



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
John 1:1-5 (NRSV)

A friend of mine had a sign on her desk at work that read, “I have one nerve left, and you are stepping on it.” Many of us have had that thought or similar ones this past year. We have been stressed by so many uncontrollable factors. The year has come to an end, and we look to a new year with new hope. Ending each year with the celebration of the birth of the Christ child is the greatest encouragement of that hope. Scripture reminds us that light came into the world and that the darkness of the world could not overcome it. We take that light, that promise, and that hope with us into every new day, every new task, every new challenge, and every new joy of this new year. Let us strive to never let the darkness overcome the light of Christ.

Diana Revelle, Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

2020 has been a difficult year for all of us but the MUMC UMW Executive Committee and some circles have continued to meet via Zoom. We have been keeping in touch with each other by phone and by email and handwritten notes. We have added several new members this year and hope to meet everyone when we start gathering in person again, hopefully in 2021.

We have said goodbye to seven of our sisters since December 4, 2019. They were honored in the memorial service at our December Unit meeting.

We have met all of our financial pledges to District and through generous donations have been able to also give \$250 each to four local organizations: Central Missouri Food Bank, FISH, Room at the Inn, and Love Inc.

We honored four persons with Mission Recognition Pins. Rev. Fred Leist received his pin on UMW Sunday. Rev. Elmer Revelle, Gina Sandwith and René Rau received their pins virtually at our December Unit meeting and will be presented with them in person at a later date.

I would like to thank those who are leaving the Executive Committee and appointed positions this year. Barbara

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 6	_____	No Executive Committee Meeting
January 9	_____	Mid-State District Local Unit Training
		10:00-Noon via Zoom
February 3	_____	Executive Committee, 8:45 a.m.
March 3	_____	Executive Committee, 8:45 a.m.
March 26	_____	Newsletter Article Deadline
April 7	_____	Executive Committee, 8:45 a.m.
April 24	_____	District UMW Meeting,
		(Details to be determined)

McClure served as interim secretary following the death of Joan Turner. Gina Sandwith served as Spiritual Growth Coordinator and Melissa Clarke served as Social Action Coordinator.

We welcome the following women in leadership for 2021: Joy Sampson as Secretary, Paula Richards as Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Caryl Bryan as Social Action Coordinator, and Vicky Elliott in the newly added position of Member at Large.

As we prepare to start the new year, may we all continue to work as one great sisterhood of United Methodist Women in continuing love and commitment to our purpose.

June DeWeese, President

CIRCLE NEWS

Breakfast Circle

Submitted by Phyllis Miller

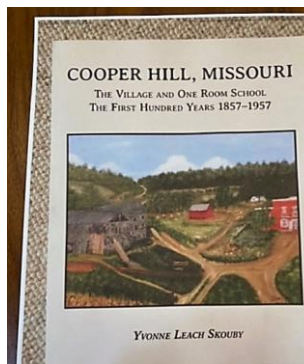
Breakfast Circle as a group has not been very active. However, we have two members who have used this time to be very productive. Both Louise Martin and Yvonne Skouby have written books.

Louise’s book is Just One More Story and according to Louise “is a memoir covering my life’s story from grandparents forward. I had Mother’s diaries as well as a history she wrote about her life and my Father’s. I included my experiences from childhood forward. Many sayings from my father were included as well as comments from several friends.”

Yvonne’s book is Cooper Hill, Missouri, The Village and One-Room School, 1857-1957. The village was co-founded by Yvonne’s great-grandfather who, in 1857, built a combination saw and grist mill on virgin land. With narrative she writes of the 100 years when the village thrived until the closing of its one-room school and post office, both in 1957.



Louise Martin holds a copy of her new book, Just One More Story.



Picture of Yvonne Skouby’s new book, Copper Hill, Missouri

Eagle Circle

Eagle Circle said goodbye to Liz Bailey, founding member and chairperson, who moved to Arizona. Jan Mees has stepped forward as the new chair.

Gibson Circle

Submitted by Evette Nissen

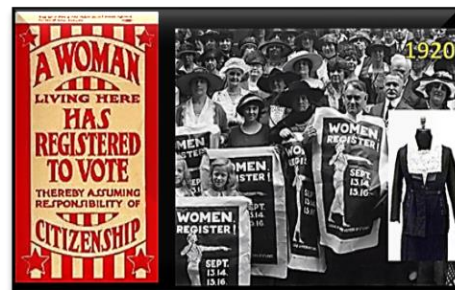
The weather cooperated for members of Gibson Circle to meet in the church parking lot and say farewell to Liz Bailey as she moves to Arizona. Pictured left to right: Evette Nissen, Gerry Swope, Liz Bailey, Carrie Funk, Bev Huckaba, and Barbara McClure.



Searcy Feely

Submitted by Marsha Sergent

Searcy-Feely has been meeting regularly via Zoom, and our attendance is excellent. In October, we enjoyed a virtual tour of the exhibit, *Missouri Women: Suffrage to Statecraft*, on display at the State Historical Society of Missouri. The program and tour were shared by Curator of Art Collections, Joan Stack and Assistant Director, Community Engagement, Maggie Mayhan.



Pictures Used by permission from the State Historical Society of Missouri.

Our November meeting featured a wonderful program by Lezlie Zucker, daughter of Diana Revelle. Lezlie is the Music Coordinator for Congregation Beth Torah, Overland Park, KS. Her program, *The Importance of Music in Jewish Worship*, explained how music is incorporated into every part of the worship experience.



Lezlie Zucker guides members of the circle through a worship service.



Searcy-Feely collected \$670 for our VAC family.

Sophia Circle

Sophia Circle has assembled 182 dental kits for the Festival of Sharing. The group met at the church to work.

Wesley Circle

Submitted by Vicky Elliott

Members of Wesley Circle met on Thursday, October 8, at Stephens Lake Park near the Riechmann Pavilion. The meeting had previously been scheduled to be conducted via Zoom, but the weather was perfect for the socially distanced outdoor setting. The program was presented by Peggy Placier of the Race Matters, Friends Community Bail Fund. This local organization is part of a national program. The local group limits their support to individuals who have been arrested for misdemeanor violations and are unable to make bail. 95% of the people in the Boone County Jail are pretrial. A pretrial detainee has not been convicted of anything, only charged. The organization operates with volunteers who, in addition to raising funds via donations, also contact people regarding court dates and offer transportation to court if needed.

Members of Wesley served Loaves and Fishes on October 10.

UMW Book Club

UMW Book Club met on Wednesday, November 11 at 10:00 via Zoom. The book chosen was *Paris Hours* by Alex George. Alex George, who is also the owner of Skylark Bookshop here in Columbia, was present to lead the discussion.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 13 via Zoom. The book will be *The Splendid and the Vile*, by Erik Larson. If you are interested in becoming part of the UMW Book Club or would like to be part of the January discussion, contact Diana Revelle: revellediana@gmail.com; 573-489-2228.

UNIT NEWS

UMW Sunday and Candle Burning

UMW Sunday was held on Sunday October 18th. The beautiful service was highlighted by a guest violinist, Wendy Kleintank from Otterville, Missouri. Serving as liturgist, UMW President, June DeWeese recognized the work of the UMW membership in MUMC and beyond. A special moment in the service was the presentation of a Special Mission Recognition pin to Reverend Fred Leist by his wife, Linda.

The observance of Candle Burning was an integral part of the service as the lighted candle represented members who were honored and remembered. The recognition offering totaled \$3,610.00 this year.



(A list of those recognized In Memory and In Honor can be found at the end of this newsletter.)

A creative unit meeting was held via Zoom on Wednesday December 2. Highlighted within the meeting was a pre-recorded program presented by the children from Discovery Days, installation of officers, presentation of Mission Recognition pins, and a memorial service remembering members whom we have lost.

Discovery Days Program



Web shots used by permission from Discovery Days staff.



UMW Elected Officers



June DeWeese, President



Pam Thomeczek, Vice President



Joy Sampson, Secretary



Carole Babel, Treasurer



Suzanne McDavid, Chair of Nominations

Appointed Officers

Education and Interpretation and Program Resources: }

Diana Mooney

Social Action:

Caryl Bryan

Spiritual Growth:

Paula Richards

Membership Nurture & Outreach:

Kathy Lawson

UMW Reading Program Coordinator:

René Rau

Appointed Positions

Auditing:

Kathy Lawson

Information Board:

Marsha Sargent

Church Women United:

René Rau

Coordinator of Communications:

Diana Revelle

Wardrobe Coordinator:

Evette Nissen

Member at Large:

Vicky Elliott

2020 Mission Recognition Recipients



Reverend Fred Leist



René Rau



Gina Sandwith



Reverend Elmer Revelle

In Memory



Elizabeth Anderson
December 4, 2019



Joan Turner
January 26, 2020



Sue Brewer
February 17, 2020



Joyce Snow
April 22, 2020



Joanne DeVilbiss
May 11, 2020



Marjorie Basket
May 24, 2020



Neoma Hammond
November 18, 2020

Mission Giving

In addition to meeting the unit pledge to mission, the unit gave donations of \$250.00 to each of the following four local ministries at the end of 2020:

- Central Pantry – a subsidiary of The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri
- FISH (Faith in Service to Humanity - Administered by VAC)
- Love Inc.
- Room at the Inn

Winter Spiritual Growth study offered: *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*

Plans are underway for a four-week study entitled, *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* to be offered January 21 – February 11. The study is being sponsored by UMW, but all members of the church are invited to participate - both men and women.

Using *The Serenity Prayer* as a foundation, the study explores ways to discover peace through spiritual practices to enable us to be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Christ. The four chapters of the book focus on the elements of the serenity prayer: serenity, acceptance, courage, and wisdom.

Two sessions are being offered: 10:00 a.m. on Thursday morning and 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evening. Books are being ordered by the church and a registration module is available through the church website with links also included in the *Messenger*. You can also register directly with either Diana Revelle (revellediana@gmail.com; 573-489-2228) for the 10:00 Thursday morning session or Cynthia Beverley (cynbev@yahoo.com) for the 7:00 p.m. Thursday evening session.

A Kindle edition of the book is available through the UMW website

https://www.umwmissionresources.org/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=53481

or from Amazon.com

<https://www.amazon.com/Finding-Peace-Anxious-Edited-James-Brown-ebook/dp/B088JK9JSY>

LOCAL NEWS

The Wardrobe

Evette Nissen reported that The Wardrobe is doing well even with limited hours of operation. The MUMC Foundation recently awarded a \$12,250 grant to the Wardrobe for its shoe program.

The Wardrobe takes donations on Monday and Saturday from 9-12 and Wednesday 11-2. No appointment is necessary, just pull in the driveway and ring the bell.

Church Women United

Submitted by René Rau

CWU is currently not holding face-to-face meetings. Instead, meetings will be conducted via Zoom. Because of continued meeting restrictions, we will not be meeting at MUMC in January. A Zoom meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 8, at 9:30 am.

Staying Connected in Difficult Times

The events of 2020 have made meeting together difficult. Some have embraced electronic capabilities like Zoom, Skype, and others, but some have not felt comfortable or do not have

the electronic capability to meet virtually.

Another option is the conference call. A conference call is done over the telephone. One person in the group is listed as the host and initiates the call. All other members simply dial a designated telephone number and everyone in the group is on the same telephone call at the same time. Below is information about a reputable free conference call company. Hopefully, those who have not been comfortable with the virtual meetings, will take advantage of this free service to continue keeping your groups active.

FreeConferenceCall.com

www.freeconferencecall.com

(844) 844-1322

(From their website)

Receive a FreeConferenceCall.com account instantly with just an e-mail and password. Once you sign up, you will be provided with a **Dial-in Number and Access Code** for immediate conferencing. Your account is **available to you 24/7** and there is no need to schedule or make any reservations. Each audio conference can **accommodate 1,000 callers** on an unlimited number of free conference calls.

DISTRICT NEWS

Local Officer Training

District UMW officers will be leading a virtual training for local officers and members on Saturday, January 9 from 10:00-Noon via Zoom. Although officers are encouraged to attend, any member who is interested in learning more about the operation of the local unit is welcome. A Zoom invitation will be sent the first week in January.

CONFERENCE AND NATIONAL NEWS

(The following information was shared in the October Conference UMW Newsletter.)

Looking Ahead: 2021 Calendar Update

(Information subject to change due to COVID-19 and state directives on public gatherings.)

2021

	<u>Event Location</u>
Spring Spiritual Growth Retreat	To be determined
June 11-13	UMC Annual Conference Springfield, MO
July 22-24	Mission u to be determined
September 24-25	Missouri Conference Annual Meeting, current location is Byers Ave. UMC, Joplin

Mai Gray Charter for Racial Justice

Mai H. Gray was president of the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church from 1976-1980. She was the creator of the Charter for Racial Justice, which emphasizes eliminating institutional racism in the church and the world. United Methodist Women adopted the charter in 1978 and the

denomination as a whole adopted it in 1980. Units earn this designation by completing and documenting action steps from a comprehensive list of educational, cultural and social exchange opportunities. MUMC UMW has held a charter for several years.



Mai Gray
February 19, 1922 – May 6, 2010

Picture Courtesy of the United Methodist News Service

Missouri Conference Giving Update

As of September 30, 2020, Missouri Conference UMW has forwarded \$92,138.89 for Mission Giving (used for areas of greatest need) and \$8,285.65 for Mission Giving Plus (designated areas of mission work) for a grand total of \$100,424.54 to the UMW National Office in support of the important work of UMW. (See the 2019 year-end financial report from the South Central Jurisdiction below.)

STAYING CONNECTED

Subscriptions

District UMW Newsletter:

Peggie Page ppage3594@yahoo.com

Mission Voice - MO Conference UMW Newsletter

No charge for the electronic newsletter:

<http://tinyurl.com/2021MissionVoice>

Printed copy subscription - \$5.00 per person. Send name and mailing address with cash or checks payable to **MO Conference UMW** to Kelly G. Loeb, 3406 Benton Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64128. If you received the *Mission Voice* by email in 2020, you do not need to renew your subscription unless your email or other contact information has changed.

National UMW e-News and Newsletter:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

response Magazine

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/response>

Print Subscription

(Includes complimentary digital subscription)

1 year (6 issues) = \$24.00

2 year (12 issues) = \$45.00

Single issues of **response** in print can be ordered through the e-store or order by phone at (800) 305-9857.

New World Outlook

<https://www.umcmision.org/find-resources/new-world-outlook>

2019 NATIONAL GIVING REPORT

If you have ever wondered if your pledge to mission makes a difference, the proof positive is reflected in the following report from UMW National Division. The section below highlights the total giving from the South Central Jurisdiction, UMW. Amounts in the chart record the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019. (A full financial report can be found in the *response* magazine, November/December 2020 on pages 18-19.) MUMC UMW is part of Missouri Conference UMW which is part of the larger South Central Jurisdiction UMW. Missouri Conference holds the honor of being the 2nd highest contributor in our jurisdiction.

2019

Jurisdiction	2019 Pledge	Mission Giving	Designated Giving	The Legacy Fund	TOTAL
SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION				3,750.00	3,750.00
Arkansas	215,000.00	173,501.92	38,680.09	18,646.98	230,828.99
Central Texas	150,000.00	12,7312.47	6,257.86	10,365.55	143,935.88
Great Plains	600,000.00	596,62325	76,787.19	48,121.79	721,532.23
Louisiana	142,000.00	86,765.57	9,158.62	7,966.79	103,890.98
Missouri	175,902.50	239,813.16	18,551.45	21,584.03	279,948.64
New Mexico	80,000.00	41,085.00	3,428.76	9,231.27	53,745.03
North Texas	138,800.00	125,15128	14,143.15	22,211.34	161,505.77
Northwest Texas	60,000.00	53,092.61	10,697.84	3,058.43	66,785.88
Oklahoma .	238,832.00	210,419.15	16,546.40	12,711.74	239,677.29
Oklahoma Indian Missionary	7,950.00	5,84454	896.12	867.12	7,607.78
Rio Texas	160,000.00	166,027.41	8,993.61	16,169.25	191,190.27
Texas	147,060.00	172,68.86	16,481.68	19,169.03	208,419.57
TOTAL SOUTH CENTRAL	2,115,544.50	1,998,342.22	220,622.77	193,853.32	2,412,818.31
GRAND TOTALS - ALL JURISDICTIONS	10,684,377.40	9,959,098.01	1,339,727.14	1,415,698.94	12,714,524.09

MUMC CANDLE BURNING

The following list was published in the *Messenger* from October 22, 2020

IN MEMORY

Jean Cox Gibbens
By Sandra Norton & family

Otto Steinhaus
By Carolyn Steinhaus

Ray C. & Jean R. McClure
By Barbara McClure

Val Hinshaw
Rose Mary Langland
By Paul Hinshaw family

My mother, Bonnie Russell
By Anne DeVore

Katherine Christiansen
By Diane Fitzgerald

Sally Marble
Nick Ziegenfuss
By Virginia Higdon

Mary Null, my mother
By Paula Richards

Leo Funk, husband, father,
grandfather & great grandfather
By Caroline E. Funk

Virginia Tucker
Virginia Troutner
By Sue Troutner

Carl Eric Block
By Joyanne E. Block

Kathryn LaFollette, June's mother
Catharine Twitty
By June & Gary DeWeese

My mother, Catharine Twitty
By Marsha Twitty Sergent

Carolyn Rawlins, my mother
Charlene Coleman, my aunt
By Randa Rawlins

Sue Brewer
JoAnne DeVilbiss
By Diana Revelle

Mildred Bunker, Greg's grandmother
By Greg & Dora Thackery

Bob Shaw, dear husband
Catharine Twitty, dear friend
By Mary Ann Shaw

Dana R. Sharp
By Connie Carpenter

Mrs. Doris Finley
Mrs. Irene Morris
By Louise Morris

IN HONOR

Carolyn Belshe Orphanage,
Mozambique
By Barbara McClure

Mickey Havener
Diana Revelle
Julia Goodell
René Rau
By Paul Hinshaw family

Fred & Linda Leist
By Dave & Carole Babel

Mary Ann Shaw
Lonetta Johnson
By Barbara Robinson

Diana Revelle
By Paula Richards

All UMW members
Rev. Fred & Mrs. Linda Leist
Diana Revelle
By June & Gary DeWeese

Rev. Tami McKee Gallaway
By Jan Mees

Virginia Smith, Dora's mother
By Greg & Dora Thackery

June DeWeese
Diana Revelle
Fred Leist
By Pam Thomeczek

Carolyn J. Sharp
By Connie Carpenter

June DeWeese, president of UMW
Diana Revelle, UMW communicator
By Elizabeth Bailey

Liz Bailey
By Cynthia Beverley

Our children and their families
By Jim & Caryl Bryan

My father, Walter Russell
By Anne DeVore

Liz Bailey
By Evette Nissen

Diana Mooney
Carolyn Steinhaus
By Craig & Paula Datz