



MARY AND MARTHA MAIL CIRCLE UMW

Christ United Methodist Church - Mobile, Alabama

JULY 2015

Member Involvement

- Circle Coordinator
Vera Moore
- Birthday Cards to MMM Circle
Patsy Adams
- Birthday Cards to Missionaries
Melissa Motes
- Weekly Prayer Focus
Norma Spiller
- Children's Sabbath Planning
Notalsia Whiting
- Get Well Cards MMM Circle
Glenda Contos
- UMCOR Health Kits
Glenda Contos
- Bake Sale Workers
Dawn Seese
Glenda Contos
- Bake Sale Bakers
Dawn Seese
Glenda Contos
Melissa Motes
Angel Dahlgren
- Bake Sale Posters
Kerry Cohen
- Safe Haven Workers
Glenda Contos
- Soup Sale Workers
Glenda Contos
- Soup Makers for Soup Sale
Glenda Contos
- Crafters
Nancy Bell & Vera Moore

Please let us know if some have volunteered and not been listed.

Created for Happiness

The world's happiness has nothing on the happiness found in God.

by Judith Pierre-Okerson

Rejoice in the Lord, always: and again I say, Rejoice!
Philippians 4:4 (KJV)

I was not gifted with a melodious voice. I can barely hold a note, but I love to sing. One of my favorite verses from childhood is from a song I learned in Girl's Brigade in Haiti:

Quoi qu'il m'arrive j'ai toujours le sourire
Je prends la vie l'ennui du bon cote
Car je me suis dit qu'il peut m'arriver pire,
Cela suffit pour me mettre en gaité.

The verse can be translated as: "Whatever happens to me, I keep smiling. I take life's trouble well. For I said to myself the worst could have happened to me, this is enough to make me happy."

Singing those lines Saturday after Saturday provided me both a sense of confidence and a great level of comfort as a little girl. Whenever I was confronted with a difficult situation, whether it was because things did not go my way or because there was a real crisis in my family, I would mumble those lines and would know everything would be OK. This thought was enough to make me forget about my troubles and restore my happiness. As I grew older I unconsciously replaced that song with Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord, always: and again I say, Rejoice!" to comfort me in time of trouble in my life.

As with most of my childhood songs, the complete words from this one has faded from my memory as I've grown older. As best I can recall, there is nothing theological about this song. There is no mention of God or Jesus. I cannot help but ask myself why those childhood words resurface while I am reflecting on deep theological questions. They pop up when I wonder, "How do I understand my life in God?" or "How do I understand—in spite of all the troubles and complications life can throw at me, in spite of injustices, in spite of natural and human-made disasters—that God did create me and every human being to be happy in this life and the life to come?" The response to my questions is as simple as the chorus itself: Trust.

Understanding my life in God

As a child I knew I could trust my father to provide whatever I needed (and most of what I wanted). To this day, my sibling still refers to me as "Daddy's little girl," even though my father transitioned from this world 14 years ago. When I attempt to explain my understanding of my life in God, I echo the words of the hymn "[Through It All](#)" by Andraé Crouch: "Through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God." Just like I could trust my daddy growing up, I trust God because I've experienced God's love for me over and over. So when life's circumstances come my way, I say to myself: I have no reason to be worried for God is in control of my life. Through it all, I've learned to depend on God's word.



Judith Pierre-Okerson shares a laugh with Lynn Hamric and other fellow directors at the 2012 United Methodist Women Board of Directors meeting in Plano, Texas.

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; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

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Selections From the Prayer Calendar
+ *Mary and Martha Birthdays*

- JUL 1 Sara Flores Quinones (M)
 JUL 2 Deborah Dornon (M)
 JUL 3 Mary Winslow (D)
 JUL 4 Randy Joe Hildebrant (CCW)
 JUL 5 Yuko Boyle (M)
 JUL 6 Mark Zimmerman (M)
 Glenda Contos
- JUL 7 Fellowship of the Middle East Evangelical Churches
 JUL 8 Afghanistan: International Assistance Mission
 JUL 9 Cherryetta Williams (D)
 JUL 10 Kenya: Leadership development for women
 JUL 11 Paine College, Augusta, Ga.
 JUL 12 Koni Purscell (CCW)
 JUL 13 Pamela Domer (D)
 JUL 14 Sun Lae Kim (M)
 JUL 15 Cynthia Ceballos (M)
 Kelli Dye
- JUL 16 Pat Goss (D)
 JUL 17 **Deirdre Zimmerman (M)**
 JUL 18 O. Kay Shaw (D)
 Blair Parrett
- JUL 19 Ji-Eun "Esther" Kim (M)
 JUL 20 Susan Lewandowski (D)
 JUL 21* Hong Kong: Asia Pacific: Mission for Migrants
 JUL 22 Andrew Donaldson (M)
 Patsy Adams
- JUL 23 Liberia: Bishop Judith Craig Children Village
 JUL 24 Colleen Caldwell (D)
 JUL 25 Rural Mission Johns Island SC
 JUL 26 Rust College, Holly Springs MS
 JUL 27 Charissa Bredow-Shawcross (M)
 JUL 28 United Mission to Nepal
 Jenn Blunier
- JUL 29 Joy Eva Bohol (MI)
 JUL 30 Claris Skerritt (D)
 Renea Burns
- JUL 31 Beverly Barte (M)

* At CUMW general meeting May 30, 2015, the membership approved having a Craft Sale at CUMC Farmer's Market.

Each circle chair is to compile a list of people who will make something for the craft sale and/or teach a craft class.

Please let [Vera Moore](#) know if you have a craft to contribute or if you will teach so I can give this information to Judy Vajgrt.

The first workshop will be on **July 21** in room C201 (Christ Center) from 9:30 to 11:30. Mavis Jarrell will teach us to make "No Crochet Sashay Scarves" to sell for money for missions. Workshop participants will need to bring their own supplies. Instructions are also [YouTube](#).

Missionary of the Month
Happy Birthday JULY 17!
Deirdre Zimmerman

Deirdre Zimmerman is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church – in partnership with the Church Missionary Society of Ireland – serving with her husband, Dr. Mark Zimmerman, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

A nutritionist and dietitian by training, Deirdre was first assigned to work for United Mission to Nepal's Nutrition Programme, which addresses the problem of malnutrition in women and children through training and education.

After a two-year break to care for their young sons, Zachary and Benjamin, Deirdre returned to part-time work as advisor to Nutrition Promotion and Consultancy Services, an organization which is an offshoot of the previous Nutrition Programme.

Of her work Deirdre shares, "I see this as involvement in God's work to restore full life and to provide for all the needs of all people: nutrition and health (in all its facets) being essential for people to achieve their God-given potential." She continues to be busy with the care of their sons and also sees the support of Mark in his work as an important role.

In addition to her formal role, Deirdre understands her assignment as a 'ministry of presence.' *"I hope my presence in Nepal as a United Methodist missionary can encourage the local Nepali church that the universal church stands in solidarity with them (a minority faith in a Hindu country), and that I may be a channel for bringing some of the gifts of the Nepal church into American churches. I also hope there will be opportunity in personal relationships with Hindu colleagues, friends and neighbours to share something of our Christian faith."*



Response Moments

Responsively Yours by Harriett Jane Olson

Have you ever noticed that sometimes when you are tense, or in a cold room or even walking outside when it's cold that you hunch your shoulders? It feels like a sort of protective posture, but I notice that when I do hunch my shoulders it makes it harder to take the sort of deep breath that I need.

I wonder if something similar happens in our spiritual lives as well. When we are facing difficulties or are unsure of the way God is leading us, it is tempting to move to a protective posture. Uncertainty can make us protective of what God has done in the past. After all, we know the story of what God was doing then and we can hold on to it. This is true for me personally, and I think it is also true for units, districts, conferences and even for The United Methodist Church as we focus on changes both inside and outside of the church and pray and plan for how to respond to God's call.

Though our instinct may be to hunch our shoulders, steady deep breaths are perhaps even more important in moments of tension or anxiety. Anyone who engages in heavy physical work or exercise knows that it is important to keep breathing. There is a demand on one's muscles and a need for concentration that can provoke some of us to actually begin holding our breath—which is certainly not helpful for the physical activity that requires breathing and thinking as well as strength. Similarly, anyone who sings or speaks in public knows that good posture and good breathing are foundational to being able to put your heart and soul into the moment and bring all your preparation into expression.

An open posture, in which our hearts are lifted rather than protected, is also important to our souls. We affirm that God is at work now, just as God has been at work in the past. God is at work in me and in us and in the great movements that are shaping the world. For us to be able to bring all of our preparation and experience into expression as we live as disciples and as women in mission, we need this posture too. It will be one that reminds us to breathe and to let the breath of God blow in and through us—cleansing, refreshing and re-creating us.

For many of us, summertime will include some time away from our regular routine. We may make a trip or visit family, and hopefully we will attend Mission U. These are opportunities to think about our spiritual and physical posture, to practice taking an open stance, and to breathe deeply of the Spirit.

May you have a time of refreshment and re-creation in this season, and may we together welcome the breath of God as God is moving us in our work of following Jesus in the world—turning faith, hope and love into action.

Harriett Jane Olson

General Secretary - United Methodist Women
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"Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life," says Philippians 4:6-7 (The Message). So when I surrender my worries to God I experience God's wholeness and feel blessed. My happiness comes from a sense of God's wholeness settling me down.

God created humankind to be happy

God created me and all human beings for a life of happiness. In the secular world, happiness tends to be associated with temporary life situations. As a Christian, I know I can be happy in Christ beyond life's circumstances.

As I read the Bible through the lenses of different translations, I have found that the word "happiness" is often equivalent to "blessing." For example, we read in Psalm 144: "Happy are the people whose God is the Lord" (verse 15, NRSV) while other versions read "Blessed are the people." God's desire is for us to be blessed and to be a blessing for others. God created us to be in relationship with others and with God.

"I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us" (Romans 8:38-39, The Message).

Those two verses translate the depth of God's desire to be in relationship with us. When I surrender all my worries and everything else to God's will and concentrate on my relationship with Christ, a relationship based on trust and obedience, I feel blessed.

Trusting God totally and obeying God's mandates bring me into a right relationship with God and helps me understand that my happiness in this world is intertwined with my walk with the Living Savior, Jesus Christ. Therefore, I can testify with confidence that I am happy in spite of life's troubles not because I think "the worst could have happened to me" like I used to sing as a child but rather because I am a blessed child of God.

Judith Pierre-Okerson is a director on the United Methodist Women Board of Directors from the Florida Conference and chair of its committee on governance.

*Calling all women who
want to travel and
study!*

Theresa Hoover
1925-2013



Theresa Hoover
Community Service
and Global Citizenship Award
is accepting applications now!

Applicant must be a lay woman between the ages of 21-35

The grant is awarded to a woman who wishes to travel in order to explore and study one of our four priority issues. The proposed project must take place in a region other than the applicants' own. The emphasis on travel and field work is in recognition of Theresa Hoover's strong belief in this way of learning, and it honors her legacy of global citizenship.

Below are our 2016-2020 priority issues, one of which must be studied to be eligible for the award:

- [Climate Justice](#)
- [Maternal and Child Health](#)
- [Racial and Gender Justice](#)
- [Economic Justice](#)

In addition, applicants should demonstrate concern for and a connection to their community, as well as a recognition of their global responsibilities.

United Methodist Women's directors will approve grants at their annual board meeting in the fall.

Originally from Arkansas, Theresa Hoover joined the Woman's Division of Christian Service as a field worker in 1948. In 1968 she was elected chief executive of the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. She was the first African-American woman to hold that position or any comparable post in the denomination. She served as head of the division for 22 years, and retired in 1990. Ms. Hoover died on December 21, 2013, in Fayetteville, Arkansas, at 88.

In 1990, United Methodist Women created the Theresa Hoover Community Service and Global Citizenship Award. We are grateful to be able to continue Ms. Hoover's passionate work for women and children by passing on the torch of global citizenship with this award.

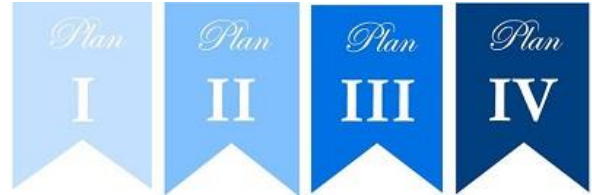
[Criteria, Requirements, Guidelines and application](#)

The applications are *due on or before*
Monday, November 2, 2015

Phyllis Allen, CUMW Treasurer Reports:

The estimated value of the UMCOR health kit project this year is \$6,532. The total is calculated by adding health kits sent to UMCOR (\$5,352), cash sent to UMCOR for health kit supplies (\$879), bulk health kit items sent to UMCOR (\$254), school kits sent to UMCOR (\$22), and bulk health care items sent to Penelope House (\$25). This total is slightly more than double last year's project.

Congratulations and thanks to all who participated!



United Methodist Women Reading Program plans completed must be reported to [Vera Moore](#) by July 31, 2015.

This is follow up to our [Virtual Meeting October 2014](#).

Service Projects 2015

Your involvement with service projects will be published here as you report them to us and shared with CUMW treasurer, combined with others from CUMC and throughout the organization.

- Mobile Inner City Mission - purchased Boston Butt
- Walk MS - Kim Johnson walked for her mother.
- Cakes for Celebrate Recovery monthly
- Food for grieving families
- Ronald McDonald House
- Hopeful project bags
- Organ Fund
- Camp Rap-A-Hope

Please let us know when you are involved in any service or community project.

This publication is the monthly virtual meeting of the Mary & Martha Mail Circle, United Methodist Women at Christ United Methodist Church, Mobile, Alabama. Our Circle is just like each of the other Circles of Christ UMW with the exception that we do not have monthly meetings other than by this "virtual" program, devotion, prayer calendar/concerns, and Response moments. We make annual pledges to mission and participate in the projects of CUMW in all ways possible. We attend General Meetings as we are able. We constantly keep each other and each woman of UMW in our prayers.

Questions? Contact: Circle Coordinator
Vera Moore - 888-248-1680 or
email - vmooore4474@gmail.com