



Mary and Martha Mail Circle

Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

United Methodist Women
Christ United Methodist Church
Mobile, Alabama

March 2016

Women at Work: Economic Justice and Empowerment

Adapted from the program by Darlene DiDomineck, a deaconess who serves at Arch Street United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, coordinating a ministry called Grace Café. She also serves as the district resource assistant for the Central District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference. Darlene earned a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York in 2008 and a Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies from the University of South Florida in 1998.



Prayer Creator and Provider God,

you give sustenance and you bring forth justice. Besides, you call us to be your heart and your voice in the world. Forgive us, Lord God, for the times when we have shut our eyes to discrimination and hardened our hearts to the struggling. Guide us to be the support women need to take care of their lives and their loved ones. Help us walk with our sisters in the work field. And may each one of us be empowered to live the life you intend us to live. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Jeremiah 29:7, 11–12

Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

Jeremiah's community was in exile. He offers a word of hope for a people afraid and feeling hopeless. He calls his community to work together as co-creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace in the community where they live. He calls them to look around and see the blessings they have around them, to build homes for those without homes, plant community gardens and share what is grown. Jeremiah reminds his community that their liberation is bound up with that of their neighbor and that God has a plan to give them a future with hope if they care for one another.

There were many challenges facing his community, but there were also many blessings. In the early days of our movement, Methodist women also heard a sacred story and responded with faith, hope and love in action.

In 1869, Mrs. William Butler and Mrs. Edwin Parker, wives of missionaries, were home on furlough. They spoke to a group of only six women in Boston. Mrs. Butler shared the desperate spiritual and physical needs of women living in poverty in India. Male doctors could not treat women. Schooling for girls in poverty was almost non-existent. Single, trained and dedicated women were needed for medical and educational work. In response, they formed the Women's Foreign Missionary Society and raised funds through sacrificial giving to send Isabella Thoburn, an educator, and Dr.

Clara Swain, a doctor, to India.

Ms. Thoburn began a school with six young girls in Lucknow. This school expanded to include Isabella Thoburn College, the first women's college in Asia. Dr. Swain began her medical work, resulting in the establishment of the first women's hospital in Asia. Both of these institutions are still serving the people of India.

Like Jeremiah's community, women living in 1869 faced a multitude of challenges and turned those challenges into a blessing. Deaconesses, home missionaries, missionaries and staff of mission institutions continue in the legacy of Dr. Swain and Ms. Thoburn today.

Much has changed over time, however; challenges still remain for many today.

In the early church, sharing meals was central to the formation of Christian community. They were times of prayer, praise and the sharing of the sacred stories of one another's life experiences. For a community living in a time of oppression, this shared meal was both a prayerful sacrifice and a blessing. Those who could gave what they had for the benefit of the whole community. Our foremothers continued this act of prayerful sacrifice and blessing when they formed the Women's Foreign Missionary Society and raised funds to send the first missionaries on our behalf to India. We continue their legacy in our Call to Prayer and Self Denial offering to support ministries of justice and empowerment with women, children and youth.

Around the world, an increasing number of people struggle to earn enough to provide for their families' basic needs. In the United States, 1 percent of the population holds one-fourth of the total wealth; for developing countries the gap is even wider. Women experience increased barriers including hiring discrimination and lower wages compared to their male counterparts. In some countries, women are unable to access credit to start a new business, are not allowed to own property

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

- MAR 1 World Day of Prayer International Committee
 MAR 2 Joel Ncahoruri
 Nancy Swan
 MAR 3 Laura Kirby
 MAR 4 Jose Roberto Peña
 Monique McFarland
 MAR 5 Dee Ann Heptas
 MAR 6 Jody Halstead
 MAR 7 Finda Quiwa
 MAR 8 World Student Christian Federation
 MAR 9 Marsha Gail Alexander
 MAR 10 Brenda Vaca
 MAR 11 Juliet Choi
 MAR 12 Pierre Diamba Manya
 MAR 13 Marilia Alves Schuller
 MAR 14 Griffine Mugizya.
 MAR 15 Osias Segura-Guzmán
 MAR 16 Nan McCurdy
 MAR 17 Laos: Loans to women to start small businesses.
 MAR 18 Debbie Aylmer
 MAR 19 Della Lamb Community Services, Kansas City MO
 MAR 20 Beatrice Gbanga.
 MAR 21 Young Jin Cho
 MAR 22 Kenya: All Africa Conference of Churches
 MAR 23 Jeff Murrell
 MAR 24 Debbie Keeney.
 MAR 25 Gayle McCreery
 MAR 26 Jacques Akasa Umembudi
 MAR 27 Epworth Village, York, NE
 MAR 28 Brazil: Igreja Metodista
 Patty Parris
 MAR 29 Liz Shadbolt
 MAR 30 James Keech
 MAR 31 El Salvador: Promoting healthy church growth

From The Prayer Calendar:

I will continue advocating for issues that affect our communities, such as recognizing young people as part of society in Africa and supporting women who face the trauma of sharing their husband, for advocacy is a blessing from God.

Finda Quiwa

Happy Birthday
March 7

Finda Quiwa

Serving in her home country of Sierra Leone, Finda Quiwa is a Regional Missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.



Based in Freetown she is coordinator for the Global Justice Volunteer, Africa Pilot Program through GBGM. Finda also works through the United Methodist Church with youth and young adult programs in Africa.

The struggle of her early years helped Finda form her spiritual life and grow in her faith. She also looked into other people's lives and **"charged myself to take up the challenge in helping other people who were in the same struggle."**

Finda attended Fourah Bay College at the University of Sierra Leone and earned her Bachelor of Social Sciences in Accounting. She received certification in management and administration from the Graduate School of Management in London through the Ghana campus. Finda completed studies in design, management and evaluation of community-based HIV/AIDS programs through Global Health Action. She has attended numerous seminars in Europe, Africa and the United States addressing issues surrounding justice.

Spending two months in Hong Kong working with migrant workers from the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal and Sri Lanka, Finda saw how vulnerable they were to injustices of sexism, racism and other inhuman treatment. Working with women enabled her to see how women are suffering in that part of the world, **"all in the name of survival. I returned home with the conviction and commitment to do my best in making sure women and children get a better place in Africa."**

Finda is married and has one son and two adopted children.

You may see and hear Finda on several [YouTube](#) videos.

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and have limited access to job opportunities.

In 2016, our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offerings will support programs that empower women to gain the resources they need to earn a living wage and care for themselves and their loved ones. Projects may include vocational training, job readiness and life skills training, small business development assistance and advocacy campaigns to educate communities around the area about economic justice at a local, national and global level. We have the opportunity today to continue the legacy of our foremothers. We invite you to give generously as our foremothers did before us.

United Methodist Women:

Faith • Hope • Love in Action

We are women with a Purpose!

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.

Our Connections:

[Mary and Martha Mail Circle](#) is one of four circles of United Methodist Women at Christ United Methodist Church, Mobile, Alabama.

[Christ United Methodist Women](#) is one of the local organizations of Mobile District United Methodist Women.

[Mobile District United Methodist Women](#) is one of the eight districts of the Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women.

[Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women](#) is one of 57 annual conferences in the United Methodist Church in the United States.

[United Methodist Women](#), national office, is in New York.

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 - vmoore4474@gmail.com

Member Involvement Beginning anew in this New Year 2016

Your involvement will be published here as you accept responsibility

- Weekly Prayer Focus - Norma Spiller
- Members Cards - Patsy Adams
- Missionary Cards- Melissa Motes
- Circle Coordinator - Vera Moore
- Reception April 24 - Faye Sellers
- Bake Sale Workers - Glenda Contos
- Bake Sale Bakers - Glenda Contos, Sheila Hare
- Bake Sale Contributor - Vera Moore

Openings:

- Prepare Bible study for the monthly virtual meeting.
- Prepare mission stories for the virtual meeting.
- Prepare reports from mission projects.
- Attend General CUMW meetings.
- Prepare reports from General CUMW meetings.
- Prepare a special program for the virtual meeting.
- Provide items of interest for virtual meeting.
- Report your work with a local service project.
- Prepare items for Annual CUMW Bake Sale.
- Work at the Bake Sale tables.
- Prepare soup for the Annual UMW Soup Sale.
- Work at the Annual Soup Sale tables.
- Prepare items for UMCOR kits.
- Prepare items for Safe Haven.
- Serve at Safe Haven events.
- Send greeting cards to sick Mail Circle members.
- Attend CUMW Mission Study.
- Write a report of a mission study.
- Attend Mobile District Annual Day.
- Attend Mobile District Spiritual Enrichment Day.
- Maintain a Mail Circle page or group on Facebook.
- Maintain Mail Circle items on Pinterest.
- Follow unitedmethodistwomen.org.
- Follow UMCMission.org
- Follow twitter.com/UMWWomen
- Follow United Methodist Women on Facebook.
- Follow www.youtube.com/user/UMWWomen
- Follow www.flickr.com/photos/UMWWomen
- Follow www.pinterest.com/umwomen/
- Follow www.awf-umw.org/
- Follow www.awf-umw.org/mobile.html
- Share Mail Circle items on Facebook.
- Write about Mail Circle on your Facebook page.
- Write about Mail Circle on your Twitter account.
- Send cards and notes to missionaries.
- Visit CSports and let them know you are praying.
- Visit other CUMW Circle meetings.

Where shall we add your name?

Service Projects

Beginning anew in this New Year 2016

☛ **Shay Bruton - Camp Rap-A-Hope**



Your involvement in service projects will be published here as you report them to us.



**CUMW BAKE SALE – March 20, 2016
Courtyard Porch and Christ Center
Sale Time 8:00 – 12:00 Noon**

Suggested Bake Sale Guide


4 – 5 cookies in sandwich bag	\$ 2.00
1 large cookie single wrap	\$.50
2 large brownies wrapped	\$ 1.00
½ Bundt cake wrapped	\$ 8.00
1 whole cake wrapped	\$15.00 – \$20.00
1 pie or tart with single crust	\$10.00
1 pie with double crust	\$12.00
1 loaf cake	\$ 8.00
1 frosted cake	\$15.00 – \$20.00
1 loaf bread-banana, strawberry, etc.	\$ 8.00
1 cupcake	\$ 1.00
½ dozen cupcakes	\$ 4.00
1 dozen cupcakes	\$ 8.00

Please wrap, price and bring items as early as possible to the Courtyard or Christ Center on Sunday, March 20, 2016. We can sell more baked goods, if we have them. We can sell all you can bring!! Each circle will receive a share of the profits from the sale. Your contributions will make it a success!!!!

Thanks,
Jean King

Nancy Shealy, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, AWF UMW, invites us to bring **\$ to the Birthday Party at Spiritual Enrichment Retreat** (March 18-20, 2016)

We will combine our gifts and on March 23 one great gift will be made from **Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women to 2nd Annual Day of Giving to the Legacy Fund.**



Give to the Legacy Fund

On that day our gifts will be matched two to one. That is, if our combined \$ gifts at the Birthday Party equal \$5,000.00 that will be automatically doubled, making a total of \$10,000.00. What a legacy we will leave!

**Responsively Yours
Day of Giving**

United Methodist Women members and groups around the country are getting ready for the second annual Day of Giving on March 23, 2016, part of the organization’s five-year 150th anniversary culminating in 2019.

The March 23 Day of Giving honors the day in 1869 when a small group of women braved a legendary torrential rain to gather at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts, and organized for mission. The women established the Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society, a predecessor of United Methodist Women, and galvanized women around the country to raise money to send a doctor, Clara Swain, and a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, to India as missionaries to serve the women of that nation.

A Day of Giving gifts go to The Legacy Fund, a permanent endowment that will support the mission outreach of future generations of United Methodist Women as they address the needs of women, children and youth of their day. Members in every conference participated in the first Day of Giving in 2015, giving more than \$100,000 through online gifts, toll-free calls, smartphone texting and mailed-in checks.

Online at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund

By phone: 800-278-7771
(8 a.m.-6 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday).

Text Legacy150 to 41444.

United Methodist Women members and friends may consider giving \$15 or \$150 or even \$1,500, in recognition of our upcoming 150th anniversary, or \$18.69 or \$186.90 or even \$1,869, in recognition of the year of United Methodist Women’s founding.

A Day of Giving gifts are 100 percent tax deductible. Contributors will receive an immediate thank you and a printable tax receipt for 100 percent of their donation.

Spread the word! As with our foremothers in 1869, in the 21st century women still need to organize for mission. Make it happen with a gift to The Legacy Fund on March 23, A Day of Giving.

