



GREEN MOUNTAIN DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

A Publication for United Methodist Women

August 2021

Editor: Ginger Phelps

NEWS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*Greetings and the Peace of Our Lord to all Green Mountain District UMW
"PEACE BE WITH YOU" (Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34)*

This Christian greeting reminds us of the importance of worshiping God together even in an uncertain world. In moments of uncertainty and anxiety, Jesus offers the wisdom of peace. This is the peace Christian communities around the world have shared for centuries when they shake hands, give a holy hug, and the peace of Christ to one another in worship. This is a time of "sharing love" or "greeting your neighbor" these are moments of intentional fellowship to engage those around you. It is an opportunity to remind each other that despite the chaos of the world around us, we worship a God who provides wise peace, like a mother hen who gathers her brood of chicks under her wing. These simple acts take on a new meaning and becomes a radical act of intentional speaking of peace into one another's lives, an act of resistance while we as a community combat the forces of a world that tries to tell us that anxiety and fear are the norm. For me spending time in prayer calms me and opens my heart and soul to God's teachings in the scriptures.

The next time anxiety overtakes you use "The Serenity Prayer" and then prayerfully listen.



*God, grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
wisdom to know the difference.*

*Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as the
Pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did,
This sinful world As it is,
Not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
If I surrender to His Will,
So that I may be reasonably happy
In this life, And supremely happy with Him Forever
And ever in the next.*

AMEN

It is my prayer you all find peace in your hearts and souls and share with those you meet, Please be sure to look for the sign up for the District UMW Meeting – 9/25/2021.

I encourage all of you to pray about being a member of the District Team. We have many ladies who have volunteered for many years and it is time for an opportunity for you to join the team. The District UMW depends on you volunteering and your involvement. Positions open are President, Vice President, Social Action, Membership, Nurture and Outreach, and Nominations Chair and Committee (3).

We Need You!!

Marie MacDougall, President of Green Mountain District



Fall District UMW Gathering
Saturday, September 25, via Zoom
9:00 – 12:00 Resource Event, 1:00 – 2:30 UMW Session

The Fall Gathering of United Methodist Women in the Green Mountain District will be split between the morning [Resource Day program with Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Mae Magill on community food ministries](#) and an afternoon session for United Methodist Women. These will be held via Zoom.

Please sign up for the morning webinar using the blue link above. After that session, we will take a break so that you can get some lunch, and then we will come back via Zoom from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. for additional time together. The afternoon program will include further exploring the morning's topic plus some United Methodist Women's business. The session will conclude with worship and Holy Communion led by our District Superintendent, Rev. Jill Colley Robinson.

Register for the UMW afternoon gathering by contacting Ginger Phelps: gingerp46@comcast.net (802) 879-7484. **Don't hesitate to call if you have questions!**
The Designated Offering at this Fall Meeting will go to UMCOR. See Treasurer's Report for mailing instructions.

About the Food Ministry resource event:
Growing Relational Food Ministries in Our Communities



Conference Resource Day hosted by Green Mountain District

The history of food programs is one of compassion but not necessarily thoughtfulness as to the best way to help the food insecure people in our communities, which COVID-19 has exacerbated. Most food pantries and meals are transactional rather than relational.

You are invited to participate in a Resource Day Event with Reverend Dr. Elizabeth

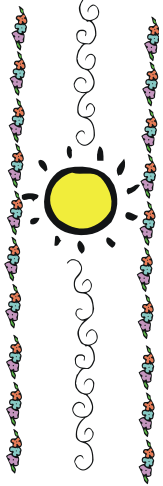
Magill (Pastor Liz) for a workshop focusing on relational ministry in our communities. She recently wrote *Five Loaves, Two Fish, Twelve Volunteers*:

"Many churches are providing for their neighbors with pantries and meals. Five Loaves, Two Fish, Twelve Volunteers: Growing Relational Food Ministries is about how to feed not only our bodies, but also our hearts and our souls. It is about getting to know the people who come to eat, and in knowing, how to make space for everyone to belong. Five Loaves is about creating church." (from her website)

During the webinar, Reverend and author Elizabeth Mae Magill and speakers representing 4 Vermont United Methodist churches will share their knowledge and experiences with current food ministry programs.

Spiritual Growth

These months of pandemic that may seem unending, have been trying for folks who may have been more used to going here or there at whim. We've had to be so careful and consider where we go and for how long. Some of us have living situations where we were confined to small living spaces. Getting outside was a treat and for many, it was a source of maintaining calm and connection.



It's been warm and humid here recently, but let's hope it will be cooler soon. This will provide a great time to be out in God's creation. There is solace and something soothing about being outdoors when things are stressful. We can re-connect with some of the rhythms of the natural world as we watch birds, insects, flowers, trees and other living things progress through life cycles.

I have found it reassuring to watch the birds arrive in spring, go about courting and nest building, and then watch the young ones fledge. My day lilies sprouted early but then went on to bloom for several weeks. The last ones are blooming this week. I relished the gift of a new bloom each day! Now the apples are ripening on an old apple tree on the edge of our yard, and deer and fawns sneak in to eat the ones that drop.

Taking time to stop and look and listen help calm anxious minds. There's a feeling of security in watching these cycles, and they make us aware of the amazing world God created.

There are many ways we can make this enjoyment of nature into spiritual practices. Here are a few ideas:

Find a psalm that speaks to you. You might want to write a few verses down to take outside with you. Then walk in a quiet setting where you can pray the verse as you walk and take in the world around you.

Another way is use nature to illustrate some scripture for you. Read this week's lectionary and pay attention to a verse that speaks to you. Go outside with your camera device and walk meditatively, paying attention to what you see that connects with your verse. Snap a picture or just stop and look. You don't have to have a camera to do this. Just go outside and pay attention. How is God speaking to you through your verse and what you see?

If you are not able to go outside, there are some shows on television that offer opportunity. PBS and Vermont Public TV have many shows that bring nature into our homes. Some channels have frequent programs about our national parks. As you watch one of these shows, what Bible verse comes to you as you watch a particular scene? Are you feeling moved to take some action as a steward of God's creation?

Invent your own practice using nature! The object is to calm or quiet your mind so that you can focus your attention on God and how God might be reaching out to you. Once you've gotten centered in this way, you may also discover you need to respond. Stop, look, listen, respond!

Grace and peace,
Evie Doyen



Reading Program News



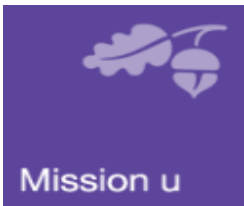
United Methodist Women has developed new ways to continue its work in missions during the COVID-19 outbreak. More persons have participated in the Reading Program and many great books have been recommended. We now have a two-year reading program with plenty of flexibility. Participants can read books from the 2018 through 2022 reading list. The Mission u study books count as bonus books (credit for two books). Faith Talks podcast can be counted in the category of spiritual growth. There are movies and documentaries which can be watched. Many books on the reading list may be books you already have, like Michelle Obamas “Becoming” or “Hidden Figures” or Chelsea Clinton’s children’s book, “She Persisted” and many other great books for children and youth.

Go to [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/reading program2021](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram2021) and 2022 for the reading list, where to find the books, and requirements for completing a reading program plan. If you are unable to download and print the several pages of information for that from the UMW website, I will be glad to mail it to you please read some of these great books and mail your completed program plan list to me.



Pat Howard,
Program Resources Coordinator

Mission u Feedback



This summer I was fortunate to be able to take part in the excellent Zoom Mission u study called Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church’s Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship.

I encourage all you sisters in Christ to look for opportunities that UMW offers to learn and pray together, whether by Zoom or in person. We help to equip each other to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. Let's turn faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of children, youth, and women around the world. I hope to see you at our upcoming district meeting.

Yours in Christ, Carol Jean Suitor, Green Mt. District Secretary

Other Coming Events:

October 23, 2021 NEC UMW Fall Gathering in Brunswick, Maine

Theme: Helping Our Children Through Rough Times

May 20-22, 2022 Assembly, Orlando Convention Center, FL

Theme: Turn It Up! Early registration rate until Nov. 30

Contact a Green Mountain District Officer for further information.



Education and Interpretation Information

Some of you no longer have an active UMW unit in your church. If that is the case women who wish can become district UMW members their names can be added to the district mailing list. The Green Mountain district newsletter will give them information on spring and fall gatherings, mission you and New England conference events.

Those wishing to receive the newsletter should contact Ginger Phelps, gingerp46@comcast.net or 802-879-7484, 10 Glenwood Drive, Essex Junction, VT 05452. You can also give a gift to mission by contacting the District Treasurer Carole Rice cr_glacier698@aol.com.

Please share this information with the women in your local church.

Peg Moseley, Coordinator of Education and Interpretation.



Well, the year of 2021 is more than half over with only four more months to move through. My list of to do's hasn't had the attention needed to plow through yet though.

Hope you were able to have some fun and able to adjust to the many changes we faced. It is not too late to receive the Covid vaccine so please do that when you can. It is also important to respect those still at odds about vaccination.

We give thanks for all the people who have worked so hard to keep us safe. Vermonters have done an outstanding job of working to keep our state safe. Hats off to you all! We Vermonters do stand together, so thank you for your service.

There are so many ways to serve our Lord, you can pick out the way that you feel called to do as there are many in great need - in your community, state, and around the world, even in your backyard. Surely there is an area that you can touch and will fill you with peace and a new understanding. Our prayers are a great healer and help us all. So wear a mask, say some prayers, and keep safe. Let's work together, stand up where you are needed, and be faithful to our God.

Let's love one another as God loves us. John 15:12

Janet Powell, Social Action Coordinator

Some Thoughts from the District Treasurer

Dear Sisters in Christ, I hope you have enjoyed this beautiful summer.

God says: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

I want to share some of the things that I have enjoyed about the UMW organization. I enjoy that it is a Faith/Godly based organization of women working together to improve the lives of children, youth and women thru mission work. Where we worship God, work and play together. We are given the opportunity to meet many wonderful women and make new friends at District, Conference and Assembly meetings. Opportunity to learn, thru the Reading Program and Mission u, and Leadership Development.

One of the **Mission trips** that I thoroughly enjoyed was the trip to the **Red Bird Mission in Beverly, KY**. The Red Bird Missionary Conference is the most comprehensive mission of the United Methodist Church. On this trip we toured the **Mathew 25 Ministries** in OH. All kinds of goods are gathered and distributed to the poor and disaster victims throughout the US and the World. We stopped at the **Ark Encounter**. This is a replica of Noah’s Ark built to the dimensions given in the Bible. We toured the **BibleWalk**, a wax museum that brings God’s word to life. We also toured the **Creation Museum**, a venture through biblical history.

What is Special Mission Recognition? It is recognizing that faithful person who does or has done a lot for missions. This person can be a member of the church, man, woman, youth and even someone outside your church whose faith leads them to give their time, working/caring for God’s people in the world, taking a stand for justice in your community or caring for God’s universe.

Five Star/Channels of Mission Giving Designation:

(Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering). This year 3 out of 9 active Green Mountain UMW organizations achieved their Five Star/Channels of Mission Giving. It is an honor and an achievement for your UMW group to attain this level of mission giving.

Congratulations to the 3 local UMW organizations that achieved their Five Star/Channels of Mission Giving: Burlington UMW, Essex Junction Grace UMW, and West Danville UMW.

WORSHIP OFFERING: Thank you to those of you who made a donation from the April 17, 2021 Spring Meeting. Because of you the Green Mountain District UMW was able to send a check for \$ 235.00 to the **“Vermont Arts Council”**. The arts are such an important part of our lives. They provide opportunities and enjoyment for our children, youth, adults, and seniors in our Vermont communities.

Designated Offering at this Fall Meeting: Will be to **“UMCOR”** (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) brings God’s hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by war, conflict or natural disaster. UMCOR provides humanitarian relief and disaster response to people in more than 80 countries, including the United States.

Those wishing to donate: Write a check to Green Mountain District UMW. Note on the check that it is for UMCOR and mail the check to Carole Rice, 54 Gail Terrace, Williston, VT 05495.



I want to thank all the local treasurers for your pledge submissions and filing out the Remittance Form.

Please remember to send **your Pledge to Mission** donations to me **by December 1st**. in order to help me meet the reporting deadline to the New England Conference. Anything that comes in after the December 1st date may be credited to the following year.

Don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or if you need forms or want to buy “Gift to Mission” cards.

Carole Rice, 54 Gail Terrace, Williston VT 05495, 802-879-0185 cr_glacier698@aol.com

Blessings,
Carole Rice, District Treasurer

**GREEN MOUNTAIN DISTRICT UMW
2021 Slate of Mission Team Officers**

**PRESIDENT
(2018)**

Marie MacDougall

**19 Eastern Ave., Barre, VT 05641
(802)461-4452 (home) (518)588-4705 (cell)
e-mail: mariemacdougall41@gmail.com**

VICE PRESIDENT

vacant

**SECRETARY
Suitor(2021)**

Carol Jean

119 Hawthorn Drive, #107, Shelburne, VT 05482

TREASURER

Carole Rice (2011)

**54 Gail Terrace, Williston, VT 05495
(802)879-0185
e-mail: cr_glacier698@aol.com**

MISSION COORDINATORS

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH, ex officio
(2019)**

Evie Doyon

**560 Doyon Road, Northfield, VT
eviedo@gmail.com**

SOCIAL ACTION

vacant

**EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION
(2011)**

Peg Moseley

**289 Foss Road, Wolcott, VT 05680
(802) 888-7816
email: moseley289@mailstation.com**

**MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE AND OUTREACH
(2011)**

Pat Howard

**98 Marions Way, Williston, VT 05495
(802) 879-7320
email: pchvt@msn.com**

**COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR
(2009)**

Ginger Phelps

**10 Glenwood Drive, Essex Junction, VT 05452
(802) 879-7484
e-mail: gingerp46@comcast.net**

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

CHAIRPERSON

vacant

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS: (4 vacancies)