INDEX

Page 1 Leadership Development Days Information and Registration information
Page 2 West District Calendar
Page 3 Chatter from Cheryl/Our Purpose
Page 4 Conversations with Colleen Becker In-coming President
Page 5 - 6 VP article – Eva’s Edict
Page 6 Tids and Bits/Secretary
Page 7 Money Matters Treasurer
Page 8 Education for Mission
Page 9 Nominations/ Vicki’s Voice
Page 10 Spiritual Growth / Jurisdiction Info
Page 11 West District Leadership Team
Page 12 Silence of Voices / Trinity Phoenix
Page 13 Shepherd of the Hills / Prescott
Page 14 New Song
Page 15 Willowbrook
Page 16 Glendale First / West District Photo Gallery

2019 Theme

“Changing the World With GRACE”

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.
~ Peter 4:10

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAYS

THEME: “Changing the World with ACTION”

Leadership Development Days are upon us once again. For you new officers, this is the yearly local organization officer training. The locations and dates are listed below:

January 11, 2020 First United Methodist Church, Yuma
January 25, 2020 First United Methodist Church, Sun City

We invite all officers (whether they are new in their positions or not) to attend these training sessions. Come to a day of fun and learning! This is the time to share your knowledge and experience while learning more about how to make your unit more vital and exciting.

The registration form is located at the following Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women website:

Scroll down to the middle, almost to the bottom, of the page to the West District icon. Click on that icon to get to the registration form.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE TRAINING DAY.
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
DESSERT SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE
WEST DISTRICT 2020 CALENDAR

January Leadership Training Events
January 11th: First United Methodist Church, Yuma, AZ.
298 W. 3rd St., Yuma, AZ 85364
January 25th: First United Methodist Church, Sun City, AZ
9849 N. 105th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85351

January 15th Cactus Patch article due

April 17th – 19th: Western Jurisdiction at Doubletree, Tempe

May 15th Cactus Patch article due

June 10th – 14th: United Methodist Church General Conference, Tempe

July 31st – August 1st: Mission u East/West Districts at Lakeview United Methodist Church
10298 WS. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City, AZ 85351

August 15th Cactus Patch article due

October 3rd: West District Annual Celebration – Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church
13658 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, AZ 85375

October 23rd: West District Leadership Training with Conference Officers –
St. Paul’s United Methodist Church – Tucson, AZ
8051 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85710

October 24th: Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women Annual Meeting
St. Paul’s United Methodist Church – Tucson, AZ

November 15th Cactus Patch article due

SAVE THE DATE:
Make this date part of your planning now!
As I prepare to pass the torch of West District President to Colleen Becker in January, I wish to thank each and every one of you for the love and support that you have so graciously shown me during the last three years. Serving as your president has been one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of my life and I will never forget any of you.

Remember last year when I wrote about learning of the Doctrine of Discovery at Mission u? If you don’t, do me a favor and reread my comments (found on page 2: https://dscumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/0918-Cactus-Patch-Rev2.pdf) Why? Because about 3 weeks ago, I was pleasantly surprised when I received a package in the mail from Deb Williams, a member of the Program Advisory Group and Racial Justice Charter Support Team. I was so excited when I opened the package to find a book titled *Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery* by Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah. It was accompanied by the following note from Deb:

“Cheryl, I met Mark Charles at the Western Jurisdiction Committee on Native American Ministries at Great Spirit UMC, Portland, Oregon. I told him about your message in the newsletter (Cactus Patch) about learning about the Doctrine of Discovery. Thank you for your words, He was happy to sign this book for you. Enjoy! Deborah”

Knowledge of this doctrine has changed my life. I am anxious to read this book and learn more about this topic and the traumatization brought onto minority communities by colonization, slavery, segregation and dehumanization. I challenge each of you to learn more about this doctrine if we are to move forward with any sense of national dignity and morality. For many people, this will be a difficult book to read, let alone absorb. Reading the book is a start in the right direction.

Blessings to all as we go forward to do his work in our world.

Cheryl

PS: Please note my new address – I will be your secretary and communications person in January.

---

**THE PURPOSE OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

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.
Greetings from your new president ~

I have been trying to come up with words to describe my feelings about becoming the new president of the United Methodist Women in the West District. Mostly I must say that I am excited. Not only to be working with all of you great women from the units in the West District but also to be working with all of the officers on the team. Many are continuing on the team just in different positions but we are welcoming new faces also.

As the year is winding down it is time for reports from the local units to be sent to the district officers. We will be preparing certificates to honor your accomplishments from this year to be presented next year. It is rewarding to see everyone has a common goal to fulfill our purpose. Many women, youth and children have better lives because of the mission work that you all do.

I loved seeing so many of you at Epworth for our District Annual Celebration in October. Such a beautiful day and U.M.O.M. received many useful items as well as a large offering to help with other expenses. They have so many worthwhile projects and continue to help families with jobs, housing, and just day to day living.

We are looking forward to Leadership Development Days (LDD) coming up in January. The team will be going to Yuma for training on January 11 and we hope to see all of the rest of the district at First United Methodist Church in Sun City on January 25th. Registration will be opening soon so look for information in this newsletter. Even if you are staying in the same office please come and share your ideas with the officers from the other churches. Hope to see you then.

Blessings, Colleen Becker

If the word isn’t getting out, United Methodist Women are losing out. Please be sure to share the information in this newsletter with those who don’t have access to a computer or printer.
For those of you who missed our annual celebration:

United Methodist Women
Report of West District Annual Celebration October 5, 2019

The West District Annual Celebration was held at Epworth United Methodist Church, Phoenix, on October 5, 2019. A rehearsal was held on the previous day (Friday, October 4) after which the United Methodist Women of Epworth provided dinner for the West District team.

The theme of the day was “Changing the World with Grace.”. There were over 70 women in attendance, including Desert Southwest Conference President, Alberta Farnsworth.

The opening hymn was “God of Grace and God of Glory” led by pianist Sue Kinnear. Audio technician was Bob Suiter. President Cheryl Buchholtz introduced the West District officers. West District Superintendent Rev. Nancy Cushman said a few words and thanked UMW for their dedication to missions. She was followed by Epworth pastor, Rev. Robert Holliday. Epworth United Methodist Women’s President Carol McCall introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the celebration.

Jen Kistler presented the opening meditation. Linda Triolo followed with the Mission moment and prayer calendar.

Cheryl Buchholtz called the business meeting to order and began by leading the women in the United Methodist Women Purpose. After the business meeting, there was a stretch break led by Cheryl Buchholtz. She then talked about the upcoming Desert Southwest Conference Annual Celebration to be held in Sun Lakes on October 26. Training for district officers will be held at the same venue on October 25. Eva Ndavu reminded members of the Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting in Tempe in 2020 (April 17-19) and the United Methodist Women Assembly meeting in Orlando in 2022 (May 20-22). Linda Triolo completed this session with an update on the Legacy Fund.

West District team presented a humorous and thought-provoking skit entitled “The Fisherwomen,” written and directed by Cheryl Buchholtz. Attendees then sang the hymn, “Amazing Grace.” An offering was taken, with financial ($645) and material proceeds designated for UMOM (United Methodist Outreach Ministries).

The next session focused on achievements and successes within the West District during 2018. Michele Justice presented certificates or five-star awards to 14 of the 19 local organizations: Calgary, Epworth, First United Methodist Church Glendale, First United Methodist Church Sun City, First United Methodist Church Yuma, Gila Mountain, Lakeview, Liberty, Mountain View, New Song, Prescott, Shepherd of the Hills, Trinity Phoenix, and Willowbrook.
Tids and Bits about Christine Jones
United Methodist Women DSW WD Secretary
jones.sensei@gmail.com

Our beloved secretary is relinquishing her position as Secretary on our leadership team but she will not be far removed from us. Not only will Christine be continuing her work as a busy member of the First United Methodist Church, Glendale, she will serve as our Secretary of Program Resources. This means that Christine will be the member on our leadership team who will working with you on the Reading Program. She will be the contact for turning in the information on who has earned a Reading Award each year and will make those presentations.

God bless you, Christine and thank you for all of your hard work during your time as West District Secretary. ~ Cheryl and the rest of the leadership team!
Money Matters by Michele Justice
United Methodist Women DSW WD Treasurer Michele Justice

Dear UMW sisters:

Looking forward to the Christmas Season, my sisters in Christ. The year end is nearly upon us and what a wonderful fall time it was! We went fishing at the West District Annual Celebration and it was hoot! Thank you, Cheryl for your leadership over the past 3 years, and wishing many blessings for Colleen our new President in the coming year. Glad so many were able to join us for the West District Annual Celebration at Epworth United Methodist Church - who were wonderful hostesses.

Please mark your calendars for the West District Annual Celebration in 2020 and join us for an informative and entertaining time of sharing. Check our calendar for the date and location.

The Desert Southwest Conference annual celebration was held at Sun Lakes United Methodist Church and it was inspiring and heartwarming. The hospitality was so greatly appreciated and such a lovely campus, from the wonderful classrooms, conference rooms, fellowship hall and especially the memorial garden, simply lovely. Thank you Sun Lakes for sharing your beautiful church with us. The schedule for the classes was a great idea and we were able to participate in all three sessions. I learned some new information regarding the School to Prison Pipeline and Billie Fidlin was so informative.

We have work to do and so we shall, We are United Methodist Women and there is nothing we can’t do without the help of our Lord and Savior. I have enjoyed serving the West District as your Treasurer and I thank you for this opportunity to learn and grow. Throughout this Holiday Season, May your days be “Merry and Bright” .and may the joy of this season bring you blessings too many to count.

Sincerely, Your sister in Christ
Michele Justice, WD Treasurer
SGBD2@outlook.com
At our recent West District Annual Celebration, I surprised myself and everyone else by volunteering to add Social Action to my responsibilities. Education for Mission and Social Action overlap somewhat, and my heart is there. Now let’s see if I can follow through with it. The first thing I know to do is to get the training folders ready for January. I will make them Education for Mission/Social Action folders and give the same folder to all the Education for Mission and Social Action ladies. The training will be combined. I find it informative and inspiring to let the ladies share what their respective UMW organizations have been doing. When we put our heads together and share our knowledge, it benefits us all.

My other roles are president at my local UMW organization, and lay leader at my church, First United Methodist Church of Glendale. I actually had the honor of preaching twice this year, a giant step for me. I know others of you are working multiple jobs at your churches. I coordinate the nursery volunteers and assist with kindergarten Sunday school. I take turns with one other lady, cooking for our weekly Wednesday Open Worship service, which welcomes poor and homeless members of our community with music, a short message and a lunch. I’ve learned to cook for 60. Lately our Riner Assistance office coordinates with Saint Mary’s food bank so that we get groceries from them. Last week I used frozen ground beef and sausage from Saint Mary’s to make meatloaf. The other lady who cooks for WOW still works and is too busy to be in UMW. She also coordinates our church’s education program, teaches older kids Sunday school and has coordinated our Vacation Bible School the last few years. I am in awe of her.

Being a full-time Christian is an adventure. I want to serve the Lord and watch what God will do. Here are some inspiring words from my last sermon:

My favorite words that Jesus ever said (when he and Peter were walking on the water) are “Don’t be afraid. Just trust me.” Also, from I Corinthians 15, The Message (translation), “With all this going for us, my dear, dear friends, stand your ground. And don’t hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master, confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort.”

I like that. Don’t hold back and be confident your efforts are not wasted. Don’t be afraid, just trust Him.

http://clipart-library.com/clipart/
CON (Committee on Nominations)

I want to begin by introducing myself. My name is Vicki Keel and I am a member of Trinity United Methodist church where I have been attending for 16 years. I have been a United Methodist Woman member for 5 years and I joined the West District Nominations Committee in 2019 and am now serving as the chair of that Committee.

The West District Nominations committee was busy and blessed in the last quarter. Pam and Helen Jackson – former co-chairs of our nominations team stepped down from that position but have consented to stay on the leadership team another year. We also said goodbye to Lila Dell’Aringa after many years of service. Lila has been so generous and helped me feel welcome and confident in moving forward on the team as have Helen and Pam Jackson.

We also welcomed Paula Sallas back to nominations. Paula caused some excitement at our West District annual meeting by announcing that she was stepping down from Social Action to rejoin nominations. We were very lucky that Linda Triolo has consented to take on that role while still keeping Education for Mission.

We also welcomed Janet Rummel from New Song United Methodist Church to the Committee on Nominations – so we are going into 2020 with 5 members which is actually the minimum number we are supposed to have. How exciting to have a full team.

Another new member to the leadership team was actually recruited by Colleen Becker from First United Methodist Church, Sun City. Welcome to Barbara Kelton who has accepted the position of Membership Care.

The Committee and I would like to remind you that as a United Methodist woman, to are part of the Nominations team, too. Please remember to be on the lookout for future officers. If you find someone who might be interested, please contact one of the members of the nominating team who will then contact them.
Hi readers,

It is my prayer that all are well. I know many of us are facing serious trials and situations out of our control; certainly we would change them if we were in charge. Sometimes I wish I could do just that. However, with my track record I would make everything much worse. The extra stress that comes with the holidays requires a much higher authority.

In Matthew 19:26, “I tell you with man this is impossible but with God all things are possible.” This passage from the New Testament not only applies to entering God’s Kingdom, it applies to everything.

May we all remember to keep close to God. Imagine Him holding you, hugging you and feel the strength He gives you. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to one and all.

Yours in Christ,
Jen

---

**Western Jurisdiction United Methodist Women**

**April 17 – 19, 2020**

**Doubletree Inn, Tempe, AZ**

Keynote speaker: Katherine Hayhoe, world renowned climatologist

Harriet Jane Olson will give an update on United Methodist Women moving forward.

*You, who are called, belong to Jesus Christ.~ Romans 1:6*

Join us at the 2020 Calling u Event for Service, Spiritual Care, Social Action, Networking, Leadership Development, and Enrichment!

- Ubuntu activities (on and off site)
- Educational opportunities
- Garden labyrinth
- Workshops
- Action event
- Worship
- Cultural event
- Election of two directors of United Methodist Women National
- Election of the Western Jurisdiction leadership team for 2020 – 2024
- Meeting friends – old and new – from all over the western Jurisdiction

We are the host conference so let’s have good representation. Couldn’t go to the Assembly? Here’s your chance to participate beyond our own conference right in our own back yard. **Go to this site to register: [https://www.wjumw.com/](https://www.wjumw.com/)**
2020 West District Leadership Team

Seated from left to right: Eva Ndavu, Pam Jackson, Cheryl Buchholtz, Helen Jackson, Vicki Keel and Janet Rummel

Standing from left to right: Michele Justice, Linda Triolo, Jen Kistler, Christine Jones, Barbara Kelton, Colleen Becker and Paula Sallas

United Methodist Women
2020 Leadership Team

President
Colleen Becker…….. First United Methodist Church, Sun City
Vice-President
Eva Ndavu…………. First United Methodist Church, Glendale
Secretary 2020 – 2024
Cheryl Buchholtz…..Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix
Treasurer
Michele Justice……..Liberty United Methodist Church, Liberty
Spiritual Growth
Jen Kistler…………..Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix
Education for Mission
Linda Triolo………..First United Methodist Church, Glendale
Membership Care
Barbara Kelton…….. First United Methodist Church, Sun City
Communications Coordinator
Cheryl Buchholtz….Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix
Program Resources
Christine Jones……..First United Methodist Church, Glendale

CON
(Vicki Keel………….Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix
Chairperson of Nominating Committee)
Janet Rummel……..New Song United Methodist Church
Paula Sallas………..Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix
Pam Jackson……….First United Methodist Church, Glendale
Helen Jackson……..First United Methodist Church, Glendale
Many, many thanks to Billie Fidlin, of the Desert Southwest Conference for bringing Gail Paul, President of the Indigenous Women’s Association of the Wabanaki Territories to Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church to speak about a very important issue. The event was called GATHERING OF VOICES.

While the number of murdered and missing indigenous American women has dramatically increased over the past few decades, there does not seem to be a parallel increase in the desire to find out what is behind this alarming phenomenon.

Although Ms. Paul comes from Canada and spoke specifically of their issues, the same problem occurs here in our own United States, and it is up to the United Methodist Women to stay on top of this issue and do what we can to help bring about change.

Thank you to Pastor Tweedy Sombrero Navarrete and members of Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church for graciously hosting this event.

Gail Paul speaks to guests and members of Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church on November 2, 2019.

What’s Going on in Our Neighborhoods?

Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix
Submitted by Cheryl Buchholtz

December 11th – Annual Phoenix Art Museum Christmas Slide and narration show – 10:00 am, followed by a potluck. All are invited to join Trinity United Methodist Women for this festive event. Narration for the Season provided by Sheri Kapoot, Art Museum Docent and features pictures of inspiration fine art of the season. Please call Trinity office to let them know you are attending. (602-973-1276)

December 15th – Annual Trinity United Methodist Women Cookie Walk

January 26th – Annual Chili Cookoff with proceeds going to Missions supported by Trinity United Methodist Women.
**Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Women**

**Sun City West**

Submitted by Cindy Larsen

**December:** Christmas Celebration—Books, Puzzles and Christmas Carols

We love this luncheon and opportunity to donate children's books and puzzles to our local community. Music will be provided by our fabulous church organist--Bill Moore!

Looking back from Sept. 20 through Oct. 19 our Prescott UMC United Methodist Women served 5 funeral memorial receptions out of our 11 for the year.

On Nov. 30 we will have the joy of serving a wedding reception with a fall theme. It has been a busy fall around the church with many of us helping with the church Fall Festival held on Oct. 25. (It is a Halloween event open to the community with trunk or treat, crafts, petting zoo, games and a chili contest, photo op spot and other fun events.)

We are looking forward to our fourth annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 2-5:00 pm. Since this event is our main fundraiser, we hope to make money for all our mission projects for next year.
The ladies of New Song United Methodist Church in Surprise have had a busy time since our last article. Three members attended the beautiful District Annual Celebration where there was a great service and wonderful fellowship from the various churches of the area. The Conference Annual Celebration, held in Sun Lakes had attendees from New Song.

As of this note, our retreat at the Franciscan Renewal Center is about to take place. All involved are looking forward to this time of learning and relaxation. Also, the ladies are getting ready for our annual Christmas Tea, to be held on December 14 at the church. This is a wonderful time for fun and fellowship for all the ladies of the church. In an effort to boost interest and participation in UMW by our younger ladies of the congregation, a prayer partners list was set up and circulated. This consisted of names of younger ladies of the church who would be contacted by current UMW members and they would become prayer partners.

A special night of fun celebrating both our church family and families in our congregation was a big success. Created by members of the UMW, Family Game Night was just that: a time for old fashioned table games and some hilarious group games (Family Feud for one). Everyone in attendance had an entertaining night and agreed it should be done again.

Our circles continue to be very active in the community as well as the church; our Needlers quilt group recently made a special quilt to donate to a veteran in our congregation. Eve's Cookers continues to make special meals for Eve’s Place and our Knit Wits Prayer Shawl group has expanded to a local Assisted Living Center and now make special dish cloths to donate to UMOM as well as shawls. Our Dabblers card making group also expanded to the Center and continues to make cards for members of the church.

The calendar for 2020 is being planned, and there will be many events to look forward to and we will continue to grow in awareness of how we can help those in our congregation and surrounding community.
Willowbrook United Methodist Women
Submitted by Nancy Provost

**Friday, December 6th at 2:00 pm** – Christmas Tea “Visions of Sugarplums”
Viewing of tables beforehand, beautiful baskets for the raffle.
Come and enjoy the Christmas Season with friends!

**Monday, January 27th at 12 noon**
Pledge service and installation of officers.

**Wednesday, January 29th** – Legacy Fund raiser at Panera at 67th and 101. You can get flyers to get you in, give them to friends, family members, etc. None will be given out at the door. If interested in going, contact Sue Marshall at smarshall92@cox.net.

**Monday, February 17th at 12 noon**
Sharing from Mission u and Prayer & Self Denial.

---

*Willowbrook United Methodist Women*, cont.

Women’s Spiritual Retreat, March 21, 2020 at
The Desert Outdoor Center at Lake Pleasant
Sponsored by Willowbrook United Methodist Women

**What:** Willowbrook United Methodist Women Retreat
**When:** March 21, 2020
**Where:** The Desert Outdoor Center at Lake Pleasant,
41402 N 87th Avenue, Peoria, AZ
**Times:** 9:00 – 4:00
**Theme:** Promise of Flowers
**Facilitator:** Rev. Ruth Blum
**Cost:** $40.00 per person & includes continental breakfast and lunch

*For Information, call: Nancy Prevost 623-476-5277 or email nancybp7@gmail.com*

**All church Women are welcome!**
Come enjoy a spiritual, fun, exciting day! Singing, crafts, beautiful scenery to reflect and pray and learn how flowers are portrayed in scripture.
First United Methodist Church of Glendale

All are invited to our United Methodist Women Christmas Tea, Saturday, December 7 at our FUMC Glendale fellowship hall.

We will enjoy a light lunch, singing of Christmas carols, and door prizes.

Tickets are $12 for adults, $7 for children 12 years old and younger. Profits will go toward much needed renovations of our historic 90 year old sanctuary.

Contact Linda Triolo, lindatriolo@cox.net for tickets. Come one, come all!
“Fisherwomen” Skit featuring West District Leadership Team
Still fishing...

Conference Annual Meeting at Sun Lakes

Thank you, Sun Lakes United Methodist Church for hosting this event.
Spreading the word about the Western Jurisdiction Gathering in Tempe in April.

Glendale First United Methodist Women participate in the Gathering of Voices event at Shepherd of the Valley on November 2.