

# UMW VOICE

The Newsletter of Bozeman's United Methodist Women

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## "Fire and Ice" Recap

*Submitted by Janna Christensen*

On a recent February afternoon the BUMW partnered with the BUMC Missions Team to host "Fire and Ice". The "Fire" was White Chicken Chili and the "Ice" was the award-winning film, "Chasing Ice," which chronicles how climate change is affecting the world's glaciers. This collaboration with the BUMC Missions Team culminated in a great event attended by 50+ people from our church and community.

## "Mission U" Offers More Than Classes!

The best thing for me about the Winter "Mission u" at Billings Grace UMC earlier this month was not the two excellent classes. It wasn't even the singing and worship, which I enjoyed very much, or the food which was delicious. It was the fact that a young woman in our congregation whom I did not even know, read about the event in the church bulletin, was interested in the topic of people with disabilities, pursued scholarship support, registered, rode with me and two women from Missoula, and roomed with us in Billings. What a treat to get acquainted with her. A graduate student in agriculture, she wants to work with women and children in rural settings. How in sync that is with the UMW focus on improving the lives of women, children, and youth. The two days made my heart sing! —Submitted by Gloria Zimmer

## CWU World Day of Prayer

*Submitted by Jeannie Haight*

Mark your calendars: Join us **March 6th, 9:30 a.m., at the First Baptist Church**, for a good meeting opportunity. Our local Church Women United will be celebrating the World Day of Prayer under the leadership of Pat Newby and the Baptist Women. Brunch will be at 9:30 (with lots of interfaith visiting) followed by a special program and time to get to know more of our Christian friends in other denominations. Hope to see you there!

## Spotlight on: NRG Circle

*Submitted by Wanda Myers*

NRG (Newly Retired Group or eNeRGy) is a subgroup of UMW. In spite of the group's name, most of us were newly retired 10-20 years ago. All women of retirement age (or older) are invited to join us. We meet at 10:00 a.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at IHOP, 1687 North 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., for food (from the menu), lively conversation, catching up on what's happening with UMW, and study. Currently, our study book is "Plain Wisdom" a delightful book in which two friends, one Amish and one 'English,' write about the parallels in their faith experiences despite very different lifestyles. Each month a leader, which rotates among the group, summarizes a section of the book, highlighting passages that particularly speak to her and initiating discussion.



## Upcoming Meetings



<b>CWU World Day of Prayer</b>	Friday, Mar. 6th, 9:30 a.m.	First Baptist Church
<b>UMW Women's Event</b>	Friday-Sunday, Mar. 6-8th	Fairmont Hot Springs
<b>InkSpots Cardmaking</b>	Monday, Mar. 9th, Time TBD	Kathy Peyton's home
<b>Mission Team Meeting</b>	Tuesday, Mar. 10th, 10:00 a.m.-Noon	BUMC Friendship Room
<b>Newly Retired Group</b>	Tuesday, Mar. 17th, 10:00 a.m.	IHOP Restaurant
<b>Miriam-Ruth Circle</b>	Wednesday, Mar. 18th, 10:00 a.m.	BUMC Conference Room
<b>Trinity Circle</b>	Wednesday, Mar. 18th, 1:15 p.m.	BUMC Fireside Room
<b>Evening Circle</b>	Monday, Mar. 23rd, 5:30-8:00 p.m.	BUMC Conference Room
<b>Noon Luncheon Group</b>	Thursday, Mar. 26th, Noon-1:00 p.m.	Christus Collegium



## United Methodist Women: FAITH \* HOPE \* LOVE IN ACTION Human Trafficking Update

**What's Been Done:** The US House passed a series of bills aimed at combating human trafficking. They are to be complimented for starting the fight against human trafficking at the beginning of the legislature. Our own Montana legislature has also passed similar legislation.

**Next Step:** There is a need now to provide funding for victim services programs and service provider training to help the victims as they try to get out of captive situations.

**How You Can Help:** If you are aware of any victims of human trafficking,

you can offer support and help them report the crime by calling [1-888-373-7888](tel:1-888-373-7888), or send a text to "BeFree" (233733).

Please also consider contacting a congress person to voice your support for keeping these programs in place to monitor trafficking. Our State officials are doing their part and we need to let them know it is appreciated.

—Submitted by Patti Hatfield  
Social Action Coordinator

Human trafficking victims are usually hidden in plain sight in locations you'd never think of. Here are some signs to look for:

- *Living with employer*
- *Poor living conditions*
- *Multiple people in cramped space*
- *Inability to speak to individual alone*
- *Answers appear to be scripted and rehearsed*
- *Employer is holding identity documents*
- *Signs of physical abuse*
- *Submissive or fearful*
- *Unpaid or paid very little*
- *Under 18 and in prostitution*

## Spiritually Speaking...

As we enter the season of Lent, I come back to Sarah Parsons' book *A Clearing Season* because so much of what she writes resonates with me. She sees Lent as a time to clear space for God in our lives, to open ourselves to God's healing love. My tendency is to launch a sweeping set of Lenten practices guaranteed to fail because my plans are too ambitious and therefore not sustainable. Instead, Parsons suggests we find one small hurt or broken area and invite God to heal and transform that wound. "Trust," she says, "that the little space where God comes through will create enough openness for now and will extend into greater openness later."



The first step is to identify a piece of brokenness in your life. Maybe it's your tendency to worry, or overcommit, or take a loved one for granted. It could be a damaged relationship, or guilt over a past failing, or a secret shame. Can you imagine sitting quietly in prayer, holding that hurt close to you, and then opening your hands and offering it to Jesus? Can you offer it to Jesus over and over for as long as it takes, listening for words of peace and healing until all that remains is a faint scar of that early wound?

This is hard—no question. If you're like me, you've carefully built up layer upon layer of protection around the painful part. That protection has served me by shielding me from a difficult part of myself and by hiding it from others so they can't tell it's there. It's important to remember that Jesus knows this part of us intimately; no matter how well we hide it from ourselves and others, we can't hide it from him. We know that he can handle any emotion we have, see through any defenses we've created, and treat our brokenness with gentleness, healing, and love.

Parsons refers to this process as "breaking your heart for God." She says, "When we allow our hearts to break for God's sake—for the sake of greater love and truth—and we express the heartbreak openly, with fasting, weeping, and mourning, our vulnerability draws us into closer communion with God and with others."

It takes courage to let ourselves recognize this vulnerability and offer it for Divine healing and love. When we can admit to Jesus that we are broken and hurting, we begin the healing process. Similarly, we open the door to greater authenticity with those around us. And we open the door to the freedom to truly be who God created us to be. My prayer for you this Lenten season is that you have the courage to trust the Great Healer with the parts of yourself that need to be transformed. May it also be so with me.

—Brenda Anderson-Baker  
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth