



THE JOYFUL NOISE

UMW Newsletter

DESERT SKIES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2020

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Lent

This year Lent begins on Wednesday, February 26 and ends on Thursday, April 9. Below is from the April 2014 Joyful Noise regarding Lent. Desert Skies Pastor at the time was Reverend Edward Denham and there were three circles; the Southeast disbanded a few years later.

What are UMW members doing to bring meaning to the Lenten season? Rev. Ed wrote in the March Skyline about fasting from food, from some form of entertainment or from a negative attitude or action as a method of heightening our awareness of the presence of God. Connie Kraska shared that she is fasting from caffeine, and for a person who was drinking 6 to 8 cups a day, it has been challenging. It took a week to make it past the headache stage. I am trying to fast from my negative tendency to engage in distracted listening and instead really listen when family and friends are talking to me. I am hoping I can in the same way, abandon distracted listening to God and instead be focused and open to His presence during my quiet time.

Rev. Ed also talked about using Lent to add a time of meditation or service to our lives. For some, this is a more meaningful way to draw close to God. For Christmas a number of years ago, Sue Patrick and her

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Jan. UMW General Meeting

On Saturday, January 25th the UMW meeting started at 9:15 with coffee and conversation. Barb Reuter gave the devotion and prayer on peace making. Marilyn announced she was stepping down as President of UMW and is hoping others will step up and take the lead. Jeanne Myers lead the group in the Pledge readings and then we enjoyed delicious food prepared by the M&M circle.

The speaker was Jane Klip from the board of Youth On Their Own. Jane always taught in low income schools and is passionate about children and ensuring they all succeed in this world. YOTO supports 2000 of the 6000 homeless youth in Pima county. One youth she knows came home one day to find both parents gone (in jail for drug possession) and nowhere to go. After couch surfing with friends, he ended up under a bridge. With help from YOTO, he has received clothing, food, and support. His determination to succeed despite his situation helped him

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Come to a UMW meeting and meet new and current friends

Needed – President of Desert Skies UMW

HELP WANTED : For too many years for me to count, I have been President of Desert Skies United Methodist Women. It is time for me to relinquish this job to another lady (or ladies) of our church. As you may realize, all ladies who are members of a United Methodist Church are also United Methodist Women. So, all of you ladies are eligible for this job.

It would be lovely if one of our ladies would take over the job of President. But since we have so many busy ladies, perhaps we could have a President-Coordinator who would be in charge of “directing traffic” and several ladies who each take over one aspect of this job – General Meetings, Newsletter Info, New Member Bags, Cookie Walk and Craft Sale, Programs, Special Events, and probably more.

Anyone who is interested, please contact me, and I will explain what each job involves. BUT, as of June 30, 2020, I will be retiring. Please pray if this is a way you can serve our Lord and support our UMW chapter. ~ Marilyn McKee



Marilyn McKee proudly holds DSUMC Outstanding Unit of the Year Award, 2013

World Day of Prayer

February 29, 2020, Sanctuary United Methodist Women, and their Pastor Melissa (who just happens to be our Pastor Candace's daughter) will host the World Day of Prayer at their church in Marana. This has been created by an ecumenical organization, and this year women from Zimbabwe wrote the program/worship time. The theme is “Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk”. There will be singing, readings, praying and more. It will begin at 10:00 a.m., and lunch will be provided as part of the program. If enough ladies are interested, the church van will be available to use. It is about a 45-minute drive from our church to their church. Please advise Marilyn McKee (or church office) if you are interested in attending. ~ Marilyn McKee

But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. **Matthew 6:6**

Helping Hands – Primavera

For seventeen years, on the second Tuesday of each month, our United Methodist ladies have packed 30 lunches for the men at Primavera. This agency helps homeless men find temporary employment on a day to day basis. Before the men leave each day, they receive a sack lunch that has been prepared by churches and other volunteer organizations.

Over those years Sandee Landsburg, Ginger Crowder and recently Diana

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Cookie Walk and Craft Sale

The hard work of the Desert Skies United Methodist Women, with the assistance of church members, raised \$1,080 during the December 15th Cookie Walk and Craft Sale. A big thanks to our bakers and crafters for your donations and to all who purchased. The UMW added \$20.00 and gave a check for \$1,100 to Sister Jose Women's Center. The funds will be used to provide Tucson unaccompanied, homeless women a safe haven and the first step to recovery from homelessness. Again, thank you so much for being the hands and feet of our Lord Jesus Christ. ~ Adele Edwards

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Your Name. Amen. ~ Billy Graham

Mardi Gras

UMW Event Calendar – 2020

February

- 3 - UMW Board Meeting - 10:00 a.m.- Room 2
 11 - Helping Hands - 9:00 a.m. - Kitchen
 14 - Happy Valentine's Day
 16 - Western Sunday - 9:30 a.m. - Houghton Campus
 19 - Zippy 49er Circle - 9:15 a.m. - Fellowship Hall
 26 - Ash Wednesday
 29 - World Day of Prayer - 10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary UMC

March

- 10 - Helping Hands - 9:00 a.m.- Kitchen
 17 - Happy St. Patrick's Day
 18 - Zippy 49ers Circle - 9:15 a.m. - Fellowship Hall
 19 - First Day of Spring
 28 - UMW General Meeting - 9:15 a.m. -Fellowship Hall
 Contact Sandy Kleen or Jeann Fishback for meeting dates for M&M Circe.
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Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned. Happy is the one whom the Lord does not accuse of doing wrong and who is free from all deceit. When I did not confess my sins, I was worn out from crying all day long. Day and night you punished me, Lord; my strength was completely drained, as moisture is dried up by the summer heat. Then I confessed my sins to you; I did not conceal my wrongdoings. I decided to confess them to you, and you forgave all my sins. **Psalm 31 1-5**

Mardi Gras (French for "Fat Tuesday") is also known as Pancake Tuesday, or Shrove Tuesday. The history of Mardi Gras began long before Europeans set foot in the New World. In mid-February (this year, February 25), the ancient Romans celebrated the Lupercalia, a circus-like festival, not entirely unlike the Mardi Gras with which we are familiar today. When Rome embraced Christianity, the early Church fathers decided it was better to incorporate certain aspects of pagan festivals into the faith rather than attempt to abolish them altogether. Carnival became a period of abandon and merriment that preceded the penance of Lent, thus giving a Christian interpretation to the ancient custom.

Although Mardi Gras is basically a Catholic holiday, today it is a party for everyone here in the United States. This is especially true in New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana which can be credited for introducing this tradition in the country. Mardi Gras first came to New Orleans through French Culture in the year 1699 when the French explorers celebrated the holiday on the Mississippi River. Over the years, the celebration has witnessed growing national attention with many parades and parties being added to its hue and flavor. ~ <http://listverse.com/2007/10/04/15-holidays-and-their-origins/>

Lent (cont.)

husband received The One Year Bible which is the entire Living Bible arranged in 365 daily readings. Each day, there is a reading from the Old Testament, the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs. For Lent, Sue started reading. "It is easy to read as it is interpreted in our English language of today. I find it fascinating reading, mostly because I can understand everything they are saying, not just some words of the King James Version. This is ideal for personal devotions, and I find it spiritually uplifting."

In the area of service, the Southeast Circle provided dinner for the Ash Wednesday service at First Church, for both the Wesley Foundation and the First Church congregation. For several of the circle members, it was their first Ash Wednesday Service, and it was very meaningful to them. To complement the Ash Wednesday prayers used as centerpieces on each table, Connie Kraska wrote a devotion reminding those present that we all come from dust – star dust. "God's plan for us covers so much time it is hard to imagine. The iron in our blood and all other heavy metals were formed when a large sun died in a supernova long before our own sun was even formed. It's just awe inspiring to know the scale of God's plan! And it's pretty wonderful to reflect that we are all star dust." Marilyn McKee sent a portion of an article from her "back east" online newspaper speaking about service as part of the observance of Lent. The author wrote, "Many will give up a favorite food or activity for Lent as a sign of sacrifice, but I suggest, as I do every year, a different approach. The world around me will not be enriched if I give up chocolate for 40

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Prayer

Have mercy on me, O God,
 according to your steadfast love;
 according to your abundant mercy
 blot out my transgressions.
 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
 and cleanse me from my sin.
 For I know my transgressions
 and my sin is ever before me.
 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 and put a new and right spirit within me.
 Do not cast me away from your presence,
 and do not take your holy spirit from me.
 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
 and sustain in me a willing spirit.
 ~ **Psalms 51 1:3 and 10-12**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. - **1John 1:9**

UMW meeting (cont.)

get a scholarship to the University of Arizona, where he wants to study Neuro Science. With extra support, many homeless kids can go on to college/trade school and overcome the barriers of their youth. YOTO doesn't have shelters and can't provide warm meals, but the small stipend for youth who stay in school and pass their classes, as well as, their liaison (who have 299 other students) can make the difference between a productive member of society and another kid in jail or worse. UMW gives hygiene kits monthly to YOTO and today provided \$100. If you are so inclined to support them, they accept AZ Tax Credits. YOTO.org ~ *Adele Edwards*



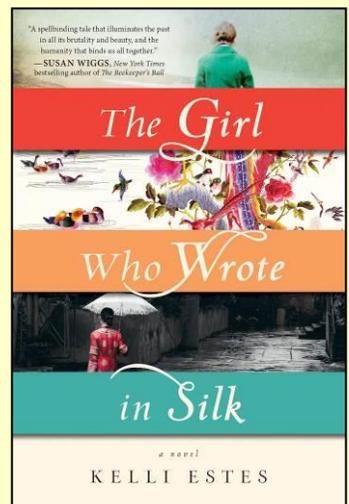
Jane Klip

Book Report

At this summer's Bunco game several spoke of favorite books. Debbie Poisel mentioned hers as "The Girl Who Wrote in Silk" by Kelli Estes so off to the library I went.

Inspired by true events, Kelli Estes's novel serves as a poignant tale of two women determined to do the right thing, the power of our own stories and the idea that the smallest items can hold centuries of secrets. Inara Erickson is exploring her deceased aunt's island estate when she finds an elaborately stitched piece of fabric hidden in the house. As she peels back layer upon layer of the secrets it holds, Inara's life becomes interwoven with that of Mei Lein, a young Chinese girl mysteriously driven from her home a century before. Through the stories Mei Lein tells in silk, Inara uncovers a tragic truth that will shake her family to its core — and force her to make an impossible choice.

The style of writing is enjoyable so I then read Kelli's second novel "Today We Go Home" concerning a Civil War family and a modern-day female veteran returning home. Both were very worth the time. ~ *Jeann Fishback*



Lord, you have endured me all these years with my sins, but nonetheless You pitied me; I was led astray in every way, but now I will sin no more; I have wronged You and I have been unjust; I will be so, no more; I renounce sin, I renounce the Devil, I renounce iniquity that stains my soul; free my soul from all that is against Your holiness; I entreat You, Lord, to rescue me from all evil; Come Jesus now, come now and abide in my heart; Forgive me, Lord, and allow me to rest in You, For You are my Shield, my Redeemer and my Light and in You do I trust; From today I will bless You Lord at all times; I repudiate evil and all other gods and idols, for You are the Most High over the world, far transcending all other gods; By Your mighty arm, rescue me from ill health, rescue me from being a captive, rescue me from trouble, and defeat my enemy the Devil; come quickly to my help O Saviour! Amen ~ *True Life in God Radio*



Pecan Cranberry Spread

Helping Hands (cont.)

Barber have chaired this program at our church. Diana can no longer do it, so Bev Bly has volunteered to take over this project with the aid of Sylvia Flagg. The lunches are prepared at 9:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday morning of each month in the church kitchen. They need supplies for the lunches which include 30 slices of ham, 30 slices of turkey, 30 slices of cheese, small bags of potato chips, several loaves of bread, and either bananas or oranges. These items need to be in the church kitchen by 9:00 a.m. on the second Tuesday, or they can be left earlier and clearly marked for Primavera with items refrigerated as needed.

Drivers are also needed to deliver the sack lunches to Primavera. On the same trip, the driver must also deliver Hygiene Kits made by another group to Interfaith Community Services, Youth On Their Own, Emerge, St. Luke's Home, and Tucson Metropolitan Ministries.

For more information about this project and/or to volunteer or to donate food, please contact Bev or the church office. ~ *Marilyn McKee*

Lent (cont.)

days, but if I choose to do an extra good deed each day of Lent, it may make my little center of the world a better place. Why not consider making your Lenten sacrifice more meaningful by giving up a portion of your time and talents to help others."

I think, during Lent, we need to focus on whatever draws us nearer to God, whether it be fasting or meditation or service. Fasting can remind us of God's sacrifice for us, or it can make us aware of our dependence on God and our gratitude for all He has given us. Meditation and scripture reading can create a heightened level of communion with God. Service exemplifies the spirit of Jesus and allows us to see God in those whom we serve. May your heart be opened to God's presence in whatever way you choose to observe Lent. ~ *Sandee Landsburg*



Recipe

At our recent Zippy 49ers meeting, this recipe was a big hit, and it was mentioned that it should be in the newsletter – so here it is!

PECAN CRANBERRY SPREAD

- 1/2 cup creamed cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1/8 cup of orange juice concentrate

Using an electric mixer, beat at medium speed and cream the cream cheese until soft and fluffy. Transfer to a small bowl, add remaining ingredients and stir to combine. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until flavors blend, at least 30 minutes. Serve with your favorite crackers. ~ *Marilyn McKee*

Circles

Zippy 49'ers Circle had a fun Christmas meeting with games and a White Elephant exchange. In January, we resumed our book study, Everybody's Normal til You Get to Know Them by John Ortberg. Our next meeting will be February 19 in Fellowship Hall. We will discuss chapters 6 and 7; however, the topics are general enough that anyone who has not read the book could join in the discussion. We gather at 9:15, with a light breakfast at 9:30. Please join us for fun, fellowship, and Christian growth. For more information call Glenda Burdick or the church. ~ *Glenda Burdick*

Mary Martha Circle continues with tutoring twice weekly on Monday and Tuesday. We are always looking for folks willing to help 1-6th grade students in English, elementary math, and social skills. No specialized teaching skills are needed. These students are loyal to each other but also keep each other honest.

You may have heard that for Christmas we had an afternoon of just party – rare for them. We had planned gift bags for each student but an hour before the party we had two added students and scrambled to split the gifts. Inadvertently one student did not get a bag and was understandably sad and quiet. A new young man at her table had gotten an early present the day before and generously gave his bag to the girl. We try to teach code of conduct, and it was evident that day!! ~ *Jeann Fishback*

Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive.

Luke 17:3

♥ **HAPPY**
Valentine's
DAY ♥

God always loves you.

Prayer and Self Denial

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial is an opportunity for women to reflect on the gospel of Christ and make an offering that helps sustain ministry around the country and the world. Every year, United Methodist Women members participate in A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial observance. In response to God's love and grace, offerings collected through A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial support worthy initiatives that relate to each year's mission focus.

The mission focus for 2020 is "We Rise: Meeting God's Call to Transform Communities," supporting the work of United Methodist Women – national and regional missions, and international partners.

Women, children and youth across the world have felt the love of God through A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial funds that have been given to countless women gathered in circles of care. As United Methodist Women members, we bow to meet God in prayer and then rise to give of ourselves that God's vision of an abundant and beloved community for all can be realized. The kin-dom comes as we live into the light of God's vision for humanity of mutuality and of seeing oneself in the eyes of another. ~ www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/call-to-prayer

The separate calendar insert will help you in your daily Lenten prayers, as well as provide a fun way to collect of funds. This is an alternative way to observe lent that helps you and children and women worldwide. Please take the time this year to participate. ~ *Glenda Burdick*

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

Social Action: Jeanne Myers

Zippy 49ers Circle: Glenda Burdick, Lorna Niven

Mary Martha Circle: Sandy Kleen, Jeann Fishback
