

Social Action Workshop: Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline

The statistics are staggering:

- Over the past 40 years, there has been a 500% increase in incarceration.
- African-American boys are three times as likely to be suspended than white boys.
- African-American girls are six times more likely to be suspended than their white peers.
- African-American children and youth make up 31% of school-based arrest and law enforcement referrals, although they only comprise 15% of total school enrollment.
- Native American/Alaskans make up 1% of school population yet account for 2% of school-based arrest and law enforcement referrals.



What sets the stage for these statistics begins before these children take their first step into school--from the moment of their birth. As United Methodist Women, we are called to dismantle racism. Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline identifies how systemic racism perpetuates the criminalization and mass incarceration of communities of color. **As United Methodist Women, we are called to address the ways children and youth of color are criminalized and to step into action to reduce the racial disparities in school discipline.**

To gain a better understanding of this call to social action, **you are invited to the Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline program facilitated by Kathy FitzJefferies, Northern Piedmont District's UMW Social Action coordinator, and Carol Ann Moye of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church.** This program is scheduled for **Saturday, October 31, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon via Zoom.**

Here is the link to register: <http://bit.ly/zoompipeline> (after you register, you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the meeting). Please contact Kathy FitzJefferies at myfaithjourney@icloud.com or 704-267-9039 if you need more information.



Kathy FitzJefferies,
District Social Action



In place of our annual Local Unit Officers Training, the Conference will host a Leader Development Day for all eight districts Nov. 14, starting at 10 a.m. via Zoom Meeting. We will have a brief gathering time with all districts then divide into break-out rooms by district. Please join us for tips, updates, helpful resources & more on the various UMW offices. Visit wnccumw.org/districts/iddlocalunitofficers2020 to register and find downloadable hand-outs. Registration is required.

The hands-on mission project for this will be collecting school kits; see pg. 2 and MEI article for details.

Table of Contents

2020 calendar, info on Mission u and hands-on mission drop-off...pg. 2
 President & MEI articles, pics from local units...pg. 3
 VP & Treasurer articles, District Love Offering info...pg. 4
 List of local outreach needs, Parliamentary article...pg. 5
 District Contacts & proposed officers 2021...pg. 6
 Historian article & graph, Communications article...pg. 7

Our Purpose

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.



Conference & District Calendar for 2020



- Oct. 31 Social Action Workshop: Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline with Kathy FitzJeffries & Carol Ann Moye
Program: 10 a.m.-12 noon via Zoom (opens at 9:30 a.m.)
Register at <http://bit.ly/zoompipeline>
- Nov. 14 Leadership Development Day (same as Local Unit Officers Training) with the NP District officers
Program: 10 a.m.-12 noon via Zoom Meeting (opens a few minutes beforehand)
Register at wncumw.org/districts/lddlocalunitofficers2020

All dates for UMW events at the Conference and District levels are tentative. Please visit wncumw.org to learn more. NOW is a good time to join the email list; contact Lily Pierce--pg. 6.

Finding Peace in an Anxious World: Mission u 2020

- Led by Sandra Williamson, District President
- Oct. 26, 27, 28 & 29 via Zoom
- Visit wncumw.org/events/mission-u-2020/ to learn more and register
- Questions? Contact Sandra (pg. 6)



Pssst...this book counts as two books for the 2021 Reading Program.

*At this time of COVID-19, we are surrounded by much uncertainty and anxiety all over the world. We are not able to "Pass the Peace" at our houses of worship, our children are not able to attend school, so many lives have been lost and many are facing economic uncertainty. Across the country, there are marches everyday demanding justice and calling for police reform following the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others. The stress level for many of us is at an all-time high. **Sandra will lead us through the study using the Serenity Prayer as a guide to help us de-stress and refresh so we may continue to live out our Purpose as United Methodist Women.** (from WNCUMW website)*

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

Author: Reinhold Niebuhr

School Kit Drop-Off Locations (hands-on mission project for Social Action Workshop)

Call one of these churches to coordinate drop-off or call Rynn to schedule pick-up (pg. 6)

- Muirs Chapel UMC, 314 Muirs Chapel Rd, Greensboro, 27410, (336) 299-1913
- Lebanon UMC, 237 Idol St, High Point, 27262, (336) 882-9853
- Gideon Grove UMC, 2865 Gideon Grove Church Rd, Stokesdale, 27357, (336) 342-5146

In addition to collecting school kits, we also ask ladies to donate smartphones, tablets and laptops to Guilford County Schools for virtual learning; drop them off at 712 N Eugene St, Greensboro, 27401. Other counties in our District could likely also use them. Units that are willing and able could pool money to buy a couple technological devices for donation.

If District officers didn't have term limits, we could just keep the same handful of willing volunteers forever...but our organization doesn't want or need the same group of women leading everything indefinitely. We value different perspectives, fresh ideas and the various spiritual gifts of each woman. Please prayerfully consider joining our team. It's not a "forever" commitment--remember, term limits! But United Methodist Women can only continue if Spirit-filled ladies step up to serve women, children and youth. We are now holding our meetings via Zoom, and when we can gather in person again, ladies can choose to join us or still attend virtually. In other words, you can be a "team player" from your recliner, in your pajamas! Contact Donna Miller if interested (pg. 6).

Bonus Books for 2020

Bonus Book for 2020 AND 2021!

Bonus Books for 2021



"We Need UMW & UMW Needs Us!"

Ladies, by now, most of us are SO "over" this COVID-19 PANDEMIC! We want to get back to "normal," we want to get back inside our church buildings, and we want to get back to our regular UMW unit events and activities. But hold on, now. The virus has not gone away (and probably will be around to challenge us for quite a while). We have got to keep our guard up and continue to take all appropriate safety and hygiene measures to stay healthy, safe and sane.

And **just like COVID-19 has not left us, neither has the church or UMW!** I know that YOU know that the church isn't just our buildings, and UMW isn't just ladies meeting all together in the same room. Both the church and UMW live inside each of us. Both the church and UMW carry out the work of Christ when individuals, alone or together, live out the message of the Gospel. Both the church and UMW may be relying more heavily on Zoom and other newfangled technology, but both are alive and well and active!

I am so grateful to all of you who joined us for our District Annual Celebration over Zoom. We had a successful meeting with good attendance and a wonderful message by our District Lay Leader, Kim Eller. The District's 2021 Pledge to Mission and our budget for 2021 were both approved, and the District officers were elected and installed. We will continue to connect with all the members of this District in as many ways as possible. Our District training for local officers and our Social Action workshop will also take place over Zoom. Since these events are FREE with no travel costs, everybody can come. See the front page for more info.

I've been hearing some really good stories about how some units are continuing to meet via Zoom or over the phone using Free Conference Call. I've even heard that at least one unit has met on their church lawn, socially distanced of course. **My prayer is that more units will find creative, supportive ways to stay connected and active in the work of UMW.** We need each other. Yes, we need UMW and UMW needs us! Women, children and youth, here at home and around the world, need our mission giving. But even more, they need us to fulfill our PURPOSE as "a community of women whose purpose is to know God..." and who "participate in the global ministries of the church."

Ladies, we have our work laid out for us. As women of God, we are up to the challenge, in this age of COVID-19 pandemic and in every age. Thanks be to God.

Thank you for all you do for United Methodist Women. Blessings,
Sandra Williamson, District President



Laughlin Memorial UMW (left) and Christ-Greensboro UMW (right) delivered their items to YWCA Greensboro. Christ UMW donated 301 rolls of toilet paper, 156 bars of soap, 67 bottles of dishwashing liquid, 12 rolls of paper towels and two bottles of hand soap. Way to go, ladies!



Thankful for the Hands-On Mission Project

As we are all aware, the Annual District Celebration was held via Zoom this year due to viruses beyond our control. But this change did not stop our wonderful ladies from participating in the hands-on mission project. Thanks to your generosity, some simple necessities (toilet paper, soap and dish detergent) found their way to food pantries, outreach ministries and the YWCA. I appreciate those who called or emailed me for more information. If you have not yet collected and donated your items, I encourage you to do so. **Please be sure to send me a list of your items collected and to whom they were sent for record-keeping purposes.** The Lord works in mysterious ways; maybe this 'crazy corona' season allowed us to give donations to ministries in our own backyard. Didn't it feel good to be reaching out again?

Our hands-on mission project for our Social Action Workshop will be collecting school kits; visit umcmmission.org/umcor/serve/relief-supply-network/school-kit for downloadable instructions. Drop-off locations are listed on pg. 2.

Peace!
Rynn McGee-Pierce,
Mission Education & Interpretation



Looking Forward to Our Fall Events

I want to thank all of our members who were able to join us for our first ever Zoom District Annual Celebration. What an event it turned out to be! We had a count of 85 in attendance, a wonderful, uplifting speaker with Kim Eller, our District Lay Leader, and music with Joyce Thee from CUMC. We recognized our women who passed in 2019 and completed our required voting and business matters including the installation of our new officers. We also gave our gratitude and thanks to those who have served faithfully in their positions and are now moving onward.

We now know that we have the technology and expertise to move forward in this fourth quarter to provide our fall events in October and November. This will give more of you the opportunity to join in and enjoy some excellent speakers and interesting topics with valuable information on the focus areas of United Methodist Women. Check the District Calendar for dates and times. Right now, we are planning for all events to take place via Zoom. If you need help with the technology, don't hesitate to contact one of the District officers or myself (pg. 6).

I would like to especially highlight our Mission u sessions on October 26-29 when we will be studying the book **Finding Peace in an Anxious World**. You can order this book through umwmissionresources.org for \$10 for delivery to your home. Also, we have presentations on the School-to-Prison Pipeline on October 31 and our Unit Officers Training on November 24. Be sure to check the calendar for reservation dates. We need to know how many will be logging into Zoom to attend.



Sincerely,
Jean Carter,
District Vice President



I pray you all have a blessed fall season.

"Giving Has Not Stopped"

It seems almost impossible that the fourth quarter of our 2020 UMW year has already begun. Although our third quarter was not at all as we hoped, giving has not stopped and we can celebrate the fact that we are still giving our mission money to support women, children and youth around the world.

Our total amount sent to our Conference Treasurer through the third quarter was \$52,435.29. Undesignated giving totaled \$44,823.27, which is applied to our 2020 Pledge to Mission of \$100,000. Remember that the UMW fiscal year ends December 1. Local unit treasurers will send all reports and money to me by that date.

The fourth quarter is historically our largest quarter for Undesignated Giving. **As all units seek to complete the five channels of Undesignated Giving, be in prayer that the Northern Piedmont District can meet our annual Pledge to Mission.** Encourage your unit to meet and exceed their Pledge this year.

Our District has contributed \$2,049.81 to the Legacy Fund through the third quarter. Of course, this amount does not include contributions made online directly to the national office. Let's keep up the good work and ensure United Methodist Women missions will survive to serve future generations.

We had a wonderful attendance at our virtual District Annual Celebration, and the meeting went smoothly. **I do look forward, however, to having next year's meeting in person where we can meet and greet each other as we have in the past.** Many of our units may be small in number of members,

but we are all big in heart and in working for United Methodist Women.

Thanks to all of you for the work you do!



Blessings for a great fall
and winter season,
Margaret Hepler, District Treasurer



We forget how important our efforts are because we are near the bottom of the United Methodist Women "totem pole," so to speak. But let's remember what happens at the top of that totem pole: women, children and youth get fed, educated, empowered and shown the love of God. **Prayerfully consider donating to our District Love Offering so we can continue transforming lives and communities. To donate, visit wnccumw.org/districtcelebrations and scroll to the box for our District. Or send a check to Margaret Hepler, 2161 Orchard Trail, Thomasville, NC 27360.** (Photos from [flickr.com/photos/umwwomen](https://www.flickr.com/photos/umwwomen))





Baby, It's Cold Outside!



Though our units have been less active this year, the need around the world and locally is still great. **Listed below are a few places nearby you can assist individually or as a unit.** Please be sure to count and report your donations for our records; contact District MEI Rynn McGee-Pierce (pg. 6). Thanks to Rynn for calling around and finding ways we can help women, children and youth this fall and winter. **As United Methodist Women, let's be proactive in finding ways to be the hands, feet and face of Jesus, even and especially during a pandemic.** Let Rynn know of other local charities we can support.

Any Local Food Pantry

- Gloves
- Socks
- Caps
- Anything a SNAP card won't cover (paper products, toiletries, soaps, etc.)



YWCA of Greensboro (336) 273-3461, 1807 Wendover Ave Greensboro, NC 27405

- Any baby items (new or gently used)
- Diapers size 3 and up
- All paper products and paper picnic items
- Body lotion



Women's Resource Center of Greensboro

Bargain Box, (336) 273-6349, 1410 Mill St. Greensboro, NC 27408

- Provides vouchers for FREE clothing
- How to help--donate clothes to the Bargain Box & specify they're on behalf of Resource Center
- Nice winter jackets and clothing
- Nice kids clothing



Hands of God (336) 749-8113

110 W. Academy St. Madison, NC 27025

- Socks
- Gloves
- Canned greens
- Sweet peas
- Spaghetti noodles
- Ramen noodles
- Individual packs of oatmeal



D-UP Inc. Youth Center (336) 383-6048, 613 Washington St. High Point, NC 27260

- Toiletries
- Personal hygiene
- Soaps
- Washing detergent
- Dish detergent



Julian UMC (336) 302-7464, 2105 NC Hwy 62 East Julian, NC 27283

- Gloves
- Socks
- Paper products
- Toiletries
- Anything a SNAP card won't cover



Steps to a Successful Meeting

Whether you are currently gathering by Zoom or in a room, your meeting runs successfully with a few simple guidelines.

1. Start with an agenda. By following a game plan, important items will be covered, discussion will flow more logically and members will have a clear understanding of the purpose of getting together. It's important to feel our time is well-spent.
2. Information for the group should be stated so that all understand. Questions should be repeated so everyone is on the same page. Motions should be restated asking if there is further discussion or any new information regarding this subject.
3. Keep the discussion focused. Remember to cover issues not personalities.
4. Make decisions by consensus. All viewpoints are important.
5. Respect each other.



Blessings,
Janet Bledsoe,
District Parliamentarian

These simple guidelines on transacting business will promote cooperation and harmony.

Northern Piedmont District Officers for 2020

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*Officers leaving at the end of 2020

**Officers beginning their second term in 2021

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Graph by Albertina McGirt, District Historian

METHODIST WOMEN ANNUAL PROGRAM BOOKS FROM 1970 TO 2020

| WOMENS MISSION YEARS | GREENSBORO DISTRICT | HIGH POINT DISTRICT | NORTHEAST DISTRICT | GSO (UMW) & THE NORTHERN PIEDMONT DISTRICT |
|----------------------|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1970 | 1970 | 1970 | 1970 |
| 2 | 1971 | 1971 | 1971 | 1971 |
| 3 | 1972 | 1972 | 1972 | 1972 |
| 4 | 1973 | 1973 | 1973 | 1973 |
| 5 | 1974 | 1974 | 1974 | 1974 |
| 6 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 | 1975 |
| 7 | 1976 | 1976 | 1976 | 1976 |
| 8 | 1977 | 1977 | 1977 | 1977 |
| 9 | 1978 | 1978 | 1978 | 1978 |
| 10 | 1979 | 1979 | 1979 | 1979 |
| 11 | 1980 | 2012 - Received UMW | 2012 - Received UMW | 1980 |
| 12 | | | | 1981 |
| 13 | | | | 1982 |
| 14 | | | | 1983 |
| 15 | | | | 1984 |
| 16 | Awaiting Receipt of ANNUAL PROGRAM BOOKS | Awaiting Receipt of ANNUAL PROGRAM BOOKS | Awaiting Receipt of ANNUAL PROGRAM BOOKS | 1985 |
| 17 | Women's Society of Christian Service and Wesley Guild | Women's Society of Christian Service and Wesley Guild | Women's Society of Christian Service and Wesley Guild | 1986 |
| 18 | | | | 1987 |
| 19 | | | | 1988 |
| 20 | | | | 1989 |
| 21 | | | | 1990 |
| 22 | | | | 1991 |
| 23 | | | | 1992 |
| 24 | | | | 1993 |
| 25 | | | | 1994 |
| 26 | | | | 1995 |
| 27 | | | | 1996 |
| 28 | | | | 1997 |
| 29 | | | | 1998 |
| 30 | | | | 1999 |
| 31 | | | | 2000 |
| 32 | | | | 2001 |
| 33 | | | | 2002 |
| 34 | | | | 2003 - Received, GSC |
| 35 | | | | 2004 - Received, GSC |
| 36 | | | | 2005 - Received, GSC |
| 37 | | | | 2006 |
| 38 | | | | 2007 |
| 39 | | | | 2008 |
| 40 | | | | 2009 - Received, NPD |
| 41 | | | | 2010 - Received, NPD |
| 42 | | | | 2011 - Received, NPD |
| 43 | | | | 2012 - Received, NPD |
| 44 | | | | 2013 - Received, NPD |
| 45 | | | | 2014 - Received, NPD |
| 46 | | | | 2015 - Received, NPD |
| 47 | | | | 2016 - Received, NPD |
| 48 | | | | 2017 - Received, NPD |
| 49 | | | | 2018 - Received, NPD |
| 50 | | | | 2019 - Received, NPD |
| 51 | | | | 2020 - Received, NPD |

Program Book Contributors:
Lois Fowler, Hinshaw UMW,
Julia Willis, WNCC-UMW President, and
Albertina McGirt, Saint Matthews UMW

Why the collection of Methodist women annual program books? This document chronicles a half century of worldwide and beneficial missions work for humankind by affiliates of the Women Society of Christian Service, Wesley Guild and United Methodist Women organizations.

Abide in Jesus

It's great to be alive today. Things are far from perfect, but His mercies are new each morning, so I look out my window and feel grateful for the beautiful mess we call life. I'm even more thankful for the way He uses us as broken vessels and imperfect reflections of His glory.

We so easily forget our blessings and choose to be bitter, petty, fearful, etc. Today, let's choose gratitude; He will give us strength to meet the days and peace that passes understanding if we seek Him. **He will show us how to turn faith, hope and love into action if we wait for the Holy Spirit's guidance. Abide in Jesus today.**



Grace to all of you,
 Lily Pierce, District Communications

Please Send District Celebration Program Books

This is a call to predecessor and current Districts: Greensboro, High Point, Lexington, Northeast and Northern Piedmont United Methodist Women, please send annual meeting/celebration program books from 1969 to 2020. It is important to maintain our ministry's history as a vital women's organization in the United Methodist Church. Every year, we come together as sisters for moments of reflection and to share good news, elect officers, honor service, receive inspiration and respond to community needs. Our program book is "the one document" that tells our story of service to women and children during good and bad times from individual District and Conference participation, as well as worldwide community supports. For reasons stated, the program book was selected as this committee's first collection project. Moreover, the books will not require much storage space. We hope many of your members, relatives and friends you know have a copy or two that they are willing to donate for the sake of history.

The committee collection objective is a minimum of 51-100 program copies. Do not bend or fold program books, and bring them to our next face-to-face meeting. Please provide the donor's name and contact information so our committee can follow up with a Gift to Mission recognition. Once donated, these copies will be retained as property of the Northern Piedmont District United Methodist Women.


Questions? Contact me (pg. 6).
 Albertina McGirt, District Historian





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response, the magazine for United Methodist Women, includes Bible studies, opportunities for spiritual growth, mission and outreach stories, and more. It will touch your heart, stir your spirit and challenge your mind. A one year digital subscription costs \$20 for 6 issues, a one year print subscription costs \$24 for 6 issues and a one year audio subscription costs \$24 for 6 issues.


Order Online: unitedmethodistwomen.org/response

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 www.youtube.com/UMWomen

 www.pinterest.com/UMWomen

 www.twitter.com/UMWomen

 www.flickr.com/UMWomen



Are you willing to receive your quarterly newsletter via email, reducing our carbon footprint and allowing more money to go to mission work? If so, please email our District Communications Coordinator, Lily Pierce.



UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) provides cleaning, hygiene and school kits in response to disasters and other needs in the United States. They work with international partners to help them address needs in their countries. You can help them restock their kits by going to umcor.org, hovering the mouse over "Serve" in the menu at the top, clicking "Relief Supply Network" and scrolling down to "Kit Assembly." From there, you can download instructions for each kit. You can also make a monetary donation to help buy supplies for kits by hovering over "Give." (Photo borrowed from website)