

Mission Matters

October 2020



President's Message

UMW Sisters,

I hope that those of you who were able to join us for our Virtual District Annual Gathering were able to enjoy it. Meeting virtually is no substitute for meeting in-person, but we still wish to offer you all a chance to gather safely and continue to be enriched and I am always blessed to be with you no matter how it is accomplished. We did suffer a few technical difficulties at the Annual Gathering which is not surprising considering that we are new to this format. Unfortunately, this apparently also prevented us from successfully recording this presentation. I had hoped to post this to share with those of you who were unable to join us and I apologize for this technical error. We hope to do better as we gain more experience. We have so much we would like to share with you. I hope you will find ways either as groups or individuals to join us at our virtual Day of Enrichment on November 14th. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

One thing which is still possible even when we are apart is to participate in the Reading Program. I was actually a book evaluator for several books which made it into the 2021 Reading list. I especially loved reading "My Savior Is the Masses: Dancing Along the Path to Justice" by Joy Prim. Joy writes about her experience as a US-2 missionary to Hong Kong and also in California. She worked primarily on immigrant worker justice for Pilipino women many of whom work as domestic workers and face many issues of unfair employment practices and abuses. It gave me window into the ongoing street protests active in Hong Kong this summer. This work has led Joy to pursue moving to the Philippines and pursuing her calling as a Deaconess. Another great book on the mission field is "A Road Called Down on Both Sides: Growing Up in Ethiopia and America" by Caroline Kurtz. Caroline grew up as a missionary kid in Ethiopia and her love of the land and people there is very apparent in her memories of this time. The mission was largely unsuccessful and eventually it closed during the Communist takeover. Caroline's family returned to the United States and she documents her difficulties adjusting to American culture. Eventually Caroline returns to Ethiopia to teach English and rebuilds her relationship with the people of Ethiopia as a partner in mission seeking not to recreate the failed mission of the past, but to empower the people she grows to know and love. The third book I evaluated was "The Hate U Give" by Amy Carr. This novel is especially timely because it is written to reflect the challenge of a teenage girl named Starr who traverses and is forced to act as an interpreter between the experience of her poor urban neighborhood and the largely white suburban prep school she attends.

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Upcoming Events

- Oct. 17 Virtual Conference Annual Gathering -See p. 14
- Nov. 14 Virtual Day of Enrichment See p. 7



Starr witnesses the fatal police shooting of her childhood friend Khalil and the resulting racial protest polarizes her communities and friends. Although fiction, this story eerily reflects much of the headline news from this summer and provides a very relatable look at why it can be difficult to understand the same set of circumstances when our life experiences and cultural lenses are so different across a racial divide. These and many other books on our new list are worthy of your time and attention in the coming year. I wish you happy reading.

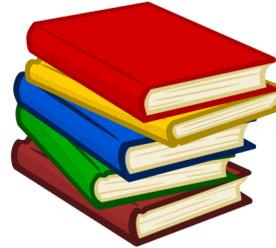
Yours in Christ,

Laura Pfeffer

South West District President

608-592-5228(H)/608-698-7508(C)

pfeffer.umw@gmail.com



Treasurer's Note

UMW Treasurers,

It is hard to believe that Q3 has already passed. I will send out reports to units which have sent in money so far this year. I would love to have more units as 5-star units next year. Check and see if your unit will have given something to all 5 channels (Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering) this year. We continue to work to fulfill our Pledges. With things looking grim for the holiday season, many fundraisers may have to be virtual "feasts", pre-ordered and pick up or grab and go with social distancing. I trust you will do your best to think of inventive ways to continue to support our vital mission work and fundraise. I have ordered several special mission recognition pins for units. I hope you know that anyone may order a pin to recognize someone, so feel free to order one from me for someone who has supported our PURPOSE. If you are used to coming to an event to pick up a Gift to Mission card or card pack, please know that you can send to me the order form (available from the handbook, on the National United Methodist Women's website <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/treasurers>, or I can send you one) to order cards including some lovely Christmas cards. Some units have not had a unit member who passed away, but a Gift in Memory card can honor the passing of any person, so feel free to send them a card in their memory. Even if your unit might not be meeting in person to celebrate World Thank Offering, I trust that we all have reasons to be thankful even in this difficult year and I hope you will have a way to collect any thank-jar offerings from those who wish to give through this channel. I am hopeful that since we had such a strong start to the year that we will manage to pull through and make our pledge this year with some creative and prayerful work by all you wonderful women. May we all have reasons to rejoice in the upcoming holiday season.

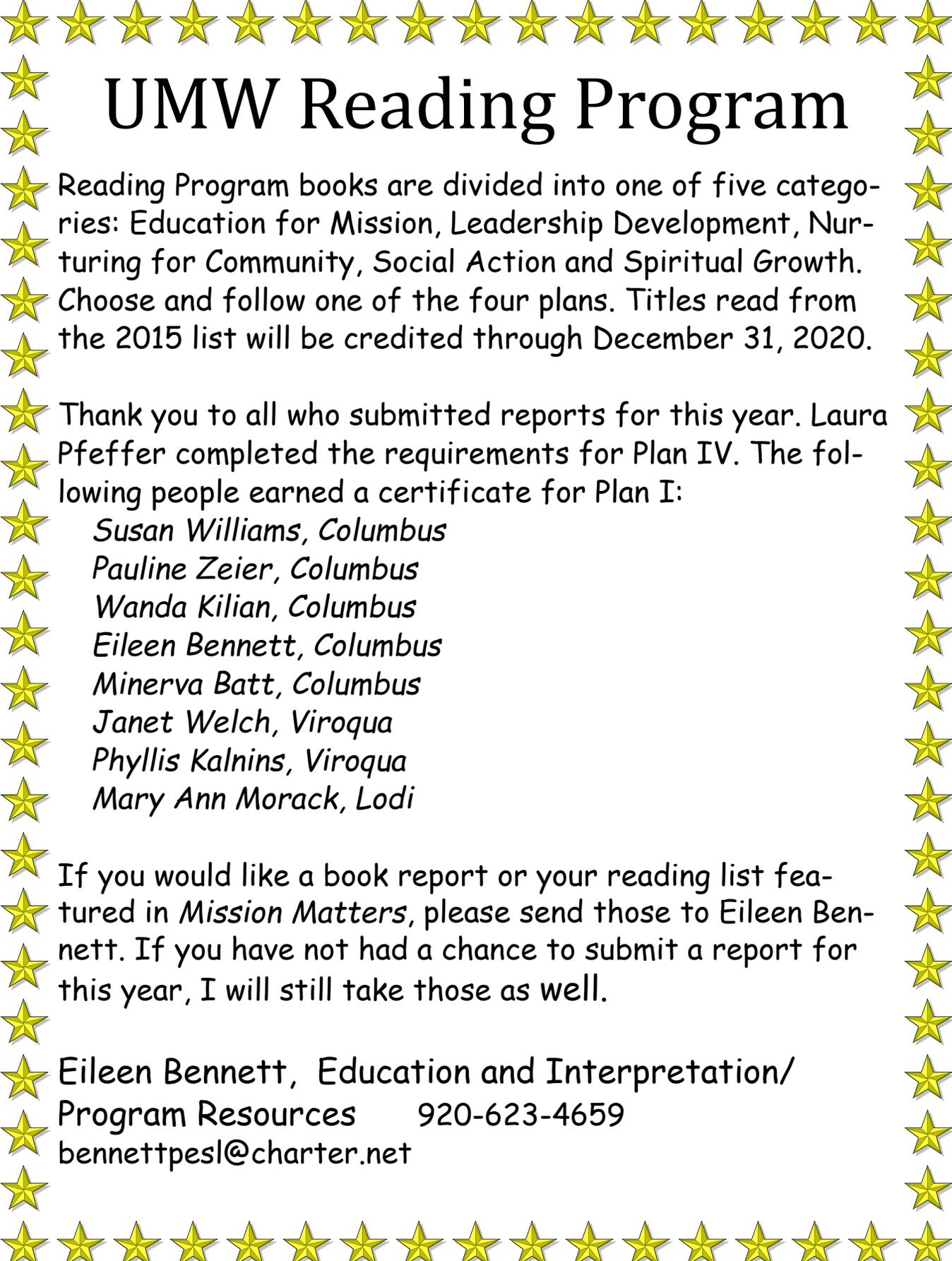
Yours in Christ,

Laura Pfeffer, Interim District Treasurer

608-592-5228(H)/608-698-7508(C)

pfeffer.umw@gmail.com

**5 CHANNELS
OF GIVING**



UMW Reading Program

Reading Program books are divided into one of five categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

Choose and follow one of the four plans. Titles read from the 2015 list will be credited through December 31, 2020.

Thank you to all who submitted reports for this year. Laura Pfeffer completed the requirements for Plan IV. The following people earned a certificate for Plan I:

Susan Williams, Columbus

Pauline Zeier, Columbus

Wanda Kilian, Columbus

Eileen Bennett, Columbus

Minerva Batt, Columbus

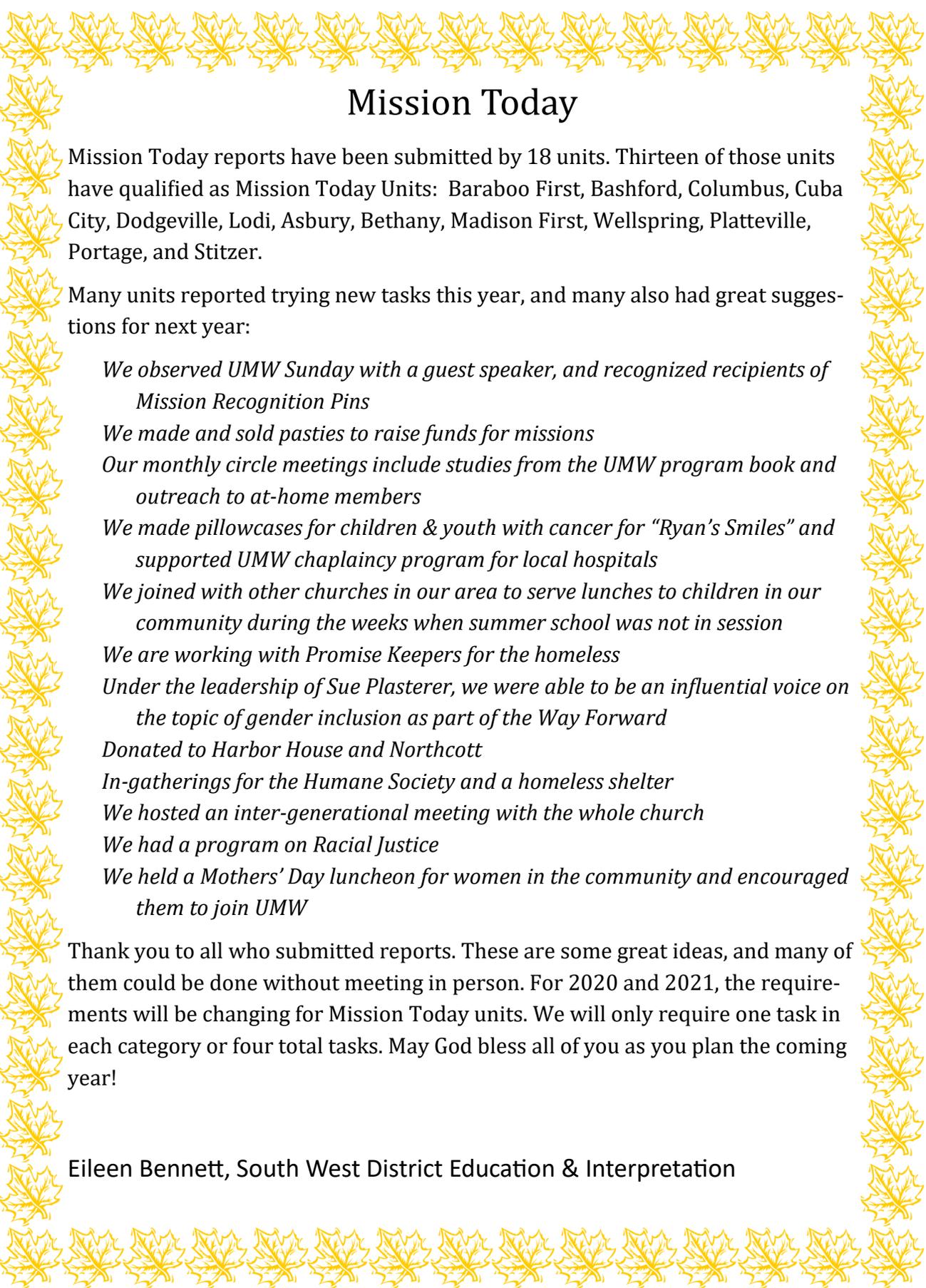
Janet Welch, Viroqua

Phyllis Kalnins, Viroqua

Mary Ann Morack, Lodi

If you would like a book report or your reading list featured in *Mission Matters*, please send those to Eileen Bennett. If you have not had a chance to submit a report for this year, I will still take those as well.

Eileen Bennett, Education and Interpretation/
Program Resources 920-623-4659
bennettpe1@charter.net



Mission Today

Mission Today reports have been submitted by 18 units. Thirteen of those units have qualified as Mission Today Units: Baraboo First, Bashford, Columbus, Cuba City, Dodgeville, Lodi, Asbury, Bethany, Madison First, Wellspring, Platteville, Portage, and Stitzer.

Many units reported trying new tasks this year, and many also had great suggestions for next year:

We observed UMW Sunday with a guest speaker, and recognized recipients of Mission Recognition Pins

We made and sold pasties to raise funds for missions

Our monthly circle meetings include studies from the UMW program book and outreach to at-home members

We made pillowcases for children & youth with cancer for "Ryan's Smiles" and supported UMW chaplaincy program for local hospitals

We joined with other churches in our area to serve lunches to children in our community during the weeks when summer school was not in session

We are working with Promise Keepers for the homeless

Under the leadership of Sue Plasterer, we were able to be an influential voice on the topic of gender inclusion as part of the Way Forward

Donated to Harbor House and Northcott

In-gatherings for the Humane Society and a homeless shelter

We hosted an inter-generational meeting with the whole church

We had a program on Racial Justice

We held a Mothers' Day luncheon for women in the community and encouraged them to join UMW

Thank you to all who submitted reports. These are some great ideas, and many of them could be done without meeting in person. For 2020 and 2021, the requirements will be changing for Mission Today units. We will only require one task in each category or four total tasks. May God bless all of you as you plan the coming year!

Eileen Bennett, South West District Education & Interpretation

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UMW Southwest District

Mission Today Local Unit Report Form

Year: _____

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God

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1. Plan programs that encourage spiritual growth. (Program book, response magazine, etc.)
 2. Create prayer partners with other church groups.
 3. Pray using the Prayer Calendar at meetings.
 4. Organize the spiritual growth study from Mission u, possibly several evenings/ weeks.

to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ;

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P
E**
1. Take advantage of opportunities thru UMW such as Mission u, Spiritual Growth Retreats, Annual Gatherings, Mission Action Day.
 2. Set aside a time to go over the year's plans using Mission Today Mission Tasks.
 3. Implement the Charter for Racial Justice program.
 4. Present a mission study from Mission u, inviting church members. Host a church-wide discussion of United Methodist initiatives and programs such as the Way Forward.

to develop a creative, supportive fellowship;

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E**
1. Honor the organization's leaders and member's contributions with Special Mission Recognition pins. Don't forget community leaders.
 2. Encourage everyone to visit or invite visitors to/from other local UMW organizations.
 3. Publicize your events using newsletters, bulletin boards, Sunday bulletins, social media, phone calls, etc.
 4. Plan a year end program to give thanks and celebrate your accomplishments.

and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

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1. Encourage all members to participate in the Pledge for Mission; give reports on where the money goes.
 2. Involve all members in fundraising (think creatively).
 3. Contribute to scholarships (UMW related) and Mission u. (\$25.00 or more).
 4. Partner with a mission institution such as Northcott, or Wisconsin Conference supported Harbor House, United Methodist Children's Services of Wisconsin, etc.

To become a Mission Today organization, please complete one task from each category. Please let us know if you have tried any new criteria this year. Any criteria that are not currently listed but would fit in one of the categories can be included in the unit reports.

Presidents of **All Local Units**, please complete the form below even though you may not qualify as a Mission Today unit. Refer any Questions to your District Team. Return this form by Feb 1st to your District Education and Interpretation Coordinator.

Name of Church: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Home phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Criteria Completed (Circle the numbers completed)

**Any criteria that are not currently listed but would fit in one of the categories can be included in the unit reports.*

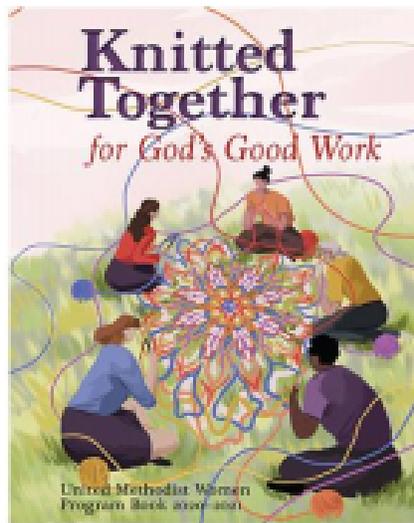
Faith 1 2 3 4 Hope 1 2 3 4

Love 1 2 3 4 In Action 1 2 3 4

Report any new criteria tried this year:

Comments:

Send to: Eileen Bennett, 332 W. Prairie St., Columbus, WI 53925
Email: bennettpesl@charter.net



Day of Enrichment

Knitted Together for God's Good Work

November 14th on ZOOM 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

- How to adapt the UMW Program Book for virtual programs
- Information on UMW Reading Program
- Love Feast (please have available water/milk/juice and crackers/bread for this service)

Reading Program book reports and Unit Sharing will be included in the December *Mission Matters* (Please submit book reports to Eileen Bennett, and Unit Sharing suggestions to Carol Lange)

Detach and send

Name: _____ (Please print)

Street/PO Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

UMW Unit or Congregation: _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Please register by Nov 10th, so we can send you a ZOOM code for this event. There is no charge for enrollment, but if you would like to send a donation for Pledge to Mission, please make checks payable to **SW District United Methodist Women.**

Please send the registration form and donation to:

Eileen Bennett, 332 W Prairie St, Columbus, WI 53925

An Invitation

In these chaotic times, it's more important than ever for us to step away from all that is happening and spend quiet times with our God. During those times, it helps me to think about the lyrics of one of my favorite songs - "Come Away with Me" in the Faith We Sing songbook. Following are the words of the first and last verses -

Come away with me to a quiet place,
apart from the world with it's frantic pace,
to pray, reflect and seek God's grace.
Come away with me. Come away.

Come away with me to a quiet place,
to God's loving arms waiting to embrace
all those who come in hope of grace.
Come away with me. Come away.



There is a place where I would like you to come next spring! It's the District Spiritual Growth Retreat at the Dells-Denton UMC in Wisconsin Dells (unless it needs to be virtual). The date is April 17th and our spiritual leader will be Michelle Hopp, pastor of Arlington UMC. Michelle's topic will be a study of "Finding Peace in an Anxious World".

Marjory Lyford, Spiritual Growth Coordinator for S.W. District

Thank you to everyone who filled out the Elected Leadership forms and sent them to me. I have about 20 forms so far. Even if your officers have not changed, please fill out the forms so I can make sure the information is correct in the directory. You can email the forms (see pages 9-10) to me at byager@chorus.net or mail them to me at 10787 Co. Rd. K, Lancaster, Wisconsin 53813. Thank you for your help.

Becky Yager, SW. District Communications Coordinator

2021 Local Unit Elected Leadership

Local Church: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Pastor(s): _____
Zip Code: _____ Church Phone: _____

Instructions: Please print or type the information requested in the blanks provided. Include telephone number(s) with area codes and email addresses if available. Add additional pages as needed (if you have co-leaders for a position). Please provide all requested information even if your officer list has not changed.

Note: The Conference is requesting **two** contacts to be designated as email contacts to whom email information can be sent. These people do not need to be officers but must agree to pass along email information to the officers and members.

Complete and return form by October 5, 2020 to:
Becky Yager, Communications Coordinator South West District
10787 Cty Rd K
Lancaster, WI 53813
608-723-7451
608-778-0706(cell)
byager@chorus.net

Email Contact #1: Name: _____ email: _____

Email Contact #2: Name: _____ email: _____

President:
Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Address: _____ City/State: _____
Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

Secretary:
Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Address: _____ City/State: _____
Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

Treasurer:

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Address: _____ City/State: _____
Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

Chair of Nominations:

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Address: _____ City/State: _____
Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

(Other office): _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Address: _____ City/State: _____
Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

(Other office): _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Address: _____ City/State: _____
Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

(Other office): _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Address: _____ City/State: _____
Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

(Other office): _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Address: _____ City/State: _____
Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

(Other office): _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Address: _____ City/State: _____
Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

(Other office): _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
Address: _____ City/State: _____
Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

Welcome to Fall:

In the last newsletter I stressed the importance of voting and giving links to register to vote and apply for an absentee ballot. I also gave you links to some Social Justice websites and webinars. I pray that those were of some use to you.

Speaking of Social Justice. Superior Court Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away. She was one of my heroines. Speaking for women's rights and the rights for the disenfranchised people of our great USA. I believe the United Methodist Women of today can keep following in her footsteps. Remember to choose carefully at the ballot box this fall. Choose those who share the UMW stance on the rights of women and children. "Fight for the things you care about" quoted from a covid-19 mask I bought with RBG's face on half of it. My keep sake from her and a belief that I have held for most of my life.

Now I have a true story to tell. My business was experiencing computer problems. I did a search in Microsoft for help. (or so I thought) I hired a company and the down payment was a check for \$1499.00 for lifetime support. I faxed it to them.

The computer was working fine for a few days after I allowed them access to fix things. Two days later it is acting up. I called support and another support person got into the link to my computer. Mind you we are busy as a church group at a fundraiser! The next morning, I am back at work and the same problem started again. As luck would have it, the boss of this company called to see how things were going. I told him the issues and he got on my computer (a super busy day). He apologized for the other guys incompetence and after showing me all the files that were the problem; he said they would refund our money. He had me get on my on-line banking to return the money to me. All of a sudden, I have \$45,00.00 dollars extra. Now I owe him money. I refuse to go wire money and he puts me on hold while he talks to his accountant. Next screen I see; (I called my son into my office to listen to this conversation on the speaker) is all our money is wiped out of our business checking!!!!

The boss guy is now threatening me because I would not wire the money I owed him; he was going to keep it all. If I tell the bank anything of what is going on they would hang up and I would never get my money. I mouthed to my son to call the bank and see if the money was there or not. He came back and told me they had moved money from my 2 other accounts to show the \$45,000.00 extra to my business account but it was all there!

Cont. p. 12

Praise the lord. I told him I had to go help a customer while my son filled me in. When I came back to the phone seconds later they had hung up when the bank froze the accounts.

Why am I sharing this? Social Action at work is informing people what is happening in the world around them. The bank said that since covid-19 they have seen many lose money from scammers. Please, do not trust anyone on the phone or unknown emails, etc. I wanted to pass this on to hopefully save one of my fellow UMW from this kind of business.

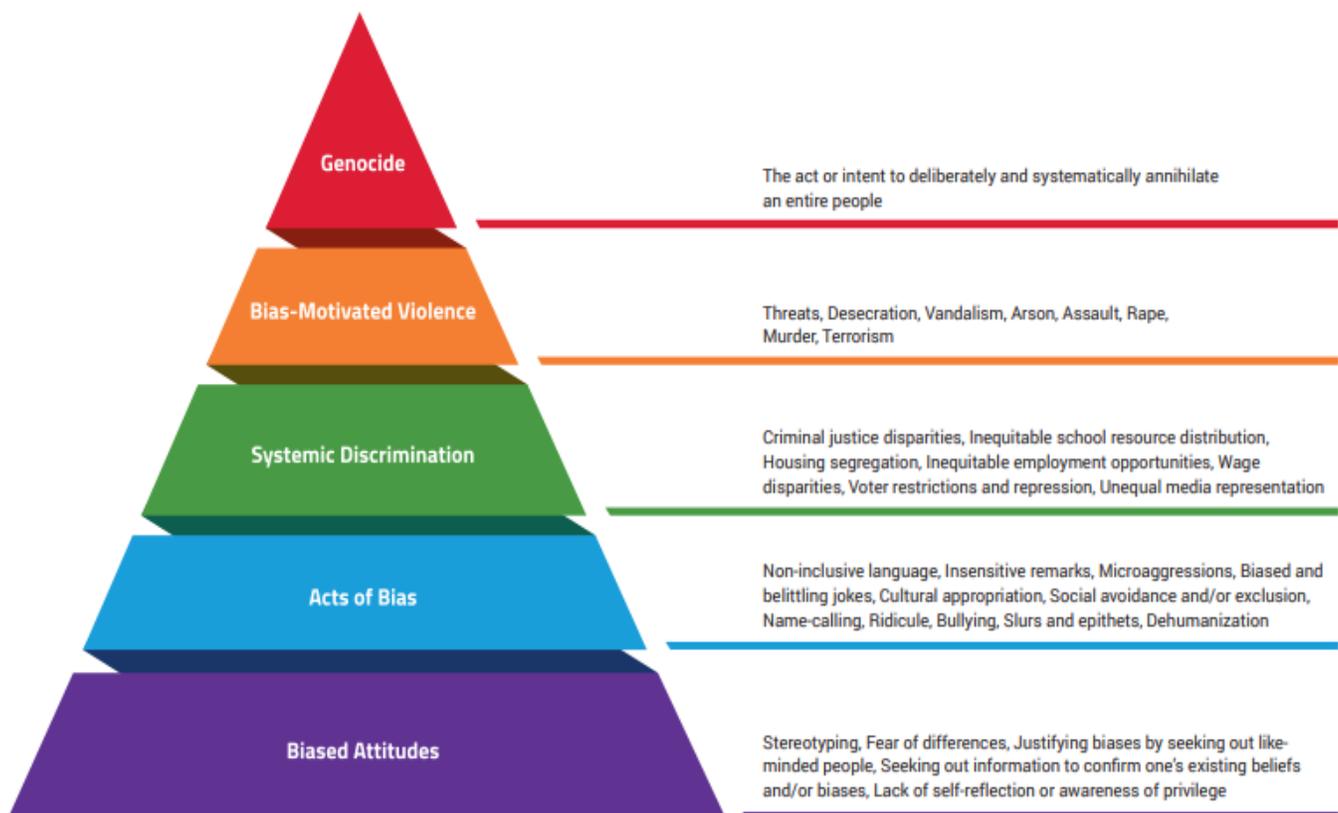
HATE: verb – feel intense or passionate dislike for someone. Denoting hostile actions motivated by intense dislike or prejudice.

We see this on TV here and around the world. This pyramid is on Wisconsin UMW web page, under the Racial Justice Program. In short, we can become a victim of the Pyramid of Hate by failing to recognize our own stereotyping of people.

Pat Gallus, Social Justice Coordinator

ADL PYRAMID OF HATE

The **Pyramid of Hate** illustrates the prevalence of bias, hate and oppression in our society. It is organized in escalating levels of attitudes and behavior that grow in complexity from bottom to top. Like a pyramid, the upper levels are supported by the lower levels. Bias at each level negatively impacts individuals, institutions and society and it becomes increasingly difficult to challenge and dismantle as behaviors escalate. When bias goes unchecked, it becomes "normalized" and contributes to a pattern of accepting discrimination, hate and injustice in society. While every biased attitude or act does not lead to genocide, each genocide has been built on the acceptance of attitudes and actions described at the lower levels of the pyramid. When we challenge those biased attitudes and behaviors in ourselves, others and institutions, we can interrupt the escalation of bias and make it more difficult for discrimination and hate to flourish.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2020

For more information, contact Ben Weger at (608) 257-4591 or weger.ben@gmail.com

Madison Church Creates Memorial to Those We Have Lost to COVID-19

Outdoor Memorial is Open to the Public for Remembering Loved Ones Who Have Passed

In remembrance and honor of those who have died of the coronavirus pandemic in Wisconsin, members of Trinity United Methodist Church have created a fabric ribbon tribute on the outdoor railings of their church, with each colorful ribbon representing one of the over 1200 people who have died in the state so far.

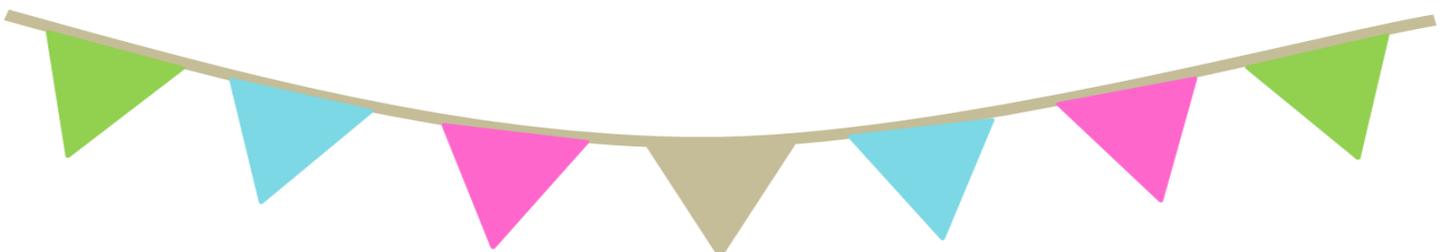
A banner in front of the display reads, "For Those We Have Lost to COVID-19, God in Your Mercy, Hear our Prayer." Below this, the public is invited to send in the name, date of death, and location of a loved one they have lost to COVID-19 so that this information can be added to one of the numbered ribbons.

The memorial was created as a way to both demonstrate the tragic impact that COVID-19 has had in our communities and to give those who are mourning a place to pray, meditate and honor the lives of their lost loved ones.

Three additional signs are posted to the side of the memorial, two focusing on the disparities in how COVID-19 has affected the Black and Brown communities and the third praying for an end to the racial inequities in our state that have been further revealed during the pandemic.

Each week, team members engage in the sobering task of adding ribbons to represent the additional fallen. "It's a form of prayer and a call to action," one team member explained. "In these quiet moments, I can focus on the friend I lost to COVID-19, and I can also ask myself, "What can I be doing to make our community safer, more loving and kind, less hateful and divided?"

If you would like to have the name of your lost loved one added to a ribbon in this memorial, please text their name, date and location of death to 608-257-4591. All members of the public are invited to utilize the memorial as a place of prayer and contemplation.



Wisconsin Conference UMW Virtual Annual Gathering- Oct. 17, 2020

Theme: Walking in the Light: United for Justice

Keri Olson- worship leader- theme: "Feel the Light. Be the Light. (Lessons from COVID-19)." The message will conclude with a prayer for light.

Judith Siaba- keynote speaker- message:
Justice for our Neighbors: Immigration

COST: NONE

If you wish to make a free will donation to offset the cost of this event or an offering send checks with your donation to:

Lisa King, WI Conf UMW Treasurer

W615 Riverview Ct., Fall River, WI 53932

Virtual meeting agenda

9:00 AM Welcome

Worship

Keynote Speaker

10:30 Break

10:45 Business Meeting

12:00 PM Sending forth

Registration Form: We encourage groups to watch this event in appropriately socially distanced, small gatherings for those who do not have access to the internet. Only the host needs to register for the event. Voting information will be sent to the host. Individuals watching alone should register themselves.

To register by email: email Kay Waugh at: dalekay@att.net- registration deadline- **Mon., Oct. 7, 2020**

Mail-in registration: **Registration due Sat., Oct 3, 2020**

Name: _____ Unit: _____ email _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ calling in by phone Yes _____ No _____

Mail form to registrar: Kay Waugh 3396 Libby Ln, Suamico, WI 54313

920-434-7101 (home) 920-366-6354 (cell)

Confirmation letter will be sent with virtual gathering link and phone in information



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH - HOPE - LOVE IN ACTION

South West District Calendar 2021

January	February	March
2nd - District Team Meeting 9 am - noon (Phone/Video)		13th - District Team Meeting 9am - 3pm Stoughton UMC
<i>6th Mission Matters Due</i>	1 st - 2020 Mission Tasks Report Due	<i>6th Mission Matters Due</i> 30 th - Membership Census Form - Due
April	May	June
10th Conference Mission Action Day (Green Bay - St. Paul's) 17 - District Spiritual Retreat Dells-Delton UMC		19th - District Team Meeting 9am - 3pm Boaz UMC
	<i>6th Mission Matters Due</i>	
July	August	September
<i>Mission u TBD</i>	7th - District Team Meeting 9am - 3pm Dodgeville UMC District Party - TBD	18th - District Annual Gathering Dodgeville UMC
	<i>6th Mission Matters Due</i>	1 st - Reading List - Due
October	November	December
15-16 Conference Annual Gathering (Baraboo: First UMC)	13th - District Day of Enrichment (Viroqua UMC)	Merry Christmas
1 st - Officer List Form - Due 5 th - Mission Matters Due		15 th - 2021 Remittances Due

Dates can change. Check the most current "Mission Matters" for the latest information.
"Mission Matters" issues posted at <http://www.wisconsinumw.org>.

South West District UMW
 Becky Yager, Communications Coordinator
 10787 Co. Rd. K Lancaster, WI 53813
 Email - byager@chorus.net



United
 Methodist
 Women
 FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

2020 South West District UMW Officers

President Laura Pfeffer 608-592-5228 Pfeffer.umw@gmail.com	Vice President Open
Secretary Charlene Mingst 608-935-5758 jcmingst@mhtc.net	Treasurer Open
Communications Coordinator Becky Yager 608-723-7451 byager@chorus.net	Spiritual Growth Coordinator Marjory Lyford 608-233-5930 mclyford@att.net
Social Action Coordinator Pat Gallus 608-393-9267 ptgallus@gmail.com	Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator Kay Putman 608-592-2294
Education and Interpretation /Program Resources Coordinator Eileen Bennett 608-623-4659 bennettpesl@charter.net	Historian Open
Nominations Chair Open Committee Mary Friederich 608-897-2399 grandmary12@laffhouse.org Kathy Radcliff 608-253-4133 Donna Fae Kruse 608-727-2313	Young Women's Representative Lucie Yaba 608-303-3007 lucieyaba@yahoo.fr
Northcott Representative Carol Lange 608-348-4588 langec@uwplatt.edu	District Superintendent Scott Carlson 608-837-0056 scottcarlson@wisconsinumc.org