



August 2020

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Deadline for article submission is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

# The Compass

A Message from your District President:

“United Methodist Women should be actively engaged in fulfilling the mission of Christ... United Methodist Women shall support ministry with and advocate for the oppressed and dispossessed with special attention to the needs of women, children and youth.” -The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church

Let us take just a minute of quiet reflection. I would like to ask you a question. Why are you a member of United Methodist Woman?



As I answered this question, my immediate response was because I am from a Virginia family where my mother, grandmother and great grandmother were active members of UMW (then the Women’s Society of Christian Service- WSCS). I grew up sitting on the floor of my living room joining a circle meeting and listening about women’s missions and needs around the world. That is the easy answer, but, I realized, upon reflection, that my devotion to UMW is because of a need to eradicate social injustice around the world, especially in the lives of women and children. I want to put Faith, Hope and Love in action.

As members of UMW, we raise funds to make our faith, hope and love active. We put faces on injustice and social action. As we exist today in a Covid-19 world of stay at home orders and social distancing, we find that meeting our Mission Giving goals has become extremely difficult. The additional problem with this is that our new world of Covid19 has increased these problems of injus-

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## President's Message (continued)

tice locally, nationally and around the world. Our strength now is in our ability to devise ways we can continue our work of helping those who need our help, In a recent Zoom meeting with unit presidents, we shared ways to continue raising our Mission Giving funds that are needed even more in this world. Units were having bakeless bale sales, cakeless cake sales, unit teas (setting a time and date to have tea at home and use that time to make a donation to your unit pledge), asking unit members to purchase SMR pins to recognize those church members who are working to keep your church actively communicating with your members, Zoom meetings, FaceTime, conference call meetings, and zoom picnics.

We just need to use our creativity to find ways to raise our mission dollars. If you would like to have a Zoom meeting, ask your church staff. Many churches have access to a Zoom account that you can use. The West District UMW has a Zoom account and I would be glad to set up a Zoom meeting for your membership. If you would like to have a conference call, you can go to [freeconferencecall.com](https://freeconferencecall.com) and register and then set up conference calls for your officers or your unit members. Also, I would love to hear your creative ways that you are continuing your programs in your units. Our connectivity is our strength.

Please use this newsletter as your source of information and action. Our treasurer, Karen Douds, shares with you how your members can make their monetary donations to her directly while giving credit to your unit for the donation. Our West District United Methodist Women, EPA Conference has a Facebook page to share information and ideas. Our Vice President and Programs Chair are planning a way for us to safely have our fall district meeting. Let us all keep our purpose in mind as we continue to support women, children, and youth around the world.

Hatsy Droke

West District UMW President

SHARE your creative mission fund ideas with the newsletter editor by sending an email to:

Deaconess Barb Skarbowski

[bskarbowski@gmail.com](mailto:bskarbowski@gmail.com)



Zoom: Mission u Study “Finding Peace in an Anxious World” by Erin James-Brown, with leader Sally Ott has been attended by around 10 women. We meet for study and discussion on Thursday evenings

The sessions are: Serenity, Acceptance, Courage, and Wisdom. This study is very current with the world we live in today. The serenity prayer becomes an intricate part of each chapter. You may want to order this book through mission resources and find guidance for this anxious world we live in. Turn you stress over to God.

Read—Reflect—and--- Pray----

God, Grant me the Serenity

To accept the things I cannot Change

Courage to change the things I can

And the Wisdom to know the difference

Contact Ruth Havercamp for more information

## 2020 WEST District UMW Officers

President	Harriette (Hatsy) Droke Hdroke552@gmail.com	824-3717
Vice President/ Ingathering	Ellen Messenger summerbreeze507@aol.com	284-5004
Program Chairperson	Carole Haigh jerehaigh@comcast.net	656-6282
Secretary	Zoraida Eshelman zoraeshelman@gmail.com	672-1858
Treasurer	Karen Douds douds2@comcast.net	685-1722
Communications	Donna Blanshine blanshine-donna@comcast.net	351-0533
Compass Editor	Dcnss. Barbara Skarbowski skarbowski@gmail.com	584-6170
Spiritual Growth	Ruth Havercamp ruthhavercamp@gmail.com	295-4401
Educ./Interpretation & Membership Dev.	Ruth Daugherty rasdaugherty@gmail.com	299-2203
Social Action	Diane Berlin dmerlin@aol.com	575-2771
Nominations Chair 2020	Sally Smedley smedleys@ix.netcom.com	867-1298
Nominations 2021	Kathy Reilly Sandrigirl01@yahoo.com	522-1285
Nominations 2022	Joyce Zimmerman fjzimm33@verizon.net	273-0359



For 2020, West District pledged that we would commit \$45,000 to the United Methodist Women's Mission efforts. While made with every good intention of fulfilling that promise, the pandemic has compromised our efforts. To date, we have \$13,692.99 toward that goal. Many units are not meeting or, at least, not meeting in person to add to this total. Others have improvised unique ways to still focus on others in need while staying safe themselves.

Traditionally, United Methodist Women have used the month of November to emphasize our thankfulness. Maybe this year, we might provide a "thanks calendar" entitled Thankfulness in a Time of Pandemic. Thanks might be given for the opportunity to attend worship on Sunday even if only online. We might be thankful for maintaining our health. Perhaps our thanks for medical staff risking their own health to care for others would merit more "coins in the jar". How about honoring the mail carriers, grocery clerks, sanitation workers, all those "front line" individuals keeping our neighborhoods and country functioning? Are we thankful for more time with family, more time to read, knit, clean that closet?

One unit had a bakeless bake sale and asked individuals to submit the amount they would have spent to bake. One unit purchased Special Recognition pins for the many in their own church who have worked to make their church services available to all online.

Perhaps this is the right time for a Love offering to honor the saints in your life, past or present?

Ready to help right now? Individuals are invited to send their own contributions that will be credited to your own UMW unit. Mail your check payable to West District UMW to

Karen Douds  
c/o First United Methodist Church  
520 E Birch St  
Palmyra, PA. 17078 [Be sure to include your UMW unit!]

I encourage you to be creative in finding ways for your own unit to discover ways you might contribute to the Mission of the UMW! Stay safe and count your blessings!!

Karen Douds  
District Treasurer

## Spiritual Growth

Florence Nightingale was a Nurse and social reformer who lived 1820-1910.

I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD SAYING, “WHOM SHALL I SEND? AND WHO WILL GO FOR US?” AND I SAID, “HERE I AM I, SEND ME!” Isaiah 6:8 NIV

God spoke to me and called me to his service,” Florence Nightingale wrote in her diary at age seventeen.

Her family was horrified because to go to a hospital was a death sentence in those days. She stood firm in her calling.

She volunteered to take thirty-eight nurses to the war zone. Through their untiring efforts, the death rate was reduced to two percent. This happened when one woman said yes to God.

“God’s callings are as varied as the people He calls. When you hear Him speak your name, make yourself available as Florence did. From a sincere heart pray, “Lord, here am I”- (Paraphrased from devotions for Women by Jewell Johnson)

God has called many of you to be nurses, doctors, teachers, mentors, and encouragers, as well as front line workers: in our food services, hospitals, communities and families. He has called you to be moms, grandparents, care givers, SUPER WOMEN SOME DAYS.

Thank you for answering the call so the rest of us can be healthy, and fed. We can all pray that our world, the scientists, and health care workers can find a solution to this health crisis. We can all do our part to protect ourselves and others by listening to and following health guidelines. Love your neighbors as much as yourself.

We are women who are resourceful, and even from a chair in your home you can touch someone who needs your love and encouragement. Keep on spreading God’s love!!!!

Ruth Havercamp  
Spiritual Growth

## The Path of Spiritual Growth



Moving Toward Maturity in Christ

*Each Person Is a Work in Progress!*

**SAVE THE  
DATE!**

**UMW WEST DISTRICT ANNUAL CELEBRATION**

**Otterbein UMC 20 E. Clay St., Lancaster**

**Saturday, October 3, 2020**

**9:30 am.**

**If it is determined not to be safe to have it  
in person by September 12<sup>th</sup> then we will  
live stream.**

**Stay tuned for details!**



**“The Compass”**

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