



GLOWING EMBERS

**Summer 2021 Newsletter
Western Mountains District - Mountain Sky Conference**

**Western Mountains District
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JANET'S JINGLES

We have almost made it through the Covid-19 pandemic. The world has been hit by pandemics in the past, but never the whole world so quickly. Many did not make it, and we celebrate the lives we have lost. We also honor those who fought to keep the rest of us alive.

At first United Methodist Women (UMW), paused to determine what to do next. Then we moved ahead with Zoom meetings and other means of communicating besides in-person. We have learned a lot! We have saved money by not traveling as much, which we will probably continue to do, to some extent, in the future.

We had Zoom retreats, Zoom Mission u events, Zoom book clubs, and Zoom meetings! If you have not yet participated in a Zoom event, there will be several more coming up. For example:

- Mission u – During the fall and winter, Mission u will be offering classes on the topics of Climate Justice and Bearing Witness.
- Mountain Sky UMW Conference Annual Gathering will be a Zoom event in October.

Look for more information about these events in this newsletter.

The Western Mountains District Annual Gathering will be an in-person event! We will meet at the Flathead camp! Plan to arrive Friday afternoon or night so you can get re-acquainted with all your friends, and also enjoy the beautiful setting by the lake!

As we get ready to resume our bake sales, rummage sales, bazaars, etc., take time to reflect on how UMW has helped us get through the pandemic, taught us new ways of doing things and rejoice that we are part of a creative, supportive community! Hallelujah!

Janet Ulrich, Western Mountains District President

bluejaytree5881@gmail.com

Requesting prayers for our President Janet Ulrich and family. Her father passed away suddenly on Sunday morning, July 18, 2021. Lord please wrap Janet and her family in peace and comfort while you welcome her father home into your loving arms.

Notes from our Secretary

WHAT KIND OF LEADER ARE YOU?

Renee Westlake, Elder Chair/ Mission Chair, Grand Avenue Church (Disciples of Christ)

You ARE a leader! I just want to get that out of the way right now. It is amazing the influence you have in this world, regardless of your own personality or individual self esteem. Each of you is a leader. Some have narrow influence and some have worldly influence. As Christians in the month of May, each of us is just coming off of the Easter season, with all of the staggering impact that we that we experience by being resurrection people. For the next few minutes, please look inward at yourself.

As an outgoing person, I have been told that I'm a leader from a young age. I actually like to lead, to be in the spotlight, and to gather people for a cause. I am, however, not a typical leader. As much as the CHARISMATIC leader gets credit for being able to read, a majority of impactful leaders are actually not outgoing. There are five types of leadership: QUIET EXAMPLE, CHARISMATIC, INTEGRITY driven, PERSERVERENCE driven, and SERVENT leader. Let us look at five biblical leaders from the past.

There have been songs, poems, and jokes written about **Noah** and the **ark**. In Genesis 6, God is fed up with the wickedness in the world and asked Noah to build a large ark. Noah obeyed God, though he certainly questioned God. Noah was not persuaded by every other human being who criticized or mad fun of him. When the entire world was doing it wrong, Noah did what was right, which saved his family and the world. As you read the accounts of Noah, you know that his leadership highlighted his INTEGRITY.

To our knowledge, **Mary of Nazareth** never gave any great speeches, and she didn't seem to push others to do her will. Instead, Mary was a QUIET EXAMPLE of good living, of obeying her God, and accepting the responsibility placed upon her. Her famous song was not a performance for all to hear, but an intimate offering to God of herself. She took on each opportunity that God provided, and ran her home as a leader by example.

God called **Abraham** to go from his country, his people, and his family to find a new land. It was not easy and it was not always clear, but Abraham led with **PERSEVERENCE**. He embraced risk and uncertainty because he trusted God, and believed that the promised land awaited his people. He faltered many times, yet persevered on the on the journey. He became the father of many nations, not because he was a natural leader, but because he kept going and believed in the one true God.

After Naomi's husband and two sons died, she encouraged her daughters-in-law to return to their home countries and reunite with their families. One of the daughters-in-law, **Ruth**, would not leave Naomi. She led by serving throughout her life, dedicated to God and to Naomi. Ruth was a strong **SERVANT** leader, showing loyalty to those who most needed her, and who had who influenced her life. Ruth has an entire book of the Bible dedicated to her, honoring her loyalty, love, and honor.

Peter is not only an example of a **CHARISMATIC** leader, he is an example of repentance for terrible sins committed. As Jesus' most prominent disciple, he also denied knowing Jesus three times following Jesus' arrest. Peter realized what he had done, wept in sorrow and humility, and ended up carrying on Jesus' teachings for the rest of his life. In Acts 2, we see Peter giving a sermon to a huge crowd of people after the resurrection. Instead of wallowing in despair and self-pity, he did better!

Are you afraid to be a leader for God? Do you doubt yourself in your abilities? Please don't worry! Everyone falls down and falters, I told you that I am a leader, but I have also failed many times. My charisma has also caused me to be bossy, manipulative, controlling, and authoritarian at times. Read about all kinds of leaders: Moses, Joshua, Deborah, Rebekah, Ezekiel, Tamar, Daniel, Miriam, Hosea, Esther, Mary Magdalene, Paul, Isaiah, even Eve, and many others! They weren't perfect, and they failed and faltered many times, but their love for God and dedication to goodness shaped their influence on us today so many centuries later. At your church, your leadership is desired and important. **So I ask you once again: What kind of leader are you?**

Ann Lindsey, western Mountains District secretary bailey432a@aol.com

Education and Action

During the past 18 months which I call the Time of Covid, when most of us were under stay-at-home directives this meant that we for the most part did not meet or organize or perform social actions with our UMW units as we were doing pre-Covid. However, being home-bound gave us time for education and information gathering which necessarily comes before actions.

I don't know about you, but for me after thinking and pondering cleaning out and reorganizing closets and clothes, rearranging the kitchen and cleaning the fridge, polishing silver, planting a garden and actually completing one or two of these tasks, there was still plenty of what do I do now? time. So, like many others I kept my phone close, the seeming life line to the outside world for news, as tragic and saddening as it often is and also for Facebook friends and email. And then I noticed that I was getting email after email from various UMW and UMC leaders and trainers from national, conference and district levels announcing trainings, workshops and even retreats. All via Zoom, of course. So, maybe like you I learned the basics of navigating zoom, more or less.

United Methodist Women had designated the two social justice campaigns for this 2021-2024 quadrennium; **Climate Justice and Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration**. I came to realize that I actually didn't have much knowledge of these issues so I began to register for webinars, blogs, Faith Talks. Before I knew it, I was zooming through my mornings, afternoons and into the evenings, making connections and gaining resources across the UMW landscape. Specific to Climate Justice our conference presented a three-week Webinar series, Just Energy for All answering the what, why and how of Just Energy. We examined whether or not the current system of energy is just and what a truly just energy for all would look like. The Just Love Lenten series also presented discussions on the issues of Human Trafficking, Japanese Internment Camps, Restorative Justice, and Pushout (criminalization of black girls). Some Faith Talks topics were about gun violence and voter suppression. Each of these sessions has been recorded and archived on unitedmethodistwomen.org and can be accessed there and could be used as learning tools in our individual units. While there are two issues of focus for the quadrennium it is clear that there is still much work to do on continuing social issues.

It is of course up to each unit what you would select as an issue to address depending on the interests and particular concerns of your group and community. Our district is large and it is hard to know what concerns and projects are being worked on. It would be great and inspiring to know what work our units are being called to undertake. We would love to hear your stories. You can email me at lyndalucy50@gmail.com and I will summarize our work in the next newsletter.

Lynda Anderson
Coordinator for Education and Social Action

Spiritual and Membership Report

Six Verses to Help You Rest this Summer (dayspring.com)

Hammock? Check. Lemonade? Check.

A good book? Check An afternoon all to yourself? Check.

Mix those four ingredients together and you have a recipe for a perfect summer afternoon. So why can't you relax? Why is your mind racing a mile a minute, as usual? What seems to be missing? There is one more secret ingredient needed for this dish and it is often overlooked - a spirit at peace. For many of us, pushing the pause button is easier said than done, even during the summer months when life should slow down a little, giving us a chance to catch our breath and relax. But just as physical rest is necessary for a healthy body, spiritual rest is important for our spiritual well-being. **And the best way to rest your spirit is to rest in the One who created you.** The notion of resting is a theme woven throughout Scripture beginning ... well, at the very beginning.

***“On the seventh day God had finished His work of creation,
so He rested from all His work.”***

[Genesis 2:2 NLT](#) Even God took a day to rest after creating the world and it's a lesson He intends for us to follow. Here are six verses you can focus on this summer – verses to remind you to rest in God and lean into Him so you can relax and fully enjoy the season.

“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength.”

[Psalms 23: 1-2 NLT](#) In God, we have all that we need. No matter what. He knows the “green meadows” and “peaceful streams” that will restore and renew each of us. And He promises to deliver. When we walk with Him, we can count on Him for complete rest and restoration.

***“It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night,
anxiously working for food to eat: for God gives rest to His loved ones.”***

[Psalm 127: 2 NLT](#) Even with the best of intentions, we can easily slip back into the habit of counting on ourselves to meet our needs. We honor God with our work but not when it serves as a cover for our inability to trust in Him. Trusting in Him, while working

“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life ... your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

[Matthew 6: 25-34 NKJV](#) In this passage, Jesus makes it clear that worrying about the future is a waste of time. Instead, He reminds us that our heavenly Father values us above all else and He will care for us just as He does the flowers of the fields and the birds of the air.

“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

[Matthew 11: 28-29 NIV](#) Responsibilities can be overwhelming but Jesus promises to help carry the load. And His shoulders are much bigger than ours! While He doesn't promise a life without hard work and trials, He does promise to be our partner, participating with us and walking with us every step of the way.

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

[Phil. 4: 6-7 NASB](#) In this passage, Paul provides some great advice – he suggests we turn our worries into prayers. When we stop worrying and start praying we will be filled with the complete peace and rest that only God can provide.

“I have told you these things so that, in Me, you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

[John 16:33 NIV](#) The next time a restless spirit threatens to ruin a perfect summer day, stop and remind yourself that, in Jesus, the victory has already been won! God is in control, our destiny as believers is set, and things won't fall apart when we pause to enjoy the beauty of the world around us.

Looking for tools to help you rest in His arms this season? Maybe set some time aside to [journal](#) every morning to relax, meditate and focus on God and His Word. Ever thought of Bible journaling? Take time to soak in His presence before bed every night with a 30-minute unwind session using [Bible journaling supplies](#). Also, be sure to send your loved ones a [Summertime Ecard](#) to remind them to praise God for his beautiful creation during these sure-to-be glorious summer months.

With gratitude from Cindy Baril,
Spiritual Growth & Membership Coordinator cbaril6870@gmail.com

Thanks to Belinda Alkula from our conference in sharing this lovely devotion, courtesy of the Dayspring stationery website. My prayers and hope that you all continue to grow spiritually and REST in our summer journey of life.

Mtn Sky Conference Communications & News

Hello to all my friends and sisters in the Western Mountains District. Are you as tired of the heat and smoke as I am? What a summer! Hopefully, you are all well and enjoying spending time with family now that our world is a little less crazy.

I just want to remind all of you that I send out emails from the conference team a couple times a month. If you are a Unit leader, please share with all in your unit. I might have some email addresses from your unit, but I know I do not have all. If you would like to be added to the conference email blast name list, just send me your name, email address, and unit name and I will make sure you are on the list. If you would like to serve on the conference team, now or in the future, please let me know and I will pass your name on to the nominations committee. It really is a wonderful experience working with women from Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Salmon, Idaho.

And do not forget to check out the websites for the Mountain Sky UMW and the UMW National site. <https://www.mtnskyumw.org/> and <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>. There is so much information and learning opportunities. Find out what UMW is doing in mission around the world. Then share this with your Units and Circles.

Blessings to all,
Claudia Davis
MS UMW Conference Communications Coordinator
gmaclyde@gmail.com or mountainskyumw@gmail.com

SUMMER IN YOUR CITY E-CHALLENGE

There is still time for your unit to join the challenge. The Mtn Sky Community Engagement team encourages you to pick a project, volunteer in mission, work on leadership development — the possibilities are endless. Then, by September 1, tell the Community Engagement Team about it. Selected stories will be celebrated via Mtn. Sky communication vehicles such as Ministry Crossroads and the weekly newsletter. Let us celebrate the ways that faith communities are engaged. By sharing how you are involved, you can inspire others and share ideas. You also have the opportunity to win a Fair Trade/Equal Opportunity gift basket including coffee & mini-chocolate bars. To submit your story, please go to the Mtn. Sky Conference webpage and enter in the search box “Summer in Your City e-challenge”. Complete the on-line form and please include some 3 x 6 photos.



Featured Units

Missoula First UMW



Missoula First UMW tried their hand at virtual fund raising during the pandemic months. Plates of Christmas cookies and fudge were sold. And, for Ash Wednesday, containers of soup were sold on-line. People placed their orders on-line or by phone. Payment was made when the items were picked up. The funds raised went to help the unit pay their pledge to mission.



Dillon Grace UMW



Dillon Grace UMW would like to share an idea that can be either a community service or a fund raising idea that UMW units might find fun and helpful.

In Great Falls, Katie Finnicum, along with community help, was able to make birthdays extra special for scores of children in Great Falls. Last April, 122 birthday cake kits were donated to the Great Falls Community Food Bank and Great Falls Public Schools. The birthday cake kits included a cake mix, frosting and candles, all wrapped in a disposable baking pan.

Katie, a teacher, fitness instructor, wife and mother, was inspired to make the birthday kits from a post she saw on Facebook. She contacted friends on Facebook with the goal of donating 50 kits to Great Falls Public Schools. The response was so overwhelming that the goal of 50 kits was exceeded by 72 additional kits.

Girl Scouts in Dillon, with assistance from Dillon Grace UMW, one year, as a service project, donated several birthday bags to the Dillon Food Bank. Each kit was placed in a large gift bag. Each bag contained a cake mix, frosting, candles, party hats, balloons and party favors for twelve children.

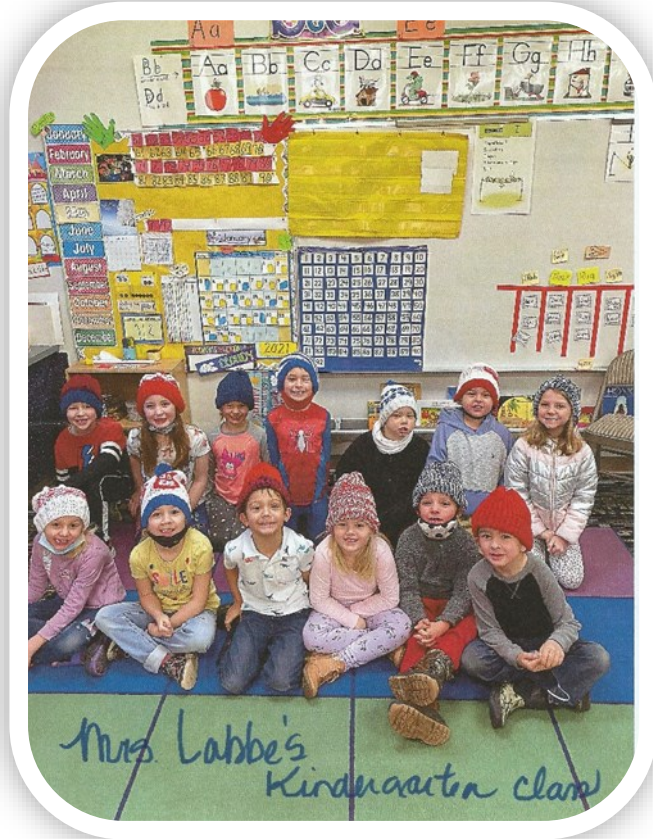
Another Girl Scout troop hosted birthday parties for a fee. They would go to the home and do a birthday party for your child complete with cake, decorations, party favors, games, etc. They offered 6 different themes such as a pirate party or cowboy, princess, Star Wars, etc. They purchased their party supplies on-line from Oriental Trading Co.



Featured Units

Superior UMW

In last winter's *Glowing Embers*, we reported on the hats for kids project for Saint Regis and Superior school children. For at least four years, the ladies of the Superior UMW have been knitting, crocheting and loom weaving hats to provide winter warmth and joy. These photos from the schools show the wonderful results of the ladies hard work.



Hats were often made in the school colors:

St. Regis — green and yellow
Superior— blue, red and white



Western Mountains District Meeting and Mini Retreat

Western Mountains District Meeting and Mini Retreat was held on March 13, 2021 virtually. The theme for the day was “*We are Standing on Holy Ground*”. Thirty four women attended a joyous day of reflection and blessings. We were blessed with the presence of Bishop Karen Oliveto who provided a wonderful program for the day. After the event, attendees were asked to type in three words that described this retreat as led by Bishop Karen. These words we entered into a special on-line program that created the following piece of artwork.



Mission Today and Honor Units

Even with all the turmoil we had in 2020, the following units achieved Mission Today and Honor Unit status! If you have not yet sent in your reports for 2020, it is not too late! Send them to Janet Ulrich, District President, at bluejaytree5881@gmail.com.

**Bozeman UMW, Missoula First UMW,
Stevensville UMW, Epworth (Kalispell) UMW.**

Nominating Committee

There are vacant positions to fill on the nominating committee. Please contact Arlis Vannett at arlis_v@hotmail.com if you are willing to be on the nominations committee. Also, a slate is being prepared for the positions of Western Mountains District President, treasurer, and communications. Elections will be held at the fall gathering in October.

Western Mountains District - United Methodist Women Fall meeting 2021— September 24 & 25

Flathead United Methodist Camp, 21339 Methodist Camp Rd, Rollins, MT 59931

RENEWING BESIDE STILL WATERS

Facilitated by Rev Su Debree

Psalms 23 1-3

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

MISSION PROJECT: Summer Camp is important to youth, offering an opportunity to combine Faith and Fun. Please join in this Mission Project to help fund Youth Summer Camp scholarships to the Flathead United Methodist Camp .

SILENT AUCTION: **Bring an item to auction!** Bid on something to take home! Proceeds will be given to support the Flathead United Methodist Camp scholarships.

Friday Night: "White Elephant Gift" You are invited to bring a wrapped wacky, fun, joyous item and you will end up taking another's home

CABINS: If you haven't stayed at Flathead Camp in a while, there have been a lot of upgrades and renovations to the cabins for accessibility and comfort. Check out their website for pictures and more information. www.flumc.org

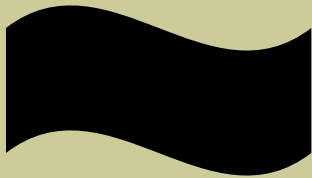
SAVE THE DATE

- *Spiritual Pilgrimage to Heart Mountain WWII Japanese American Confinement Site, Sept. 18, 2021*, Sponsored by the Racial Justice Movement and Ministries Task Force (RJMM). More details to come. Contact Rev. Bich Thy (Betty) Nguyen if you have questions.
- *Western District fall gathering Sept. 25, 2021* Presentation by Rev. Su DeBree, Methodist Camp on Flathead Lake. Team meeting Friday, Oct. 24.
- *Mountain Sky UMW Annual Gathering: Oct. 8 & 9, 2021* First UMC, Cheyenne, Wyoming
- ◆ *Mountain Sky Conference and UMW Breakfast: Oct. 23, 2021* Ogden, Utah
- ◆ **Mission u: *Climate Justice: a Call to Hope and Action*** Social justice study. Fall/winter, 2021 (dates TBA) Review UMC's social principles on the natural world and global climate stewardship as well as the impacts and root causes of the climate crises.
- ◆ **Mission u: *Bearing Witness in the Kingdom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship*** Spiritual growth study. Winter/spring 2021-2022 (dates TBA) Study leader is Kathryn Witte Purpose of this study is to help the church and its members discern our call and bear witness to the will of God for a more just world.
- *UMW Assembly: May 20 - 22, 2022* Orlando, Florida
- *Women's Spiritual Retreat: March, 2023* Fairmont Hot Springs, Montana

HOLY HILARITY

GLOWING EMBERS

Western Mountains
District
Mountain Sky
Conference 2021
Summer Newsletter



Do you have news articles, events or photos you would like to submit for the newsletter? If so, you may email your information to:
cathysf@bresnan.net



S.M-I-L-E

Holy Hilarity reprinted
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the *Joyful Noiseletter*

Sign outside St. John's Episcopal Church,
Kingsville, MD:

"Jesus is tougher than nails."
Lorene Irving, Lutherville Timonium, MD

Sign seen in Waynesville, NC:
**"Bread is a lot like the sun.
It rises in the yeast and
sets in the waist.**

Chaplain Jack Hinson Waynesville, NC



Quote for the Day

***Live fully in the present with Jesus.
Your past is forgiven,
Your present has meaning,
Your future is secure.***

by Pastor James Mathews, Dillon, MT.

As the Seasons Turn

***"To everything, there is a season, and a
time to every purpose under the heaven"
Ecclesiastes 3:1 King James Version (KJV)***

***"To everything, there is a season" indeed
but GRATTITUDE is always in season"***

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and 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.