

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

Attending were Carol Hess, Lynn Greer, Patsy Horney, Dixie Medford, Freda Pickle, Karen Radnoczi, Vickie Scyphers, Brenda Somers, Cathy Swindall, Marjorie Tester, Jeannene Thompson, Sandy Thompson, Brenda Walch and Kathy Whisman.

President, Cathy Swindall, **welcomed** everyone, opened with a **prayer**, and led the group in reciting the **UMW Purpose**. She asked for continuing prayers for Dale and Angela as she goes for surgery tomorrow and for Marjorie who recently lost her mother.

The Response Moment shared by Vickie highlighted a "COVID time" project sponsored by a Frankfort, Kentucky UMW Unit called "Love Thy Neighbor Chalk Art." Chalkers of all ages were invited to come to the church anytime between 9:00-7:00 one day to decorate one sidewalk square with sidewalk chalk in any way they would like to illustrate love, justice, hope and mercy. A prayer vigil was held throughout the day to lift up the need for those blessings. As artists worked, they enjoyed a wonderful day of socially distanced outdoor fun while focusing on ways to share God's love. Their products were photographed and shared on social media spreading the wonderful messages of love throughout the community and beyond. Vickie wondered out loud why we couldn't do something like that in our parking lot...

The **Devotional Moments**, given by Kathy W. contained timely reminders of the value of a loyal friend; the strength of a nation that worships the one true God; and the freedoms we have to follow Christ, to let go of ourselves, and to worship God. She gave us a shiny new penny as she told the familiar story of **"A Penny and a Prayer,"** helping us remember to put our trust in God and to tell others to do so, as well. Kathy gave a challenge to us for times when we find a penny. This year, GIVE IT AWAY! Give it to someone and tell them what Jesus has done for you because of your trust in Him. We will be once again collecting pennies or a donation if you wish to give to a charity at the end of the year. Last year members contributed \$345 and the Unit matched that for a donation of \$690 to the Children's Advocacy Center. She encouraged us to read Mark 12:41-44 and think about the widow's sacrificial offering.

Kathy gave notebooks filled with information about UMW to all those who didn't have one. She said she has been trying to send get well and sympathy cards to members, but she doesn't always know when a card is needed. **PLEASE give her a call when you know of someone who is experiencing a loss or health issue. She also expressed a need for sponsors for new members. Please call Cathy or Kathy if you would like to volunteer.**

Kathy called our attention to the **Prayer Calendar**, and we observed the June **birthdays** of Dorairaj Ebenezer on Staff and Desiree Sequra, Missionary; and the July birthdays of Sarah Brockus and David Wildman on Staff, and Mark Zimmerman, Missionary. The **Mission Focus** for June was the UMW Liberia Annual Conference supporting the production of reusable cloth sanitary pads by local women. For July it was the Association for Theological Education in Myanmar which is providing writing and leadership

workshops with the Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Prayer was offered for those missions and missionaries.

Minutes of the May 2021 meeting were approved on a motion made by Brenda W. and seconded by Jeannene.

The May and June 2021 **Treasurer's Reports** were presented by Cathy Swindall. The May opening balance was \$3,885.97 with receipts of \$218.00 and spendings of \$2,673.33, leaving a balance of \$1,430.64 going forward into June. There were no spendings in June, leaving a balance of \$1,430.64 going into July.

Old Business

- **Books for Babies** – Brenda W. reported that our first collection of 76 board books was gratefully received at the Bristol Hospital. Over 100 more have been collected by the congregation and the Bible School children. The hope is to have them displayed on the altar and let the congregation see and pray over them before they are delivered.
- **Elk Garden School Community Mission** – Carol Hess delivered the desserts we collected in May to the Mission and learned it is under the new leadership of Melissa Absher, Site Director, and Reverend Natalie Justice, Executive Director. They have resumed operation of the clothes closet and food pantry and will resume the pet food ministry soon. They are selling firewood as a fund raiser, and are planning a Fall Festival with craft show, games, and a chili contest on October 16th. They no longer need desserts, but do continue to need peanut butter, boxes of mac and cheese, canned meats and breakfast cereals for the food pantry. Check out their Facebook page or website for details about current events and needs. Carol will take items collected tonight this Thursday and will ask if they would like us to do a fall soup lunch for their workers again.
- **Abuse Alternatives** – Brenda W. reported that this agency has resumed taking donations. She has 15-20 purses filled and ready to go, but will now be taking purses and fillers as you would like to donate. If you have a gently used purse you would like to fill yourself, items appreciated are: Tylenol, tissues, Band-Aids, snack crackers, hard candy, hand sanitizer, pocket calendar, pen, notebook, small shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, \$5 gift cards for fast food, small crosses, devotional book.

New Business

- **Clinch Mountain District UMW Mission Bible Study** will be held at Lebanon Memorial United Methodist Church Saturday morning, August 14. The cost is \$10 which includes brunch. If you would like to go, Cathy will need to know no later than our next meeting so she can send in registrations.

- **Nominating Committee** is needed for 2022 officers. Since there were no volunteers, Cathy will ask Ruth Adkins and Jeannene will ask Judy Hayden if they would like to do the search for nominees. All offices need to be filled for next year. Brenda Somers said the District is also desperate for officers and encouraged anyone who would like to serve at the district level or knows anyone in the district who would, please let her know.

Program – Bold Steps in Defiance of Injustice

Jeannene began with the story of Pharaoh's efforts to control the Hebrew population found in Exodus 1:15-22. When ordered to kill all male babies born to Hebrew women, the midwives boldly refused and gave an excuse. Vickie continued to tell that when the order was to throw all the baby boys into the Nile, the story of baby Moses shows how a multitude of bold women, including Moses' mother and sister, Pharaoh's daughter, and a woman of privilege worked together to creatively and compassionately save the baby boy. They all acted together for a common goal.

Brenda W. continued by reminding us that there are still children's and maternal issues which need our cooperative attention. Barriers to health care in rural areas are among the greatest of these. Some of these barriers are transportation, lack of insurance, closing hospitals and OB units, rising costs, shortage of prenatal and postnatal care. Higher reimbursements for OB services and greater empowerment of nurses and midwives to perform more of these services are needed to help address these needs.

Vickie and Brenda led us in a candlelight litany in remembrance of women oppressed by those and others barriers and those who are victims of domestic violence. We remembered those we have helped through our missions such as the donations for the Children's Advocacy Center and the Elk Garden Mission, our diaper drives for Haven of Rest, the money and supplies donated to Washington County and City of Bristol Schools, the Books for Babies collection and the purses given through Abuse Alternatives. Brenda led a prayer for them all.

We work and we wait to see justice prevail. Together we are strong as we challenge oppression. Our hearts take courage for the work still to do.

Closing Prayer – Cathy asked a special blessing for those who will receive our goods for Elk Garden, Children's Advocacy Center and the Cancer Centers and for the missions ongoing in those places.

Closing Joke – Brenda S. ended the meeting with the gift of a good laugh, and chose Freda to bring the closing joke next time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Radnoczi, Secretary