

## Our President's Perspective

*Arlene Feroe, Puget Sound Missional District President*

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Dear UMW Sisters

Hope you are all doing well and have been able to get the vaccine and feel better protected now with this virus. Life can all return to normal soon if we all do our part to get vaccinated, continuing to wear our mask and to social distance...Somehow these three small easy to do and easy to follow guidelines will show our love and our concerns for all God's people and our neighbors.

Hearing that some of you have been able to see grandkids and to travel gives me hope that I, too, will be feeling more normal and able to be back to my wandering ways.

Keeping in touch with our membership and weekly interaction with members has been the lifeline of my local unit. Keep in touch virtually! Phone calls have been a lifeline for me and the members of my local and District groups. Do not forget each other as we become normal again.

This newsletter is to give you updated information on what our next steps will be. Please check the calendar which is up to date with plans but may not have set dates yet. We can hopefully plan monthly now as we look ahead to a world without the pandemic. So check our calendar for summer and fall for the long anticipated in-person events we look forward to every year.

Our Annual Mission u and the Conference and District Annual Meetings are now being planned. You are invited to take part. You will be advised of dates and times as your leadership confirms these plans on times and dates going forward.

Please continue to interact with each other and be there for each other. I have been blessed by the interaction of each one that has reached out as I have been in contact with many of you. As I look forward to a new Spring and Summer. I am reminded that God is Love and His love brings us peace, hope and joy

Thanks you for showing God's love to this world. Blessings and see you all in person soon, I pray.

Arlene Feroe.  
President UMW, Puget Sound Missional District

## From the Vice President

This last year has been HARD! We've suffered illness, loss, and conflict but through it all God has been our rock and our strength. Although it's been hard being apart, God has provided new ways to connect.

On March 19- 20, 2021, women from all over the Pacific Northwest joined together via Zoom for the 2021 PNW United Methodist Women Spiritual Retreat. Using the book "What We Need is Here: Practicing the Heart of Christian Spirituality" by L. Rogers Owens, Rev. Brenda Tudor led us to explore spiritual practices such as rewriting the Psalms and using movement with our worship.

We also got a special message from Harriet Jane Olson, CEO of United Methodist Women. Those that planned the retreat so obviously put not just their effort into planning this spiritual retreat but also their heart and soul. What a blessing to join with nearly 100 United Methodist Women virtually to grow spiritually and connect on a deep level with those we couldn't physically hug but we could embrace on a spiritual level.

It is such a wonderful reminder that God isn't just in a building. He may not be physically present but His love and His people are connected. He is stronger than COVID-19. He is stronger than racial strife. He is present in our isolation and is using United Methodist Women to take that strength and minister to one another and our community in spirit if not in person.

*Jasmine Ray-Symms*  
Vice President

## PROGRAM RESOURCES

The 2021-2022 United Methodist Women Reading Program is available for viewing online at [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org). You'll find a listing of all the book titles by the five categories (Education for Mission, Leadership Development, and Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth) and a brief summary of the book.

In the November/December 2020 issue of "response" magazine is an excellent article on the 2021-2022 Reading Program (pages 28-35). The article explains the requirements for each of the four Reading Program Plans. Also, a brief summary of each book in the Reading Program is listed.

There are "4" Bonus Books this year. The four books are "Rise! From Caged Bird to Poet of the People, Maya Angelou," "Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission," "Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools," and "Finding Peace in an Anxious World." Bonus books count as two books.

In the United Methodist Women April E-News (received April 8), there was a letter from Andris Salter with updates to the 2021-2022 Reading Program. Thirty-four new book titles have been added to the list. Faith Talk podcasts can now be counted in the category of Spiritual Growth. There are three movies and documentaries that count toward the Reading Program ("Just Mercy," "The Hate U Give," and "Pushout." The Mission studies also count as Bonus Books.

One of the 2021-2022 Reading Program titles is "Gum Moon: a novel of San Francisco Chinatown" by Jeffrey L. Staley. "Gum Moon (Cantonese for 'Gold Door' or 'Golden Gate') is the remarkable coming of age story of a Chinese-American girl, Mei Chun Lai, who is sold in 1898 at the age of three to a cruel brothel keeper.

In the story, a sympathetic prostitute befriends Chun, but two years later, at the height of plague quarantine, Chun is thrust into a bewildering new world. A young Methodist woman rescues her and places her in a home for abused and trafficked girls. The home is destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire, but Chun (aka "Maud") survives. In an attempt to raise funds to rebuild the home, Maud and a group of seven other Chinese children embark on a 6-month cross-country singing tour. Performing for President Theodore Roosevelt in the White House is the highlight of the journey, but when the matron of the home suffers a breakdown, 13 year-old Maud must find within herself the strength and resolve to lead the band of children home. The novel is based on events in the life of the author's wife's grandmother." [from OCLC World Cat summary]

I highly recommend reading this novel. It was a hard book to put down at times. What was going to happen next to Chun? Author Jeffrey Staley spoke at the Puget Sound Missional District Annual Meeting held on September 14, 2019 at Edmonds United Methodist Church. This book can be found at Sno-Isle Libraries (Marysville, WA).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about the Reading Program or how to access the 2021-2022 UMW Reading Program Guide or 2021-2022 Book Title list.

Naomi Foote  
Program Resources Secretary

### EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION Focusing on Local Units

My role as mission coordinator is to encourage you and help extend mission goals and participate in mission giving and outreach programs of the church.

Aside from the mission today program which highlight how to participate in mission giving and earn stars and points, there are other ways to participate. There are also Methodist women resources that help encourage members to grow in faith.

We encourage members to attend and participate in district and conference meeting events. There are plenty of opportunities to be actively involved. I am available to you and I can share resources and training to your unit. Feel free to reach out to me.

Chidinma Okoro  
Education and Interpretation Officer

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WE ARE CALLED...

My personal home project, supported by Edmonds UMW and UMC, is in Nigeria. Chidinma Okoro

#### A Day Begins A Journey – Chidinma Okoro

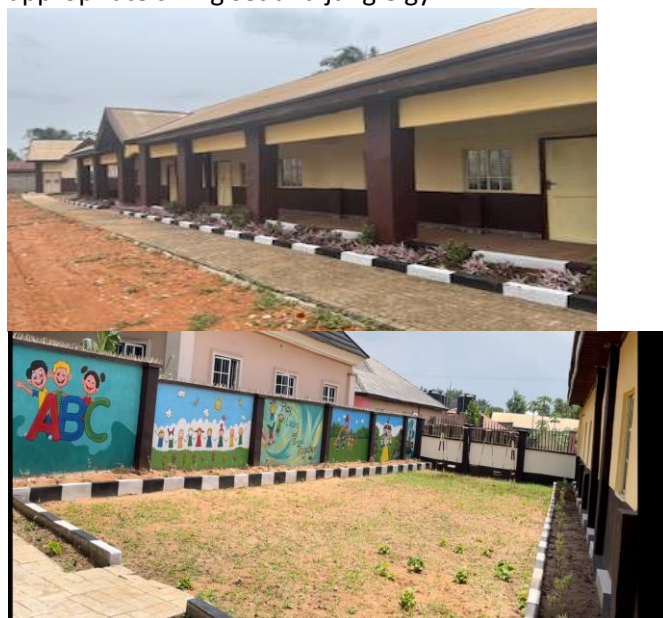
When the idea came to me to follow in my mother's footsteps after she passed in 2015, I did not envision where the journey would take me. My mother, Sarah Onyirinnaya Nwakudu, a true and practicing Methodist

woman showed and lived an exemplified life dedicating most of her life in the affairs of women, children and youth in Methodist Church and the community at large back home in Nigeria. In 2018 I travelled back to my home country Nigeria to figure out what I could do to help lift the lives of the underserved in the community. I was introduced to an early childhood education school in a local Methodist church, **All Saints Academy, Okweukwu in Abia State**. The state of disrepair of the old church building, built in the 1930s, turned into classrooms brought tears to my eyes. I made a commitment to refurbish it and add more classrooms to accommodate the need of the growing children population.

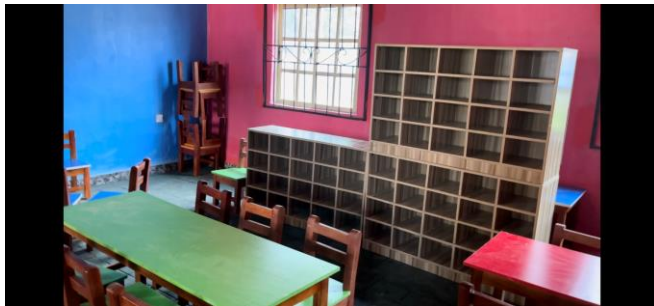
The classroom refurbishment project started self-funded, and I subsequently received assistance from my local unit, Edmonds United Methodist women. The project was completed in record time using direct labor and close supervision onsite and via WhatsApp video. The expanded classroom project was more capital intensive.

### Mission Giving

Again, with Edmonds UMW assistance in their own way, the expansion project which commenced in August 2019, comprises a block of three classrooms, an office, a Sick Bay (a section of the school to be used for medical purposes), a 4-stall toilet system and outdoor washing hand basin with dedicated water tank, landscaping and a playground equipped with age-appropriate swing set and jungle gym.







The playground equipment water tank and landscaping were made possible by funding from Dave and Kris Gillespie grant administered by the Edmonds United Methodist Church. The local church's impact in my ministry has been tremendous. The EUMC organized a noisy offering and raised money to enable me to provide chairs/desks/cubbies and school supplies. I am touched beyond words by the outpouring of support from my local Methodist church community to help augment the funding needed to complete the projects.

It has been an enriching journey; making disciples, providing safe environments and improving the lives of the little ones in the community. The journey continues ....

The next refurbishment project



## Mission Today

Gold Unit: Complete at least 16 of the criteria, 10 of which must be marked with a star.

Silver Unit: complete at least 8 of the criteria, 4 of which must be marked with a star.



## Mission u

**Plans are in the works for Mission u starting July 29. Updates will be forthcoming to see if we can meet via zoom or in person. We will let you know more as it comes available.** The meeting is projecting to be July 29-31. Studies will be Finding Peace in an Anxious World and Pushout: Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools. The youth study will be Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence and the Children's study will be Responding to Violence.

## A MESSAGE OF HOPE

### UMW Alive and Well

UMW is alive and well from local to the Conference level and beyond! Local units are keeping in touch via phone, emails, snail mail and ZOOM. (If you haven't tried Zoom for meetings, check with your pastor to see if you can use the Zoom link used for Sunday services for your monthly UMW meetings.)

We are all using new ways in this time of Covid to carry out our purpose. Especially important is the part of being a "creative supportive fellowship." Use whatever form of communication works for you to care for your UMW sisters. Illness and required moves have created a challenge for our district team but we will all continue to carry on our important work. May God bless your efforts! Our conference level of UMW continues to hold quarterly Executive meetings. They recently held a Spiritual Growth Retreat with nearly 100 registering. Mission is in the works with training for class teachers scheduled to take place. Plans for the Conference Annual Meeting are taking shape with our keynote speaker confirmed and leaders for workshops lined up. The topics will range Child Advocacy and Immigration to the Environment. Stay tuned for upcoming details. We all have important work to do for women, children and youth.

UMW Conference Team Member

## SOCIAL ACTION

Dear UMW Sisters,

I hope you are all faring well, and enjoying these longer days of spring. I am interested in what the women (and men) in your local church are doing to help, or combat problems in your local community.

Even though my local Arlington United Church does not have a UMW :( —women are caring for those needing help—whether for transportation, getting food, assistance in cleaning or maintaining their apartment or home, staying in contact via phone or email or sending cards. Those that knit or do quilting continue to provide scarves, hot pads, baby items,

blankets, etc. A fun activity our folks did was to write notes and sign 350 Christmas cards which were taken to two of our senior housing facilities and to the Rehab Center, along with Christmas candy, then 8-10 of us sang Christmas carols outside the windows of the residents. For Easter, a similar group delivered plastic Easter Eggs and sang "Easter Carols!" at one place, then serenaded women attending an "Easter Tea" at a retirement center.

We all have become increasingly aware of the seriousness of so many critical issues affecting life, our environment, and our world. Networking with Faith Action Network is an ecumenical way to be learning about important actions being discussed and voted upon in our state legislature. We can help make a difference by listening and discussing with other about concerns, sharing our opinions, and getting involved at whatever level you are willing. Please go to [fan@fanwa.org](mailto:fan@fanwa.org) to read more about issues FAN is promoting. Together, people can make a difference, and you're invited to see what's happening. Please consider registering for the FAN 2021 Spring Summits! I'll be curious to know who all does, if you'll let me know!

I pray that you stay healthy, happy, and feel God's peace!

Jeannine "Jeannie" Lish, PSD Social Action Coordinator, [Jeanninelish@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanninelish@gmail.com)



*Join us for one of our 2021 Spring Summits! You can choose between Sundays, May 23 or June 6 from 2-4 PM. We'll gather from across the state to celebrate FAN wins in the legislative session and plan for the year ahead. There will be breakout groups by region and issue topic. See you at the Summit!*

## A BOOK STUDY

### Let Our Children Learn: A UMW Virtual Bible Study on Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Thursdays 3-4:30PM PT

May 20, May 27, June 3, and June 10

To Register:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vcOispzwtGdfoRKaSO\\_pwfAUJtgpDZuIP](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vcOispzwtGdfoRKaSO_pwfAUJtgpDZuIP)

You are invited to join United Methodist Women members and friends for a four-part Bible study on the sacred place of children and youth in God's eyes, antiracism and interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline.

What can I expect? This study includes four 90-minute sessions:

**Embracing New Life** (Colossians 3:1-17; Romans 12:1-2)

**Embracing the Gifts and Leadership of Children** (Acts 16:16-19, Matthew 19:13-15, Luke 2:39-52, Jeremiah 31:15-17 and Matthew 2:16-18)

**Reimagining the Role of Women in Society** (Numbers 27:1-8, Matthew 15:21-28 and Luke 18:1-8)

**Unfamiliar Identities: Embodying New Possibilities for Interaction with All Women** (Luke 15 + Ephesians 6:10-17)

Each session will build on the previous session. We encourage you to register for and attend all sessions.

We believe that God is presently active in the world. The Bible is not just a story we read about the past; rather, the Bible points to a Gospel story that is alive and at work in the present, as well. God seeks justice and liberation for all people. God's love flows freely towards children and youth. The school-to-prison pipeline is contrary to God's vision for creation.

A variety of gifts are needed in the work of interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. Just as there are many parts to the body and many varieties of spiritual gifts, so there are many ways of being an "interrupter."

## NOMINATIONS

The past year has been a challenge for everyone and all groups. United Methodist Women's organization is no exception. Some groups have met the challenge

better than others. We are now ready and anxious to put faith, hope and love in action when we are given the go forward sign.

We can expand our action by working through the local, the District, the Conference, and National United Methodist Women's organization. Expression of that strong faith is shown through commitment and action working toward the Purpose of United Methodist Women.

The UMW District Team in the Puget Sound Missional District are willing and ready to work in action toward mission support of all Units. The vacancies for opportunities to work with the District team are as listed here: Secretary, Spiritual Growth, Social Action, Membership, Nurture and Outreach, Program Resources, Nominations Chair, and Nominations Members.

All women of past leadership teams can join the present team by the following way; She has completed her eight years of service, and after four years have elapsed, she may be elected for one additional term of two years in a different office.

Please ask women in units to consider giving their experience in UMW and be part of the District team. Contact me with names of interested women. I look forward to the joy we will feel when we can once again be together.

Joanne Hall, Nomination Chair  
Puget Sound Missional District  
[djhall2@hotmail.com](mailto:djhall2@hotmail.com) 425-870-6297

### YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Joanne Hall  
[djhall2@hotmail.com](mailto:djhall2@hotmail.com)  
Sue Monty  
[sue1701a@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sue1701a@sbcglobal.net)  
Jeannine Lish  
[jeanninelish@gmail.com](mailto:jeanninelish@gmail.com)



*Contact us if you have any interest.*



## A Thriving Organization

I spend a lot of time thinking about the women who have made up my *supportive community* in and beyond my local UMW unit. Some are still active and others have passed on. For them I am thankful, because each one uniquely modeled a steadfastness that proved their belief in our mission.

They kept the organization thriving by showing up and doing their work as officers and members. They studied, prayed and interpreted the mission to others. (More often than not, they simultaneously served in important lay leadership roles in their respective churches.)

This month UM News paid tribute to Joyce D. Sohl, former deputy general secretary of United Methodist Women.

[www.umnews.org/en/news/celebrating-a-trailblazer-for-womens-ministries](http://www.umnews.org/en/news/celebrating-a-trailblazer-for-womens-ministries)

Here is an excerpt:

*"Joyce tells it like it is," said deaconess Garlinda Burton, interim top executive of the Commission on Religion and Race, "and she never misses an opportunity to remind church women how much power God has given us and of our call to use that power."*

*Burton recalled a presentation when Sohl talked about how much United Methodist Women contribute to mission and ministries of empowerment and holy self-determination for women and girls.*

*"She said, 'Our resources are changing lives around the world. We are a movement, not just a women's club!'"*

*"That's always stuck with me," Burton continued. "Every time I see Joyce, I think, 'I'm part of a doggone movement that is already transforming the world' and it causes me to stand taller and do more to please God!"*

Please contact a member of your Puget Sound District committee on nominations to talk about how you might serve the district team or suggest other women who may be interested in our mission.

Gratefully, Rosanna Yates-Bailey PNW UMW member, Committee on nominations,



## Staying in Touch

### THE SHARING LINE

*The newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Conference United Methodist Women is*

## The Growing Edge:

**THE GROWING EDGE is a digital Newsletter of the Puget Sound Missional District United Methodist Women and is produced three times per year. It is distributed in PDF format by email.**

### Copies sent via email to:

- ❖ Local UMW Officers
- ❖ District UMW Officers
- ❖ Conference UMW Officers
- ❖ District Communications Coordinator
- ❖ District Local Church Pastors
- ❖ District Superintendent

LIKE US on our Facebook Page  
*"Pacific Northwest Conference of United Methodist Women"*



## *A Note from the Editor*

Communication could be more important now than ever. The need for us to stay in touch is very important in the middle of pandemic. I am looking forward to the day we can all meet again, vaccinated and safe. My UMW group in Edmonds has stayed in touch over the past few months via zoom our church hosted. We did weekly “check in sessions” so we could see each other and tell each other how we were doing. I usually led the group in some video or story or topic of the day. But, most of all, we checked in with each other. Now I am doing weekly emails to my group and asking for feedback. In May, we hope to meet in a park, bring a lunch, and get to see each other in person. For our District Churches, we are finalizing the District Directory and hope to send it out electronically soon. You can print, or just download. We want to keep you all in the loop as we move forward. Please stay in touch. We need our friends, our sisters in Christ, and most of all we need to work together. I have shared my new email in this issue. If you need anything, please reach out. I encourage you to work with me to share your plans, events, and successes. Please note, the calendar is filling up again, with hopes of in-person events.

*Gay Johnson, Communications Coordinator,*

New email: [gajedmonds1325@yahoo.com](mailto:gajedmonds1325@yahoo.com)



**Mark your calendars now for upcoming events**

Making Plans for the Future 2021 PNW UMW Conference Calendar		
6/10/2021	UMC Annual Conference 6/10-13	TBD
7/28/2021	Summer Conf. UMW Exec Meeting 7/28-29	Selah UMC, Selah, WA
7/29/2021	Mission u 7/29-8/1	Wesley UMC, Yahima, WA
September	Puget Sound Missional District	TBD
September	Crest to Coast Missional District	TBD
9/18/2021	Inland Missional District Annual Mtg.	Spokane Valley UMC , Spokane, WA
9/18/2021	Seven Rivers Missional District Annual Meeting	Chelan, WA
9/25/2021	SeaTac Missional District Annual Meeting	TBD
10/14/2021	Fall Conference UMW Exec Meeting 10/14-15	TBD
10/15/2021	Conference UMW Annual Meeting 10/15-16	Bothell UMC, Bothell, WA
5/20/2022`	Assembly 5/20-22	Orlando, FL
2024	Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Mtg	TBD