



**BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE**  
**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**VOLUME IV**

**December 2020**



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## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear UMW Sisters in Christ!

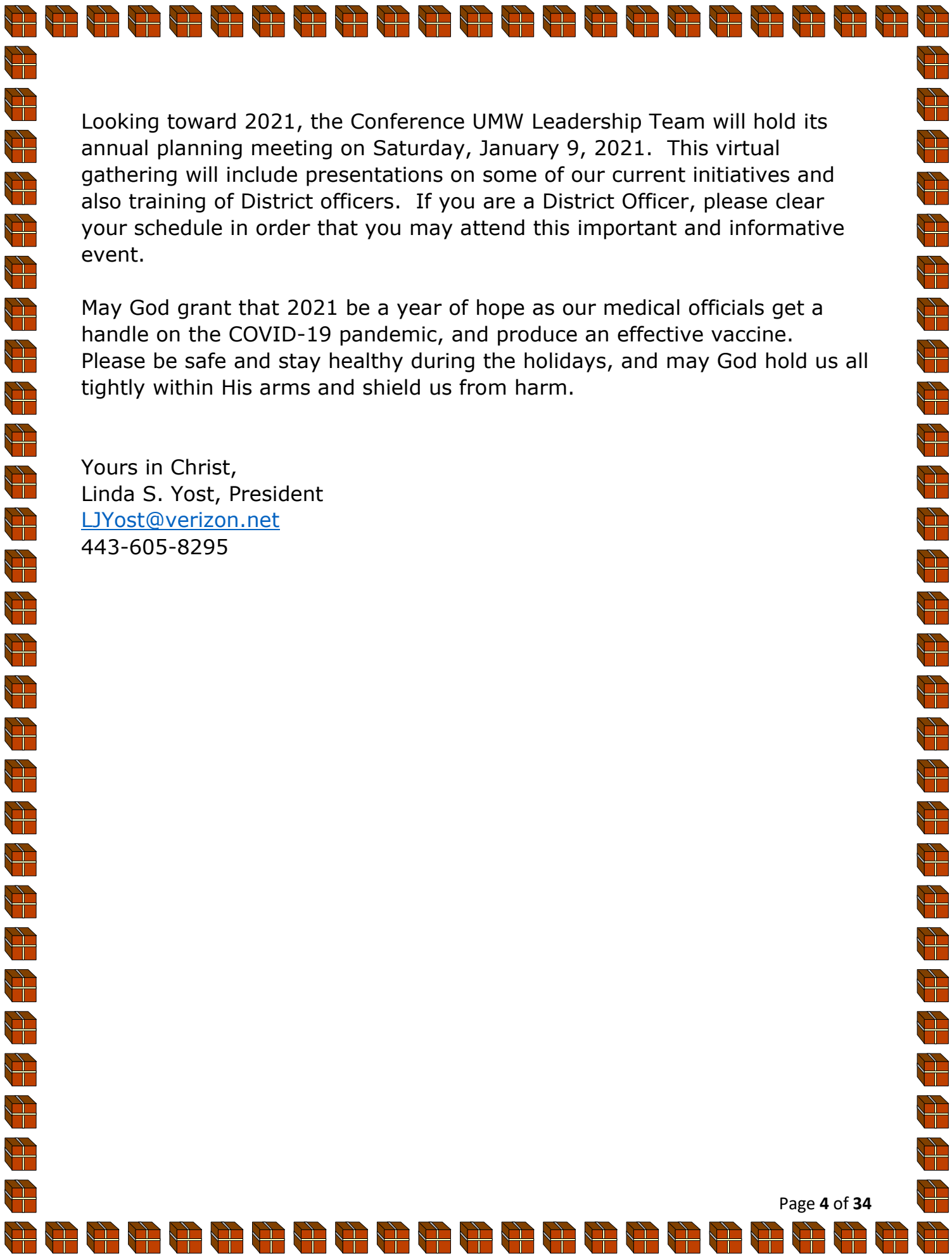
"Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, there's just something about that name!  
Master, Savior, Jesus! Like the fragrance after the rain.  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus! Let all heaven and earth proclaim:  
Kings and kingdoms will all pass away, but there's something about that  
name!"

Have you ever had a song come into your thoughts unbidden and unexpected? When I sat down to write this article, the above hymn did just that, and I felt compelled to share all the words with you. It was as if Jesus was reminding me that even though we are in the throes of this relentless pandemic, that this too shall pass, and what will remain is the name of Jesus. The Earth will be washed clean once again and we all will rejoice and proclaim His name!

As we patiently wait to be together again, face to face, I am sincerely thankful for the opportunity to utilize the communication tool called ZOOM. It was a blessing to be able to attend all the District Annual meetings, and to install District United Methodist Women Officers, both new and continuing. This was the first time, as your Conference President, that I was able to be with so many of you throughout the Conference.

However, another and even more astonishing blessing was that 187 of you attended, via ZOOM, the Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women Annual Celebration on October 24<sup>th</sup>! Thank you, thank you, and thank you for accepting our invitation to be together, either visually or on the phone. We had an exciting meeting that included messages from some of our scholarship recipients, musical and documentary presentations, a few words from our Missioner-in-Residence at Wesley Seminary, a wonderfully inspired message from our own Bishop LaTrelle Easterling, and more. God was in all our houses that day!

Our Charter for Racial Justice Committee will be meeting soon to brainstorm issues and plan events that can be held during 2021. It is crucial that the United Methodist Women remain current and active regarding social justice issues and how they affect women, children and youth in our great nation and around the world. More on this in our next issue of the Flame.



Looking toward 2021, the Conference UMW Leadership Team will hold its annual planning meeting on Saturday, January 9, 2021. This virtual gathering will include presentations on some of our current initiatives and also training of District officers. If you are a District Officer, please clear your schedule in order that you may attend this important and informative event.

May God grant that 2021 be a year of hope as our medical officials get a handle on the COVID-19 pandemic, and produce an effective vaccine. Please be safe and stay healthy during the holidays, and may God hold us all tightly within His arms and shield us from harm.

Yours in Christ,  
Linda S. Yost, President  
[LJYost@verizon.net](mailto:LJYost@verizon.net)  
443-605-8295

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

I'm sure that other articles in this edition of the Flame are doing as I am and reflecting on the events of 2020. It certainly has been a year like no other! I am so thankful for a faith that teaches that God is in control. One of the Bible verses that has been comforting to me is Isaiah 41:10, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God." The pandemic, racial tensions, fires in California close to where my daughter was working, and the presidential election were all reasons to be fearful. Cutting back on watching the news, participating in bible study, prayers, and meditating on the verse from Isaiah have provided much comfort. I pray that you too have found comfort in scripture and prayer. I also hope you have appreciated the opportunity to grow in your knowledge of technology as you've learned to use Zoom allowing us to be together even while we are still in the comfort of our own homes.

As this year comes to an end and we still are uncertain of what the future holds, I am reminded of the hymn "I Don't Know About Tomorrow," especially the chorus-- "Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand. But I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand." Keep the faith in a God that holds our hands and will be with us into tomorrow.

\*\*\*\*

I'd like to mention the United Methodist Women's Program Book 2020-2021, **"Knitted Together for God's Good Work."** The last paragraph of the introduction states that the biblical passages that were chosen for the 12 monthly programs *"were chosen because they emphasize the role of a woman or a group of women, in carrying out God's will. We will take encouragement from their witness and work and be challenged to join the courageous, bold witness of faithful women. We will seek ways to join with our sisters in Christ to resist evil and injustice. We will proclaim our hope in the grace of Christ and seek ways to be part of God's handiwork in making us part of the body of Christ to transform the world."*

We are encouraged through this year's programs to knit (I add crochet) together which will serve as a reminder that how being knit together in Christ is a blessing. I'm so excited about the program book because our unit has an active Prayer Shawl Ministry, (even though the shawl I started years ago when we started still needs to be completed—but I'm a master at sewing on the labels). Our members have knitted and crocheted a variety of beautiful shawls and lap robes. The queen of our crocheters is my 102-year-old mother-in-law, Ida Pearl Green. In addition to prayer shawls, she crochets slippers that she donates to N. M. Carrol Manor in Baltimore, and Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg. She is an inspiration to all our members and an example (from the introduction above) of a courageous bold witness of a faithful woman.



As my term comes to an end, I give thanks to United Methodist Women and to God for having had the opportunity to serve in this position for the past 4 years. I welcome **Wendy Johnson** as the next Spiritual Growth Coordinator and pray God's blessings on her and all of us as we continue to put our faith, hope and love into action in 2021!

Grace & Peace,  
Rita Green  
Spiritual Growth Coordinator  
[ritamgreen@hotmail.com](mailto:ritamgreen@hotmail.com)



## **TREASURER**

Dear Sisters in Christ

Just a reminder that at our annual celebrations Leadership Team designated the offering for Pledge to Mission. I will be accepting donations until the end of the year. Anyone who wishes to contribute should make checks payable to **BWCUMW Conference Treasurer** and on the *memo line please include "Pledge to Mission"*. Mail checks to

**Dorothy Medley**  
**466 Mainview Court**  
**Glen Burnie, MD 21061**

To all local treasurers, as we approach the end of the calendar year, remember the policy for "Emptying the Treasury" at the End of the Year. The monies given for United Methodist Women are given for mission. However, a local group may discover, toward the end of a given year, that it has more money than it needs to carry it into the first few months of the new-year. This may have happened because:

- The budgeted amount for the Pledge to Mission was too low.
- Sources of income were underestimated.
- Income from a fundraising event may not have been budgeted

A local group should keep in its treasury only the minimum amount necessary to carry it into the first few months of the next year, until members' Mission Giving pledges and gifts begin coming in. The Committee on Finance recommends how to use these extra funds. The Committee could choose one of the following options:

1. Send the extra funds as additional mission funds (added to your Pledge to Mission).
2. Present one or more Special Mission Recognitions or Gifts to Mission to members or friends of the unit.
3. Make a supplementary gift to "A Brighter Future for Children and Youth," a mission program that receives United Methodist Women National Office funding.

Funds given in these ways to “empty the treasury” should be sent to the district treasurer. The act of emptying the treasury is important because the funds were given to be used for mission, not to build up a bank account for the unit. Saving for a rainy day is not good stewardship since today is a rainy day for thousands of women, children and youth for whom our mission money offers hope.

Thank you for all that you do to further the mission of the United Methodist Women. May the Lord bless and protect our families, friends, and world this holiday season.

Respectfully,

Dorothy Medley  
Conference Treasurer  
[bwcumwtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:bwcumwtreasurer@gmail.com)



## **PROGRAM RESOURCES**

### **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2020 READING PROGRAM**



- Please click on this link [www.umwmissionresources.org](http://www.umwmissionresources.org) or call 800-305-9857

**Contact: Tangela Terry**  
**Secretary of Program Resources**  
**443-694-0468**  
**Mst2136@yahoo.com**

## **EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION**

Please be reminded: "In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the LORD JESUS for HE Himself said, it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35

**Hello District Education and Interpretation Coordinators,**

**Heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who participated in the 2020 United Methodist Women, District Mission Today Competition. Congratulations!**

**The First Place and the Grand Prize Winner of the Rotating Crystal Award: Baltimore Metropolitan District**

President: Gwendolyn Brooks; Education and Interpretation Coordinator: Darcia Smith

**The Second Place Winner: Washington East**

President: Diane Shorts; Education and Interpretation Coordinator: Vacant

**The Third Place Winner: Greater Washington**

President: Kunda Musonda; Education and Interpretation Coordinator: Dorothy Stubbs

**Honorable Mention:**

**Annapolis District; Baltimore Suburban District; Central Maryland District; and the Frederick District.**

**Please note:** The First Place Winner will hold the Rotating Crystal Award for one (1) year.

**Through our Mission Giving,** we are enabling positive change in the lives of women and children in ways we may never fully know.

To continue to learn about the needs and inspiring leaders in the communities we connect to, we must join in **education** for mission. I encourage all of you to promote and participate in the educational opportunities United Methodist Women provide, including Mission Studies, **response** magazine, the Reading Program, Mission u, Leadership Development Days, our online Bridge courses, Faith Talks, webinars focusing on our Justice Priorities, and more. Our Mission Giving underwrites ALL of these amazing educational opportunities and resources!

When we learn about the need, we are truly motivated to give and to encourage others to also experience the joy of giving.

Traditionally we give through the five channels of Mission Giving:

**Pledge to Mission** - our personal, individual giving promise

**World Thank Offering** - an offering collected throughout the year that develops both our generosity and our gratitude for God's blessings

**Special Mission Recognition** - a way to honor and celebrate a special person for their mission work. The honoree receives a beautiful oval lapel pin. Everyone needs to be giving Special Mission Recognition pins!

**Gift in Memory** - an opportunity to express condolences to those experiencing grief by sending a thoughtful sympathy card

**Gift to Mission** - an opportunity to recognize a variety of occasions with a special card, including Birthday, Get Well, Congratulations, New Baby, Thinking of You, and more.

Barbara Terry, Coordinator  
Education and Interpretation  
[babswrightterry@gmail.com](mailto:babswrightterry@gmail.com)

## **MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH**

All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people, may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. 2 Corinthians 4:15

Greetings Sisters in Christ:

### **CENSUS 2020 - New Title is 2020 Unit Survey**

CENSUS 2020/Unit Survey has opened and will close on March 30, 2021. The Census has a new name, it will be called **2020 Unit Survey**. The office of Membership Development announces new changes based on responses from the 2019 Census Survey and feedback from information surveys conducted this spring and summer. Census 2020 web address is: [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2020](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2020).

### **MEMBERSHIP COUNT EVENT**

The BWCUMW will be scheduling a Zoom meeting in December with District Presidents and Membership Nurture Outreach Coordinators to discuss effective ways of collecting the membership count for the 2020 Unit Survey. This will give us a head start for collecting information, building teams to collect data, and increasing our statistics for 2021.

### **myUMW**

I encourage members to apply for their personal membership card on the myUMW page. All women are invited to complete the application. Follow the instructions on the myUMW page and you will be able to directly print your card. Members can apply for the membership without an email address. All mission minded women within and beyond the United Methodist Church are welcome. The UMW is a Christian organization with ecumenical ties and connections world-wide. The United Methodist Women will never share your contact information without your permission.

### **BRIDGE**

National United Methodist Women has a distance learning app with programs and seminars for all United Methodist Women. Enroll by contacting Alana Walls, Distance Learning Coordinator, at [awalls@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:awalls@unitedmethodistwomen.org). There is a wealth of programs that are self-paced and informative.

I look forward to working with you to collect membership data for the Baltimore-Washington Conference as we continue to be in mission in our communities, districts, conference, and the world for women, children and youth. May God continue to bless you all and keep you safe.

Daphne L. Hurd, Chairperson MNO-Appointed  
[daphnelhurd@icloud.com](mailto:daphnelhurd@icloud.com)

## **COMMUNICATIONS**



While COVID may be keeping us at home, it is definitely bringing out the stresses in our relationships. For months now, many people have been noticing the differences between how they and their extended family members or friends are following precautions. Some are under fire for taking the safety measures too seriously, while others feel attacked for not taking them seriously enough. All of this when we need the comfort and support of our friends, family and UMW sisters more than ever.

Especially as the holidays approach, we need to have some honest conversations. Talking it out is the only way to preserve our relationships and make peace with our decisions about how to behave during this very unusual time. Having the "COVID Talk" is a way to talk about what you expect of your friends and family members and what they can expect of you.

Before you get together, ask questions about what your host or guests has been doing to stay healthy and who else they have been socializing with, when, where, and how. Avoid blaming or shaming if they have been more relaxed than you have. Think about what you need to be comfortable with the situation and share that.

Gatherings during the upcoming holidays can be an opportunity to reconnect with family and friends. This holiday season, please consider how your holiday plans can be modified to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to keep your friends, families, and communities healthy and safe.

I hope that each one of us will remember what the Christmas holiday is about and the importance. Celebrating virtually or with members of your own household poses the lowest risk for spread but however you celebrate, be safe and keep the communication going.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Kim Marie Walker  
Communications Coordinator-BWC-UMW  
[burrwalker123@gmail.com](mailto:burrwalker123@gmail.com)

## **NOMINATIONS**

### **GREETINGS FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**



The Nominations Committee would like to thank all potential candidates who took the time to speak with us this year. The following names were nominated from the floor, by the September 30 deadline, and presented for vote at the October 27 Zoom-convened annual meeting celebration. A separate vote was conducted for the floor nominations of:

Willa Kynard – Chairperson, Nominations Committee  
Wendy Johnson - Spiritual Growth Coordinator  
Miriam Mokuena - Nominations Committee member

Esther Barkat who was on the distributed slate as Spiritual Growth Coordinator, voluntarily removed her name for consideration.

Upon unanimous voting on the floor nominations, their names were then included as part of the slate presented at the Zoom-convened annual meeting. Unanimous voice vote was received for the presented slate. Please note that those who called into the meeting were also provided the opportunity to vote.

#### 2021 Leadership Team

President – Linda S. Yost  
Vice President – Ruthella Lievers  
Secretary – Janice Crowe  
Treasurer – Dorothy Medley  
Spiritual Growth Coordinator – Wendy Johnson  
Social Action Coordinator – Jeannie Lee Panesi  
Education and Interpretation Coordinator – Barbara Terry  
Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator – Daphne Hurd, appointed  
Communications Coordinator – Kim Marie Walker  
Secretary of Program Resources – Tangela Terry  
Nominations Committee Chairperson – Willa Kynard  
Nominations Committee Members – Miriam Williams Mokuena, Falisha Doby, Yolande Dickerson, Daphne Hurd, Hilda James



Congratulations to each of you!

The 2021 Leadership Team will take up their duties January 2021. We expect conference training, and planning meeting, will take place on Saturday, January 9, 2021, likely via Zoom.

It was my honor to be a Conference team member during the past several years, and I thank you for allowing me to serve.

As I've said so many times here, whether you live alone, or not, please make sure to stay positive during these difficult times by keeping in touch with family and friends. Most importantly, stay in prayer, and meditation, for we have a risen Savior in whom our faith tells us will get us through this terrible situation. Trust in HIM. HE lives and will never desert us. I pray you find comfort in the lyrics of this worship song: Anthony Brown & group therAPy - "Trust In You" - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjwefyT4\\_80](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjwefyT4_80).

Pamela Roxanne Aulton, Chair  
[palexana@hotmail.com](mailto:palexana@hotmail.com)



## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees of the United Methodist Women, Inc., Baltimore-Washington Conference met September 8, 2020. Due to the risk of spreading the COVID-19 VIRUS, the meeting was held via conference call. The discussion of the financial climate was highly productive. However, the usual exchange of buying and selling stocks met with unexpected concerns. The Board was mainly concerned about the uncertainty of the political and financial climates. Due to these uncertainties, the Board decided to postpone the decision to perform its usual functions at this meeting. The Board agreed to study the market, and the financial climate for a few more weeks. After this additional study, a continuation meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order on, October 20, 2020, via Zoom. At the continuation meeting the Board agreed to buy shares in the IBM-International Business Machine, Inc. The IBM stock shows much promise for the Board to maximize its investment potential. Of course, the bottom line depends on the highs and lows of the international investment market. For a successful return, we take Paul's advice to his letter to the Thessalonians: "pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18). In addition to prayer, the Board is thankful for the advice of its investment specialist from Lombard Securities.

Further, Ephesian 4: 1-3 is a message that constantly reminds the Board to – "live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." The Board praises and worships God in all of its efforts to be in ministry on behalf of those community-based organizations that minister to women, youth, and children of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. In humility and meekness, the Board gives Jesus Christ the front row seat at the table of each meeting.

The Board members delight in managing the resources in the Board of Trustees accounts. We remain transparent and passionate in the stewardship of these funds. We give God the glory for providing resources to the UMW mission community. We pray that God will continue to bless the Baltimore-Washington Conference UMW Board of Trustees. We give God the glory for the success of this financial ministry.

Submitted by: Geraldine Whitley, President, Board of Trustees, Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women

## **MISSION u**

The Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women and Wellness and Missions, will partner to sponsor a virtual inspirational Mission u **E**vent to be held in your homes under the theme: "Learning Together for the Transformation of the World." As a Mission u community, we witness and observe how the spirit of God works to transform attitudes, hearts and minds as we show unconditional love for the people of God.

Mission u is designed to provide opportunities for adults and youth to discover the beauty of inter-generational learning, through faith, hope, and love in action.

This Event will host the following studies on Zoom during **July 23-24, 2021**. Sadly, due to the COVID-19 crisis, in-person events were cancelled. The registration materials for 2021 will be forthcoming around the first of the year.

- **Finding Peace in an Anxious World- Adults**
- **Managing Anxiety- Youth**
- **Pushout- The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools- Youth/Adults**

The Mission u Committee invites the districts and local churches to host mini-Mission u studies for deeper transformative learning experiences. These studies motivate, inform and enrich our commitment to change the world through love in action.

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth Mitchell Stemley  
Dean, Mission u  
[estemley1190@comcast.net](mailto:estemley1190@comcast.net)

## **BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT**

Greetings from the Baltimore Metropolitan District where we are committed to honor the **PURPOSE** of the United Methodist Women.

Where does the time go? It hardly seems like four years since I said yes to becoming President for the Baltimore Metropolitan District. During these years, I learned about strengths I didn't know I had and equally important, about my many weaknesses. The strengths were easy to embrace but the weaknesses not so much. However: I am grateful to my Lord and Savior for surrounding me with women who were willing and capable to come along side me to help keep this District moving and growing. I have been blessed to work with Christian women who are understanding as well as willing to answer the call to serve. We are all busy and we all have families and many other things to manage in our lives, so it takes a special person to take on additional leadership responsibilities. Thank you, ladies, for holding my hand and for sharing your knowledge whenever I reached out to you. God bless you, fellow team members.

It is always the hope of a leader to build on the progress of previous teams. With God at the helm, perseverance & hard work, it is my sincere wish that we have made our District proud. As a District and under my tenure, we reached out to several local units to assist them in starting and/or reinstating their units. Several units also asked for "refreshers" and the team was more than willing to do all of the above.

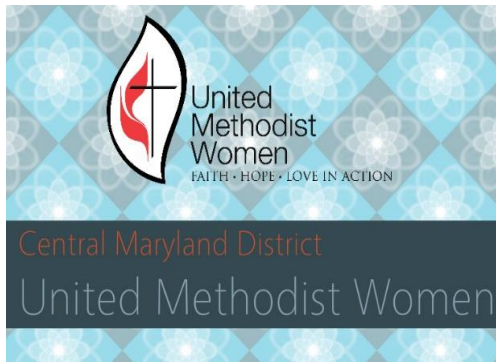
Thank you, Baltimore Metropolitan District, for allowing me the opportunity to be your leader. It has been an honor and a pleasure. I will never forget your patience, kindnesses and understanding during all of our ups and downs. I continue to pray for the safety and wellbeing of every one during this time of uncertainty.

To the in-coming team leaders, keep moving forward. Keep growing and prospering. I wish for you great success and victory in Jesus.

Love & blessings

Gwendolyn Brooks, President  
Baltimore Metropolitan District  
[gwendlynbrooks@aol.com](mailto:gwendlynbrooks@aol.com)

## CENTRAL MARYLAND DISTRICT



Greetings My Beautiful Sisters Created by God!

Our Virtual Annual Celebration took place on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 PM and it was well attended with over 60 participants. Our guest speakers were Rev. Tammi Brantley, CMD Youth Coordinator and Rev. E. Michelle Ledder, Director of Equity and Anti-Racism, General Commission on Religion & Race. Both delivered powerful and very thought-provoking messages. We were truly blessed to have them.

We celebrated Emory Grove, Fairhaven, Grace (Gaithersburg), Locust, Mt. Gregory/St. Luke, Goshen, and West Montgomery as this year's 5 Star units.

The officers for 2021 are:

Dianna Kelly Woodlon, President

Opportunity, Vice President ***\*If you would like to fill this position please contact us.***

Julie Benner, Treasurer

Maurita Williams, Secretary

Cheryl Gooden, Spiritual Growth

Kim Turner/Laura Copeland Nominations

Miriam Mokuena, Social Action

Doris Byrd-Watts, Education & Interpretation

Cindy Smith Waugh, Social Media

We wanted to focus on happiness during these difficult times. So, we shared the October action for happiness calendar. These monthly calendars are packed with actions you can take to help create a happier and kinder world.

Go to [www.actionforhappiness.org/calendar](http://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendar) and find a happiness action for your day!

*"Keep awake for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. Keep awake!" **Mark 13:35-37***

I would like to thank all the Central Maryland District United Methodist Women for your continued commitment and support. May your holidays be blessed and filled with Gratitude, Love, Peace and Joy!

Respectfully submitted

Dianna Kelly Woodlon, President  
Central Maryland District  
[wooddelyte@verizon.net](mailto:wooddelyte@verizon.net)

## FREDERICK DISTRICT

Dear United Methodist Women of the Frederick District!

I hope and pray this finds you all well. The holidays are upon us and I pray that each of you have a blessed Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas.

This year presented many challenges to all of us, but we persevered through it as best as we could and for that, I am grateful. The changes in the dynamics of our way of life may have been presented as interruptions or disappointments but it can also be looked at as a time to slow down, for reflection or the opportunity to learn something new or step outside of our comfort zones. But all in all, you did a FANTASTIC job at doing what you do, showing love to others.

It is my prayer that as we move forward into 2021, we have all found a new way of doing the great things that you have done in the past and fresh new ideas for the future.

I appreciate all of your patience and assistance as I moved through 2020 and I look forward to a great 2021!

We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds our future. Stay in prayer, be encouraged, and know that we are all in this together!



Continue to be awesome on purpose!

Yours in Christ,  
Angela Fossett, President  
Frederick District  
301-639-1569  
[frdistumw@gmail.com](mailto:frdistumw@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/frederickdistrictumw/](https://www.facebook.com/frederickdistrictumw/)





## **GREATER WASHINGTON DISTRICT**

### **The Shattered Glass Ceiling**

The 2020 election was a watershed year for women. So far, women candidates have acquired 134 congressional seats including 102 Democrats and 32 Republicans, which is a record.

The number of women in Congress has steadily climbed since 1981 when just 17 women served in both the House and Senate. In the 2018 midterms, an impressive 127 women were elected.

On January 20, 2021, Sen. Kamala Harris will raise her right hand and take the Vice-Presidential Oath of Office, shattering yet another glass ceiling in America by becoming the first Black and South Asian female to assume the office of Vice President of the United States of America.

The election of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to the Presidency and Vice Presidency is yet another reminder of what is feasible in The United States of America. Notwithstanding your political ideology, it is undeniable that Vice President-elect Kamala Harris's election is a victory for ALL women, especially young women of color who finally see themselves represented in the upper echelons of the Federal government.

The United Methodist Women also had a role to play in contributing to this wondrous election. UMW women phone banked, organized, held Zoom meetings on the importance of voting, became poll workers, and most important --- **you voted!**



Now, as we begin the difficult task of **uniting our country**, we must stay engaged in the issues that affect our neighborhoods and communities. We must continue to call out injustice in whatever form it manifests itself. We must continue to hold our elected leaders accountable while in office. We must continue to listen and work with younger women for they are the **NOW** and **FUTURE** of the UMW, and provide mentoring, leadership, and advocacy opportunities, thereby offering them a space to put **faith, love, and action to work.**

And finally, we must continue to call on Jesus, **PRAY** without ceasing and serve those that are living on the margins.

Stay blessed and always encouraged,

Kunda Musonda, President  
Greater Washington District  
[careercoachk@gmail.com](mailto:careercoachk@gmail.com)

## **WASHINGTON EAST DISTRICT**

Blessings to you my Sisters in Christ.

I pray that all of you are well and staying safe. I thank God for all of the work that the women of the Washington East District have continued to do toward our mission this year.

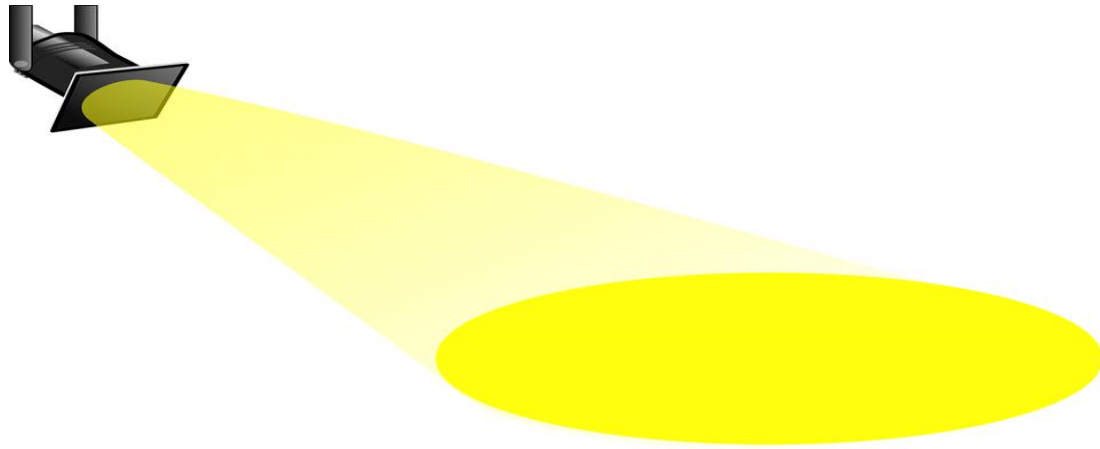
Our annual celebration was held on October 3, 2020 and was a huge success! We had approximately 60 women in attendance. The WED came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place this year for the BWC Mission Today Competition and that made me very proud. It is a blessing to see how with all that is going on in the world today, the United Methodist Women are still striving to do their very best.

It has been an interesting but great year and I pray that all of you will stay safe and continue to be blessed.

We are continuing our efforts to help our WED units that need assistance and encouragement to stay active and on purpose. If any other districts are providing additional training or have other ideas about how to re-energize their local units, please feel free to contact me at the contact information below or the WED Vice President, Stephanie Willett at [shwbmd58@gmail.com](mailto:shwbmd58@gmail.com).

GOD BLESS,

Diane Shorts, President  
Washington East District  
[Minidshorts25@gmail.com](mailto:Minidshorts25@gmail.com)  
301-442-2814



# Spotlight on the Districts

## **LEGACY OF SERVICE**

In 2005 when Hurricane Katrina's devastation affected Christians across the continent, Bunker Hill UMC's (Bunker Hill, WV) parishioners in the Frederick District sought ways to be of assistance. A group at Bunker Hill reached out to a UM Church in Baton Rouge, LA that had opened its doors to out-of-town emergency workers for lodging and food. One expression of congregational concern occurred when Bunker Hill shipped a quantity of West Virginia apples to the area.

From that church-wide movement of compassion, a seed of individual zeal took root in the heart of Norma Coe, a local seamstress. She determined to reach out to victims of misfortune with her sewing talents; specifically, she decided to fashion book bags for school kits. She used the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) directions for her creations. By 2006 the first shipment of 28 school kits had left Bunker Hill.

In the years since Norma took up her personal school kit challenge, we have witnessed church friends and strangers jump on the bandwagon with gifts of fabric. One year, BHUMW mounted a button campaign to strengthen the dwindling supply of these notions. Early on, the Bunker Hill unit of UMW had agreed to promote this project annually with Norma leading the effort from her sewing machine.

It didn't take long for the UM Women to discover Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, PA and their willingness to partner with local churches to distribute items such as school kits anywhere in the world they were needed. Norma and many souls from Bunker Hill have been able to travel to Mission Central headquarters for tours of the facility. The spirit of giving was renewed each time a carload of Bunker Hill folks went to Mechanicsburg.

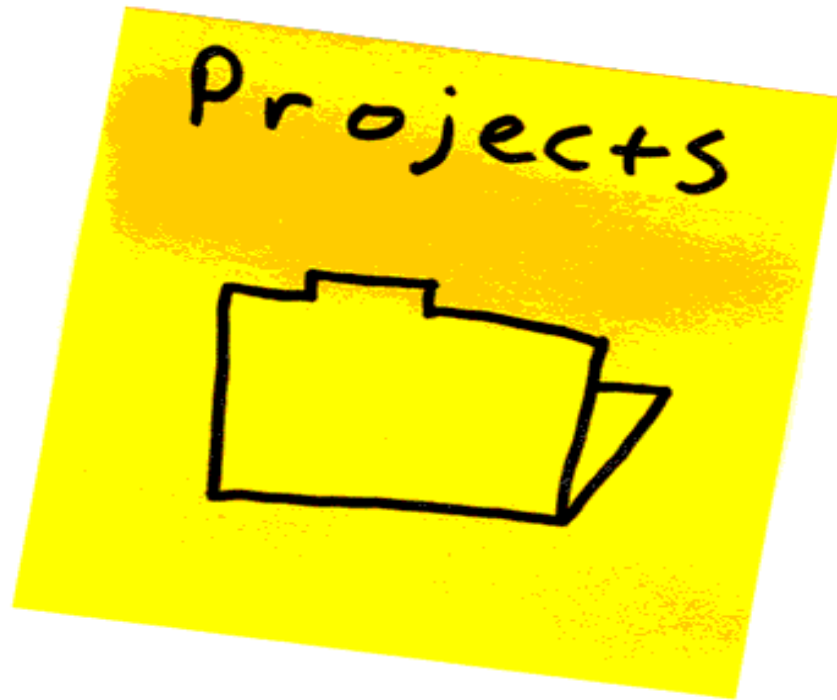
Sometime in the last ten years or so, Norma announced that she had a personal goal to stitch 1,000 cloth bags for the school kit program. Praise GOD! Norma met her goal in 2020. Bunker Hill UM Women's records show that Norma's dream has already seen 810 of her masterpieces leave West Virginia for Pennsylvania to places unknown. The dream will continue as the UMW will urge members to capitalize on back-to-school sales to fill Norma's stash of remaining totes.

In an interview recently with Norma Coe we learned about her philosophy of giving. She believes that talents, like sewing skills, are gifts given to individuals at the time of creation. Moreover, she emphasizes that these gifts are for sharing, never hiding them under a bushel.

Furthermore, she points out "that every culture has its voice," its musical preferences, food likes, tastes in color and pattern choices. Therefore, she maintains that there are no 'ugly' fabrics in the homemade book bags; someone, she says, will love a handmade bag for some reason we may not understand.

Norma is pleased that her initiative has brought her into contact with quilters from out-of-state who have wanted to donate cloth to be a part of the endeavor. Who could have suspected that a disaster like Katrina (2005) could herald such a joyous reaction that will be thriving well into the 2020's? Norma is a "difference making woman." Thank GOD Bunker Hill's UM "difference making" Women have been aligned with her.





# Conference Projects



## EPWORTH HOUSE

### **BWC-UMW Epworth House Mission Project Committee Annual Meeting - November 10, 2020**



The theme for this year's Annual Meeting was **United Methodist Women Celebrating Children and Youth**. President Gertrude White welcomed everyone and introduced Rev. Dr. David McCallister-Wilson, President of Wesley Theological Seminary, who gave the invocation, thanked the committee for their ministry, and told us that "we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses." He told the group the Seminary is now maintaining community for seven international students from Africa and China. He encouraged the group to keep up the good work.

Vice President Lynn Davenport introduced Wesley student Nadia Fitzcharles, who lead the Devotions. She read Ephesians 4:15-16, and testified that while in Cairo, Egypt she met with a group of Christian women who shared their lives with her. They told how they slept on cold tile floors, ate moldy food, received threats to take their children away, and other atrocities. It was a "room of sorrow and grief," but in the midst was generosity toward her and a deep abiding love of God.

Guest Charlene A. White sang "Jesus, You're the Center of My Joy," followed by the introduction of the Wesley Missioner-in-Residence (MIR) by Rev. Brian K. McCollum, Vice President of Development at the Seminary. Melinda Paczari-Pongor (MIR) brought greetings from the Seminary and read scripture from Psalms. She emphasized that in all of her decisions she seeks God's guidance, and she offered a prayer that acknowledged "God is the most perfect light" of the world.

Treasurer Jeanette Tolbert-Campbell reported that in May we awarded a scholarship of \$2,000 to the outgoing MIR Esther Inuwa. Donations from the BWC and Epworth House Honor/Remembrance donors totaled \$2,160 for 2020. Thank you one and all!



Nominations Chair Ellen Davis presented the proposed slate of officers for 2021 and it was accepted. BWC-UMW President Linda Yost performed the installation service and shared a lovely story titled "Flowers in the Garden". Her Conference announcements: there were 187 viewers at the BWC-UMW Annual Meeting this year; the Charter for Racial Justice Committee will soon meet to make plans for future events; and there is a planning meeting for Conference and District Officers on January 9, 2021.

VP Lynn Davenport announced the next Epworth House Committee meeting is January 12, 2021. Gladys Carter, Vice President, gave greetings from the Greater Washington District (GWD). Charlene sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth," and Minister Elizabeth Stemley gave the closing prayer and announced that Mission u via Zoom is **July 23-24, 2021**. Registration will be on the Conference website shortly.

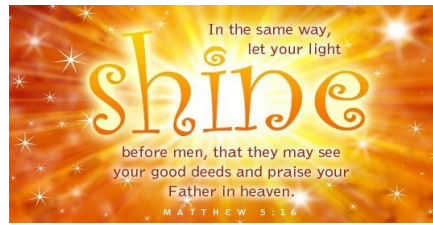
### **2021 Epworth House Committee Officers**

Gertrude T. White (GWD) – President  
Lynn T. Davenport (GWD) – Vice President  
Ann Price (GWD) – Secretary  
Jeanette M. Tolbert-Campbell (GWD) – Treasurer  
Korla B. Frye (WED) – Education & Interpretation  
Susan Howes (WED) – Hospitality Chair  
Jane Grays (WED) – Membership Chair  
Ellen S. Davis (GWD) – Nominations Chair  
Rosetta Daniels (WED) – Nominations Committee

Gertrude T. White  
President

## EPWORTH HOUSE

On behalf of the Epworth House Mission Project Committee, and in a Conference-wide effort to continue supporting this Mission Project, please find below, the biography of our new Missioner-in-Residence at Wesley Theological Seminary and the form for giving to our (Gift in Honor/Memory) fundraiser to the Missioner.



**Epworth House Mission Project Committee**



**Melinda Paczari-Pongor**

### **The New UMW 2020-21 Missioner-in-Residence, Wesley Theological Seminary**

My name is Melinda Paczari-Pongor. I am a 25-year-old Hungarian student. I came to study at Wesley Theological Seminary because of a scholarship program that was established by the Hungarian Reformed Church D.C. and Wesley Theological Seminary. While studying at Wesley, I am serving the Hungarian congregation, which I am doing happily. I have the chance to meet new people with new views on how to look at the world, but I am also able to meet those Hungarians who left their country for many reasons, but never abandoned their faith. It is a blessing for me to be a part of both of these communities.

I decided to study theology because I was interested in the Bible and in Christianity, not only because I believed in what they teach, but also because both of them are fascinating pieces of humanity and its history. I grew up in a non-Christian family, but I got in contact with the church in my early teenager years. I immediately felt attached to the way the people interacted with each other. I started to attend the events there because of the congregants, and slowly, even without realizing when and how, I became a believer. Ever since those months, I wanted to serve the Lord through serving my fellow humans.

After high school, I spent a year in the United Kingdom working as a volunteer in a Catholic home for disabled adults. The experiences I gained during the volunteer year strengthened my faith and made me more interested in theology.

I had studied theology for four years in Hungary at Debrecen Reformed Theological University before attending Wesley, but I am still learning new ways of how to look at the world through the lenses of Christianity because of this seminary. I feel blessed to be able to meet new people here and learn how they think about our faith and how they are in contact with each other and God.

I am married. My husband, Andras, is a reformed pastor. He is in the final process of his Ph.D. program at the moment. When we have free time, we like to read, but our favorite activity is walking. We firmly believe that a good walk is a gift from God.

Washington, DC, August 17, 2020



## **CONFERENCE UMW SCHOLARSHIPS**

For 2020, the Conference UMW, are proud to announce that we were able to give 14 out of 15 applicants scholarships.

This was only possible, because of the BWC United Methodist Women, local district and conference. We thank you for all your donations!

### ***Matthew 5: 16***

***In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.***

Please continue to remember our youth and young adults as they enter into higher education to help them grow and succeed in their fields of choice. As you collect donations for the scholarships, please send to our Treasurer, Dorothy Medley.

On behalf of the BWC UMW Scholarship Committee, we thank you, we thank God for you and may God continue to bless you all.

Kim Marie Walker  
BWC United Methodist Women Scholarship Committee Chairperson  
[burrwalker123@gmail.com](mailto:burrwalker123@gmail.com)

## **BALTIMORE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE UMW SCARVES!!!!**

You may still place an order for our Baltimore-Washington Conference UMW Scarves. The more scarves ordered at one time, the more the cost is reduced.



The costs are listed below: **Checks should be made payable to BWCUMW**

| Amount       | Cost         |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1-25         | \$25.00 each |
| 26-100       | \$22.00 each |
| 101-200      | \$20.00 each |
| 201 and more | \$18.00 each |

### **Send your orders to:**

Colleen F. Cates  
5493 Moores Run Dr  
Baltimore, MD 21206-3703  
410-488-539 (home)  
410-598-9470 (cell)

### **ORDER FORM**

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| <b>NUMBER OF SCARVES:</b>                            |
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