Hello United Methodist Women!

I hope you are all doing well in this time of isolation. I know many of us are making face masks for our friends and loved ones, hospitals, nursing homes, and senior living centers. As we “love” one another during this time, making face masks is one thing we can do to show love and do something to help others in this unusual time. Be sure to share the ways you are helping at this time! My heart goes out to all who have lost friends and loved ones from the virus. It is hard to comprehend all of this and we wonder if we will ever get back to normal.

Eric Church was on the “AMA Our Country” last week in place of the AMA Awards show. I do not follow country music, and would not have turned it on, but my daughter said I should watch it. So I turned it on. Eric's message hit a chord with me. He said “We fear the unknown, but I have hope and you should too. Since the beginning of time, people have gathered: gathered to fellowship, to worship, to pray, to sing, and they have gathered for communion and in grief. But they gathered – and we will gather again. Don't fear, be brave, and endure.”

On March 13th, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, in his inaugural address, that “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself”. He was facing different challenges than we are today, namely the Great Depression, however his words still ring true. So many times in the bible, the angels always begin with “Do not fear!”

My prayer for each of you is that you don't fear, you find peace where you are right now, and you find a way to help someone else. We will get through this. We must put our faith and trust in the Lord. We will gather again! We will have and will welcome meetings; we will have Mission u; we will have a Spiritual Enrichment Retreat; we will have district meetings; we will have Annual Meeting! We will gather again. (continued on page 2)
The Purpose of United Methodist Women

The organized unit of 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.

A Prayer for Our Uncertain Times

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go. May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love.

And during this time, when we may not be able to physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

Message from the President ~ Martha Caves
Message from the Vice President ~ Ann Davis

Our theme for 2020 is “The Summons-Love”. The theme states that Jesus summons us to love the poor, the immigrant, the prisoner, the homeless, the lonely, and the lost with willing and grace filled heart. This theme is what our NCCUMW Annual Meeting is all about. The program committee has been working hard again this year to have this Annual Meeting be different. Our emphasis will be on advocacy. Two groups of ladies the Reading Circle and the Lunch Bunch will have a discussion on the school to prison pipeline, climate justice, immigration, and child health and communicating with legislators. In the afternoon, we will have breakout groups on these discussion topics.

In the Spring KEDE, there was a registration form included. We are revising that registration form to include the workshops. The revised registration is included in the Summer KEDE. You can register online or mail your registration to Madoline Murphy.

Promote the Annual Meeting in each of your local unit meetings, place reminders around your church, and talk about United Methodist Women and the upcoming events. It is not too early to start promoting the Annual Meeting. We want you to be there and share this learning time with us. It is a great spiritual experience. good fellowship and you learn a lot about our organization of United Methodist Women. You might give a scholarship to someone interested in becoming a member or someone who has never been to Annual Meeting. This event might be the spark they need to become a member.

One of the primary responsibilities of the Vice President is program planning. As you are planning for the year, ask the questions:
Where is God working through your United Methodist Women Unit?
Where is God calling your unit to be on mission?
How can your unit participate in God's mission through United Methodist Women? sharing, caring, preaching, teaching, advocating, healing, helping, praying. This list goes on and on,
Please discern with the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you make your plans. The mission is giving, for the mission is God's mission. We are ALL invited to participate in God's mission!

Blessings,
Ann Davis
NCCUMW
Vice President
Message from the Secretary~Susie Lupton

As the new NCCUMW Secretary, I want to introduce myself and to stress the importance of communications. We can never over communicate our goals and activities as United Methodist Women. In order to ensure that everyone is receiving the appropriate information regarding our ministry, we need any changes of the District Officers’ names, email addresses, and phone numbers that occur during the year. Please submit this information to Susie Lupton, NCCUMW Secretary, at slluptonnc@aol.com. These changes will be reflected in the online directory and in the distribution of KEDE. Communication of these changes is critical to getting all UMW information to the right person.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. During these difficult times, I am only a phone call away and will be glad to assist you. As a team, we can accomplish so much together.

Blessings,
Susie Lupton
NCCUMW Secretary

Message from the Treasurer~Sandra Creech Mendell

Greetings during this most unusual time in our lives. I pray all of you and your families are well during this time of “confinement”. Like many of you, I like to keep my hands busy, so I have tried to find at home activities to do; I hope you all are able to find something that you enjoy.

Before confinement, I had purchased yarn and kits for crochet and had made the most colorful shawl and afghan that my eyes have ever seen as well as several baby blankets. Then my daughter asked me to make face masks for the hospital, which I did. Next, the Capital District got a plea from Methodist Home for Children for face masks, so I made more. And I have made more for family and friends. The total number of items that I have made is about 100.

One of my favorite hymns is “God Will Take Care of You” and I believe that God will take care of us if we let Him. An example relates to elastic for the masks. I bought all that I could find and then looked in my sewing notions, or in my case, a disorganized mess, for elastic. I used all that I found and started making ties for the masks. Then one day, I decided to look through the sewing notions again, and there right before my eyes, was an unopened pack of elastic.

Additionally, I am participating in a Zoom Bible study, and to be honest, I have played many iPad games. Other things like cleaning closets and the pantry and cabinets have not been much fun.

What I haven't done is make bank deposits for our Conference. I know that local units are not meeting in person although some are meeting on Zoom. So, without personal contact, mission giving may not be a priority. In the first quarter, I received the smallest amount ever in my tenure as treasurer. I suspect this second quarter will not be any better due to the continuing environment. We must remind our local members that the need for mission money still exists and encourage them to give their pledge to the extent possible. Many of us are retired and have planned our pledge according to our “fixed” income, so we need the courage to give as we ordinarily would. I realize that when we are afraid, giving is difficult. But, we need to remember all we have comes from God and He is in control. This pandemic is worldwide and the need for our mission money is probably greater than ever.

This is the time to put Faith, Hope, and Love in action!

Praying for all our health and safety.
Sandra Creech Mendell
NCCUMW
Treasurer
Message from the Committee on Nominations Chair ~ JoAnn Stanford

Do you remember the story of Zacchaeus? He was the chief tax collector and a rich man. He desperately wanted to see Jesus, but there was such a great crowd, and he was such a short man that he climbed a sycamore tree. When Jesus passed the tree, Jesus looked up, saw Zacchaeus, and called him by name!

So, my question to you: Do you hear Jesus calling your name - calling you to be a UMW leader? How will you respond? When one of the nomination committee members calls you, respond with a resounding YES, I will be happy to serve!!! Committee members: JoAnn Barbour, Faye Dunn, Jin Lee, Faustina Walker, and JoAnn Stanford.

Blessings,
JoAnn Stanford
NCCUMW
Committee of Nominations Chair

Message from the Secretary of Program Resources ~ Lynn Clewis

CONFERENCE READING BOOK 2020

Over forty-five ladies read our Conference book, THE PILGRIM JOURNEY, with the Corridor District having forty readers. Many thanks to all who read the book.

Since we are staying at home, this is also a very good time to read for our UMW Reading Program. Please keep in mind the award for The Most Children Reading in a District and the Reading Banner. In this unusual time in our lives, let us remember to stay in touch. This can be a lonesome time for those who live alone or have sickness in their homes. A call, card, email, or any form of communication, besides a visit, I am sure will be welcome.

May God bless each of you.

By His Grace,
Lynn Clewis
NCCUMW
Secretary of Program Resources
Message from the Social Action Coordinator~Annette Wright

As I write this article, I am praying for our state, country, and world doing Covid 19. Our state is facing a Stay-At-Home orders. Some of us are following the order “to the tee” while some of us have difficulty staying home because we are women of ACTION!

We are fortunate to have had the opportunity to vote on Super Tuesday and let our voices be heard. Many states have not had the opportunity to vote because of our present situation as a country. While at home, you have the opportunity to do research on the candidates in your local, state, and national government elections. This way when the general election in November comes around, you will be ready to select the candidates who have the same views as you do. Again, I challenge you to do your part because our collective identity as "seekers of justice" will also be on the ballot. Your vote has the power to move us closer to creating a world in which “justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream.” We must get out and vote! You have the power to pull a lever to change the conversation about our nation’s priorities. We are women of ACTION, and we should raise our voices to empower those deemed powerless, and to help register those who are not registered! Within the limits of social distancing, I challenge you to take individuals to the polls, become an election worker, knock on doors, and get out and vote in support of equality and inclusion. We are not powerless but powerful. We have the power to vote and accompany a first-time voter to the polls. We are women of ACTION with resounding voices. We must let our voices be heard by casting our vote!

Blessings,
Annette Wright
NCCUMW
Social Action Coordinator

Message from the Education and Interpretation Coordinator—Doris Wade

This has been an unusual year! The world as we know it has changed for a season.

We ushered in the New Year with its hopes and dreams, but then the corona virus took over! Our lives seemed to be canceled as our activities were shut down. No Sub District meetings, no Mission Studies, or other District gatherings. No SEJ Gathering, no Mission u. No shopping...only essentials. Then churches and social gatherings were canceled. We had to forget “the way we've always done it.” We found new ways to be in worship. We turned to the media “live streaming” our services to congregations who remained in their homes to worship.

God is shaking things up! We have to learn new ways of doing God's work. Helping people while we protect ourselves and others.

Let us reflect back to Holy Week, the Biblical week that began with a celebration of Palm Sunday...a day of praising Jesus and dreaming of a new life with Jesus as their King. But, sadly things changed quickly. The enemy moved in quickly, forming a mob, as the world turned dark, they crucified Jesus. That was the price He paid for our sins! Saturday came as everyone ran and hid to contemplate their future amid uncertainty.

But, God did NOT leave them there! Sunday came. The women ran to the grave to discover that Jesus had risen from the dead. HALLELUJAH!!!! Our lives were changed forever. We are renewed with a great future. We will outlive the virus and be on the other side of this disaster. But, we cannot forget the lessons we have learned! May we emerge stronger with a greater purpose to fulfill Christ's purpose in our lives.

Be encouraged. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Be Resurrection People!!!
Hope to see you all soon!

Blessings,
Doris Wade
NCCUMW
Education & Interpretation Coordinator

The Study Jewel (front)
(Photo credit: Tina Jones-Madison)
Greetings!

As most of us are in one form of quarantine or another during this unprecedented time of COVID 19 pandemic, over abundance of caution seems to be flattening the curve of positive cases.

The Mission u team of the United Methodist Women National office made the difficult decision in early April to cancel the virtual training for Mission u study leaders; also urging all annual conferences not to gather for 2020 Mission u in the summer. In response to this announcement, the Mission u leadership team decided NC Conference 2020 Mission u is CANCELED.

The announcement stated, “National Office staff will collaborate with the study leaders trainers to bring elements of each study on line this summer. The exact format and timeline of each study is still in development and more information will be coming as those pieces take shape. However, it is our hope that those in the Mission u community and the wider church will still be able to engage and benefit from these timely studies from the safety and comfort of their homes.”

Moving forward, we will continue to provide as much information and opportunities for mission studies in lieu of 2020 Mission u in July. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Jin Lee, Mission u Dean at nccmissionu@gmail.com.

All of us at NC Conference Mission u prayerfully hope that you adhere to any local government guidelines of social distancing, while praying ceaselessly that we do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God and His people.

In The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship, author Janet Wolf explores what it means to live a life of radical discipleship today using the Gospel of Mark as the foundation. Wolf explores the timeless issues of poverty, gender, justice, liberation, equality, and others using Mark as a guide. The stories of the women in Mark are a particular focus in this study and how, although often unnamed, they are prominent among Jesus’ followers and in Mark’s recounting of the gospel story.

In mission and ministry with you,

Jin Y. Lee
NCCUMW
Dean of Mission u
I pray that you are all safe and well. I know we are all feeling isolated and disconnected during this strange time. When we cannot meet with each other in person and in all the ways we had planned as United Methodist Women and church members.

In this time of uncertainty... two things are for certain.

First, that Our God of Mercy and Grace is in charge.

Second, that United Methodist Women will continue our important mission work with vulnerable communities far into the future.

You can help ensure that the future looks bright by making a gift to The Legacy Fund Endowment.

This year we are encouraging gifts made on line through our new, secure, and easy to use donation page: unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund.(continued on page 11)
Message from the Legacy Coordinator – Juanita Staples

I urge you to meditate on the, “Prayer and Responsive Reading for Those Affected by Corona virus” written by Rev. Dionne P. Boissière, MDiv., as we face this pandemic together. Be safe and be blessed,

Juanita Staples
NCCUMW
Legacy Coordinator

Prayer and Responsive Reading for Those Affected by Corona virus

ONE: Holy One, we come to you in this moment of uncertainty and uncharted territory – facing this unprecedented global pandemic. Amid universal fear, panic, confusion and anxiety, please remind us that you are the God that calmed the storm and made the winds to cease. We cry out to you!
MANY: Hear us, O God of peace.
ONE: Benevolent Savior, you have called us to be your hands and feet in this world. As we face this crisis together, help us remember to be mindful of how we speak to, live with and treat one another. May we truly seek to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.
MANY: Hear us, O God of compassion.
ONE: Master Physician, there are millions now in desperate need of your healing touch. Look now upon those who are at highest risk – the immuno-compromised, the elderly, those who have existing chronic health conditions, cancer patients, transplant recipients, dialysis patients, those who have been exposed to COVID 19 and are seeking testing or immediate medical attention.
MANY: Hear us, O God our healer.
ONE: All seeing God, look upon those who are now living in isolation, those who must be separated from loved ones for safety reasons, those who are single and/or without support systems, the disabled, those who are already living with mental disease, emotional and psychological disorders, those who are poor and already do not have access to health care or social services. Help them know that social distancing does not mean social disconnection. Help us be the community that we seek.
MANY: Hear us, O God of mercy.
ONE: Loving God, hear the cries of those who have lost loved ones, to this virus or other ailments and cannot postpone their grief, but must refrain from gathering to care for the living even while mourning their beloved who have died.
MANY: Hear us, O God of comfort.
ONE: Discerning God, touch now those who are in decision making positions, in governments, churches and corporations, and the like; help them to realize that their choices directly impact the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries and the wider world. Help them choose people or politics and the health of humanity over the wealth of individuals and profiteers.
MANY: Hear us, O God of wisdom.
ONE: God of justice and care, we pray for all medical professionals, caregivers, researchers, teachers, first responders, law enforcement, school officials, those making decisions about fighting the new corona virus. For the small business owner, the hourly wage worker, the uninsured, and all those who will feel the economic impact of this pandemic on every level. Inspire those in position to develop better tests to diagnose the virus, vaccines to prevent it, and protocols and communication to eliminate the spread. May empathy be our guide.
MANY: Hear us, O God of protection and grace.
ONE: Liberating God, remind us that we are still on the journey with Jesus during this Lenten Season. Restore our hope, renew our joy and give us your strength and remind us that resurrection will surely come.
MANY: Hear us, O God of grace.

Written by Rev. Dionne P. Boissière, MDiv.
COVID-19 Message from the Editor

Dear NCCUMW Members,

We are committed to the health and safety of all of our members and families, and to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the NCCUMW Conference team has decided to modify and cancel some of the events listed on the 2020 NC Conference UMW Calendar.

The following events have been modified or canceled. Please mark your calendars accordingly:

July
23-25  Mission u is CANCELLED.
       Mission u Nominating Committee-TBA
       Mission u Committee Meeting-TBA

August
15  Finance Committee Meeting
    This event will be a Zoom Meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Sandra Creech Mendell.

September
12  Leadership Team Meeting
    This event will be a Zoom Meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Martha Caves.

18-20  Mother-Child Retreat is CANCELLED.
      An alternative event is underway. If you have any questions or concerns about the alternative event, contact Sherri P. Alford.

October
02  Mission u Committee-TBA
03  Conference UMW Annual Meeting is CANCELLED.
     Mission u Nominating Committee Meeting-TBA

November
07  Conference UMW DO-IT-DAY
    This event will be a Zoom meeting that will combine Annual Meeting and DO-IT-DAY business.
    If you have any questions or concerns, contact Martha Caves.
## 2020 NC Conference UMW Calendar

### January
01 New Officers assume duties
03 Edenton St. UMC, 225 Virginia Rd., Edenton, NC 27932
   4:00 pm Mission u Committee Meeting, Mission u Nominations Committee Meeting
   6:00 pm Dinner
   7:00 pm District Presidents Meeting, Conference Program Committee Meeting,
04 9:30 am Leadership Team Meeting, Edenton St. UMC, 225 Virginia Rd, Edenton
25 District Mailing List for KEDE due to KEDE Editor

### February
08 KEDE Deadline (Spiritual Enrichment Event, Southeastern Jurisdictional Quadrennial Mtg.)

### March
02 World Day of Prayer

### April
03 Conference Leadership Team Legislative/Mission Event, Raleigh, NC*
04 9:30 am Leadership Team Meeting, Methodist Home for Children, Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, NC* KEDE
13 Deadline (Mission u & Mother-Child Retreat)
15 Final Deadline Book of Reports to Secretary
17-19 UMW Southeastern Jurisdictional Quadrennial Meeting (SEJ) Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel*
   Mobile, ALA

### May
02 Scholarship Committee, Teleconference Meeting; 1:00pm – 3:00 pm
02 Church Women United – Friendship Day
05-15 United Methodist Church General Conference, MN
16 Spiritual Enrichment Event, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Haymount UMC, 1700 Ft. Bragg Rd., Fayetteville, NC *

### June
17-20 Annual Conference of the NC Conference United Methodist Church; Greenville, NC**

### July
15-18 United Methodist Church Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference*
23-25 Mission u – Methodist University, Fayetteville, NC *
   Mission u Nominating Committee – Luncheon Meeting **
   Mission u Committee Meeting **

### August
14 KEDE Deadline (Annual Meeting Issue)
15 Finance Committee Meeting, 9:30 am, Wake Forest Family Life Center, 905 South Main, Wake Forest, NC **

### September
01 All reports due to Coordinators & Presidents
12 Leadership Team Meeting, 9:30 am; New Creation UMC, 4705 Old Chapel Hill Rd, Durham, NC
   Standing Rules Committee lunch meeting
18-20 Mother-Child Retreat, Camp Don Lee, Arapahoe, NC

### October
02 Mission u Committee – Methodist University 4:00 pm, Fayetteville, NC
03 Conference UMW Annual Meeting – Methodist University, Fayetteville,
   Mission u Nominating Committee Meeting @lunch
15 2021 District Officers Report due to Conference Secretary

### November
01 Church Women United World Community Day
07 Conference UMW DO-IT-DAY, 9:30am – 12:30 pm St. James UMC, 2000 E. 6 St., Greenville,
14 NC KEDE Deadline (Spiritual Enrichment Event Issue and 2021 Calendar

*This event is subject to change due to current Covid-19 social-distancing guidelines.
**canceled
Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.  

John 4:7 NRSV