



VERMONT DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

A Publication for United Methodist Women

March 2020

Editor: Ginger Phelps

NEWS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings from Vermont District UMW

Again, Jesus spoke to them saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” NRSV

Greetings UMW Sisters: Believe it or not Spring is really going to come, although I have to say it has not been a bad winter, at least not in my backyard. I do so miss the flowers and fresh veggies though, but like I said Spring is almost here.

I have been spending the last few weeks reading in preparation for facilitating the class at Mission u on “Anxiety”. It always amazes me how right on National UMW is when choosing the educational topics to be offered each Mission u. Now I ask, are you feeling anxious? If you are, please plan to attend this year’s mission u at SNHU in July and be sure to read the study book “Finding Peace in an Anxious World”. It is my plan to do a lot of listening and sharing as I have learned how much our ladies are missing opportunities to talk, listen and share with each other. See you there! Dates will be listed in this newsletter.

Last week I was in St. Louis, Missouri attending Leadership Training for New England Conference UMW. Our topics were “Oppression“, hearing from three of our sisters from Africa. “Exploring our Multiple Identities” using the Power Flower example. One session I attended was “Generation Conversation” and in this group we had representation from all the different generations and learned that each of us approaches life differently – Do we understand and accept our different approaches? I have to say the best generation is the GREAT GENERATION, that includes those born before 1945, you guessed it that is me.

UMW offers so many opportunities to study, read and do mission work. For me it is a bountiful gift that just keeps giving and giving and allows us to let our light shine in God’s world. Please give consideration to joining us in Poultney, Vermont for our Spring District UMW Meeting April 18th, 2020. See Flyer in this Newsletter.

Your faithful President
Marie MacDougall





Vermont District
United Methodist Women
Spring Meeting

Saturday, April 18, 2020
Poultney United Methodist Church
108 Main Street, Poultney, VT

Registration & Fellowship begin at 9:30 am
Program 10 am – 2:30 pm

Program:

QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer)
Suicide Prevention



Guest Speaker:

**Dr. Gus Jordan, director of Health and
Wellness Center at Middlebury College**

Cost \$12 includes lunch and program expenses
Please bring canned goods or paper products for local food shelf

REGISTRAR: Ginger Phelps 802-879-7484 gingerp46@comcast.net
Contact to register and also for directions

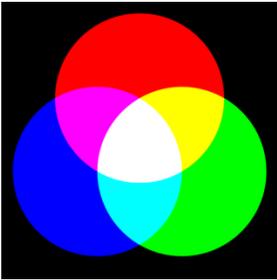
Link to District website with information and map:

<https://www.neumc.org/eventdetail/13140349?month=4&year=2020&day=1&display=m>

On Purpose

I have always loved the United Methodist Women's Purpose and its three parts: United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is (1) to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; (2) to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; (3) to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

The balance of all 3 is critical to our identity. If we were just part 1 we'd be a pious, spiritual group; if we were just part 2, we'd be a social club; if we were just part 3, we'd be social activists. Combining 2 of the parts would create a group that might do creative spiritual work together, or a group that got along well in social work, or a bunch of people engaged in mission but who couldn't work together!



In the diagram we see 3 overlapping circles that can represent each focus of our purpose. In our United Methodist Women's groups, we often spend time in each circle, but we will be a fully alive group as we draw all 3 circles together and function from the center.

As the Spiritual Growth Coordinator, it's my role to help you with the first focus as we seek to know God and be formed and find wholeness in Jesus Christ. Our good works and our fellowship need the balance of our spiritual depth and growth, and our spiritual growth progresses when we are engaged in community and service with others.

Blessings as you strive to live "on purpose,"
Evie Doyon,
Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Gift to Mission

Gift to Mission cards are a great way to stay in touch with friends as well as give funds to missions. Cards include thank you, birthday, get well, and new baby. Gift to missions cards are available at District UMW meetings and may be requested by local treasurers. Cards are \$5.00 each. This money goes to missions instead of a store bought card. A local unit member can send \$5.00 per card through the local treasurer to the district treasurer after the card is sent. This way the card will count as one of the Five Stars for the Five Stars of Giving.



Peg Moseley,
Education and Interpretation

Social Action



No TV or radio on, no newspaper today or mail either. It is Presidents Day and all seems quiet in our house. What is going on in the outside world is another story – how many people have passed away from the new COVID–19 virus break out in China and now a worldwide concern? And possibly a tow year plan for a medical injection to discover – how do we treat such a threat? There seems to be no end to the world’s problems.

Here in Vermont we have hope and progress in other issues though. There is a group of student teachers from the Champlain Valley Union High School called “the Racial Alliance Committee” leading the way on social justice and equity here in Vermont. It seems our younger generation is joining together and making a statement – remember the Frank Sinatra song “High Hopes”? about the ant with high hopes – well we need these high hopes now.

So soon it will be voting time again. Know what you are looking for in your area and nation. Be informed and go vote, it does make a difference. And each day you wake up in your place, go out your door with high hopes and an open heart and mind and be kind to the fellow people you meet.

Social action with high hopes, Janet W. Powell

The **UMW Reading Program** is a cherished tradition which can lead to informed actions of justice and kindness in our troubled world. Please consider reading a book in each of 5 categories. The 2020 list includes thoughtfully selected books for all ages, some "Bonus Books", and this year’s Mission u study books which count as 2 books. Books must now be obtained through libraries, bookstores or online, or electronically (ebooks) The 2020 book list and more detailed information can be found at: unitedmethodistwomen.org/reading-program.



But, good news for the less computer savvy : As usual, I will have a space at the Spring District Meeting with some books to purchase (thanks to my friends at Hopkins Bookshop) and also Mission u study books, 2020 Reading Program catalogs, "retired" books at bargain prices, greeting cards, and lots of free stuff and encouragement to READ. Please come and look.

Pat Howard, Program Resources

Mark your Calendars



April 24-26, 2020 Northeast Jurisdiction UMW
Quadrennial Mtg., Baltimore, Marriott Waterfront
To register visit: www.nejumw.org

July 24-26, 2020 Mission u –Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH

1. Spiritual Growth Study: Finding Peace in an Anxious World
– Marie MacDougall, Rev. Dr. Yoo-Yun Cho-Chang
2. Korean Spiritual Growth Study: Finding Peace in an Anxious World
- Rev. Chung Ho Lee
3. Issue Study: Pushout—the Criminalization of Black Girls in School
- Rev. Catharine Cummings

Online registration available later this spring. Or get a form at the Spring District Meeting or contact Ginger Phelps, 802 879-7484 or email gingerp46@comcast.net

Thoughts from the District Treasurer

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to all of you. We are so blessed to live in such a beautiful state and county. We can experience the beauty of God's creation no matter where we are. **John 1:3** - Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. REMEMBER, EVERYDAY IS A GIFT, OPEN YOURS TODAY AND REJOICE.



Through your love and dedication to mission giving we continue change situations for women, children and youth in our communities, across America and throughout the world. Thanks to each and every local UMW organization. God is at work in the world, and we are all part of it!

Five Star/Channels of Mission Giving Designation:

God is working in our local UMW Unites to help fulfill and live out the Purpose and Mission of United Methodist Women. It doesn't matter the size of the unit, or our age. All that matters is that we love God and are willing to serve him. This year 4 out of 12 active Vermont local 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 4 local UMW organizations that achieved their Five Star/Channels of Mission Giving. The Vermont District UMW would like to recognize the following United Methodist Women's organizations: Essex Grace UMW, Middlebury UMW, Pownal UMW, and West Danville UMW. These units will be recognized at our Spring Gathering. Come and help them celebrate!

Just as a reminder the Five Star/Channels of Mission Giving are: Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering.

Special Mission Recognition:

Each year the **New England Conference UMW** asks each District to name a person for Special Mission Recognition to be given at the New England Conference UMW Annual meeting. This year at the October meeting in Gilford, NH, the Vermont District recognized **Janet Powell**, Essex Junction UMW. Janet has served many offices on the Troy Conference, Green Mountain District and Vermont District. Janet was President of the Vermont District UMW is currently serving as the Social Action Coordinator. Janet is very involved in her church and local UMW unit where she currently serves as President.

Last year the **Vermont District UMW** recognized 4 very deserving individuals. At the **Spring Gathering** in Tinmouth, VT we recognized **Carol Jean Suitor**. **Carol Jean** was very active in her church, her local UMW unit and the community. She held various offices on the Green Mountain and Vermont District Boards. With the Rev. Hannah Sotak present from the Rutland UMC we recognized **Norman Desjardins**. Norm is a deeply faithful man who has a long history of serving his community. He cooks for the Dismas House, is a volunteer coordinator at the West Rutland Food Shelf and is an advocate of individuals in recovery through AA. Sponsors.

Last fall the **Vermont District UMW** recognized **June Hipes** and **Don Hipes**. **June and Don** are from the Essex Junction Grace UMC. They **both** were very active at Grace UMC, as well as in the local community. They served on all committees and always helped with the many different functions and projects at the church. **Don** was lay leader for a number of years. **June** has been and is very active in the Grace UMW.

The Vermont District had 8 persons receiving Special Mission Recognitions from their local units. This is a wonderful way to give recognition for the work an individual does for missions whether it is in the local church, community or the world.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the Spring Gathering April 18th at the Poultney UMC, Poultney VT.

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, if you need forms or want any Gift to Mission or Gift to Memory cards. Address: 54 Gail Terrace, Williston VT 05495 Phone #: 802-879-0185 eMail: cr_glacier698@aol.com

Blessings,
Carole Rice, District Treasurer