

The United Methodist Women met in Room 303 at Pleasant View UMC at 6:30 pm on August 3, 2021.

Attending were Angela Gilbert, Carol Hess, Dixie Medford, Freda Pickle, Karen Radnoczi, Vickie Scyphers, Brenda Somers, Cathy Swindall, Marjorie Tester, Brenda Walch and Kathy Whisman.

President, Cathy Swindall, **welcomed** the group. Dixie opened with a **prayer**, and led the group in reciting the **UMW Purpose**. **Prayer concerns** were raised for Judy Young, Judy and Jim Hayden and Mary Sue and Randy Smith. Kathy W. has sent cards to Judy and Judy.

The Response Moment, "How Is It With Your Soul," shared by Brenda W. reminded us of our Wesleyan heritage. From our roots in the meetings of Wesley's day in England, lay witnesses and itinerant preachers continued Methodist class meetings in this country to foster the growth. By 1815, more than 7,000 Methodist class meetings were up and running. Members were encouraged to speak freely and plainly the true state of their souls and to assess the state of their own souls through three searching questions: Have you carefully abstained from doing evil? Have you zealously maintained good works? Have you constantly attended on all the ordinances of God? Have we?

The **Devotion** given by Cathy S. came from a poem she found in her Mother's things. It was a touching prayer for children in all circumstances of life; common and uncommon, good and bad. It challenged us to pray for them all and to grab the hand of a child who is being left behind.

Kathy called our attention to the **Prayer Calendar**, and we observed the August **birthday** of Valerie Mossman-Celestin, Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner in Hudsonville, Michigan. The **Mission Focus** was the Shalom Reconciliation Ministry of Uganda which is expanding youth programs in Kotido by completing the youth center at Shalom Home, and recruiting key staff for mentoring and program oversight. The Mission Witness from a quilters group in Birmingham, Alabama, reminded us of our own quilters! At the Riley Center, their mission to make lap quilts and pillows for local veterans and members of the armed services was the beginning of years of witnessing the love and appreciation of serving others. We prayed for all these missionaries and missions.

Minutes of the July 2021 meeting were approved on a motion made by Vickie and seconded by Marjorie. "June" in the first line of those minutes should be "July."

The July 2021 **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Cathy S. The July opening balance was \$1,430.64 with receipts of \$444.50 and no spendings, leaving a balance of \$1,875.14 going forward into August.

Old Business

- **Books for Babies** – Brenda W. made a second delivery of 139 board books to Bristol Hospital. She has around 275 more at home, and there is a good collection started here for the next delivery. They were very appreciative and had given out almost all of the original delivery of 76 books over the past couple of months.
- **Elk Garden School Community Mission** – Carol reported that Elk Garden needs pasta, ravioli, macaroni and cheese and breakfast items for their food pantry. They also need volunteers for the Thrift Store on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Crafters and vendors are welcome to fill out an application for a table at their Fall Festival on October 16. Cathy wondered if this might be a good opportunity to sell some cookbooks and Rada. For more information, see their webpage or talk to Carol or Cathy.
- **Abuse Alternatives** – Last month, Brenda W. took 10 filled purses which were very gratefully received. Another way to help these ladies is to bring a small basket filled with cleaning supplies needed to start housekeeping.
- **Children's Advocacy Center** – Jeannene and Jeannette delivered supplies and quilts for the children there last month, and the director was delighted to receive them.
- **Rada** has some interesting new items. Cathy reminded us the easiest way to shop is online through the UMW page on the PVUMC website. We get 40% of all sales. Tell your friends!
- **Cookbooks** – We have made around \$700.00 on the books so far. We have several cases left, and all future sales are 100% profit.

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 by the end of this week.
- **Nominating Committee** is still needed for 2022 officers. If anyone is willing to help Ruth Adkins, please let Cathy know.
- **Preschool Silent Auction** will be held in October and we have been asked to provide a basket. Marjorie suggested we make a man's basket this time. Some ideas for items were tools, measuring tapes, work gloves, golf or fishing supplies – anything a man might like! Cathy will put a box in her Disciple Sunday School class across from the Family Life Center for donations.
- **Faith in Action** – Cathy has offered to do a lunch for the volunteers at Faith in Action similar to the one we provided for Elk Garden Mission a couple of years ago. The group agreed this was a good idea, but it was suggested that it might need to be a bag lunch if COVID transmission continues to rise.
- **Holston Conference Social Justice Event** – The program on criminalization of black girls in schools has been postponed until January.
- **PVUMC Administrative Board** – Cathy reported to the Board on our UMW activities last night, and they thought we were a busy group!

- **Youth Foundation – A Worship Experience for Young People by Young People** – H.B. is starting a new Wednesday night worship service, supper, and coffee bar for the youth downstairs. He hopes to have Sunday School classes and other groups provide the meals. Cathy hopes we could do this once a month on the Wednesday following our Tuesday night meeting. There were suggestions that doing the same meal, perhaps a taco bar or hot dog supper, each month would make it simpler and that we just commit to doing it once at first and see how it goes. He has no idea now how many will come, but is guessing around 25.
- **Holston Conference UMW Annual Meeting** will be live on ZOOM September 17 at 7:00 p.m. and September 18 from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 noon. The speaker is The Reverend Dr. Angela Hardy Cross, Mountain View District Superintendent. You may register online at: <https://holston-reg.com/UMWAnnualMeeting>.

Program – Caring for Each Other in Community/“Fine, Fine, I’m Really Fine”

Brenda W. and Vickie presented this program encouraging us to work across differences to build community and care for those among us who are needy or troubled. We were reminded that each of us is that one in need at some point in our lives. Galatians 6:2 instructs us, “Carry each others’ burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.” So often, we come together and forget that as the body of Christ, we should be a strong support for one another. We carelessly say, “I’m fine, really, I’m fine,” because to say otherwise would be to burden others with our problems. We are all flawed, and silence is not golden. When you are carrying burdens, allow others to help you.

We were given a little paper umbrella to remind us that there are always those among us who are experiencing storms or downpours, and that we are not alone in those times. We should hold each other up and commit to really see one another and gently restore one another. We should surround our sisters with the love of Christ and pray for every one of them. Each of us was given a Bible verse to read to the group to remind us there are so many encouraging, uplifting, and comforting words to be found there.

Closing Prayer –Vickie closed with prayer and a blessing for items brought for the Cancer Centers, Elk Garden, and Bristol Recovery Road.

Closing Joke – Freda ended the meeting with a good joke, and chose Karen to bring the closing joke next time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Radnoczi, Secretary