



Church of the Saviour

United Methodist Women

April 2021

BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, April 13, 10 a.m. by Zoom

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this message in the middle of March for the April newsletter, it is the middle of Women's History month which I wasn't aware of when I wrote for the March newsletter. Women's History month began as International Women's Day in 1911. In 1978, one school district in California celebrated Women's History Week to coincide with International Women's History Day on March 8th. In 1979, a 15-day conference dealing with women's history was held at Sarah Lawrence College. This conference was sponsored by Sarah Lawrence College, the Women's Action Alliance, and the Smithsonian Institution. It was from this conference that there was a movement to declare a national Women's History Week. President Carter signed a proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980 Women's History Week. By 1988, U.S. presidents issued annual proclamations designating the month of March as Women's History Month. The proclamation from President Carter stated in part that men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often women's contributions were left unnoticed. Their achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love have been vital to building America as we know it today.



Today there is a National Women's History Museum in Alexandria, Virginia. Currently, it is an online service with programming for women of all ages focusing on the social, cultural, economic and political life of the nation's women. There are plans to build a museum at the National Mall in Washington DC.

Now you wonder why am I telling you all of this. Well, women have played a large role in the Methodist Church and in this church in particular. Our current UMW traces its roots back to the late 1800s in some of the churches that eventually formed Church of the Saviour. It has not always been known as UMW. Some of the previous names include Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, Ladies Aid Society, Home and Foreign Missionary Societies, Women's Society of Christian Service, Wesleyan Service Guild and, since 1972, we have been known as United Methodist Women, still carrying out the mission of serving women, youth and children around the world as did our founders. The women have raised money to support many causes not the least of which was to make a mortgage payment on the church during the depression years. Currently, we financially support the youth mission trip, child care, the pastor's discretionary fund, as well as other local, national and international programs to aid women, youth and children.

On March 23, we celebrate the national UMW Day of Giving which honors our foremothers by giving to the Legacy Endowment Fund. The theme for 2021 is Our Year of Hope. The endowment fund will ensure that for the next 150 years, UMW will continue to thrive and be able to support many projects to better the lives of women, youth and children. If you are interested in making a contribution, you can do so by phone at 800-278-7771 or by sending a check to UMW Attn: Development, The Legacy Endowment Fund 475 Riverside Dr. 15th Floor New York, NY 10115, (with Day of Giving on the memo line), or by the website: unitedmethodistwomen.org/150.

Connie Crihfield, President

PROGRAM

Objective: To learn how women experience freedom through Christ through the stories of the unbound woman and the women at the empty tomb and to apply that understanding to the work of our Regional Missionaries. Read Luke 13:10-16 for the unbound woman and Matthew: 28: 10-16 for the women at the empty tomb.

Unbound to Share Good News:

When the bent-over woman was set free by Jesus she began to praise God. She was unbound and put that freedom into action, sharing the joy of her healing to others. Mary Magdalene and Mary were sent by the risen Jesus to share with the disciples the news of the empty tomb. They were free to tell the good news with joy.

Unbound for Action:

Choosing to be courageous and show up can be daunting in the face of fear and discouragement. The stories of these women reveal that finding courage to show up and to be faithful opens us to the grace of Jesus Christ. Through their persistent faithfulness, these women were met by Christ and freed to go out with joy.

The good news of Easter is that when we choose to be courageous and be faithful in prayer, we are met by the risen Christ. We are freed to go forth with joy to share the grace of Christ. There are many difficulties that we may face on our faith journey - poverty, shame, systems that oppress women, and traditions that objectify women. Fear and powerlessness are barriers that women face when they seek an encounter with Jesus Christ. Women can be bound by cultural expectations or power structures that restrict the roles of women in church or society.

The Work of Unbinding Today:

UMW's Regional Missionaries today do the work of listening to women in international settings. They are ambassadors for Christ, learning the ways that women are bent over by oppression or cultural expectations. Our Regional Missionaries worship with women and equip them to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By the time you read this, it will be spring! As I'm writing in mid-March, the crocuses are blooming and the daffodils will be out soon. Nevertheless, we may still get some snow, as the people in Colorado and environs are having right now, but ours will be lighter.

Although this is being written in March, the report is for February which was a quiet month for UMW's treasury. We received a total of \$175 for pledges and \$150 for the *Prayer and Self Denial* cause. Donors are sending me their checks, as requested (3325 E. Monmouth Rd., Cleveland Heights 44118). That helps a lot - saves extra sorting for the office staff and saves me a trip to the church (which really is not a burden, because I live so close).

UMW had NO expenses during the month of February. The check for *Prayer and Self Denial* donations will be sent to the District UMW in April, so if you wish to donate to that cause, please send me your check soon.

I wish all of you a very happy Easter and include hope that in-person gatherings may be able to occur soon.

Arleen Twist, Treasurer



DISTRICT NEWS

The North Coast District UMW Spring meeting was held virtually on Saturday, March 20th. Sixty-two attendees were registered for the event. Those attending from Church of the Saviour were Kevin Schaner, Connie Crihfield, Tina Fast, Anne Billington and Debbie Jones.

After a welcome, opening prayer and reading of the UMW purpose, Rev. Dr. Nathan Howe, pastor of Berea UMC, presented “Climate Justice: Living Our Covenant.” We are to focus on what we can do as UMW units and churches to enhance sustainability. UMW must advocate for the most vulnerable in our society that are the most impacted by the effects of climate change. This issue is a continuing UMW social action campaign for 2021- 24.

Following the program, Gold Star, Rainbow, Mission Today and Reading Program Awards were presented. Church of The Saviour was recognized as a Rainbow Unit and also received a Mission Today Award.

The Memorial Service was held for those departed in the past year. Remembered from Church of the Saviour were Alice Shueneman, Christine Norman, Gretchen Satz, Mimi Knooihuizen, Patricia Grubb, Faye Lewis, Jane Dessem, Ruth Gottschling, and Ann Ruth Jones.

Special recognition was given to past District President Doris Moton for 12 years of service to the district. The offering will be divided between West Side Community House and Mom’s Clean Air Force. Rev Howe’s honorarium will be donated to The Clean Air force as well.

Announcements included Mission U dates of July 12-24th. This event will be virtual. The issues of study will be *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*; *Push Out: The Criminalization of Black Girls in America*; and *Bearing Witness in The Kin-Dom: Living into the Church’s Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship*.

The meeting closed in prayer.

Debbie Jones, District Representative

SOCIAL ACTION AND EDUCATION

Nile Sprague with Tara Barnes, “Knitting a Better Future: United Methodist Women-supported Methodist Women’s Federation in Bolivia helps give women the skills for financial self-sufficiency.” **Response:** March/April 2021 Issue.



Methodism came to Bolivia in 1960 when missionaries came to La Paz (capital). They started schools for indigenous persons who were not previously allowed to read and write. 270 Methodist churches are currently in Bolivia. The Methodist Women’s Federation or FEFEME (*Federacio’n Femina Metodista*) is a global partner of UMW. FEFEME has sponsored workshops that provide fellowship and hope as women and families become more self-sufficient.

FEFEME workshops provide skill-focused education and resources to mostly indigenous women. They teach skills such as knitting, sewing, creating clothes and textiles. Women attending have increased confidence as well as a means of providing more income for families. FEFEME has offered the workshops in remote communities that have no public transportation. The workshops provide a lifeline for single mothers or orphaned women.

Becky Roberts,
Social Action & Education Interpreter

PRAYERS FOR PEOPLE MOVING AROUND IN THE WORLD

Every day there are people that need to move from their homes for a number of reasons: political unrest, religious persecution, drought, flooding, or desire for a better life.

Here are some of the numbers highlighted by Olivia Randall in her USTogether presentation. 80 million people are in transition. Think about children you know that have graduated from high school. It is overwhelming to think that the average stay in a Refugee Camp is 17 years. This is why several generations in a family are hoping for a better life. On October 1st each year, there is a Presidential Determination as to how many will enter the US. When refugees arrive, they are in debt as they had to purchase their plane ticket to travel here.

Even with a language barrier, most are hard-working and anxious to contribute to their new home.

COTS has been working with USTogether. They supply \$1,225.00 for each person to aid them in resettlement for three months. Refugees learn only one week ahead of time that they will be moving and the same for USTogether. Hopefully more will arrive this year and we will look for ways to partner to aid in their transition.

Kevin Louise Schaner

CIRCLE MEETINGS

MARTHA CIRCLE

Women Leaders of the World



Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, March 24th via Zoom at 7 p.m. to observe Women's History Month. After an inspiring video of women leaders in the world, several members will highlight some of these women we should get to know.

Martha members will also have time to share about either a famous woman or someone in their lives that inspired them.

All women are welcome to join us. schanerkevin@gmail.com

Kevin L. Schaner, Circle Leader

DEVOTION

Colossians 3: 12-14 (The Message)

¹²⁻¹⁴ So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

I must go shopping today.

I am completely out of generosity and want to get some more. I also want to exchange the self-satisfaction I picked up the other day for some real humility. They say it wears better. I must look at some tolerance which is being worn as a wrap this season.

I saw some samples of kindness; well, I realize I'm a little low on it. No one can ever have too much of kindness.

And I must remember to get my sense of humor mended, and keep my eyes open for some goodness. It's certainly surprising how quickly one's stock gets depleted.

Yes, I must go shopping today.

Submitted by Marty Bergman
Found in her mother's papers



*Submission Deadline for May UMW Newsletter is Thursday, April 15.
Please send submissions to Stefanie Hiles at shiles9098@aol.com.*