



# UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

April-May 2021

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a beautiful spring! Flowers are blooming and the temperatures are pleasant! Also, things are slowly and carefully reopening. As I prepared to write this, I looked back at last May's article. At that time, we were optimistically rescheduling events for last fall. Well, many of those events like Hands on Mission Days and the tea with Rumi Friendship did not happen. Plan to attend our Candle Burning program on June 5 at 10:00 am. Currently, we are planning to hold it outside. We do have a rain date of June 6 at 1:00 pm. Ladies will need to bring their own lawn chairs to sit upon. If we hold it outside, there may be refreshments served in a safe manner.

How exciting that Circles are beginning to meet in person. If your Circle has not yet planned to do this, the Circle leader or program planner will need to contact Nancy Reynolds to arrange for a room and will need to fill out the proper form in advance. At this time, food is not permitted to be consumed during any meetings!

There will be opportunities for UMW fundraising. Check with your Circle leaders to hear about these. Be on the look-out for more information about the Summer Pie Sale and plan for our Christmas Cookie Exchange.

Stay well and continue to follow safety guidelines so that our regular meetings and activities can resume soon!

Janet

## IMPORTANT DATES

May 24 – UMW Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.  
June 5 – Candle Burning, 10:00 a.m. Outdoors  
(Rain Date: June 6, 1:00 p.m. Outdoors)  
September 26 – UMW Sunday

## CIRCLE HAPPNINGS

**Friendship Circle** met on April 13 with nine members and one guest attending. After months of being unable to meet in person, there was joy in abundance as we chatted and caught up with each other. Caught up in every way except hugs! Memories of Bonnie Brothers were shared followed by an advice column prepared from Bonnie's life. Among the many things she would tell us would be these:

Smile.

Love the little children.

Sit up front at church.

Love one another.

Pastor Dave joined us for conversation, getting to know us and us to know him. We benefitted from his stories, his wit, his wisdom, his faith. Sue Williams shared a Response moment which noted the UMW involvement with social justice, school to prison pipeline, global climate change, and gender justice. A \$50 gift went to the 1st Advantage Foundation in support of the local military community baby pantry.

On April 13 **Sisters in Faith** met via Zoom with 22 attendees. Trish Kline gave our Devotion on the importance of simple things that can be important in our lives. Jeannie Niebel shared an article from the April Response Magazine about a UMW supported mission in LaPaz, Bolivia, that instructs indigenous women in sewing and knitting skills allowing them to make knit goods and clothing to earn an income. The women learn self-confidence and independence and the program builds self-esteem. Women in very rural areas have instruction and have been better able to support themselves and their families. Three of our SIF members, Gwen Hamrick, Linda Sells Weaver and Holley Walling gave an informative program on Racism based upon the WUMC Study related to the book *The Color of Compromise*. Their presentation related to diversity awareness - listening to different opinions, confronting

negative narratives related to racism and donating to racial justice causes. Also, our churches can build relationships with African American Churches and build relationships with their congregations. Here in Williamsburg 21% of people live below the poverty line. Many still work for the minimum wage (\$7.25) making it impossible to support a family unless both parents work, often having two jobs. Going forward, voting rights are important and matter greatly. We need to educate ourselves ongoing and advocate for people of color. Our own WUMC church website has information and resources related to racism we can access. Looking ahead, we discussed UMW Fundraising plans for 2021. Holley Walling closed our meeting with a prayer.

### CARE AND CONNECTION

**Sharon Sams** new address in Richmond:  
Lakewood Manor  
1900 Lauderdale Dr. Apt. A-201  
Richmond, VA 23238

### CAROL BRINKLEY MEMORIAL BOOK CLUB

Please feel free to drop in. We're happy to have anyone from our church family join us, if even for only one session. Zoom meetings are monthly at 7:00 pm on the 2nd Mondays. We follow the United Methodist Women's Reading Program which is a cherished tradition that brings people together in mission as they explore, share, and discuss books.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday May 10th at 7:00 pm when we will discuss *When Others Shuddered, Eight Women Who Refused to Give Up* by Jamie Janosz. For more information, contact the church office, 229-1771.

### UMW GIFT TO MISSION GREETING CARDS

A Gift to Mission is a wonderful way to honor or remember someone. By purchasing a UMW Gift to Mission Greeting Card, you can help support the total program of mission carried out by the United Methodist Women. Available designs can be viewed via this online link: <https://wnccumw.org/gift-to-mission-cards/>

Our current on-hand inventory of cards includes:

- Baby (5)
- Best Wishes (1)
- Congratulations (3)
- Congratulations Pink (2)
- Gift in Memory (12)
- Happy Birthday (3)
- In the Service Of Christ (2)
- Thank You (4)
- Thinking of You (4)
- You Are Awesome (1)

Additional cards are also available, which include: Peace, On Your Special Day, Encouragement, and Christmas. Our unit can obtain these, but we must purchase them in bundles of 10.

Send your donation to our Unit Treasurer (Linda Upshaw) and identify which card(s) you would like to purchase. Donations should be in amounts greater than \$5 per card. The first \$5 of your donation will be used to reimburse our treasury for the purchase of the card. The remainder of your donation will be included in our local Unit's Mission Fund. Mission funds are distributed annually during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter in support of local and global charities.