



# The Lantern

ORANGEBURG DISTRICT UMW NEWSLETTER

It's almost that time of the year!  
Get ready for the  
**Orangeburg District UMW  
Virtual Annual Meeting**

2021

Date: Saturday, September 11, 2021

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Virtual Meeting

Host - Mt. Zion UMC - Bamberg, SC

There is no registration required to attend.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://tinyurl.com/yrtcsskn>

or

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82311653824?pwd=NHo0WHQzYVJObmpoc1BIUmxcx2xpdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 1165 3824

Passcode: 889482

OR

Dial 1 301 715 8592

All forms for the Annual Meeting are due to the Chairpersons by August 15, 2021. Thank you.



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

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.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings UMW Sisters in Christ,

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that everyone had an enjoyable Mother's Day celebration. I pray that your families gave you a celebration that was fit for the "QUEENS" that you are. Last year this time, the world seemed upside down. We were confined to our homes. Schools, jobs and churches were closed. We were constantly being reminded to wash our hands, watch our distance and wear a face mask. Through it all, we learned to trust in Jesus. For it states in Psalm 89:15, "Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O Lord." "With God, all things are possible." Matthew 19:26b.

Although many people are refusing to take the vaccinations, that have been identified as being able to help with effects of the symptoms of the coronavirus, I still trust and believe that God was instrumental in providing the knowledge to help the scientists and doctors develop the vaccines. Yes, I know the vaccines are not perfect and we have had great losses and continue to experience losses. However, each day we acquire more knowledge on how to deal with this virus. Also, things are gradually returning to normal. I just pray that the love of God and our fellow man, support, kindness, compassion, and respect shown during these uncertain and difficult times, do not return to its normal nonexistent state. It is a beautiful blessing to see many keeping God's commandment to love your neighbor as you love yourself!

My sisters, you all played a major role in carrying out your commitment to your families and this organization of the United Methodist Women. We put love, faith, and hope into action for women, children, and youth. Thank you all for a job well done! Thank you to the local UMW units that contributed to our mission project for Day Apart, which was to provide gift cards for the 4 Mission Projects (Wallace Life Center, Bethlehem Center, Spartanburg Bethlehem Center and Killingsworth Center). This year is almost over! However, there is still work to do. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

## **Important dates to remember:**

**July 24, 2021-** 10:00am - 2021 Virtual Mission u. It will be held every week on Saturday, until August 7, 2021. If you have any questions, check with your Cluster Leader.

**August 15, 2021-** 11:59 pm - All forms that are needed to celebrate Orangeburg UMW Local Units are due to the Coordinators in charge of those programs or events. The list of deceased members and President's Reports must be mailed to me, Sonya Benjamin.

**September 11, 2021-** 9:00 am - Orangeburg District Virtual Annual Meeting. All local units can join by using the Zoom information below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82311653824?pwd=NHo0WHQzYVJObmpoc1BIUmxcxb2xpdz09>  
Meeting ID: 823 1165 3824

Passcode: 889482

or Dial 1 301 715 8592

Your Sister in Christ,

Sonya Benjamin

Orangeburg District UMW President

# FROM THE SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES

Greetings United Methodist Women,

I pray that you are practicing safe COVID-19 precautions. Hopefully, your time has allowed you to participate in our Reading Program. "Reading gives us somewhere to go when we have to stay where we are." -Mason Cooley.

Please complete the Reading Program form that is listed below. Make sure you mail your program plan to me by August 15, 2021. The mailing address is:

Linda Huggins, 2218 Binnicker Bridge Road, Cope, SC 29038.

Thank you,  
Linda Huggins



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## READING PROGRAM FORM 2021

**Please check one plan**

**Plan I**\_\_\_\_\_ **Plan II**\_\_\_\_\_ **Plan III**\_\_\_\_\_ **Plan IV**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name**\_\_\_\_\_

**Address**\_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip**\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number**\_\_\_\_\_

**Church Affiliation**\_\_\_\_\_

**Date form mailed**\_\_\_\_\_

# COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

Greetings United Methodist Women,

I hope you and your families are staying safe and have substantial health, during the national pandemic of the coronavirus and during a time of social unrest and social injustice in the world. We as a people have seen many changes, challenges, deaths, and developments. However, God is with us. He is a source of strength, as we persevere on this journey called life. The United Methodist Women are women of faith. May we continue to place our faith, hope, and love into action, during this season in our lives. God is with us.

The Lantern Newsletter is available by digital copy. You may submit a request to receive a digital copy by completing the online form on the following website:

<https://forms.gle/yJQOX8ubm3NosVTP6>

Please visit the following site to view other digital copies of The Lantern:

<https://www.umcsc.org/discipleship/united-methodist-women/>

## **A PRAYER IN TIME OF A NATIONAL CRISIS**

God of all ages, in your sight nations rise and fall,  
and pass through times of peril.

Now when our land is troubled, be near to judge and save.

May leaders be led by your wisdom;  
may they search your will and see it clearly.

If we have turned from your way,  
reverse our ways and help us to repent.

Give us your light and your truth, let them guide us;  
through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of the world, and our Savior. Amen.

The United Methodist Book of Worship, 517.

Peace,

Chan Spigner

Communications Coordinator

## TREASURER'S REPORT



**“O give thanks to the  
LORD, for he is good;  
For his steadfast love  
endures forever...  
For he satisfies the  
thirsty,  
And the hungry he  
fills with good  
things.”  
Psalm 107: 1,9**

Thank you for your generosity and support through your quarterly remittances to all our UMW missions, locally, nationally, and globally.

I would like to thank all of you, who have sent in their 2021 pledges to MISSION GIVING and your 2020 audits. If your unit is one of the few who have not done so, please try to get them in to me as soon as possible. Remember, you cannot be recognized as a MISSION TODAY UNIT at our Annual UMW September Meeting, if you do not pledge to MISSION GIVING and meet your pledge.

Treasurers, please send your second quarter remittances to me by June 5 and your third quarter remittances by September 1.

There has been a change when ordering our Special Mission Recognition pin for \$40. National UMW no longer sends a certificate with that order, only the pin. If you order the pin, you will receive from me a certificate printed from a template. However, you must fill in the information about the person being honored, date, and your unit.

So please remember: When you send in your \$40 for Special Mission Recognition, you will receive a pin through the mail from National UMW and a certificate printed out from me, included in your envelope with your remittance receipt.

Blessings,

Ginger Risher

Phone: (803) 536-5186

E-mail address: [grisher60@hotmail.com](mailto:grisher60@hotmail.com)

Address: 1091 Huntington Drive, Orangeburg, SC 29118

Local Unit 1st Quarter-2021	Pledge Mission	SMR	Gift to Mission	Gift in Memory	WTO	Rainbow Woman	Call to Prayer	Legacy Fund Bright BC(C)	Wallace Fam Life	BC(Sp)	KW	World com Assembly	Crusade Scholar	Total
Barnwell														0.00
Bethel (Bamberg)	200.00						25.00		54.00					279.00
Bethel (Jackson)														0.00
Bethel @ Peachtree Rock														0.00
Bethel Park	600.00						100.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00			1,000.00
Bethlehem	300.00				50.00			25.00		25.00	25.00			425.00
Beulah	248.00		10.00	10.00			50.00	30.00	102.00	30.00	20.00			500.00
Bethel (Rowesville/Bowman)														0.00
Branchville														0.00
Calvary (Swansea)	100.00							60.00	60.00	60.00				280.00
Canaan	125.00						120.00		222.00					467.00
Cedar Grove	50.00						30.00		70.00					150.00
Ebenezer (Bowman)	50.00		10.00				50.00		100.00					210.00
Ebenezer (North)														0.00
Edisto Fork	200.00						220.00		198.00					618.00
Elloree														0.00
Eutawville														0.00
Forest Chapel														0.00
Franklin														0.00
Gerizim														0.00
Holly Hill	400.00													400.00
Jericho														0.00
Lebanon														0.00
Livingston														0.00
Mays Chapel														0.00
Mt. Carmel	100.00							50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00			300.00
Mt. Nebo	100.00		20.00				25.00		84.00					229.00
Mt. Zion	100.00						25.00		138.00					263.00
New Beginning														0.00
New Covenant								25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00			100.00
New Light	100.00						40.00		100.00					240.00
North Orange Circuit Charge	100.00								120.00					220.00
North Orangeburg	187.50			35.00	40.00		55.00	100.00	375.00	75.00	75.00			942.50
Orange Grove														0.00
Pelion														0.00
Pine Hill	115.00						160.00		54.00					329.00
Pineville														0.00
Pleasant Hill														0.00
Prospect														0.00
Providence	376.75						245.00		198.00					819.75
Shady Grove	300.00		50.00	50.00					200.00					600.00
Silas														0.00
St. Andrews	50.00								120.00					170.00
St. John's (Aiken)	1,000.00	40.00	20.00	20.00	60.00		60.00	200.00	1,000.00	200.00	200.00			2,800.00
St. John's (Norway)														0.00
St. John (Orangeburg)														0.00
St. John (Edisto Chg)														0.00
St. Mark	500.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00				200.00		150.00			1,050.00
St. Paul (New Ellenton)	135.00			20.00			40.00		50.00					245.00
St. Pauls(O'burg)														0.00
St. Stephen (Bowman)														0.00
St. Stephen (O'burg)														0.00
Swansea														0.00
Target														0.00
Trinity (Aiken)	125.00	80.00	5.00	20.00			198.00		318.00					746.00
Trinity (Bamberg)	36.00								72.00					108.00
Trinity (O'burg)	300.00						50.00		150.00					500.00
Union	24.00							40.00						64.00
Wagener	325.00				64.01			50.00	54.00	50.00	50.00			593.01
Wesley														0.00
Wesley Chapel														0.00
Wesley Grove	20.00						10.00							30.00
White House														0.00
Williston														0.00
District														0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,267.25</b>	<b>170.00</b>	<b>165.00</b>	<b>205.00</b>	<b>264.01</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,503.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>655.00</b>	<b>4,189.00</b>	<b>590.00</b>	<b>670.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>14,678.26</b>

## EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION



Greetings Orangeburg District United Methodist Women,

As we continue our journey of placing faith, hope, and love into action, on behalf of women, children and youth, our work is important to our community. We are not meeting in person, but please continue to collect aluminum pull tabs and old postage stamps for our mission project.

Remember, your Mission Today Action forms need to have 10 or more completed items in order to receive your certificate.

Please mail your reports to: Patricia G. Walker  
204 Wheat Street  
Livingston, SC 29107

The deadline to submit your form is August 15, 2021.

Be Blessed and Be Safe,

Patricia G. Walker  
E & I Coordinator

**MISSION TODAY ACTION FORM**

Unit President \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number of members in unit \_\_\_\_\_

**Units, which include all circles, must complete at least 10 of the following items. All units must complete #1.**

**Your unit**

\_\_\_ 1. Made and met its Pledge to Mission.

\_\_\_ 2. Used the Prayer Calendar at each General Membership Meeting of the unit to pray for people in mission and for our mission work with women, children and youth.

\_\_\_ 3. Added at least one or more members to its roll.

\_\_\_ 4. Had at least one member who subscribes to Response Magazine.

\_\_\_ 5. Had at least one member (other than a conference or district officer) attend Mission u and/or a district or local mission study.

\_\_\_ 6. Had at least one member (other than a conference or district officer) attend the District Annual Meeting.

\_\_\_ 7. Had at least one member (other than a conference or district officer) attend the Conference Annual Meeting.

\_\_\_ 8. Had at least two members who wrote to at least five people listed in the Prayer Calendar at least once during the year.

\_\_\_ 9. Participated in the Campaign for Children.

\_\_\_ 10. Is a Five Star Unit, contributing to all five channels of Mission Giving.

\_\_\_ 11. Had at least one person complete one of the plans in the Reading Program.

\_\_\_ 12. Invited a district or conference officer, other than a member of the unit, to one unit meeting during the year.

**Your unit, circle, or subgroup**

\_\_\_ 13. Included a Response Moment where an article from Response Magazine was lifted up as a way to tell the mission story in at least three meetings

\_\_\_ 14. Had at least two programs from the Program Book.

\_\_\_ 15. Implemented the Charter for Racial Justice Policies in at least two ways.

**Patricia G. Walker**  
**204 Wheat St.**  
**Livingston, South Carolina 29107**  
**803-247-2605**



## FROM THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR

Shalom My Dear Sisters in Christ,

**Spiritual Nourishment:** As I reflect upon my childhood, I am reminded of my parents teaching us, two brothers and a sister, that God comes before any and everything in our lives. Our parents were devoted Christians. They believed in Christian values and principles as their way of life. We prayed together, worshipped together and had Bible Study together. At times, our parents would invite our neighbors to join us in our home. As we read and shared different scriptures in the Bible, one of our favorite family scriptures comes to mind, "Psalm 23." It reads, **"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."**

In this scripture, I am inclined to believe that God's word is filled with lessons about life for each of us. And in these lessons from this particular scripture, we are drawn closer to Him. It will help you to grow spiritually. God helps us to cope and deal with all of our daily struggles and challenges of life.

The Psalmist expresses to us that God desires to lead and guide us with His divine leadership and protection. God wants to walk with us and lead us in His righteous paths. We realize and understand that life can become difficult and overwhelming; just like what we are experiencing now with the pandemic. Our Shepherd is still in CONTROL. We can always depend on Him.

The Psalmist teaches us that God wants everyone to enjoy His eternal presence. "He prepares a table" for us. Just think about it for a minute! Is there anytime of the day better than fellowshiping at your dinner table while eating, laughing and talking with each other? Well, God also wants us to have this same kind of fellowship with Him. He is an awesome God!

The Psalmist also shares with us that God is still in the "Blessing Business." When the Psalmist said, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

## FROM THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR (continued)

These words teach us about the blessings of God. God never gives us only one blessing. He blesses us over and over again. God desires for us to experience His love and goodness. Even when the people of Israel disobeyed Him, God was still with them. All because of His mercy and steadfast love. He has continuous blessings for us, His children. God seeks us, so that we may know Him and live with Him FOREVER. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!! AMEN.

**DAY APART VIRTUAL EVENT:** I would like to thank everyone who participated and supported this special occasion, which was held on Saturday, April 10th, 2021. Our event was hosted by Bethel Park UMC, Denmark, SC. Rev. Terry A. Roof is the Pastor. The beautiful music selections were provided by Bethel Park UMC Family. Our theme was "Unbound To Share Good News." We had an uplifting Praise and Worship Service experience. Our Guest Preacher was the Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Bowman, Sr., pastor of St. Mark UMC in North, SC. The focused scripture lesson was taken from Matthew 28:1-10. He delivered a powerful message about "Unbound Women Sharing The Good News." His main focus was related to women being bold, faithful and responding to their call. Thanks again for supporting this event.

**REMINDERS:** Please send your deceased members report (August 15, 2020 to August 15, 2021) to our District President, Mrs. Sonya Benjamin.

**EXPRESSION OF THANKS:** I would like to thank our President, Mrs. Sonya Benjamin and all of my UMW Sisters in Christ, in the Orangeburg District, for having me to serve as your District Spiritual Growth Coordinator. I have enjoyed being a part of the "NUMBER ONE DISTRICT." My spiritual growth has increased in various ways. This certainly has been a rewarding experience for me. Until we meet again..... GOD BLESS!

Peace and Love,  
Susan K. Bowman

REMINDER TO LOCAL UNIT PRESIDENTS  
(Deadline is August 15, 2021)

Please complete the form and send to: Susan Bowman  
228 Northlake Road  
Columbia, SC 29223

Name of Local Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Deceased Members (since last District Annual Meeting or since August 15, 2020, or those whose names were not reported for 2019)

Please check this if applicable.

No deceased members to report.

## FROM THE CHAIRPERSON ON NOMINATIONS

Greetings United Methodist Women,

The nominations committee is responsible for finding leadership for positions on the district level. It is important that United Methodist Women members be familiar with some of the skills, interests and leadership potential of all positions along with the officers' roles and responsibilities. It is recommended that you complete the profile sheet for the positions you may be interested in.

The nominations committee is looking for individuals to fill the following district positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary of Program Resources, Education & Interpretation Chair, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Chair of Nominations, and a member of the Springfield Nominations Committee.

A profile sheet has been included in this Lantern Newsletter for your convenience. We are asking interested persons to complete the form and turn it in to one of the following nominations committee members:

Sylvia Robinson - 803-347-6626

Shirlain Darby - 803-347-6375

Linda Gulick - 803-642-8747

Carolyn Parler - 803-496-5577

Eva Manigault - 803-245-4319

Thank you very much for choosing to serve!

Note: Information on positions can be found in the Constitution and Bylaws section of the United Methodist Women Handbook.

Sylvia Robinson,

Chair of Nominations

Email: [sylviarobinson@live.com](mailto:sylviarobinson@live.com)

Cell Phone: 803-347-6626



## INFORMATION ON PROSPECTIVE LEADERSHIP

(to be completed by a prospective leader)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home/Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Local Church: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Office(s) held in United Methodist Women or position(s) interested in:

**Office(s)**

**Dates of Service**

Local Church \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_

## FROM THE SOCIAL ACTION COORDINATOR



### Social Action Corner

We are fortunate to live in a time when many of us in the U.S. have access to energy to run our dishwashers, charge our phones, cook our meals and commute to our local United Methodist Women meetings. However, is the energy that fuels all these possibilities just? How is it impacting the lives and health of women, children and youth in the U.S. and around the world?

Our Just Energy for All Campaign works for energy that is cleaner and more just for all of God's people and creations. In 2021, make a resolution to advance Just Energy for all with United Methodist Women!

Stay connected with other United Methodist Women members and people of faith who are working to advance just energy all year long! **Join United Methodist Women's monthly Just Energy for All Strategy and Capacity Building Sessions** every third Wednesday of the month at 3 pm ET, 2 pm CT, 1 pm MT, 12 pm PT, 11 am AKT, 10 am HAT, and 9 am WT.

Learn more at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/just-energy-for-all-webinars> and register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtcuutpzljGtIsZee-DLtfPHwBwD1d0OS5>

Sincerely,  
Barbara Simpson,  
Social Action Coordinator





## Charter for Racial Justice Diamond Units

The Diamond Unit certificate is awarded at each District Annual Meeting to each unit that completes three or more activities from the list below that demonstrates the unit's commitment to the ideals in the Charter for Racial Justice. At least one of the diamond-marked activities must be included. You are to send a copy of this completed form to your District Social Action Coordinator by **August 15, 2021** in order to be recognized at the District Annual Meeting and receive the Diamond Unit certificate.

**Please mail form to: District Social Action Coordinator: Barbara Simpson, 139 Simpson RD, Cope SC 29038  
PHONE: (803)707-1614**

**Name of Church and address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person & Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

<u>DATE COMPLETED</u>	<u>ACTION CHOICES</u>
1. _____	1. Watch a video related to the Charter for Racial Justice
2. _____	2.  Give a book report on a Reading Program Book selected from the Social Action area
3. _____	3.  Share articles from <i>Response</i> and <i>New World Outlook</i> or <i>UMW Action Alerts</i> relating to racism
4. _____	4.  Supply each member with a copy of the <i>Charter for Racial Justice</i>
5. _____	5.  Present a program using the Charter for Racial Justice
6. _____	6. Use a program on racial justice/human rights from the UMW Program Book
7. _____	7. Participate in a UMW Social Action/Human Rights Mission Study
8. _____	8. Give a report to the unit about an experience of attending a musical or theatrical performance by person(s) of a different race, culture, or ethnic background
9. _____	9. Send at least one member to UMW Legislative Day
10. _____	10. Participate in postcard-writing which encourages legislation favorable to the economically deprived or challenged
11. _____	11. Experience worship, Bible study, or UMW unit program/activity with an ethnic group different from your own
12. _____	12. Attend or host an international tasting party, culture fair, or other international event
13. _____	13. Participate in a Bible Study on Racism
14. _____	14. Celebrate Black History Month in February
15. _____	15. Suggest and plan with your pastor a pulpit exchange with a pastor of another race
16. _____	16. Plan an event with a unit of a different race or ethnic background (a celebration, worship, Vacation Bible School, etc.)
17. _____	17. Other _____

UMW LOCAL UNIT PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2021

Report should cover September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021

Report is due August 15, 2021

Church \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

President \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Totals:

Number of Members \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Circles \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Deceased Members \_\_\_\_\_ Number making pledge \_\_\_\_\_

Pledges and Contributions: Total Pledge Made \_\_\_\_\_

Actual Amounts through Local Treasurer:

Pledge to Missions \_\_\_\_\_ World Thank Offering \_\_\_\_\_  
Gift in Memory \_\_\_\_\_ Gift to Mission \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Mission Recognition \_\_\_\_\_ Legacy Fund \_\_\_\_\_  
Call to Prayer and Self Denial \_\_\_\_\_ Killingsworth \_\_\_\_\_  
Wallace Family Life Center \_\_\_\_\_ Bethlehem, Spartanburg \_\_\_\_\_  
Bethlehem, Columbia \_\_\_\_\_ Rural Mission \_\_\_\_\_

Participation: ( # in attendance)

District Annual Meeting \_\_\_\_\_ District Officers' Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Apart \_\_\_\_\_ Legislative Day \_\_\_\_\_  
Come Together/Be Together \_\_\_\_\_ Mission u \_\_\_\_\_  
Spiritual Growth Retreat \_\_\_\_\_ Conference Annual Meeting \_\_\_\_\_  
Conf. Legacy Fun Day \_\_\_\_\_ District Legacy Day \_\_\_\_\_

Mission Education ( # participating)

Reading Program Participants for 2019- 2020 \_\_\_\_\_  
Subscribe to Response \_\_\_\_\_ Subscribe to World Outlook \_\_\_\_\_  
Use Prayer Calendar \_\_\_\_\_ # times program book used \_\_\_\_\_

Other information about your unit may be attached. Please include other mission projects supported.

Please send report to Sonya Benjamin, 118 Coventry Road, Summerville, SC 29486 or e-mail to [sonyasb1314@icloud.com](mailto:sonyasb1314@icloud.com)



REMINDER TO ALL LOCAL UNIT PRESIDENTS  
CHECK-LIST FOR DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING  
DEADLINE FOR ALL REPORTS IS AUGUST 15, 2021

The District Annual Meeting will be held on September 11, 2021, at Mt. Zion UMC, Bamberg, SC. Further information will be forthcoming in the September *Lantern*. All reports are due to the respective coordinators on or before August 15, 2021, in order that information can be included in the program booklet.

The LOCAL UNIT PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2021 should be sent to Sonya Benjamin, 118 Coventry Rd., Summerville, SC 29486. Deadline is August 15, 2021. The president's report form is included in this issue of the *Lantern*.

A form is included in this issue of the *Lantern* to be sent to Susan Bowman, 228 Northlake Road, Columbia, SC 29223 to report the names of any deceased members since the last Annual Meeting. Even if you have no deceased members, complete the form and send it to Susan. Deadline is August 15, 2021.

Reading Program participants' names and books read should be sent to Linda Huggins, 2218 Binnicker Bridge Rd., Cope, SC 29038. The form is included in this issue of the *Lantern*. Deadline is August 15, 2021.

Mission Today forms should be sent to Patricia Walker, 204 Wheat St., Livingston, SC 29107. The form can be found in this issue of the *Lantern*. Remember that to be a Mission Today Unit, you must have made and met your pledge for 2021. Even if you have met the other requirements, you must meet Requirement # 1 to be a Mission Today Unit. Deadline is August 15, 2021.

Diamond Unit forms should be sent to Barbara Simpson, 139 Simpson Road, Cope, SC 29038. The form can be found in this issue of the *Lantern*. Deadline is August 15, 2021.

Remind your treasurer to send in quarterly reports to the District treasurer so that you can be assured of being a 5-star unit and mission unit. Fourth quarter of 2020 and the first 3 quarters of 2021 count for these awards.

Hope to see you at the District Annual Meeting!! If you have any questions, call or email your cluster leader or any other district officer who may be able to help.

# WORKING ON THE FRONTLINE

## Part 2

A Teacher's Perspective-Sonya Benjamin

By Chan Spigner

Sonya Benjamin is the Orangeburg District United Methodist Women President. She is a Special Education Teacher who has been teaching for 17 years. Benjamin states, "I became a teacher, because I wanted to make a difference." "As I sat in Family Court weekly, as a probation officer, I heard numerous cases where the Defense Attorney used the juvenile's educational deficits in Reading, as a defense for crimes committed by them. I just could not believe the school system was allowing so many children to go from grade to grade, without being able to read."

Benjamin states, when the news of the national pandemic due to the coronavirus surfaced on March 13, 2020, she was faced with many challenges as a teacher who taught special needs students. The school district where she is employed, advised the teachers to create two weeks of lesson plans to be taught online. She asked the question, "How was that supposed to look and work when I teach special needs students, who require verbal, visual, and kinesthetic instructions, which include one-on-one at times, with numerous opportunities to practice? I was told that I needed to do the best I could, to accommodate my students. Then the school building closed, and all my teaching materials and supplies were in the school. You do not miss things or value them until you do not have them." "I had to recreate myself. I created lessons from past experiences, utilized numerous resources and educational programs on the internet. I stayed up late at night, had headaches, stomach aches and very tired eyes." "With God's help and the help of my dedicated, supportive, and tech savvy Teacher Assistant, I found a light at the end of the tunnel. We spent numerous hours planning effective lessons, which include a variety of learning styles and activities to engage the students for learning, for the required class time."

"Finally, one Sunday afternoon, I received a telephone call from my school principal informing me that all teachers will report to the building to teach. I would be teaching both in person students and students virtually (online). I was teaching 12 in-person students and 10 students online, at the same time." The school has adopted several measures to support and help the educators at her school. Face masks must be worn by all employees and students. Everyday, everyone has their temperatures checked before entering the building. Teachers must complete a personal Health Survey daily. Teachers were given instructional assignments based on their individual medical needs.

Continued on the next page...

# WORKING ON THE FRONTLINE

## Part 2 (continued)

A Teacher's Perspective-Sonya Shuler-Benjamin

By Chan Spigner

Every classroom is stocked daily with hand sanitizer and disposable face masks for teachers and students, as well as cleaning supplies of hand wipes, paper towels and dial soap. The students' desks are spaced out with 6 feet of distance in between each desk and each desk is surrounded by Plexi glass. Most importantly, teachers must sanitize their classroom between classes and the classrooms are thoroughly cleaned every afternoon, with the CDC approved disinfectant and the SaniSpray machines.

Benjamin recommends that people take the vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer) for COVID-19. She has been fully vaccinated. "I prayed before making my decision and I do believe that God gave the doctors and scientists the knowledge they needed to create these vaccines, to help curtail and stabilize the symptoms." "The vaccines do not prevent you from getting the virus and it is not a cure, but neither is the flu shot," states Benjamin.

Benjamin said, "There were days when I became overwhelmed, due to the demand of teaching during the coronavirus pandemic, but I prayed and realized that this is my ministry and I love working with children and youth. God answered my prayers and equipped me for the task. With God I can do all things. He has not brought me this far to leave me. Teachers are taken for granted. We do not get the respect we deserve. However, no one seems to realize, if it were not for teachers, other professions would not exist. Teachers, with God's help, make all things possible."

Sonya Benjamin is married and has two beautiful and talented children. She is a member of New Covenant United Methodist Church in Bowman, South Carolina. The pastor is Reverend Sheri White. Benjamin has served as the local unit's United Methodist Women president for six years. She is also a Lay Servant. Benjamin plans to retire from the public school system within five years and become a college professor. May God continue to bless Sonya Benjamin, as she continues this journey called life, empowering, engaging, and inspiring students for the future. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 NIV.

# ORANGEBURG DISTRICT UMW PHOTO CORNER

Sonya Benjamin  
Orangeburg District UMW President



Then.  
20 year old college student at  
Charleston Southern University



Now.  
Teacher



Blast from the Past  
The Benjamin Family



Teaching during the pandemic

# ST. MARK UMW - NORTH, SC MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

May 9, 2021

By: Willie Mae Johnson

The United Methodist Women of St. Mark, (North Charge) had a beautiful Mother's Day Celebration on Sunday, May 9, 2021. Our young adult group, Divine Unity, provided three musical selections for us during the program. Our district spiritual group leader, Mrs. Susan K. Bowman, led us in the Morning Prayer. Our unit president, Mrs. Evelyn C. Sims, challenged the women to learn the Purpose of the United Methodist Women and the purpose was recited by Ms. Willie Mae Johnson. We had four youth to participate in our program.

Miss Genesis Hook read the Epistle Lesson, Acts 10:44-48. Miss Lauryn Williams read the Old Testament, Psalm 98. Miss Monique Robinson read the New Testament, John 15:9-17. Miss Layla K. Broughton read a poem. The spoken word was given by our pastor, Dr. Thomas J. Bowman, Sr.

Mrs. Evelyn C. Sims and Mrs. Susan K. Bowman received gifts from the unit for the hard work they have done for our group. Ms. Willie Mae Johnson received a gift card for reciting the purpose. Our president, Mrs. Evelyn C. Sims, ordered special face masks for all of the women.



## CALVARY UMW - SWANSEA, SC OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

By: Joyce Saylor

Summer is just beginning, however the Calvary United Methodist Women of Swansea are looking ahead to Christmas. They are collecting items for their annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry. A large box is located at the church for members to donate items each month. This ministry, led by Calvary UMW member Frances Fogle, is in its eighteenth year. Last year was the first time the unit invited the congregation to donate supplies for this mission. Even with the worldwide COVID pandemic, there was still an abundant response to this invitation.

In past years, members were invited to bring packed boxes to the church on a specific Sunday in November. The boxes were placed around the altar rail and a blessing was given by the pastor. The Calvary UMW members held a packing party each year to fill the boxes. Due to COVID, last year each UMW member was designated a time slot to pack boxes at the church.

In 2020, the Calvary UMW packed 120 boxes for girls and boys between the ages of 2-14. Members and friends of the Calvary/Oak Grove United Methodist Charge joined in this ministry by donating another 129 packed boxes. Thanks to the generosity and support of many people, a total of 249 OCC Shoeboxes filled with items and God's love were sent to Samaritan's Purse for distribution around the world.

(Picture by Joyce Saylor)

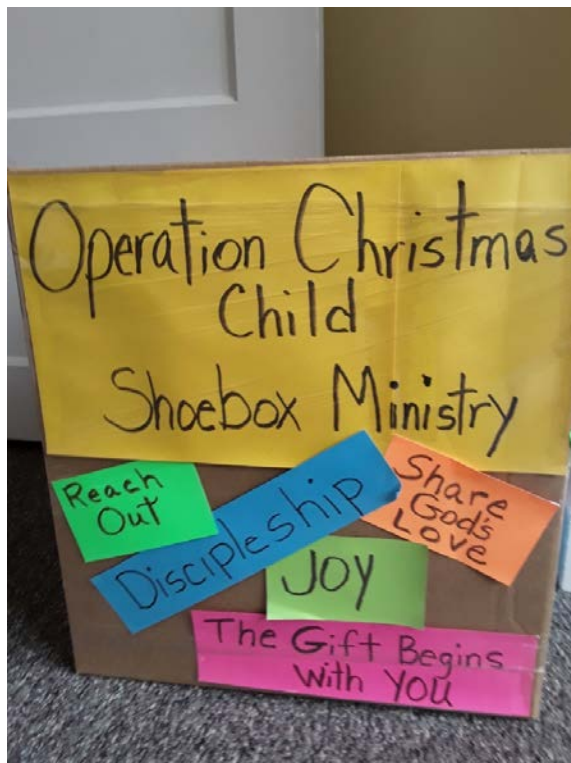


Pictured with packed boxes are some of the members of the Calvary UMW Women's organization. (First row, l to r: Betsy Hayden, Donna Wise, Yong Brophy and granddaughter Jade Lee, Carol Lloyd; Second row, Peggy Yon, Frances Fogle, Kimberly Lee). Other Calvary UMW members are: Willie Mae Wise, Joyce Wise, Sharon Hensley and Joyce Saylor. 22

# ORANGEBURG DISTRICT UMW PHOTO CORNER



St. Mark Mother's Day Celebration 2021



Calvary UMW collection box for church members and friends to donate items for OCC Shoeboxes  
(Picture by Joyce Saylor)



St. Mark UMW Custom Face Mask for Mother's Day Celebration 2021

## 2021 ORANGEBURG DISTRICT UMW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **President**

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### **Vice President**

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### **Chair Com. Nominations (Class of 2021)Orangeburg**

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### **Nom.(2025) Springfield**

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### **Nom. (2022) Aiken**

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### **Nom.(2023) Bowman**

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### **Nom. (2024)Bamberg/Denmark**

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### **Aiken Cluster Leader**

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### **Bowman Cluster Leader**

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### **Historian**

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## 2021 CLUSTERS AND LEADERS

**Aiken: Judy Dudley**

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St. John's (Aiken)  
St. Paul (New Ellenton)  
Trinity (Aiken)  
Wesley (Aiken)

**Bamberg/Denmark: Mary Rivers**

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Bethel (Bamberg)  
Bethel Park (Denmark)  
Blackville  
Franklin (Denmark)  
Mt. Carmel (Bamberg)  
Mt. Zion (Bamberg)  
Pleasant Hill (Ehrhardt)  
St. John (Edisto Charge)  
Orange Grove (Bamberg)  
Trinity (Bamberg)  
Union (Cope)  
Wesley Grove (Edisto Charge) (Cordova)

**Bowman: Clary Robinson**

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Bethel (Rowesville)  
Ebenezer (Bowman)  
Elloree  
Eutawville  
Gerizim (Vance)  
Holly Hill  
Mays Chapel (Orangeburg)  
New Covenant (Bowman)  
Pineville (Bowman)  
Prospect (Orangeburg)  
Providence  
St. Stephen (Bowman)  
Silas (Eutawville)  
Target (Holly Hill)  
White House (Bowman)

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Canaan (Cope)  
Cedar Grove (Orangeburg)  
Edisto Fork (Orangeburg)  
Forest Chapel (Orangeburg)  
Mt. Nebo (Orangeburg)  
New Light (Orangeburg)  
North Orangeburg (Orangeburg)  
St. Andrew's (Orangeburg)  
St. John (Orangeburg)  
St. Paul's (Orangeburg)  
St. Stephen (Orangeburg)  
Shady Grove (Cameron)  
Trinity (Orangeburg)

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Bethel at Peachtree Rock  
Calvary (Swansea)  
Lebanon (Neeses)  
Livingston  
New Beginning (Springfield)  
North  
Pine Hill (Orangeburg)  
St. Mark (North)  
Wagener  
Williston

2021 Orangeburg District UMW Calendar

January 9 (9:00 a.m.)	District Virtual Officers' Training Host: St. Andrews UMC, Orangeburg Virtual Executive Committee Meeting
February	Special Emphasis Month -- Wallace Family Life Center
TBA	Legislative Advocacy Day: Epworth Children's Home, Columbia
February 15	Deadline for Articles for March <i>Lantern</i>
March 1	UMW Scholarship Application Deadline
March 1	<i>Lantern</i> published
March 23	Legacy Fund Day of Giving (152 years)
April	Special Emphasis Month -- Columbia Bethlehem Center
April 10 (8:30 a.m.)	Day Apart and "Spring into Missions": Bethel Park UMC, Denmark District Executive Committee Meeting
April 24 (10:00 a.m.)	(Virtual) Spiritual Growth Retreat: Rock Hill District
May 15	Deadline for Articles for June <i>Lantern</i>
May 15 (10:00 a.m.)	(Virtual) Come Together/Be Together: Anderson District
June 1	<i>Lantern</i> published
July 22 -24	(In Person) Mission u: Spartanburg Methodist College or
July 24 & July 31 (10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virtual)	
August 14 (9:00 a.m.)	District Executive Committee Meeting: Mt. Zion UMC, Bamberg
August 15	Deadline for Articles for September <i>Lantern</i>
September	Special Emphasis Month -- Killingsworth
September 1	<i>Lantern</i> published
September 11 (9:00 a.m.)	District Annual Meeting: Mt. Zion UMC, Bamberg
October	Special Emphasis Month -- Spartanburg Bethlehem Center
October 23 (10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)	(Virtual) SCCUMW Annual Meeting: Hartsville District
November 6 (10:00a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)	SCCUMW Virtual Officer's Training (District Officers): Florence District District Executive Committee Meeting
November 15	Deadline for Articles for December <i>Lantern</i>
December 1	<i>Lantern</i> published