



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

THE JOYFUL NOISE

UMW Newsletter

DESERT SKIES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2020

Hello from Adele

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I hope this newsletter finds you and your family safe and healthy, and if not, I pray that God gives you and your loved ones healing and strength. This year has been very difficult for so many around the world as well as in our own neighborhood.

I am very excited to be your new UMW President. I want to use this space as a place to provide you with ideas to think about or to ask for your input. UMW has been supporting women and children everywhere there is need for over 150 years. Today is the same, but it just might be that we need to do things differently.

For the near future, until the Bishop tells us otherwise, we will be having all our UMW General meetings via Zoom. When you receive this newsletter, we will have just had our first two meetings.

During my tenure as your president, I want to do things that please God and you, perhaps things that we haven't done in a long time, or a new activity. Therefore, in the next few weeks, your homework assignment is to think about what we could do that is different. Email me (contact the church office for my email) and our UMW Board will discuss the idea. Just brainstorm. Don't self-edit or remove ideas because you think they may not be great ideas, or may be hard to do. Let the UMW Board worry about the how.

May God bless you, your loved ones, and all in need. ~ Adele Edwards

UMW Calendar of Meeting

UMW will be having meetings via Zoom until further notice. Announcement of our meetings will be in the Skyline that is emailed every Tuesday. A calendar of our General Meetings for your fridge.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Sat. Jan. 23 9:30am – 11:00am | Talk on Angel Heart Pajama Project |
| Sun. Jan. 24 4:00pm – 5:00pm | Drive by at both campuses to drop off new pajamas and new books |
| Sat. Feb. 27 9:30am – 11:00am | NAMI, In Our Voice, about Mental Illness |
| Sat. Mar. 27 9:30am – 11:00am | TBD |
| Sat. Apr. 24 9:30am – 11:00am | TBD |

Please contact any of the board members if you have questions. Hope to see you there. ~ Adele Edwards

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. **Luke 2:16-19**

Profile

Hello everyone, I'm Rev Susan Holden, and I am so glad to be serving here at Desert Skies as Associate Pastor, with a focus on leading the Vail campus as the community grows. I have varied memories of United Methodist Women that began when I was young and continue to this day. I grew up in a farming community in Tennessee called Hillsboro, where our family attended a small Methodist Church, founded in 1888. I am the middle child of three, with an older sister and a younger brother, and a good deal of our family's social life was centered around the church. I loved Sunday School, singing the hymns, youth choir, and UMYF.

The UMW was active at Hillsboro Methodist, and I benefited in many ways from the examples they set and the work they did. I have fond memories of the lovely tea the UMW hosted for me at the church before Joe and I were married. One of the women made the best homemade butter mints that just melted in your mouth! The UMW there has grown over the years in understanding and fulfilling the greater mission of the organization, focusing on local and global missions, education, spiritual and leadership development. But hosting teas for young engaged couples continues to be a loving gesture of affirmation they extend. My mother, sister and three nieces continue to be very active in Hillsboro First's UMW.

Those are some of my earliest memories of the UMW. Over the past years of full-time ministry, I have grown to appreciate the diversity and breadth of ministry accomplished by UMW units and circles in the different churches I have served as a pastor. It is the UMW circles who provide topical studies that are unique and stretch our thinking. Because of the influence of the UMW, I took on my first real leadership role in the church as the chairperson of Church and Society, overseeing fundraising events and coordinating our church's monthly contributions to the local food bank. I applaud UMW around the world and here at Desert Skies for the visionary work you do--things like helping individuals and communities to develop intercultural competence, being a strong prophetic voice for social justice, educating and empowering women and girls. But I am super impressed that the UMW in the United States broke ground in the church, promoting virtual gathering long before COVID19! ~ Rev. Susan Holden



Rev. Susan Holden

May You feel God's presence in the candles that softly spread their glow at Christmas, and may you experience the wonder of His abiding love, as He guides you, through each day of the coming year. May God's Blessings be with you. At Christmas and New Year!

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." **Luke 2:8-12**

Remembering those who have passed

DSUMC and the UMW has been affected by the death of so many in our congregation this year. It is important that we remember those whom we saw during meetings or in church, especially this year, as Covid-19 has changed so much. *May God continue to provide strength to their friends and family. May God grant the souls of the faithful departed eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.*

D. Darline Acuna
Sylvia Mozur
Freida Tipton

Laura Henderson
Vivian Whiteman
Lilly Coleman

O. Elaine Agte
Pauline Briggs
Darlene Bartman

Some who have passed were mentioned in the Joyful Noise. On page 5, is a summary of those articles. ~ Adele Edwards



Hoot

UMW Event Calendar

All our meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice. Contact a Board member for details or check the weekly Skyline.

2020 December

Cookie Walk Cancelled

16 Zippy 49ers Circle – 9:15 a.m. -
Zoom

25 MERRY CHRISTMAS

2021 January

- 1 Happy New Year's Day
 - 4 UMW Board Meeting - 10:00 a.m. – Zoom
 - 15 Zippy 49ers Circle - 9:15 a.m. - Zoom
 - 23 UMW General Meeting - 9:30 a.m. – Zoom
 - 24 Pajama Drive – 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. – both Church parking lots
-

A silent night, a star above, a blessed gift of hope and love. And many Christmas blessings to you and your family.

God gave His greatest gift to us on that first Christmas Day and may the wonder of it always guide and light your way. Merry Christmas!

It's the Little Things

Reading Pat Walker's Hummingbird story in the August "Joyful Noise" reminded me of an incident that happened to me a couple of years ago. I had a plumbing problem (a leaky pipe) and my water was turned off. On this particular morning, I was taking a bucket to my pool to get water to flush the toilet. I noticed a black ball floating in the pool. I scooped it out with the bucket and set it on the cool-decking. Oh my! It was an owl, and he was a ball of shivering feathers – with two big, yellow eyes staring at me! (My sister named him Hoot). I talked baby talk to him telling him he was going to be OK, and he should keep away from the pool. He just kept looking at me with those big yellow eyes. He stayed for quite a while drying off, and then he was gone.

Later that afternoon, I was in my family room knitting and watching TV. I had the strangest feeling that I was being watched! I looked out onto the patio and there was "Hoot" perched on the end of a table STARING at me. I talked to him for a minute, asking him how he was feeling and then went back to what I had been doing. Hoot sat there for several hours, quietly watching. Just about dusk he took off. I never saw him again!

I'd like to believe that he came back that afternoon to thank me for rescuing him! ~*Sylvia Flagg*

Remembering from the Joyful Noise

Pauline Briggs' profile in Feb. 2011 Joyful Noise stated she had been a UMW member for 52 years. Her mother was very active in UMW when she was young, and she started attending after graduating from high school. She grew up with UMW and enjoyed being a part of it as "it had just always been a special part of my life". She loved the rapport. She held every office on the board and some more than once because she felt it was "important to take part in leadership".

An article was written for the Oct. 2012 UMW Joyful Noise about Vivian Whiteman prior to her moving to Tempe to be closer to her son and daughter-in-law. In summary, she and her family were always very active in the Methodist church. She believed her constant faith had been her life-long salvation. She was a charter member of Desert Skies UMC and would only join a friendly church because as she characteristically put it, "I hate to be ignored!" Vivian had always been a member of UMW (it was WSCS when she first started), and she liked that it is a global Mission organization with circles as local work-teams. Her personal focus had always been on Missions. Vivian had been President, Vice President, and Missions Secretary and she held other positions over the years. For several years, she hosted the UMW Thanksgiving Potluck. When reminded - "You know you will be missed." she characteristically laughed and said, "Most people will remember I was here a long time - and I am proud I was here a long time."

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Prayer

May we be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.

Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless us now and forever. ~

Author Unknown

UMW Meetings - Oct. 31 and Nov. 23

UMW members "Zoomed" on Oct. 31st starting at 9:30. It was our first meeting on Zoom, and we had a great turn out. After the business meeting, Adele talked about Cyber Security at Home. She stated that you need to be wary of phishing emails, dangerous emails that look like real emails. Also, having a good password is important. Please contact Adele if you would like a copy of her slides and notes.

Then on Nov. 23rd the entire church was invited to hear Jan Van Buren's educational and interesting presentation "Susan Angeline Collins: Methodist Missionary in Africa." We learned about the life of Susan and how she decided to become a missionary and then how tirelessly she worked for children in Africa. If you want more information, just google Susan Angeline Collins. Hoping to see you at our next Zoom meeting on Jan. 23th. ~ Adele Edwards

Pajama Party - Jan. 23rd

At our scheduled UMW meeting on Saturday, January 23, 2021, at 9:30 AM, we will be having a Zoom Pajama Party. Our speakers will be from the incredible charity Angel Heart Pajama Project. Patti Lopez and her associate will tell us about their mission to bring new pajamas and a new book to children ages Newborn to 16. These are children who may have never received a new book of their own, or pajamas that

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Book Report

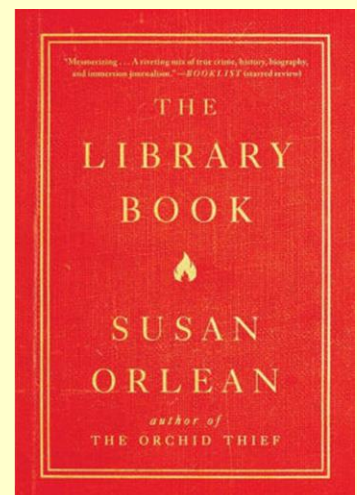
The Library Book by Susan Orlean is the story of the most disastrous library fire in America - at the Los Angeles Public Library April 29, 1986 and the mystery which is: Did someone purposely set the fire, and if so, who, or was it because the library was old and desperately in need of renovating.

Susan, a journalist and author, has a life-long love of libraries, books and reading. She has written an extremely compelling and fascinating story that tells about libraries and librarians as well as the investigation into this fire. I have spent many hours visiting libraries but never thought about what goes on behind the scenes and how they can be an essential part of our lives, even in this digital age. The mystery of the fire remains a mystery but her story of the people involved with the library from its beginnings to recent time is worth a read. This book is available in the Pima County Public Library. ~ Marilyn McKee

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). **Mathew 1:20-**

23

May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope, and the peace of His love at Christmas and always.





For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. **Isaiah 9:6-7**



Christmas Cut-out Cookies

Pajama Party (Cont.)

weren't second hand, for that matter. We all know how good it is to have something of your own that is new! Volunteers work to collect, separate, and distribute pajamas with a book to Tucson children in need.

After the informative meeting on Saturday the 23rd, Desert Skies will hold an all-church drive-thru on **Sunday, January 24th**, from 4PM to 5PM at both the Houghton and Vail campus. The drive-thru will be your opportunity to donate a new pair of pajamas and/or a new book for a child. Angel Heart Pajama Project also accepts checks to purchase the pajamas and books themselves.

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Remembering (cont.)

Darlene Bartman worked at the front desk and was one of St. Luke's most devoted and enthusiastic volunteers. In 2014, she greeted the UMW member that went to visit St. Luke's that year. Darlene attended UMW meetings and always was happy to say hi to everyone. She helped with the flea market and rarely missed a Sunday service.

Laura Henderson's profile was in the Dec. 2016 Joyful Noise when she was in her late 80's. She was advisor to the African American Episcopal Methodist Women's Association. She joined DSUMC in 1989. She liked the devotions, prayers, and the guest speakers of the UMW and was a member of Zippy 49ers Circle. She said, "There is a special comradery here in our UMW that I find nowhere else. It is in our Circles and our UMW that we are able to hold hands with Christian women all around the world, learn about their lives and how we can best serve our Lord, them, and one another. That is what I like best about UMW, plus the warm hugs and the friendly smiles. It is here we celebrate together the joy of bringing Christ to the world, our community and one another." ~ Adele Edwards

Recipe

Christmas Cut-out Cookies

Since there will be no Cookie Walk this year, I will share the recipe I have used for YEARS for my Christmas cut-out cookies, so you can make your own.

3 1/2 cups sifted flour	1 3/4 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt	2/3 cup butter
1 1/2 cups sugar	2 eggs
1 teaspoon lemon extract	1 teaspoon vanilla

Sift flour, baking powder and salt together. Cream butter until soft, add sugar gradually, creaming well after each addition, until mixture is fluffy-light. Beat in eggs, lemon extract and vanilla. Stir in flour mixture, a third at a time, blending well to make a stiff dough. Chill for an hour. Roll out dough and use your favorite cookie cutters. Place on lightly greased cookies sheets and bake in a 350-degree oven for 7 minutes. Cool and frost using your favorite frosting and food coloring with decorative Decor candies. ~ Marilyn McKee

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.

Mary Martha is still on hiatus but our honorary member Fred is keeping in touch with many of our tutoring students. We miss them bunches!!
~Jeann Fishback

Zippy 49'ers has met several times via Zoom. It's not like our traditional meetings where we enjoy a light breakfast and face to face fellowship, but it is a wonderful opportunity to 'see' each other and spend time together. Plans are underway for a Zoom Christmas gathering on **December 16th at 9:30 a.m.** We will have time to share stories about fondly remembered Christmas experiences. Intercessory prayer will be included along with devotions and, since our traditional white elephant gift exchange won't work this year, we will play some Zoom appropriate games. (Did you know that you can find creative game ideas for Zoom gatherings online?) Since we are still planning this event, there may also be one or two surprises. All ladies are welcome to participate. The Zoom link will be in the weekly Skyline e-blast on December 8th and 15th. ~ Mary Broughton

Pajama Party (cont.)

So, mark **January 23rd** on your calendar, wear your favorite PJs to the Zoom meeting to hear about this worthy mission. Then plan to drive thru the **church parking lot on the 24th** with the new gifts you have purchased. Remember, it's after Christmas, everything will be on sale! ~ Linda Jakubowski

2021, A New Beginning

Here it is at last, 2021! We've been waiting, as 2020 has not been the best year. It has been more like a bad dream, something out of a horror movie. Yet, there has been so much we have learned during this year.

We've learned not to take friends and family for granted. You never know when separation may last longer than anticipated. And, sadly, some of us have even had to learn to live with losing a loved one. We've learned to look out for each other, to take care of each other just by taking the time to do simple things like putting on a mask or checking on neighbors to make sure they're ok. We've learned to entertain ourselves, many of us have picked up new hobbies to help pass the time alone. Jigsaw puzzles, sewing, and crafts have filled our hours. We've re-discovered the joy of a walk outdoors with the beauty of nature as our companion. We've learned to share our toilet paper and paper towels!

Most importantly, the year reminded us to trust God has a plan for us and will give us relief and comfort and be by our side, always. And while our problems will not miraculously disappear at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, it will get better, I believe. God will help us through strength and compassion in his wisdom.

In 2021, we just need to remember what we learned. ~ Linda Jakubowski

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
Broughton

Mary Martha Circle: Sandy Kleen,
Jeann Fishback

God gave His greatest gift to us on that first Christmas Day and may the wonder of it always guide and light your way. Merry Christmas!



Sunrise in Tucson