

# The SPARK

Big Horn District

United Methodist Women



United Methodist Women

### Special points of interest:

- Officer Reports
- April Registration Form
- Unit Reports

*“Thriving Through Times of Change”*

*Malachi 3:6  
For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.*

## Purpose of United Methodist Women

The organized Unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

## President’s Message

Hello and Happy New Year as we tumble headlong into 2020. With Valentine’s Day already in the past, it seems as though Spring will be upon us before we know what happened. In my part of the state, the Winter has been a pretty gentle one, but I know many of you have had a much rougher time. The prospect of Spring definitely brings a “Halleluia!” to us all.

Our Spring Big Horn District Gathering in Huntley MT on April 25<sup>th</sup> is gaining momentum. The theme “Thriving Through Times of Change” shows much potential to be a great topic for discussion. We are certainly experiencing the Times of Change. Please make plans to attend the Gathering and take part in the discussions. Our ideas and projects grow and take shape from the prints of many hands, so lend your talents and skills to see what we can build.

Another exciting event coming up is the Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event in Tempe, AZ on April 17-19, 2020. “Calling u You, who are called, belong to Jesus Christ.” - Romans 1:6. I hope many of us will be able to attend this awe-inspiring event. It should be fresh on our minds for the District Gathering less than a week later.

The Miles City, MT Unit of UMW will be holding their annual “Pre-Easter Bake Sale” on the first Friday and Saturday of April, so many treasured recipes will make their appearances for the event. We are also hosting a “Mission Tea” for members of two sister churches in Miles City. Members of the First Presbyterian Church and the United Christian Church were invited to the “Tea” on February 20<sup>th</sup> at our church. We hope to find ways to work together on the numerous mission projects that our three groups sponsor or work with, including supporting each other.

We send prayers for Tomi Alger’s recovery from her injury, and pray for Jesus’ loving touch on her and her family as they weather this storm.

Yours in the service of Christ, Karen Hawkinson, Big Horn District Pres.

## Big Horn Financial Report

Dear Beloveds,

**Change!** We are living through change this year! May we thrive, may we grow, and may we fulfill our mission to “help empower and improve the lives of women, youth and children in the United States and around the world.”\*

This is the year we officially become part of the Mountain Sky Conference, joining our legacy Yellowstone Conference with the legacy Rocky Mountain Conference. For unit treasurers, that has a practical effect of having to change the Employer Identification Number connected to your UMW bank account. Materials have been sent to units, but if I missed you, or if you need these sent to you again, please let me know! (The previous EIN is connected to an organization that no longer exists. Also, if your UMW funds are in your church’s checking account, now is the time to move those funds into a separate UMW bank account. Write to me if you want to know the why’s and wherefore’s, as well as request documents you may need to make these changes. My contact information is below.)

In 2019, a couple of our units became inactive. Leaders of those units will become

Continued on page 2

“district members” or may even connect with another local unit. These women will still be active and vital in the life of the Big Horn District, and we are so grateful for that.

**Celebrate!** Through your generosity, in 2019 Big Horn UMW units and members gave \$38,135 to mission. Those dollars go to helping women, youth and children... it's a powerful testament to your Christian commitment. Blessings and thanks!

Of the \$38,135, \$28,448 went to Pledge to Mission, \$1,240 to Special Mission Recognition (pins), \$145 to Gift to Mission (cards), \$591 to Gift in Memory, \$1,744 to World Thank Bank (the Five Channels of Giving) – plus \$1,499 to Call to Prayer, \$2,767 to Designated Gifts and \$1,700 to the Legacy Fund.

Nine units in the Big Horn District achieved “Five Star Status” for 2019. These units will receive a special award at our spring meeting in Huntley.

With much love for our work together in 2020,

Patti Prinkki Keebler, Treasurer

PO Box 35, Roberts MT 59070

[Pjk1254@gmail.com](mailto:Pjk1254@gmail.com); 406-445-2382 landline;

406-431-1554 cell

\* <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/5channels>

## **PROGRAM RESOURCES**

Have you kept track of the books from the reading program list that you have read? If you have, and if you qualify for one of the levels on the reading program, please send me your name, unit name, and what level you have attained as soon as possible. You can count books read from the 2014 – 2019 reading lists that have not been previously reported. Reading the *Response* magazine is also part of the requirements. Reading program certificates will be handed out at the April district meeting in Huntley. You can email the info to me at [stanjan504@yahoo.com](mailto:stanjan504@yahoo.com) or mail to: 504 Pickens Rd, Huntley, MT 59037.

I will have a dozen each of the *Mission u* study books available at the April district meeting in Huntley. The 2020 Spiritual Growth Study is *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*. The Issue Study is *The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*. If you prefer, units or individuals can place orders by calling Mission Resources at 1-800-305-9857 and asking for Andrew Cheu.

As many of you know, Mission Resources is no longer selling the books on the UMW Reading Program list. The 2020 reading program information was published in the Nov/Dec issue of *Response*. You can order books from Cokesbury, but they may not carry all the titles on the reading list. Or, you may be able to purchase some of the books at your local bookstore or library. Another

suggestion is to order from Amazon or another on-line store. I was able to find the books that were on the 2019 reading list at Amazon.com and at a lower price than Cokesbury. If cost is a factor, you may find that some of the titles are available as used books. When looking at the used books, Amazon describes their condition so you will know what you are getting. Many people use Amazon.com so it is likely you know someone in your unit who has an *Amazon Prime* account and can get the books within a few days with no shipping cost. If you do use Amazon for your order, please use [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select UMW and Amazon will make a donation of 0.5% of the cost to UMW. I hope this information will be useful. I know many units/individuals still want to buy reading program books, but are also concerned about the cost. Let me know if you have any questions.

Along with reading from the UMW reading list, I would also encourage everyone to be reading what we used to call current events when we were in grade school. You all know 2020 is an election year. We will be bombarded with TV ads, print news and internet articles - more information than we can possibly absorb. But, we need to educate ourselves about candidates and issues over the next 10 months in order to make good choices. As Americans this is our right and duty.

Jan Lambert, District Program Resources  
406-348-3499 or 406-697-8965

## **Social Action:**

This is the fourth year of the current advocacy emphasis:

- Criminalization of communities of color, with a focus on disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline
- Maternal and child health with a focus on ending maternal mortality everywhere
- Climate justice-reference the 13 Steps of Sustainability and holding corporations accountable for polluting and greenhouse gas emissions
- Challenging economic inequality, with a focus of securing living wages for all. This includes the paid family leave initiatives.

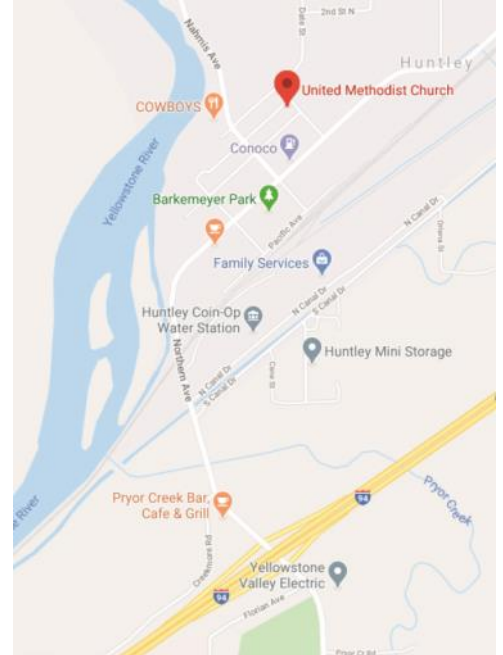
Is your local UMW working on any of these? Maybe, you're discussing them within your group. These issues are sitting right on our front door no matter where you live. Consider trying something new within your group such as helping a day with your local “feeding the homeless”, or picking up litter along a highway or park. Give a bible study for women in your local jail/prison. How about sewing or knitting baby blankets/socks/hats/ etc. for newborns? It can even be as simple as choosing a warm day to walk instead of drive somewhere. Get your local units excited about one or all of these advocacies and make a difference in your area. **“Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much.” –Helen Keller**  
Judy Jones – Social Action

# Big Horn District UMW Spring Gathering April 25, 2020

8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

*Hosted by Huntley United Methodist Women*

Held at: Huntley UMC , 149 Peritse Ave, Huntley, MT 59037 — (406) 348-3636



## Agenda

"Thriving Through Times of Change"

Malachi 3:6

For I the LORD do not change; therefore you,  
O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

- 8:30 am Registration
- 9:00 am Business meeting
- 10:00 am BREAK
- 10:15 am Program
- 12:00 pm LUNCH
- 12:45 pm BREAK
- 1:00 pm Program, cont.
- 2:15 pm BREAK
- 3:00 pm Devotion and Communion

Please mail your registration forms to:

Grace Matthaes

1833 Clark Ave, Billings, MT 59102-4042

406-656-1042 cell: 406-672-4964 — [graceawm@aol.com](mailto:graceawm@aol.com)

***Please register by  
April 11, 2020.***

***Registration fee is \$10.00 per person.***

## REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
(one person per registration, copy as needed)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_ (wheelchair, dietary, etc.)

Cost: \$10.00 Make checks payable to: **BIG HORN DISTRICT UMW— Registration Deadline: April 11, 2020**  
**PLEASE REGISTER BY DEADLINE.**

## Education

As United Methodist Women, we are encouraged to continue learning always. So, how can we educate ourselves? Some ways are simple are attending Mission u or reading books from the annual reading list found in response magazine or <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/reading-program/all-books> ways are to keep track of what's going on in the news. Read social action updates, [https://secure3.convio.net/umw/site/SPageNavigator/Social\\_Action\\_Alerts.html,search](https://secure3.convio.net/umw/site/SPageNavigator/Social_Action_Alerts.html,search) scripture and the UMW web page. Take time to find out what's happening at your local school board or city council. Have you ever attended a County Commissioners meeting?

There are so many ways we can be proactive. We at least in Wyoming right now in the midst of our legislative session. It's vitally important for us to monitor bills that are coming before our Senators and representatives.

Talk with your neighbors, fellow members of the congregation. How can you improve your community? What are the issues folks in your town are struggling with? How can you, your UMW and your church respond?

We are never too old to learn. Stay in touch with the world.

Diane W Martin  
Ed & Interpretation

## Report from Leadership Development Days

I was fortunate to be invited to attend Leadership Development Days in St. Louis February 6th - 8th. General Conference and Jurisdictional delegates, Episcopal candidates and Committee and commission members shared powerful Bible study with incoming conference presidents, treasurers and committees on nomination chairpersons. Sessions around oppression and prejudice and issues of white privilege, made such an impression on me. In addition, I was able to meet new conference leadership, as we were seated as a conference together with two ladies from Desert Southwest.

Personally reconnecting with acquaintances, making new friends and being encouraged by remarks and comments from Harriet Jane Olson as well as small group discussions fed my soul in ways I didn't realize I needed.

Diane W. Martin  
Ed & Interpretation

*“Thriving Through  
Times of Change”*

## Ten Sleep United Methodist Women

Summer always flies by even though we don't have regular meetings. The coordination of brunch each Sunday continues, the reading program continues and other things that come along are the delightful duties of our group.

September brings planning for the next few months as we participate and sponsor many activities. We provide apple pies for Circle J's Apple fest which comes in early October. The beginning of hunting season brings the Harvest Fest for which we provide salads. This is a community event with each church providing specific parts of the meal. We send Care packages to college students in November.

December is always very busy as we are involved in the Community Christmas Concert; it was at our church this year and UMW always helps with goodies afterward. When it is at our church we make sure there are decorations on tables and help in general with setting up and being good hostesses.

We ready our donations for the places we select to give special help, this year it was the Veterans Home in Buffalo in addition to our monetary donations and our collection of toiletries and clothes for the area's crisis center. The Annual Little Shoppers is sponsored for the Ten Sleep students to purchase gifts for family and friends. Everyone enjoys this time of sharing and getting Christmas into our lives. Morning in Bethlehem is an annual celebration for the children and the young-at-heart adults as we transform the fellowship area into Bethlehem of Jesus time and create areas for the children to participate in activities of that era.

The Adventure Club for grades K-6 starts in September and runs through April with UMW ladies running the after school program and providing snacks. The Youth group runs during the same time and the church ladies provide meals every other month for the youth.

This has been a busy and fruitful time for our group and our church as our new pastor has brought many ideas and much energy to our entire program and community.

To our Sisters in Christ,

August was our bi-annual potluck picnic with a twist. For a second year in a row the second of two summer Mission events was held in Billings. To alleviate attendees having to find their way to dinner Friday we invited women to our Potluck Picnic. We had a good turnout and were pleased to welcome a few men to our group. It was a great evening – lots of fine food and super conversation.

During the fall months we had our **Call to Prayer and Self Denial** Program. Several members attended the fall BHD meeting in Pine Creek. We also had our **World Thank Program** and took an awesome offering and we held our **annual Craft Bazaar and Soup Luncheon** netting approximately \$2,000. This is a major fund-raiser toward the mission's goal we set each year in our budget. December is perfect for our **Cookie gifting** as we wrapped plates full of homemade cookies and delivering 28 plates to church members and friends. One of our favorite deliveries is to a neighborhood fire station just a few blocks from the church. Those big guys get Xtra cookies. Our January unit meeting, gave us a good look at the changes as to how CPR is performed. A church member, Kris McFadyean, gives CPR classes through her employer, Billings Clinic. Kris did a basic training for us, not for accreditation, but for information. We were glad to see this program as well as the operation of an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator).

We are looking forward to reading all about your activities and seeing you at the Spring District Meeting.

**Important note from me:** I have moved, having sold the house in early December. I am in a new apartment complex in Billings Heights. Only about 5 blocks from the church. Fun meeting people. My new address is 230 Starner Lane, Apt B322, Billings, 59105. The home phone, cell phone and email are still the same.

Becky Messman

God Be With you,

Hope UMW Mission Team

As we continue to practice "Climate Justice", we encourage you to bring your own coffee mug or water bottle to use to show we are trying to be environmentally responsible.



## Greetings from Havre United Methodist Women,

Our year has been exciting, eventful, and busy, all in the name of the Lord.

**Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."**

Every year in October we organize our "Fall Rummage Sale" and every year we wonder if we can do it again, as it is sooooo much work! Thankfully, we are able to, and because of it we are able to give to several worthy causes in our community and also to missions. I believe we are pretty good cooks as we are asked to help out with several meals at different events; Unity Breakfast, Lenten suppers and lunches, Blood Draw, Prayer Day and Pig Roast. Feeding people is our talent and gift, thanks be to God.

God be with you always,  
Havre UMW

## Roundup UMW

Roundup United Methodist Women has been challenged by the Livingston/Holbrook UMC unit to offer ministry in the area of Elderly and Senior Services. What we had done recently for the residents of the three local assisted living facilities includes delivering copies of the Our Daily Bread devotion booklets, visiting the residents, and giving Christmas bags that included items such as socks, lotions, sweatshirts, books, and treats. We are working on setting up a rotation schedule for visiting, calling, or writing to our shut-ins and assisted living residents. An additional idea to possibly pursue is the concept of senior companions, encouraging and recruiting persons to "adopt a grandparent." We know that keeping connected is a boost for everyone involved.

Visit our new website at:

[https://www.mtnskyumc.org/  
unitedmethodistwomen](https://www.mtnskyumc.org/unitedmethodistwomen)

The Yellowstone Conference website is off the air and all the Yellowstone Legacy Conference UMW news can be found on the Mountain Sky website. If you enter <https://www.mtnskyumc.org/unitedmethodistwomen> it should take you right to our page.

If not, find the tab marked "Ministries" and click on United Methodist Women. Make it one of your favorite websites so you can check it often.





Look what you missed if you didn't join us at Pine Creek in September for the Fall District Event.



### United Methodist Women Census 2019

**Local Unit Presidents:** Local Unit Presidents are asked to complete the online form for the 2018 United Methodist Women census between Jan 1 and Feb 28. This year is focused on gathering information that will inform the National office, Conference and District leadership on local efforts in order to plan for growth, outreach and impact. You can find the [Census form](#) on the main page of [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/) There is also a video you can watch on how to submit your information, just click the green Census button.

#### [Census 2019](#)

Local Units are asked to complete the census form by **Feb. 28**. When you submit it successfully, you will immediately get a "Thank You" message on your computer. If your unit has not entered information by Feb. 28, one of the District Membership chairmen ( or Robynn Wood or Beverly Schneider) will call in March to get the information needed to complete it by the Census Submission Deadline: Saturday March 30, 2020.

The United Methodist Women will never share contact information outside the organization without permission.

Questions? Contact Conference Membership Cherie Mondragon, 406-445-2270, [chemassay@aol.com](mailto:chemassay@aol.com) or Big Horn District Robynn Wood 406-781-1654 [rwood42381@gmail.com](mailto:rwood42381@gmail.com)

Western Mountains District Beverly Schneider 908-625-3006 [bevschneiderrn@gmail.com](mailto:bevschneiderrn@gmail.com)

## United Methodist Women Census 2019

It's that time again! Census 2019 is here! It's easier than ever this year so I'm sure there will be 100% reporting from Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women. You will find the reporting form and all the information you need to complete the census on the national website: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org>

2019  
Census

Census Submission Deadline: **Monday, March 30, 2020.**

The video highlights the work of United Methodist Women and I urge you to feature the short video at an upcoming meeting of your local organization.

The following paragraphs are from the Census 2019 website:

**Local Unit Presidents:** Local Unit Presidents are asked to complete the form for the 2019 United Methodist Women census.

This year's census is focused on giving information and sharing ideas for sustainability and growth!

*However, we still need your full participation and count!*

**Your Feedback** As you have observed, over the past two years the census has evolved from a simple form into a more formal survey that would help inform the work at the national office and conference level. This important feedback was needed in order to plan for strategic growth and measurable impact.

**Strategies for Growth** For several years you have asked us to develop tools to help our organization attract new women from various generations. Along with your feedback we've now conducted additional surveys across women members and non-members in the UMC and beyond to understand what new women are seeking.

As a result, we are now in position to develop and test key ideas and strategies for organizational growth as well as, support local mission activities and relationship building.

In 2020, the National office will begin developing new resources, launching targeted giving, piloting a soul care retreat model to introduce women to UMW and testing new, additional membership join options for potential members from various generations alongside of our current "join" model.

Please continue to share your ideas to inform the way we change and grow into the next 150 years!



Big Horn District  
United Methodist Women

United  
Methodist  
Women

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Spring Gathering  
April 25, 2020  
Huntley Methodist Church  
Huntley, Montana

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## UMW Calendar of Events 2020

- April 17-19** Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting—Tempe, Arizona
- April 25** Big Horn District Spring Event—Huntley, Montana
- April 25** Conference Newsletter “The Flame” published
- June 18-21** Annual Conference UM Church—Gillette, Wyoming
- June 18-21, 2020** UMC Annual Conference  
at the Cam-Plex Multi-Event Facility in Gillette, Wyoming. Bookmark this link:  
[www.mtnskyumc.org/ac20](http://www.mtnskyumc.org/ac20) for details coming soon!
- July 15** District Newsletter deadline
- Mission U** <http://www.mtnskyumw.org/events/mission-u/>
- Sept TBA** Big Horn Fall District Event—Billings Hope UMC
- October** UMW Annual Meeting  
<http://www.mtnskyumw.org/events/the-annual-conference/>