



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

THE JOYFUL NOISE

UMW Newsletter

DESERT SKIES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2021

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Hello from Adele

It's 2021 and yet in some ways it still feels like 2020. There are so many concerns in the world that need our prayers and our involvement. As I take the reins of Desert Skies United Methodist Women, and start reading UMW handbooks, other documents, and websites I realize I don't know a lot about UMW, or I forgot some of the details.

Therefore, in this newsletter edition, I present basic information on UMW. I also include a list of what our UMW does each year to improve the lives of women, children, and teens in Tucson and across the world.

If you have ideas of activities, programs, etc. we can sponsor, please contact me, or any of the UMW Board members. New ideas are what keeps great organizations relevant in a changing world.

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

Prayer and Self-Denial

The UMW observance of Prayer and Self Denial, usually held during Lent, began in 1887 through a call by the Women's Board of Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. They wrote, "With sorrow & shame it was confessed that the more than half a million women in our Church were not contributing enough to keep 20 devoted women in the foreign fields with means sufficient to do the work as it should be done. Now, *growth* is the law of life; to cease to grow is to begin to die." The women vowed to pray for an entire week. They prayed individually. They prayed together. They prayed at church.

(Continued on page 4)



UMW Calendar of Meetings

UMW will be having meetings via Zoom until further notice. Announcement of our meetings will be in the Skyline that is emailed every Tuesday.

Sat. Feb. 27 9:30am – 11:30am National Alliance on Mental Illness & Prayer and Self-Denial Service

Sat. Mar. 27 9:30am – 11:00am Wesleyan Community Center of Phoenix

Sat. Apr. 24 9:30am – 11:00am Tea Party

Articles about each presentation will be in the Joyful Noise. Please contact any of the board members if you have questions. Hope to see you there. ~ Adele Edwards



Mother Teresa knew the importance of prayer

Profile

I am Diane Taylor, and my husband Chris and I moved to Tucson in June 2019. I retired early after 40 years in the broadcast news industry where I was both a reporter and anchor. I loved the work and the people, but I must admit I don't miss the deadlines and the daily grind.

I'm a lifelong Methodist, and I come from a family of Methodists dating back at least to the Civil War. I grew up in Dallas, Texas and became a member of the Highland Park United Methodist Church (on the SMU campus) as a youth, and I participated in the youth choir. When I moved to Los Angeles, I became a member of the Santa Clarita UMC. Both of my children joined the church. I was a member there for 27 years and was a member of the choir and served as chairman of Trustees for 6 years.

I started attending DSUMC in December 2019 and joined the choir. I officially became a DSUMC member on March 8, 2020...just prior to our last in-person church service.

I must admit I haven't been involved with UMW...mainly because I was too busy working weird hours and raising 2 kids. It was all I could do to get everyone out the door on Sunday morning!

Now that I'm retired, I have more time to be involved with UMW and I hope to be able to contribute once we are all able to come together in person when a Covid-19 vaccine comes along. I will be serving as chairman of the DSUMC Communications Committee in the new year. ~

Diane Taylor



Diane Taylor



Feb. 23rd ZOOM in on Mental Illness

An estimated one in five residents of Pima County (approximately 200,000 people) have a mental health issue. NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) of Southern Arizona is devoted to helping those suffering from mental illness AND their families and caregivers. Among the offerings available are numerous support groups and a NAMI helpline, as well as advocacy to overcome ignorance and misconceptions about mental illness. Through the auspices of the Missions/Social Concerns Committee, Desert Skies has been providing financial support for NAMI for the past six or seven years.

One of the educational opportunities offered by NAMI is a presentation called **"In Our Own Voice", testimonies given by people with mental illness.** This will be the featured program at the Zoom meeting of United Methodist Women on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27th, at 9:30 A.M. Members and friends of our congregation (including youth and men) interested in learning more about this important topic are invited to attend.**

More details about the program will be in the weekly Skyline. ~ *Mary Broughton*

A Prayer for Peace & Positivity: Lord, how I long to break free from negative thinking and embrace peace and joy and optimism. I invite You to begin transforming my thought patterns and help me recognize, reject, and replace thoughts that are not pleasing to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen. - **Traci Miles**



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.

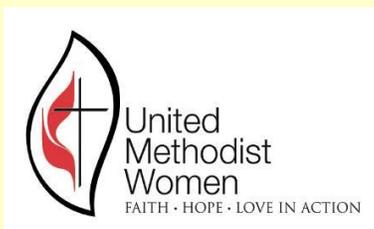
2021 February

- 14 Happy Valentine's Day
- 17 Ash Wednesday
- 17 Zippy 49ers Circle – 9:30 a.m. - Zoom
- 27 UMW General Meeting – 9:30a.m. - Zoom

2021 March

- 1 UMW Board Meeting - 10:00 a.m. – Zoom
- 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day
- 17 Zippy 49ers Circle - 9:30 a.m. – Zoom
- 20 Happy 1st Day of Spring
- 27 UMW General Meeting - 9:30 a.m. – Zoom
- 28 Palm Sunday

"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful." - **Malala Yousafzai**



"Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement." - **Golda Meir**

UMW Meeting - March 27th

The Wesley Community and Health Centers is a UMW National Methodist Institution started in 1950, and they will be speaking at our UMW General Meeting on March 27th at 9:30 am. There are two campuses, one in downtown Phoenix and another in the Maryvale area of Phoenix, both serving the mostly Hispanic community. The health centers provide primary health care that includes family medicine, family planning, pediatric care, prenatal care, acute and chronic disease management, and vaccinations. The community center programming offers low cost after school care and tutoring, summer programs for children up to the age of fifteen, free ESL (English as a second language) classes, as well as fitness, nutrition, gardening, sewing, and financial literacy classes.

Goals of the ninety National Methodist Institutions include: **empowering women, caring for children, educating youth, advocating for social justice issues, creating economic opportunities, and helping residents pursue positive change in their neighborhoods.** Funding comes from United Methodist Women, government and corporate grants, community organizations, individual donations, and, in many cases, the United Way. (Continued on page 7)



What is United Methodist Women

In a bit, I will share some information from the United Methodist Women's website about the UMW organization. But first, I want to mention a few things about Desert Skies UMW. The Joyful Noise, our UMW Newsletter, is for all women of Desert Skies United Methodist Church. Our UMW meetings are open to all women of the church. We want to be inclusive and ensure as many women as possible learn new ways to help other women, children, and youth.

Our meetings have two parts. The first is the official UMW portion of the meeting, a time for a service (Pledge, Prayer and Self-Denial) and to discuss upcoming events, review the work of our circles, and other mission projects. The second part is a presentation. The DSUMW Board yearly looks for local, national, or international organizations that support women, children, and youth and asks them to present about their organization to the women of Desert Skies.

Ronald McDonald House, Refugee Harvesting Network, Justa Center of Phoenix, U of A Wesley Foundation, St. Luke's home, and many other local organizations have come to discuss how their mission work helps those in need. Retired missionaries have talked of their life work. The UMW members present a small donation to the speaker in support of their cause and for the continuation of their good work.

Fellowship of the women of Desert Skies is very important, so during the summer we often hold informal gatherings with soup and salad and a few games of Bunco. We have sponsored Lady's Teas, church picnics, and hosted Lenten breakfasts.

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Prayer

Dear Lord, Thank You for this beautiful day. Thank You for our families and friends! We praise You, Lord! Among all that we have, there are so many hurting and needy people. We lift them up to You and ask that You would bless them, help them, and heal them. May Your peace fill their hearts and may joy shine! We ask that You intercede for them, fulfilling their needs according to Your will. We also pray that You would use us to help them in any way we can. Open our eyes and make us aware of the opportunities we have to bless others in need. Help us to not be selfish, help us to share. All that we have is Yours and we surrender to You. May Your will be done in Jesus' name AMEN! ~ adopted from <https://unveiledwife.com/prayer-of-the-day-helping-others-in-need/>

Prayer and Self-Denial (cont.)

They prayed at home. At the end of the week, they took an offering. The amount received was \$7,000, a substantial figure in 1887.

We will hold our Prayer and Self Denial observance on Feb. 27 after the presentation. A Prayer and Self-Denial Calendar is in the newsletter so that you can pray for those in need, thank God for what you have, and turn your blessings into a donation. The calendar starts on Feb. 17th Ash Wednesday and continues through March 20th. During our March 27th meeting, we will ask that you send your donations to the office. Make your check out to DSUMW and in the memo, Prayer and Self-Denial. This year's offering will be used to provide pensions and health benefits for retired missionaries and deaconesses. ~ Adele Edwards



Book Report

Lady Clementine, a novel by Marie Benedict, 2020 is a great read. Last year we saw the film, "Darkest Hour", about Winston Churchill's election as the Prime Minister of the U.K. just as Hitler is storming across the European continent towards them. Everyone questions his decisions, except his wife, Clementine. Even she stands up to him with an unladylike assessment, "you're being an a**!" when he needs to hear it.

So, who is this woman?

She came into the world with a title, as they are passed down through generations, but no fortune to support it. She and her sister grew up doing needlework for their cousin's dressmaking business, in order to help support the household. As a young woman, she was also a French tutor, for the same purpose. Mother and daughters shared wardrobes so as not to be seen too often in the same outfit as they took advantage of the invitations of their peers.

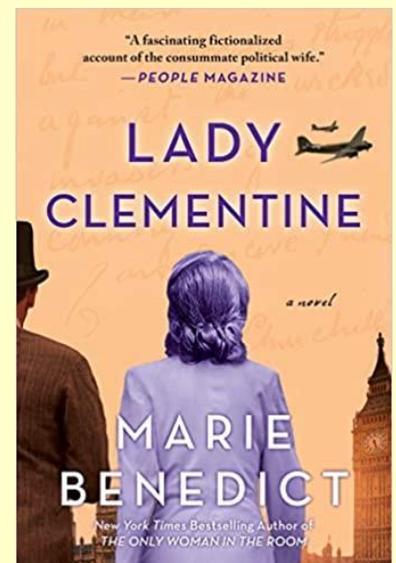
One of those invitations had her seated next to Winston at the dinner table. He was thrilled to meet a "Lady" who was not a pampered pet, but knew how to work. She was intrigued to meet a "Gentleman" who was involved with various aspects of the government and not content to fill his days with clubs and sports, and, best of all, admired a woman who had purpose to her life.

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God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual mercy, respect, and love. Adapted from the **Book of Common Prayer**



And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?" **Luke 9:23-25**



Memories from Chairing a UMW Tea Party



Decorated Table for Tea

United Methodist Woman has often had Tea Parties. I was asked to Chair the 2010 tea, "Pursu-ing Your Dreams" with an underlying theme of purses. We advertised with posters around the church and in the Skyline. We sold tickets for a small charge. Sixty-nine mothers, daughters, granddaughters, sisters, aunts, and friends enjoyed the women's tea held in Fellowship Hall on May 1, 2010.

Many members of UMW helped plan the decorations, menu, make food, and sell tickets - Edna Underwood, Vivian Whiteman, Linda Wheeler, Elsie Heinz, Aliene 'I' Schluchter, Jeanne Myers, Adele Edwards, Darcy Ochoa, and my daughter, Sue Rutelionis. It is always helpful to have as many people as possible – great ideas and lighter work for all.

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UMW January Meeting

United Methodist Women met on January 23rd via Zoom. After opening introductions, devotions and prayer, Linda Jakubowski introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Stacie Emert, who presented the **Angel Heart Pajama Project**, which provides new pajamas and new books for children in need, and provides a new and exciting opportunity for us to be of service to our community.



Angel Heart Pajama Project
volunteer handing out pajamas
- picture from their website

The project came to fruition as the vision of Graciela Lopez and her daughters, who in the middle of the night, escaped from Cuba on a small boat. They were rescued by an American Naval boat, taken to Florida as refugees, and eventually arrived in Tucson. Realizing the importance of comfort and love to children in need, and wanting to give back to the country that had given to them, they began working with abandoned and abused children who had been placed in foster care or were living in shelters in Tucson and the surrounding counties of Southern Arizona. Since Ms. Lopez gave pajamas and books to her children for Christmas and

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Recipe

Easy Chicken Casserole

2 cups cooked chicken (I use Costco rotisserie chicken)

1 cup celery

1 cup sliced and toasted almonds

1 can mushrooms chopped

2 T lemon juice

1 8-ounce can water chestnuts chopped

¼ cup chopped onion

1 cup mayonnaise

Topping

½ cup shredded cheddar cheese

½ cup French-fried onions

½ cup sliced almonds

Preheat oven to 350. Mix everything in a bowl. Place mixture in a casserole dish and bake 20-25 minutes. Top with shredded cheddar cheese, more sliced almonds, and French-fried onions - cook another 10 minutes. Let cool before serving. ~ *Elsie Heinz*



Easy Chicken Casserole

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 that meet monthly for fellowship, community support, and business. Circles are a great way to be more connected to the church, UMW members, and God. The support circles give can be life-changing.

Mary Martha Circle is currently on hiatus since most projects require close contact. Our tutoring program is the hardest hit for both the children and the tutors who miss the interaction terribly. These children are so very special to us. ~ *Jeann Fishback*

The Zippy 49'ers Circle enjoyed a Christmas gathering in December and a meeting in January focusing on fellowship, prayer, and discussion of Chapter 10 in our study book, *Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them*, by John Ortberg. **Upcoming Zoom meetings will be on Wednesday, February 17th, and Wednesday, March 17th, at 9:30 A.M.** We close our in-person meetings by clasping hands and forming a circle for a unison prayer. **There is always room for more ladies in the circle**, so please consider joining us on the third Wednesday of each month. ~ *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
Broughton

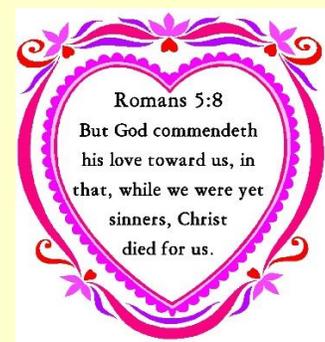
Mary Martha Circle: Sandy Kleen,
Jeann Fishback

New Pajama and Book Donation Drive-

Through rain, hail, and strong winds, United Methodist Women and others still came to donate 147 pajamas, 141 books, and \$230 (there were a few more donations after the event). Standing in the rain gathering items brought to the Purple Heart Park in Vail were Marty Bond, Leslie Cooper, Rev. Susan, Scott Jones, and Adele Edwards. Houghton had Silvia Flagg, Esther Ralston, Rev Candace, Lorna Niven, Linda Jakubowski and her husband, Wally, gathering items. I want to thank Linda for finding Angel Heart Pajama Project, suggesting they come and talk, having a church drive for PJs and books, and delivering our donations. If you wish to donate you can go online to <http://angelheartpajamaproject.org/> and look for the donate link, or call 520-870-2829. More children and youth in Tucson and Vail can now read a new book wearing their own new pajamas. Thanks to everyone for donating or helping gather items to help this mission. ~ *Adele Edwards*



PJ and Book Drive in Vail



United Methodist Women Pledge Service

At the DSUMW January 23 General meeting, the 2021 Pledge Service was held, led by Marilyn McKee, Mary Broughton, and Jeanne Myers. The theme was "Knitted Together and Reaching Out" - how knitting our Pledge dollars together can transform the world. An explanation of where and how our Pledge dollars are used to make life better in our country and the world was presented. If you would like to write a check for your pledge to United Methodist Women and the work they do, please make it out to DSUMW and mail it to the church, writing Pledge in the "For" area on your check. Thank you. ~ *Marilyn McKee*

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." - **Jane Goodall**



UMW Members in front of our UMW Library in the Fellowship Hall

"We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better." - **J.K. Rowling**



UMW Members having fun making boxes for the Flea Market



Plates full of goodies

"Health is a state of complete mental, social and physical well-being, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." – **World Health Organization**, 1948

What is United Methodist Women (cont.)

The UMW newsletter and our meetings are a way for the women of Desert Skies to support mission work locally and around the world. Below is the information I promised from the UMW website. Read who we are. Then please join us, as you are able, for the events we host. The world needs us more than ever. We would love for you to attend a meeting, hear a presentation, and continued to be involved in supporting those less fortunate. ~ Adele Edwards

What is United Methodist Women?

United Methodist Women is a supportive, inclusive Christian membership organization where women like you grow spiritually, develop as leaders and serve and work to create a world in which all women, children and youth thrive. United Methodist Women is celebrated as the women's ministry of The United Methodist Church.

What does United Methodist Women do?

Our members nurture one another in community and support U.S. and international projects and partners improving the lives of women, children and youth with their prayers, volunteer and advocacy efforts, and financial gifts.

Why should I join United Methodist Women?

United Methodist Women is a community of women committed to mission. As a member you can take advantage of many opportunities, including the following:

- Prayer, Bible studies and spiritual retreats.
- Hands-on mission in local communities.
- Mission education experiences.

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Tea Party (cont.)

We used the round church tables and the round white tablecloths. To help the centerpieces stand out more, we used rectangular, white square pedestals covered with pastel, silken material. To add more color than just white dinner napkins, I purchased fabric napkins in light spring floral colors and folded them so they made a fan on the table. To make the church chairs fancier, I decorated the chairs by wrapping the backs with nylon net tied in a bow with artificial flowers in the bow and long streamers. The entrance table where attendees made a name tag, had

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UMW Meeting March 27th (cont.)

We are looking forward to learning more about the Wesley Community and Health Centers on **March 27th, when the speaker for our UMW meeting will be Blaine Bondi, CEO of the organization. This will be a Zoom meeting, starting at 9:30 A.M. ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.** The Zoom link will be in the weekly *Skyline* e-blast. Take a moment to mark March 27th at 9:30 A.M. on your calendar. ~ Mary Broughton

Need a Hug?

Do you know someone who is hurting – whether it's due to the Coronavirus, an illness, divorce, job loss, loneliness? There are any number of reasons for us to be longing for a HUG.

Well - we have a solution. Give the gift of a Prayer Shawl. We have a wide range of colors on hand suitable for either male or female. The shawls are knit by several United Methodist Women with yarn supplied by the UMW. They are our gift to you. During normal times you can pick one up at the Church Office. However, until we get back to NORMAL, call the church office, tell them of your need, and they can get a message to me. I'll make arrangements to get you a Prayer Shawl. Hugs to all. ~ Sylvia Flagg



Second Book Report

I recently finished reading Rev. Charles McNary's first work of fiction (TRIUNE: The Door, Peter's Story and David Lees) - yes, THE Rev. Charles McNary, who along with his wife Rev. Sandra McNary, just relocated to the Albuquerque area to reside closer to family. We miss them dearly, though they still participate in weekly Zoom studies and consider DSUMC their remote "church home".

Rev. McNary pastored in the Midwest for many years, in addition to working as a dairy farmer, accountant and educator. His knowledge and descriptions of life in the Midwest for so many Americans shines through in the three short "novellas" he has penned. What stands out in his writing are the generational perspectives he has gained over his lifetime, as well as the characters' humanity at various life stages.

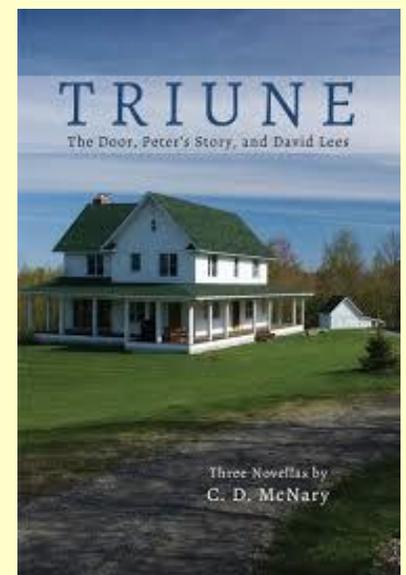
In the first story, "The Door", differing viewpoints and understanding of three generations of family are reflected in each of the members' observational narrations when a tragic turn of events dramatically changes each of their lives. It is an unusual but certainly relatable story about the breaking of norms and its impact on midwestern morality.

The second, "Peter's Story," is a study on the impact of unexpected death while growing up in a farm family, the oft common effect of substance abuse as a coping mechanism, and the "lost and found" of relationships. This accounting of Peter's midwestern family life, his journey away, and eventual return home is also about human potential, sharing of faith, personal experience, and redemption. It was most relatable because it is a story of the effects of our childhood memories on the view of our grownup selves and who we choose to become. It also clearly exemplifies the difference caring individuals who extend a hand can make, if we allow them into our lives. The rhythm of life, death, and birth of new generations are accurately described for readers.

The final story, "David Lees", focuses on aging and loss, as well as the renewal that can occur in relationships, even in the midst of great changes. This story also addresses evolving familial relationships, as adult children pursue their own lives and careers, how they view their aging parents, and how change necessitates the continuity of wisdom from parents to the next generations.

Despite some typos from the local publisher Wheatmark, Inc, Rev. McNary's first attempt at fiction is certainly plausible. It is an *interesting, authentic* effort, and there is an autographed copy in the DSUMC Library inside Fellowship Hall, or it is available on Amazon. I recommend TRIUNE. ~ Barb Reuter

"Lent is the season in which we ought to be surprised by joy. Our self-sacrifices serve no purpose unless, by laying aside this or that desire, we are able to focus on our heart's deepest longing: unity with Christ. In him-- in his suffering and death, his resurrection and triumph, we find our truest joy." Thank you for the gift of this season. Thank you for knowing our hearts and our need for rhythms in our lives, and for drawing us into a deeper communion with you throughout the coming 40 days. ~ <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/a-prayer-for-lent.html>



UMW January Meeting (cont.)

knew their importance to children in need of comfort and literacy, these were obvious items to be donated. For those who have no homes or possessions, pajamas promote good health and prevent infections and disease, as well as providing psychological comfort and a bedtime routine

In 2013, the first year of the program, 270 pairs of pajamas were gifted. With a Mission to care for kids from Cradle to Career, to date 27,000 pairs of pajamas and 9,000 books have been placed with those from newborn to 18 who need them most, including children who age out of foster care and find themselves with no means of support, little education, and no one to provide direction. (By this time some of these foster kids are parents themselves.) The population served by this project is 86% Hispanic, 5% Black, and 9% children of color. As of July 2019, Arizona had 13,400 kids in foster care; the number is no doubt higher by now. A sobering reality is that, in Arizona, 1 in 5 children live in poverty; our state is ranked 46th in the nation for child well-being.

Fortunately, Angel Heart Pajama Project partners with about 24 agencies and service organizations throughout the state that provide much needed funds, as well as actual P.J.'s and clothing. They also provide small free book exchange libraries in locations such as low-income medical clinics. Children can take a book and keep it, or they can take it, read it, and bring it back to exchange for another. Bookmarks are also provided that are printed with tips for parents on how to read with their children and talk with their children at home to help build vocabulary. Most fortunately, there are lots of ways we can be of assistance to them.

- Monetary donations are particularly important in this time of COVID-19, since many partner agencies are not accepting physical donations from the public currently. Donations can be made online via their website.
- Volunteers are needed to remove all brand and price tags, fold the pajamas and package them for donating.
- Donations of new pajamas and new books, as well as gently used books for their little libraries are welcomed. Keep in mind that the books must be in good condition and appropriate to all family members. They can always use books written in Spanish, as well as English.
- Desert Skies can build our own free library, using specifications provided by the project and put it anywhere we want. The Angel Heart Pajama Project will maintain it.
- Our youth, including Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, can become involved with the project, and, after meeting the requirements, can earn a President's Volunteer Service Award. Angel Heart Pajama Project is a certifying organization for this award.
- Get the word out to other individuals or organizations who might want to sponsor a Pajama Drive.
- They have a Lullaby Book that was illustrated by local artists. It is available for sale on their website.

The presentation was followed by our UMW Pledge Service. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we are not able to provide hard copy pledge cards. You can, however, go online, search United Methodist Women Pledge cards and find a card that is available to print. You can then fill it out and send it to Desert Skies along with your pledge. Make your check out to DSUMW and mail it to the church, writing Pledge in the "For" area on your check. ~ Laura McKay

Book Report (cont.)

Thus began a courtship that was sealed on September 8, 1908.

Clementine remained his closest advisor and supporter through successes and failures (there were many of the latter), promotions and demotions, and two World Wars, all while managing their growing family and frequently changing households.

It's a good story so far. I'll gladly loan it out...as soon as I'm finished. ~ Jeanne Myers



Tea Party (cont.)

a large bouquet on it, fancy black purses with white gloves, and a tea set. Against a wall, we had 75 purses donated by the flea market that attendees could take home, as well as yarn feather "Boas" I had made (I still have some extras if you would want one).

We borrowed tea pots from other UMW members. 'I' Schluchter had a wonderful collection. To enlarge the center pieces, we placed flowers in similar colors to the tea pots in and around them. You can purchase a couple of bunches from Safeway and divide them up with baby's breath, or use artificial flowers. The center pieces should stand out but not overwhelm the table leaving no room for water glasses, etc., and they shouldn't be so high you can't see the ladies across the table.

Historically, a tea is served with small dainty sandwiches, small cookies, and of course, tea. Ours wasn't a meal but a small snack. You can Google 'How to Host an Afternoon Tea Party'. To make serving easier, we prepared each person's plate and members of the United Methodist Men and other men served and clean up. A small glass plate and doily was used, with food beautifully arranged, including a diagonally cut sandwich of egg salad standing on edge, and a perpendicular cut open face half of cucumber and cream cheese (no crust on the sandwiches), a scone (with lemon curd inside), and a few other tasty morsels. In Martini glasses on the table, there were small white mints, on fancy cut glass plates were assorted nuts, and thinly cut lemons fanned in a circle with a small mint leaf in the middle sat upon a doily on a glass plate. Tea and punch were served.

The program featured Bible verses that mention purses, a "What's in Your Purse?" scavenger hunt, followed by a drawing of the nicest Flea Market purses that I picked out. The number was taped on the bottom of your tea cup.

I still have plenty of the nylon net and ribbon, some flowers (at least for 100 chairs). I'll be happy to show you how and even could do them myself. Everyone likes to dress up, and a fancy tea makes a big hit. ~ Theo Vandenberg

What is United Methodist Women (cont.)

- Leadership development and training opportunities.
- Supporting work with women, children, and youth.
- Partnership with women in mission in the country and around the world.
- Advocacy for social justice issues, including those pertaining to the environment, domestic violence, immigration, and the many other concerns that impact the lives of women, children, and youth.
- Engagement in racial justice issues.



How does United Methodist Women support and grow its work?

Our members elect a representative board of directors that sets policy for the organization and determines the places we can make the most impact. Staff and members work to carry out the organization's goals and expectations. Members commit through their financial giving to support the transformation of lives around the world.

Who can join United Methodist Women?

Any woman who commits herself to the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women and to engage in mission, study, personal growth, and social action can join. You don't have to be United Methodist or meet an age requirement to be a member.

It's easy to become a member of United Methodist Women: you can talk to someone you know who is already a member, or contact one of Desert Skies UMW Board Members.

Taken from <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/members>

~~~~~  
 "Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things." Robert Brault  
 ~~~~~

PRAYER AND SELF-DENIAL

February - March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			February 17 Ash Wednesday Thank God for your many blessings, and give 10¢ for each purse you own.	18 Pray for your friends and family, and give 10¢ for each phone call you make or receive today.	19 Pray for those who have no shoes, and give 5¢ for each pair that you own.	20 Thank God for beautiful mountain views. Count each window in your home, and give 5¢ for each one.
21 Jesus is the "light of the world." Count each lamp in your home and give 10¢ for each one, and give thanks.	22 Do you own more than one vehicle? Remember those who have no vehicle and give 25¢ for each one you own.	23 Pray for those who have/had COVID-19 and ask God to help heal those still suffering. Give 25¢ for each person you know who as recovered from COVID-19.	24 Do you have more than one Bible? Give 25¢ for each one, and be sure to read a passage in one of them.	25 Children are at risk all over the world. Pray for those children and give a thank offering for your own.	26 Are you lucky enough to have grandchildren? Pray for them and give at least 25¢ for each one.	27 Out to lunch? Give 5¢ for each time you have wished you could have gone out to lunch so far this month.
28 For the opportunity to worship freely, give thanks and a free will offering.	March 1 Praise God for another day, and give 1¢ for each year of your life.	2 Remember that we were created in the image of God. Count your mirrors, and give 5¢ for each one.	3 Give thanks for Jesus Christ and the reminder that Lent brings and make a thank offering.	4 Thank God for technology and give 5¢ for each ZOOM meeting you have attended this month.	5 Give a penny for each digit in your zip code. (8+5+7+4+9 = 33¢)	6 Do you have many towels? Give 5¢ for each beige one, and remember those who have no clean water.
7 Thank God for a comfortable church and home. Give 25¢	8 Remember that rain is a blessing in the desert and give a thank offering for rain.	9 For new ways to keep in contact and bless others, give a thank offering of 25¢ for each computer you have.	10 Are you reducing, reusing, recycling? Give 5¢ for each wastebasket and trash bin.	11 Give thanks for family and 10¢ for parents and each brother and sister.	12 Count ALL the doors in your house, and closets, and give 1¢ for each one. Remember those who still have no home.	13 During COVID-19 we need to stay connected. Give 5¢ for each person you have called, emailed, or sent a letter to in the last 7 days.
14 Thank God for leisure time to pursue enjoyable hobbies and activities. Enjoy one of them now.	15 Pray for those who do not have adequate clothing and give 2¢ for each jacket and coat you own.	16 Thank God for the resources to do a calendar like this, and give a thank offering	17 Give 50¢ and thank God for the seasons of the year, especially for Spring with the promise of new life.	18 Give thanks for time to relax and give a thank offering of 5¢ for each chair inside your house.	19 Be thankful for a safe place to live that is comfortable. Give 50¢ for each home you have.	20 God gives to us abundantly. Give a thank offering during lent for UMW missionaries helping the least of us.

Do the count each day, and then write amount on calendar. When complete, add up the amount and write a check to UMW putting in the memo section Prayer and Self- Denial, and mail it to the Church Office.