



THE JOYFUL NOISE

UMW Newsletter

DESERT SKIES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2019

Grandparents as Parents

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SAVE THE DATE
UMW Meeting on
Saturday, January 25, 2020
in the Fellowship Hall - at
9:15 a.m. for brunch,
Pledge Service, and
program.

Statistics are hard to find, but the 2010 Census reports that 4.9 million children under the age of 18 (7% of all children) live in grandparent-headed households. In some of those cases, the parent(s) of the child live in the household as well. A 2017 article reports that grandparents are the sole caretakers for approximately 1 million children in this country. Looking at it from the other perspective, approximately 2.7 million grandparents are involved in raising their grandchildren, some being the sole provider and caretaker for those children. Sometimes the cause for this situation is the inability, financially, for the parents of the children to earn enough money to provide for their children. When the grandparents are the sole caretaker of the children, substance abuse often plays a roll. Because of the substance abuse problem in this country, it is expected that those numbers will be higher in the 2020 census.

For 2 years, my husband, David, and I were two of those 2.7 million grandparents, and substance abuse was the cause. The summer before his kindergarten year, our grandson, Uriah, came to live with us. We felt fortunate to be able to care for him, providing a known, family living situation for him rather than foster care. (Continued on page 3)

Cookie Walk and Craft Sale

Sunday, December 15, will be the United Methodist Women's annual Cookie Walk and Craft Sale. It will be in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 8:00 a.m. until "all gone". We ask the ladies of our church to bring baked goods for it - not just cookies but fruit breads, candy, coffee cakes and any other baked good you enjoy making. We also hope you will share your crafts with us as they make such great Christmas gifts.

We will be setting up for this event **Saturday, December 14** between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the kitchen and you can bring donations to us at that time. We would love it if you would stay a while and help us set up and give us all the opportunity to "get to know each other".

If you are unable to bake or make us a craft, please purchase some of our baked goods and/or crafts as all of the proceeds go to Sister Jose Women's Center which works with women experiencing homelessness and is a safe haven and the first step to recovery. ~ Marilyn McKee



Finding Wonderful Christmas
Cookies and Breads

Meet a fellow UMW member

Hello, my name is Linda Jakubowski. My husband Wally and I have been members of DSUMC since 2018, when we moved to Tucson full time from Machesney Park, IL. Before that we were snowbirds for a couple months every winter. The very first group I joined at church was the Zippy 49ers, a branch of UMW. I felt welcomed and comfortable right away. I love the caring good work we do and the feeling of acceptance in this group. I would encourage any new church member to join UMW to set you off on the right foot to making friends.

My favorite part of this church is all the mission work and outreach done here. I have belonged to a few churches in my life. I grew up in the United Church of Christ, then became an Episcopalian when I got married. Wally was Roman Catholic and the Episcopal Church was a good middle ground for us. Then, when our children got older, we joined the United Methodist Church in Illinois and have been members for the last thirty years or so. DSUMC does the most to help those in need of any of the churches I have belonged to, and to me that should be an important priority of any church.

Wally and I have been married for 50 years. We are both from Chicago and met on a blind date! We have two beautiful daughters and two handsome red-headed grandsons, ages 7 and 11, who we miss terribly. It is the worst part of moving out of state. I enjoyed teaching grades K-4th for 30 years and then retired. I now dabble in writing for children as a hobby.

In addition to UMW I enjoy being part of the Tutoring Program here at church, as well as helping out with Helping Hands, Snack Pac, Connection Committee, and Wally and I serve as greeters. I also work at the Flea Market in the book section, a fun job, because I love books so much.

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UMW Meetings – Oct. 26 and Nov. 16

On Oct. 26th we gathered at 9:15 in Fellowship Hall for Brunch. Jeanne Myers and Marilyn McKee led a program for World Thank Offering and about \$150 was collected. Diana Barber introduced the two gentleman and one man's service dog from Handi-Dogs. This man who has an artificial leg showed how his dog and he interacted - helping him to stand up if he falls, etc. The other gentleman explained how the organization works with people in need of a Handi-Dog. ~ Marilyn McKee

UMW and UMM met on Nov. 16th for a wonderful time of fellowship, learning and great food. There was singing lead by David Chittenden. He led us in prayer, and everyone enjoyed chatting as they partook of great casseroles, fruit, and breads. The presentation was by Sandee Landsburg about the trip to the Holy Land she and her husband David took this past summer with their Church in Arkansas. She organized the talk into different segments, such as the churches they saw, when she felt the presence of God and the people they met. She had some handouts and by the end you wanted to go to the Holy Land and feel closer to God and see where Jesus preached and performed miracles. ~ Adele Edwards



Linda Jakubowski

A Prayer to Find Your Way

I become quiet and focused on the Spirit of God.

Alone with the presence of God, I feel a great serenity.

I rediscover how refreshing it feels to be calm and at peace.

I feel as if waves of peace are washing over me and clearing away any tenseness and anxiety.

I know that I am eternally one with God.

In Jesus Christ's name, Amen.

~ Unknown



Sandee Landsburg

Blessed are the peace-makers, for they will be called children of God.

Matthew 5:9

 UMW Event Calendar – 2019

December

- 7 – Holiday Dinner Concert - Fellowship Hall - 5:30 p.m.
 10 - Helping Hands - 9:00 a.m. - Kitchen
 14 - Set up for Cookie Walk and Craft Show - 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Kitchen
 15 - Cookie Walk and Craft Sale - 8:00 a.m. – sold out - Fellowship Hall
 18 - Zippy 49ers Circle - 9:15 a.m.- Fellowship Hall
 24 - Christmas Eve Services - 7:30 p.m. & 9:30 p.m. - Church Sanctuary
 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS
 31 - New Year's Eve - Enjoy and make New Year Plans

2020**January**

- 1 - Happy New Year's Day
 6 - UMW Board Meeting - 10:00 a.m.- Room 2
 14 - Helping Hands - 9:00 a.m. - Kitchen
 15 - Zippy 49ers Circle - 9:15 a.m. - Fellowship Hall
 25 - UMW General Meeting - 9:15 a.m. - Fellowship Hall

Watch for info about the M&M Circle Meetings Contact Sandy Kleen or Jeann Fishback



Grandparents as Parents (cont.)

He brought lots of laughter to us (kids still say the darnedest things), but he also reminded us why children are generally born to parents in their 20's or 30's, not grandparents in their 70's. We returned to the routine of rising at 6 am, taking him to school for a 7:45 start, driving to and watching after school activities (soccer and later karate), attending teacher conferences and other school activities, getting to know the parents of the kids in his class so we could arrange play dates because we live out in the country far from his school friends, becoming homeroom parents again, finding babysitters, disciplining a child rather than spoiling a grandchild, and being exhausted by the end of the day.

Another difficult aspect of this development was managing our relationship with Uriah's parents (our daughter and her significant other) and managing his contact with them. Sometimes the situation of parenting your grandchild evolves from you as grandparents working to remove your grandchild from his/her home either voluntarily or through the courts. Sometimes it is the result of the death of one or both parents. Sometimes it is the result of child-protective services intervening. In our case, it was the latter and Uriah did spend one week in foster care while we went through the process of being accepted as kinship care parents. After that, for the first year his parents were allowed a visit once a week with him. Because they were erratic with those visits and their non-shows created emotional havoc for Uriah, child protective services stopped the visits. Eventually, his parents' rights were terminated. This was the best situation for him at the time, but it was also difficult for us, as parents of his mother, to try to maintain a relationship with her and support her when she made attempts to overcome her addiction.

Throughout this journey, we received help and support in many ways:

1. Our friends stuck with us. Some grandparents experience the loss of friends through growing apart. They used to be free to travel with friends, enjoy spur of the moment activities and adult conversation. Gradually, some friendships fade away. We were fortunate in that most of our friends hung with us. Some would invite us, along with Uriah, to come and visit and play games appropriate to his age. Some would invite Uriah to spend the night, giving us a free night. His Sunday school teacher had a son a couple of years older than Uriah and more than once she and her son took Uriah out for an afternoon of fun. However, our traveling and our winters in Arizona did stop during this time period
2. We found a support group. Our church (in Rogers, Arkansas) has a Grandparents as Parents (GAP) support group which we joined. (If you are in this situation, I would highly recommend this. If you can't find one, start one yourself.) This group provided Uriah with friends who were in the same situation as he was – old "parents" – although we were the oldest grandparents in the group.

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Prayer

Dear Lord, don't let us miss You this Christmas season.

Help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on Your birth. Thank You for being the Prince of Peace, and I ask You for that supernatural peace to reign in our hearts. Thank You for the simple but life-changing message of Your love for us.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen.

~ Melanie Chitwood

Book Report

Love Comes Softly and *Love's Enduring Promise* are a fictional set of books by Janette Oke. Janette Oke was born in Champion, Alberta during the depression years to a Canadian prairie farmer and his wife. She married a pastor who went on to pastor churches in Indiana as well as Calgary and Edmonton, Canada.

This book is the first one in a series of eight that she wrote about a pioneer family. The life of the pioneer holds much appeal for present-day Americans-and well it should, for it is to these strong, courageous people that we owe so much of our heritage.

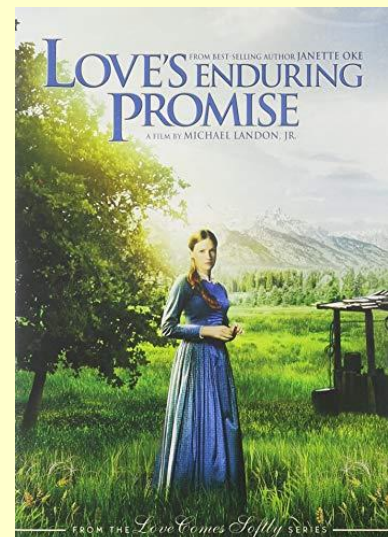
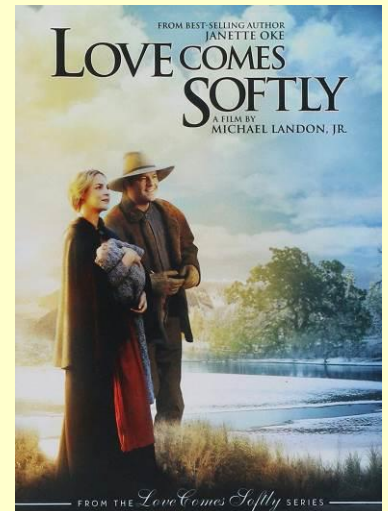
Marty married Clem as a very young girl, and he took her on this wagon train West to settle where he said there was land to be had. Then after fourteen months of marriage Clem was gone. Killed outright. His horse had fallen. "What am I gonna do now?" Marty cried as she was expecting his baby. No way to get back home. Neighbors tried to help, but she was in mourning. Then suddenly this tall young man stepped in front of her at the burial site and asked her to marry him. He had a young daughter to raise after his wife died and he said he was struggling. He told her he had a farm and could support her. She had to make up her mind suddenly because the preacher was only there one more day. Well, she said yes, and they started a life together. Clark Davis was his name and he was a spiritual, kindly man, she learned. Clark always said grace at their meals, something new to her. Marty had simple things, but plenty of food, and love abounded in their home. Clark reminded her that the Lord would provide whatever was needed. She learned to love him and his daughter, Missy, as they progressed along. She had Clem's little boy and went on to have two more boys by Clark. Life was not easy, but neighbor helped neighbor. Marty learned to cook and sew as she raised their combined family. Clark and Marty spearheaded efforts to build the first church in their little community and later a school. He interviewed and hired the first minister and school teacher. With each project they prayed that their efforts would not be in vain. And so, they weren't.

These are the first two volumes of this series. I have six to go. I am willing to loan them out. ~ Sue Patrick

A Prayer for Tranquility

Dear God I ask for peace of mind. I pray that I am calm, collected and tranquil at all times today. I rest and relax in your presence. I let go of all anxious thoughts. I stop rushing and start praying. I let go and I let God.

*In Jesus Christ's name,
Amen. ~ Unknown*



A Prayer for Peace in the World

Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding to what we believe to be right.

May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer lead men to commit injustice, nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we and all men were created.

~ Unknown



Country Brunch

Member (cont.)

Outside of church, I am a member of Ott YMCA Woman's Club, a service organization that helps Aviva Children's Services, Ronald McDonald House, Angel Heart Pajama Project, and the preschool at the Ott Y. I enjoy being part of a bridge club, and Wally and I love to hike the beautiful trails in Sabino Canyon and Saguaro National Park.

I feel very blessed for all God has given me, my husband, family and friends, and opportunities to help others. And I'm thankful that God has led us to Desert Skies United Methodist Church. ~ Linda Jakubowski

Grandparents as Parents (cont.)

2. (cont.) But, most importantly, we had a group where we could discuss problems we might be having and get support and ideas from others in the same situation. When we joined, we were new to the situation, but some in the group had been in this situation for a number of years. It was also a place to talk about our own children who were struggling with addiction, sometimes in jail. There was no judgement there, no feeling embarrassed. We were all in the same boat. We found strength through each other and through walking with God.
3. We read the book, **Raising Your Children's Children** by Martha Evans Spark, and discussed the chapters at our GAP meetings. It has a lot of useful information on obtaining services, dealing with your grandchildren, dealing with your own feelings, and finding hope in a situation that sometimes feels hopeless.

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Recipe

Recipe by Popular Demand: Country Brunch

Serves 12-14 Served at the October General Meeting

9 slices of white bread, crusts removed, cut into 1/2-inch squares (if bread is frozen it is easier to cut without squashing it)

6 scallions, chopped, including some green tops

2 - 12 oz. pkgs. pork sausage, crumbled, browned, drained (I use Jimmy Dean reg. or reduced fat)

2 cups (8 oz.) grated or shredded Cheddar Cheese

12 eggs, well beaten

3 cups milk

1/4 cup chopped green pepper

2 TBSP chopped pimento

1 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp pepper

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and blend well. Pour mixture into a buttered 9 X 13 in glass casserole dish and refrigerate, covered, for 8 hours or overnight. Bake uncovered in a preheated 350-degree oven for 1 hour. Serve immediately. ~ Glenda Burdick

Circles

Zippy 49'ers Circle will meet Wednesday, December 18, in Fellowship Hall at 9:15, with a light breakfast at 9:30. NO study book, but instead a white elephant exchange and share a Christmas poem, story, or reading that we like. Our meetings are open to anyone who is interested, even if you have never been. Feel free to call Glenda Burdick, if you have any questions like, "What is a 'white elephant'?" On January 15 we will continue with our study book, Chapter 4 and 5 of "Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them" by John Ortberg. Please look at the questions at the end of the chapters. However, the topics are general enough that one can contribute to the discussion, even if one has not read the book. ~ *Glenda Burdick*

Mary Martha Circle continues our fifth year of tutoring elementary school students. This year we have 19 students and three National Honor Society helpers (especially with Math!). We can always use more tutors so if you have time please come join us Monday and/or Tuesday 3 pm to 4:15 in Fellowship Hall. ~ *Jeann Fishback*

Grandparents as Parents (cont.)

4. We had the support and guidance of therapists who worked with Uriah both in school and in an after-school program. Uriah had experienced things that most kids don't and being removed from parents he loved, no matter what their personal situation, was traumatic. He was worried about who would care for him. More than once, he said, "If you die, then Auntie Erin and Uncle Ian will take care of me?" Uriah had very angry outbursts both in school and at home. The therapist said that often the child doesn't know why he or she is acting out. He provided tips on how to help Uriah through this time.
5. We had a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer who happened to be a first-grade teacher. She was a wonderful source of knowledge and support and a special "friend" for Uriah.
6. We found 3 wonderful babysitters which allowed us to get away now and then – just the two of us. It gave us a break and Uriah a break – he loved them!

Our story has a happy ending for Uriah – after 2 years, he was adopted by our other daughter – Auntie Erin and her husband Ian. He has been with them for 1½ years now. He feels secure. His outbursts are much less frequent and much less violent. He now occasionally throws a pencil rather than throwing a chair as he did in kindergarten. And as of September 10th, he is now a big brother to his sister, Stevie Jean. David and I value the years we had with Uriah – they were special and allowed us to form a deep bond with him. We are glad that he now has parents that can run fast enough to enable him to learn to ride a 2-wheel. (After one attempt, we discovered that we were not). He is not afraid his caregivers will die shortly. He feels a permanence in his new home – and we can now be the grandparents who spoil him! ~ *Sandee Landsburg*

Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give you. I do not
give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be
troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27



If you have any questions about UMW, its meetings and activities, please contact one of the UMW Board Members:

President: Marilyn McKee

Vice President: Glenda Burdick

Secretary: Mary Broughton

Treasurer: Marilyn McKee

Program Coordinator: Diana Barber

Membership: Elsie Heinz

Social Action: Jeanne Myers

Zippy 49ers Circle: Glenda Burdick, Lorna Niven

Mary Martha Circle: Sandy Kleen, Jeann Fishback
