finances and required social distancing. But the Center remained open to hand out meals Mon.-Thurs. and for its twice weekly food pantry. It was able to handle the increase in numbers. It even offered the Center to the Food for Thought program three nights each week. Food for Thought needed a new location to prepare the hundreds of meals it hands out in Toledo each weekend. That partnership continues. Needless to say, FC needs more than the grants it receives to survive. Any financial support you can send is very much needed and greatly appreciated. Send to: 1324 N. Superior St., Toledo, OH 43606.

Janis Kleine, President of Board



The organized unit of the 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.

return to:

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PLEDGE FORM 2021

Church Name and City Address: _____

Unit or Circle: _____ \$_____ pledge for 2021.

Local Treasurer: _____