

West District **Cactus Patch**



President Colleen Becker

Published for United Methodist Women

December 2021

Message from

Message from Carla Whitmeyer, editor of the Southwest Winds (Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women's newsletter) and Cheryl Buchholtz, editor of The Cactus Patch (Desert Southwest Conference West District newsletter)

Please read this message from the Southwest Winds:

We do not send spam. Spam is unsolicited email.

You are receiving this notice because Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women's Standing Rules dictate that you (pastors, certain officers and others) should receive our newsletter and other pertinent information with regard to the United Methodist Women; because you are a former officer; or because you signed up to receive information.

When your email address changes, please be so kind as to let us know at: umwomen@dscumc.org or update your subscription information by using the link at the bottom of this newsletter. Thanks! If too many emails are returned as undeliverable we could lose our right to send the news to everyone.

Desert Southwest Conference
United Methodist Women
P.O. Box 32830, Phoenix, Arizona 85064

Please read this message from Cheryl Buchholtz, Editor of the Cactus Patch:

If you are not receiving the email from the Conference containing the latest email issue of the Southwest Winds and wish to have the first word about United Methodist Women activities in our Conference, please subscribe now. Much of what we put in The Cactus Patch about national and conference news comes straight from this publication. However, if you do subscribe, PLEASE send in a change of address should your email address change for the reason listed about by Carla.

As far as the Cactus Patch is concerned, please take the time to open and read the calendar, activity messages, thoughts from your leadership team, and what the other West District Units are doing. If you do not wish me to send the Cactus Patch to you, let me know (all though I can't imagine why....)

Blessings to each and every one of you,
Cheryl Buchholtz
West District Communications Coordinator
westsecbuchholtz@yahoo.com

623-979-2410 (623-285-5244 cell)



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.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
DESERT SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE
WEST DISTRICT**

2022 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**

LDD Training with Yuma **January 8, 2022**
Yuma First United Methodist Church

LDD Training with Phoenix **January 22, 2022**
Glendale First United Methodist Church

Cactus Patch Articles Due **February 15, 2022**

Day of Giving March 23, 2022

Social Action Event – Legislative event **April 8, 2022**
Social Action Event – Planting Rainbows **April 9, 2022**

Cactus Patch Articles Due **May 15, 2022**

ASSEMBLY **May 20 – 22, 2022**
Both in person and zoom attendance available

Desert Southwest Conference, Mesa **June 9 – 12, 2022**

Mission u adult study – in person **June 24 – 25, 2022**
Red Mountain United Methodist Church
2936 N. Power Rd.
Mesa, AZ 85215

Virtual Mission u ZOOM **July 24 – 25, 2022**

Cactus Patch Articles Due **August 15, 2022**

West District Annual Celebration **October 8, 2022**
West District Host

Desert Southwest Conference Annual Celebration **October 29, 2022**
North District Host

Cactus Patch Articles Due **November 15, 2022**



This year is quickly winding down and it is time for all units to begin completing reports for the year. Some to be thinking about are final financial report to Michele Justice, West District Treasurer, reading reports to Janet Rummel, West District Program Resources, mission today form to Colleen Becker, West District President, Charter for Racial Justice to Colleen Becker, West District President. These are awards to be handed out during our Leadership Development Day in January or February. We hope all of you have been working towards these during this year of 2021.

Annual Celebration again this year was virtual combined with the other districts and conference. The West District breakout session was great. We hope you enjoyed the skit. I especially enjoyed the sharing time after our business meeting was over. It is always good to hear what activities each unit has done and what was successful. This is something we need to consider even when we meet in person again.

The district officers will be meeting soon to start planning for next year. We will set a date for Leadership Development Day and adopt a calendar for next year. We are happy that four ladies said yes to join our team on the nominating committee. We still need someone to say yes to be the coordinator for Social Action. This would give us a complete team. Next year some of our current officers will tenure off of the team. The nominating committee will be trying to make these replacements for 2023. It is very rewarding to serve as an officer so seriously consider saying yes when asked.

The holidays are upon us. May you have quality family time in the weeks ahead.

Blessings and Good Tidings,

Colleen Becker, West District President



United Methodist Women DSC WD vice president

Glendale United Methodist Church

For those of you who missed our Annual Celebration, I have decided to do an overview of the event.

The West District Annual Celebration was held online October 9th as a “breakout room” at the Conference Annual Celebration. The theme was Come Along: Follow & Hold Fast. There was a surprise welcome message from Bishop Grant Hagiya, followed by the scripture and opening prayers in English, Korean, and Spanish. We enjoyed a reading from the prayer calendar by Jeannine Reynolds and the Response Moment by Caroline Kidd before we moved to our West District session.

The Breakout Session business meeting began with a welcome and the reading of the UMW purpose. This was followed by the humorous “West District Bunch” introduction to the West District leadership team which I wrote and edited, and starring all the current members of the leadership team. The West District Bunch The Minutes from 2020 were introduced by Cheryl Buchholtz, who also let us know who was reviewing the 2021 Minutes. This was followed by the proposed 2022 budget, which was approved. Viki Keel introduced the slate of district officers for 2022, which included:

New Members – Committee on Nominations

Kimi Ivey – New Song UMC
Paula Sallas – Trinity UMC Phoenix
Treaa Birchett – First UMC Glendale
Amy Webert - First UMC Glendale

Returning Officers

Colleen Becker - President
Christine Jones – Vice President
Michele Justice - Treasurer
Cheryl Buchholtz – Secretary and Communications
Vicki Keel – Chair Committee on Nominations
Janet Rummel – Reading Program
Susan Briner – Education for Mission
Jen Kistler – Spiritual Growth
Barbara Kelton – Membership Care
Social Action - Vacant

This was followed by the awarding of the Outstanding Unit Award to Prescott UMW with Cheri Hull as their new President.

The West District Leadership Team then had a memorial moment for the 30 of our sisters who have passed during the last year. We ended the business meeting on time and were ready for the return to the main Conference.

There were over 70 women in attendance who enjoyed special Guest Speaker Gloria Kimbwa who spoke about diversity, inclusion, and belonging. This was also a time for saying farewell to retiring Desert Southwest Conference President Alberta Farnsworth, and the welcoming of incoming President Gracie Campbell. There were updates on Mission u, Assembly, and the Legacy Fund. There was an issue with a recording, so Pastor Corby Johnson installed the new officers and led the communion service live. We were also blessed to see a special presentation of the Hands of Joy Choir (American Sign Language) from Saint Matthews United Methodist Church who performed “I Stand Amazed In His Presence”. It was an incredible and moving event and we are looking forward to the Leadership Development Days to come.

Chit Chat with Cheryl

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



T'was the night before December
And all through my office
I looked and I searched for
What you have sent me.

Under the piles, in the files, boxes and bags,
I began sweating and drooling - I needed a **drink**.

Then, all of a sudden I started to **think**.
"Oh yes, I've been organizing so I don't lose those things!"

SOLUTION: a thumb drive

So, ladies get smart, scan and save what you must
to a **thumb drive**....and then, tattoo on your hand
where you put it.

Your husband will thank you because you won't have
piles of papers all over the house.



West District United Methodist Women Leadership Team:

From left to right: **Vicki Keel** -
Nominations, **Paula Sallas** -
Nominations, **Janet Rummel** -
Resource, **Colleen Becker** -
President, **Cheryl Buchholtz** -
Secretary and Communications,
Christine Jones - Vice
President, **Kimi Ivy** -
Nominations, **Jen Kistler** -

Spiritual Growth, **Susan Briner** - Education for Missions, **Tresea Birchett** - Nominations;
Kneeling in front, **Michele Justice** - Treasurer.

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

United Methodist Women DSC, WD

Michele Justice, West District Treasurer, Liberty



This article is taken from the October e -2021 e-issue of the **Southwest Winds**. It answers questions that have been asked recently at many unit meetings.

What does it mean to "empty the treasury?"

June Hanson, Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women Treasurer

Many of you have likely heard the phrase "empty the treasury." What does this mean? United Methodist Women Chief Financial Officer Tamara Clark explains: "Toward the end of the year, some local United Methodist Women groups find that they have more money than they expected to have at the year's end. Maybe you exceeded your Pledge to Mission (yay!). Maybe fundraisers performed better than expected (yay!). For whatever reason you find yourself with extra funds, keep in your treasury only the minimum amount necessary to carry you into the first few months of 2022, until members' Mission Giving pledges and gifts begin coming in. Why? The funds were given to be used for mission. 'Saving for a rainy day' is not the best stewardship for the mission dollars given for the thousands of women for whom today is a rainy day. You can send your extra funds as additional mission funds added to your Pledge to Mission or consider presenting more Special Mission Recognition gifts! Giving is part of faith in action—let it be faith in action!"



Nominations Report - Vicki Keel

United Methodist Women DSC WD

Vlkeel55@gmail.com

*Welcome to our new Desert Southwest West District
United Methodist Women Nominations Team members*

Kimi Ivy - New Song
Tresa Birchett - Glendale First
Paula Sallas - Trinity Phoenix
Amy Webert - Glendale First

Program Resources, Janet Rummel

United Methodist Women DSC WD

giraffejanet@hotmail.com

Well, 2022 is almost over. As we are getting ready to close this year, I would like to remind you that I would like to have your list of readers and books by December 10th. Please go to the United Methodist Women Reading program 2021 - 2022 when planning to purchase new books. It explains all about the reading program for 2022, as it will be the same list as 2021.

This year has been difficult for all of us, but I am sure we have all had plenty of time to read.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. Keep United Methodist Women in your prayers.

Blessings,
Janet Rummel

Membership Care

United Methodist Women DSC, WD

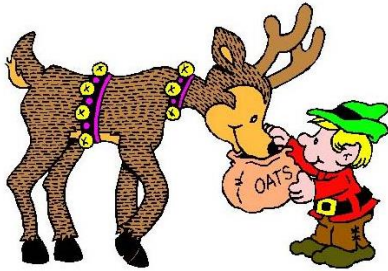
Barbara Kelton, West District Membership Care



The most recent event for Membership was touching base with each church's United Methodist Women Membership chairwomen. it was for the sad purpose of gathering the names of our Sisters in Christ who have passed away in 2021. Sadly, we lost 29 members.

The Conference/District annual meeting was wonderful even if it did have to be Zoom. Hopefully, we can shoot for in-person next year. I was not able to participate in the Leadership Training of District Officers but I will make it a point to contact a Membership person in the conference for some help. I want to see if we can fire up in 2022 to get up our Membership numbers. I am really open for ideas!

Barbara Kelton, Membership
Membership



MISSION u 2022
*A United Methodist Women gift
just for us...
Where we learn,
we share and we take action for others.*

This year, as we study Luke 13, we find ourselves in a period of disruption and uncertainty. In the midst of a devastating pandemic, divisive political climate, unaddressed systemic racism, ecological crises and economic turmoil, we turn to the stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities for two millennia.

Our hope is that we will leave Mission u with a bigger and broader vision of the community Christ is calling us to be in times of loss, of grief, and massive disruption. What would be possible if we tend to the needs of our communities in small yet radical ways, as Jesus did in Luke 13?

Our newly designed Mission u 2022 is more flexible and intergenerational than ever—with curricula for youth, children and adults focused on the 13th chapter of the Gospel of Luke. **Here is the curricula we will be using that will be available on our e-store by January 2022.**

- Who Can We Be Together? (Adult)
- Community in the Midst of Challenging Times (Youth)
- Our Growing Tree From Self-Love to the Beloved Community and All of God's Creation (Children)

Will you join us? Please Save these Dates: ALL ARE WELCOME



What's Ringing Our Bells in the Neighborhood



The husband of Helen Jackson and father of Pam Jackson recently passed. His obituary is online at the address I am attaching. I think it would be very appropriate for those that served with the ladies or ever had training with them to take the time to send them a brief note of condolence.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/glendale-az/phillip-jackson-10429483>

Helen and Pam served as our mother-daughter Nominations team in West District.

Memorial for Betty Mathis

Plans are in the works for a memorial for Betty Mathis, former Executive Director of Wesley Community Center. The family has thought of a memorial garden and or bench or possibly a scholarship fund. Please consider making a donation to the memorial fund through Wesley Community Center, 1625 N 39th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85009.

In case you have not heard, we share the news that Rev. Kelly Bender died on Wednesday, December 23, 2020. Kelly retired in 2012 from the Desert Southwest Conference but continued to serve as pastor to the UMOM New Day Centers homeless shelters. Pictured here, Kelly was addressing Trinity, Phoenix United Methodist Women, husbands and guests about the issues of homelessness and the work of UMOM

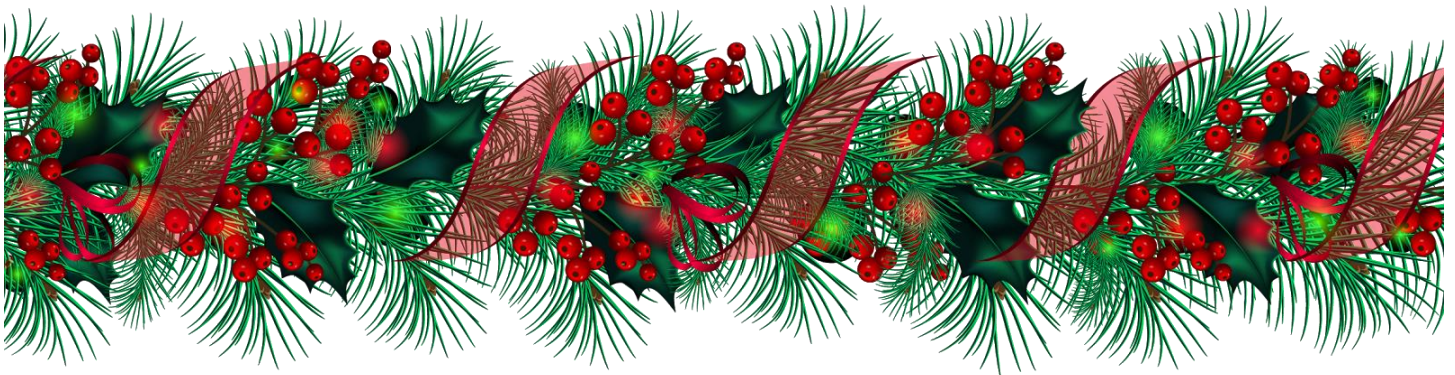




We are also holding these dear ones in our prayers and thoughts:

Bobbie Norris, former South District President and current Mission u business manager passed away this morning from Covid 19. Please pray for her family and especially for her sister, Alice Brown, former Conference President and several other offices on the Team.

Michele Justice - West District treasurer in the loss of her sister, Catherine Ann Grimes who passed in October of this year.



Trinity United Methodist Women, Phoenix

Busy, busy, busy...those are the United Methodist Women at Trinity United Methodist Church, Phoenix. Living up to our purpose, we have remained active during this time of change, upheaval and uncertainty. We have participated differently this year and last with local missions like **UMOM**, **Family Promise**, **Justa Center**, **Lura Turner Homes** and **Angel Tree**.

We have also supported our Congolese congregation in their mission work as well as **Hope Ignited** in raising the money for a matching grant with **Mercy Ships** to build the first Pediatric Hospital in Guinea, West Africa.

We are once again planning to be creative with our virtual order and delivery Christmas Cookie Sale - the money we raise goes toward our Mission work pledge.

Our love to each and everyone of you as we get ready for the New Year and all of the challenges we will encounter during that time. God Bless you and yours from Trinity United Methodist Women.

Willowbrook United Methodist Church, Sun City AZ

After enjoying being together at numerous restaurants for our UMW summer lunches, September was our first meeting in person. It was **Mission**: Pitchfork Pantry for ASU Students.



ASU Food Pantry provides food for students in need.

Freshman year at ASU, Stephanie Kaufmann watched a friend who couldn't afford to eat leave school.

The friend, who worked multiple jobs on top of a full-time school schedule to make ends meet, dropped out because "she just couldn't muster up the energy anymore to keep going." Kaufmann, now a senior majoring in drawing and art history, said, "At one point, I was sharing my meal plan

with her. And even then, it just wasn't enough."

Moved to action, Kaufmann began pushing for a food pantry on campus to provide for students in need. After months of planning and help from fellow students and faculty, [Pitchfork Pantry](#) launched with locations on ASU's Tempe and Downtown Phoenix campuses.

"When you're trying to pursue your education, the last thing you need to worry about is being hungry." Food insecurity is associated with unhealthy eating habits and increased rates of depression and anxiety.

A need for food is worldwide and to support yet another mission, we chose a close to home that you don't think of, college students going hungry.

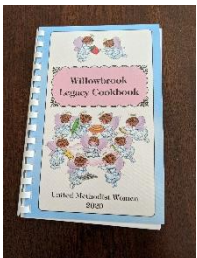


The speaker Jamie Booth from Wesley Foundation at Tempe First UMC spoke. Everyone brought a recipe for a student to make that is simple and can be made in a dorm or apartment without a stove. They brought recipes to match the food brought. Other items brought were cereal and other boxed foods. This is an ongoing mission for Willowbrook UMW.

In October, our meeting theme was Knitted Together for Love. All year long, members have been knitting or crocheting 8 x 8 squares. We assembled these squares to make lap afghans. Also, there were others who wrote cards of love and encouragement to be included with the afghans when we send them out to homebound individuals. The cards were also written for church members that are homebound or anyone they thought would enjoy a card. Think of this as an old-fashioned quilting bee.

In November we celebrated Thanksgiving with our annual Thanksgiving potluck luncheon. The World Thank Program was presented by Nancy Prevost, Vice President. The slate of new officers was presented and special recognition pins were awarded to Shirley Fisher and Barb Christie for 2019, Marilee Reetz and Cheryl Reed for 2020 and Roberta Kemper and Nancy Prevost for 2021. This luncheon is always a special time of fellowship and giving.





The United Methodist Women are again offering their cookbook for sale. Many of the recipes are from salad luncheons, Christmas tea and Lenten soup suppers.

There is limited availability at \$15 a copy, which includes shipping. Great for a Christmas gift. If you are interested in purchasing one or more, please contact Sue

Marshall at

623-546-6400 or smarshall92@cox.net.

Another Exciting Opportunity Offered by Willowbrook United Methodist Women

SAVE THE DATE!!!! MARCH 19, 2022

The retreat we worked on for March 2020 is finally coming to fruition. Come enjoy a spiritual, fun, exciting day! Singing, crafts, beautiful scenery to reflect and pray and learn how flowers are portrayed in scripture.

What: Willowbrook UMW Retreat

When: March 19, 2022

*Where: The Desert Outdoor Center at Lake Pleasant,
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*

Cut-off date is Friday, March 7, 2022

For Information, Cheryl Reed: 623-466-9480, crrgr@hotmai.com
or Nancy Prevost 623-476-5277, nancybp7@gmail.com.

All church women are welcome.



41402



**New Song United Methodist Women
Surprise, Arizona**

Submitted by Kimi Ivey, New Song United Methodist Women Communications

I was not sure what to write for this final article for the year, as it has been a year to remember in more ways than one. A year of doubt, a year of uncertainty, a year of successes and a year of more challenges than we wanted to handle.

As I look back, I can see our little but mighty group come together in prayer when we could not meet in person, and in jubilation when we could. I see our determination to be the best we could be under very uncommon circumstances and our joy when we were finally able to see one another in person again. We forged ahead with plans and some worked out, some did not. But we kept on praying and staying in communication with one another. We put our faith in the one in charge of everything and waited.

When the time came to meet again in person we joyfully planned and carried out meetings and events to bring not only our ladies but our church together in community and fellowship we had so longed for.

Our events for this past quarter included discussions on how to reduce our carbon footprint and water conservation with a fund raiser to purchase a special water cooler for our

church. Our big event, **Family Fun Night**, was a great success. The event was open to all church members and any guests they might bring to join us for an evening of table games, outdoor games, and snacks. There were lively tables of UNO, hand and foot, and other card games as well as cornhole toss outside for a more physical challenge. For any little ones that came we provided special puzzles and coloring books.

As we move forward we are in the beginning planning stages of our annual Christmas Tea despite the challenges the pandemic poses for group gathering and serving. We are also making plans for our annual United Methodist Women Sunday in January.

The new year will bring new challenges, but as we have demonstrated this past year our ladies are more than prepared. We are ready to share, support and show God's love to our church and our community.



DECEMBER GREETINGS FROM SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

We have had a busy Fall and are looking forward to our annual Christmas Luncheon. We have been approved by our congregational Task Force to have a catered meal.

We are having **"The Big House Cafe"** from Casa Grande, bring us lunch. We have had them before. SUPER!! Try them! Once again we will have our guests bring children's books and puzzles and we plan to distribute them to local agencies that have after school programs.

Our Fall luncheon was well attended and we served boxed lunches from Kneaders. The speaker, Aaron Cheatham, from Hickman Farms, gave an excellent program about their Transition Program for the incarcerated. And he brought dozens of eggs as promised!

Our Unit was very busy the first week of November taking part in our All-Church "A New Season" event.

On Monday of the week, our United Methodist Women was in charge of a free, open to the congregation and the community, pancake breakfast. We probably served about 150 in our courtyard. Then on Friday, we hosted a refreshment stand while the Rummage Sale was going.

We sold the famous Basha's fritters, coffee and juice. Many of our members donated funds to purchase the fritters so to make us more profit. All the events throughout the week were a wonderful chance to be together again as a congregation; to reach out to our community; have them come see our campus, and experience our hospitality.

We are planning our United Methodist Women Sunday on January 9th 2022. Our keynote speaker will be Blaine Bandi, the CEO of Wesley Community and Health Centers. We welcome all of you to come that morning and hear him!

We are thrilled to say we have a full slate of officers for 2022 including 2 new persons who will bring enthusiasm and new ideas.

We send our blessing to all of you this Christmas Season and pray for your health in the new year-2022.

Submitted by Sandy Bradley, President

Are you thinking about attending Assembly in Orlando, Florida?

Get further information by going to
Watch your e-mail for Assembly updates and please
visit assembly2022.org for more information.





Prescott United Methodist Women

Leaders inspire and our Prescott United Methodist Church United Methodist Women Board is all that. We are so blessed this year in looking at all we've accomplished together in nurturing ourselves through the year within the Prescott United Methodist Church United Methodist Women's group. We've gained new members in a time of COVID, We lost one dear member to a move and new chapter in her journey, we've created and presented as an entire group together on Zoom to in person (beginning this summer) as we worked on Serenity, Acceptance, Courage and Wisdom - and those programs included a courageous author, me in a wig and beard, and special take-aways to have at home to help us remember to be kind to ourselves.

Regular members planned and presented with Board members! We all got to share and become closer as women united; we've laughed and been a bit teary, we've enjoyed our 'fun'draisers, and brought in, to date, over \$2,000 toward local childhood hunger as our mission focus. And, we aren't done yet. The annual Christmas Cookie and Candy sale in December tops off the year and will be even a bit different than before. Last year we had the no-bake cookie sale due to COVID. This year is the pre-boxed cookie and candy sale using precautions and sanitary conditions in sorting and boxing the baked donations (labeled with ingredients out of respect for food allergies) and boxing them in generous portions to sell rather than allowing patrons to handpick what they would like as in previous years. Our congregation gets involved with us and many bake and donate to the cause. It is amazing.

We are so very proud that we achieved the Unit of the Year award from District! We wanted to include a picture of our board with this article, but getting a bunch of busy women together is not that easy! You'll see the group in the next Cactus Patch as we make that picture happen over the holidays.

We also love our "Hooked on Books" book club and the many books we've read together and had incredible conversations around each month. There were books we might never have read, and that has brought many of us closer and more aware of our world and each other as a result.

Next year's programs are going to all be held on Saturdays because we gain members that work during the week. We want to be inclusive in all that we do and this makes sense. In fact, we are gaining a new Treasurer as a result as our beloved Treasurer that has been with us from the beginning wishes to take a step back.

The Board held a planning Saturday brunch and developed the program outline, focus and theme for 2022 since we loved having a theme for this year to keep us moving. Next year we are "Better Together" as we continue spreading our love and talents in the community through our programs, mission, and fun'draisers.

Art in the Air will return with even more people that can't wait to participate. **All Souped Up** is coming back, and the community is already looking forward to the Fall soups and fun we'll create for that event.

Remember - we engage others, guide their experiences that lead to our collective beliefs; we enjoy the results we gain from the love, fun and spiritual lift of the Prescott United Methodist Women. Blessings to you all, and may your holidays be full of love, comfort and kindness.

Respectfully submitted and blessings to all,
Cheri Hull, President
PUMC UMW