

# Footprints



## South District United Methodist Women E-News

**President:** Erin Fly

**March 2021**

**Editor:** Alice Brown



### From your South District President

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Hello Sisters,  
I hope 2021 is getting off to a better start than last year for everyone. Even though many of us still cannot meet in person, the United Methodist Women are finding ways to continue our fellowship and mission.

In a normal year we would gather for our semi-annual conference spiritual growth retreat. This year the "Holy Humor" retreat will be held via Zoom. It's only \$10 to register and you can join in from your own home. The registration deadline is March 15; details are available on our conference website.

Our district annual meeting and events for this year are in the planning phase and we always welcome your input and ideas of ways we can improve our outreach and connections during this time. Also, please let us know how we can help your group. In the words of Seth Meyers, "Stay safe, wear a mask, we love you."

*Erin, president*

## Notes from your Conference President

Hi, I'm Alberta Farnsworth. I'm the Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women's President. I live in Tucson and attend St. Mark's United Methodist Church. I was the South District President several years ago!

Clara Campbell, our South District Secretary, was just beginning to work on this newsletter when she fell and broke her pelvis. Please keep Clara in your prayers as she heals from this painful injury. I told her I would try to make sure this newsletter was finished and thankfully, Alice Brown, who formerly was the South District Communication Coordinator and knows how to do this job, said she would take charge! I can't thank Alice enough for blessing us with her skill.

### Annual Unit Survey

Last year, South District had a very low number of units participating in the National United Methodist Women's Census (which is called the Unit Survey this year!) As your Conference President, I would really encourage every unit to participate. It is easy to access and complete the form. Go to [unitedmethodistwomen.org](https://unitedmethodistwomen.org) and click on the orange box that says **CENSUS**, The **UNIT SURVEY FORM** pops up. You will be able to read the whole form to understand what is needed before you begin. The deadline for submitting the form is **March 30, 2021**

If you have any problem filling out the form, please email or call me and I will be happy to help. As every year, one of the questions is what was your membership at the beginning of the year and what was your membership at the end of the year. I know many of you have not been meeting, so you may have to make your best guess, but please do your best.

### Meeting during the Pandemic

Have you been meeting this past year? Not being able to meet in person has been difficult. Many units have used virtual meeting platforms such as Zoom as a way to at least see each other's faces and be able to talk to one another. The Annual Celebration was held as a Zoom Webinar and we were able to do the necessary business. This year, we will again be on Zoom on **Oct. 9** as a Zoom meeting. We will use breakout rooms so each District will be able to meet as a District to handle District business and we will all join together to do the business of the Conference. My hope is that the pandemic will have improved enough that perhaps units can meet together and have the zoom meeting streamed to the group or at least a few people can be together around one computer rather than each of us in our own little bubble! We will wait and see what the future holds, but with many people having already received their vaccinations (I have an appointment for my first one!) it does seem likely that things are improving.

Continued on next page

## Notes from your Conference President-continued

### Upcoming Events

I am looking forward to the **Holy Humor Retreat on March 20**. It will be lots of fun and we will get to have some time of fellowship, laughter and joy that comes with being with United Methodist Women.

**Mission u has 3 events** planned for the summer. These will all be on **Zoom** as recommended by the National United Methodist Women.

**June 25 -26, Becoming Peacemakers.** This is the youth study, but is open to all with a special invitation to the younger people in our conference. It will be facilitated by Rachel Mosher (who happens to be my youngest daughter!), a youth director at St. Mark's UMC.

**July 23-24, Pushout.** This is one of the studies we wanted to do last summer. It will be facilitated by Billie Fidlin who gave us a tidbit at the Annual Celebration in 2019 and left us anxious to learn more.

**August 13-14, Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom,** facilitated by Dior DeSormeau. This is the Spiritual Growth study for this year. Dior is the chairperson of the Spiritual Formation team of Desert Southwest Conference. She works at University UMC in Las Vegas.

*Alberta Farnsworth,*  
conference president

PS: Consider joining "Faith Talks" they have a lot of information on several subjects. [unitedmethodistwomen.org](https://unitedmethodistwomen.org) and click on the Faith Talks link.

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### Masks Protect You & Me



Masks are an additional step to help prevent people from getting and spreading COVID-19. They provide a barrier that keeps respiratory droplets from spreading. Masks are a two way street and protect you and me. When we all wear masks, we take care of each other and everyone is protected.

Take these 4 steps for the most protection.

\*Wear masks

\*Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated places

\*Stay 6 feet apart

\*Wash your hands

## From your Treasurer

I guess this is Happy New Year time for our Newsletter articles. I certainly hope that 2021 is a bit different from 2020.

I would like to thank all of the units for their continued support of the many organizations we support each year. I know it was difficult to meet goals set at the first of the year when we never expected to be unable to meet in person for the year. As a district we were able to meet our Pledge to Missions goals. This was due to the funds we received from the conference during the year which was not used for our normal operations. But to have the funds returned to the conference and then to go toward our missions is a great accomplishment considering the circumstances of the year.

Below is a reminder of what the donations we made are used for after they are sent to the national office. Plus, a reminder of what we are all working for:

*United Methodist Women:*

*Turning Financial Gifts into Miracles for Women, Children and Youth*

*United Methodist Women is trusted with pledges and donations from individual members and local member organizations, as well as mission partners and anonymous donors who have a heart for mission. We support programs in the United States and around the world that benefit women, children and youth - thereby impacting entire communities. As an agency of The United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women abides by the social principles and discipline as determined by General Conference, giving only to projects in accordance with those guidelines.*

Once again, thanks to all of you for helping us make it through the most unusual year I think any of us have seen.

Please remain safe and healthy, if you need any information please just email or call me for assistance.

*Patsy June*, treasurer

520-444-1364

[pjune6@cox.net](mailto:pjune6@cox.net)



## Voices from the Field

*Voices from the Field*

“Hope Amidst the Pandemic”

**Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. ET virtual via Zoom**



*Wesley Community & Health Centers staff, ready to vaccinate. Photo Courtesy of Wesley Community & Health Centers*

The quarterly *Voices from the Field* events feature leaders sharing their work and life stories, daily challenges, hopes and dreams. This conversation series highlights United Methodist Women initiatives supported by Mission Giving, initiatives that significantly improve the lives of women, children and youth around the world.

On Thursday, March 9, at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time, meet Wesley Community & Health Centers, Phoenix, Arizona and The Bethlehem Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee to hear about the ways these two National Mission Institutions have responded to their communities' needs and addressed the COVID-19 crisis this past year. A Q&A session will follow the presentations.

Register [here](#).

Don't miss the opportunity to join the *Voices from the Field* virtual event on March 9 to find out more about the national work of United Methodist Women. Learn from people who are transforming their communities and how you, through Mission Giving, make a difference.

If the registration link does not work for you, please copy and paste this text into your browser window:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsd-CqqispEtyuybWXB4PMmFEKP8KI3zbd>

Please save the email confirmation you will receive after registration; the message will contain your personal link to the event and information about joining by phone, tablet or computer.

We look forward to seeing you on March 9!

## From your Conference Vice President



### Virtual - Spiritual Growth Retreat

**Saturday, March 20 10:00 am to 3:00 (Arizona time)**

**Cost: \$10.00**

**Led by Pastor Ann Lyter** the pastor serving at Scottsdale UMC. She appreciates the laughter we all need in our lives and shares it with her congregation each year on a special Sunday. She will lead us through scripture, clean jokes, break out discussions, and songs. (on mute of course). Ann has not led a retreat before with Holy Humor but is looking forward to this opportunity.



**Register Now At link below: REGISTRATION CLOSES ON MONDAY MARCH 15!**

[2021 UMW Retreat - Holy Humor - Desert Southwest Conference \(dscumc.org\)](https://dscumc.org)

**We want you to send us pictures of your feet in funny slippers. (The ones you got for Christmas) ahead of time. Any slippers will do. Be creative. Funny Socks are OK too!**

**Take a picture of your feet on your phone and send to the email below:**

[Jones.sensei@gmail.com](mailto:Jones.sensei@gmail.com) Christine Jones will compile a video of our silly feet.



**For Questions about the retreat call: Kathy Schock – 480- 695-3712**

**Cyndi Heinecke REGISTRAR- 928 970-0864**



## THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH CORNER



The season of Lent is a pilgrimage. In thinking about what it means and how I would approach it, I went to two authors. I'm borrowing and paraphrasing from them in trying to communicate to you what I learned.

Lent is not undertaken to give up a tiny portion of our excess as if it were a sacrifice, but to exchange our way of seeing ourselves and the world for God's way point of view. It is to recognize the poor, the alien and even our neighbor differently. (Ray Buckley, *Hard To Dance with the Devil on Your Back*, an Adult Lenten Study, 2010)

We have hope in the Resurrection only to the extent of our remorse for our waywardness. (Cole Arthur Riley, podcast) Lent is a time of wearing the ashes, of believing, trusting and hoping. It is knowing that no stone is too big to be moved.

This came recently from a publication of the United Methodist Church:

"Admitting we are wrong and saying we're sorry can be difficult, but it is integral to our faith journeys.

The church word for this is repentance. In addition to saying we're sorry, true repentance includes a renewed commitment to a better way.

When we repent, we turn away from sin and toward God.

This is our [Lenten] journey—both individually and collectively. We recognize our personal and institutional sin and work to end it in our lives and in our communities.

The season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday, on February 17. It is a time for personal [and collective] repentance.

As the U.S. celebrates Black History Month, the church continues to wrestle with and repent of our complicity in the sin of systemic racism."

It is also a good time for each of us to pause, think back over our lives. Recall any encounters you have had, good or bad, with people of different ethnic groups, different skin tone, different beliefs. Examine those encounters under your own eye, as honestly as possible. Is there anything you can now see as perhaps prejudiced, unjust, and unkind? If so, write these down and pray over them. Then consider: what do you need to change in going forward? How might you make amends with those you mistreated - or, if that is no longer possible, with those like them to whom you could confess and ask their forgiveness and show your sincerity?

Lent is one of the greatest opportunities God gives us for true spiritual growth, for deepening our relationship with God. It is up to us whether to take advantage of it or squander it. Savor the blessing!!

*Christine Maglott*, spiritual growth coordinator

## From your Leadership Team

South District United Methodist Women still needs help filling the following leadership positions:

Vice President of Programming  
Chair, Committee of Nominations  
& at least 4 additional members  
Social Action Coordinator  
Educating Members for Mission Coordinator  
Communication Coordinator



Please search your heart and pray about this. It's really difficult to operate a district with these key positions vacant.

**See Form below to nominate a United Methodist Woman for one of the vacant offices—You may also nominate yourself!!!!**

**WE NEED YOU!!!!**

### Current Leadership Team

Erin Fly, president-575-635-3330  
Clara Campbell, secretary-520-297-6669  
Patsy June, treasurer-520-444-1364  
Christine Maglott, spiritual growth coordinator-520-393-7427  
Pam Down, member of committee on nominations-616-648-0521



## 2021 UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- March 9,** “Hope Amidst the Pandemic”-virtual via Zoom
- March 20,** Virtual Spiritual Growth Retreat-Holy Humor  
Registration deadline March 15
- March 23,** Annual Legacy Day of Giving
- March 28,** Palm Sunday
- March 30,** Annual Unit Survey (formerly census) due to National
- April 4,** Easter Sunday
- April 17,** South District Leadership Team Meeting
- June 10-13,** Desert Southwest Conference Church Conference-Mesa, AZ  
(May be via Zoom)
- August 7,** South District Leadership Team Meeting
- September 11,** South District Leadership Team Meeting
- October 9,** Conference United Methodist Women Joint  
Annual Celebration
- October 23,** Conference United Methodist Women Leadership  
Development with district leaders

### Mini Mission u’s-all Virtual

- June 25-26,** *Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence,*  
Study Leader - Rachel Mosher
- July 23-24,** *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in  
Schools,* Study Leader - Billie Fidlin
- August 13-14,** *Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the  
Church’s Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship,*



THE LEGACY FUND  
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN



## An Irish Prayer

May God give you...  
For every storm, a rainbow,  
For every tear, a smile,  
For every care, a promise,  
And a blessing in each trial.  
For every problem life sends,  
A faithful friend to share,  
For every sigh, a sweet song,  
And an answer for each prayer.

## An Easter Prayer

May the glory  
and the promise  
of this joyous time of year  
bring peace  
and happiness to you  
and those you hold most dear.

And may Christ,  
Our Risen Savior,  
always be there by your side  
to bless you  
most abundantly

and be your loving guide.

- *Author Unknown*

