**Addendum to the UMW Sunday on Perspective**

Using the 12 cultural similarities (the 12 areas that all cultures experience though they each are different depending on their culture), each has been impacted by the pandemic. The first 10 cultural similarities use a mnemonic device/rhyming device which allows one to remember these similarities.

1. One - bun (which stands for **food**). There was a period of time where there were food shortages and some were eating differently because of a lack of money due to job losses. Some of shortages caused by the COVID-19 outbreaks have been flour, soup, meat, poultry and seafood, dried beans and grains, canned and frozen vegetables, and soft drinks (actually the entire aluminum-beverage-can manufacturing industry). Food banks are overwhelmed now even by families that would have never imagined that they would be standing in line for bags of groceries.
2. Two - shoe (**clothing**). Many have not physically gone shopping due to the virus. Malls were shut down for a very long time and some stores have gone out of business, especially small local family owned businesses. Many businesses have gone bankrupt due to the inability of people to shop. Even thrift stores have not been open very much. There was a long time where one could not even donate things.
3. Three - tree (**shelter –** one can take the wood from the tree and build a home). Many have not been able to pay their bills due to job losses or cut hours. A federal law was created to prohibit eviction for non-payment of rent, nevertheless, many are on the verge of homelessness. Even finding rentals has become difficult.
4. Four - door (**education** – it is the door to opportunity). Education has become a huge issue with many students learning virtually. Since spring, parents had to do much of the teaching at home. It seems that most school districts are doing something different – some are hybrid (some in person and some virtual), but schooling has affected millions.
5. Five - hive (**economy –** one can take the honey out of the hive and sell it make money which is at the heart of an economy). Every single person has been affected in terms of our economy. Almost everyone received two stimulus checks. Many have lost their jobs and have gone on unemployment. Fortunately for a while, these folks were given an extra $600 a week, but that ended in July. Many jobs have disappeared forever. Besides the shortages of food items already mentioned, there have been many other shortages. Toilet paper, paper towels, liquid soaps (hand sanitizer), disinfectant sprays and wipes, and over the counter medications have been difficult to find in stores.
6. Six - sticks (**recreation** – one can take the sticks and build a campfire). Sports was cancelled in many schools; most national teams don’t allow anyone to go to their games. People can exercise outside as long as they social distance. Many places where people participate in fun activities have closed. Theatres started to slowly open in September. Because of folks wanting to exercise outdoors, there is now a shortage on the purchase of new bicycles.
7. Seven - heaven (**religion**). Most churches meet virtually. A few have opened but our own bishop has encouraged most churches to not meet until after the New Year. Those traditions that have emphasized social justice issues such as our own, have become more outspoken especially following the death of George Floyd.
8. Eight - mate (**family**). Unfortunately as of December, 369,000 people have died in our country. Twenty-two million have had the coronavirus, and many have had to quarantine due to the virus. Unfortunately, many people died without any family at their side. Also, many people of color lost family members due to racism and police brutality.
9. Nine - spine (**communication** as one’s backbone communicates with the brain). It has been difficult for some to communicate with loved ones especially with those in nursing homes. Family members are not able to visit family unless they see each other through a window. Some people have rarely left their homes and have not communicated with others.
10. Ten - pen (calligraphy which is done with a special pen is a form of **art**). The economic impacts of COVID-19 have severely affected the ticketing and entertainment industry, with venues closed indefinitely and the entire industry at a standstill, 90 % of venues are in peril of never reopening again.
11. (Eleven stands for **transportation**. Often 8th graders take a bus to Washington DC as a special final event of middle school, so the bus stands for transportation. There is no rhyming here. It is just a statement to help one remember the last two of the 12 cultural similarities). The airlines have lost billions of dollars and are presently running at less than 20 % capacity. On a positive note, air quality has significantly improved as people are driving far less due to the pandemic.
12. (Twelve stands for **government**. The 8th graders destination is Washington DC, which is the heart of our federal government). Many feel the government has failed us. The government has had to focus exclusively on how to deal with the pandemic and other issues have subsequently been ignored. Social justice issues have also divided our country and the government is split on these as well.

District Superintendent Scott Carlson wrote in his September 25th devotion, **“**Sometimes tragedies have a way of allowing us to look at our life through a new lens.  This new perspective can help bring us to new insights. How have the challenges of 2020 become a new lens for you? What do you think God is inviting us, as the church, to be and become?” Here are some of the ”good” that has come as a result of bad.

**Good that has come as a result of bad**

* The Sierra Club has recognized the need to dismantle systemic racism in the US and within their own organization. They said they must reckon with how white supremacy, both in the past and the present, has shaped their institution. They acknowledged their responsibility to use their power to help abolish systemic racism, which is destroying lives, communities and the planet.
* On July 13 the Washington Redskins Football Team announced they would be dropping the Redskins name and logo after 87 years. Many saw that name as a slur against American Indians. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, who had fought for the name change said, "I think this will be read as part of the George Floyd revolution.” The National Congress of American Indians said, "We commend the Washington NFL team for eliminating a brand that disrespected, demeaned, and stereotyped all native people," and called on other teams to retire caricatures.
* The Mississippi state legislature voted on June 28th to replace its state flag, the last in the nation to display the Confederate battle emblem. One political activist from Mississippi said, "My ancestors were beaten and traumatized, and it was under that flag."
* Virginia Governor Ralph Northam announced his intention to remove a towering statue of [Confederate General Robert E. Lee](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/virginia-robert-e-lee-statue-removal-governor-ralph-northam/) from Richmond's historic Monument Avenue.
* Military leaders have said they were open to renaming forts named after Confederate generals, a proposal that President Trump has rejected.
* NASCAR now prohibits the [display of the Confederate flag](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/nascar-bans-confederate-flags/) during races and other events.
* The Cleveland Indians announced the team is reviewing its name while the Atlanta Braves say they will reexamine a "tomahawk chop" cheer by fans.
* Lady Antebellum changed their name to Lady A due to Civil War connections.
* The Dixie Chicks changed their name to The Chicks due to the negative connotation of Dixie.
* Since George Floyd’s death in late May, there have been about 450 pieces of policing reform proposals introduced in 31 states, according to a count by the NCSL (National Conference of State Legislatures).
* One member of UMW wrote, “When all our family plans for attending a week at Chautauqua Institution in NY were canceled, we decided to spend a week in Door County. We had never been to Door Co. or Green Bay. It was the best family vacation we ever had and gave us a better knowledge of Wisconsin geography and history!