



The Word Sower

NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE
N M C U M W

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- President Messages
- Vice President Message
- Treasurers Message
- Program Resources
- Annual Meeting
- Communication Message
- Legacy Fund
- Annual Meeting Registration and Mission Candle Form

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Message from the President

'JORDAN RIVER RAMBLINGS' (President's Message)

Many years ago when I was privileged to serve as Church Secretary at St. Lukes UMC in Odessa, Texas, one of my delights was to write a weekly column for the newsletter and I chose to name it "Jordan River Ramblings" after the stream that 'rambles' through the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, my alma mater. Many, many things have changed since I wrote those columns... sadly to say that one of them has been the closing of St. Lukes UMC at this year's Annual Conference. So, for awhile I will resurrect that title for my message.

It has certainly been an interesting and challenging year so far for me as your president but I so look forward each day to be of service to each of you and the New Mexico

Conference of United Methodist Women.

Mission u 2016 in July at Sacramento Methodist Assembly was one of the most rewarding for me and I hope for others in attendance thanks to the dedicated and enlightened leaders in all capacities and they deserve a great big thanks!

I wish to share with you as a reminder the four mission emphases for this quadrennium: (there are many resources available at unitedmethodistwomen.org)

"Mass Incarceration"

"Climate Justice"

"Maternal and Child Health"

"Economic Inequality"

Learn all you can about these topics especially if you hear them addressed in any way by the candidates for public office this year at every level. We can make a difference for the women, children and

youth...so be informed and VOTE!

Lead a study and take action which has become for me the most important part of these two things. We must be the voice, hands and feet of those who cannot or will not speak for themselves. Each time you gather try to take some action for good....one person, two persons, three persons can make a difference! So this is my challenge....do something positive for your community, your church, yourself each time there is a gathering. Don't just be meeting to be meeting...

On the topic of Climate Justice I learned at Mission u that if each household in the United States began using toilet tissue made from recycled paper that 1.8 billion...yes, billion...trees could be saved. So I am providing

(Continued on page 2)

Message from the President (con't)

that kind of toilet tissue for each household in my family. (They think I have lost my mind, but I am still going to do it...LOL!)

Annual Meeting 2016 at Grace UMC, in Alamogordo, beginning on October 14 is an excellent opportunity to learn, share, and grow spiritually. Meaningful workshops, presenters, and

training will be offered to present ways to serve those in need. Let's make this Annual Meeting the largest in attendance in the last five years...the central location in New Mexico in Alamogordo makes it ideal for those who must travel just a few hours away from your home. We can do together for United Methodist Women

en that we could not do alone and let's be "Faith, Hope and Love in Action".

May God bless each of you. It is YOU who are doing the meaningful work to serve women, children and youth and you should be proud as I am to be a United Methodist Woman!

Call be or email me at

any time with your good news or concerns...I would love to come visit your local group gatherings or events!

Blessings.

Cheryl Goodding Ferguson

President, New Mexico Conference United Methodist Women

Don't Forget donations to the Mission Candle at Annual Meeting

Message from the Treasurer

Financial updates and requests:

July's Mission u was very productive, and the studies were both enlightening and interesting. While at Mission u, an offering was taken totaling \$1,000.00. Six hundred dollars was given as a Gift To Mission in honor of the Mission u leaders. The remaining money was sent to Alpine Community Center in Alpine, TX; one of our national missions.

The children and youth groups at Mission u bussed tables during the weekend, raising \$547.00, which they presented to the camp for caring for the horses. District treasurers, please have your 3rd quarter re-

mittance report completed with money to me by September 15th.

Treasurers, please keep in mind getting ALL monies and reports to me before the end of December; you will want all the local units to get credit for their giving in 2016.

Please keep in mind becoming a Five Star Award unit; what's required is giving in each of the five mission areas: Gift To Mission, Gift In Memory, Prayer & Self Denial, World Thank Offering, and Pledge To Mission. The Pledge To Mission giving must be an increase of at least \$1.00 over the previous year's pledge.

Please note at the end of the *Word Sower* the Mis-

sion Candle form. The money given to the Mission Candle will be credited to the unit under Gift To Mission or Gift In Memory.

If I can be of any help to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Contact information: Mary Mims; 5717 Mirage Court NW; Albuquerque, NM 87120-2415; 505-899-3301; mmims68@comcast.net.

Mission Giving

Program Resources Information

COMING SOON:

New books for the 2017 UMW Reading Program!

I am looking forward to seeing you at the New Mexico Conference United Methodist Women Annual Meeting. If you haven't already marked your calendars, it will be held in Alamogordo, NM this year on October 13-15 at Grace United Methodist Church.

If your church participated in the 2016 Reading Program, and you would like to be acknowledged in the program book for the annual meeting, please send your information to me by September 10th. Thus far, I have only received information from one church in the El Paso District! I know there are more participants than that.....

Send your information to me: Judy Wagoner, 1610 N Washington, Odessa, TX 79761 or call me at 432-337-1277 (h) or 432-664-0060 (c). If you would like to e-mail them to me, send them to judy@txwagoners.com.

Either way is fine.

The new Program Books for 2017-2018 will be available. If you plan to purchase more than one for yourself, please let me know so I can order extras. The 2017 Reading Program will include books from years past, 2012-17. A surprise this year is that I will have 2010-2011 books

FREE with a book purchase!

I have the list of books on the 2017

Reading Program and will include some of the descriptions that caught my attention:

Education for Mission

Education for Mission: Love Casts Out Fear – A Jihad Survivor's Journey from Revenge to Redemption

Leadership Development

Leadership: High Yield – Seven Disciplines of the Fruitful Leader

Nurturing for Community

Nurturing for Community: Launch Your Encore - Finding adventure and purpose later in life

Social Action

Social Action: America and Its Guns – A theological expose

Spiritual Growth

Spiritual Growth: Fully Awake and Truly Alive – Spiritual practices to nurture your soul

If I can help in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me. See you at Annual Meeting!

The Reading Program Leads to Action!

For 140 years, United Methodist Women have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study and action. The Reading Program is a study opportunity, but it should also lead to action. The purpose of the program is to encourage United Methodist Women members to:

- Expand understanding of and participation in God's mission.
- Increase sensitivity to all human beings—their needs, interests and concerns.
- Encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today.
- Grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life.
- Enhance self-knowledge and act from that knowledge.
- Strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission

The Vice-President Speaks!!

On October 14-16 we will convene our U.M.W. Annual Meeting at Grace United Methodist Church in Alamogordo, New Mexico. When you arrive in Alamogordo, you should be on White Sands Blvd. Turn East on Indian Wells Road until you get to Cuba St. Turn South on Cuba. Grace U.M.C. will be on your right. The Pumpkin Patch will be on the front lawn. School children from local elementary schools will be visiting the Pumpkin Patch on Friday. Parking, on Friday, will be behind the church on the West side of the building.

Registration will be on Friday from 2-4 p.m. at Grace.

If interested in **touring the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired**, meet at the School Friday at 1:30. The tour will be from 1:30-3:00 p.m. It is considered a jewel in the desert. The School is located at the corner of White Sands Blvd. and Indian Wells Road.

There are many **hotels/motels in Alamogordo**. None arranged blocks of rooms. The following are three with decent rates:

Magnuson Hotel & Suites (Breakfast)

1021 S. White Sands Blvd.

Phone: (575) 437-2110

Single: \$60.00 Double: \$70.00 Extra Occupants: \$10.00

Quality Inn & Suites (Breakfast)

1020 S. White Sands Blvd.

Phone: (575) 434-4200

Single: \$58.00 Double: \$70.00

Holiday Inn Express (Breakfast)

100 Kerry Avenue

(Just off South White Sands Blvd.)

Phone: (575) 434-9773

Our **Worship Service** will be Friday night after District supper meetings. Retired Pastor Mary Taken will lead the service.

The **Banquet** will be Saturday night at Patron's Hall, next to Flickinger Theatre, in historic downtown Alamogordo, 1006 New York Avenue. The meal will be catered.

Hope to see many of you in Alamogordo. If you arrive early, I recommend visiting the Space Hall of Fame, The IMax Theatre, Alameda Zoo (oldest zoo in the Southwest) and the shopping district in historic downtown

Patty Coulter

U.M.W. Conference Vice President

*New Mexico Conference United
Methodist Women—Annual
Meeting*

October 14—16, 2016

Grace United Methodist Church

Alamogordo New Mexico

be just. be green.

Did You Know?

If 10 percent of our membership attending United Methodist Women events an average of three times per year brought a reusable water bottle to events, in one year we'd save enough energy to run a household for 47 years.

Bring your reusable water bottle to Annual Meeting!

Carpool to Annual Meeting!

We are Justice Multipliers when we share rides. Which of the 13 principles are addressed with carpooling?

Principle 1: Accessibility

Principle 2: Affordability

Principle 3: Carbon Footprint

Principle 4: Healthy Food and Beverages

Principle 5: Just Economic Opportunities

Principle 6: Local Solidarity

Principle 7: Multigenerational Inclusion

Principle 8: Paper Use

Principle 9: Racial Justice

Principle 10: Toxin Reduction

Principle 11: Waste Reduction

Principle 12: Water Use

Principle 13: Well-being of Participants

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE AND OUTREACH

I hope all of the units have been finding ways to be nurturing to their members and others. If you have done this, please share with us. I know Peggy would love to have more things for the newsletter. As Annual Meeting draws closer, I need the names of those who have gone home to the Lord for the past year. We have a memorial service each year to remember our friends. **Please send the names to me at PO Box 506, Wickett, Texas 79788-0506. I need these names by the first of October,** so I can list them in the program. Thanks for your help with this. Looking forward to seeing you in Alamogordo in October.

Frances Montgomery
Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator

2016 New Mexico Conference United Methodist Women Ballot

President	Cheryl Ferguson 2016-2018
Secretary	Anne Grant 2016-2018
Treasurer	Peggy Arensdorf 2016-2018



2016 MISSION CANDLE ORDER FORM

Gifts of any amount from \$5.00 and up are accepted. The name of the person honored or memorialized and the name of the person giving the gift will be listed on the Mission Candle handout at the Conference Annual meeting.



Name of your church _____

Example: Name of Person: Jane Doe
 In Honor or Memory: _____
 Name of person/unit giving the gift: First UMW Any town
 Amount of the gift: \$5.00

1. Name of Person: _____
 In Honor or Memory: _____
 Name of person/unit giving the gift: _____
 Amount of the gift: _____
2. Name of Person: _____
 In Honor or Memory: _____
 Name of person/unit giving the gift: _____
 Amount of the gift: _____
3. Name of Person: _____
 In Honor or Memory: _____
 Name of person/unit giving the gift: _____
 Amount of the gift: _____
4. Name of Person: _____
 In Honor or Memory: _____
 Name of person/unit giving the gift: _____
 Amount of the gift: _____

(Please make extra copies of this form if you have more than 4 individuals to honor.)

Individuals: Give this completed form along with your gift to your **Unit Treasurer**

Unit Treasurers: Please make 3 copies and send:

- One copy to the District Treasurer, with money, made payable to your district.
- One copy to the Coordinator of Mission Candle (Mary)
- One copy to keep for your unit's records.

Please have all requests for memorials/honors to the coordinator (below) **no later than October 1.**

Please note: Money given in memory counts as a GIFT IN MEMORY and money given in honor counts as a GIFT TO MISSION towards your "Mission Giving Star".

Coordinator of Mission Candle: Mary Mims
 5717 Mirage CT NW
 Albuquerque, NM 87120

Date Received: _____

Unit Treasurer: _____ Phone: _____

Alpine Community Center is in need of supplies. If your Unit is interested in helping, bring the items to our Annual Conference Meeting in Alamogordo.

One-year old class:

Large toys, including:

baby dolls

push toys

riding toys

big bouncy balls (like exercise balls)

washable bibs for mealtime (2 dozen)

music CDs for toddlers

children's area rug approximately 9'x6'

Two-year old class:

baby dolls

toy families

toy food and dishes

2 tops (large, push down type)

a jack-in-the-box

painting smocks (16)

non-toxic play-dough

hand held musical instruments

dress-up clothes and accessories

housekeeping equipment

unbreakable mirrors

Three-year old class:

sleeping mats (15)

toy tool bench

small bean bags (15)

puzzles (15-20 piece)

Pre-Kindergarten

pencils (yellow, number 2, wood)

kitchen timer

egg timer (sand, 3 or 5 minute)

After School Program/elementary children

children's area rug approximately 8' x 10'

role playing kits: doctor, etc

playground balls

costumes

puppets

Office:

pushpins

magnets for metal bulletin boards

box of manila file folders

post-it notes, yellow

Kitchen:

4 - 6 plastic bowls, 6 quart

industrial mountable can opener

Garden:

children's tools:

rakes, brooms, watering cans, trowels, small shovels,

buckets, colanders, wheelbarrows

I have included many things so that there might be certain things that are of interest or available to your group of women. We appreciate anything that you can find.

Thank you so much. Helen Snook, Executive Director, Alpine Community Center, 402 E. Gallego, Alpine, Tx79830, 432-837-3426

COMMUNICATIONS

The New Mexico Conference United Methodist Women has a Face page on Facebook—have you friended it yet—if not—why not!!!!

If you would like to receive your own copy of the Word Sower by either email or hard-copy just send your request to me at
parensdorf@comcast.net

or Peggy Arensdorf, P.O. Box 53429, Albuquerque NM 87153. If your local or district organization have events that you want to let the conference know about, send to me and I'll post on Facebook. Also if you have pictures of your local and organizations in action serving the United Methodist Women mission to sup-

port women, children and youth, send me your pictures and they might end up in the Word Sower.

Questions, I can be reached at
(505) 237-8933



*Information on
the 150th
Anniversary
Celebration and
Legacy Fund
will be available
at the Annual
Meeting*

LEGACY FUND

Have you made your donation yet to the Legacy Fund? Did you know that in 2015, the New Mexico conference United Methodist Women donated **\$23,472.28** to the Legacy Fund. This was the highest amount in the South Central Jurisdiction and 4th across all conferences. That's impressive. Let's work together to beat this amount for 2016.

I'll have a table at Annual Meeting with information and pins for all attending. For just a contribution to the fund, as little as \$1.50 or as great as you want, you'll receive a pin to wear in support of this effort. I look forward to meeting everyone at annual meeting and providing this vital information. If you have any questions, please let me know. I

can be reached at (505) 237-8933.

Peggy Arensdorf



**44TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE**

OCTOBER 14-16, 2016

Grace United Methodist Church 1206 Greenwood Lane, Alamogordo, NM 88310

(Parking in back, FRIDAY ONLY)

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline Wednesday, September 28, 2016 Each person registering MUST use a separate form. Please make Copies. Registration fee is transferable but non-refundable.

NAME		CHURCH
ADDRESS		DISTRICT
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
PHONE		EMAIL

Circle Age Group: 13-17 18-35 36-55 56-70 70+

Registration	\$25.00	\$ _____	Lunch Meal Choice: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> one
District Supper	10.00	_____	Sandwich _____
Lunch	10.00	_____	Salad _____
Banquet	<u>20.00</u>	_____	Banquet Meal Choice: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> one
Total Registration/Meals	\$65.00	\$ _____	Baked Chicken _____

Special Dietary needs: _____ Veggie Lasagna _____

Special Accommodations needed: _____

Childcare Needed: Yes _____ No _____ Number of Kids _____ Ages _____

Provide food for them or order meals at the above prices. Indicate above.

Each person is responsible for their own housing arrangements. See hotel information in Word Sower. If attending the tour of the School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, meet Friday at the school at 1:30. The address is 1900 N. White Sands Blvd. White Sands is the north /south main street through town. The School is located at the corner of White Sands and Indian Wells

44TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
NEW MEXICO CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 14-16, 2016

THEME: God's Mission Plans

WHERE: Grace United Methodist Church

1206 Greenwood Lane

Alamogordo, NM 88310

WHEN: October 14	Tour of School of Blind and Visually Impaired	1:30 - 3:00pm
	Registration at Grace UMC	2:00 - 4:00pm
	Pick up packets and badges	
	District Suppers and Meetings	5:00pm
	Opening Worship	7:00pm
October 15	Registration Continues	8:00am
	Meeting Convenes in Sanctuary	8:45am
	Lunch - Guest Speaker Jim Talbert –Shared Table	11:30am
	Meeting and Sessions	1:00pm
	Banquet	6:30pm
October 16	Worship - Grace UMC	8:30 & 11:00am

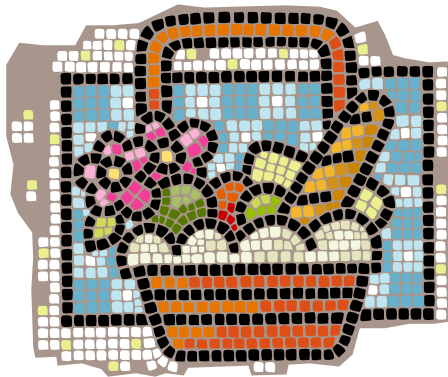
- ♦ Nursery will be available if indicated on registration form.
- ♦ Everyone is encouraged to attend. Each local organization has one vote. Organizations with over 50 members have a second vote.
- ♦ Two Offerings will be taken - Each local organization is asked to participate: Friday evening at the worship service, and Saturday during the business session.
- ♦ Please bring your own water bottle.
- ♦ Please Note on Registration form your need for special accommodations
- ♦ **REMEMBER! To bring SILENT AUCTION items!**



Information on hotels in Alamogordo NM and directions to Grace United Methodist Church are in the Message from the Vice-President. All recommended hotels are on or right off the main road thru town White Sands Blvd.

Silent Auction - Bring Your Dona- tions

A fun way to give to missions is to donate an item to be auctioned (silent) at Annual Meeting. Each unit and all individuals are encouraged to participate. It can be edible, non-edible, large or small. The items need to include the name of the giver (unit or individual), beginning bid, and any other pertinent information. Bidding begins at 5:00 pm Friday and ends after lunch Saturday. All money raised goes directly to mission.



Funds for reading program books, and offering at the worship service on Friday and annual meeting on Saturday.



You are also encouraged to bring a water bottle to help us save on landfill of discarded plastic glasses and cups.

Ellen Lipsey, right, Be Just. Be Green guide for the South Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women, along with Julie Taylor, center, executive director of National Farm Worker Ministry, and Dolores Huerta, co-founder of United Farm Workers, visit a vineyard in California's Central Valley in 2010.



Mission u—2016



Ellen Lipsey, New Mexico Conference, South Central Jurisdiction

My personal reason for getting involved in this movement is layered. I live in the desert of west Texas on the border of

Mexico. Several years ago I returned to this small community where I grew up. I was trained by my parents (especially my mother, a very dedicated member of United Methodist Women) to consider the impact of my choices on others. It was also influenced a few years ago when I attended a National Farm Worker Ministry meeting in California to learn from and be in solidarity with farmworkers picking table grapes. It expanded my awareness of environmental and economic justice related to the choices we make every time we visit a grocery store. I'm excited to be part of an organization that has clout, understanding and makes the connections between justice and care of creation. Be Just. Be Green is the way to be intentional about our planning choices that honor those connections.

The devastation to land, water and air by the oil and gas industry is one of the current environmental concerns in my jurisdiction. The very industries that provide livelihood for so many people are contaminating our earth. Working for a just transition to other forms of energy is vital.

My biggest fear globally is the warming of the planet along with what seems like very slow action to find alternatives to the activities that harm the environment. The effects, including weather disasters, almost always disproportionately impact the most vulnerable communities, and voices from those communities must be heard.

The one impactful thing that every United Methodist Women member could do for the environment is reduce waste. Right now, my favorite inspiration to keep working in our effort to plan sustainable meetings is the song "For Livets Skull" (For Sake of Life) by

Per Harling [which can be found in *Global Praise 1* published by the General Board of Global Ministries].



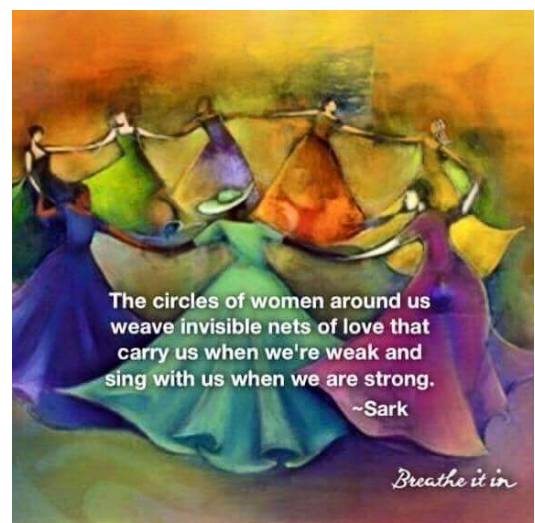
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Be decisive.

Right or wrong,
make a decision.

The road of life
is paved with
flat squirrels
who couldn't
make a decision.



The circles of women around us
weave invisible nets of love that
carry us when we're weak and
sing with us when we are strong.
~Sark

Breathe it in



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

PO Box 53429
Albuquerque NM 87153

Phone: 555-237-8933

Cell: 505-301-1978

E-mail: parensdorf@comcast.net

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.**
- **To expand concepts of mission** through participation in the global ministries of the church

Faith—Hope—Love In Action

44th Annual Meeting

The New Mexico Conference of United Methodist Women's 44rd Annual Meeting will be held October 14—16, 2016, at Grace UMC Alamogordo NM.

God's Mission Plans

Registration Due September 28, 2016