

UMW VOICE

The Newsletter of Bozeman's United Methodist Women

February
2015

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Mission u coming up on Feb. 6-7

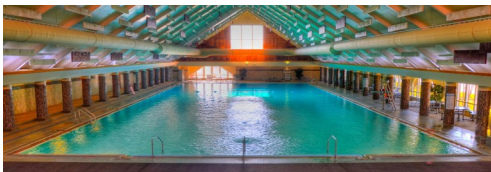
There is still time to register for Mission u if you hurry! This year's school will be at Grace UMC in Billings. As always, the school is open to both men and women. Courses include: **"The Church and People with Disabilities"** and **"How Is It With Your Soul?"** Registration forms are available on the UMW Bulletin Board. Scholarships are available from the conference with preference given to first time attendees (deadline of Jan. 10) and also from our local UMW unit.

Fairmont Women's Event

All United Methodist women, teens and girls, their friends and neighbors are invited to Fairmont Hot Springs Resort for RETREAT, RECREATION RENEWAL AND REJOICING at the Yellowstone Conference UMW Women's Event on March 6-8. We will explore our faith life, sing, study, reflect and grow. This is a wonderful time to recharge for spring and meet new friends.

During this event we will look at Prayer—centering prayer, familiar prayer, discerning prayer, intercessory prayer, and grateful prayer—as we take time away from "busyness" to be still and hear God.

Registration is due by Feb. 23rd, but rooms will only be held until Feb. 6th. Pick up registration forms on our UMW Bulletin board for more information. Scholarships are available!



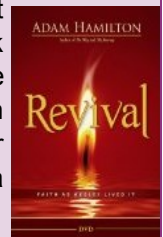
"Fire and Ice" Event on February 8th

Bozeman United Methodist Women and the BUMC Missions team invite you to join us for the family event "Fire and Ice," February 8th at noon in the Friendship Room. We will be serving Texas white chili and a vegetable soup and extras to make a light meal before showing the award winning film "Chasing Ice." This film is a chronicle of the expedition that deployed revolutionary time-lapse cameras across the brutal Arctic to capture a multi-year record of the world's changing glaciers. The film is 75 minutes of hauntingly beautiful photography and helps continue to tell the story of the Earth's changing climate. Please join us for the light meal at noon and the movie at 12:30. Free will offering appreciated.



Spotlight on: Miriam-Ruth Circle

Miriam-Ruth Circle meets the third Wednesday of each month (excluding summer) at 10:00 a.m. in the second floor conference room. This year, we are using the book and companion DVD entitled "Revival" by Adam Hamilton for our program. The purpose of this study is to help us discover the faith, heart, and practices of John Wesley and the early Methodists so that we may discover the best parts of our own hearts and churches, and spark a revival of Christianity in our time. We are enjoying the journey "Revival" has taken us on and welcome anyone to join us at our regular meetings. For more information contact Janna at 586-3296.



Upcoming Meetings



Mission u	Friday-Saturday, Feb. 6-7th	Grace UMC—Billings
Winter General Meeting: "Fire & Ice"	Sunday, Feb. 8th, Noon-2:00	BUMC Friendship Room
InkSpots Cardmaking	Monday, Feb 9th, Time TBD	Kathy Peyton's home
Mission Team Meeting	Tuesday, Feb. 10th, 10:00 a.m.-Noon	BUMC Friendship Room
Newly Retired Group	Tuesday, Feb. 17th, 10:00 a.m.	IHOP Restaurant
Miriam-Ruth Circle	Wednesday, Feb. 18th, 10:00 a.m.	BUMC Conference Room
Trinity Circle	Wednesday, Feb. 18th, 1:15 p.m.	BUMC Fireside Room
Evening Circle	Monday, Feb. 23rd, 5:30-8:00 p.m.	BUMC Conference Room
Noon Luncheon Group	Thursday, Feb. 26th, Noon-1:00 p.m.	Christus Collegium



United Methodist Women: FAITH * HOPE * LOVE IN ACTION MT DOJ Takes Aim on Human Trafficking in the State

Montana Attorney General Tim Fox has announced a cooperative effort among Montana businesses and the Department of Justice in combating human trafficking across the state.

Watkins & Shephard Trucking provided one semi trailer to receive an all-over wrap to serve as a moving billboard as it travels across the state. The wrap and smaller decals for their fleet were sponsored by Soroptimists International-Whitefish, Town Pump, and Watkins & Shepard Trucking. In addition, Town Pump is displaying posters in all their stores across the state. This cooperative effort places help within reach of trafficking victims on the move.

United Methodist Women have long supported this cause, and now a bill is being introduced in this year's legislature to help review Montana human trafficking laws. You can do your part by letting legislators know of your support.

Be aware that our neighboring state of North Dakota has a much larger problem in trafficking than our state, and those North Dakota cities are often reached via Montana. If you suspect a problem, please report it right away.

More information is available at:
<https://dojmt.gov/agooffice/human-trafficking/>

—UMW Social Action Coordinator, Patti Hatfield



Spiritually Speaking...

Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3)

As someone who feels reasonably secure in her identity as a grownup, this verse from Matthew challenges me. I have to keep reminding myself that *childlike* is not the same as *childish*. Do I even *want* to be childlike? And what might that look like?

In the next verse of this passage, Jesus tells his followers that they must become humble like the child among them. It would do me well to practice being a person who doesn't have to know everything, solve every problem, and deal with every issue. Even in my prayer life, I don't need to tell God what to do; I need only to put my problems in his hands.

After turning over my problems, I need to trust that God will take care of me the way children trust the grownups in their lives to protect them. One of my most frequent prayers lately is: "With you, nothing is impossible." This prayer reminds me that God can come up with solutions far more appropriate than anything I might imagine.

Children can teach me about anticipation. It would be a gift to wake up every morning, excited to see what the day brings instead of regarding it as my to-do list, as I too often do. I can let myself feel eagerness not only for big events like vacations, but also for the everyday gifts God blesses me with: coming home to my husband at the end of the work day, a lunch date with friends, sitting down with a new book, among so many others.

I can learn to ask for help when I can't do something by myself. God graces us with family, friends, and community. I know how good it feels to be able to do something for another person, so why am I so reluctant to let others help me? Even after shoulder surgery last summer, when I truly needed a lot of help, I found myself uncomfortable asking for it. Children are experts at this, and I can learn much from them.

Can you remember the last time you got so absorbed in a project or activity that you forgot about everything else? Me neither. Being truly in the moment seems to me how God wants us to live—not reliving the past or worrying about the future, but just enjoying what is in this moment.

Sometimes being a grownup is hard work. But life can be a joyful gift, and children show us how to appreciate that. May we become more like children so that we get glimpses of the kingdom of heaven right here on earth.

—Brenda Anderson-Baker
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

