



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

# Williamsport District Newsletter

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## *Message from our co-presidents*

Dear United Methodist Women members,

Spring is finally here. Leeks are popping up in the northern part of the district and crocus are showing their pretty blooms in the southern part.

We have attended the three Spiritual Enrichment Days held in the district. It was good getting to meet some of you. See reports elsewhere in Newsletter.

Summer is around the corner. Mission u will be held in July at Bucknell University, with express days at the University and in Harrisburg.

Mark your calendars for District Annual Day on September 29 at the Beacon in Hughesville.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact one of us.

*Polly Walker & Kay Rhinehart, CoPresidents*

## *Purpose*

*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. 1.*

May 2018

# Williamsport District Annual Day

Saturday, September 29, 2018 – 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
The Beacon UMC, 148 S. Main St., Hughesville

## “Strong and Courageous: Building on the Legacy”

**Guest Speaker – Kyla M. Harvey**  
Executive Director of Neighborhood Center, Harrisburg

There will be lots to celebrate as we gather in Hughesville for District Annual Day, September 29! We will celebrate strong and courageous women of the past, who have passed on a legacy of being in mission with women, children and youth for 150 years, and we will honor our connection with the national mission institution in Harrisburg, Neighborhood Center, founded in 1910. We will recognize former district presidents of United Methodist Women, and highlight the strong and courageous women of the Williamsport District who are building on the legacy with mission work today.

Our special guest will be Kyla M. Harvey, who was hired as the Executive Director of Neighborhood Center just a year and a half ago. She is excited to come and share with us some of the new programs and changes taking place at the Center.

Mark your calendars now, and look for more details coming in the months ahead.

*“Be strong and  
courageous;  
do not be frightened  
or dismayed,  
for the Lord your God  
is with you  
wherever you go.”  
- Joshua 1:9*



The founders of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. Seated left to right Mrs. Thomas A. Rich, Mrs. Edwin W. Parker, Mrs. William Butler, Mrs. Lewis Flanders. Standing, left to right: Mrs. Thomas Kingsbury, Mrs. William B. Merrill. Not present in the photo: Mrs. H.J. Stoddard and Mrs. O.T. Taylor.



# A Way Forward

Conference UMW President, Cathy Berkey is stressing the goal of all UMW members becoming knowledgeable in the issue regarding LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, question/queer) inclusion. This is an issue facing the world-wide Methodist church. The Council of Bishops with the



*Photo by Maidstone Mulenga*

Members of the Commission on a Way Forward participate in a letting-go prayer at the end of their four-day meeting at El Segundo United Methodist Church in Los Angeles on Thursday, March 22.

help of the Commission On A Way Forward are working on the proposal to be presented at the special General Conference in February 2019. Kathy Whipple and I are available to lead conversations regarding A Way Forward. If your unit or group would like to learn more please contact us.

Polly Walker & Kathy Whipple

## A Message from our Treasurer

Greetings to the Williamsport District UMW:

I hope that this finds every unit of our UMW busy and productive. We will soon be entering the summer months which usually means a slow down, followed by preparation for a busy fall. Some of you have started to send in your pledges. Keep up the good work. Remember that you are more than welcome to send it in increments as this helps the conference to keep a more consistent working amount.

Keep in mind that when you order Special Mission Recognition pins they may take up to 6-8 weeks to arrive. My payments to conference go in the last week of the month, so that is when they are ordered. If I receive one right after that payment goes in, it will not be ordered until the next month. Usually they arrive anywhere from 2-4 weeks after I order them.

Spiritual Enrichment Days were very well done this year. Congratulations to all the host churches and to those who planned and executed the programs. The total offering being sent to Neighborhood Center is \$589.80. We also have a load of paper products which Kathy Whipple will deliver to the center for us. A job well done. We are looking forward to District Annual Day in the fall. I encourage as many as possible to attend.

A reminder that a unit needs to contribute in five categories in order to be a Five Star Unit. The categories are Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering. We had 14 Five Star Units last year. Let's try to top that number.

I pray for God's blessings and peace to fill your lives each day.

*Helen S. Nace, Treasurer*



## A Note from Helen

Three Spiritual Enrichment Days were held this year at Williamsport, Sweden Valley and New Albany. The program was based on the book *Living as a Covenant Community* by Evy McDonald. This study showed how God works with us, in us and through us. Through covenantal living, we are connected to God, to others and the whole creation. The program presenter for all three events was Karen Barracco of Muncy First UMC. She talked to us about what a covenant is and the five parts of a covenant given by God. The covenant usually includes the promise, the conditions, the symbol, the consequences and the meal. She then asked for audience participation by dividing us into five groups and assigning each group a covenant from the "First Testament." She then gave each group scriptures which described their covenant and asked them to pull out the parts of the covenant that they had and make a report to the whole group. After each report she shared insights that the author of the study had made.

Lastly Karen acknowledged the passage from Jeremiah 31:31 which tells us that we will someday receive a new covenant which will be written on our hearts and will be for all people. God sent Jesus to live among us as God had done with Adam and Eve and gave us this final covenant. As the author of the study concludes, "God sent Jesus to give us a living example of how to be in relationship with each other, with the stranger, with the marginalized, and with ourselves."

Karen certainly did a wonderful job in presenting this program. Thank you, Karen. This is truly a study that every church should do.

Lastly, if your church would like to host a Spiritual Enrichment Day next Spring, please let your cluster leader know.

God's blessings,  
*Helen Keister, Spiritual Growth Coordinator*

## Around the District

A wonderful group of 40 ladies from the East & West Lycoming Districts met at Pine Street UMC Church in Williamsport on Saturday, March 24th.

A delicious buffet breakfast started our morning. The ladies of the Pine Street unit out did themselves with casseroles, fruit and various muffins. Thank you to Pat Wittig for her warm welcome.

The program for the morning was guided by Kathy Whipple with the help of Sharon Gensib, Fran McConnell, Kay Rhinehart, Suzanne Heilman, Carol Kline, and Helen Nace.

Karen Barracco provided an outstanding program on the various covenants in the Bible with participation by everyone present. There were several interesting drawings to reveal the messages of the covenants!

A carload of paper towels was collected as well as \$232.80 for the Neighborhood Center in Harrisburg.





# Around the District

The Potter/Tioga cluster held Spiritual Enrichment Day on April 7 at the Sweden Valley Faith United Methodist Church in Coudersport. We had snow during the night and it was cold and windy but 24 ladies attended.

Karen Barraco presented an excellent program on the covenants. We all came away learning something new.

An offering of \$172.00 was received for the Neighborhood Center. Those attending also brought toilet paper for the center. Lunch was served by the ladies from Sweden Valley. A good time was had by all.

The Bradford Cluster Spiritual Enrichment Day was held on April 12 at the New Albany United Methodist Church with 38 women and one man attending. The program was presented by Karen Barraco, who did a fantastic job of getting everyone participating on the subject of Covenants with God and Living as a Covenant Community.

An offering of \$185.00 was collected for Neighborhood Center, plus several bags of paper products for the center. .

A luncheon of salads was served by the New Albany UMW, which everyone enjoyed very much.

It was a great time of fellowship and meeting new and old friends!



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## Coming Up

All are invited to join the Wellsboro UMW in viewing slides of the Peace Corps, and a presentation, "Living in Vanuatu" by Emily Haanschoten who served in the Peace Corps 2 1/2 years in Vanuatu. The program is Sunday, May 20, 6:00 pm at the United Methodist Church on Main & Queen Sts. in Wellsboro.

Sunday, May 20, 2018,  
6:00 p.m.

United Methodist Church of Wellsboro



### Living in Vanuatu

Emily Haanschoten – 2 ½ years service in  
Peace Corps in South Pacific on Vanuatu

Weather  
Diet  
Homes  
Work  
Monetary System  
Health Facilities  
Schools  
Churches  
Entertainment



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*If you would like to include information about what your UMW unit or cluster is doing in the next newsletter, please have your submissions in by July 23rd to: [jeanecummings@gmail.com](mailto:jeanecummings@gmail.com)*