



Vol 37 Issue 2

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The Growing Edge

Puget Sound Missional District
United Methodist Women

November 2021

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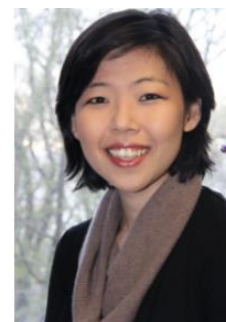
A President's Perspective

Arlene Feroe, Puget Sound Missional District President

In October, I attended (via zoom) the UMW Conference meeting. It was a lovely meeting and it was nice to see some familiar faces. The topic was All Things Bright and Beautiful and the keynote speaker was Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee, Connectional Officer and National United Methodist Women. Her mother and grandmother were United Methodist Women and taught her to give back. She basically made her life's work based on growing up in an active church and learning from leadership of an active UMW family. Her studies have led her to follow her passions. It was a great presentation. I hope you did not miss it.

My Bellingham church (Garden Street Methodist) is being sold due to disrepair and no funds. We are looking for a new building.

I thank all the district board members for their willingness to stay on for another year in their current roles. We will continue to look for new members to fill some empty spots.



Elizabeth Chun Hye (Liz) Lee lives in Queens, New York, and is the Climate Justice Lead and Executive for Economic and Environmental Justice at United Methodist Women (UMW), a national organization for women that nurtures spiritual growth, develops strong leaders, and promotes justice. Her primary area of work is advancing climate justice with members, church, and society, through trainings, program development, partnerships, corporate engagement, advocacy, and solidarity. Her approach to climate justice is through gender, human rights, and theological analyses.

We have attached the Conference calendar to this newsletter and we are making plans for the future and we hope some events can be in person. Please take a look at the calendar.

Have a wonderful holiday season. I hope there are times you can be with family and friends. We look forward to better days ahead and a time to meet in person with all of you. We are making plans for next year.

Arlene Feroe, President of Puget Sound Missional District

OUR VICE PRESIDENT
Jasmine Ray-Symms

I remember when COVID first started, and things were first shut down, we were so hopeful. "This won't last long" we told ourselves, but it did last – longer than most of us could have imagined. Our church building closed and our UMW meetings were postponed. Our local UMW membership skews much older so Zoom wasn't a popular option. So, we waited, and waited, and waited, and my heart grew sadder, and sadder, and sadder.

Finally, as our local UMW President, I decided to go ahead and resume meetings now that we have a reopening plan in place. So, this past month we had our first meeting back via Zoom with a plan to offer a hybrid version once the church opens to gatherings and not just worship. We're hoping the in-person gathering will bring back our faithful but less tech-savvy women while the Zoom option will include those still uneasy of COVID transmission.

Our first Zoom meeting back was small – just 4 of us – but we all agreed it was wonderful to gather together as United Methodist Women. The future is still uncertain, but I finally feel, after all these months, we are actually moving in the right direction. I hope you all are doing well and rejoice that despite what the last 2 years have brought, we have all grown in knowledge, increased our patience, and realized the blessings we took for granted before and cherish now.

I miss the hugs, the fellowship, and the joy of being in each other's presence but when things finally get back to normal – whatever that looks like – I can't wait to spend time with all my sisters in faith.

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PROGRAM RESOURCES

Hi Ladies:

Hope this message finds everyone "safe and well" during this upsurge of the Delta variant. The new reading season is upon us and I wanted to provide you with an updated Reading Program Guide that has the book summaries for the "34" new book titles that have been added to the list. The link to all 2021-2022 books is [Reading Program Catalog 2021-2022 \(fliphtml5.com\)](http://fliphtml5.com)

Check pages 52 through 64 for the book summaries for the new book titles for 2022. One of the new books in the Leadership Development category is Michelle Obama's "Becoming."

If you have been looking for some novels to read, four novels have been added to the list for 2022. The titles are "Before We Were Yours," "The House on Lowell Street," "The Leavers," and "Small Great Things."

There is a letter from Andris Salter, UMW Operation Officer at the beginning of the Guide. In her letter, she mentions that "Faith Talk podcasts can now be counted in the category of Spiritual Growth. You must participate or listen to two Faith Talks podcasts. *If you participate/listen to three, it will be counted as a Bonus Book in the Spiritual Growth category.*

There are "3" movies and documentaries that count toward the Reading Program. The three movies are

- Just Mercy
- The Hate U Give
- Pushout

There are four 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."

Mission u studies also count as Bonus Books.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at naomifoote@hotmail.com or by telephone at 360-336-3502. Take care and hope you find many enjoyable books to read in the months ahead.

Puget Sound Missional District is pleased to announce that the following ladies were awarded certificates for completion of either Plan 1 (Read 5 books), Plan 2 (Read 10 books), or Plan 4 (Read 20 books) of the 2021 UMW Reading Program.

Plan 1: (5 books)

Fae McLean (Bothell UMC)
Janet Church (Cedar Cross UMC)
Naomi Foote (Mount Vernon First UMC)
Judy Kruger (Sedro Woolley Central UMC)
Sharon McDaniel (Sedro Woolley Central UMC)
Thyrza Melsby (Sedro Woolley Central UMC)

Plan 2: (10 books)

Carol Russell (Bothell UMC)
Kendra Smith (Bothell UMC)

Plan 4: (20 books)

Kathleen Flower (Coupeville UMC)
Jan Martin (Coupeville UMC)
Teresa Wharton (Stanwood UMC)

There were eleven Plan Readers in 2021. In addition, there were 14 readers who read anywhere from one book to four books. A total of 163 books were read this past year. The District would like to Thank All the participants in the Reading Program.

I always learn something new in every book that I read from the Reading Program.

Total books read this past year were 163 (amazing) and total readers were 25. We encourage all of you ladies to check out the new reading list and take up to reading. Keep a list of your books and you can receive a certificate next year.

Naomi Foote
Program Resources Secretary

Books, books, books

We encourage you to reach out to other churches to find some of the books on the list if you cannot find them at the local library. We realize you do not all have access to electronic versions of the books, so we are still reading real books. Each of our churches have purchased different books from the list and we are sure, if asked, they would share. Most of our local churches in the district are up and down I-5 Corridor. It is not hard to believe that we are within an hour of each other and willing to reach out and share, meet, and exchange our favorite books.

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 22. 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 projected to be July 22-24, 2022.

"Mission u" is the primary mission education event for the Conference. The event provides opportunities for everyone: women, men, pastors, families, youth, and children to grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context as well initiate opportunities for spiritual and educational experiences. For participants, Mission u is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society with particular attention to the responsibilities of women in fulfilling the mission work of the church. Conference events are open to members and non-members of United Methodist Women who wish to grow in mission understanding of the church in the current world context. Come, enjoy this learning opportunity.

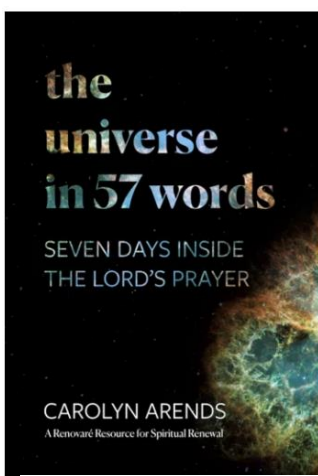
SOCIAL ACTION

Greetings my Sisters in Christ —

Whether you're currently part of a local UMW Unit or not, Covid-19 restrictions continue to thwart many of our hopes/plans to get back together in our social groups for study or action.

At Arlington United, we are welcoming folks to in-person worship as we wear nose/mouth face coverings and are socially distancing, then gathering outside under large umbrellas for

coffee, tea, and homemade cinnamon rolls as we visit. Our women's weekly Bible Study has finally resumed, involving 7-12 ladies so far. We're studying Carolyn Arends' 2021 *"The Universe in 57 Words; Seven Days Inside the Lord's Prayer."* It's a "WOW!"



Lanny and I enjoyed a week's vacation the end of Oct.—first time in the Tucson, AZ, region. Learned a lot of history, was introduced to Martha Summerhayes *"Vanished Arizona:"*

Recollections of the Army Life of a New England Woman" living in the late 1800's, first printed in 1908.

We visited *Tubac's Presidio State Historic Park*, where an oil painting depicting Martha's first birth, when native Apache women brought gifts and a fawn skin papoose basket embroidered with blue beads for the baby boy.

I also found a copy of Pastor Todd Burpo's 2010 book, *"Heaven is for Real,"* retelling the experiences his almost 4-year old son, Colton, shared about his trip to heaven and back during serious surgery for a ruptured appendix.

Both of these spell-binding books renewed my hope in the goodness of individuals. How can YOU make a difference in someone's life? We start by praying, caring, listening, helping, and reflecting God's love.

Stay safe, happy, healthy, and let me know what's happening in your lives.

Shalom,

Jeannine "Jeannie" Lish
Social Action Coordinator
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A BOOK STUDY

The updated 2021-2022 United Methodist Women Reading Program Guide is available for viewing online at unitedmethodistwomen.org

Many new book titles added in April. For readers looking for novels to read, there are four novels. The novels are "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate, "The House on Lowell Street" by Linda A. Keane, "The Leavers" by Lisa Ko, and "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult.

One of my joys as a reader is the opportunity to travel to new countries from the comfort of my recliner. One of the books from the Reading Program (Education for Mission category) is "A Road Called Down on Both Sides: Growing Up



in Ethiopia and America”
by Caroline Kurtz.

Caroline Kurtz grew up in the remote mountains of Maji, Ethiopia in the 1950s. Inside her mud adobe home with her missionary parents and three sisters, she enjoyed American family life. Outside, her world was

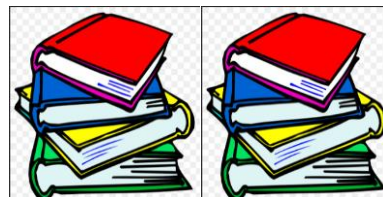
shaped by drums and the joy cry; Jeep and mule treks into the countryside; ostriches on the air strip; and the crackle of several Ethiopian languages she barely understood but longed to learn.

Caroline felt she’d been exiled to a foreign country when she went to Illinois for college. She returned to Ethiopia to teach, only to discover how complex working in another culture and language really is Life under a Communist dictatorship meant constant outages – water, electricity, sugar, even toilet paper. But she was willing to do anything, no matter how hard to live in Ethiopia again. Yet the chaos only increased – guerillas marched down from the north, their t-shirts crisscrossed by Kalashnikov bandoliers.

When peace returned, Caroline got the chance she’d longed for, to revisit that beloved childhood home in Maji. But maybe it would have been better just to treasure the memories. [from OCLC World Cat summary]

This book can be found at Everett Public Library, University of Washington Libraries, or Seattle Public Library. 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.

Naomi Foote
Program Resources Secretary
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YOUR NOMINATION COMMITTEE.
PLEASE CONTACT ANY ON THIS LIST FOR
A DISTRICT POSITION.

Joanne Hall
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Jeannine Lish
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Jean Burroughs
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burridjm@yahoo.com

Open spots in Puget Sound Missional District Team

Secretary	Open
Spiritual Growth	Open
Membership, Nurture, and Outreach	Open
Nominations member	Open



A Message from Coupeville UMW

November 2019 was the last time that the congregation was able to gather and celebrate those who had died in the previous year. Since then, 20 members and friends of Coupeville UMC have passed away. Often, we were unable to gather for memorial services for them. Members of the sewing circle have created a quilt to honor these beloved people. Their

names are embroidered on quilt blocks. On alternate blocks we appliqued colorful face masks as a reminder of this time of pandemic.

Kathleen Anderson

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Kathleen Anderson on September 22. She was an active member of Coupeville United Methodist Church for more than 60 years, serving as organist for more than 50 years and as treasurer for many years. Most especially, Kathleen served as UMW president for 17 years. She led meetings, planned the bazaar and the spring luncheon, and carried the organization with wisdom and grace. There are - so many wonderful memories of her leadership, including UMW Christmas meetings at her beautifully decorated home. Well done, good and faithful servant.

We are meeting monthly, masked and socially distanced. We have been considering how the beatitudes speak to our lives today and planning for the Christmas Bazaar which will be held on December 4. Although we miss Kathleen's wisdom and guidance, our continuation following her death is our way of continuing her heritage of leadership of Coupeville UMW.

All Saints' Day Memorial Quilt



UMW of Trinity United Methodist Church —Port Townsend

Trinity United Methodist Church has been in Port Townsend for 150 years. It has a deep and varied history of community activity and support, enriching the lives of so many in our part of the Olympic Peninsula. The United Methodist Women of Trinity have been actively involved in the community for a long time. We continue that tradition.

Our pre-COVID scenario was to have monthly luncheon meetings at which we enjoyed fellowship, conducted our business, and had an informative and inspiring speaker from the community. The speakers were mostly from one of the area nonprofit organizations providing services in our county. Other times, we had speakers who had a meaningful message to share regarding things such as mission trips or navigating terminal illness. These presentations have helped us remain involved, informed and growing as a group and as individuals. We also continue to make donations to district and national UMC humanitarian work as well.

Though COVID threw us a curve ball, we have continued to remain involved in the community. Even though we are not able to meet for our

luncheons, the UMW officers continue to meet monthly to dream about the future, discuss business, and select a nonprofit for our monthly donation as well as discuss UMC work in our country regarding natural disasters. We stay in touch with the women of Trinity through emails and through our articles in the monthly church newsletter. We look forward to the time (hopefully in the not-too-distant future) when we can gather and share a meal, our hearts, and honor the work going on in our community and globally.

Thanks!
Nancy Stevens
Trinity UMW President

Pacific Northwest Conference Annual Meeting
Thursday – Sunday
June 9 – 12 2022
PUYALLUP FAIR GROUNDS

Contact Ann Conklin aconklin@pnwumc.org who oversees the Mission Ministries area. This is an online form usually available several months ahead, which you can do/request for both quilts (4 tables or more, if allowed) and UMW (at least 2 tables). **Pnwumc.org**

What to bring: tablecloths for two tables (there is a Legacy tablecloth that would work for one). Many downloads on **unitedmethodistwomen.org** or free stuff and handouts from **umwmissionresources.org**

A bowl of candy, lifesavers, whatever you feel like offering those visiting or passersby. It will probably need refilling.

Tri-folds –

1. information about UMW (Response magazine, Assembly, Jurisdiction, pictures of activities or Conference team, whatever else might grab their attention. Will the LOVE RIBBON CARDS & GIFT TO MISSION CARDS be offered for sale?

2. Legacy is still important, and we have pictures of 60 units on a flash drive (ask me), also, there are lots of stories to share on that trifold.
3. The Reading Program trifold with handouts available (25 or more). Some information about our reading club or suggestions about books and how to get them (including Mission u books 😊) would be great.
4. Education for Mission trifold with what we do Nationally Internationally, State and local. Handouts of the four priorities, which can be downloaded from the National website and copies made. Also, copies of the Mission Today brochure.

This information is “also” for Mission u. People like to browse in the Resource Room.

Blessings, Marsha

Staying in Touch



Let us know if you change officers, change membership, change contact information, or there is a change in church leadership. We are now tracking the membership in 31 churches in our district. We should reach out every year just to update the directory, but we hope you will also let us know when you have new leadership in your units.

Every Unit, Every Church, please contact me, if there are changes in unit officers.

Gay Johnson
Puget Sound Missional District
Communications Coordinator

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

**Mark your calendars now
for upcoming events**



A Note from the Editor

Sisters Together

This year, we are trying to rebuild our friendships, our connections, and our Directory Listings. A pandemic has changed so much, especially meeting face-to-face and our connection to the mission work of UMW. But, I am not giving up. I know it takes us all to keep it going. We are holding on to our special assignment to help others, especially women and children, and the many youth. In my church in Edmonds, we have a focus on social justice, racial justice, and we support these special groups. The Edmonds UMW is now supporting refugee families coming to Edmonds to have a safe place to land. I worry that many of our church circles in the District are struggling to keep attendance and build on the history of UMW. I have built up UMW from 5 people in 2015 to 15 people in 2019, but there are no meetings, the church has been open, then closed, then open, then closed again. This week, our church opens again. Nothing is the way it was. But, we hold on. I am reaching out with emails, zoom meet and greets, and messages that say we are going to plan for the future. We will see how it goes. I want you all to know we are in this together and we have each other if we need help, advice, and fellowship. So, as a final piece here, please send me an email about your group, your officers, and your plans if any. I am updating the District Directory and you will receive a copy after I obtain all the updates

Gay Johnson,
Communications Coordinator,
gajedmonds1325@yahoo.com



2022 PNW UMW Conference Calendar

January 2022	Winter Conference UMW Exec Meeting	Zoom
January 2022	Conference Leadership Dev. Days	Zoom
TBD	Eastern Washington Legislative Conf.	TBD
February 6, 2022	Idaho Legislative Event #1	Zoom, 6:00 pm PST 7:00 pm MST
February 13, 2022	Idaho Legislative Event #2	Zoom, 6:00 pm PST 7:00 pm MST
February 2022	Washington Interfaith Advocacy Day	Olympia, WA
March 2022	Spring Conference UMW Exec Meeting	TBD
May 20-22, 2022	Assembly	Orlando, FL
June 9-12, 2022	UMC Greater NW Shared Annual Conf.	WA State Fairgrounds Puyallup, WA
July 2022	Summer Conference UMW Exec Meeting	TBD
July 21-24, 2022	Mission u	TBD
September 2022	Puget Sound Missional District Annual Meeting	TBD
September 2022	Inland Missional District Annual Mtg	TBD
September 17, 2022	Seven Rivers Missional District Annual Mtg	TBD
September 2022	Crest to Coast Missional District Annual Meeting	TBD
September 2022	SeaTac Missional District Annual Meeting	TBD
October 2022	Fall Conference UMW Exec Meeting	TBD
October 2022	Conf. UMW Annual Meeting	TBD
2024	Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Mtg.	TBD

Puget Sound Missional District Women We have Lost 2020-21

Marysville United Methodist Women	May Merret
	Nancy Conroy
	Joanne Thorelfson
Bellingham Garden Street United Methodist Women	Helen Baker
	Carroll Sandeen
	Sara Lee Reeck
Cedar Cross United Methodist Women	Elise Makemson
Coupeville United Methodist Women	Kathleen Anderson
Edmonds United Methodist Women	Donna Lane Lorraine Kippola Normagene Gavin
Lynden United Methodist Women	Noriko Lao
Mt Vernon United Methodist Women	Sue Monty