

Volume 16 Issue 3

August 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

Annual Day – p. 9

Assembly 2022 – p. 9

Special Interests – p. 11

Attachments:

Annual Day Info Sheet

Annual Day Registration

Assembly 2022 Flyer

Reading Program Update

Dates to Remember:

Officers Meeting – Aug 7

President's Chat – Aug 14

Annual Day – Nov. 6, 2021

Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Women News

President's Letter Sue Reisinger

Grace and peace be with all my sisters in Christ!

The scenery has changed since our last newsletter. More people are immunized, and many other things are slowly opening up. I hope and pray that you have been able to get back to your church and/or your UMW group.

Thank you for your support to the [Neighborhood Center](#)! They appreciated the monetary and in-kind donations that will enable them to get through the summer and into the fall.

I hope you were able to take advantage of the Mission u sessions July 15-17. I have not heard of anything further regarding a children's or youth study this year.

[Assembly 2022](#) is coming! Toni Oplinger is our Conference Assembly Liaison (CAL). She is still our treasurer for the remainder of 2021 as well. Please see further information from her in this newsletter. Thanks to Toni we have a block of hotel rooms reserved in Orlando for the Susquehanna Conference UMW.

We have discovered with COVID the [directories](#) were not distributed to all districts and their officers. This is a concern for this year as well as next. Should we change our directory format? Should we change how we communicate? If you have been holding directories for distribution, please try to deliver as many as possible. Maybe you can meet in person or give to someone who can deliver it easily. The directory has necessary information for our events and other programs. The [conference officers](#) will discuss the directory at the next executive committee meeting on [August 7](#). Please contact an officer if you have suggestions.

There will also be a [president chat on Saturday, August 14 from 9:30-11](#). A reminder that president chats are for all district presidents to participate. It is not a meeting, but a time of conversation and support. I encourage district officers to chat with their local counterparts and the other conference officers also chat with their local counterparts.

(President's Message – continued)

I am especially excited about seeing many of you in person at our **Annual Day at Fishing Creek/Salem in Goldsboro on November 6**. Our vice president, Beth Kostelnik, has planned an awesome annual day! Please give her, your sister units, your district team, and your conference team your support by attending either in person or virtually. Please see further information in this newsletter. Become a Champion for Mental Wellness!

Do you want to be part of rebuilding a connection with United Methodist Women?

Get involved!

Many district teams need officers. Contact Mary Jane Jones to see about conference opportunities for 2022.

My prayers and condolences to all who have lost loved ones during the pandemic. I pray for those who have been separated by the pandemic. I pray for those who were exposed and quarantined. I pray for those who lost work or had to make changes in their work. I pray for all of us to continue forward keeping our eyes on Christ. God is in control!

Your sister in Christ,

Sue Reisinger

Mission Today Coordinator **Glenda Shepherd**

I hope everyone is having a great summer and that your churches and UMW groups are having good attendance.

I have received Mission Today reports from the following districts:

Harrisburg
Lewisburg
State College
Williamsport
York

I would like to receive the remaining reports by the end of August so that I can compile them for the annual meeting. Either the standard form or the form that was modified for 2020 are

(Mission Today – continued)

acceptable. Thanks to all the districts who have submitted their reports.

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 send the reports to me at the following address:

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

It would be helpful to include the address of the church on the form in case of 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.

Mission Today Coordinator

Glenda Shepherd

Social Action

Dolly Lucas

Needless to say, Climate Justice continues to be a major crisis in the world. The United States is only 4% of the world's population, but it emits a quarter of the world's greenhouse emissions. Currently 80% of energy consumed in the US, is from burning fossil fuel used for electricity, transportation, and heat. If burning fossil fuel is a major contributor to air pollution, what is Congress doing about it?

Congress is working on an infrastructure that addresses climate change and pollution. Clean renewable energy and modernizing the electric grid is essential.

(Social Action – continued)

United Methodist Women have been communicating with the legislators on these issues. Please read the RGGI Debate, for Pa. for current legislation issues. This article can help you understand what RGGI is all about - <https://bit.ly/3i53CQA> . Also – Googling “RGGI Debate in PA” will give you tons of articles to read.

The United Methodist Church has affirmed our individual and collective responsibility to address the unfolding crisis "Our Climate Commitment to Net Zero Emissions. UMW have endorsed this commitment. I encourage the executive teams to read the July/August 2021 Response "Taking Action for God's Creation" by Tara Barnes, editor of Response. Since we do not have social action coordinators in all districts, I think it is important that we get this information to the UMW units. I am not certain all UMW read Response. It is full of important issues, updates, and ways you can help and connect. If you'd like more info, or to subscribe, this will get you there -

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/response> .

I also encourage you to continue to be part of the *Just Energy for All*, conducted on the third Wednesday of the month at 3PM - <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/just-energy-for-all> as we strive for clean energy.

Social Action

Dolly Lucas

Treasurer's Report Toni Oplinger

Mission Central payments (donations) should be paid directly to Mission Central. The address is: Mission Central; 5 Pleasant View Drive; Mechanicsburg, PA 17050. Mission Central is one of our third mile giving opportunities.

As United Methodist Women our first mile giving is our Pledge. The Pledge is one of five channels of mission giving. Our second mile giving is A Call to Prayer and Self Denial; A Brighter Future for Children and Youth which is part of our annual Love Offering; and

(Treasurer's Report – continued)

our third mile giving are Mission Central, McCurdy School, Red Bird as well as local mission projects.

When we formed as a local unit, we made a commitment to make a Pledge to support United Methodist Women through this important channel of giving. Our Pledge to mission along with Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering support undesignated giving. These are the five channels of mission giving. These dollars are used where most needed. Our United Methodist Women Board of Directors elected by the UMW membership at Jurisdiction meetings make the critical decisions as to where the greatest needs are. These women are elected volunteers like the membership who have a love for caring for the needs of women, children, and youth.

For 2021 year to date giving, we have sent \$47,532.25 to New York to be used for the mission work of United Methodist Women. Of that amount \$33,580.25 was paid on our Conference Pledge of \$130,000. \$13,952.00 was designated by our units for mission projects. As always when funds are designated, they go to where designated.

Let us continue to be women of faith, hope and love in action.

Joni Oplinger

Mission u

Fawn McCallister

To all the Study Leaders, the Mission u team, the participants, and everyone – thank you all from the bottom of my heart for making our first virtual Mission u such a success! It wouldn't have happened without each and every one of you taking part in the many meetings, dry runs, prayers, attendance and participation. No matter your part – it was huge in my eyes.

To our study leaders, Jane and Barbara - I have had many comments, cards, and emails saying what a wonderful event it was, and what a great job each of you did. I pray that the lessons, studies, and learning continue. I know that Pastor Jerry Schmidt, who takes over as our dean, will lead us to a memorable event next year. He already has some great ideas of how to reach even more people.

Fawn McCallister

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

“There’s Far More Here Than Meets the Eye”

Try putting your faith into just six words!

Not perhaps, an easy task; but, very profound and meaningful.

This exercise is just one of the “activities” to give your soul an intense “workout” from this year’s mission study, “Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom”. The study was especially written to combine spiritual growth, geographical and social issues.

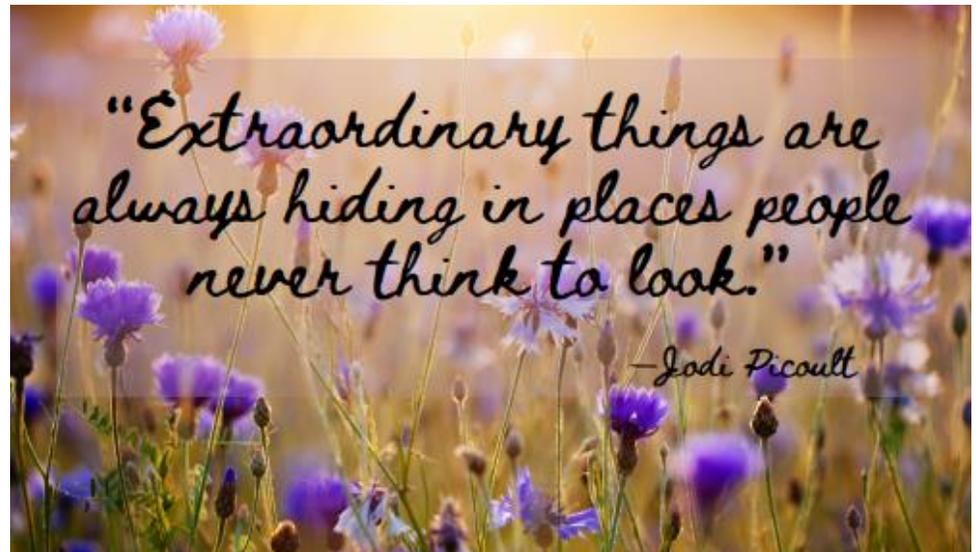
So grateful to be able to participate virtually and thank those who worked to provide the studies for our conference.

I highly recommend this study and hope you can, at least, read and digest the book; but, hope, also, you’ll be able to join in the study with others.

Remember what Micah 6:8 asks:

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

Gretchen Mackey



Program Advisory Group Member (PAG)

Phyllis Terwilliger

As UMW we advocate on behalf of women, children and youth. A few years ago, I spent five days at New York Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, NY. As a clergy spouse I was afforded reasonable housing, seminars and meals. So, I packed my bags, kissed Mark and Michael goodbye and shared a ride to New York City. Over lunch one afternoon our group dined with a pediatrician. I asked the doctor what major changes he had witnessed in children's health over the last twenty years. He named Asthma as his #1 nemesis. I then asked, "What do you see as the reason for the dramatic rise in Asthma?" He hypothesized:

- Environmental pollution
- Cockroaches
- Dirt

"Dirt?" I puzzled. "Yes, children aren't playing in the dirt anymore. Playing in the dirt builds children's resistance to allergies and diseases and strengthens their immune systems." I was intrigued. I had been lamenting for years that children don't spend enough time outside. "No Child Left Behind", as far as I was concerned, should have been "No Child Left Inside". Imaginative and unstructured play, mud pies and fishing need to be encouraged. I remember digging in the dirt all day—and I mean ALL DAY—in my side yard with Jill and Barb, looking for buried treasure. I recall us spreading mud in those shallow plastic dishes until they dried, and then popping the mud pies loose. We'd wagon to an abandoned field and spend the day digging for rocks and looking for specimens for our rock collections.

How ironic—dirt, soil and mud make things "dirty", "soiled" and "muddy"—all negative connotations. "Don't get your hands dirty!" "Look, your shoes are soiled!" And here an esteemed medical doctor was lauding its benefits. I thought of a similar paradox from a Sunday school lesson, when Jesus spat on the ground and rubbed the mud on the eyes of a blind man to heal him. Saliva—a healing balm, dogs licking their wounds, and a child licking a cut. Mud—great for bee stings, beauty masks and bricks. In Haiti's poorest slum, Cite Soleil, some folks eat it. With rising food prices, Haiti's poor take desperate measures to fill their bellies. The cookies are made with mud, salt and vegetable shortening. Anyway, Jesus took simple elements and made them sacred. That is so what I love about Jesus. Bread, wine, salt, dirt, water—making the simple sacred.

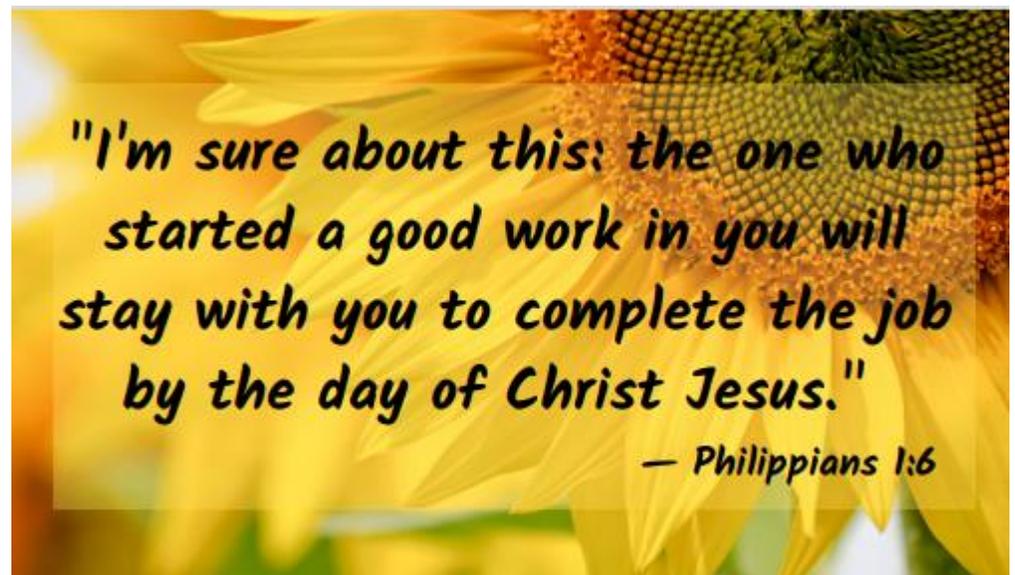
(PAG – continued)

Being outdoors, as a child and as an adult, makes me feel close to God. I fear that if children are not spending a lot of time outdoors it's going to impact their understanding of God. A child's concept of God is usually from God as Creator and God as caregiver (parents). If children are not outside exploring Creation their sense of awe and imagination, and consequently their knowledge of God, will be compromised.

So, whether you're gardening or making mud pies, playing in the dirt can be healthy. And maybe, just maybe, it will help connect you to the Creator of that Earth.

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



Susquehanna Conference UMW – Annual Day – Nov. 6, 2021

*For more info –
see attached Info Sheet and Registration Form



United Methodist Women's Assembly Orlando, Florida

Toni Oplinger

Start planning now for lots of fun, fellowship and learning at the 2022 Assembly. Turn It Up! Come to Orlando to care for your spirit, worship with your sisters and celebrate the positive impact women create in the world.

Assembly is a great value at the early registration fee of \$330. Few other faith-based conferences offer the following for such a low fee:

- Soul-stirring worship infused with music and performing arts
- Impactful workshops and riveting Town Hall meetings with important leaders
- Action opportunities and an Experience Hall with interactive experiences

(Assembly 2022 – continued)

Start saving for Assembly now, early registration fee \$330 is available September 1 – November 30, 2021, which includes lunch on Friday and Saturday. This early rate does not apply to mail-in forms due to their associated added costs. If you want this early rate, phone me at (717) 229-2119 and I will be happy to go online and register you while you are on speaker phone with me. December 1 – April 11, 2022, the rate is \$365 for on-line or mail in.

We have a block of rooms in the Rosen Centre Hotel. The cost is \$174 plus 12.5% tax for single, double, triple or quad. Tax is subject to change. There will be shuttle service from the hotel to the convention center, there is also a pedestrian skybridge available to the convention center. We will need to fill this block of rooms before December 1, 2021, or the rooms will go back into the general pool of rooms for others to book. Room reservations open on September 1, 2021 and may be made online at <https://book.passkey.com/go/UMWA2022> or by calling Orchard.Events at 888-341-3540 or 801-214-7283. Please identify yourself as a member of the Susquehanna Conference UMW. For complete details contact Toni Oplinger (717) 229-2119 or toplinger5009@comcast.net.

HOTEL RESERVATION ALERT! – Unauthorized housing companies have been approaching UMW members offering hotel reservations via unauthorized or even scam websites, email communications and phone calls. These companies are in no way affiliated with UMW. Orchard.Events is the only official housing provider for the meeting.

There will be a virtual option for the first time. Assembly 2022 will offer a virtual attendance option! Choose to attend in person or virtually. Virtual option early registration \$199 9/1/2021-11/30/2021; \$235 12/1/2021 – 4/11/2022. Stay tuned for more information in August 2021 by contacting Toni or checking the Susquehanna Conference UMW website.

For the first time Leadership Development Days will take place at Assembly. All Conference officers at any stage of their term are invited to come together to share updates, best practices, and network within officer groups and across Jurisdictions.

As a fundraiser an optional Legacy Banquet will be held on Saturday evening to benefit the Legacy Endowment Fund. Details coming.

(Assembly 2022 – continued)

Pre-event Ubuntu Day of Service will be held Thursday, May 19, 9 am – 3 pm offers the opportunity to 500 of our attendees to go out and TURN IT UP! In Orlando, through serving the local community. This event has a registration cost of \$75 to cover transportation and other expenses.

Questions, need more information? Contact Toni Oplinger, Assembly Liaison at toplinger5009@comcast.net or call (717) 229-2119. As information is received it will be posted online at <https://www.susumc.org/susquehanna-conference-united-methodist-women/>.

Toni Oplinger

Reading Program – Updates



program.

Do you participate in the Reading Program? Or maybe you are interested in it. There have been some changes to the way it works this year. You will find in an attachment to this newsletter a letter from Andris Salter. It outlines the changes and how it all works. No time like the present to jump in and become part of the

For more information, a catalog of books, where to find books, and to track your progress – check out the Reading Program online here: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram> (click the blue link if reading this online/email – or if reading a printed version, simply type it in.)

Have you checked out the UMW podcast?



Some of you may be asking, “So, what’s a podcast?”. A podcast can be a recorded broadcast or radio program, a lecture, a performance, or other event. It is defined as – “A *digital audio file made available on the Internet for*

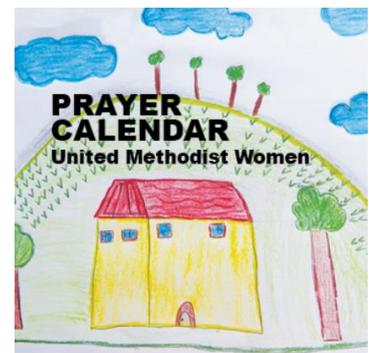
downloading to a computer or mobile device, typically available as a series.” (Oxford Dictionary)

United Methodist Women has a podcast – it is called “Faith Talks”. Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women hosted by Jennifer R Farmer, Spotlight PR. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action.

You can listen to previous episodes, and check out the schedule here: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks> (click the blue link if reading this online/email – or if reading a printed version, simply type it in.)

Did you know . . . ?

You can follow along with the Prayer Calendar on Facebook. There are daily postings with Mission Focus, Birthdays, Readings, and more. Interact with others and share to your newsfeed. Check it out here:



<https://www.facebook.com/umwprayercalendar>

We need your help . . . Diane Geer



I / We (your conference team) have gotten some notes regarding distribution of this newsletter. There have been 2 issues –

1 – The newsletter is not being passed on in its entirety to the District UMW members, and to the local units. We have had reports of not receiving them. Just a reminder, this newsletter – the Conference UMW newsletter is passed on to your District team, who in turn adds it to the District newsletter – which ALL gets sent out to the District Team, and each local unit. Once the newsletter gets to the local unit, it should be passed around, so everyone has access to the information.

Which leads us to point number 2 -- Online vs. print reading. In an effort to save on many things – money, resources, and time being some of them – the newsletter is a mostly online document. That being said – we do understand that not everyone has access to it online. In those instances, please print them. When printing the Conference newsletter, you might wish to select grey scale in your printing options since it is heavy on color.

Many of our smaller local units are struggling to keep their units alive and active. It's important for them to still feel connected to the larger whole. So, please – pass it on. Check in on one another. We are all called to be Sister's in Christ, and to support one another on our journey.

If I can help with technical issues in sending, printing tips, etc. please feel free to reach out to me anytime – dmcg1012@yahoo.com .

Diane Geer

Wanted for Annual Day – Can you help?

Beth Kostelink (VP, in charge of Annual Day) is looking for donations of fall silk flowers and/or leaves to make thank you gifts for our guests. If you can help – please contact her. Depending on the amount and distance, she may be able to pick them up. Call -484-333-6602 or elizabethkostelink@yahoo.com



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



