

The United Methodist Women met in Room 303 at Pleasant View UMC at 6:30 pm on May 4, 2021.

Attending were Melissa Belcher, Barbara Farmer, Carol Hess, Karen Radnoczi, Vickie Scyphers, Brenda Somers, Cathy Swindall, Marjorie Tester, Jeannene Thompson, Sandy Thompson, and Brenda Walch. Attending for the first time were Lynn Greer, Patsy Horney, and Boots Price.

President, Cathy Swindall, **recognized our new visitors, welcomed** everyone, opened with a **prayer**, and led the group in reciting the **UMW Purpose**.

The Response Moment shared by Brenda W. highlighted a casserole sale held by a Denton, Texas, UMW as a socially distanced way to raise money for missions. The group made a menu of five different casseroles in large and small sizes. They took orders online for a one hour pickup on Saturday and Sunday. Casseroles were delivered to cars during pickup or to homes upon request. Some called the sale a blessing because folks were so tired of cooking, while others purchased the dishes to take to friends who were ill. Either way, this was one more story of how a UMW group is meeting the needs of its community while working toward even more far-reaching goals.

Kathy Whisman could not attend, but sent a **Devotion, "The Simple Life,"** which was read by Vickie. In Mark 16:15, Jesus tells his disciples, *"Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to all creation."* We were cautioned that as we seek simplicity in this busy world, we should be careful not to mistake simplicity for an easy life. Jesus told us to take up our cross and follow Him, and Paul warned that there would be pain along the way. Our prayer should be for strength to seek God's will and to do it even when it is hard, for that is what Christians have been commanded to do.

Vickie called our attention to the **Prayer Calendar**, and we observed the May 4 **birthdays** of Rosa Milbourne and Saory Pon. Both of these are students, and Kathy W. is working on trying to contact them by email with our happy birthday wishes. The **Mission Focus** was the Shade and Fresh Water Project in Brazil which is supporting and expanding an after-school program to create activities for at-risk youth.

Minutes of the April 2021 meeting were approved as presented on a motion made by Brenda W. and seconded by Brenda S.

The April 2021 **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Cathy Swindall. Opening balance was \$3,622.97 with receipts of \$466.00 and spendings of \$203.00, leaving a balance of \$3,885.97 going forward into May. She noted that several expenditures have been made toward our missions since this report was completed, leaving us a working balance of about \$2,488.00. Those expenditures will be detailed on the May Treasurer's Report.

Old Business

- **Updates on Members - Judy Young** is feeling better and hoped to return to school in person this week. She has been teaching virtually throughout the course of her treatment. **Judy Hayden** is doing ok, and was happy to have been out for a ride which didn't include a doctor's visit last weekend! Both of these ladies would welcome cards or calls.
- **Books for Babies** – Brenda W. reported on her inquiries into the need for a mission such as this which was sparked by a prior Response Moment. Since Laura Plaster's Wheels of Care program has been suspended, and JMH already has a program; Brenda visited Wellmont Bristol Regional Medical Center and found them very receptive to receiving books for their newborns. She took a gift of seven board books, and explained we would like to affix a label to each book telling the parents that our group has prayed for their baby and wishes their family well. Since 40-50 babies are born there each month, this would be a large undertaking for us. There was discussion about having a book drive similar to our diaper shower, asking the congregation for books in the newsletter and bulletin, asking Sunday School classes to participate, and inviting the Children's Department to join in the mission. Marjorie made a motion seconded by Jeannene, that we begin to accumulate books and see how it goes. When we have enough to offer for a reasonable period of time; we will label them, pray over them, and donate them to the hospital. If we do not collect enough to offer each baby born, the nurses may use their discretion in giving them to those babies from homes where books might be scarce. The group agreed that this new mission will be launched. A box full of books has already been donated from those left over from a United Way donation to the day care program here.
- **Money for Missions** – Cathy reported that the \$500 each we voted to spend on needs for four of our five missions this year has been spent. Shopping teams have purchased and delivered requested items to **KARM** (Jeannette & Dixie), **Faith in Action** (Vickie & Brenda W.), **Bristol Road to Recovery** (Karen & Carol), and **Children's Advocacy Center** (Brenda W. & Dixie). The fifth mission we voted to support was sending Bibles to an orphanage in Uganda which we learned about from Carla. Cathy heard from Carla that the cost might be more than we could fully support, but the group felt we should wait until we hear more from her about the details before we abandon this effort.
- **Cancer Center Snacks** – Cathy reported that Nabs and chips are not needed at the JMH Cancer Center right now. Little Debbie cakes and sweet treats are preferred, as well as 7 ½ oz. cans of Coke products. Diet Coke is especially hard to find. She explained that items taken there are split between the radiation and chemotherapy units. Make sure donated items have a current and clearly visible expiration date and are individually wrapped. Jeannene volunteered to take tonight's donations to the Bristol Cancer Center and to ask if they have preferences going forward.

New Business

- **Elk Garden Community Mission** – Carol and Brenda W. will take the desserts we brought tonight to the Mission tomorrow and will find out more details about when and how often items are needed.

Program

“If...” All ladies were given a thought-provoking “if question” to ponder for a minute or two. The answers everyone shared challenged us, gave us new insight into our thinking, and helped us get to know each other better. (If you were not at the meeting, how would you have answered a question such as: “If money were not an issue, what would you buy?” “If you could make an 11th Commandment, what would it be?” “If you could have a conversation with anyone, dead or alive, who would it be?” If you could give up a chore for life, what would it be?)

Cathy closed with prayer, asking a special blessing for those who will receive our goods for Elk Garden and the Cancer Centers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Radnoczi, Secretary