

Miami Valley United Methodist Women

May 29, 2020

Miami Valley United Methodist Women E-News and Views

For the next several weeks your Miami Valley United Methodist Women leadership team will be providing a WEEKLY E-NEWS with updates, information and articles on how we can stay connected as UMW, stay informed and take action!

Starting in June and for the rest of the summer, we will be publishing the MV UMW E-News twice a month on the second and fourth Fridays. So look in your e-mail inbox on June 12 and June 26 for the next issues. A SPECIAL EDITION E-News will come out as soon as Mission u registration is available.

And speaking of Mission u, the 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, read and be ready to join in! Worship times will also be a part of our new on-line format for Mission u, so be ready!

Order *Finding Peace in An Anxious World* by clicking [HERE](#)

All in Community is an initiative of West Ohio UMW and UMC as a modern day, Biblical response to the impact and aftermath of mass incarceration across our West Ohio mission field. All in Community ministry centers on restorative justice as we strive to do as the Lord requires us -- to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). Because of this mandate we would ask that each of you and your UMW unit discern on how you can be a part of this mission. A later article will give you different ways you can be involved.

Join with your MIAMI VALLEY UMW family
in a time of prayer and meditation on Wednesdays and
Saturdays

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.

Join with Beth Vanoli and others from United Methodist Women and invite your friends and family too!

Saturday, May 30 at 10am at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82376492209>

And on Wednesday, June 3 at 3:00pm, e-mail Beth Vanoli at vanolibeth@gmail.com and she will give you the link needed to join.

Have you read the prayer requests from the **UMW PRAYER CALENDAR** today? Prayer requests and a mission focus story are available [HERE](#) for the week of May 31 - June 6.

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."

"ALL IN COMMUNITY" HOW CAN YOU RESPOND?

"I look upon all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation." – John Wesley, Journal, June 11, 1739

COVID-19 Reentry Kit Challenge

Due to increased exposure to the COVID-19 virus, our neighbors returning from prison are at a higher risk of spreading the coronavirus back into the community. At the same time, incarceration comprises the immune system and one's overall health, putting COVID-negative returning neighbors at a higher risk of coronavirus affliction upon their return to community. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) has asked The West Ohio

Conference for assistance in providing hygiene items and face masks to our returning neighbors.

All In Community, the WOC Disaster Response Ministry, and the West Ohio Conference United Methodist Women are challenging our members, churches, and groups to provide 4,000 returning neighbors with a health kit that will better protect the well-being of all community members by reducing the spread of COVID-19.

The All In Community COVID-19 Reentry Kits consist of hygiene products (similar to UMCOR Hygiene Kits), a washable facemask, and a note of hope. You can print off the entire list for the kits by clicking [HERE](#) and how to safely assemble the kits [HERE](#). Visit the website for drop-off points (in Beavercreek and Brookville) and for more information from the website go [HERE](#).

Face Masks have already been made by many of you and your UMWs, those are very much needed. If you can donate FaceMasks for these kits that would be AWESOME. The website gives more details about face masks, just click [HERE](#).

QUESTIONS? Contact Paula Nourse
at kinder6595@hotmail.com or 614-326-9062

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND CARING FOR ALL GOD'S PEOPLE
DURING THIS TIME OF CRISIS!**

**ON-GOING ENCOURAGEMENT FOR WOMEN
THROUGH "HOPE LETTERS"**

"Let me tell you how valuable a letter is . . ."

Let's accept Jesus' challenge to visit "the least of these" in prison through a ministry of correspondence. The gift of a letter or card can have a profound impact on mothers, wives, sisters and daughters in prison who feels forgotten by the world, and perhaps, by God. The good news is, *YOU* can write letters or sign cards. It's an easy way to make a big difference to so many women. You can join with a small group of friends and UMW sisters to send HOPE Letters to women in Dayton Correctional Institution (DCI).

You can bring together your own small group from your local UMW or church or from two or three other UMW/churches to form a group OR be a part of a group from Miami Valley UMW. HOPE Letters staff and volunteers will provide training and the connections with the Chaplain at DCI who selects woman who are separated from the their local community and who are seeking a better

future for themselves. Your small group will meet once per month to write letters and share together.

Interested? Want more information? Can you help by being a leader for the *Miami Valley District UMW HOPE Letters* group?

Please contact: Linda Bales-Todd at joylab47@yahoo.com

You can view a slide presentation by clicking [HERE](#)

OR watch a video about *HOPE Letters* by clicking [HERE](#)

A letter from Carol Barton . . .

Dear Friends,

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that we are all better off when every one of us is able to stay healthy.

United Methodist Women joins Family Values@Work and the Paid Leave for All campaign in calling on Congress to ensure that the upcoming COVID-19 relief legislation expands paid sick days and paid leave to cover every worker, regardless of the size employer we work for, where we were born, or the kind of work we do.

We're asking Congress to listen to those most impacted by the decisions they make-- the workers, many of whom are providing essential services at this time.

[Click HERE](#) to send a letter to House and Senate leaders and your own elected officials. Please help to share this action widely via email and social media! Share this link: <https://p2a.co/zj7tPBo>

Thank you for taking action!

Carol Barton

Lead, Living Wage for All Campaign, United Methodist Women

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

An ancient spiritual practice that dates back to 325 A.D., when early Christians began placing them on the floors of their churches, prayer labyrinths have been used to draw closer to God through focusing on the movement of one's body and the opening of one's heart to Jesus.

"We find our connection, our rootedness, in the overarching story of God's relationship with humanity from the beginnings of creation. As Christians, we are reminded that our way is found through Jesus Christ. Sometimes that way seems

very explicit and clear, while other times it is less so. At all times the journey is a journey of trust. When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane the way was very clear, but the path was incredibly fearful. It was only because of Jesus' trust in God that Jesus was determined to follow in the way set before him." (*Finding Peace in an Anxious World* pp.82-83)

The labyrinth is a sacred place set aside for you to reflect, look within, pray, and negotiate new behavior. It can be experienced in three stages and can be used to walk or to trace with your finger. Consider these three stages as you trace the labyrinth with your finger on the labyrinth provided below or to print off [HERE](#)

1. **ENTERING:** As you trace your finger toward the center, you release cares and concerns, emptying and quieting yourself before God. As you surrender to the winding path, you seek wholeness and healing.
2. **CENTERING:** As you reach the center, you pray and meditate, seeking clarity for your life and you can remain there as long as you wish, receiving whatever is there for you.
3. **RETURNING:** As you trace back out from the center, you are empowered by the Spirit to be more authentic in yourself and in your service to the world.

Use the Labyrinth Prayer and the Serenity Prayer this week to seek God's face and invite the Holy Spirit to remind you that God loves you and has a plan for you to: walk in prayer, walk in wisdom and walk in peace.

**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 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@gm