

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Mission u 2022	2
Mesquite UMC	3
Social Action	3
Program Resources	4
Voices from the Field	6

North Country Breezes

North District United Methodist Women
Desert Southwest Conference

Volume 34, Issue 4

December 2021

President's Message

Karen Dallatore
North District President



North District President,
Karen Dallatore, and her
husband, David

I am encouraged by the activities of various North District units as 2021 comes to a close. For instance, First United Methodist Church of Winslow held a November Bazaar raising over \$700.00 after not meeting in person for several months due to COVID-19 restrictions. They began meeting in person again in October. Advent United Methodist in Las Vegas is making plans to resume monthly meetings in January after several months break due to illness and facility restrictions. Green Valley United Methodist in Henderson has voted to support a domestic violence relief agency with the money they have raised, and Desert Spring is having bake sales and selling Poinsettias to raise money for missions. Sadly, Hope United Methodist Women in Bullhead City has become inactive for various reasons.

I was also encouraged, enlightened, and inspired on Sunday November 14th as Pahrump United Methodist Men presented the morning worship service. Led by Ron Dennis, who has been a member of United Methodist Men for about 25 years, the men conducted all portions of the service from the opening welcome and announcements to the benediction. The incoming President gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the mission, purpose, and goals of the organization. Because it was the Sunday following Veterans Day, a musical video

tribute to all branches of the US armed service and recognition of members of the congregation who have served and/or are currently serving was shown. Ron gave a spirit-filled message explaining the concept of the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us.

My point in saying all this is that whether we are United Methodist Men or United Methodist Women, we are striving toward the same goal of serving our Lord and making disciples to the best of our ability. We can and should celebrate each other's achievements; I am blessed to belong to a congregation with such a strong United Methodist Men's presence.

God Bless You,
Karen Dallatore



mission u 2022

Who Can We Be Together?

Building Communities of Hope and Joy

Great news— COMMUNITY is God's desire for us! Please join us at Mission u 2022 as we reflect on the community that Jesus is calling us to be!

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, 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!

Join us for the Adult Study:

**Friday, June 24 & Saturday June 25, 2022
Red Mountain UMC
2936 N. Power Rd.
Mesa, AZ 85215**

**There will also be a Virtual Mission u
July 22-23, 2022**

Janette Gann, Dean Jgann1329@gmail.com

Mesquite United Methodist Church

Susan Compton, President
Mesquite United Methodist Church
United Methodist Women

Normally around this time for year, our unit would be scrambling to finish craft projects and bug-ging the membership for craft projects and home baked goodies. We have traditionally had a boutique and bake sale in the fall as our fundraiser. This year we are doing a Silent Auction. We have 33 beautifully unique items for bidding. The members of the church were able to come in from 8:00 AM - noon November 8-12, and they placed a bid on any item which they wanted to purchase. On Friday when the bidding was finished, we contacted the winners. For those who were still not out and about yet, we taped the auction items for online viewing. They were able to call or text in a bid once they saw the items online. Thanks to our great IT guy, this was fair and reached all members of the church family.

To supplement our fall fundraiser, we have partnered with our local Panda Express. On December 1, 20% of any order or any item purchased in our name came to the United Methodist Women unit at our Methodist Church. Last year we received \$360, so we are hoping to increase it this year to help with our funding of our mission projects.

Why?

Maria Hase, Social Action Coordinator
Desert Southwest Conference

I recently revisited "Why" (author unknown, submitted by Sister Mary Rose McGeady, Covenant House) on p. 40 in *Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul* by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Patty Aubery, and Nancy Mitchell. In "Why," it talks of a shivering, hungry, young girl seen by the piece's author, and the author's subsequent anger at God. It dawned on me that "Why" could be adapted to our climate justice and criminal justice focus issues. An adaptation would go something like this....

Why?

On the news I saw horrific flooding, out of control wildfires, and historic drought. In the news I read about the almost all white jury selected in Georgia for the trial of Anmaud Arbery, and I read "Climate change is biased, EPA says." I became angry and said to God: "Why did you permit this? Why don't you do something about it?" For awhile God said nothing. That night God replied, quite suddenly: "I certainly did something about it. I made you."

Then I read about a poem by Yrsa Daley-Ward for our world leaders at the UN Summit. It dawned on me that her poem speaks to you and me, as well....

***"Nothing will be
saved without you.
It is important to
begin with the fact.
This is your invita-
tion to lead with
light."***

Yrsa Daley-Ward



Continued on page 5

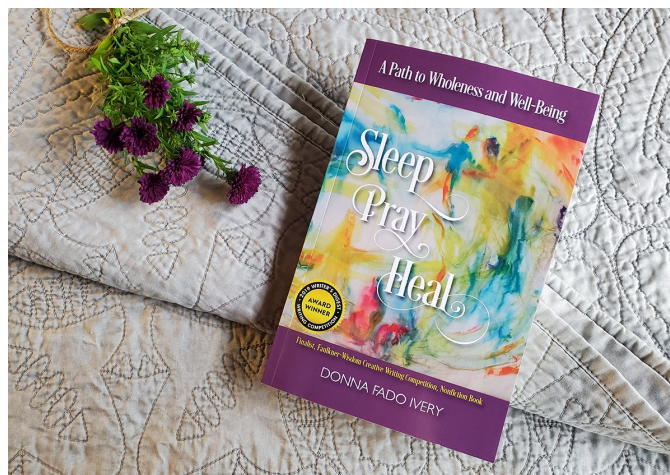
Book Review

This review was first seen in the
United Methodist Women Reading Program Catalog

Sleep, Pray, Heal: A Path to Wholeness and Well-Being A book by Donna Faddo Ivery

A 200-pound glass partition fell on Donna Faddo Ivery's head, resulting in brain injury, disability and chronic pain. How would she care for her infant, her preschooler, her husband and herself? How would she continue to serve as pastor? With humor and humility, this inspirational memoir speaks to Donna's struggle and the abiding support of family and the Holy Spirit.

United Methodist Women Reading Program Catalog is available online at [Reading Program Catalog 2021-2022 \(unitedmethodistwomen.org\)](https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/reading-program-catalog-2021-2022)



Fall Resources that We Can Love!

Caroline Kidd, Secretary for Program Resources

Healing and Joy on our Journey to God is the Program Resource, 2021-2022 that is packed with great ideas for programs at any United Methodist Women meeting. September through August monthly meetings include easy to use ideas for implementation for large or small groups. These programs can be used for in-person or virtual meetings. What I especially like is not only the scripture unpacking but very easily understood suggestions for taking the next most faithful steps for living out in several ways the message of scripture.

The **Reading Program** has a number of additional titles added to the 2022 list. This list can be downloaded from the [United Methodist Women website](https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/reading-program). Every category has its additions, and I have enjoyed three of these new op-

tions.

Chelsea Clinton is the author of *She Persisted Around the World, the stories of 13 Women Who Changed History*. (Social Action) This is a children's book that focuses on women who **persisted** in their dreams of making a difference in the world, even when they'd been told to be quiet. These women were determined to break barriers and change the status quo. Some of those highlighted include: Marie Curie, Mary Verghese (from India), "Sissie" Lima du Amor, a brilliant soccer player from Brazil, who defied the law against girls playing the sport. The book ends with this statement: "So, speak up, rise up, dream big. These women did that and more."

Continued on page 5

Fall Resources that We Can Love!

Continued from page 4

Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate (Nurturing For Community) is a touching novel about a terrible practice that occurred in the U.S. in the late 30s in which children were kidnapped and then sold to well-to-do families. This is truly heart-breaking as the author relates what happened to sisters that are caught up in this nefarious practice.

Jesus himself came from a family of immigrants. He famously said, "I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." This very readable book may very well change hearts and call readers to action.

Happy Reading!!

Finding Jesus at the Border by Julia Lambert Fogg (Education for Mission) provides interweaving biblical narratives of border crossing and stories of immigrants journeying to the U.S. Christians are invited to consider the plight of their neighbors and to respond with compassion to the immigration crisis. We might never have been so aware that

Caroline Kidd, Secretary for Program Resources

This story was originally published in Southwest Winds, the newsletter of the Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Women, and is available for viewing at [United Methodist Women - Desert Southwest Conference \(dscumc.org\)](https://www.dscumc.org)

Why?

Continued from page 3

Maria Hase, Social Action Coordinator
Desert Southwest Conference

the fact. This is your invitation to lead with light." – Yrsa Daley-Ward

The time is now. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man (woman) changes his (her) own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him (her). This is the divine mystery supreme. A wonderful thing it is and the source of our happiness. We need not wait to see what others do."

Not sure where to start?

Check out this month's Social Action Newsletter, <https://www.smores.com/49q3b>

Listen to God's leading. Listen to your gut. You know. You do. God is calling you.

If God brings you to it, God will carry you through it and help you do it.

This article was first published on November 14, 2021 on the United Methodist Women webpage of the United Methodist Church Desert Southwest Conference website: [Why? - Desert Southwest Conference \(dscumc.org\)](https://www.dscumc.org)



Purpose: 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 community and to expand concepts of mission through participation of the global ministries of the church.

Voices from the Field

A Pastor in the Family: Reverend Alzira Isaac from Mozambique

By Angelina Mbulo



Reverend Alzira Isaac

“When I was growing up, girl children learned early from our culture, family, churches and schools to be wives and mothers first and then maybe teachers, nurses, secretaries and not much else.”

Reverend Alzira Isaac

When asked what career she dreamed of as a child, Reverend Alzira Sebastião Isaac said, “Our education doesn’t really allow us to dream beyond our surroundings. When I was growing up, girl children learned early from our culture, family, churches and schools to be wives and mothers first and then maybe teachers, nurses, secretaries and not much else.”

“My desire was to be a teacher because it was the only profession that I knew and I almost became a teacher, but my grandfather, my father’s father, wanted to see at least one pastor in our family. As you may suspect he was hoping that it would be one of my brothers.”

An Education in Theology

Born and raised in Inhambane Province in the South of Mozambique, when Rev. Alzira completed tenth grade, she learned of a vacancy for a teacher’s course. Instead, her childhood friend, (now also a reverend) Hortencia heard that there were vacancies in the theology department. She convinced her friend to apply with her.

They both were accepted. Their names were read out loud at the annual conference in 1990, and in January of 1991, off they went to the United Seminary of Ricatla, an ecumenical theological institution in Maputo-Mozambique.

When her family found out that she was studying theology, there were mixed feelings. “My father became very emotional, he supported me and to this day I am grateful to him. Sadly, my grandfather had already passed away and didn’t get to see me fulfil his dream. My father has also since passed. I owe everything I am to him,” she said pensively.

Rev. Alzira met her husband, Reverend Hilário Torres Machauene, almost as soon as she arrived at seminary. “We met there, started dating right away. When he finished, he went to work in Chokwe and in the following year we got married in Xai-Xai,” she reported.

Continued on page 7

Voices from the Field

A Pastor in the Family: Reverend Alzira Isaac from Mozambique

Continued from page 6

Pastor

Rev. Alzira began working immediately upon graduation from seminary. In 1995, she was assigned a parish in Xai-Xai in Gaza Province where she worked for five years. To this day, she's the only woman to head that parish. In 2000, she was nominated as the district superintendent for Manica Province, a position she held for six years until she received a scholarship to study for a bachelor's degree at Africa University in Zimbabwe.

She completed her bachelor's degree in three years and received her master's degree in two more. Upon her return to Mozambique in 2013, she was nominated as executive secretary for Mozambique's North United Methodist Women Annual Conference and in 2014, began working in the role that she has successfully carried out to this day.

Rev. Alzira and her husband currently reside in Chimoio, the capital city of Manica Province in the North of Mozambique. Their four children, ages 28, 24, 21 and 17, currently live at home. One can only imagine how boisterous that home must be.

United Methodist Women Projects

As executive secretary for the Mozambique North Annual Conference, Reverend Alzira Sebastião Isaac connects with local and inter-

United Methodist Women Projects

national United Methodist Women. Rev. Alzira also manages a fish farm and a sewing project geared toward empowering girls and women on behalf of the United Methodist Women of Mozambique North.

With support from United Methodist Women internationally, the projects have economically empowered girls. By simply equipping girls with sewing skills, she says, they are spared from early childhood marriage, giving them an education and hope for a brighter future.

"Since joining team Mozambique, I have learned a lot of things, such as how to work as a team member and to value the life of a woman. I have noticed that United Methodist Women projects are geared towards giving women wings to fly. Women are empowered, not to feel as low as some community members think we are. Our desire is for more training because, through these, women become equipped with the knowledge to deal with their challenges and look for joint solutions in community instead of seeking solutions in isolation."

Angelina Mbulo is the Mozambique Pilot Country Team Local Journalist.

This article was first published on December 1, 2021 on the United Methodist Women website: [United Methodist Women - A Pastor in the Family: Rev Alzira](#)

It is a pleasure to put this newsletter together for you. I hope it is edifying, informative, and uplifting. This missive's main purpose is to inform you of activities, ideas, news, and other interesting things that are going on in your local United Methodist Women local units. We as United Methodist Women do best when we are encouraging each other in the mission we have undertaken. Please let me know how you and your unit are interacting with each other, the community, the environment so we can connect with and inspire each other to be the hands and feet of Jesus here on earth.

*In Christ,
Pamela Huff
Communications Coordinator, North District
orangeips5@gmail.com or nd.umw.communications@gmail.com*