

UMW VOICE

The Newsletter of Bozeman's United Methodist Women

October
2015

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Upcoming Events:

The **Yellowstone Conference UMW Annual Meeting** will be held at Lewistown UMC on **Saturday, October 3rd**. The theme is "Building Bridges".

(Check UMW bulletin board or www.yacumc.org/umw for more info.)

Please note that our own **UMW Mission Team Meeting** has been rescheduled for **October 6th!**

Church Women United will be meeting on **Friday, November 6th** at 9:30 a.m. in the BUMC Friendship Room to celebrate **2015 World Community Day**. The theme will be: **"Our Journey Together"**

We will be sharing our own stories of our Christian journey, and uniting faith communities in a time of praise and worship that demonstrates Christ's reconciling love to the community, country, and world. Everyone is welcome!

Everyone Invited to October 7th General Meeting on "Estate Planning"

Invite family and friends to join us for a lesson on estate planning provided by Marsha Goetting, MSU Professor and Extension Economics Specialist. She will present "The Top Ten Estate Planning Actions" for the benefit of all who can attend. Marsha and her program have been very well received in the community, and this is a great opportunity to learn for yourself how to plan for the inevitable that we all face.

The program will begin at 1:00 in the Friendship Room, followed by fellowship time with refreshments. Please join us!

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN HEADING YOUR WAY...

Please watch your mail for a special letter containing your 2016 BUMW pledge card. Due to your generous pledges over the last 2 years, we have been able to meet our unit's pledge to mission as well as fund all our budget responsibilities plus some additional gifts to mission. Please return your 2016 pledge cards to Wanda Myers, Treasurer, in the SASE contained in the mailing by October 30. Pledges can be paid any time until November 1, 2016. We can continue our wonderful program of mission with your thoughtful pledge for 2016. Thank you!

—Janna Christensen, President

WHAT A WELCOME!

On a beautiful September Sunday morning, our unit participated in the Welcome Back event in the parking lot next to church. Jeannie and I were able to visit with a number of women about UMW and the reading program and handed out many yearbooks and made some new contacts. Fun was had by all from the bouncy house to the cinnamon rolls to cheering on the runners on Wilson Ave!

—Janna Christensen

Upcoming Meetings



YAC UMW Annual Meeting	Saturday, Oct. 3rd, all day	Lewistown UMC
Mission Team Meeting	Tuesday, Oct. 6th, 10:00 a.m.-Noon	Friendship Room
UMW General Meeting	Wednesday, Oct. 7th, 1:00 p.m.	Friendship Room
Newly Retired Group	Tuesday, Oct. 20th, 10:00 a.m.	IHOP Restaurant
Miriam-Ruth Circle	Wednesday, Oct. 21st, 10:00 a.m.	Conference Room
Trinity Circle	Wednesday, Oct. 21st, 1:15 p.m.	Fireside Room
Noon Luncheon Group	Thursday, Oct. 22nd, 12:00-1:00 p.m.	Christus Collegium
Evening Circle	Monday, Oct. 26th, 5:30-8:00 p.m.	Conference Room

United Methodist Women Campaign to End Family Detention

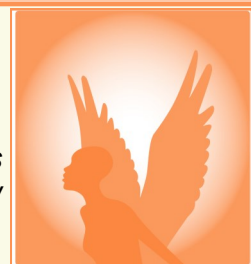
(Excerpted from *The Glowing Embers Newsletter*, July 2015)

In 2014, thousands of children, alone or with families, crossed the U.S./Mexico border seeking safety in the United States. They fled extreme violence and poverty, and faced abuse and violence as they crossed Mexico. In the United States the migration gained national attention and became politicized by electoral politics. In response, the U.S. government stepped up the enforcement of immigration laws, detention and deportation. These immigrant children and families are indeed the faces of Jesus Christ in our midst. Jesus said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me," (Matthew 25:40) Violating both national and international law, the detention of families criminalizes women and children who should have refugee status or a temporary protected status due to the dangers in their home countries; and it exposes them to fear, isolation, further hardship and abuse. The detention centers must be closed, not expanded. We also challenge the use of electronic ankle bracelet monitors as an alternative to detention. These are physically painful, take hours a day to charge and stigmatize immigrant women, making it difficult to obtain services and jobs. Asylum seekers should be offered bond and legal assistance, not detention or shackling.

For more information, please visit: www.umc.org/whatwe-believe/united-states-mexico-border

Spiritually Speaking...

The gatekeeper opens the gate for the shepherd, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. He goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. (John 10:3-4)



Daisy was our golden retriever who was with us for 12 ½ wonderful years until she left us a few months ago. She was not the brightest dog I ever met, but beautiful, leggy blondes can get by just on their looks. Daisy loved two things most: me and food. And not in that order. She could hear the sound of kibble hitting her dish from the farthest edge of the back yard. And she could hear my car coming from several houses away.

Daisy knew what mattered to her and she listened for it. Although I said she wasn't bright, in this regard, she was much smarter than I am. So often I fill my ears and my mind with useless chatter, forgetting to listen to the One who I say I want to be the Good Shepherd of my life.

I know I'm not the only one who lives in a noisy world. I don't think I'm the only person who often has a crazy mind, a tired body, a restless soul. We live with the false urgency of texts and emails, with the deadening monotony of meetings, with a constant barrage of "entertainment." With all this going on, it's hard to remain committed to finding the time and the silence to listen for the voice of Jesus.

I think it's especially hard to listen—to Jesus and to one another—because we live in a world that doesn't value the slowing down that listening requires, the stilling of ourselves and the silence that's necessary for careful listening. How do we learn to recognize the voice of our Shepherd so that we may follow him in such a noisy world?

God wants us to listen for his voice. Scripture tells us that over and over. *Be still and know that I am God (Ps 46:10). If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come to him (Rev 3:20). Incline your ear and come to me (Is 55:3).*

So how do we hear God's voice? Like almost everything that involves growing deeper in faith, I think we must be intentional about it. I think we need to regularly set aside time to do that. Daily prayer time serves that purpose for me. Weekly worship is another opportunity to listen for the voice of Jesus. And for me, occasionally getting completely away from my daily life is essential. When I step into silence and set aside time to listen, God often shows up. When we set apart time for listening, we can recognize the voice of our Shepherd and see where he is leading us.

—Brenda Anderson-Baker,
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth