

Volume 16 Issue 2

May 2021



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

In this issue:

President's Letter – p. 1

Mission Today – p. 2

Social Action – p. 3

Treasurer's Report – p. 4

Spiritual Growth – p. 6

PAG report – p. 7

Special Need – p. 8

Attachments:

Mission Today Form

Mission u Save the Date

Church Women United – 2021
PA Assembly

Annual Day Flyer

Dates to Remember:

Mission u – July 15-17, 2021

Annual Day – Nov. 6, 2021

Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Women News

President's Letter *Sue Reisinger*

Grace and peace be with all of my sisters in Christ!

I am looking out my window to see the grass turning greener every day and different trees and flowers budding and blooming. It is a time of new growth in all the nature around us. I pray that you may feel encouraged by the evidence of God we can see. There is much more beyond what we can see or ever imagine. The pandemic continues to influence our social gatherings. Some districts were able to have virtual Spiritual Enrichment Days and some limited size in-person gatherings.

Our units have been very creative and resourceful to adjust to the current circumstances.

Please look over the entire *newsletter* to be informed about many of the opportunities available in our conference. Please contact Diane Geer if you have anything to share in the September newsletter. The deadline is August 15. I have mentioned some of the events below.

The Neighborhood Center is opening their summer program the second week in June. They are welcoming donations (please see a way to help later in this newsletter). There are opportunities to volunteer to provide lunches for the summer program also.

You will also find information about *Church Women United* attached.

Mission u will be virtual this year, July 15-17. There are plans for a possible in person gathering for children and/or youth to do the Mission u study.

Information is starting to come out about the *Assembly* next May 20-22 in Orlando, FL.

I am looking forward to seeing you in person this fall for our *annual day at Fishing Creek/Salem* in Goldsboro on November 6. Our vice president, Beth Kostelnik, has already put in many hours of work planning for a wonderful experience for all of us. We are looking into some virtual options to use with the in-person event.

(Pres. letter continued)

We would love as many women and young women to participate as possible. Become a *Champion for Mental Wellness!* Please see the attachment to this newsletter for more info.

Thank you to all who completed the *census* for 2020. You will see the census report in this issue.

We pray that God will lead you to serve where you are needed the most. We do need a few *officers or appointees* on the conference team. Contact Mary Jane Jones if you are interested or know someone who would be an asset to our team. If you are not going to be involved with the team, please consider taking an office on your district team if you have not already served.

May God grant us to be a blessing to you. May He bless you and keep you safe and well so you are able to serve Him as He desires.

Your sister in Christ,

Sue Reisinger

Mission Today Coordinator Glenda Shepherd

I am happy to report that I have already begun receiving *Mission Today reports* from some districts and individual churches. Thanks to those folks for their promptness. The due date this year is **June 30**. I will gladly accept either the standard form or the form which has been modified for 2020 (attached).

The local UMW groups should send their reports to their District Education and Interpretation Coordinator, or to whomever the District President designates if there is no coordinator.

The districts should then send the reports to me at the following address:

Glenda Shepherd
8 E. Belmont Ave.
Dallas, Pa. 18612

(Mission today continued)

It would be helpful to include the address of the church on the form in case there is more than one church of the same name in the district.

If you have questions, my email is gcshepherd@hotmail.com, and my phone number is 205-299-6313.

I look forward to receiving the reports of all the good work which has been accomplished in 2020, despite all the obstacles. God is good!

Mission Today Coordinator

Glenda Shepherd

Social Action

Dolly Lucas

As I begin writing this, I am dismayed and disheartened by the state of this country: insurrection, continued police brutality, mass incarceration, white supremacy, racism (against blacks/brown, Latinos, Muslims, Jews, immigrants, homosexuals, etc.). And again, the reluctance of white people to talk about it.

I am advocating for our UMW Members to continue to pray and to look for ways to combat Racism. Make standing up for racial justice a part of your spiritual practice. Below are some resources you may find helpful in your journey.

I recently purchased two books. Trouble I've Seen, Changing the Way the Church Views Racism by G.I. Hart. This book is currently being used in the Lay Pastor Certification Program. According to the review, Hart offers concrete practices for churches to seek solidarity with the oppressed and are committed to racial justice. I am anxious to read it.

The other book is Holding Up Your Corner, Talking About Race in Your Community by F. Willis Johnson.

I also just purchased De-Colonizing the Church A Commitment to Anti-Racism from Disciple Ministries. It is a series of six webinars.

(Social Action – continued)

I also encourage listening to *Faith Talks, Dismantling Racism* and the latest one on Asian American Racism.

Per Abram X. Kendi, the author of [How to be Anti-Racist](#), states the opposite of racism is not "non-racist". It is anti-racist. Anti-Racism involves eradicating policies that are racist, that have racist outcomes and working towards a much more egalitarian society.

If I can help you find resources, please don't hesitate to contact me. The national UMW website also has many resources available - unitedmethodistwomen.org

Social Action

Dolly Lucas

Treasurer's Report **Toni Oplinger**

An update on our Pledge giving for 2020. I have received new information from New York that included giving by some local units directly to National. This was an unknown factor to me. The corrected amount given towards our Pledge is \$128,004.77, an increase of almost \$2,000.00 over what was reported in the previous newsletter. There were fourteen (14) direct gifts to NY totaling \$2,036.80 with the smallest gift being \$20 and the largest gift was \$600.00. NY did not send me this information until March 6, 2021.

I would like to request that all local units please send your remittances to your District treasurer. If you don't know who that is, you may ask your President who should have a copy of the Conference Directory or contact me, and I will share that information with you. Going through your District treasurer helps to support your District and Conference pledges.

Another area local units can help with the money moving process is to send directly to UMCOR any donations you wish to make. These funds no longer go through United Methodist Women.

(Treasurers Report, continued)

Instead, send your UMCOR checks to:

UMCOR
PO Box 9068
New York, NY 10087-9068.

Their phone number is 1-800-862-4246 and their email contact is donationhelp@umcmmission.org If the donation is for a particular project be sure to include the Advance number in the memo line.

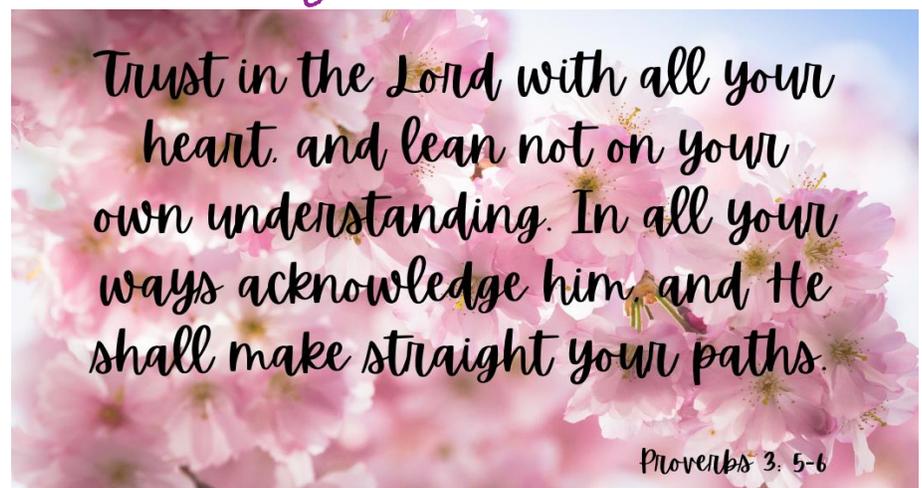
Neighborhood Center funds are sent to your District treasurers and then to me and I send them on to NY. Our Center is one of our National Mission Institutions. If you collect in kind products, these are being requested to be in Harrisburg by June 1. (More info included in this newsletter.)

As of April 17, we have paid \$16,746.00 on our Pledge for 2021. Total of designated and undesignated giving sent to NY is \$20,029.00.

I ask for your continued support of our mission work through these difficult times. Your mission giving in 2020 was phenomenal and I pray we can match and exceed that generosity. We continue to be women of faith, hope and love in action.

Please if you have questions or just want to chat about the work being done through UMW, call me - (717) 229-2119. I would love to have a chat with you.

Joni Oplinger



Contact Us

President -

Sue Reisinger
suereis@ptd.net
(570) 490-4439

Vice President -

Elizabeth Kostelnik
elizabethkostelnik@yahoo.com

Secretary -

Ruth Cox
organist@embarqmail.com
(717) 249-8804

Treasurer -

Toni Oplinger
susconftreas@gmail.com
(717) 229-2119

Spiritual Growth -

Gretchen Mackey
gemackey@pa.net
(717) 264-0366

Nominations Chair -

Mary Jane Jones
mjjones2000@hotmail.com
(717) 352-3158

Newsletter Editor -

Diane Geer
dmcg1012@yahoo.com

Spiritual Growth

Gretchen Mackey

GIVE ALL TO GOD

Yes, we continue to be tested in every aspect of life.
But we are not broken.

John Wesley's Covenant Prayer reminds us to give all to God:

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing, put me to suffering;

let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,

exalted for you, or brought low for you;

let me be full,

let me be empty,

let me have all things,

let me have nothing:

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things

to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious, and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

you are mine and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

Gretchen Mackey

For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12



Program Advisory Group Member (PAG)

Phyllis Terwilliger

A PAG (Program Advisory Group) member connects, communicates, and commits to interpreting and promoting the work of UMW. I see myself as a liaison between the Susquehanna Conference UMW and the National office of UMW. This article focuses on the strategic priorities of UMW: Position, Engage and Mobilize. The 2021+ strategic work will involve continued adaptation and innovation, strengthening our infrastructure for flexibility and growth and rebranding/refreshing United Methodist Women for a post-COVID-19 context.

The strategic plan envisions United Methodist Women as a leading organization and trusted source of leadership and inspiration in the church and society. To accomplish this, work is underway to rebrand the organization to refresh and expand its reach and membership.

Target audiences are:

- Sustain the Base (current members)
- Grow the Base (UMC non-UMW members age 60+ w/special focus on African Americans and diverse ethnicities)
- Build the Pipeline (UMC and other interested Christian women age 35-59).

Attracting and engaging new members requires a new model. The National Membership Model will offer new pathways into membership outside the church, more customized membership journeys based on needs and interests and clear join options. Local leaders have new language around what it means to thrive. Units will self-select as an inspire, influence or impact unit through the 2020 census.

The following video is a wonderful resource:

<https://bit.ly/3tl8VJ1>

If I can be of help to you and your unit, please e-mail me: phylterwil@hotmail.com or call 717-356-2066.

Phyllis Terwilliger

Your Help is Needed – A Special Request

Sue Reisinger

I am putting out a request to collect paper goods for The Neighborhood Center. Items must be delivered the first week of June. The Summer Program begins the second week of June. I am encouraging those districts that have not given any donations this year to participate.

Make sure your units know that they can also sponsor a lunch for the children throughout the summer by bringing in the food and drink also. They do have a menu suggestion list if you need ideas.

Below is the announcement I put in our church newsletter. You can make the deadline sooner if you desire.

THE HARRISBURG NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

The Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Women are collecting items to take to The Neighborhood Center in Harrisburg. *Deadline for contributions is June 2, 2021.*

The need has been researched and confirmed for paper goods. The Summer Program begins the second weekend of June, so we want to have all of the supplies to the center prior to that. The Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Women usually collect paper goods for the Center at our Spiritual Enrichment meeting. Since we did not meet this year, we are making this request now, so the Center still gets the much-needed paper goods. Our districts have been very generous in the past and hope you can help this year.

The following paper goods are requested:

- Paper plates,
- cups,
- napkins
- plastic utensils
- Paper towels
- tissues
- toilet paper.

(The Neighborhood Center continued)

Too far away to collect items and ship? You still can help. Monies can be sent to *Justin Coleman, Treasurer* at the Center. Please be sure to include what the donation is for, and your contact info.

The Neighborhood Center
1801 N. 3rd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

717-233-6541

You can also purchase paper goods online from Amazon, Target, Walmart, Costco, etc. and have them shipped to the center at the above address.

Please be sure to include your Church/Unit name, contact info, etc.

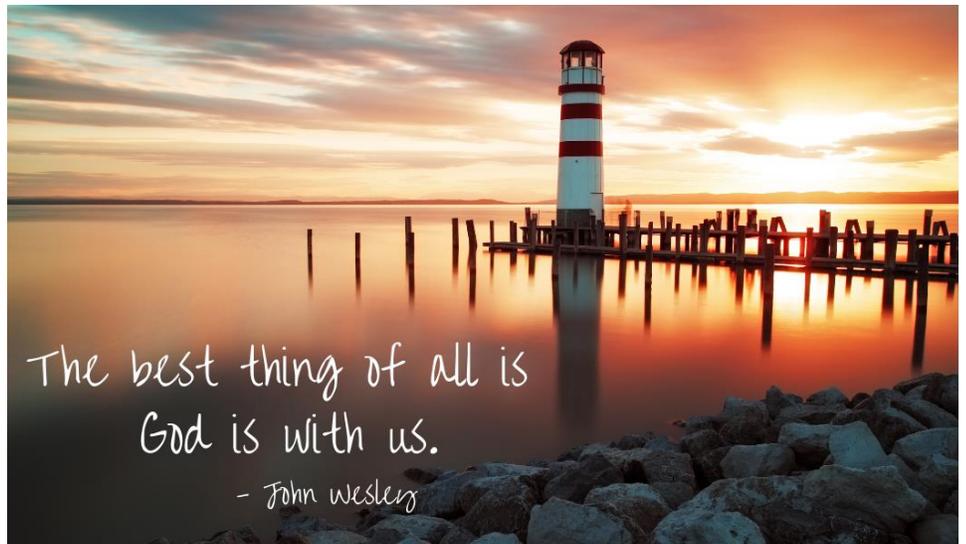
For those of you unaware of the services The Neighborhood Center provides, you can visit their website here:

neighborhoodcenterumc.org

Thank you!

Sue Reisinger

Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Women President



Census – 2020 Report

Thank you to those who completed the census for 2020.

Total units reporting and member numbers by district are as follows:

	<u>Total Units</u>	<u>Total Members</u>
Altoona	3	66
Harrisburg	16	540
Lewisburg	2	23
Scran/WB	1	42
State College	8	245
Williamsport	6	141
York	<u>12</u>	<u>275</u>
SUS UMW		
Total	48	1332

Many were counted, but many were not.
We know you are out there!
Stand up and be counted at the end of 2021!



Stay up to date with all the latest news and info. Join our private Facebook group. Click the button above – or find us here:

tinyurl.com/SCUMWfbgroup