Grace and Peace To All:

I hope that this finds all in good health. For those who are in need of healing, I pray that they will heal completely and quickly by God’s grace. We are in an unprecedented situation in our history with United Methodist Women and with everything that is familiar to us in this country. I pray God will continue to guide us with his Wisdom. May we put all of our trust in Him alone. May we do all we can counting on God to work through us.

We are trying to be flexible with meetings and gatherings in the near future. It is most important that we follow the government guidelines that we have been given to prevent the spread of this invisible enemy. There is another invisible enemy that is everywhere. The evil in our world is pervasive and often not recognized or acknowledged. No one is exempt from it’s effect.

We have an incredible opportunity to take advantage of these unique times to bring all people together in mind and spirit. May we remember that we have a calling to stand up for those in our world that do not know that this evil exists.

What do we do to conquer evil? We call on Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Make sure as we are protecting ourselves from this virus, that we are protecting ourselves and others from evil through Bible study, devotions, prayers and meditation. Fellowship has been limited, but we are reaching out in new ways. Think of all of those deaths that have occurred in the last month from any cause. The government has been showing us graphs of all the statistics of the virus; new cases, those infected, those recovered and those who have died. What would it be like to see those numbers on a graph of how many knew Christ and how many did not when they died?

God is love. We can focus on love as a guide. Remember the guidelines given by John Wesley. “Do no harm. Do good and stay in love with God.” I have included more specific information on meetings and events below.

Blessings to you all!
Love in Christ,
Sue Reisinger
Meeting and Event Review

We have had to change many schedules for our future events. Most Spiritual Enrichment Days were cancelled. Neighborhood Center has had a significant change in staffing and needs your prayers. We are switching some meetings to online. **Mission u has been cancelled.** Please try to keep in contact with your local units and district teams to inform and assist however it is needed.

The UMW census deadline has been moved up to April 30. Please encourage all units to complete the census.

By the time you get this newsletter, we will have had Mission u and Executive meetings through Zoom.us. I participated in a Zoom conference through Women’s Division last week about the pandemic. You may like to check out this resource for your own UMW use.

Living Wage for All Campaign- I am registered for the online screening and webinar **“Zero Weeks: Putting Families First”** The webinar includes how to host a group online screening.

“The Zero Weeks documentary on paid family and medical leave is now available for public screenings. United Methodist Women is providing digital or DVD versions for use in church, community and house screenings. The Zero Weeks discussion guide and Christian Reflection are now online.”

The next webinar to follow is Family Values@Work.

I have started a Facebook Group on Facebook, “Susquehanna Conference United Methodist Women (SUS UMW). I have some of the calendar and photos of past events on the group page. If you want to join the group, just search for it. The rules, guidelines and our purpose are also included. I am working on an actual page, but I’ve had trouble with page name.

I attended the #PushOut seminar at Leadership Development Days. I have been sent a link to the information that was presented. Contact me if you are interested and I will send you the link.

The Northeast Jurisdiction was rescheduled to September 18-20. If you were registered, you should have received an email directly from them. They cancelled all reservations at the hotel that were made through them. Any other reservations made on your own, must be cancelled by you. They are not ready for us to send in room reservations for the new dates yet. We will keep in touch.

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**Live in Harmony**

“May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another in accordance with Jesus Christ,” Romans 15:5 (NRSV)

We are living in an uncertain fearful world, just as those who lived during the time Paul wrote to the Romans. Crisis, whether personal or global (coronavirus) can **break us apart** (cancellations, postponements, social distancing, sheltering at home, furloughs, job losses, business and school closings...) or **bring us together** (virtual social connecting, parents appreciating teachers, online education lessons, RV’s for MD’s, thanking health care workers, truck drivers, grocery store cashiers/shelf stockers, food pantries, donating to Neighborhood Center, schools providing daily meals for students and families...)

Praying that we can live in harmony with one another with Jesus as our guide, we can, with God’s help conquer any crisis.

Gretchen Mackey
Spiritual Growth Coordinator
In the midst of our stay at home order, we as UMW find ways to engage and act. We serve a God who loves and cares for us and commands us to love our neighbors. Here are two potential ways of fulfilling our resurrected Savior’s call to love our neighbors:

Please SIGN this UMW Covid-19 letter urging Congress to put a moratorium on utility shutoffs and provide people-focused federal relief and stimulus packages.

https://p2a.co/33iJHcC

Carol Barton recently contacted the Social Action Coordinators and suggested they circulate this link so that UMW can sign up for Social Action Alerts. I hope you sign up to fulfill our call to Faith Hope Love in Action.

https://secure3.convio.net/umw/site/SPageNavigator/Social_Action_Alerts.html

As we look for signs of abiding hope in the midst of darkness and despair, may the Holy Spirit guide you to be that beacon of hope to others.

Phyllis Terwilliger – Appointee for Social Action/Climate Justice

Mission Today

I hope all of your local UMW groups are finding creative ways to fulfill the Mission Today requirements in light of our present circumstances. We all should be in prayer that it will soon be past and that a vaccine will prove effective and safe.

Please try to have reports to me by May 31, 2020. Each local UMW group should send their reports to the District Education and Interpretation Coordinator, or to whomever their District President designates if there is no coordinator.

The address to send the reports to is as follows:

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

Last year I heard from only 6 of the 7 districts. I hope to receive good reports from all districts this year. If you have questions, my email is gcshepherd@hotmail.com, and my phone number is 205-299-6313. Try to stay safe and well as we look forward to meeting at Annual Day (we hope).

Glenda Shepherd, Mission Today Coordinator
Conference Vice President’s Report

As some of you know, I am a middle school English language arts teacher. I have also been filling in a six month interim pastor position (I’m a Lay Speaker as well as a deaconess in the UMC), so this past month of social distancing has been challenging for me in some unique ways. I have always considered myself comfortable with technology, but, like many of you, have been forced to move well outside my comfort zone. I am working remotely and preaching Holy Week sermons out of my home with my daughter as my videographer. It definitely was not how I thought my March and April would be!

I could be resentful that I now have to assign my students ‘enrichment activities’ rather than teach the new and exciting instructional lessons I had waiting for me in my classroom, but because not all my students have access to technology, I cannot teach new concepts. And out of love, care, and concern for them, while we work on making sure that every student has equal access to education, that’s the way it must be. That, my friends, is a justice issue, and that’s what United Methodist Women is all about! UMW has a proud history of working for the needs of women, children, and youth! In this time of the resurrection celebration, Easter, Jesus gives us a new command, to love one another. Despite being beaten, humiliated, and crucified on a cross, Jesus overcame it all for the sake of love - love for you and me. But it’s more than just passively sitting back and waiting for us to receive that love; it’s about opening every part of ourselves to the amazing love that awaits each and every one of us.

We each have a choice as to how we are going to accept these new circumstances that we have been thrown into. Do we whine and complain, or can we ask how we can reach out to others? I saw a great graphic the other day entitled “Who do I want to be during COVID-19”. It has three overlapping circles. The first is the ‘fear zone’ which includes grabbing food/items I don’t need, frequent complaining, and spreading emotions related to fear or anger. Then there’s the second circle, the “learning zone”, which includes becoming aware of thoughts and actions, identifying emotions, and giving up what you can’t control. The third circle is entitled the “growth zone” and includes thanking and appreciating others, practicing patience, gratitude, and empathy, thinking of others and how we can help them, and living in the present and focusing on the future. Which circle do you identify with? Which do you want to identify with? I challenge you, Easter people, to enter the growth zone! Follow Christ’s mandate to love one another, give our fear fully to God, and embrace the situation. We can do this!

Allison Francesco, Vice President

Treasurer’s Report
Toni Oplinger (717) 229-2119

As of April 18, 2020, we have sent the following mission dollars:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledge</td>
<td>$14,319.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Mission Recognition</td>
<td>$620.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift to Mission</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gift in Memory</td>
<td>$410.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Thank Offering</td>
<td>$4,451.89</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Undesignated Giving</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19,876.31</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Call to Prayer &amp; Self-Denial</td>
<td>$3,904.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Brighter Future for Children &amp; Youth</td>
<td>$523.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Center, Harrisburg</td>
<td>$123.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Bird Mission, Kentucky</td>
<td>$1,223.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCurdy Ministries</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Designated Giving</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,873.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Giving Thru UMW National</strong></td>
<td><strong>$25,749.31</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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United Methodist Children’s Home
Mechanicsburg, PA $200.00

**Total All Giving** $25,949.31

Our Pledge is $130,000; year to date we have paid $19,876.31. We have a long way to go to meet our Pledge. During this time of social distancing we need to remember our social responsibilities. My local unit like everyone else’s is unable to meet as a group in one place. However, it is important to continue to financially support the mission work of caring for women, children and youth. I would suggest that local members send their offering to their local unit treasurer for disbursement into the mission field. While you are apart you may explore the possibility of meeting via Conference call for prayer and devotional time together. Contact your pastor for help with this endeavor. It is important that we maintain our connection to each other during this pandemic of COVID-19. The local, national and global needs have grown greatly in recent months and will continue to grow until a cure or vaccine is discovered to combat this worldwide threat.

Remember to Stay Calm, Stay Home and Stay Safe. May God’s protection surround each one of you.