



NORTH EAST DISTRICT

"The Shofar"



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www.northeastdistrictumw.org

Volume 6 – Number 2 – APRIL 2021

2021 SHOFAR will be delivered electronically or paper version by subscription only!

REMINDER:

All Presidents or Reps are welcome to any Team Meeting or calls.

TEAM MEETING TELECONFERENCE APRIL 9TH at 10:00 AM.

PLEASE let us know if you will attend..... we will send you the Agenda, and dial-in information. (Call or E-mail Jan Stanko)

"WHATS IN THIS SHOFAR??"

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Go to: www.wisconsinumw.org for LATEST copies of CATCH the VISION and (click on communications for the SHOFAR)

SHOFAR Newsletters: 2021-2022
JULY Issue, article deadline June 15
OCTOBER Issue, article deadline Sept. 15
JANUARY Issue, article deadline Dec. 15

NORTH EAST DISTRICT 2021 SCHEDULE

EVENTS: September 18th Celebration, Suamico
EXECUTIVE TEAM CALLS or MEETINGS:
ALL PRESIDENTS or REPRES. INVITED
 April 9th. Conference Call
 June 4th. Conference Call
 August 6th held at Suamico UMC, plan for Annual Celebration on September 18th
 November 5th. Year-end meeting at Manitowoc-Lakeshore UMC

MISSION U Schedules Tuesday & Thursday
Each study is 4-2 ½ hr. sessions 6:30-9:00 PM

***PUSHOUT: May 18, 20, 25 & 17th.**

***Becoming Peacemakers: Youth study:**
June 15, 17, 22 & 24th.

***Finding Peace In Anxious World:**
July 6, 8, 13 & 15th.

***Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom:**
July 27, 29, Aug. 3 & 5th.



President's Message

First of all, I want to send a huge **“thank you”** to our District Team for all they do to add their comments to the SHOFAR, and to the Units that have found many ways to pay their pledges and support some of their mission projects. It is the **“SISTERHOOD of UMW”!**

Now, the big question after COVID.....How do we reopen and how do we meet safely and how do we reestablish our programs and mission works? I have had many conversations about this.....and I have a suggestion..... let us design a **“Covenant for North East District Sisterhood”**. The Lord, our God made many covenants with his people, like the Rainbow Covenant with Noah (Genesis 9:12). Now that we are headed out of COVID, this is our time to make a covenant with each other for the resurgence of United Methodist Women. Think back, over 150 years ago when a group of dedicated ladies became the missionary force that is now United Methodist Women....that being said, do not let COVID delay us from our missions. We are offering each Unit and District officer to write and send their version their covenant. The deadline for your help with the project is April 30th. Please e-mail or snail mail to me, then the District Team will review all the entries and end with the **“Covenant for North East District Sisterhood”**, which will be mailed to each Unit and District Officer for their signatures. If you have any questions, give me a call.

“So then, let's work for the good of all whenever we have an opportunity, and especially for those in the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:10)

Jan Stanko, President

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Conference President's Message

Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God" has become my daily prayer. I need to remind myself that all that matters is today, this moment.

The March-April issue of RESPONSE has been on the coffee table for days now but this morning, the first rays of the sunrise fell on the cover and the beautiful smile of Juana Parraga Alano, of the Methodist Women's Federation in Bolivia. It took my breath away. My mind went back to 1971 and our unforgettable trip from Buenos Aires, Argentina to La Paz Bolivia on board a narrow-gauge train with our two young boys, to visit a Methodist pastor and his family. It reminded me why I am a United Methodist Woman. Every place we visited in our travels in South and Central America, the welcome by our "church host families" was the same, **you are FAMILY**. Our faith in God and our love for mission work, opened the doors to see "where our money goes" and how we reach across the miles to change lives and make a difference.

We may not be able to "go" and meet in person during COVID-19 but we can still share our PURPOSE and meet our pledges. I challenge you to open RESPONSE and travel through each page and be changed!

First: look at the photo of the woman on the cover, and wonder how YOU have contributed to that life. Second: go to page 2 and "really look" THINK, LEARN, LIVE, GIVE, LISTEN, ACT, PRAY. I challenge you to look at those headings as the lights on an airport runway, you are the pilot, ready for take-off!

LEARN, each bright colored page is a message from one of our sisters at the National office reminding us of our legacy, our Purpose and our Mission. Make each one a message written specially for you. Make it your personal story, or the trip you want to take, and then share your experience or dream with others. Make a phone call to anyone of the friends you miss and think how you can be part of the adventure, different as it is now, let your imagination fly. Work on new ways together. I love to call a friend and say "I heard on the radio..." or "I read in the paper... Why not start your call with "Did you see the article in RESPONSE magazine on...."

GIVE, our foremothers set aside 2 cents a day and prayer, you can label a quart jar with 25 or 50 cents a day and a prayer and watch that multiply. When World Thank Offering comes, your joy will overflow when you see your Treasurer's face!! (you may volunteer to help her carry the change jars to the bank). Don't be sad that you cannot hold your in-person fund raisers to fulfill your pledge, there is always loose change you can put in another jar with a different label. Watch the blessings multiply. Do things differently until we go back to "normal again".

LISTEN, ACT, PRAY – that is what makes us UNITED METHODIST WOMEN! Celebrate today, that is all God is asking us to do!

Find a way to connect with Zoom, 2 or 3 people can share a space – Mission Action Day is April 10th – be surprised by the experience! Enjoy the moment!

Message from our District Superintendent

Christian Coping Strategies for COVID 19 Churches: From Echoes of Scripture

Dear beloved sisters,

Your faithful ministry to the Church in this season is as essential as it is challenging. COVID 19 coping strategies have been central in my prayer life for the last year. Lord, what will you have me do? How shall I follow you and lead others? Many bible verses tumble through my conscience as I listen for guidance. Isaiah, Paul in his letter to Romans and Jesus' words in Luke come readily into my mind.

I hear the echoes of **Isaiah 43: 1-4; 18-19**

1 But now, this is what the Lord says----- he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. 3 For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. 4 Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give men in exchange for you, and people in exchange for your life. 18 Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah reminds us to remember God's love and God's abiding presence in the midst of trouble. Isaiah reminds us that we live in a world of change. "Forget the former things, and do not dwell on the past" we are admonished. God is doing a new thing, making a way for us through the wilderness. How very difficult it is for us to give up our old habits and practices! We grieve what we loved, what was familiar and what was comfortable. We might not want to change, but just go back to how things were. This change is hard. We may not agree with our siblings in Christ on whether or how we should make changes. The numbers are changing, the virus is mutating, our scientists are learning more every day and hence the guidance we receive is in constant flux. How long O Lord!?

Sometimes it is so hard to see the way God is making in the pandemic wilderness. What if we look upon the profound disruptions in our way of living and worshipping as a holy opportunity? A holy opportunity is an invitation from God. We pray “Thy kingdom come, Thy (not my) will be done.” What is God’s will for us in this season? Discerning God’s will for the future, rather than returning to the past must be our primary task. Nonetheless, we yearn to return to our buildings to discern even this task. Some of us are already settling back in. How far apart should we stand? Do we still wear masks even if we are vaccinated? What about people who aren’t vaccinated? Or can’t or won’t wear a mask? What do we do?

I hear Jesus loud and clear when the lawyer asked about eternal life (**Luke 10:25-37**) that Loving God and loving neighbor are required, and that loving neighbor is often neither convenient nor popular. Loving neighbor is the highest expression of loving God.

How each of us copes with COVID is a matter of context. But it is also a matter of faith. We are not promised an “Easy button,” but we are promised God’s love and abiding presence in this and every challenge. We are also given the tools we need to respond to every holy opportunity.

I began with scripture and as a good United Methodist I close with a hymn and prayer- Sing #140 with me: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see, all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

May God continue to bless you and keep you safe and faithful, that you may be a beacon of Christ’s love lighting the way in a dark and troubled time.

Kate Croskery Jones

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Secretaries Message.....

Finally, I think I can see a light at the end of the Covid19 nightmare and things will be getting back to normal, although it will be a new normal. It will be wonderful to begin meeting again with friends and having unit and District Team meetings. I can't wait!

I will not have many District Team meetings left as I will reach tenure at the end of the year. Actually, I met it last year but with Covid, my term was extended a year. I will have served my 4 (actually 5) years as District Secretary which is all that is allowed by the by-laws. Yes, not all district offices still have tenure, but President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chair of Nominations still do.

I started my adventure with the District on the Nominations Team for one year, then as Secretary for two years, four years as Communication Coordinator (newsletter editor), two years as Vice-President, and finished out as Secretary again. I met many wonderful ladies along the way, at both district and conference events, and learned so much about the great work United Methodist Women is doing in the world. I also learned about how much work is needed and how I can help. (I also enjoyed many fun times.)

Have you ever thought of being on the District Team? It really is an interesting and fulfilling experience. There aren't a lot of meetings to attend, only five team meetings a year and the conference and district annual meetings. Training for district officers is done at the conference UMW Annual Gathering. Your expenses for the meetings as well as Mission u are all paid for by the District. If you would like to know more what a District Secretary does, feel free to contact me at 715-526-5030 or eastman54166@charter.net

You don't have to be super smart or talented to be a district officer but you do have to be committed to the Purpose of United Methodist Women and be willing to help others work toward fulfilling it. Please consider becoming a member of the North East District Leadership Team. I know you won't regret it.

Treasurers Message.....

Greetings everyone,

Easter Season is upon us and I for one am glad that winter is coming to an end and we are having such wonderful early Spring weather. Hopefully with the arrival of spring and summer we will be able to return to some of the things we took for granted before Covid. Bless the Lord!

One thing we hope to return to is gathering our United Methodist Women together again for fellowship and meetings again. I would like to thank everyone for the efforts made in 2020 to meet your pledge to District. We were able to meet our District Pledge to Conference for 2020 because of this. WELL DONE!

In absence of meetings and collecting membership pledges, have you considered sending out pledge cards to all of your members and asking to keep your unit going financially until we are all able to meet again in person? Our local unit did this this year and the pledges were mailed in or given to me in person and we will now be able to meet our pledge to District for 2021.

Again, a big Thank You!
Rogene Moore, District Treasurer

Nominations

As we look toward 2022, there are a few openings on District UMW Team, Vice President, Secretary and 2 sisters on Nominations. Please give thought and prayer to coming on the 2022 District team. You would not be alone in your position, there is a whole Team to support you!!

PLEASE CALL, WE WOULD LOVE TO TALK WITH YOU:

Nominations Committee:

Amy Genske, Chairperson: 920-418-1329 aegenske48@gmail.com
Hazel Christopher: 920-284-5720 hazelc228@aol.com
Betsy Johnson: 920-499-6425 betsyjohnson58@gmail.com

Membership, Nurture & Outreach

“We’ve come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord”

The words of this song carry us, lift us, as we continue to let our light shine as United Methodist Women. We know that we are experiencing loss, and loneliness, because of a virus that has affected all our lives. We are wondering, “how is this going to turn out, how is this going to end, when will it end. We know this past year has been challenging, but we know that we all are doing our best to carry on.

In January, the count for the United Methodist Women Census 2020 began. I have spoken to persons in each district and am expecting 100% participation completing the census. I had hoped to share in person, the report for 2019 but will get it to you via email or postal mail.

Our Wisconsin Conference UMW in 2019 had 165 units, 5 districts, 4224 members. Of course, we are aware that more of our members are age 70 +, the next age is 50-69 and fewer younger women.

The next line in the song is: **“Trusting in his holy word, He’s never failed me yet”**. As seasoned women, we know that even as our organization shifts, changes, even become new in some ways, God does not fail us.

Gwen Gibson, Membership, Nurture and Outreach

Program Resources

Greetings to all. I hope this finds everyone well. I would like to share information about our 2021 Mission U. Some nuts and bolts stuff: Remember knowledge is power!

BOOKS ON PARADE: The 3 Mission u books are highlighting topics of diversity, race, and civil rights events occurring recently. All 3 reading books are counted as 2 on your reading program tally!!

PUSHOUT: THE CRIMINALIZATION OF BLACK GIRLS IN SCHOOLS--this book addresses what criminalization of black women and girls is, how it affects them and how they are fighting back.

FINDING PEACE IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD--a book based on Proverbs and the “Serenity Prayer”. This wonderful book helps us find our way to God’s peace.

BEARING WITNESS IN THE KINGDOM: LIVING INTO THE CHURCH’S MORAL WITNESS THROUGH RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP--we live in turbulent times and society is confronting churches to take action. This study will help you learn your call and bear witness to the will of God for a more just world.

Information about 2021 Mission u Virtual is listed on page 10

Sherrie Bekyir, 920-562-9438, bekyirs@gmail.com

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Spiritual Growth

I hope you will enjoy reading the 7 ups we should live by.

1 Wake up: Decide it is going to be a great day before your feet hit the floor in the morning. "This is the Day the Lord has made: we will rejoice and be glad in it" Psalms 118:24

2 Listen up: We get so busy talking, we forget to listen. Hearing is one of our senses but listening is a skill. Listen to counsel and receive instruction and in the end you will be wise. Proverbs 19:20

3 Stand up: The saying goes "if you don't stand for something you will fall for anything." Stand up for the teachings found in the Bible. And let us not grow weary, while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunities, let us do good to all. Galatians 6: 9-10a.

4 Read up: on the Bible...For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Romans 15: 4 All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. II Timothy 3: 16

5 Reach up: for something higher, for where your treasure is there will be your heart also. Seek those things which are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Colossians 3:1b

6 Lift up: Your prayers. Prayers should be our first response, rather than our last resort. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4: 6

7 Dress up: Wear a smile that comes from the joy in your heart. For the Lord does not see man as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. I Samuel 16:7b

Sandra Klein

Education and Interpretation

This morning as I write I am hearing the sounds and sometimes the "roar" of March wind gusts blowing. I have been thinking, also, about the COVID "winds" that have blown through our world the past year. Occasionally there have been references to the "new normal". How have you been changed during the past year?

We are looking forward to the time when many have received their vaccinations, restrictions are lifted, and the outside world will open to us again. Even many church doors have been closed with restrictions affecting even that part of our lives. How have you been changed by having few or no connections with other United Methodist Women? How has your prayer life, Bible study, giving of your time and money been affected? What changes have you made in your mission work, activities, reading and study?

We have had to change our behaviors, thoughts, and actions. The "winds" of COVID have changed our patterns and our lives. Think about the changes you have made as a United Methodist Woman and want to make in the future. What do you wish to take with you and change in your organization as we "blow" back to our UMW activities and groups in the "winds" and seasons of 2021?

Ruth Wiersma

GO TO: WWW.WISCONSINUMW.ORG Click on the colored event for registration forms and information

2021 Mission u

Mission u will be virtual through Zoom!

(each class is 4 (2 ½ Hour) sessions over two weeks Tues/Thurs)

Registration forms are on the Conference Website:

[Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School](#)

Tues, May 18 & Thurs, May 20: Tues, May 25 & Thurs, May 27 at 6:30PM - 9:00PM

[Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence - Youth Study](#)

Tues, June 15 & Thurs, June 17 and Tues June 22 & Thurs, June 24 at 6:45-9:00PM

[Finding Peace in an Anxious World](#)

Tues, July 6 & Thurs, July 8 and Tues, July 13 & Thurs, July 15 at 6:30PM-9:00PM

[Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship](#)

Tues, July 27 & Thurs, July 29 and Tues, Aug 3 & Thurs, Aug 5 at 6:30PM-9:00PM

Wisconsin Conference Mission u Faculty 2021:

Pushout: Criminalization of Black Girls in School: Rev. Jonah Overton and Rev. Afi Dobbins-May

Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety: Rev. Barbara Certa-Warner

Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: The Moral Witness of the Church: Rev. Rob Odum

Social Action

I wanted to share some numbers that relate to our Climate and COVID,

Green New Deal???? How many coal fired power plants area there in the world today?

The EU has 468 -	building 27 more...	Total 495
Turkey has 56 -	building 93 more....	Total 149
South Africa has 79 -	building 24 more...	Total 103
India has 589 -	building 446 more....	Total 1035
Philippines has 19-	building 60 more...	Total 79
South Korea has 58-	building 26 more...	Total 84
Japan has 90 -	building 45 more...	Total 135
China has 2,363 -	building 1,171 more...	Total 3,534

That's 5,615 projected coal powered plants in just 8 countries.

USA has 15 - building 0 more.... Total 15

This makes the point. Whatever the USA does or doesn't do won't make any difference regarding CO2 unless the rest of the world, especially China and India reduce their coal-fired power plants as well. Doesn't matter what political party you favor this is eye opening.

As reported by the CDC (COVID is included)... Here are the US deaths by year and the change from the previous year:

Year 2017 2, 818,503 Americans died

Year 2018: 2,839,205 deaths (20,702 more than the previous year 2017)

Year 2019: 2,855,000 deaths (16,300 more than the previous year 2018)

The year of the pandemic ...

Year 2020: 2,913,144 deaths (57,641 more than the previous year 2019)

BUT WAIT: There were zero deaths from Covid-19 during 2018, and 2019 and the jump from 2019 was only 57,641 ???

I've been told that COVID is responsible for now 400,000 + deaths. Shouldn't the 2020 number be a heck of a lot higher? So the question becomes: How many people died OF COVID and How many died (of other causes) WITH COVID? Now read below

The US Population is 330,000,000 and in 5 months the number of Covid-19 deaths was 130,000. The number of deaths as a percent of the population is 0.03939%, compared to the number of cancer cases diagnosed in 2019 (1,762,450) and 607,000 deaths. This doesn't seem far-fetched because it is happening before our eyes.

Close businesses = 35,000,000+ instantly unemployed.

Remove entertainment and prohibit recreation; Closing parks, gyms, bars, restaurants, sports.

No dating. No touching. Isolate people. Dehumanize them.

Close Temples and Churches prohibit worship. Create a vacuum and let depression, anxiety, hopelessness and desperation set in. Then... ignite hatred and civil unrest, creating Civil War.

Makes you wonder ... God Bless America!

Thank you for allowing me to share this information.

Carole Biddick

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JULY SHOFAR 2021 article deadline... JUNE 15th