



Mission Tapestry

Arlington District United Methodist Women

Vol. XLII, No. II

April 2021

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 FELLOWSHIP; and to expand CONCEPTS OF MISSION through participation in the global ministries of the church.

The Mission Tapestry is a publication of the Arlington District United Methodist Women. Its goal is to keep units at the local/congregation level informed about opportunities for living out our PURPOSE. It is published quarterly—January, April, July, and October.

Articles for publication are welcome and should be directed to ArlingtonDistrictUMW@gmail.com by the 1st of the publication month.

Check out our website at www.ArlingtonDistrictUMW.org

District President's Message

Spring Greetings,

The Weather seems to be warming up giving us a hint of Spring ahead. It was at this time last year when we were in complete lockdown: staying home, everything closed, and things hard to find, like toilet paper. We thought it would be a short run, but it turned into a marathon. We cannot see the finish line just yet. We need to keep the Faith, wear a mask, and get the vaccine. I think life will be different on **the “down side” of this pandemic**; after all, how could we not be changed by the events of the last year? There is a lot to be sad about and a lot to be happy about. One thing we do know, our God does not change and has been walking with us the whole time. I pray you find hope in this season of Spring and the promise Christ gives us.

The United Methodist Women Virginia Conference has decided to have all events for 2021 via ZOOM. The Spiritual Life Retreat is May 15th. You can register on the UMW Confer-

ence website. Mission Encounter will be held on six consecutive Thursday evenings, beginning July 1st and ending August 5th. You can find more information **about this year's Mission Encounter** on the UMW Conference website, www.vaumw.com. Mission Encounter is introducing a new model in 2022. Look for more information later in the Tapestry.

On the district level we are working on the: Vesper Service for May 29th, at 7:00 pm, via ZOOM, and Bi-District Day, June 12th, 10:00 am, via ZOOM, There will be flyers coming out soon. Bi-district Day will include a talk about the Virginia Women's Monument, **“Voices from the Garden.” This is a new monument** located in Richmond.

“Talk about your blessings more than you talk about your problems.” - Hoda Kotb

Doris Douglass, President
Arlington District UMW

Vice President

Beth Meserve

How lonely sits the city
That was full of people!
How like a widow is she,
Who was great among the nations!
The princess among the provinces
Has become a slave!
Lamentations 1:1

*Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not.
They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.
"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"Therefore I hope in Him!"*
Lamentations 3:22-24

What a difference one year makes. Last March, churches throughout the world cancelled in-person services due to COVID-19. At the time, we thought it would be for a week or two, a month at most. We were mistaken.

There are two views of the past year. As we look at empty churches, empty streets, and masked people everywhere, we cry out, "How lonely sits the city that was full of people!" Zoom has become a way of life as our meetings are now done over video. We remember cancelled holiday celebrations; millions out of work, 500,000 Americans dead, and disagreements that have erupted into violence multiple times. We have all been impacted by the disruptions of the past year. We need to take time and process it all.

At the same time, we have hope for the future. We see love and compassion in the midst of this great tragedy as people, especially Christians, move forward using whatever means possible. We have adapted in ways we never thought possible, and we continue to worship and show God's love as safely as we can. Therefore, we can say, "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. Great is Your faithfulness."

As we move forward toward better times (we hope), let us remember God's word. "'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'"

Plan now to join us in May for a time of prayer, meditation, and praise. We will meet via Zoom on Saturday May 29 at 7pm. Save the date and watch for a registration email.

God Bless You,
Beth Meserve
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Secretary

Janet Keener

Dear UMW Sisters in Christ,

Faith • Hope • Love in Action



It's **Spring** - a time of **HOPE**! We celebrate Easter - **Christ's Resurrection**. We enjoy new birth with the blooming of daffodils and other spring flowers and the singing of the birds. Spring showers truly bring May flowers!

After living and experiencing the pandemic events of 2020, the year 2021 is promising to give us **HOPE**!

HOPE reminds us to be **positive and forgiving** of one another. One of my devotional resources, *100 Favorite Bible Prayers*, reminds us to not let others give us anxiety and rob us of **HOPE**.

Our United Methodist Women emblem shares **Faith • Hope • Love in Action** as our mantra. We have **HOPE** that we will be sharing in-person in the near future. We continue to share **HOPE** with mission giving through UMW and our churches. We share **HOPE** whenever we call or email or otherwise contact anyone who needs to feel connected. Each day is a new opportunity to spend time with God and be connected to Him and others.

In planning your future with UMW, be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming events with the Arlington District and Virginia Conference.

Until next time, I wish you **HAPPY SPRING !!!** Enjoy sharing safely with your family and friends.

God Bless,

Janet

janet_keener@cox.net



Treasurer

Debby Fairweather

Happy Spring!

I don't know about you, but I am glad to see longer days and sunnier weather.

We have just completed the first quarter of 2021. I've heard from a number of units on their projected mission giving for this year, but if I have not heard from your unit, you can still send me your pledge to mission for the year and a check made out to Arlington District UMW either quarterly or in one or two lump sum payments. I know that many of the units are still not meeting regularly due to the pandemic, but any amount that can be pledged to support UMW is appreciated in order to keep up the good work that UMW does.

As Beth mentioned in our last newsletter, it's not too early to think about becoming a Rainbow Giver. All units with a Rainbow Giver are automatically 5-Star Units and will be recognized at the District Annual Meeting. The form is available on our website, <http://www.arlingtondistrictumw.org/forms.html>, with one change. Send your form to me rather than Beth Meserve.

Yours in Christ.

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703-237-9324

Treasurer

Debby Fairweather

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UMW RAINBOW WOMANYes, **YOU** can become a **RAINBOW WOMAN!**

Have you thought about you personally giving to all five channels of giving?

A **Rainbow Women** gives to all five channels of giving:

\$40 to give someone special a Special Mission Recognition Pin

\$ 5 Pledge to Mission

\$ 5 Gift to Mission

\$ 5 Special Recognition in Memory

\$ 5 World Thank Offering

\$60 Total



Your \$60 **RAINBOW WOMAN** offering must specify that you are giving to the above five channels and designate who you want your pin to go to, who your Gift in Memory is for and that you are giving that \$60 for a Rainbow Woman. If you simply give \$60 to your unit treasurer, you will not be a Rainbow Woman. You must designate that it is for Rainbow Woman giving.

1. Special Mission Recognition Pin in ___ Honor or ___ Memory of:

(Please check appropriate box) (Name of person being honored or memorialized)

Send pin to: (Name)

(Address) _____

2. Pledge to Mission

3. Gift to Mission Card – Which card to send?

(Thank You, Baby, Birthday, In the Service of Christ, etc.)

Send card to: (Name)

(Address) _____

4. Gift in Memory: In Memory of:

(Name of person in whose memory the gift is made)

Send card to: (Name)

(Address) _____

5. World Thank Offering

Given by (Rainbow Woman's Name)

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

District _____

All components must be submitted to your Unit Treasurer at one time. We suggest that this Rainbow Woman gift be given in addition to your regular pledge to mission.

If you have any questions about becoming a Rainbow Woman, please contact:

District Treasurer: Debby Fairweather

Email: RDFairweather@verizon.net Phone: 703-237-9324

Social Action

Cheryl Moore

Being green

How many of us remember Kermit the Frog's famous ballad, "It's Not Easy Being Green?" In it, he laments that his green coloring makes him blend in with ordinary things like leaves and grass – things that people take for granted. But then he remembers that green is the color of spring, and trees, and mountains. He ends the song by deciding that green is beautiful, and it's what he wants to be after all.

In this season, we are surrounded by green. Plants shooting up from the ground...leaves unfurling on barren branches...fresh grass beginning to grow – these all remind us that green is the color of growth, new life, and hope. Green is the backdrop to God's beautiful creation that we call the earth.

Unfortunately, it's all too easy to take creation for granted. We forget that our actions – both individually and corporately -- can either harm or help the earth. As United Methodist Women, we are called to be stewards of the earth by adopting environmentally friendly lifestyles that preserve creation for the benefit of present and future generations. You can learn more about Climate Justice, a social action priority for the 2021-2024 quadrennium, at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice>. There you will find a wealth of information about environmental issues and advocacy, including Bible studies, program ideas, videos, and many other useful tools and resources for use in your UMW unit and other groups.

Another way to get involved in climate justice is to go to the UMW Creation Justice Ministry website <https://umcreationjustice.org/> and learn about how United Methodists are responding to the call to take action for ecological healing and creation care in their churches and communities. You can also subscribe to receive monthly tips to share with your unit and congregation. Among the tips for April are:

- Plant native milkweed as a food source for monarch butterflies.
- Go on an Earth Day (April 22) scavenger hunt with your family.
- Minimize your use of plastic containers by switching to dissolvable concentrated refill tablets for soap and cleaners.
- Invite a few friends to go on a socially distanced wildflower walk.
- Play in the rain and let it wash your car – naturally.

This spring, I hope you'll join me (and Kermit) in celebrating and protecting all things green as gifts from God whose creation is anything but ordinary.

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." Psalm 24:1

Cheryl Moore
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703-981-9879

Education & Interpretation

INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 GRANT

Grant Reaches Remote Women in Republic of Georgia

Women activists in Tbilisi connect United Methodist Women to the women and children who are most vulnerable in small villages.

by *Iulia Kharashvili*



Women activists in remote and war-weary regions receive humanitarian parcels for distribution and participate in an informational meeting.

In the village of Chorchana, near the police check point of South Ossetia, women have no career opportunities. Willing but unable to work, their lives are under constant threat. Their only source of income is selling flowers. Other challenges in this Georgian town is the inability to communicate with the wider world as the internet infrequently works. Children in schools lack basic necessities.

However, the women in this remote village have been energized to work with other local Georgian **women's organizations**. In so doing, they have partnered with **IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) Women Association**, also called Consent, which is a long-time partner with United Methodist Women on behalf of women and children in the region.

During the pandemic, United Methodist Women provided a small COVID-19 grant to Consent in Tbilisi. The goal: to provide education and humanitarian assistance to vulnerable families impacted by **COVID-19 in dispersed regions**. **Regional coordinators from the women's network, previously created** as conflict regional coordinators, went to work. They distributed food parcels to remote regions, including the village of Chorchana.

The Work Continues

As the number of COVID patients rapidly increased in Georgia in the early fall, lockdowns persisted, however the women of Consent committed to continuing the food and hygiene distribution, as well increasing education during the fall and winter. In small, safe gatherings, women shared health updates and trained one another on best practices for maintaining health.

Informational meetings about COVID were conducted in the Kazreti day center for the elderly; hygienic equipment was given to 50 attendees of the center; and the staff was trained on how to work safely during the unprecedented conditions of a pandemic.

Humanitarian distribution and informal education continued in the villages of Gori, Kareli and Kaspi, also affected by the regional conflict. The current lockdowns put so many vulnerable people in **such difficult conditions**. **Thanks to our women's organizations formal and informal networks and our connection to United Methodist Women**, we were able to protect and provide food and resources to our most marginalized people.

Iulia Kharashvili is the IDPWA Consent chairperson.

Education & Interpretation

Mission Encounter Courses for 2021

July 1, 7:00-8:00 pm Worship/Plenary/Introduction of Staff

July 8, 7:00-9:00 pm Session 1

July 15, 7:00-9:00 pm Session 2

July 22, 7:00-9:00 pm Session 3

July 29, 7:00-9:00 pm Session 4

August 5, 7:00-8:00 pm Worship/Communion/Dedication to Mission

The following classes are offered on the above dates:

Pushout, The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools by Monique W. Morris will be led by Dr. Jack Call, retired Prof. of Criminal Justice, from Radford U. and Judy Diggs, Director of Equity, Diversity and Tiered Intervention for Montgomery County VA Public Schools

Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom, Living Into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship by Darryl W. Stephens, in **English**, will be led by Rev. Nancy Robinson, pastor of Christ UMC, Richmond District.

Finding Peace in an Anxious World edited by Erin James-Brown, in **Korean**, will be led by Rev. Kiok Cho, retired UM minister.

Finding Peace in an Anxious World edited by Erin James-Brown, in **English**, will be led by Rev. Rick Geoghegan, retired UM minister.

Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence, A Curriculum for Youth Leaders by Jay Godfrey will be led by Rev. Drew Ensz, Director of Arise, United College Min. in NOVA and Rev. Bret Gresham, Director of Wesley at VT. This class is for Youth Directors/Leaders.

Responding to Violence, A Curriculum for Children's Facilitators by Sue Raymond will be led by Rev. Linda Ray, pastor of Chamberlayne Heights UMC, Richmond District. This class is for children's directors/teachers.

Serving 101, Mission of God for the People of God, Missional Leadership in Community, Missional Leadership through our Connection and Experiential Missional Discipleship will be led by Seungsoo "RJ" Fe Jun, our Conference Director of Missional Ministries and other conference leaders.

July 9, 6:00-8:00 pm

July 10, 10:00-12:00 am, 2:00-4:00 pm

July 15, 6:00-8:00 pm

Worship sessions July 1 and August 5, 7:00-8:00 pm

Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom, Living Into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship by Darryl Stephens, in **Spanish**, will be led by Margie Hernandez, the Hispanic Language Coordinator of the VA Conference United Methodist Women.

Education & Interpretation

Introducing a New Model and Timeline for Mission u Curricula

We are excited to implement a new model for Mission u in 2022 and beyond by delivering to our members and the broader church a new Transformative Biblical Curricula, with one curriculum for adults, one for youth, and one for children developed each year. In this new model, curricula will focus on a central scriptural and/or theological theme, and incorporate spiritual growth, social action, and the global context of the church. This approach integrates crucial elements of our previous mission studies while also creating a more flexible, modern curriculum that can be used both at Mission u and in broader contexts, such as the local church, small group virtual settings, and ecumenically. As we continue to develop this, we will be sharing more about changes to training and possible schedules for Mission u events.

For reference, the timeline below shows what our topics of study will be through 2024.

Timeline of Future Mission u Curricula

2022

- Luke 13 – Transformative Biblical Curriculum for Adults
- Luke 13 – Transformative Biblical Curriculum for Youth
- Luke 13 – Transformative Biblical Curriculum for Children

2023

- Living the Kin-dom – Transformative Biblical Curriculum for Adults
- Living the Kin-dom – Transformative Biblical Curriculum for Youth
- Living the Kin-dom – Transformative Biblical Curriculum for Children

2024

- Living the Kin-dom – Year 2 for Adults
- Living the Kin-dom – Year 2 for Youth
- Living the Kin-dom – Year 2 for Children

Program Resources

Phyllis Kirkman

Answers to Your Questions about the Reading Program 2020–2021

Reading Program participants have contacted us asking for some clarifications about how a two-year **Reading Program plan will work**. **Since many of you have raised the same questions and concerns, we've** decided to share our answers with the entire membership at once in the following update letter from Operations Officer Andris Salter.

Dear Members,

This is an unusual year, as we find ourselves living through a pandemic of a virus that has impacted millions of people; many have lost jobs, family members, friends, homes. We are working remotely, **worshipping online; we've postponed or canceled many events. Annual Meetings and Conferences are virtual.** General and Jurisdictional Conferences have been delayed. United Methodist Women has developed new ways to continue the work remotely while COVID-19 keeps all of us social-distanced and so many quarantined. Delayed elections meant naming committees were delayed, including the Assembly, Editorial and Reading Program Committees. With the National Office closed, potential Reading Program books could not be sent to evaluators in the usual manner. We determined that enlarging the 2021 list and combining the 2021 and 2022 Reading Lists would be a better way to handle the situation for now.

The 2020 Reading Program Committee selected new offerings to encourage more reading during these challenging times. We realize this is a lot of change, but changes are needed to continue the work remotely.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, more persons have participated in the Reading Program, many books have been recommended, and we are determining ways to involve evaluators differently. Publishers have also suggested books and ways to help send books to evaluators.

Many of you have asked how a two-year Reading Program plan will work. This is new for us as well so I would like to offer the following recommendations. But I also encourage you to be creative in your work: Think of new ways to enjoy the books, such as Zoom book clubs or by sharing book reports. Invite book authors to join you for discussions time, programs, etc.

A. Reading Book List: The reading forms should be sent to your Conference or District Secretary of Program Resources, in alignment with their schedule.

B. Participation: Anyone can participate in the Reading Program and all can receive a certificate for participating. See unitedmethodistwomen.org/download-resources/reading-program-2021-reporting-form.

C. Recognitions: Be creative in recognizing persons who are not UMW/UM.

D. Another list of books will be shared by April 2021 to serve as an addition to the books featured in the 2021–2022 catalog.

1. Award certificates as you would yearly recognitions. Or you can add another award for books read in 2021 and 2022.
2. Mix it up by recognizing books in 2021 and the Faith Talks podcasts, movies and books in 2022. Think of other creative ways to promote the Reading Program—and share what works by **posting about it on your personal social media accounts and tagging UMW's**.
3. For 2021–2022, participants can read books from the 2015 through the 2022 reading lists.

Program Resources

Phyllis Kirkman

E. Faith Talks: Faith Talk podcasts can now be counted in the category of Spiritual Growth. You must participate or listen to two Faith Talks podcasts. If you participate/listen to three, it will be counted as a Bonus Book in the Spiritual Growth category.

F. Movies: Watching these movies and documentaries will also count toward the Reading Program:

1. Just Mercy
2. The Hate U Give
3. Pushout

G. Children and youth books can be found within each of the categories.

H. Bonus books: These count as two books in different categories.

I. The Mission u studies also count as Bonus Books.

We hope this information answers your most pressing questions about the Reading Program in this unique time. Most of the information provided here can also be found on the Reading Program website, but this update addresses some additional concerns that have been called to our attention.

Faith Talks can be found if you go to UnitedMethodistWomen.org. Pull down Members and Leaders. Response is also available on a podcast. These are about an hour long.

When you send in your report, please include whether your unit has a lending library or not.

God bless you as you pray, study, act and organize in Christ's name.

Phyllis



Saturday, MAY 15, 2021
Virginia Conference United Methodist Women
Spiritual Life Retreat
Peace Be With You



Our Speaker: Rev. Ileana Rosario
Pastor of Lower United Methodist Church

Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Agenda:

Greet One Another

Welcome and Zoom Tips

Opening Music and Prayer

Four Sessions followed by Break-out Groups:

Receiving Peace in My Heart

Sharing Peace within the United Methodist Church

Upholding Peace Despite Division

Spreading Peace Throughout the World

Closing Worship

Parting Words

Please register by May 3, 2021 by clicking on this link:

[Spiritual Life Retreat registration](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Prayer 

UMW Vespers Service
Saturday, May 29
7pm



Plan now to join us for a time of prayer and meditation via Zoom.

Register in advance for this meeting by clicking below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZluc-qvrDgqG9T2jVcVMzM07gaYExsaAmJt>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

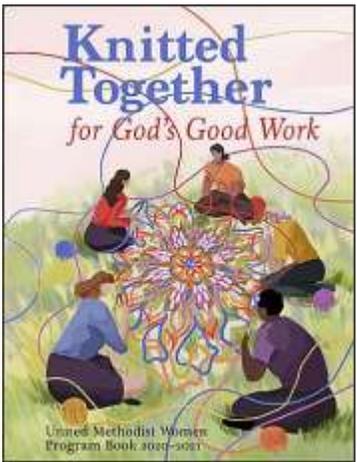


Arlington District United Methodist Women 2021 Calendar

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.

Event	Date
Virginia Conference Spiritual Life Retreat—via zoom	May 15, 9 a.m.
Arlington District Vespers—via zoom	May 29, 7 p.m.
UMW Day at Ferrum College	June 5
Alexandria/Arlington Bi-District Day Apart	June 12, 10 a.m.
Virginia Conference Mission Encounter—via zoom	July 1—August 5
Virginia Conference Young Women’s Event —via zoom	Sept. 11
Arlington District Annual Meeting	Sept. 25
Virginia Conference 49th Annual Meeting—via zoom	Oct. 23
Arlington District Mini-Mission Encounter	Nov. 13



Arlington District United Methodist Women Officers for 2021

ELECTED OFFICERS

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Vacant

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Education and Interpretation

Vacant

Membership Nurture and Outreach

Vacant



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