



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

THE JOYFUL NOISE

UMW Newsletter

DESERT SKIES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OCTOBER 2020

DSUMC UMW has a New President

Inside This Issue

- 2 Profile
- 2 Remembering the Past
- 3 It's the Little Things
- 3 River
- 4 Prayer
- 4 Book Report
- 5 The Past (cont.)
- 5 Recipe
- 6 Circles
- 6 River (cont.)

Adele Edwards has stepped up to be the UMW President for Desert Skies United Methodist Church. She has very large shoes to fill but luckily for Adele, Marilyn McKee stated she would be able to assist.

The first order of business is to get the Board Members together to decide what we can do in a COVID-19 environment for meetings and other events. Currently, Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata has stated that only 10 people can congregate together inside. This makes meeting in person problematic, and some members might not want to do that at this time. We, of course, can meet on Zoom but we may miss opportunities for fellowship, and we would definitely miss out on the delicious UMW food.

There are also a variety of small things that need to be done during the year. For example, UMW provides a small bag to all new women members of DSUMC. We need someone to do that work. Additionally, we need speakers every year. If you have ideas, can spare a few hours a quarter, or know of someone who could present at one of our meetings, please send an email to adeledwards@hotmail.com.

Stay Healthy and Connected. ~ Adele Edwards

UMW Principles for General Conference

Some of us sometimes forget that United Methodist Women is a world-wide organization, and as such not only involved locally but globally. As many of you know, The United Methodist General Conference will be Aug. 29-Sept. 7, 2021, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and currently there are a lot of different opinions regarding the direction United Methodists should take. The United Methodist Women Board of Directors General Conference task force made recommendations as principles to support for General Conference 2021. The core principles are gender equity, mutuality in mission, antiracism, and LGBTQ+ inclusion. They mention regionalization, the need to remain connected and have fiduciary responsibility. As United Methodist Women, we need to stay informed and read about what our organization is doing outside of Tucson. The UMW website is a great place to start, and details regarding the above information can be found at

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/general-conference-2021-board-task-force-proposed-recommendations> ~ Adele Edwards



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Profile

Hello, Friends! My name is Janet Holland, and I have been part of UMW for the past six years. I have a husband, Doug, two grown children, Brooke and Lee, and two grandchildren. I am originally from the Southern Oregon Coast, but have been happily drying out here in Tucson for the past 38 years. I was blessed to have taught children in the Catalina Foothills School District for 30 years, two of those as a teacher on special assignment at the University of Arizona, and I now flip houses with my husband and our crew.

When I first moved to Tucson, I attended St. Paul's UMC. I remember way back when our congregation was asked to help start a new church on Houghton Rd. This church would become Desert Skies UMC. Who knew then that this new church would become my church and church family for 25 years?! Jesus did!

What first attracted me to UMW was the opportunity to get to know the women of the church in a smaller setting and learning about the different opportunities to continue my walk and growth with Christ. I especially enjoy guest speakers, Adam Hamilton studies, and mission work.

I look forward to when we can meet again in person and pray that you are all well and staying healthy during these unusual times. ~ Janet Holland



Janet Holland and Doug

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Remembering the Past

Looking back at what has happened in the past can often change our outlook on the present and make us more appreciative of how far we have come and how far we still have to go. Below are major historical events that occurred in October. The website I got these from has so many more entries for each month of the year <https://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar>.

October 1, 1908 - Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" for the masses, first went on sale.

October 1, 1949 - The People's Republic of China was founded; Mao Zedong, Chairman.

October 2, 1967 - Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) was sworn in as the first African American associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. He served until 1991 and opposed discrimination, the death penalty, and championed free speech and civil liberties.

October 3, 1863 - Pres. Abraham Lincoln made the last Thursday in Nov. Thanksgiving Day.

October 4, 1965 - Pope Paul VI was the first Pope to visit the U.S. and to address the United Nations.

October 5, 1703 Birthday - Theologian Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) was born in East Windsor, Connecticut. He led the "Great Awakening" religious revival in the American colonies and later became president of Princeton.

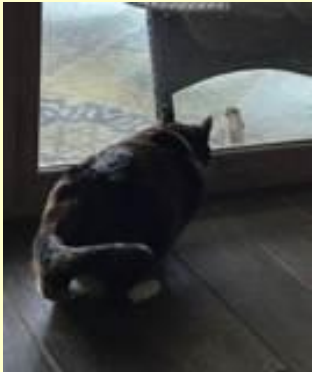
October 6, 1927 - The first "talkie" opened in New York, *The Jazz Singer* starring Al Jolson.

(Continued on page 5)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. **James 1:2-5**

We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised. **Hebrews 6:11-12**

It's the Little Things



Watching the ground squirrel

UMW Event Calendar – 2020

August and September

Due to COVID-19, we are currently still physically distancing ourselves but still getting things done.

The telephone is still a great way to reach out and say I am thinking about you.

Letters and cards always bring a smile to the face of the recipient, and if you are running out of cards or stationery but have a computer, you can email your friends or relatives.

God loves us and will be with us through these difficult times. Once we can get together and enjoy great UMW food, we will.

Until then, pray for our world and reach out safely to say hi.



After ground squirrel trimming

The ground squirrel was cute at first, adorable actually. I even gave it a name. But now, Squeaky the squirrel is public enemy number one. He has invaded my back patio and ravaged my potted cactus. He's also made my two cats go *bonkers* every time they see him.

I've had about a dozen potted cactus for years, and they did just fine in my backyard in Los Angeles. I didn't know when we moved to Tucson that I'd be matching wits with a ground squirrel. So far, Squeaky is winning...by an edge.

He comes by at least twice a day for his *cactus* snack, and the cats usually alert me to his presence. When I look out on the patio, there he is, sitting inside the pot, happily munching away on a juicy cactus arm.

My husband got to work and plugged up all the obvious squirrel entry points into the patio and so far, so good. If all else fails, I'll take Peggy Dunlap's advice, borrow her no-kill trap, and give Squeaky a new home. ~ *Diane Taylor*

Every Child Should Have a River

It has been a very hot summer (in September weeks in the 100s) and so very dry. Let's join Molly Squire and her family on the banks of the Susquehanna River in northern Pennsylvania as they enjoy the cool air and refreshing river.

When the Susquehanna wasn't working and the water was clear, shafts of sunlight invaded the river casting lovely fluid shadows down into the depths. Swimming underwater with our eyes open and searching the river bottom whiled away many a summer afternoon. We brought up oddly shaped stones to examine on the dock. We also discovered that two stones cracked together under water produced a very loud noise and this was a favorite trick to play on our guests. We even figured out how to "talk" to each other under water. I guess we could be conserved early frogmen!

Another discovery we made was the weightlessness of a body immersed in water. This provided a fascinating game for us children but created strain on the grown-ups in the water. It was a jolt for an adult to suddenly be picked up from his or her feet by a frolicking youngster and hauled out into the deeper water. I know there is a scientific explanation for this phenomenon but that was of no interest to us. We just enjoyed tormenting the adults and felt very powerful indeed until they grew weary of our game and ordered us to swim elsewhere. Rotten kids!

The river bottom was not the softest surface on which to tread when barefoot. By the end of a summer at the cottage, our feet were toughened to such a degree that only a piece of glass or tin offered us any hazard. Most of the stones were well worn by the river, and we tried to find the smoothest ones to use as "skippers".

(Continued on page 6)

Prayer

God of justice and truth, we lift up to you 140 million of your people who are being abandoned in the midst of abundance and the millions more being impacted by this public health crisis. Grant us the wisdom to know that the plague in the Bible is not a storm weathered before a return to normalcy; it is a call to come together in new ways in order to survive, to hold the powerful responsible for unjust policies and lies, and to rebuild foundations of love and justice. Grant us the courage to press on as we resist the degradation of human life and the temptation of the powerful to profit from pandemic. Grant us the love to do your will – to preach good news to the poor and comfort to the broken and brokenhearted. May we know that we are called to make earth as it is in heaven. And since it is your will, may we make it so. Amen.

~ *The Rev. Liz Theoharis*, Kairos Center, Union Theological Seminary,
National co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign, copied from the
September/October 2020 response magazine

Book Report

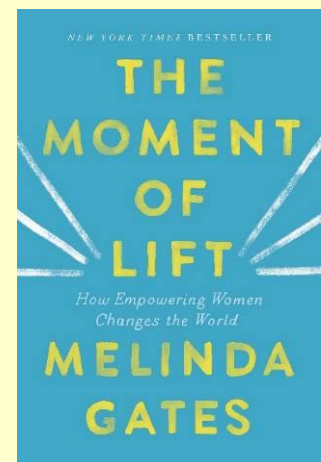
[The Moment of Lift](#) by Melinda Gates. Melinda Gates describes her first twenty years as co-chair, with husband Bill, of the Gates Foundation. It is clear that this journey has had a tremendous impact on her own life as a devout Catholic. **The ultimate goal of the foundation is empowering women to change the world.**

When the foundation was established in 2000, Melinda began a series of journeys to India, Malawi, Senegal, Tanzania, and other countries where she would learn, from the inside out, about the problems facing women. She met Meena, a young woman with two children, in Uttar Pradesh, an area of India where infant mortality is high. Meena, knowing that she lacked resources to educate or even feed her children, begged Melinda to take her children and give them a better life. What Meena, and other women of her village, needed and wanted was family planning, giving them the ability to limit the number of children they would have. With health and poverty alleviation among their top goals, the Gates Foundation is taking a major stance regarding family planning as they work in cooperation with governments.

Ms. Gates continues to listen as she visits impoverished women and strives to find ways that the foundation can solve the problems expressed by the women she meets. The foundation has spent billions of dollars toward improving health care, preventing violence against women by changing male attitudes, preventing child marriage, and female genital mutilation. They train people within the cultures they serve to work toward the goals most desired by those they meet.

This book is filled with stories about the experiences Melinda Gates has had as she has met and lived with people around the globe. She is not afraid to admit that they have made mistakes and is very humble in describing their accomplishments. ~ *Mary Broughton*

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. **1 Timothy 1:15-17**



You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.

When you get to your wit's end,
you'll find God lives there.



Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. **1 Peter 5:9-11**



Chocolate Cake

Remembering the Past (cont.)

October 11, 1884 Birthday - Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962) was born in New York City; the wife of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd U.S. President. As First Lady, she strove to improve the lives of people all over the world, called "First Lady of the world". In 1933, she was the first president's wife to give her own news conference in the White House. She helped write the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

October 13, 1775 - The United States Navy was born.

October 14, 1964 - Martin Luther King, Jr., was youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize and gave \$54,000 in prize money for Civil Rights.

October 16, 1916 - Margaret Sanger, opened first birth control clinic in America in Brooklyn, New York.

October 16, 1995 - The Million Man March took place in Washington, D.C., under the direction of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who delivered the main address to the gathering of African American males.

October 21, 1915 - The first transatlantic radio voice message was made from Virginia to Paris.

October 24, 1945 - The United Nations was founded.

October 27, 1978 - The Nobel Peace Prize to Menachem Begin of Israel and Anwar Sadat of Egypt.

October 28, 1971 - Britain joined the European Economic Community.

October 30, 1990 - For the first time since the Ice Age, Great Britain was connected with the European continent, via a new rail tunnel under the English Channel.

Recipe

Chocolate Cake

This is an excellent chocolate cake recipe that came from Tiffany Kjos, food editor of the *Arizona Daily Star*, on 6-11-14. It is a recipe that has been passed down through several generations of her husband's family. I have made it many times, and it is always successful and delicious.

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees and grease a 9" by 13" baking pan.
2. Combine $\frac{3}{4}$ c. milk and $\frac{1}{4}$ c. vinegar and let stand for 10 minutes or until curdled.
3. Combine 2 cups sugar, 1 c. vegetable oil (EVOO works), 2 eggs and the soured milk in a large mixing bowl.
4. Combine $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt, 1 tsp. baking powder, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ c. flour, 2 tsp. baking soda, $\frac{3}{4}$ c. cocoa in a separate bowl.
5. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients, blending well with a spoon or electric mixer.
6. Finally, mix in 1 c. boiling water and 2 tsp. vanilla.

Pour into cake pan and bake for 40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the middle of the cake comes out clean.

Frosting is not required, or use your favorite vanilla or chocolate frosting. ~
Mary Broughton

Circles

Methodism founder John Wesley knew the key to social change is small-group gatherings. Circles are a basic unit of United Methodist Women all over the world. Desert Skies has two circles, Zippy 49'ers and Mary Martha. Currently our circles are practicing social distancing but are very much looking forward to gathering for fellowship.

Mary Martha is currently on hiatus. Historically, our projects sent seniors out shopping, so during COVID-19 we are taking a break. Thanks to everyone who donated for the student supplies. ~*Jeann Fishback*

Zippy 49'ers It is more than seven months since the Circle met In February. We miss our fellowship and opportunities to share, study and learn together. And so.....we're coming back via Zoom. We will have a 'Try It' session, to make certain everyone can access Zoom, on **October 7th at 9:30 a.m.** Our first full-fledged meeting will be on **October 21st, at 9:30 a.m.** **All women interested in participating are welcome to attend.** The link to Zoom will be available in the weekly e-blast on October 6th and October 20th. Even though we won't be able to enjoy our usual coffee and goodies in person, you can still have a cup of coffee or tea and something to eat while we are enjoying our time together. **We'll see you soon!** ~ *Mary Broughton*

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

President: Adele Edwards

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Mary Broughton

Treasurer: Marilyn McKee

Social Action: Jeanne Myers

Membership: Elsie Heinz

Greeting Cards: Theo
Vandenburg

Prayer Shawl: Sylvia Flag

Zippy 49ers Circle: Lorna Niven,
Linda Jakubowski

Mary Martha Circle: Sandy Kleen,
Jeann Fishback

River (cont.)

These stones were held flat as possible in our hands and flung with just the right twist of the wrist to enable this to skip across the water. Annoyingly enough, this sport seemed to favor the boys, and try as I might, my "skippers" never went as far across the water as the boys did. Nature can be sexist at times!

Although our feet were tender at the beginning of the summer, we preferred the stony riverbed to the patches of weeds we encountered in our first swim of the season. We squealed with fright and revulsion when we put our feet down and sank into the sinuous "seaweed" as we called it. We were certain these weeds were home to the water snakes since that is where they headed when pursued. No one was ever bitten while in the water. Just the thought of that "seaweed" still makes me flinch.

As a testament to the belief I had in my Daddy's word, I repeated at a party, when I was in my 20's, what my father told me about snakes. Knowing I was afraid of them, and there were several poisonous types at the river, my father told me as a child that all poisonous snakes lived among the big boulders across the river. Hence, I had no fear of encountering poisonous snakes on our side of the river. When asked to clarify this phenomenon and feeling the need to defend my statement vehemently, I explained the reason the bad snakes lived on the opposite side of the river was "because my father said so". This produced much laughter and skepticism. Arriving home that night, I told my mother about the scenario at the party. Mother totally cracked up and was amazed that I had believed my father's tale about those snakes. I was not only disillusioned but embarrassed! Who needs her own mother telling her how gullible she had been? The humiliation of it all! ~ *Molly Squire*

Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. **James 5:10-11**



Susquehanna River