



KY East District Newsletter

June 2021

KY EAST DISTRICT FALL CELEBRATION OF MISSIONS 2021

Barb Nicholls
KY East UMW President

I am so happy to announce that our KY East District UMW will be meeting **in-person (or via ZOOM for those who prefer that platform)** for our **District Fall Celebration of Missions** meeting on **Saturday, September 18, at 10:00 A.M. at Greenup United Methodist Church**. The last time we were able to meet in person for a District meeting was September 2019 at Pikeville 1st UMC. Little did we know...

The church address is 607 Main Street, Greenup, KY. If you prefer joining the meeting via ZOOM, that will be possible too. Because of the way we will need to plan for this meeting, we will need everyone to **register in advance** by letting your local unit President know about your plans to attend. Presidents, I will ask you to send me a list of those planning to attend from your unit either in person or by Zoom by Tuesday, September 7. Of course, you will need to send me the email addresses for those planning to attend via Zoom.

The planning committee for the District UMW Fall Celebration of Missions 2021 will soon begin ironing out the details for this meeting. Please be in prayer for this meeting and listen carefully for how God is calling you to serve "in such a time as this." For now, mark your calendar for September 18 and plan to join your UMW sisters on this day. I look forward to seeing you!

RESILIENT

Peggy Rice
Conference UMW Vice-President

Resilient....have you ever thought about what it means to be resilient? How do I adapt in the face of adversity? Can I withstand the stress of difficult situations? We have had to find ways to be resilient since the beginning of the pandemic. We have sacrificed gathering with loved one. We have been isolated in the name of safety. We have missed our churches, our families, work, sports, weddings, new babies, birthdays and anniversaries; but we have learned to adapt. We've learned to zoom and FaceTime. We've sent cards and letters. We have found ways to overcome.

The Bible is full of examples of resilience.....Moses, Joseph, Paul, David. Each time, with the help of The Lord, they were able to overcome. That's our secret weapon – the help of The Lord. Philippians 4:13 says "I can do all things through him who gives me strength." When we remember this, we can and will thrive.

Some of the ways we are doing this at the Conference level is by offering Mission u virtually. In July, we will be offering the study "*Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship*". We will be meeting on Saturday mornings from 11 AM – 1 PM from the 10th until the 31st. We will be offering two other studies one in September and one in January.

The committee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to begin the plan for our Conference Fall Celebration. One of the decisions to be made is if we will be meeting in person. If so, the rotation will take us to Owensboro. Stay tuned for more information and remember, with The Lord we are resilient!



DEVOTIONAL

by **Celia Fish**

KY East UMW Committee on Nominations

Summer TV is the pits!!! I continually switch channels trying to find some show worth watching. Recently, I ran across this segment from America’s Got Talent. I do not routinely watch this show, but a 2021 audition caught my attention. A female singer, Nightbirde, was introducing herself and this 30-year-old revealed to the judges that she had been battling cancer for the last couple of years and was currently not cancer free. She said the most amazing thing. “I am more than the sum of all the bad things that have happened to me.” Wow, just wow!

I have had a tendency over the last year to be immersed in my circumstances. I can’t go here. I can’t do this. I miss my church family. I can’t see so and so in person. I have allowed my circumstances to control my life and mood at times and not relied on my Heavenly Father from whom comes my strength.

Paul writes in Philippians 4:11 (Amplified version),” Not that I speak from any personal need, for I have learned to be content and self sufficient

through Christ, satisfied to the point where I am not disturbed or uneasy regardless of my circumstances.”.

Oh, to be reminded God has already provided for our needs and we must rely on him in all circumstances. We must strive to be content in all of life’s situations because we know Jesus. Now, who says there is nothing good on TV?

TRANSITIONING BACK TO UNITED METHODIST WOMEN LIVE AND IN PERSON

by **Kay Smith**

KY East UMW Social Action Coordinator

Covid has taken a toll on our churches and the groups within. It seems most UMW groups were unable to meet for a year or more. At our church, we have been wondering what other UMW groups were doing We did hear from some of our units.

- Greenup United Methodist Women celebrated their restart with a Mothers’ Day luncheon on Saturday, May 8. They were graciously served by the men of the church.
- Advance United Methodist Women held their restart meeting May 18, 2021 with a whopping 18 ladies glad to be back. Social distancing was observed and the group chose to leave off refreshments for now.
- Morehead United Methodist Women have met in person in April and May. They are practicing social distancing and letting members choose if they want to wear a mask because all are vaccinated.
- Louisa United Methodist Women are also now meeting in person. They have been keeping up with some of their mission projects during this time.
- Sunshine United Methodist Women have begun meeting in person too. They just bring their own refreshments as a way to deal with the food regulations.

- Pikeville United Methodist Women have not met in person since March 2020. They do have a bible study which has met by Zoom and is currently meeting in person. They have sent cards to shut-ins during this time. They plan to start up in the fall with UMW because they have lost 2 officers, one to death and one relocated.

We pray that all of our UMW units will soon be able to get back to meeting in person, and that they will be able to continue their mission efforts. We also hope that the transitioning back will go smoothly for all.

GOD'S BLESSINGS

by Joy Stanley
KY East UMW Standing Rules

This month in June I had a birthday. Thinking back through some of those 78 years, I have been so blessed by God. I was born into a Christian family with a loving mother and father, who took me to Sunday School. We lived with my maternal grandparents, so there was additional care and love.

In three more days, Bob and I will celebrate our 60th anniversary. Oh, so long ago. We have shared many happy times and a few not so happy times, but we are still together.

In Genesis, God created a "help meet" for Adam. Bob and I help each other. What one can't do, the other one can.

We have a son, who we are very proud of and helps us. Also, we have a nice daughter-in-law. Our one and only granddaughter, Rachel, is pregnant with Carter, who is due to make an appearance any day now.

So, these are just a few examples of how God has blessed me. God has always been with me all my life, guiding, protecting, loving, blessing, and ever present.

AN UPDATE ON THE READING PROGRAM

by Erin Rice

KY East UMW Secretary of Program Resources

I recently had the opportunity to meet with the other ladies in the Kentucky Conference who hold the office of Secretary of Program Resources, and our National Office liaison Andrew Cheu. During this meeting, we were given some updates about the Reading Program. Some of you may have already noticed that the current list of books for 2021 also includes the books that are on the list for 2022. This is because the National Office decided to combine the two years due to the difficulties surrounding COVID-19. Any books that are read this year can transfer to next year's reports. This means that instead of only having one year to finish a Reading Program plan, you may use any books read this year and next to complete a plan. This is something that will only be offered for the years of 2021 and 2022.

Something else that has changed is the fact that we currently have two movies and a documentary that you can watch and count towards your Reading Program plan. The movies are *The Hate U Give* and *Just Mercy*. The documentary is entitled *Pushout*. Another change is that you can now listen to the Faith Talks podcast on the United Methodist Women's website as a part of the Reading Program. You must listen to two Faith Talks to count it as a book. If you listen to three, it will count as a bonus book (bonus books count as two books) in the Spiritual Growth category. You can find this podcast at

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks>.

As of now, you may read and count any book that has been on the Reading Program all the way back to 2015. To see the 2021-2022 Reading Program Catalog as well as all other catalogs going back to 2015, go to

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>.

A Quick Reminder: If you read a book that you feel would be good for the Reading Program, you

may submit it to be reviewed. To do this, email Andris Salter at asalter@unitedmethodistwomen.org. You may also call her office (212) 870-3733. When you suggest a book, be sure to include the title, author, publisher, date of publication, and price.

**MOTHER'S DAY/UMW "RE-START"
LUNCHEON**
by Barb Nicholls
Greenup UMC President

On March 12, 2020, Greenup UMW met for our regular monthly meeting. Two days later, Bishop Fairley recommended that church services and activities be suspended because of the quickly spreading global COVID-19 pandemic. Remember? Of course you do. We all have stories and memories of those painful, anxious, unprecedented months that we lived through. Like most people, I have many friends and family members who became ill or passed away because of this terrible virus. Finally this Spring, as we began having access to the vaccines, we could finally see the transmission numbers dropping and begin to see some evidence of "normalcy" returning. That's when we planned to have a Mother's Day/UMW "Restart" Luncheon on May 8 to celebrate Mothers and to celebrate finally being able to gather "in person" for the first time in 14 months as United Methodist Women.

Carefully observing CDC guidelines, we wore our masks and spaced the tables (with four women at each table) appropriately distanced. The men of our church were the "servers," delivering the plated lunch to each woman while wearing their masks and aprons.



Our special guest speaker was Sheliah Harlan, Conference Mission Team Nominations Committee member from Louisa 1st UMC. She delivered an inspiring message that compared the qualities of "mothers" and "United Methodist Women." She had us laughing and crying as she inspired us to remember why it is so important to carry on the legacy of those who have gone before us as United Methodist Women. What a beautiful day it was!

The COVID-19 pandemic has made me realize how many little things that I have taken for granted. Meeting together in person with my UMW "sisters" is one of them. I am thanking God anew for the special bond that exists between us as a result of the "connection" that United Methodist Women provides. "United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church." Thanks be to God!



Mission u 2021

There's Far More Here THAN MEETS THE EYE

So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without [God's] unfolding grace. [...] There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18, The Message (MSG)

We have known and felt what it is like when “things are falling apart on us.” We have experienced a great unraveling that has shifted, quite literally, everything.

Could there be, as 2 Corinthians put it, “far more here than meets the eye”?

Mission u, like many activities in our lives, has moved online. While virtual, we are still creating spaces for spiritual community, lifelong friendships, lessons that change us and our communities, and spiritual practices that arrive when we need them most. In a time when it looks like things are falling apart on us, God’s grace is still unfolding and life is being made new.

Indeed: There’s far more here than meets the eye. Will you join us?

At our upcoming **Mission u**, we will examine anxiety, the culture of violence that impacts children in and out of schools, and how we as God’s people can deepen our moral witness and respond faithfully.

Our 2021 **Mission u** will offer the following studies:

- ***Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church’s Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship*** by Darryl W. Stephens
Saturdays days 11-1 pm Eastern, July 10 – July 31 with Yvette Richards
- ***Finding Peace in an Anxious World***, edited by Erin James-Brown
Sundays 7-9pm Eastern, September 12 – October 3 with Mike Feely

RSVP: Email KYMission-u@gmail.com

Registration goes to bettydodson528@gmail.com

Order books through Amazon or the Service Center (but they are closing June 11-July 2nd)



2021 DATES TO REMEMBER

District UMW Dates: September 18 – District Fall
Celebration of Missions Meeting at Greenup UMC