

THE VOICE OF THE HARPETH RIVER DISTRICT UMW

“SISTERHOOD OF GRACE”

Ready to pack 10,000+ meals. ☺



**Rise**  
AGAINST HUNGER  
food · community · sustainability

June 1 ~ 9:30 a.m. ~ Smyrna First UMC

301 Sam Davis Road, Smyrna 37167

*June 29, 2019*

*Godwin-Chappell UMC*

*1550 Santa Fe Pike, Columbia 38401*

**Table Presidents' Round Table**

*10 am - Noon Local Unit Presidents' Round Table  
Where presidents &/or members get together to share  
ideas for missions, ask questions & enjoy fellowship.*

**Pot Luck**

*Noon - 1 pm*

*Always a Good choice!*

*1 pm - 2 pm*

*District*

*Leadership Team*

*Meeting*



## Calendar of Events

RED = Conference

BLUE = District

July 11-12 (Th.-Fri.)	9:30 a.m.	Mission u	@ St. Mark's UMC
Aug. 3 (Sat.)	9:30 a.m.	Executive Team Meeting	@ Bellevue UMC
Aug. 24 (Sat.)	9:30 a.m.	Mission Study	@ St. Andrew Memorial
		with Brown Bag Lunch	
	2:00 p.m.	Leadership Team Meeting	
Sept. 6-8 (Fri.-Sun.)		Spiritual Life Retreat	@ Beersheba Springs
Sept. 28 (Sat.)	9:00 a.m.	District Annual Meeting	@ Nolensville First
		with Registration 8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	
Oct. 12 (Sat.)		Executive Team Meeting	@ Bellevue UMC
	9:30 a.m.	Conference Annual Meeting	
		with Registration 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.	



### **PURPOSE of the UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

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.

# Sisterhood of Grace - Staying Connected

*“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20 NRSV)*

Wow! We have reached June!!! The year is nearly half gone. Is your sisterhood connected? What are your plans for the summer? Will you meet together, work jointly on an outreach project, do something just for fun? Creatively consider ways to become closer as a group. Stay connected.

Due to unexpected developments, we missed a great opportunity to become informed about the opioid crisis at the Social Action event we had planned in April at Thompson’s Station. That makes me wonder about what happens when we end up with the unexpected. How do we deal with changes in our plans? Let me tell you one thing that happened as a result of those changed plans. The Thompson’s Station women donated the food that was to be provided as refreshments to an agency that cares for the underprivileged and needy. Can I get an “Amen!”? United Methodist Women think outside the box. We can do that better when we work together, become informed, and (yes) stay connected.

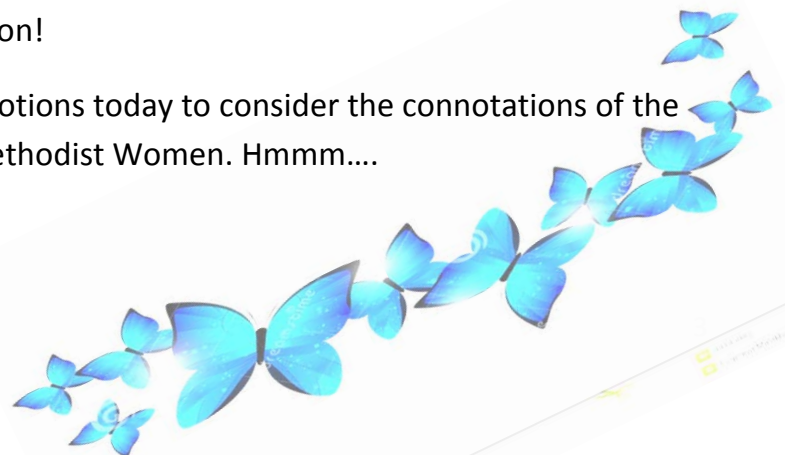
The next district event is all about staying connected. We call it the **Local President’s Roundtable**, and we hope each president will plan to come or send at least one member to this gathering.

Where: Godwin-Chappell United Methodist Church  
1550 Santa Fe Pike, Columbia, TN 38401  
When: Saturday, June 29 at 10:00 a.m.

The district leadership team wants to hear about what is going on in your unit. And, you might hear something another unit is doing that gives you an idea for your own group. We will be looking ahead to plan next year’s district calendar, setting dates and locations, so let us know if your unit will consider hosting an event. The district leadership team will be staying for a business meeting at 1:00 p.m., so you are invited to join us in sharing a covered dish meal after the roundtable. We would love that connection!

In the meantime, take some time in your devotions today to consider the connotations of the Matthew scripture cited above for United Methodist Women. Hmmm....

Your sister in Christ,  
Lois Azar



*I am addicted to reading!! There, I said it!*

*I look forward to the UMW Reading List coming out just like I looked forward to the Sears Wish-Book at Christmas. I have 3 – yes 3 – Kindles. I have one in my purse, one at my bedside and one by my chair. I read anytime I have a few minutes – waiting in line in a fast food drive-thru, waiting for a movie to start if I go alone, before I go to sleep, when my husband has control of the remote, at the doctor's office ... any place I have to wait. When my grandchildren were younger, I would take them to the skating rink and read while watching them!*

*I am always encouraging my UMW unit to participate in the Reading Program. I print the reading list and color code the books that are available in our library and the ones I have on my Kindle, which I can lend to anyone by email. As soon as the new list is available, I will update our list, give everyone a copy and begin looking for books we can add to our library. During the unit meetings, we share recommendations about books we have read.*

*For me personally, I will note on the new list the books I want to read. I keep the list handy so I can mark off the books as I read them.*

*True, not everyone reads as much as I do. But, I truly believe it is possible for everyone to read 5 books in a year – one from each of the categories. Information about the Reading Program can be found on the UMW website:*

*<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram> If you have questions or would like a book recommendation, please email me: [bobbitoombs@att.net](mailto:bobbitoombs@att.net) Please include the name of your unit in your email.*

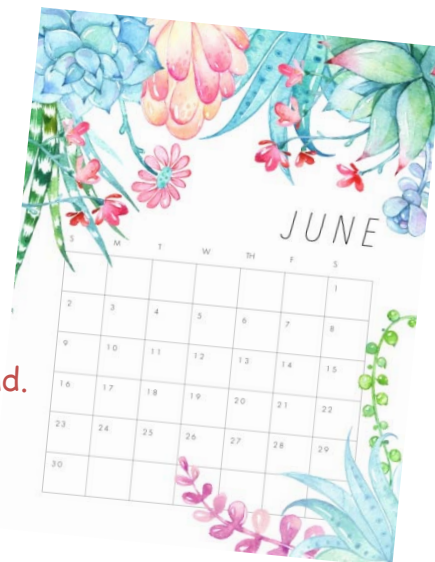
*Grab a book! Reading is a wonderful way to take a break.*

*Bobbi Toombs  
Program Resources*



~ Unit Events ~

What? UMW District Party / Gardening Event  
When? Saturday ~ June 8<sup>th</sup> ~ 4 pm - ?  
Where? Franklin First UMC  
120 Aldersgate Way, Franklin 37069  
Plans? ~ Some light gardening work, if you want.  
~ A nature walk.  
~ Sit back and enjoy The Grateful Bluegrass Band.  
~ A pot luck dinner.  
~ And a lot of fellowship!  
Questions? Contact Mary Ann McGinley 865.789.5600  
[mcginleymaryann@gmail.com](mailto:mcginleymaryann@gmail.com)



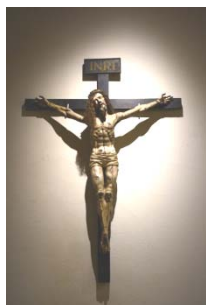
During the Nolensville First UMW May meeting, Karen Hoffmeister presented the program: “Cross.” She had pictures of 14 crosses and explained their symbolism. Over the next few months, I will be sharing excerpts from her program. I hope you will find this as interesting as I did. Janet Pierce

The cross is one of the earliest and most widely used Christian symbols. In the broadest sense, a cross symbolizes the religion of Christianity. More specifically, it represents and memorializes Christ’s death. There are a variety of crosses, some with specific symbolic meaning and others that have simply become culturally associated with certain groups.

Of course, the cross--two bars which intersect one another at right angles—is an ancient symbol found in many cultures predating the Christian religion. In Christianity, there are several forms, each with a variety of meanings. Here are some of the crosses used in Christianity and their meanings.



The simplest and most common Christian cross is the **Latin cross**, also known as the *Crux immissa*, consisting of a long staff crossed near the top with a shorter bar. At its base, it is a visual symbol of Christ, signifying the type of execution that the leader suffered: crucifixion.



The **Empty Cross**, a type of Latin cross usually favored by Protestants, reminds Christians of the resurrection. The **crucifix**, with variously carved or elaborated depictions of the body of Jesus on it and favored by Catholic and Orthodox churches, is a reminder of Christ’s sacrifice.





~ Unit News ~

### Bethesda UMW

From the April meeting:

We were tying love blankets and Praying over them, as well as enjoying the fellowship with one another.



### Centerville UMW

With the retirement of our Pastor Eddie Smotherman, the UMW wanted to honor his lovely wife Kay Smotherman. Kay has been an inspiration to us all and a force within our church during their tenure here.



The idea of a cake auction fundraiser came up and took flight as "*Kakes for Kay*". Slices were sold individually and whole cakes were sold by silent auction. All the money raised was given to Kay as a love offering to feather her new retirement nest.

Brother Eddie served two local churches and both of our churches came out to celebrate Kay by baking and buying cakes. We put the FUN in fundraiser!!

Kay was presented the love offering in a decorative cake stand keepsake from her UMW Sisters.





### **Prospect UMW**

The end result of lots of pressing, coordinating, pinning and laughter! **50** dresses to go with the mission team headed up by Sara & Tom Matthews.

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### **The 3-Legged Stool**

**How to**

**Fulfill**

**Our Mission**



- (1) Head ... to Know God.
- (2) Heart ... to Love God
- (3) Hands ... to Serve God.

- Bro. Eddie Smotherman

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### **Nolensville First UMW**

From the April meeting:

“Flowers of Easter” was the program presented by Barbara Belden and Tressa Tuck.

While making an arrangement, Barbara explained what each flower represented.

Tressa told the history of the Easter lily and how it became a part of the Easter celebration.

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### **THE VISION of the UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Turning faith, hope and love into action  
on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

## Thompson's Station UMW

The ladies of the Thompson's Station UMW groups would like to invite you to join them in supporting the **Women Arise** campaign, which originated in the Republic of Congo.

Esther is the symbol of **Women Arise**. The campaign helps women claim the fullness of their identity in God: beloved and able; fierce and bold; from different places, yet from one tribe—humanity. The artist proclaimed, "Esther changed the minds of men and saved lives." Her colors are purple, which symbolizes transformation, and red, symbolizing determination. The **Women Arise** team is producing "Esther fabric" to help empower women and to generate income for the Mama Lynn Center.

The Thompson's Station UMW organized a fundraiser by making and selling fried pies. We encourage you to organize your own fundraiser as a mission project to help the women in the Congo area.

Rev. Neelley Hicks heads up the **Women Arise** for the Tennessee Annual Conference through Harper Hill Global. The mission of Harper Hill Global empowers the human spirit through media, messaging and mobile solutions aimed at improving the lives and relieving human suffering. Learn more about **Women Arise** by visiting the corresponding links:

**Women Arise** – <http://www.congowomenarise.org/en/home/>

Mama Lynn Center – <http://www.comgowomenarise.org/mama/lynn-center/>

TNUMC.org – <https://www.tnumc.org/2018/08/08/giving-hope-to-the-hopeless-the-mama-lynn-center-for-congolese-women/>

Harper Hill Global

48838 Old Hickory Blvd.

Nashville 37218

629.777.6412



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## HELPFUL RESOURCES

Harpeth River District UMW: [hrumw.weebly.com](http://hrumw.weebly.com)

Tennessee Conference UMW: [tnumw.org](http://tnumw.org)

National UMW: [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org)

United Methodist Women Online: [umwonline.org](http://umwonline.org)

Program Resources: [umwmissionresources.org](http://umwmissionresources.org)



## 2019 OFFICERS FOR THE HARPETH RIVER DISTRICT

President	Lois Azar	Riverside	<a href="mailto:loisazar@bellsouth.net">loisazar@bellsouth.net</a>
Vice President	Martha Butler	Waynesboro	<a href="mailto:mabutler101@gmail.com">mabutler101@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Jennifer Scoble	Franklin 1 <sup>st</sup>	<a href="mailto:jenniferscoble58@gmail.com">jenniferscoble58@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Debbie Miller	Franklin 1 <sup>st</sup>	<a href="mailto:debbie.miller718@gmail.com">debbie.miller718@gmail.com</a>
E & I Coordinator	Patsy Elliot	Nolensville 1st	<a href="mailto:pelliottquilter@comcast.net">pelliottquilter@comcast.net</a>
MNO Coordinator	Vacant		
Social Action Coordinator	Ursula Grimes	Thompson's Station	<a href="mailto:ursulagrimes1938@gmail.com">ursulagrimes1938@gmail.com</a>
Program Resources	Bobbi Toombs	Nolensville 1st	<a href="mailto:bobbitoombs@att.net">bobbitoombs@att.net</a>
Communications Coordinator	Janet Pierce	Centerville	<a href="mailto:pdj1169@gmail.com">pdj1169@gmail.com</a>
Spiritual Growth	Marcia Woodcock	Nolensville 1st	<a href="mailto:marcbrownsk@att.net">marcbrownsk@att.net</a>
Nominations Chair	Kate Howard	Nolensville 1st	<a href="mailto:katehoward01@gmail.com">katehoward01@gmail.com</a>



*GRACE is...*



- \* *Undeserved Love*
- \* *Unconditional Love*
- \* *Unending Love*
- \* *Unselfish Love*



*- Bro. Eddie Smotherman*

Do you have the following dates marked on your calendar?

**#1 Mission u**

**July 11, 12 & 13**

Registration: Thursday 9 am – 10:30 am  
Registration form is available on the website.  
Late fee after June 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Room not guaranteed after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

265 W. Thompson Lane  
Murfreesboro 37129  
615.893.1322

Spiritual Growth

*Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship* by Janet Wolf

Leaders: Rev. Loyd Mabry and Mari Davis  
A study in Spanish led by Rev. Myriam Cortes

Geographic Study

*Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission* by Ellen Blue  
Leader: Aquilla Lillard

2018-2019 Adult Issue Study

*What About Our Money? A Faith Response* by Susan K. Taylor  
Leader: Peggy Owen

Youth Study

*Who Do You Say That I Am? Meeting Jesus Through the Eyes of Mark* by Carolyn Poling  
Leader: Margaret Fisher

Children's Mission Study

*Marked: A Mission Journey with Jesus in the Gospel of Mark* by Rita Hays  
Leader: LaSonia Scanting

**#2 Spiritual Life Retreat**

**September 6, 7 and 8**

Registration form will be available in July  
Beersheba Springs  
Study Book: *24/6; Observing the Sabbath* by Matthew Sleeth, MD

**#3 Scarritt Bennett Center Mission Study**

**September 14, 2019**

9 am – 3:30 pm  
Registration: [www.scarrittbennett.org](http://www.scarrittbennett.org)

Scarritt Bennett Center  
1027 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Nashville 37212  
*Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission*  
Leader: Sandy Wilder

**#4 2019 Tennessee Conference UMW**

**Annual Meeting**

**October 12, 2019**

Registration 8:30 / Meeting 9:30  
Bellevue UMC  
Nashville  
Guest Speaker: Garlinda Burton  
The Nashville Freedom School Partnership



A Big Thank You to the units that were able to submit articles &/or pictures for the June Newsletter! Be sure to check out the website: [hrumw.weebly.com](http://hrumw.weebly.com) Take a look at the Photo Gallery under "Happenings." What do you think? I look forward to hearing from you via email: [pdj1169@gmail.com](mailto:pdj1169@gmail.com) With blessings, Janet Pierce, Editor