

# West District Cactus Patch

Wearing a mask is a practical way to show that you love your neighbor, to lift the burden of someone who is afraid instead of adding to it."



President Colleen Becker

Published for United Methodist Women

September 2021

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**"COME ALONG,  
FOLLOW & HOLD FAST"**  
Sat., Oct. 9, 2021  
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**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*

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.

**Joint Desert Southwest Conference Annual Celebration and West District Annual Celebration** **October 9, 2021**  
Conference/Districts Leadership Co-Hosts  
(see article in this Cactus Patch with more details for the Annual Celebrations)

**District Officer Training** **Saturday, October 23, 2021**

**Cactus Patch Articles Due** **November 15, 2021**

Please send Cactus Patch articles to Cheryl Buchholtz: [westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com](mailto:westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com).

**CHANGES CAME TO WEST DISTRICT DIRECTORY**

The new 2021 West District Directory is DIGITAL this year. Do you need a copy of the 2021 West Directory? Just let me know... Additional copies will be sent to anyone contacting: [westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com](mailto:westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com) ~ Cheryl

Please send me any additions of corrections at:

[westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com](mailto:westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com)



A huge thank-you to everyone who worked on the Mission u team. We all know that these programs take much training, planning, and work to implement the studies. Special gratitude to Janette Gann, Billie Laraine, Rachel Mosher, Billie Fidlin, and Dior DeSormeau. Those of us who attended this year's sessions were the real winners. Thank you so much.

## *Conversation with Colleen*

Colleen Becker, United Methodist Women DSC WD president

[cbecker14@cox.net](mailto:cbecker14@cox.net)

I just received an email from Cheryl Buchholtz that it is time to send her an article for Cactus Patch. Even though we have not had in-person meetings many zoom meetings have been taking place. Plans are under way for Annual Celebrations in October. Again, this year we will have a combined virtual meeting with conference and the other three districts. A few changes are being made. Each district will have their own break-out session for district business. We will approve next year's budget, the nominations report, present district awards, and recognize memorial names. We will then rejoin the group for conference business meeting, speaker, and worship. The speaker this year will be Gloria Kimbwa. Registration will be starting soon.

Vicki Keel tells me we have many opportunities available for new officers to serve on the West District team. We only have four planning meetings a year. This is a very rewarding and fun way to fulfill the purpose of United Methodist Women. Not only do we work closely with the local units from each church in the district but we develop close relationships with the other members of the team. I hope you will think about and pray about how you could make a difference in the lives of other women, children, and youth.

Looking forward to seeing all of you, on zoom, on October 9 for Annual Celebration.

Prayers and hugs to all.

Blessings to all of you.

Colleen Becker, West District president United Methodist Women  
First United Methodist Church, Sun City

### **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*, [jones.sensei@gmail.com](mailto:jones.sensei@gmail.com)

Christine Jones, United Methodist Women DSC WD vice president  
First Glendale United Methodist Church

**"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." -Galatians 6:9**

This summer has been a busy one. Mission u was thought provoking, involved, and active. I was able to attend, and help, with all three of the summer Mission u studies. There were a lot of really interesting lessons, great discussion, and intense reminders of how important it is to love your neighbor as yourself.

I also offered an adult VBS study on *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*, where we made Anglican Prayer Beads, learned Laughter Yoga, Walking Prayer Meditation, and eight other ways to center ourselves in prayer. And all of that was on top of really studying the Serenity Prayer.

I am taking a lot of what I have learned over this past summer to offer programs with my local unit. I am planning a movie and discussion night centered on the Pushout study, a Saturday morning Laughter Yoga exercise, a workshop on recognizing scammers, and my unit is making prayer beads in October. Program ideas are all around us! If you have seen or participated in a program that really moved you, consider passing it forward. We learn from each other!

Our Annual Conference is coming up soon. Be sure to save the date October 9. The theme is "Come Along, Follow, and Hold Fast." Have you ever considered doing a program on the purpose of our Annual Conference? I am certain there are members who don't know what it is for! We are doing this year's conference jointly with the West District Annual Celebration. If you want to know more about Annual Celebration, consider inviting your shepherdess out to your next meeting and learn more!

Keep sharing ideas.

God Bless you and keep you safe as we move into September.

**Christine Jones**

**United Methodist Women DSC WD vice president**

**Glendale United Methodist Church**

**A special thank you to Christine for handling the media during the Mission u study sessions. She will be performing the same jobs during the joint Desert Southwest and District annual meetings in October. Thank you, Christine!**

## Chit Chat with Cheryl

Cheryl Buchholtz, United Methodist Women DSC WD secretary & communications coordinator  
Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix  
westsecBuchholtz@yahoo.com

### THE KEY WORD RIGHT NOW IS FLEXIBILITY.

A problem facing many units today is finding enough people to fill positions on the leadership team.

There are times when local units have trouble filling the offices on the leadership team. When this happens, it is up to your group to determine how mission tasks and functions should be carried out through various leadership roles. These roles can be determined after assessing your context and needs. Some groups are evaluating and streamlining or combining roles and tasks. Some have found a team approach helpful to share leadership, **PLAN AND IMPLEMENT YOUR PROGRAM.**

Shared leadership might include experienced, new, and emerging leaders for short time periods for specific tasks in positions that are not tenured. Other groups function well with elected and tenured leadership roles that have been in place for many years. This flexibility respects the diversity of United Methodist Women members, their varied contexts and leadership needs.

## Membership Care

Barbara Kelton, United Methodist Women DSC WD membership care

Membership has started a drive to communicate with the individual United Methodist Women membership coordinators. We are gathering the names of our Christian sisters who passed away in the year of 2021. A letter has been sent and we will follow up with phone calls. All the Memorial List Reports are due September 1st. Only two have responded to date. It will be great to meet up again at the District Meeting in September!

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

Michele Justice, United Methodist Women DSC, WD treasurer  
Liberty United Methodist Church

Dear West District United Methodist Women:

Another quarter of the year has managed to fly right on by! Whew!! Why is it that time seems so fleeting these days? Maybe just because it takes me longer to put on my shoes and to not forget what I was going to do? The fall season is nearly upon us and I, for one am ready for it. Financially, West District is holding steady for the year but there are several United Methodist Women units (seven of us) that have not submitted any portion of their pledge for this year. (and I am sorry to say that my local unit, of which I am the treasurer, is one) so please join me in sending in a portion of your annual commitment by September so the report to conference won't look too meager! In our proposed West District budget for 2022, West District has managed to maintain the budgeted pledge amount to be the same as 2021 and I am confident that we will, once again, with the commitment by all West District United Methodist Women units, meet our pledged amount.

If you have any questions regarding the new forms. Please give me a call or send me an email and we will work thru them together.

Your sister in Christ,

Michele Justice  
623-692-7101

[SGBD2@outlook.com](mailto:SGBD2@outlook.com)

Is your unit having problems coming up with programming that holds the interest of your membership? CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES ON THE WOMEN'S PAGES OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WEBSITE. <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/programs-events>



### **The Kitchen**

The United Methodist Women Kitchen is one of those places where we organize to ensure that all are fed, both literally and figuratively. How are you organizing locally to make things happen in a new way? Resources will help you rethink your outreach and "cook up" fresh ideas



## Program Resources

Janet Rummel, United Methodist Women DSC WD secretary of program resources  
[giraffejanet@hotmail.com](mailto:giraffejanet@hotmail.com)

It is hard to believe that half of 2021 is over.  
How is your unit doing with their reading?

I would like to call to your attention the Faith Talks podcast done for United Methodist Women. Just go online to Faith Talks Podcast for United Methodist Women.

This is a monthly podcast on various subjects. Most of the sessions are about one hour long. If you participate or listen to three of these podcast it will count as two books in the Spiritual Growth category for the current year.

Mission U books and bonus books count as two books.

I know most of our units do not meet during the summer, so I would be happy to hear when your next Unit or Circle meetings will be held.

Stay well and blessings to you as we plan for the remainder of 2021.

Janet Rummel  
Program Resources

## Nominations Report

Vicki Keel, United Methodist Women DSC WD chair of committee on nominations  
[Vlkeel55@gmail.com](mailto:Vlkeel55@gmail.com)

As I write this, our world is STILL changing! Although many of our churches have returned to in person services; some of us may have become apprehensive with the surge in COVID cases due to the Delta variant. I am so thankful for my fellow United Methodist Women sisters who keep my spirits up and are great sounding boards for my concerns (some by text).

On a personal note, I also recommend checking out the archived Faith Talks on [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org) or check it out wherever you get your Podcasts. Topics are thought provoking and help remind me of the bigger picture.

I would love to hear from you if you have heard any of the talks or even to share

resources and websites you use. Also, please read and share the Cactus Patch with all your members.

We are always on the lookout for West District officers (you may remember from my prior articles). We still need a chair for Social Justice. We will soon need a President, Secretary, and Spiritual Growth. Please prayerfully consider stepping up for one of these all-important roles.

Great news! The Committee on Nominations does have some confirmed acceptances for 2022 as of the time of this article but we can still use additional members. I want to thank the presidents who have responded to my emails and calls. The biggest time commitment is attending the quarterly district meetings. If someone has reached out to you, I hope you'll consider it. You can also reach out to me if you would like to know more.

As I've said before **Our New Normal** may look a little different- but it will always include us - the United Methodist Women! I look forward to seeing you (even if it's on Zoom) and even greeting a few of you as part of our future leadership team.

Let's ensure that our United Methodist Women organization continues for another 150 years and that our West District thrives. Please email or call!

Blessings, Vicki Keel, chair of nominations  
Email [vkeel55@gmail.com](mailto:vkeel55@gmail.com)

## *Education for Mission*

Susan Briner, United Methodist Women DSC WD, education for mission coordinator  
Lakeview United Methodist Church

Many of you have asked what my job is on the District Team. I can tell you, that next to the Nominations Committee, I consider this job to be one of the most important jobs in United Methodist Women.

**WHY? Because "Mission work" is what we are all about. And this is also your job in your local unit.**

- It is our job to understand and interpret United Methodist Women mission projects and concepts of mission, working closely with the finance and program committees to ensure that members are well-informed about what happens to our gifts and what ministries are made possible through our Mission Giving;



- It is our job to promote and interpret the need for Mission Giving to fund the total mission program of United Methodist Women, including ministries with women, children, and youth, leadership development, spiritual growth, service and advocacy, and transformative education;
- To develop and promote strategies for engaging in and growing Mission Giving at all levels of United Methodist Women, including promotion of the Five Channels of Mission Giving;
- To inform United Methodist Women members of transformative education and leadership development opportunities such as Mission u and Leadership Development Days;
- To promote mission studies, local mission opportunities, Mission u, leadership development events, spiritual growth retreats, Assembly, Ubuntu Days of Service, annual meetings and other events underwritten by Mission Giving;
- To promote and utilize United Methodist Women print, online, and audiovisual resources to tell the mission story, and ensure these resources are available for mission programs and projects;
- To work with district mission coordinators for education and interpretation, provide resources and conduct training at least annually;
- To serve on the following committees: Leadership Team, Program, Finance, and Membership.

See each of you in January for training.

Blessings,

Susan Briner

This information has been taken from the United Methodist Women web site on the internet, <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/members-leaders/responsibilities/education-interpretation>

## *Spiritual Growth*

Jen Kistler, United Methodist Women DSC WD spiritual growth coordinator  
Trinity United Methodist Church

**As spiritual growth coordinator in your local unit, you are to coordinate opportunities for spiritual and theological development as related to mission. Your jobs include:**

- serve as a member of the leadership team;
- understand and communicate the connection between personal spiritual development and mission as expressed through social and global involvement;

- organize and promote special times and events for worship, prayer, and meditation such as, A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, ecumenical worship, retreats, social action and advocacy events, and devotions at meetings;
- incorporate language and images into worship that are inclusive of and affirming to women, people of color, people with disabilities, and thoughtful toward native peoples and social climates;
- equip women to engage in and lead biblical, theological and doctrinal study, utilizing the annual spiritual growth study, issues of response magazine, United Methodist Women Program Book, Prayer Calendar, and participation in the Reading Program.
- develop and curate spiritual growth resources (e.g., devotionals, worship services, retreat ideas, books, websites, etc.) to share with other units; attend each of the following events at least once during the course of her term: Leadership Development Days, Mission u, and Assembly;
- establish relationships with local and district stakeholders (nonprofits, local churches, primary and secondary schools, etc.) that undergird the missional focus of United Methodist Women for the purpose of extending our reach and impact within our communities and the world;
- serve as contact person for district spiritual growth coordination leaders, provide resources, and conduct annual training as determined by the leadership team and maintain a database of member names, emails and addresses; and
- serve on committees as recommended by the leadership team.

I hope this information helps with your responsibilities in your local. This information can be found online at: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/members-leaders/responsibilities/spiritual-growth-coordinator>

May God keep each of you and yours safe,

Jen Kistler



Contrary to what the local town crier has been “crying” - the United Methodist Churches are NOT closed during this deadly virus pandemic. United Methodist Women are still actively engaged in learning opportunities such as Mission u and their famous reading program. Many churches are supporting ZOOM Bible studies, journaling, church services, or other forms of programs focusing on the physical and mental health of their members. Units are finding ways to raise mission money by hosting virtual pledge and installation services, virtual and email cookie and baked goods sales.

## *Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix*

Submitted by Cheryl Buchholtz, communications

This has been a very difficult year for Trinity United Methodist Women, to say the least, however, even though we have not started our Circle meetings, we have had a couple of informal gatherings at President Elaine Baldrige's home. At the present time, we are thinking about combining our Circle meetings and moving them to day meetings. This is a consideration for our members who can no longer drive at night. We have welcomed our new pastor, Rev. Bob Holliday and his wife Cheryl, and our church is hard at work planning to restart campus activities keeping everyone's safety in mind.

*"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God that he may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you." ~ 1 Peter 5:7*

## *New Song United Methodist Women, Surprise*

Submitted by Kimi Ivey, communications

Despite the hot and dry summer, the United Methodist Women of New Song UMC were going at full tilt with meetings and programs for both the ladies and church members.

Our June meeting at the church was well attended and included highlights from our circles: the Dabblers cards to show, the Needlers had prayer pocket quilts to share and Knit Wits had prayer shawls to display. Everyone present enjoyed getting details on each circle's mission as well as a wonderful program on the Call to Prayer and Self Denial.

To keep connected to all the ladies during the "summer slump" that usually occurs, a luncheon was held for the July meeting time at a local restaurant. Over twenty ladies were in attendance and enjoyed good food and fellowship.

Six ladies also attended the Zoom meeting put on by Mission u.

Our August event was an all-church movie, "Angels in Our Midst." This was advertised with a special bulletin insert and a beautiful poster designed by one of our members. It was well attended by both church members and families, despite us being unable to have our usual popcorn and drinks.

We continue to make plans for our special church wide back to school celebration "Hot Dog, It's a New Year." This will be held in September and involve our young people of all school grades.

The women of New Song United Methodist Church continue to carry on with our mission of reaching others and spreading the good news as well as encouraging other women to be all that God intended.

## *Prescott United Methodist Women*

Respectfully submitted and blessings to all,  
Cheri Hull, president

The Prescott UMW programs on Courage have been inspirational personally and collectively. We've shared heartfelt thoughts and emotions in breakout groups, and we've worked together in duo teams to develop and present programs bringing everyone together and learning so much about each other in a positive way. After months of being shut in, our first in person meeting in June, and now carried on through July and August, are a welcome relief. We said farewell this month and wished one of our sisters a safe and loving move to a new state as we gathered to shower her with love and inspiration to continue to be courageous. We looked at personal courage, courage in others and courage in ways we may not have identified as courage. September is the last of the Courage months and includes a local author speaking to her remarkable courage as a child. We look forward to Wisdom as our next topic and all that we learn about each other and ourselves - giving rise to recognition of wisdom that we may easily overlook in others and our own lives.

Our next fundraiser is set for October 2 and entitled ***All Souped Up***. We'll be selling quarts of homemade soups with artisan bread that afternoon after the Charge Conference and before our evening church service. We will also be joined by our Methodist Cruisers, antique cars, and owners from our own congregation members who enjoy and share their cars and history with the community. The funds we raise are primarily for our mission to make a big difference in childhood hunger in our community and we are per the donations to our local foodbank with children's food items and the local school!

As we begin to gain new members in our church again, we are on a drive to ensure we contact the new/prospective ladies and encourage them to join us. We have dedicated ourselves to calling members that haven't been able to attend for one reason or another. We are working hard on leaving no one behind in this time of Covid and strange circumstances. Continuing our sharing programs and engaging in collaborative, fun learning is making a difference. Our Saturday programs have evolved nicely and are leading to us switching to all Saturdays for next year. It is a big move, but one much needed. We are all thankful for our health and the happiness and blessings of United Methodist Women.

# *Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Women*

Submitted by President Sandra Bradley

Happy Fall!! My spring prediction about being "mask less" by this time sort of came and went. We are however, still planning to have our fall luncheon on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Our program will be Hickman Farms who will tell us about all of their outreach programs. The rumor is that they bring fresh eggs to hand out! We are hoping for a good turnout as 12 ladies have joined the church here at Shepherd since Covid 19 took over our lives and we are planning to ask them all to be our guests at that luncheon and show them our Unit's enthusiasm!

Our Unit partnered with our Mission Committee to collect school supplies for the Dysart and Nadaburg schools during June and July. Our on-going Mission Candle Program has flourished over the summer. With each lighting of the candle bringing in \$20, when have raised almost \$800.00 over the summer months.

Julie Killebrew, our secretary for program resources, has faithfully put an article in our church e-news each month about books currently on the United Methodist Women Reading Program list, with a synopsis of the content. We hope this will encourage more of our ladies to read, read, read!

Cindy Larson, our faithful secretary, is moving to Wisconsin. She is a very talented retired educator and took on many more responsibilities than the job described, including submitting our Cactus Patch information. We will miss her very much.

We will not have a luncheon in November as our congregation is planning a "New Season Kickoff." It will be a week-long celebration with events happening for the congregation and community each day. Our Unit will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Monday November 1<sup>st</sup> with a local restaurant, Memo's. It will be our time to reach out to the community and enjoy fellowship with each other as well.

We, undoubtedly, will have our annual Christmas luncheon in December if Covid-19 doesn't force us inside again. We usually collect books and puzzles to be given to local charities. I will tell you more about that in November.

Pray for each other!

# Lakeview United Methodist Women

Submitted by Susan Briner



## UPDATE

Lakeview United Methodist Women has partnered with Youngstown Library to provide free books for children and youth in the Youngstown/El Mirage area.

## *Gila Mountain United Methodist Women, Yuma*

We hope everyone is having a good summer. Here in Yuma, we are in the midst of our monsoon season so it is hot and muggy. But this too shall pass.

Our groups are starting to meet again. Naomi Circle, crafters, meets every Tuesday. Rebecca Circle, quilters, will start again in September, every Monday. Our numbers are small as our winter visitors are staying away until the fall. We look forward to their return. We would normally be planning some fundraisers, like our annual Christmas Tea in December and our annual Spring Luncheon in March, but with the uncertainty of COVID, we are like the airplane circling above the airport waiting to be told it is safe to land. We are praying it happens soon. But at least we are able to meet in person now for small groups.

Until next time, stay safe and have a blessed day.

Submitted by: Sherry Lehl, Secretary

Gila Mountain United Methodist Women



*Desert Southwest Conference of United Methodist Women*  
*Annual Celebration*



**"Come Along, Follow and Hold Fast"**

Saturday, October 9, 2021

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM (with lunch break)

A Virtual Meeting .... Celebrating our Conference United Methodist Women together with our four District Meetings!

Consider gathering for watch parties together.

Sing, pray, listen in fellowship

**Guest Speaker - Gloria Kimbwala**

Join us for a Zoom Celebration with song, breakout sessions for each district, and conference business. After a lunch break, we will hear from our guest speaker then worship together with special music and communion.

Registration: \$12.00

Registration closes October 6 at noon

**Click here to register.**

Gloria is a first-generation American born of Congolese parents that immigrated to Orange County, California. Drawing on her own life experiences, she is passionate about creating belonging and inclusion that can benefit people and amplify the most marginalized voices. Gloria is a global leader on diversity, inclusion, and belonging who spends much of her time speaking at UN Events, mentoring at hackathons, and leading social justice causes. After the murder of George Floyd, she was able to raise \$7000 in 48 hours to make sure that every library in her town had Anti-Racism literature through a campaign called "Read Against Racism." She believes that true social justice can only be accomplished by doing the work in your heart, your home, and your community.

If you have any questions about registration, please contact Kathy Schock, registrar- [kathhuck.schock@gmail.com](mailto:kathhuck.schock@gmail.com).