



**West Virginia**  
United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

# NEWSLETTER

## March 2021

*Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for the people, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the lord. You serve the Lord Christ. -Col 3:23-24*

May the Peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

Welcome Spring! The rains of springtime mean summer is almost here. I know we are all glad that this past winter is hopefully behind us. The days are getting longer and the flowers are starting to bloom ever so slightly. We, too, are blooming.

We had several more ladies participating in our monthly virtual programs. We are all thirsty for God's word and the fellowship we receive from one another. I hope you invite someone else to participate in the **April Virtual Program: "Unbound to Share Good News"** via Zoom on April 10 at 10am. We will learn how women experience freedom in Christ through stories of the unbound woman and the woman at the empty tomb. See the announcement below for details. Also, you should receive an invitation via email to participate. We look forward to "seeing" you on Zoom.

It is not too late to get your local unit survey completed on the United Methodist Women website. This used to be called the **2020 Census**. It is open until March 30 so do it now while you are thinking about it. Go to [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census) to fill in the information. It only takes a couple minutes.

As our state and country begins to open more each day and although Cedar Lakes is now open to the public, we are taking extra precautions by not having an in-person Spiritual Growth Retreat this year. We will offer a **Virtual Spiritual Growth Retreat** via Zoom on April 24 at 10am. I'm sure Joy Hicks, our Spiritual Growth Coordinator will offer more information in the coming weeks.

Continue to social distance, wash your hands and wear your masks. We will get through this time of challenges because we are United Methodist Women!

Peace,

*Sue Dostal*

WV Conference President

### WV CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2021 CALENDAR of EVENTS

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| April 24<br>@ 10:00am<br>via ZOOM | <b>Virtual Spiritual Growth Retreat 2021</b><br><b>Theme:</b> <i>Moving Forward Together- Living Water</i><br><b>Focus Scripture:</b> John 4:1-29<br><b>Guest Speakers:</b> Rev. Amy Shanholtzer & Eva Faulkner  |
| July 3-August 7<br>Details TBA    | <b>Virtual Mission u 2021 via ZOOM</b><br><b>Theme:</b> <i>Being Active in the Present</i><br>A month-long series of "virtual" activities, including Plenary and Worship Programs, Adult Mission u Study courses, and Leadership Workshops via Zoom.<br><b>Adult Studies:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship</i> (with Rev. Janet Harman &amp; Rev. Heather Moore)</li><li>• <i>Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety</i> (with Rev. Donna Hinkle)</li></ul> |

**October 22-23**

**Annual Meeting 2021**

**Theme:** What Does the Future Hold?

**Guest Speaker:** Rev. Shea James

**Location:** Community of Grace UMC (225 28<sup>th</sup> St. in Huntington, WV)

\*In-person gathering subject to change due to pandemic restrictions

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Greetings WV Conference United Methodist Women,

I am writing this just a couple days before we spring forward and start to enjoy some more daylight hours. I am so looking forward to that and the beginning of Spring with all its splendor.

Your conference team is preparing for our 1<sup>st</sup> **Virtual Spiritual Growth Retreat** (and I hope the last!) on **April 24<sup>th</sup> at 10am on ZOOM**. I, like all of you, so miss being together and worshipping and singing together. But we are also blessed that we have an avenue to still be able to be together at least virtually.

In this newsletter, you will find the Call Letter and Registration Form. Yes- we would like for you to register. This will allow us to do the book giveaway for the oldest and youngest and to assist us in keeping our contact records accurate.

Since we want you to be prepared for a little discussion with our leaders, we would like for you to do a few things to prepare for SGR. Our leaders will be using the scripture from John 4:1-29 with emphasis on the verses 13 & 14. Please read the scripture-meditate on it and see how it speaks to you.

Also, since we will not be able to have a central worship center, we would like each of you to prepare your own worship center using items including water, and the vessels that help move it from place to place-fountains, pitchers, photographs of waterfalls, rivers, lakes, the color of water-use your imagination. When you have created your worship center, send a picture by April 10<sup>th</sup> to Pam Braden @ [Pam.Braden@wvup.edu](mailto:Pam.Braden@wvup.edu). We would like to include these pictures in a time of quiet worship during SGR.

Maybe you don't do ZOOM. This would be a great time to invite a young girl-granddaughter, niece, young mom- to join you. They can run the technology and you can introduce them to UMW. Or maybe your church has the technology for you to safely distance but come together to be a part of the Virtual SGR. We can find a way if it is important to us.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you April 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. Please be in prayer for your conference team and our SGR leaders.

*Joy Hicks*

WV Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator

**Call Letter / Registration Form are attached to this Newsletter!**

### **WV Conference United Methodist Women 2021 Virtual Spiritual Growth Retreat**

**April 24<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00am on ZOOM**



**Moving Forward Together - Living Water  
Focus Scripture- John 4:1-29**

**Guest Speakers- Rev. Amy Shanholzter & Eva Faulkner**



## DAY OF GIVING: MARCH 23, 2021

Lynne Twist writes about our lifelong relationship with money in her book, *The Soul of Money*. She shares about the day of her mother's passing and how there was a feeling of her mother's stamina, strength, generosity, and love in the room. "I remember feeling so clearly in that moment that that is our legacy: the intentions we make real in the world through our actions, through our communications, through the conversations we generate, through the relationships we are blessed to have, and in the many ways we express our love. Through the wonderful tool of money we can speak who we are and touch the world."



The United Methodist Women "DAY OF GIVING" is March 23, 2021. With the far-reaching effects of the global pandemic, your gifts (that will be matched by generous donors) on this Day of Giving are more important than ever. In this Lenten season, every United Methodist Women member is encouraged to reflect on and exercise the spiritual discipline of generosity by contributing to the **150 Next Legacy Endowment Fund**. This permanent endowment fund permits us to honor our foremothers and ensure future generations of United Methodist Women can continue serving women, children and youth around the world for the next 150 years. **Together, we are building our Legacy!**

**TO GIVE**, please write checks to *United Methodist Women* and send them to your Local Unit or District Treasurer. Be sure to write "Day of Giving" on the memo line. OR make an electronic donation on the United Methodist Women website at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/give>

**Local Unit Presidents! The deadline to complete  
the 2020 Census is March 30, 2021!**



DOWNLOAD "Instructions for Completing 2020 Unit Survey" and  
COMPLETE the United Methodist Women Census 2020 at  
<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2020>

The WV Conference Leadership Team will offer a virtual presentation via zoom of

### ***Unbound to Share Good News***

to learn how women experience freedom in Christ through  
stories of the unbound woman and the woman at the empty tomb.

**JOIN US Saturday, April 10, 2021 at 10:00am (EST) via ZOOM**

Topic: WV UMW April Worship Program

Meeting ID: 840 9141 7775

Passcode: WVUMW2021

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84091417775?pwd=djBldzd4OGxwUEtFdFB1WkpDMEdUdz09>

You can also join us by phone at

1-301-71- 8592 (Washington DC) or 1-312-626-6799 (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 840 9141 7775

Passcode: 530044539

\*From the 2020-21 Program Book: *Knitted Together for God's Good Work* (pp. 55-60).

Available at Mission Resources @ <https://www.umwmissionresources.org/>

The zoom meeting will be recorded (so look good, ladies!) and thereafter posted on our  
**WV United Methodist Women Facebook Page** @ [www.facebook.com/umwwv/](http://www.facebook.com/umwwv/)

# Virtual Mission u 2021: July 3- August 7

*So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without [God's] unfolding grace. [...] There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.* – 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (MSG)

During these anxious times of pandemic and social strife, we have known what it is like when “things are falling apart on us.” We have experienced a great unraveling that has shifted, quite literally, everything. However, we don’t give up. We are United Methodist Women! We have learned to adapt to video-streamed worship services, online devotionals, communications with family and friends via Facebook, committee meetings and book studies via ZOOM. We have somehow managed to overcome the challenges of social distancing and learned “Being Active in the Present”—the theme of our first (and I hope, the last) Virtual Mission u.

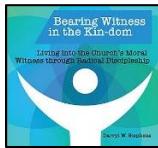
This year, our Mission u will consist of month-long series of “virtual” activities, including Plenary and Worship Programs, Adult Mission u Study courses, and Leadership Development Workshops via Zoom. (Details TBA). While virtual, we are still creating spaces for community, lessons that change us and our world, and spiritual practices that arrive when we need them most. In our adult studies, we will examine finding peace in the midst of anxiety and how we as God’s people can deepen our moral witness and respond faithfully.

In a time when it looks like things are falling apart on us, God’s grace is still unfolding and life is being made new. Indeed, there’s far more here than meets the eye. Will you join us?

*Margaret Harrison, 2021 Mission u Dean*

## We will offer the following Adult Mission u Studies

### 2021 Mission u Study on Zoom (4 sessions)

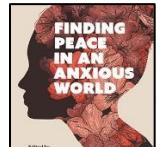


*Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship*

Rev. Janet Harman & Rev. Heather Moore

Thursdays, July 8, July 15, July 22 & July 29 at 6:30 – 8:30pm

### 2020 Mission u Study on Zoom (4 sessions)



*Finding Peace in an Anxious World*

Rev. Donna Hinkle

Mondays, July 12, July 19, July 26, & August 2 at 6:30 – 8:30pm

Books are now available at <https://www.umwmissionresources.org/>

## WV Conference United Methodist Women

### ANNUAL MEETING 2021

OCTOBER 22-23



**Guest Speaker - Rev. Shea James**

Community of Grace UMC (225 28<sup>th</sup> St. in Huntington, WV)

\*In-person gathering subject to change due to pandemic restrictions.

Thanks to Western District’s Team for organizing our Annual Meeting this year. Community of Grace Church in Huntington will host our gathering. Rev. Shea James, WV Conference Director of Young Disciples and Outdoor Ministry, will be our guest speaker. Crafts will be provided by two districts: Midland South and Little Kanawha. Your Conference Team looks forward to gathering with you as we fellowship and worship together!

*Becky Atkins, WV Conference Vice President*

# SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

Ladies,

Your Conference Team led a Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program on March 6th. My part was to share my Voices from the Field webinar from Sierra Leone and what your money is accomplishing there. Young women are being trained with life skills such as hairdressing and sewing fashions, and Agricultural skills such as farming and raising pigs and chickens. I was on another webinar yesterday with Voices from the Field, Hope amidst the Pandemic. We heard from Blaine Bandi, the CEO of Wesley Community and Health center in Phoenix and Reginald Smith, the executive Director of The Bethlehem Center in Chattanooga. Both had virtually the same message. During this time of pandemic, they had to do a lot of things differently, and both had to open their gyms to students for study. Both serve lower income folks who do not have the internet. Gardens were expanded in order to feed not only the students but staff and the community. Both thanked UMW for their continued support. It is good to hear where our money is doing the most good. Thank you for your donations.

Plus, right here at home our Disaster Team has been on the road helping churches who were impacted from our recent floods. Keep on putting Faith, Hope and Love in action!

Respectfully submitted by *Elizabeth Bailes*

WV Conference Social Action Coordinator



**URGENT REQUEST!!!** The WV Conference Disaster Response ministry at New Vision Depot requests your HELP in replenishing their “flood bucket” supply of items necessary for the overwhelming job of cleaning up after the spring floods.

- The list of items needed for the **UMCOR Cleaning Kit** is located on the New Vision Depot website at <https://www.wvumc.org/change-the-world/new-vision-depot/>
- If you would like to make a monetary donation to purchase supplies instead, **PLEASE** send checks to the **WV Conference Treasurer** and write **New Vision 922** in the memo line.

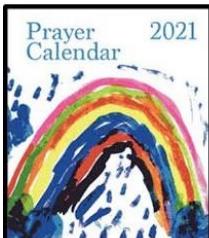
## Celebration of Mission Event 2021

*Celebration of the One Who Calls Us to Mission*

JOIN in the Celebration of Mission in support of West Virginia Conference Mission Projects, Church and Community Ministries, New Vision Depot Disaster Response, and Volunteers in Mission.

DOWNLOAD the 2021 Celebration of Missions Booklet @

<https://www.wvumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-COME-BOOKLET-IN-WORD.pdf>



**United Methodist Women  
2021 Prayer Calendar  
on Facebook**

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



The **Reading Program** is a cherished United Methodist Women tradition that brings together members in mission as they explore, share and discuss the books. From captivating novels and heartfelt biographies to urgent messages about issues such as climate change and mass incarceration, there's something for everyone. Reading Program books are divided into five categories and are available for people of all ages and reading levels.

To participate, check out the [2021 Reading Program Book Titles](#) and start reading now! RESPONSE MAGAZINE (Nov/Dec Issue, page 33) provides an overview of some of the reading program books.

As you read, track your progress for each using the [Reporting Form](#). When you submit the Report of Completion Requirements for one of the four plans, you will be recognized with a [Certificate of Recognition](#).

#### Bonus Books

As always, Bonus Books count as two books. *This year, Bonus Books are also the current Mission Studies (2020-21), providing even more of an incentive to select these books as part of your Reading Program plan.* To purchase United Methodist Women mission studies, go to [umwmissionresources.org](#). I have available for purchase- *Finding Peace* and *Pushout* for \$6 each.

Pam Skotnicki

WV Conference Team Program Resources

[Pam2010@frontier.com](mailto:Pam2010@frontier.com)

304-531-5868

**Visit our West Virginia Conference United Methodist Women Facebook Page for important news and information updates, events, videos and links.**



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*Remember to LIKE and SHARE our page  
with other United Methodist Women!*