

West District Cactus Patch



President Colleen Becker

Published for United Methodist Women

March 2021

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West District announces their theme for 2021: "Season of Change"

"There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven..." (3:1)

*"...a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time to make peace."*

~ Ecclesiastes 3: 1, 7-8



BIG CHANGES COMING TO WEST DISTRICT EVENTS

The new 2021 West District Directory is going to be DIGITAL this year. Get your information to me as soon as possible or expect a phone call. The directory will be published online and each unit will run off their own copies should they want a paper copy.

The 2021 West District is undergoing corrections now. I am sending corrected copy all leadership teams, both Conference and all Districts, United Presidents and Secretaries. Additional copies will be sent to anyone contacting: westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
DESERT SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE
WEST DISTRICT

2021 LOCAL ORGANIZATION CALENDAR

All of these events are dependent upon decisions made by the leadership of the Desert Southwest Conference according to the current pandemic conditions.

Desert Southwest United Methodist Women Spring Spiritual Retreat

ZOOM retreat in your own home
Information in this newsletter

March 20–21, 2021

Day of Giving 150th Anniversary

March 23, 2021

West District Finance Meeting – Financial review and goal setting

April 24, 2021

Cactus Patch Articles Due

May 15, 2021

Desert Southwest Annual Conference

June 10–13, 2021

Mission u, via Zoom

June 25-26, July 23-24, & August 13-14, 2021

Cactus Patch Articles Due

August 15, 2021

West District Annual Celebration

October 2, 2021
West District Host

Desert Southwest Conference Annual Celebration

October 22 - 23, 2021
West District Host

Cactus Patch Articles Due

November 15, 2021

Please send Cactus Patch articles to Cheryl Buchholtz: westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com.



Please be with the family and friends of Mary Barefoot, Gila Mountain United Methodist Church, Yuma as they continue to mourn her loss. Mary was a faithful member of Gila Mountain United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women. Everyone who knew Mary was blessed by her friendship.

Conversation with Colleen

United Methodist Women DSC WD president Colleen

cbecker14@cox.net



Now that the LDD training is over, I am sure all of you officers at the local level feel perfectly confident in your jobs. Of course, your district officers are just a phone call away to help you in any way you need. It was inspiring to hear so many of your units were able to accomplish so many goals to earn certificates of recognition. Last year was definitely not an easy time to do the many projects that all of you normally do.

I hope by now someone in your unit has completed the annual census. It is so easy. Just go to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and click on the census box. Answer the questions and go to the bottom of the form and submit. You will receive a reply thanking you for completing the census. If you need any assistance call me and I can help you. Or let me know your numbers and I can submit for you. You need the number of total members, number of new members, and number that are no longer a member that was reported last year. Let's try to have 100% of West District units reported this year. Please complete as soon as possible but definitely before March 30.

Coming up in March will be a Conference Retreat. It is Holy Humor and promises to be a fun time. Registration is only \$10.00. This will be by zoom from 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. on March 20. Registration closes on March 15 so don't miss out.

We are still needing some district officers. If you have a desire to become an officer, please contact me. We need help on the nominating committee and also a Social Action Chairman. These are very rewarding positions and we also have fun planning our meetings each year.

Hope you have a joyous Easter.

Blessings,

Colleen Becker, West District president

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.

Chatter with Christine

United Methodist Women DSC WD vice president
Glendale United Methodist Church
jones.sensei@gmail.com



Information about the Desert Southwest Conference Virtual Spring Retreat!



A time to relax, have fun, laugh., sing and learn the importance of Holy Humor in our lives. Led by Rev. Ann Lyter of Scottsdale UMC. Cost: \$10.00

During this time of confusion and unrest, I urge all women of the United Methodist Church to join us at this retreat. We can all use a little humor in our lives right now - so click on the link below to register (no later than March 15th) It is a ZOOM retreat so you can attend in the safety of your own home.

<https://dscumc.org/secure/2021-umw-retreat-holy-humor/>

We are asking you to put on your funny slippers you got for Christmas to wear to this event. We would love to show a video of those funny feet on our Slipper Cam so take a picture and email to: Christine Jones at jones.sensei@gmail.com by Monday, March 15, NO LATER....

So - dig out those funny slippers, take a picture and send it to Christine at the above email address and let's join together in this look at Holy Humor in our lives today.

All are invited to attend. We hope to see you there.

In His hands,
Christine Jones, First United Methodist Church-Glendale

Chit Chat with Cheryl

United Methodist Women DSC WD
Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix
westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com



Ladies, this is a "repeat" of the article I put in the last issue. I am reposting because I was hoping to hear from our members about how we can encourage our membership to read the *Cactus Patch* each time it comes out. Let's see if we can get some suggestions from our members to encourage reading and sharing of our West District Newsletter, the *Cactus Patch*.

Reprinted from the December 2020 Cactus Patch

It has been brought to my attention that the Cactus Patch is not being read by many of our membership. How do I know? Because the email program "tattles" on us. I get statistics about how many open the newsletter, click on the links we add, or just simply delete. The Cactus Patch is a time intensive effort to supply our members with information about Desert Southwest Conference and West District events and programs, reports from the units and what our National United Methodist Women are involved in to make a difference in our world. Please bring this to your unit's attention and ask them to share what we can do to make the newsletter more interesting to the membership.

It is very important that we find ways to encourage our ladies to open and share the Cactus Patch. Here are a few ideas:

- Run off a few copies to share at the unit meetings and circle gatherings.
- Deliver a printed copy to those women who cannot attend meetings.
- Assign someone from the meeting to share an article or two from the current issue.
- Make sure when an event is approaching that requires registrations that the information is shared right from the Cactus Patch - especially giving everyone enough time to plan to attend.
- We need to share our enthusiasm about United Methodist Women - we are a force to be reckoned with and we need to support everything we can that our society stands for. Many people across the globe depend on us.

Good luck. I am counting on you to share the Cactus Patch and your findings from your discussions with your membership.

Cheryl Buchholtz, West District secretary and communications coordinator

\$\$\$\$ Money Matters \$\$\$\$

United Methodist Women DSC, WD

Michele Justice, West District Treasurer, Liberty



Dear West District members of United Methodist Women,

Greetings and may good health and grace be with you this New Year! I am grateful to have survived 2020 and saddened by so many who we have lost. My little church lost six this past year, and one was our Lay Leader, it has been a very trying and somber year for many of us. Financially it was a struggle as well, but many of you

were able to contribute more than your pledge for 2020 which enabled the West District to pay to the Desert Southwest Conference, \$2,000.00 over our Pledged amount. United Methodist Women are courageous, hearty, strong, caring, compassionate and filled with the Spirit of the Lord and will continue to do our good works locally, nationally and across this world regardless of the obstacles that come our way! Our Zoom annual celebration was a joyful and well attended event which is a testament to our resilience and ability to meet challenges as they come before us.

News ! News ! News ! Some changes are coming! The National Office has developed and changed some of our reporting forms, and I will mail and email them to all West District treasurers this year. You can go on the national website and download them as well. If you need the new forms, please just drop me an email or give me a call and let me know. The new forms are easier to use! But it is something we need to learn and that is what keeps us young, engaged and challenged!

Blessings and good health to all.

Your sister in Christ,

Michele Justice, treasurer
West District United Methodist Women

Spiritual Growth

United Methodist Women DSC, WD

Jen Kistler, West District spiritual coordinator, Trinity United Methodist Women, Phoenix

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17, 2021 and ends 40 days later on Holy Saturday, April 3, 2021. Lent ends with Holy Week which leads to Easter Sunday - the most important day in the Christian Calendar. This day marks the resurrection of Jesus after his death on the cross and this is a celebration of his life. Traditionally, during Lent we are to "give up" something as a sacrifice for the sacrifice Christ made for us on the cross. Or, we can choose to "add something" to our day. We are suggesting that you might add an additional prayer each day during Lent...a prayer for a specific person or cause. To help you in this exercise, we are including a list you might wish to use for these prayers.



40 prayers for 40 days

During Lent, let's find time to talk with God. Every day, we'll pray for someone different!

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ✝ Feb 18: your pastor | ✝ Feb 19: your classmates | ✝ Feb 20: someone who is sick |
| ✝ Feb 21: your teachers | ✝ Feb 22: your neighbor | ✝ Feb 23: a new friend |
| ✝ Feb 24: your pet | ✝ Feb 25: someone who is lonely or sad | ✝ Feb 26: your mom and dad |
| ✝ Feb 27: Pope Francis | ✝ Feb 28: your school principal | ✝ Mar 1: your grandparents |
| ✝ Mar 2: nuns and brothers | ✝ Mar 3: a new kid at school | ✝ Mar 4: senior citizens |
| ✝ Mar 5: the homeless | ✝ Mar 6: Bishop Cunningham | ✝ Mar 7: your godparents |
| ✝ Mar 8: police and firefighters | ✝ Mar 9: someone who feels left out | ✝ Mar 10: all Catholic school students |
| ✝ Mar 11: those who are suffering | ✝ Mar 12: Faith formation leaders | ✝ Mar 13: those who are hungry |
| ✝ Mar 14: your friends from church | ✝ Mar 15: men and women in the military + veterans | ✝ Mar 16: adults who are unemployed and seeking a job |
| ✝ Mar 17: children waiting to be adopted | ✝ Mar 18: your brothers and sisters | ✝ Mar 19: someone who has hurt your feelings |
| ✝ Mar 20: doctors and nurses | ✝ Mar 21: someone who is scared | ✝ Mar 22: your best friend |
| ✝ Mar 23: your coaches | ✝ Mar 24: someone that has passed away | ✝ Mar 25: kids living in a place of war |
| ✝ Mar 26: all priests + deacons | ✝ Mar 27: the volunteers at your church | ✝ Mar 28: moms and dads that have lost a child |
| ✝ Mar 29: newborn babies | ✝ Mar 30: kids that have a sick mom or dad | ✝ Mar 31: laypeople at your church |
| ✝ April 1: all of the saints | ✝ April 2: your teammates | ✝ April 3: our world leaders |
| ✝ April 4: your own personal intention | ✝ April 5: your relationship with Jesus! | |



Education for Mission

United Methodist Women DSC WD

Susan Briner, Lakeview United Methodist Church



This information comes from <https://dscumc.org/united-methodist-women/> and explains the importance of staying educated about the issues facing our world today.

Transformative Education

United Methodist Women provides educational experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the world.

Mission needs to be carried out with education, preparation, action and advocacy, and mutual learning and partnerships.

- **Mission u** educates 20,000 United Methodists each year through the Mission u studies.
- Books and other publications educate members on spiritual growth, social issues, and geographic areas.
- The Seminar Program provides custom designed, interactive and educational seminars throughout the year for groups to study complex social issues from a perspective of faith.
- The Reading Program offers thought-provoking books for reflection and discussion.
- The Ubuntu Explorers program enables women in the United States to partner with women around the world to experience others' lives on a short-term basis.
- National events incorporate education and action for laywomen, such as the quadrennial Assembly, legislative events, and National Seminar.

United Methodist Women do their local and global mission work by using the venue of this organization as a way to do their outreach. The work is already done for us, all we have to do is plug into the activities that we wish to be involved in.

Blessings,
Susan Briner

Program Resources, Janet Rummel

United Methodist Women DSC WD

giraffejanet@hotmail.com

This is information about the reading program that was in the most recent copy of the conference newsletter, *Southwest Winds*. It was submitted by Caroline Kidd and goes over the most recent changes to the reading program. Please read and share with others! ~ Janet

Changes in the 2021 Reading Program

Caroline Kidd, secretary of program resources

Many of you have realized that the United Methodist Women's Reading Program has had some changes beginning in 2021. Hopefully, I can clarify these differences and explain that some things stay the same.

- The new reading program books combine 2021-22. The reason for this seems to be that the national office has been closed and, therefore, it was difficult to get books in the hands of the evaluators. Even so, for 2021, books from 2016-2021 can be counted; and for 2022, books from 2017-2022 may be included on reporting form.
- [Faith Talks](#) can also be counted in the Spiritual Growth category. You must participate or listen to three Faith Talks podcasts and the trio will count as two books in the category Spiritual Growth.
- Mission U books and Bonus Books count as two books in different categories.

The 2020-2021 Reading List may be downloaded by this link: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>.

Nominations Report - Vicki Keel

United Methodist Women DSC WD

Vlkeel55@gmail.com

Much has happened since my last article. We had our district training which was a new experience for me. Training on Zoom was interesting. I look forward to it being in-person next year.

I sent a copy of the training to all the churches. If yours didn't have a designated nominations person then I mailed it to the president. I recommend that someone reviews the timeline.

I look forward to getting to know the ladies from the churches I am the Shepherdess for better. It's inspiring what they are accomplishing even during the pandemic.

One thing that hasn't changed is that we still need a nominations committee!
As I have said before, one thing you can do is to reach out to peers, check in and find out what their aspirations are as far as becoming a future officer and of course ask if they know of someone who may be considering it or feels called to help.

Better yet, consider becoming a member of the nominations committee yourself!
There are four district meetings to attend. You could, like me, find that our organization has some amazing women in leadership.

I also ask that you reach out to other members in your circle or your church and encourage them to consider joining the nominations committee.

I would love to hear from you. Let's step out in faith together to ensure United Methodist Women continues for another 150 years and that West District thrives.

Blessings,

Vicki Keel

Chair of Nominations

"2021 MISSION u Studies -

**Delivered to your home at "no charge" -
All Are Welcome!**

June 25-26, 2021

"Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence"

Youth and young adult study

Study leader: Rachel Mosher

July 23 - 24, 2021

"Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School"

Study Leader: Billie Fidlin

Saturday, August 13-14, 2021

"Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living in the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship"

Study Leader: Dior DeSormeau

We hope to see you all there!

Janette Gann, Mission u dean

Jgann1329@gmail.com

480-980-1329

Billie Larmie, Mission u assistant dean



SAVE THE DATE

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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9678123456?pwd=QWVudGZlYmF1dDZkdjR1cUJpdz09>

We look forward to seeing you on March 9!

Jessica Tulloch
& the Mission Giving Promotion Team



The Cactus Patch "Town Crier"



We invite any and all United Methodist Women to share their ideas and their activities with each other in the next issue of the Cactus Patch.

Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix

Submitted by Cheryl Buchholtz

We may have been on Virus Vacation but we are **NOT CLOSED**. Our mission work continues as we just had a 2021 Pledge Service via email sending our pledges into our treasurer. We are also engaged in a member-led Wellness class on most Friday morning. It is being led by Deb Herrmann and Elaine Baldridge and we are using a book by Sanjay Gupta for our study. It is titled **Keep Sharp: Build a Better Brain at Any Age**. Our first class was based on the Importance of Sleep. I strongly suggest you read the book; it will change your life. Other classes will focus on the Miracle of Movement, Power of Purpose, Learning and Discovery, The Need for Sleep and Relaxation, Food for Thought (Nutrition) and Connection for Protection (being with others).



New Song United Methodist Women, Surprise

Submitted by Kimi Ivey, communications

The United Methodist Women of New Song United Methodist Church, Surprise, met for the first time this January 2021, since the pandemic closed the church doors in 2020. Despite hesitation at the events going on about us, the members present were excited to get our group going again and to have the fellowship that we all have craved.

Even though we could not meet formally, our circles did their part in spreading comfort and joy over the holidays. The Dabblers continued to make cards for various church members and others; our Needlers made quilts for the church's annual Thanksgiving and Christmas food and toy drive for families in our community. Knit Wits continued to share prayer shawls per request with whomever asked. All in all, we were busy despite being apart!

Our church celebrated United Methodist Women Sunday in January with members serving at various positions for the service. Our officers were also installed that day. We continue to make plans for the year, only not so far in advance as the past. As of this note, we have had our annual fundraiser; it was called Souper Bowl Sunday and involved the sale of homemade soups by members to church attendees and friends. It was a roaring success or should I say we definitely scored a touchdown! Plans are already in the making for this to be an annual event.

For now, we thank God for a safe place to meet and praise Him for the blessings He has given us. We will take it one month at a time and do what we can, when we can, for as long as we are able.

Gila Mountain United Methodist Church, Yuma, AZ

Submitted by: Sherry Lehl, president

I don't know where the time goes but it's Cactus Patch time again.

In past years we would have completed a very successful fundraiser at this time, our annual December Christmas Tea and Craft sale, and we would now be in full swings preparing for our annual Spring Mission Luncheon fundraiser held the second Saturday in March. But we have not been living in comfortable, familiar times for many, many months now. Instead, we are drifting afloat in some very murky, troubled waters, as I'm sure all of our United Methodist Women everywhere are.

So we, here at Gila Mountain, are just trying to stay safe at home, hold meetings via ZOOM, and prayerfully looking forward to some better days to come when we can once again meet in person, have some fun, food, and fellowship, and have some fundraisers to help support our missions.

Until next time, have a blessed day.



Prescott United Methodist Women



We have so much to share with you! We celebrated our many successes of 2020 in helping others locally and around the world. We donated \$4,016.76 in Designated and Undesignated funds, and \$6,212.72 to local mission projects, including the Navajo Water Project sponsored by the conference, for a total of \$10,229.50. In January we received our Five-Star Giving Certificate for 2019 and expect to receive another one for 2020. Not bad for a Unit of 17 women!

We now focus on this year of personal nurturing - referred to as organic spirituality, our personal strength and spirituality building. Centering this year around the theme - the Serenity Prayer - it is time to reconnect, regain strength and spirit, bring joy and peace back as our mainstay. Time to refresh spiritually through our thoughts with sharing and caring from months of isolation. As women we know how to nurture others, but we put ourselves last. How can we nurture and support others if we do not take time to refresh and renew? Some healing is in order!

Each quarter we take one segment (Serenity, Acceptance, Courage, Wisdom) and immerse ourselves in great discussions, scriptures that give guidance, activities, and creative encouragement to nurture our faith and our souls as a Community of Care. This began with the Mission u weekend using the book *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*. It is this mission forward with what we CAN do rather than what we cannot. *Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. Proverbs 16:3.* We took this to heart!

Our meetings feel like "home," as I heard someone say, as we now ensure time for open discussion and sharing as a key part of our programs in our current Zoom-side chats. You know when you sit down with your best friend and just have that great talk! The sense of peacefulness, serenity, and love that you feel when you part company again after that is priceless. The perfect lead into Women's History Month in March when we plan a special Saturday meeting and special guests. Next - Acceptance - embrace that!

A couple of the circles have monthly zoom meetings with a program and devotion and the information from the Mission team. Not everyone joins the zoom meeting, so a recap of the meetings with all the information is sent out by email. Other circles send out a circle meeting via email and others make calls. Not everyone has a computer or is comfortable with zoom, but we work hard to make sure everyone gets the information.

We are keeping in touch with everyone and that's what counts!



Willowbrook United Methodist Women

The year 2020 was a difficult year for everyone. We at Willowbrook worked very hard to keep a somewhat normalcy with our United Methodist Women activities.

For our monthly Unit meeting each month, the vice president sends out the entire program via email to all members. This is taken from the program book. Great information and lots of information like we are together. A few of us attended the mini Mission u this January. It is nice seeing other United Methodist Women members from churches that we have previously met. The many meetings and classes in zoom have been very helpful to all of us at Willowbrook.



Willowbrook United Methodist Women put on a virtual tea in lieu of the annual tea presented every December

Handmade invitations were sent out to all members of the United Methodist Women plus around 30+ guests, inviting them to a virtual tea, sale of cookies made by the members and bidding of baskets. This is the big fundraiser for the year, so we worked as hard as we could to compensate for what Covid-19 prevented us from doing.

On December 4th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am in the outside courtyard of the church, we decorated and set up tables with 13 baskets with safe distance for observing and then bidding. Further into the courtyard were two tables of cookies in beautiful window boxes decorated with a sticker and ribbon. Many boxes of 1½ dozen or 3 dozen were for sale. Huge success, all boxes were bought! Many women worked hours baking lots of Christmas cookies. A dozen or more boxes were set aside to be delivered to shut-ins. At 2:00 that afternoon each person was to do what they felt comfortable doing by having tea with a friend or friends, by yourself on the phone or zoom. There was a tea bag in each invite to use as we continue our good works in this new year .



We had five men who are usually servers at the tea helping out with the delivery of cookies and baskets that people had bought or won.

We are hoping we don't have to do this again in 2021, but we know we can do it. All went smoothly and all had a great time. We actually matched the money we get at the in-person tea, but much more work!



At LDD training in January, five secretaries from East District joined us for training. During the course of the training, there was a lot of sharing about unique fundraisers United Methodist Women did during the COVID VACATION to continue to support missions. Here are some of the ideas shared by that team of ladies. These activities were suggested by Sun Lakes United Methodist Women.

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to hold our annual Christmas Cookie Walk. This is the main fund raiser for our mission work. We asked for support for the Sun Lakes United Methodist Women's mission projects that are community-based, national and international, including Justa Center, Hope Center for Women and Children, Wesley Center, United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM) and United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).