

The United Methodist Women met in Room 804 at Pleasant View UMC at 6:30 pm on September 7, 2021. Attending were Melissa Belcher, Lynn Greer, Patsy Horney, Dixie Medford, Freda Pickle, Karen Radnoczi, Vickie Scyphers, Brenda Somers, Cathy Swindall, Marjorie Tester, Jeannene Thompson and Brenda Walch. Attending for the first time were Katherine Redman and Becca Jenkins.

President, Cathy Swindall, **welcomed** the group and introduced newcomers, Katherine and Becca. Marjorie opened with a **prayer**, and led the group in reciting the **UMW Purpose**. **Prayer concerns** were raised for Jane Martin who recently lost her husband, and Jeannette and Bill Sanders and their son Michael who has fractured the leg which has been healing from a bad break earlier this year. Jeannette also asked that we pray for her brother-in-law who was just diagnosed with a brain tumor.

The Response Moment, "Suitcase Project," shared by Vickie told of a UMW group in Norman, Oklahoma, which has partnered with a community Women's Resource Center for 20 years to provide support through donations including hygiene products, underwear, clothing, and Christmas presents for women and their children fleeing abusive situations. This year, they added a Suitcase Drive which has been very successful and particularly well-received. We were reminded of our own relationship with Abuse Alternatives supplying filled purses and housekeeping supplies for the ladies served there.

The **Devotion** given by Melissa was "Gather Your Elephants" from The Upper Room. 1 Peter 5:8 cautions us: *"Be alert and of sober mind. Our enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."* Melissa told us this story reminded her so much of what our group does as we pray for each other and for women and children both in our community and around the world. Newborn elephants are very vulnerable to attack from predators. From the moment of birth, the herd gathers around to protect the mother and baby. Melissa gave each of us a tiny elephant to remind us to continue to surround our sisters and encourage each other through our struggles as we lift up others as a community of prayer.

Brenda W. called our attention to the **Prayer Calendar**, and we observed the September **birthday** of Jane Ann Murray, Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner in Lake Havasu, AZ. Kathy W. has sent a birthday card from our group. The **Mission Focus** was the India Opportunity School providing scholarships for special education to children with mental disabilities and helping students learn marketable skills in order to become more independent. We prayed for the work of this mission and all United Methodist Missionaries.

Minutes of the August 2021 meeting were approved on a motion made by Brenda and seconded by Marjorie.

The August 2021 **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Cathy S. The August opening balance was \$1,875.14 with receipts of \$250.00 and spendings of \$360.00, leaving a balance of \$1,765.14 going forward into September. The report was accepted on a motion by Vickie, seconded by Marjorie.

Old Business

- **Faith in Action Lunch** – A small group delivered lunch to the workers there on August 20. They were very appreciative of our support.
- **Nominating Team** – A team has been formed to present a slate of officers for 2022. Dixie, Judy H., and Ruth have been hard at work to find our upcoming officers. Please be in prayer for these ladies and those who will answer the call to lead our group next year.
- **Foundations Meal on 9/8/21** – The list of volunteers to provide all the “fixings” for a Taco Bar for an expected 40 youth at tomorrow night’s youth worship service was reviewed and finalized. We will see how this one goes and decide on when we may do this again.

New Business

- **Elk Garden Fall Festival** – The idea of being a vendor at their October 16 festival was considered. The fee would be \$20, and we could sell cookbooks, Rada, and perhaps some baked goods. We passed on this project due to lack of folks expressing availability or interest in going.
- **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 Friday evening session is also accessible to dial by phone. It will be a Call to Prayer & Self Denial Spiritual Enrichment program. Saturday’s meeting will include a business session, followed by special music and an address by the Mountain View District Superintendent. Anyone interested in attending/listening to either session needs to register online at: <https://holston-reg.brtapp.com/UMWAnnualMeeting> right away.
- **Next Meeting** – Our October meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon, October 17 at 5:00, in the sanctuary. The entire congregation will be invited to hear Barbara share stories and show pictures from her trip to the Holy Land. If needed, a short business meeting may be called for before or after the program. Watch your e-mail!

Program – The speaker planned for the evening was H. B. who was to give us an update on the new Foundations Worship service. Since the arrival of the newest member of his family was imminent, he was gladly given a pass this time. Instead, Brenda W. led us in a game filled with telling questions, passing or hanging on to some delicious candies, and lots of fun and laughter.

Closing Joke – A humorous moment was provided by Karen, and she chose Cathy to provide the funny next time.

Closing Prayer –We closed with prayer and a blessing for items brought for the Cancer Centers and various other missions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Radnoczi, Secretary