

MISSION **LINK** ON

United Methodist Women, California Nevada Conference, El Camino Real District, Vol. 31, No. 3, August 2020

El Camino Real District UMW Annual Celebration 2020

Renew Our Community Through Courageous Love



Saturday, October 24, 2020, 10am

Virtual meeting by Zoom

SPIRITUALITY, LEADERSHIP, and TRANSFORMATION are at the heart of our District UMW Annual Celebration guest speaker Dr. Mary Cheng's passion to help individuals, organization and communities thrive.

As a former staff member at the National Office of United Methodist Women, Mary had the privilege of leading Mission u (formerly Schools of Christian Mission), a program that provides transformative educational experiences, engaging women from across the country to study current issues in a faith-rooted, participatory, and action-oriented way.

Since her return home to California last year, she became engaged with the California-Nevada Annual Conference on a project to assess and recommend

initiatives to develop the leadership of the clergy in the Conference. With the completion of the project, she now looks forward to new learning and service opportunities in her second half of life. Mary holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Christian Spirituality from the Graduate Theological Union and is an active member of Berkeley Methodist United Church.

See related articles on Page 12.

Registration will be available mid-September at <https://elcaminorealumw.org>.

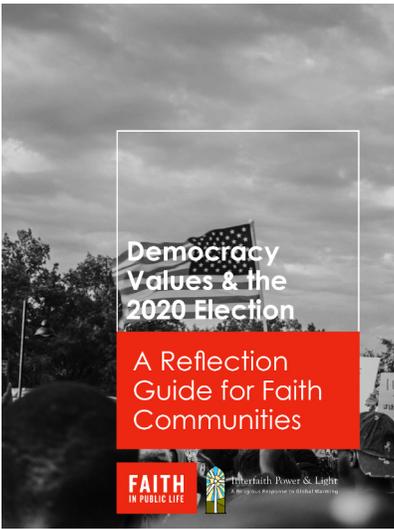
**Celebrate the Mission and Ministry
of our District United Methodist Women**

Brief business meeting

Guest speaker Dr. Mary Cheng



Dr. Mary Cheng



Democracy values and the 2020 Election: *A Reflection Guide for Faith Communities*

BY DEBBIE OW

THE 2020 ELECTION will be here soon. As people of faith we believe the 2020 election is a referendum on the values that will shape our future. How can we renew our fragile democracy? How do we honor the human dignity of every person? Will we protect God’s creation for future generations? What

policies will prioritize the common good and confront global pandemics that remind us of our interdependence? These questions require a societal examination of conscience.

Below is a link to a Guide for such decision making. It has been compiled by Faith in Public Life, a national network of nearly 50,000 clergy and faith leaders united in the prophetic pursuit of justice and the common good. It is supported by United Methodist Women, Interfaith Power and Light, and many other faith organizations. Please download this document and use it in evaluating your vote in 2020. And be sure to vote!

Request the 2020 Voter Guide here:

<https://interfaithpowerandlight.salsalabs.org/voterguidedownload/>



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
Faith Talks

LISTENING TO PODCASTS seems to be the entertainment/education choice for this generation. UMW produces monthly conversations, hosted by Jennifer R. Farmer, that explore themes and resources which empower us to put faith, hope and love into action.



You will find a list of 18 previously-aired podcasts at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks>. Each is between 40 minutes to one hour, 15 minutes long and they cover a range of topics, such as “Grief,” “Caring for the Body,” “Dismantling Racism,” and “Coronavirus, Faithfulness and Online Worship.” We often send notice about upcoming episodes in our District email blasts, to allow you to watch them live and submit questions. Or, you may subscribe on various platforms to receive notice of upcoming podcasts.

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.

MISSION LINK

is published quarterly by

**EL CAMINO REAL DISTRICT
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

<https://elcaminorealumw.org>.

Wesley United Methodist Church

Attn: K Stone, President,

El Camino Real District UMW

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San Jose, CA 95112

2020 DISTRICT TEAM

PRESIDENT: K STONE

VICE PRESIDENT: LYNN HERMOSO

TREASURER: DEBBIE OW

SECRETARY: GINNY JOHNSON

SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES:
CAROLYN BIRCHER

COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR, WEBSITE EDITOR:
WANDA GARRETT

WESTERN JURISDICTION GUIDE (CLIMATE JUSTICE):
BETTY SPENCER DICKEY

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SPIRITUAL GROWTH: SANDRA NESHEIM

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH:
CAROLYN LAMCKE

SOCIAL ACTION: KATHERINE KIM

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION:
LAUREN MICHELLE STEVENS

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

CHAIRPERSON: BETTY SPENCER DICKEY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
KAT TERAJI
(OPEN)
(OPEN)

To contact any District Team member, send an email to

communication@elcaminorealumw.org.

Please include on the subject line, the Team member to whom your message should be directed.

Mission Link is published quarterly. Each issue is also available on the El Camino Real District UMW website <https://elcaminorealumw.org>. Please send address changes to El Camino Real District UMW President K Stone.

Please direct items for publication in *Mission Link* to Wanda Garrett, Communications Coordinator. If you provide photos of recognizable individuals, please be sure you have obtained permission from those individuals to publish their picture. The next issue will be published in December, 2020. The deadline for articles and photos to be submitted for this issue is Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

To subscribe to the District UMW *Quick News* emails, please go to

<https://elcaminorealumw.org/subscribe-to-quick-news/>.

When external factors shift

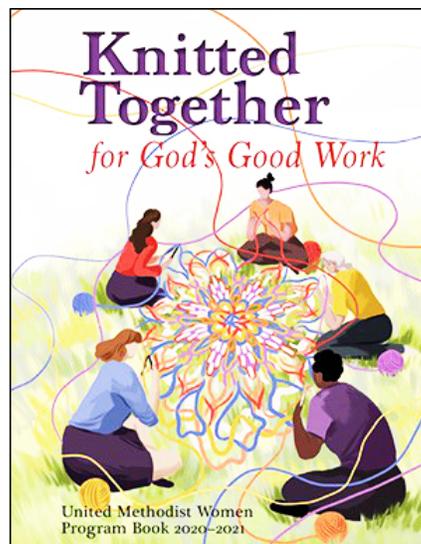
The United Methodist Women organization is 'home' for me ... a community of like-minded women, who know God and experience freedom through Jesus Christ; to be creative, supportive and expand the concept of missions and global ministries through the church. We laugh; share our lives; sometimes grit our molars and WE CONNECT.

Recently I had a conversation on the idea that "God has taken this time for change to happen."

HOW do we do this? Through the UMW VISION - Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world ... well ... HOW do we do this?

- Grow spiritually
- Work for justice through service and advocacy
- Equip women and girls to be leaders
- Provide education
- Organize for growth with flexible structures.

The 2021 Program Book, *Knitted Together for God's Good Work*, has wonderful resources for local group/unit events and programs.



When external factors shift, we have an opportunity to rediscover our core, the only truly safe place to call home

I see United Methodist Women moving from a conventional structure to one that fits today's world better; a virtual world; a world of

group or team format, with common visions and actions; perhaps, a more flexible world.

What, then, would our District and local church UMW teams look like? Could we evolve into a more flexible community, with compassion and acceptance of our diverse passions? To be women passionate about justice, service, and advocacy; about spirituality; about leadership; about education and planning events which open up the world to others?

El Camino Real District UMW team is passionate to widen our circle with the use of virtual tools, reaching out beyond our area; as well as, with our vision, purpose and program planning of events and actions suggested by the National United Methodist Women. With that intent, we are gifting to each local group/unit leaders, the 2021 Program Book, with many suggestions for events and programs. (Additional copies are available on <https://www.umwmissionresources.org/> .)

Plan virtual events. Invite others, from outside your local community. Come check us out; we invite all woman who believe in the UMW purpose, to attend a meeting or event, to see what we're all about.

My personal story is that I was given an invitation to attend a meeting; with no pressure, just come, be with us, see how it feels and how things evolve and the relationship grows.

Help us lean into this time to change that God has given us. I invite YOU to come see.

K Stone, President
El Camino Real District UMW

District Superintendent Rev. Shinya Goto

Dear Sisters and Brothers of El Camino Real District,



Rev. Shinya Goto

On my first day of serving in the El Camino Real District three years ago, I remember sitting in a neighborhood coffee shop and asking God in a prayer, “Lord, what is it that you seek the El Camino Real District to be?” In my experience of prayers, God’s answer at times seems crystal clear and other times as vague as it can be. This was one of the latter cases when God whispered to me, “you need to keep searching!” It was not reassuring to be there with a big question mark in my heart as I was starting a new ministry.

That was then and now this is my last letter to you as your District Superintendent. It has been a joy to work with you and among you. On July 1st, I will be appointed to the Los Rios District and Rev. Samuel Hong will be your new District Superintendent. For the last ten years, he has served as the Sr. Pastor of the second largest church in the Annual Conference, Korean United Methodist Church of Santa Clara Valley. Patient, intelligent, and consistent are the three adjectives I would pick to describe his excellent leadership. You might also be blessed to witness his excellent piano playing!

This season of appointment changes for United Methodists holds difficulties every year, but dealing with a global pandemic has made transitions especially difficult. Join me in praying for each pastor and congregation going through a transition this month. May we find that we all rise to the call of what God has called us to be.

There were two major epidemics



in the Roman Empire, in 165 C.E. and 251 C.E. Between a quarter to a third of the population are believed to have perished during those epidemics. The first was Smallpox and the second was likely Measles. Even with the limited knowledge of science then, people knew the disease was highly contagious. Pagan priests and other non-Christians left behind those who were stricken with the disease including their own family members. They quickly fled the densely populated cities and searched for a safer secluded area. It is well documented that unlike others, Christians stayed behind in these cities and cared for anyone who was sick. Because of their faith, Christians were not afraid to die, and at the root of their beliefs they were called to care for their neighbors. It is not surprising that there were big spikes in the Christian population during epidemics when those who recovered by the hands of Christians converted to the faith by the masses. We, Christians are at our best when we love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and love our neighbors as ourselves.

In my previous letter to the District, I shared that a team of people began working together in the District to provide support when the pandemic started. When the team created a survey to learn what types of struggles people were experiencing, we received requests for assistance from 121 undocumented immigrant families that made up 485 people, including 253

children. These were families in the District who had lost jobs due to Covid-19 and were not receiving governmental support because of their visa status. We heard stories of these families not having enough money for their basic needs such as food and diapers. It became apparent to the team that a drastic measure was needed to meet these needs. We decided to raise \$50,000 to offer an average of \$400 per family depending on the family size. I knew this was a big ask since everyone was struggling. What I didn’t know was how much the District was willing to give. According to the latest report, the total amount we have received is over \$101,000, more than twice the amount we asked for with donations still arriving. We doubled the amount we were offering to each family.

I have received cards and other messages from those who have received the assistance. As a way to protect their identity, I cannot show them to you, but know that the gift has made a monumental difference. On behalf of the entire District I want to thank you for the ways in which you have shown love and faithfulness. This is the embodiment of the Great Commandment, to love God and love your neighbors as yourself. Though it took me three years to see it, I wonder if this was what God has been calling the District to be.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your District Superintendent for the last three years.

D.S. Shinya Goto

The fierce urgency of Now

BY BETTY SPENCER DICKEY, WESTERN
JURISDICTION GUIDE, NATIONAL UMW
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

We have all been following the Justice issue of racism and “Black Lives Matter,” and that is such a critical issue that we almost forget that we have a Covid pandemic on our hands at the same time. But the other equally critical issue that we still have is catastrophic climate change. Climate change and all the environmental degradation that is happening now has been happening for over 50 years, and is intertwined with injustice for people of color and the health conditions that are coming up in this pandemic.

The natural world is being altered at an unprecedented rate including deforestation, fires, hurricanes, drought and floods. The COVID-19 crisis has not dissipated and continues to harm Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people more often than others. It seems that this pandemic has shown us how the communities hardest hit are generally the same ones that suffer from high levels of pollution and poor access to healthcare.

We have not been deluged with news of “plastic oceans” and the toxins being sprayed on our food and the deterioration of our soil by big agriculture, because we have other crises on the news every night. But in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, governments and corporations are doubling down on their destructive plans to build new fossil fuel projects. This includes oil and gas pipelines, disastrous projects that pose major environmental and public health hazards, especially to indigenous communities whose ancestral lands continue to be destroyed for the sake of a quick profit.

The Environmental Protection Agency is no longer protecting the earth. It is run by people who care about big business, oil and gas companies and profit at the expense of all else.

NEPA (National Environmental Policy

Act)¹ is a landmark piece of environmental protection legislation that has been around for 50 years. It requires thorough studies of environmental impacts and offers communities the chance to comment on projects, including power plants. This means that people in the lower economic areas will not have a chance to fight the polluting manufacturing plants that often end up close to their homes and schools. The Trump Administration recently announced a rollback² of NEPA’s protections, including a ban on considering the impact of climate change. These limits on NEPA protections are a textbook example of environmental racism in action.

In California on June 1, in the midst of the turmoil created by the Coronavirus pandemic and the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, our Governor Gavin Newsom’s administration quietly issued 12 fracking permits to Aera Energy³, a joint venture owned by ExxonMobil and Shell. He campaigned on reducing fracking, and although fracking⁴ has been around a few decades, we now know it leads to poisoning of the water because of the chemicals used in the process.

Oil drilling in California has faced criticism for its disproportionately negative health impacts on Latinx communities and other people of color. The 12 new permits will be for fracking in the Kern County town of Lost Hills⁵ and it is more than 97 percent Latinx, according to 2010 U.S. Census.

Even with all the negative events going on in many areas there seems to be a new spirit of hope. A sense that even if the Federal Government is not doing anything positive to make our environment and our racial issues better, there are people and companies working around the world to help because they realize that our planet and all of us need it and we cannot wait for others.

We have to work on our own personal biases by talking to others, connecting to



Shale gas drilling rig near Alvarado, Texas. Photo by David R. Tribble.

online classes and reading books on racial and climate injustice. Then we can set out to begin the transformation of not only ourselves but our planet. Individually and collectively, we need to reduce our plastic usage, buy less, go solar and use more electricity rather than gas if it comes from renewable sources. There are many things we can do to help and as usual the most important one is to vote for Environmental candidates in November. If we don’t, our planet may not be able to survive the destruction of the next four years.

The injustices of our world are so many, but we can’t give up on trying to make them right. That’s our job as humans and especially as Christians.

For more information:

1. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) < <https://www.epa.gov/nepa> >
2. Rollback of NEPA < <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/15/climate/trump-environment-nepa.html> >
3. Aera Energy Fracking permits < <https://capitalandmain.com/gavin-newsom-hands-out-fracking-permits-to-connected-driller-0619> >
4. Fracking < <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/fracking-101> > and < https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydraulic_fracturing >
5. Kern County < <https://www.samcomen.com/lost-hills> >

Finding Peace in an Anxious World

BY DEACONESS KATHERINE KIM

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA KOREAN UNITED METHODIST WOMEN had a Mission u event on the afternoon of Sunday, August 2, 2020, with a Zoom meeting. About 134 people attended. It was a great social gathering event because we haven't seen each other over four months due to Corona Virus Pandemic.

The speaker, Choong-Hee Lee, is a deaconess from New Jersey, and is the vice president of Greater New Jersey UMW. She holds a Pastoral Counseling MA degree from Fordham University.

The session started at 2pm, but the floor was open for the participants from 1:30pm, so that everyone could say hello to each other. It was a happy occasion. Thank you to the planning team for the hard work.

Since there was no Mission u for CA/NV Conference UMW, I thought this would be a good occasion for Korean UMW to get together. The study subject was "Finding Peace in An Anxious World." This Spiritual Growth study was developed at the Urban Village Church in Chicago, focusing on Proverbs and the Serenity Prayer. The book explores ways to discover peace through the spiritual guideline to live fully as Christians in four ways: Serenity, Acceptance, Courage and Wisdom.

The speaker followed the format of the study book. The purpose and goal of the study was to recognize today's anxiety and its impact, and to find peace through scriptural and spiritual discipline of Christ. Using the Serenity Prayer, these spiritual disciplines help us live a better Christian life.

Serenity Prayer: *God, Grant me the Serenity
to change the things I cannot accept
Courage to change the things I can
And the Wisdom to know the difference*

The speaker finished with Christian Response to Anxiety with Labyrinth Prayer; Walk in Prayer, Walk in Focused Reflection, and Walk in Silent Reflection.

There was no question and answer period at the end because it was time to close. In addition, in Korea, we were educated with 주입식 traditional one way teaching (learning by rote). We are not used to have question/answer and discussion of American teaching.

Even though we were provided the text book in Korean, I am not sure how many people actually read the book thoroughly. I felt this Mission u was more like a social occasion due to Corona Virus, and the first Zoom meeting Korean UMW ever had.

Reference: *Finding Peace in An Anxious World* edited by Erin James-Brown, 2020 United Methodist Women.

Get more info: <<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/finding-peace-in-an-anxious-world>>



Handmade face masks available from Campbell UMW

FACE MASKS are probably going to be part of our daily life for a while in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the shelter-in-place order is relaxed and we start to venture back out into public, would you (and your family) like to have one or two washable face masks on hand? The Campbell United Methodist Women (UMW) can help.

These handmade masks are being made available to our church family and friends for a goodwill donation of \$5-10 per mask. All the donations will be given to the UMW of our church for their mission programs and giving. This is a great opportunity for you to help the great mission work of the United Methodist Women.

The masks have two fabric layers as well as a non-woven interfacing. Based on the information the makers could find, these masks keep about 87% of outside pollutants and bugs from passing through. Your orders will be filled the same day you order or the next.

Please specify:

- If your mask will be for male, female, or child (ages 2-4 or 5-12)
- How many of each you would like
- Color/pattern preference



Ordering and pickup are contactless. Place your order with Andrea Starr by email at <umwmasks@campbellunited.org>. Andrea will let you know when your order is ready. You can pick up the masks at Lou Woodburycattcott's house with little or no contact (or other arrangements can be made if you are not leaving your home). Lou will leave your order on the front porch, you can leave your payment in the mailbox slot. Make checks payable to "Campbell UMW" with "facemask" in memo line.

Masks are being made with some beautiful materials, so you will end up with a joyful surprise. Consider sending some handmade masks to your family and friends to show your love and care for them!



Interrupting the Cradle to Prison Pipeline

The California/Nevada Conference UMW annual Social Action Event, was held on 7/25/2020 via video conference. The theme was “Interrupting the Cradle to Prison Pipeline.” In the unexpected absence of the keynote speaker, Connie Hunter, CA/NV Conference UMW Mission Coordinator for Social Action, led a heart-felt and helpful group discussion on racism and discrimination. The following is an excerpt from a message prepared for the event.

MY PRAYER AND DEVOTION BY KATHERINE KIM, DEACONESS

Dear Loving and Gracious God,

Thank you for bringing us together today to the CA/NV Conference UMW Annual Social Action virtual event. The subject is “Interrupting the Cradle to Prison Pipeline.” Bless the speaker, Jessica Nowlan, and all the people who made this Zoom meeting possible.

Lord, we lift our hearts to you, open our eyes to see what is around us. And grant your provisions, that we may stretch our hands to those who are thirsty, physically and spiritually.

We are in the middle of the Corona Virus pandemic, practicing social distance. We have been staying home

more than four months now. So many people, especially elderlies, are suffering and dying. In Jeremiah 29:11-12, the Lord declares “*For I know the plan I have for you, plans to give you hope and a future.*” What is happening the plan you have for us? This also reminds me of Psalm 46:1 “*God is our refuge and strength.*”

We are facing social unrest: the death of George Floyd, discrim-

ination, police brutality, and Black Lives Matter. Please teach us the way we should go, and we want your Divine guidance.

I would like to share my favorite Bible verse, Micah 6:8 “*What does the Lord requires of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*”

In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

Please be safe and well. Have a nice day.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN LEADERSHIP DAYS 2020

We pray together

BY SALLY WENZEL, PRESIDENT
CA/NV CONFERENCE UNITED
METHODIST WOMEN

In February of this year I and three other women from CA/NV Conference UMW were in St. Louis, Missouri, for the United Methodist Women Leadership Days.



There were women there from all the conferences, and we were at a table with the California Pacific Conference UMW. As a table, we were asked to write a prayer. Lo and behold, it's in the July/August *Response Magazine!* I feel blessed to have been a part of this. This prayer was to be given at the UM General Conference, but it's just as appropriate in these times we are all living now.

O Holy Creator, we give you thanks for your grace and love.

We stand in awe before your glory, that you have called us by name, claiming our lives as precious in your sight.

As we face the uncertainties of these days, remove our anxiety, take away our fear. Set us free to be courageous and bold as we respond to your call.

We know we are not alone! Open our eyes so that we can see your face in the midst of the challenges before us.

In our human frailty, strengthen us by your Holy Spirit, that even through our brokenness, your light might shine bright.

Guide our feet through the storm and help us to dance your joy into our life together as we seek to be faithful to Jesus Christ, living his love into the world for all your children.

Amen



BY WANDA GARRETT, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



Each summer, many United Methodist Women (and men) look forward to attending Mission u. The regional Mission u events offered by United Methodist Women National Office engage thousands of participants in study of mission themes related to what's happening in the world today. But this year, due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19, all in-person Conference Mission u events were cancelled.

This does not mean that the studies are cancelled. The Mission u teams say, "if there is ever a time to 'find peace in an anxious world' that time is now. If there is ever a time to look for the impact of racism and economic inequality in times of crisis, that time is now."

In place of the in-person events, these studies have been adapted for participation by individuals and groups from their homes. Your District UMW team is considering offering one or more of the studies in an online meeting format.

- **Pushout:** This is planned to be offered for Mission u 2021. Also listen to the *Faith Talks* on "Education Inequality" at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks>.
- **Managing Anxiety:** A Youth Study is available for youth pastors and youth group leaders. Get info here: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/managing-anxiety-youth>

- **Finding Peace in an Anxious World:** This spiritual growth study has been adapted for use at home or in virtual small groups. Get info here: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/finding-peace-in-an-anxious-world>
- **Women United for Change:** 150 Years in Mission: A supplement for this 2019 special publication is available for download here: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/Media/PDF/MissionStudy/WomenUnitedFor-ChangeSupplement.pdf>
- **Managing Our Emotions:** A Children's Study has been adapted for use by parents and caregivers. Get info here: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/managing-our-emotions-children>

Get more info about all these Mission Studies here: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-studies>.

The Mission u team anticipates that in 2021 the Mission u events will return to their usual scheduling. In the CA/NV Conference, there would be a choice of events in locations around the Conference. The 2021 studies are to be:

- Moral Witness of the Church
- Pushout
- Children's and youth studies on violence
- Luke 13



Beulah grants for ministries with seniors

BY BECKY OFFICER, BEULAH OLDER ADULT FUND CHAIRPERSON
CA/NV CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Since 1988 when the assets of the Beulah Home property were transferred to the United Methodist Women of the California-Nevada Annual Conference, it was agreed that the income from the permanent fund would be used to award grants to projects or programs that will serve the needs and uphold the dignity of elderly persons. This year nearly \$300,000 in Beulah funds were awarded to 25 organizations for their ministry with seniors.

United Methodist churches across our Conference are engaged in ministries with seniors, preparing meals, providing transportation, providing wellness checks, upgrading the church's sound system and much, much more. During this pandemic, the seniors in our

community and churches are facing increased challenges.

If your church or an organization connected to your church or local unit of United Methodist Women is engaged in senior ministry and is in need of funds, check into applying for a Beulah grant.

You can get more information about Beulah grants and the application by going to <http://www.canvunitedmethodistwomen.org/beulah-grants.html>. Or you can contact the chair of the Beulah grant committee, Becky Officer, via our District email communication@elcaminorealumw.org.

Please note: Because of the pandemic, the deadline for submittal of grant applications has been extended to September 1st.

Communications

WANDA GARRETT, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION, GET ECR DISTRICT UMW QUICK NEWS

IN BETWEEN quarterly issues of the Mission Link, stay up to date on El Camino Real District UMW events and activities by subscribing to the ECR District UMW *Quick News*. This periodic email provides:

- Announcement of District and local events
- Information about District and local UMW activities
- Notification that the *Mission Link* newsletter is available online

If you already receive the *Quick News*, then you do not need to do anything to continue receiving it. To change your subscription, follow the links at the bottom of one of the *Quick News* emails.

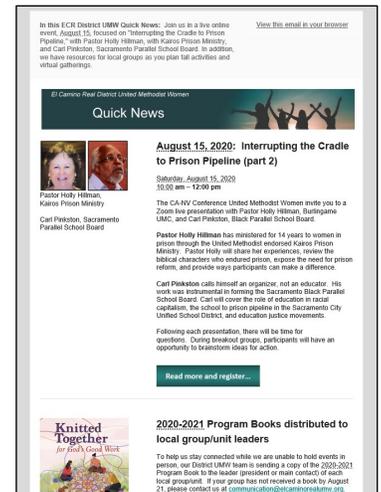
If you do not receive the *Quick News*, and would like to, you can subscribe online. Go to

<<https://elcaminorealumw.org/subscribe-to-quick-news/>>

and enter your email and name, then click “Subscribe.”

In addition – we are on Facebook! Find us at

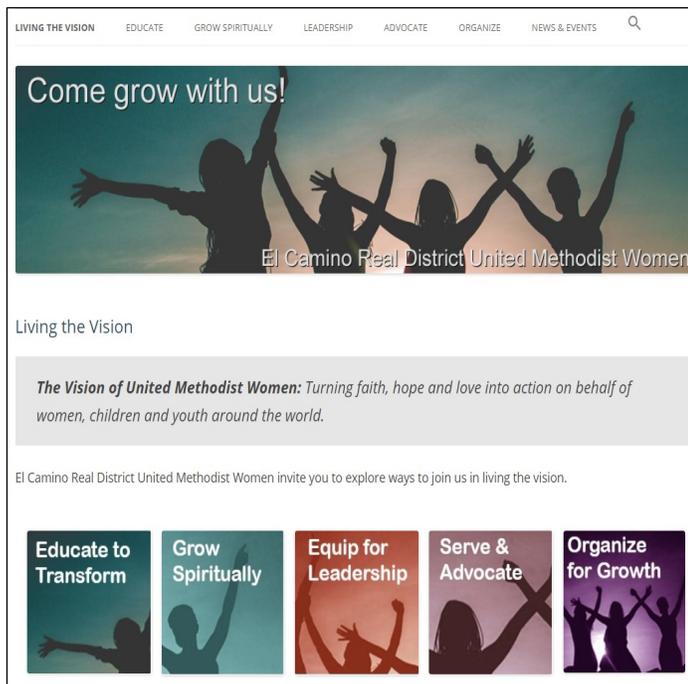
<<https://www.facebook.com/ElCaminoRealUMW/>>.



ECR DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WEBSITE UPDATED

FOR AN ORGANIZATION like United Methodist Women, a website is a combination of a reflection on their character, and access to resources. Our El Camino Real District UMW website was recently updated to emphasize the Vision of United Methodist Women: Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

Focusing more on action now, the website offers resources in five themes:



ECR District UMW website emphasizes how we “live the vision” of United Methodist Women.

Educate to Transform:

Includes Reading Program, Program Ideas, *Faith Talks*, Mission u, and *Response Magazine* and podcasts.

Grow Spiritually:

Includes our Spiritual Retreat, the UMW Program Book, Spiritual Growth Study, Daily Devotional, and other study resources.

Equip for Leadership:

Includes virtual meetings, Connect and Learn, Mission studies, and Mission Today.

Serve and Advocate:

Includes Social Action News and Events,

Climate Justice, Mission Opportunities, and links to State and Federal Government.

Organize for Growth:

Includes information about United Methodist Women, our local units/groups, your District UMW team, and Treasurer’s information.

The home page, titled “Living the Vision,” includes graphical links to these five themes, plus a listing of latest news and upcoming events, and the most recent “tweets” from United Methodist Women.

Additionally, from the navigation bar at the top of the website, you can get to the page of all news and events, including the *Mission Link* newsletter and a link to the Calendar of events. You can also subscribe to our *Quick News* emails from this page.

Take a look and see the wealth of resources available to you and your local group!

<<https://elcaminorealumw.org/>>.

Treasurer

DEBBIE OW

WHAT ARE THE FIVE CHANNELS OF MISSION GIVING?

Give Thanks.
Give Now.



On Page 12, you will find an article entitled “5-Star Giving deadline,” requesting your local group’s report of

giving to the five channels of Mission Giving. Those five channels, or five types of giving, are a way for United Methodist Women to help empower and improve the lives of women, youth, and children in the United States and around the world.

For more information, see

<<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/Schannels>>.

- 1. Pledge to Mission:** This includes Pledge to Mission and supplementary gifts collected on special occasions.
- 2. Special Mission Recognition:** Order a UMW pin from the District UMW Treasurer to recognize a special UMW member. Pins are available for \$40 to \$2,000, depending on gemstone decoration.
- 3. Gift to Mission:** Recognize special people, or special events in their lives, with a Gift to Mission.

Gift cards are available from District Treasurer Debbie Ow. An online Gift to Mission donation form, with e-cards, is at

<<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/donate>>.

- 4. Gift in Memory:** Remember someone special or honor a life of service with a Gift in Memory. Gift cards are available from District Treasurer Debbie Ow. An online Gift to Mission donation form, with e-cards, is at

<<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/donate>>.

- 5. World Thank Offering:** In response to God’s abundance and grace, your unit may participate in this offering with a special service or program. Information and free resources are available at

<<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/worldthank>>.

If you have any questions about giving to UMW, please contact Debbie Ow at

<treasurer@elcaminoalumw.org>.

Committee on Nominations

BETTY SPENCER DICKEY, CHAIRPERSON



Do you feel like you need to serve in a mission field? Do you want to learn something new? Do you want to do something to help in this scary time? Meeting new people and getting our ideas heard are valid needs for most of us.

We as humans have a visceral need to be in connection.

Most of the time it is satisfied by going to work, going to church, and with our families if they are close by. These days that is much harder to do and it involves a computer screen or a smart phone. I wish I had stuck in Zoom before this virus descended upon us! Getting together by Zoom is what most people are doing and it is harder and less personal than it used to be. But we still try because we need to reach out to new people and we hope that new people still want to serve in mission. Do you?

We have a new flexibility at the District UMW now and we are looking for women who want to serve even

if you don’t know what your gift is yet. We are searching for those who want to learn and to share whatever their spiritual gifts are. You, as a new team member, will be mentored by women who have served for many years and can help you along the way.

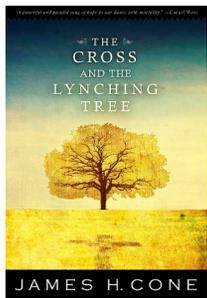
To keep up with pace of the world of online communication, we especially need women who are comfortable with technology, including Zoom meetings and Google online applications. If you have any of those skills you could be a great help to this team.

Whatever your gift or whatever you want to share, you will be serving women, children, and youth and working on justice issues that need your ideas, your spirit and your loving presence. Pray about joining us and check out the website at <<https://elcaminoalumw.org>> to see what we are up to now. Feel free to drop me a note if you would like to talk.

Blessings, Betty Dickey

Program Resources

CAROLYN BIRCHER, SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES



Book Review

BY DEBBIE OW

THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE

By James H. Cone

Author James H. Cone describes the lynching of Black men and women in the South as the crucifixion of a people, similar to the crucifixion of Jesus on the cross. The Lynching Tree is the Cross of Jesus in our time. The lynched victim is the re-crucified Christ in America.

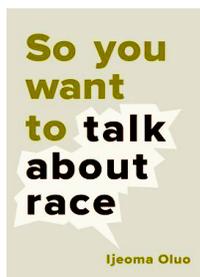
These are the similarities between these two situations as presented by the author:

1. Both were murdered by the people having power at the time (the Pharisees and the whites)
2. Both killings were done with the approval of the authorities (the Roman authorities and white police)
3. Both were innocents
4. Both were the acts of mobs
5. Both are symbolic in nature: Christ's death and resurrection mean new life; the death of Black people symbolizes white supremacy.
6. Both were treated as public spectacles: for entertainment and intimidation.

The author goes on to ask: How did white and Black Christians deal with the paradox of God's love for everyone and the hatred of Black people and their lynching in the South? Why didn't the white Christians (theologians, conservative and liberal, North and South) address this issue?

My favorite chapter is "O Mary, Don't You Weep." This chapter details the actions of Black women of the day. Two women that I found most interesting are Ida B. Wells, and Billie Holiday.

Ida B. Wells, a former slave who became the editor of a Black militant newspaper that led the anti-lynching crusade of the early 1900's. She called out white Christianity as fraudulent. How could a Christian participate in the murder of an innocent? White conservative Christians endorsed lynching as part of their religion. And white liberal Christians'



Book Review

BY CAROLYN BIRCHER

SO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RACE

By Ijeoma Oluo

In this book, author Ijeoma Oluo explores the complex reality of today's racial landscape - from white privilege and police brutality to systemic discrimination and the Black Lives Matter movement - offering straightforward clarity that readers need to contribute to the dismantling of the racial divide. Oluo answers the questions readers don't dare ask, and explains the concepts that continue to elude everyday Americans. She is an exceptional writer with a rare ability to be straightforward, funny,

silence was equally shameful. White Christianity was a counterfeit gospel - "as phony as a two-dollar bill."

Billie Holiday, a jazz singer, recorded the song *Strange Fruit* in 1939. The lyrics were written by Abel Meeropol, a white Jewish school teacher from New York City:

*Southern trees bear strange fruit,
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root,
Black body swinging in the Southern breeze,
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees.

Pastoral scene of the gallant South,
The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth,
Scent of magnolia sweet and fresh,
Then the sudden smell of burning flesh!

Here is fruit for the crows to pluck,
For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck,
For the sun to rot, for the tree to drop,
Here is a strange and bitter crop.*

The final argument of the book is that the "lynching" of Black people goes on today in our criminal justice system where systemic racism and white supremacy are codified in law. That should resonate with all United Methodist Women as we fight to disrupt the "School to Prison Pipeline."

References:

The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James H. Cone, Professor of Systematic Theology at Union Theological Seminary, NY 1938-2018. Available at the Cokesbury website <<https://www.cokesbury.com/9781626980051-The-Cross-and-the-Lynching-Tree>> and other booksellers.

Other books by James H. Cone include: *Black Theology and Black Power*; *A Black Theology of Liberation*; *Martin & Malcolm America: A Dream or a Nightmare*. See Billie Holiday's *Strange Fruit* on YouTube.com <<https://youtu.be/-DGY9HvChXk>>..

and effective in her coverage of sensitive, hyper-charged issues in America.

This book is broken down into bite-sized chapters, each covering only one aspect, which lends easily to discussion. Most chapters include a list of bullet items for taking action. It counts in the Social Action category of the Reading Program. You can find this book, in both print and e-book formats, at most public libraries. UMW has also created a free online class to accompany it. Find it and other resources for racial justice advocacy and education at <<https://www.unitedmethodist-women.org/racialjustice>>.



Renew Our Community Through Courageous Love

El Camino Real District UMW
Annual Celebration 2020

Saturday, October 24, 2020, by Zoom

LOCAL UNIT/GROUP REPORTS REQUESTED BY SEPTEMBER 8

SO THAT WE CAN PREPARE for our District UMW Annual Celebration, and provide the reports to our CA/NV Conference UMW counterparts, please be sure your local group/unit has sent these reports **by September 8**:

- 1. 5 Star Giving** – your Treasurer should send the remittance form and any contributions through Sept. 1, 2020, to Debbie Ow, District UMW Treasurer, <treasurer@elcaminorealumw.org>. Get more info on this page: <<https://elcaminorealumw.org/organize/>>
- 2. Reading Program** – if women from your local group have participated in the UMW Reading Program, please send a report with their name, church name, and the list of titles read. Get more info here: <<https://elcaminorealumw.org/educate/reading-program/>>
- 3. Mission Today** – send the report of the activities your local group has done toward the 2019/2020 Mission Today program. Get more info on this page: <<https://elcaminorealumw.org/leadership/>>
- 4. Charter for Racial Justice** – send the report of the activities your local group has done toward the Charter for Racial Justice. Get more info here: <<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjusticecharter>>
- 5. Saints** – send the list of those from your local group who have passed away since your September 2019 report.
- 6. Directory updates** – if there have been changes in your local group’s leadership during 2020, or if you already have identified leaders for 2021, please send us their names with mailing address and email.

How to send the reports:

- If at all possible, please send all reports except “5 Star Giving” by email to <communication@elcaminorealumw.org>.
- “5 Star Giving” should be sent to Debbie Ow, District UMW Treasurer. Please connect with her at <treasurer@elcaminorealumw.org>.
- If email is not possible, please send by U.S. Postal Service to:
Good Samaritan UMC
Attn: Carolyn Bircher
19624 Homestead Road
Cupertino, CA 95014

Program Resources

CAROLYN BIRCHER

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
READING PROGRAM



Did you participate in the UMW Reading Program this year?

If you have read at least one book from each of the five UMW Reading Program categories since

September, 2019, please submit a list of the books that you read, to Carolyn Bircher so you can be recognized. You may use the Reading Program Reporting Form found at

<www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram> or just send an email with your name, church name and the list of titles read. Contact me by emailing to <communication@elcaminorealumw.org> as described on page 2 of this *Mission Link*.

You may count books read from September 2019. Books read from lists going back to 2015 may be counted as long as they weren’t counted in previous years. Youth and children’s books may be counted. If you found any of the books to be particularly inspiring, please add a sentence to elaborate. I’m looking forward to receiving your book lists by September 8.

Treasurer

DEBBIE OW



5-Star Giving deadline

In preparation for the upcoming Annual Celebrations for CA/NV Conference and ECR District United Methodist Women, we sent out an August *Quick News* email requesting your 2020 pledge monies, and “5 Star Giving” status, be sent to me by September 8.

If your unit’s Treasurer sends contributions after the September 8 deadline, your unit’s contributions will be counted for 2020, but unfortunately will not receive an award at the Annual Celebration.

As a district we have contributed over \$15,000 (in the first half of 2020 alone) to support UMW missions around the world. WOW!

Please send your contributions to me as soon as possible, to make sure they get counted in our 2020 totals.

If you have questions, please contact me at <treasurer@elcaminorealumw.org>.

Membership Nurture & Outreach

CAROLYN LAMCKE

We honor the saints of our District UMW

In preparation for the District UMW Annual Celebration, now is the time to send me a list of the Saints from your unit for the last year. These Saints are those wonderful ladies in your UMW who have passed away since September 2019.

By September 8, please send me the list by email. (If I receive it after September 10, it will be applied to the next year.) We would truly like to join you in honoring and remembering them.



EL CAMINO REAL DISTRICT UMW
CALENDAR 2020

- SEPTEMBER 5** District UMW Leadership Team Meeting
10am, by Zoom.
- SEPTEMBER 26** * *Safe Havens: Encouraging Healthy Relationships at Home*
10am, by Zoom.
Registration required.
- OCTOBER 3** District UMW Leadership Team Meeting
10am, by Zoom.
- OCTOBER 17** * California/Nevada Conference UMW Annual Celebration
By Zoom.
- OCTOBER 24** * El Camino Real District UMW Annual Celebration
10am, by Zoom.
- NOVEMBER 18** * Mission Link articles, photos due for Winter 2020 issue
- DECEMBER tba** District UMW Leadership Team Meeting
Time, Location tba

* **Note:** Members of UMW across our District are encouraged to participate in this event.

Saturday, September 26, 2020, by Zoom

Saturday, September 26,
10:00am to about 11:45am
Zoom online meeting: Please
register in advance to receive
meeting link.

Register on our website
<<https://elcaminoareal.umd.org/safe-havens-2020/>>.

By CAROLYN LAMCKE

IN THIS TIME of shelter-in-place, when families are spending more time together than ever, the challenges of family dynamics are hard to

avoid. Families hope to feel safe at home, but it's not always possible. And how can you open a conversation with a friend about domestic violence – whether it's happening to them or to yourself?

On Saturday, September 26, 2020, at 10:00am, ECR District United Methodist Women are hosting a Zoom online meeting: *Safe Havens: Encouraging Healthy Relationships at Home*. It is focused on women and children experiencing violence in the home.

Two speakers will offer their perspectives: Sandra Nesheim, Licensed Clinical Psychologist; and Dalia Ochoa-Navarro, Human Resources Manager, Monarch Services in Watsonville.

Watsonville United Methodist Church is glad to sponsor this event. It will be in both English and Spanish. There will be break-out groups for discussions.

We hope you register and forward the registration information to other women you know.



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