



The UMW Voice

The Newsletter of Bozeman's United Methodist Women

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Martha Hendricks editor

586-6389

myhendricks@icloud.com

Spiritually Speaking

Brenda Anderson-Baker

Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

The email subject was cryptic. It said "lunch? hopeful?" and came from one of a group of women I've been meeting with regularly for several years. At the agreed upon time and place, we gathered, hopeful we'd have a hopeful conversation.

Over soup and salad, we talked about the challenges of being a person of faith – and therefore, a person of hope as well. With so much public contentiousness, so many stories of abuse, with doom and gloom all around, what brings us hope? As we each face our personal challenges, especially as we head into shorter days and colder weather, how do we remember that God is still at work in the world?

We talked about coping strategies that we'd found helpful. We all talked about finding our personal tolerance for news; finding the right sources, channels, and frequency to balance our desire to be informed with our desire to avoid despair. Some talked about resurrecting past hobbies and interests, playing with grandchildren and pets, and getting outdoors for exercise and sunshine.

One woman shared that while she saw anger and mean-spiritedness in the world at large, she only had to look around her circles of family, friends, and neighbors to recognize that her daily life was far more positive and hopeful. And that was true for all of us really. When we pull our focus away from the big picture, we find ways to notice love and beauty and hope.

Of course, that doesn't mean our daily lives are perfect. We have the normal share of human struggles – loss and challenge and pain. But we also have love and companionship and laughter. And while we didn't solve the world's problems at lunch that day, we did come away agreeing that just being together, sharing our stories and laughter, was powerfully healing. The power of community, especially Christian community, can draw us together to support and encourage one another.

Sometimes it's easy to wonder if God is still at work in our world, but I think that what makes Christians people of faith is that we do believe. Whether we can see the results we want to see, we trust that we are part of a story that is so much bigger than what we can understand from our limited vantage point here on the earth, from our lifespan that's just a speck in eternity.

I remember the mystery of faith that is proclaimed at the Eucharist: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. In my mind, I translate that: There will be hard times, there will be joyful times, and always, God is present.

Don't forget ! Women's Treasure Tea Sunday, November 4 at 2:00 pm in the Friendship Room.

We only do this every other year so don't miss out on all the fun, food and fellowship! Invite someone special to join you and come with 1 or 2 nice things you have enjoyed but are ready to pass along and who know what you might take home with you!

No RSVP is required, casual dress- unless of course you what to wear that fancy teatime hat!

(We will also take a few brief moments to present our slate of UMW officers and cast our vote)

Holiday Mission Market

Sunday, Dec 2, 2018 - Fireside Room 8:00 am-12:00 pm

Mark your calendars – the Bozeman United Methodist Women are excited to invite you to start thinking about creating wonderful handmade gifts for our second annual Holiday Mission Market to be held the first Sunday morning in December. We want to give you time to make and donate those handmade items that are so much fun to buy and give and we will also be looking for some special holiday baked goods – pies, special breads and holiday candy to sell that day. Maybe you would like to donate a silent auction item ie: gift cards, a framed photo of our beautiful valley or mountains or a gift basket filled with special treasures. Silent auction items will be on display for bidding starting the Sunday prior to the Mission Market. Since we don't have a large space and hope to not duplicate items, if you have an idea for a donation in any of these areas please contact me with your ideas:

Janna Christensen 586-3296 or jannapeil@yahoo.com

October was Pledge month and a pledge service was presented at each small group but if you were not there for the service –no worries! Please watch for a letter that will be coming to you with information, a pledge card and SASE to return your card to our Treasurer Wanda Myers.

Energy Continues in UMW NRG

The Newly Retired Group within United Methodist Women is celebrating its 20th year! Charter Members say they do not take the labels “newly” or “retired” seriously and welcome any woman interested in joining them.

They meet at 10 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at IHOP to discuss a book, a chapter at a time. Currently, they are exploring Jesus Is the Question by Martin B. Copenhaver. The author helps readers deeply hear 307 questions Jesus asks his followers as well as 3 important ones he answers. Participants do not need to read the book because leaders share main points and guide the lively talk.

Jackie Montgomery, NRG Coordinator

Noon Luncheon Group Welcomes Pastor Amy

The September meeting of Noon Luncheon Group was a time of fellowship, food, and welcome as Pastor Amy attended as our special guest. It was a perfect time to welcome her into the family and also to learn about her faith journey and hopeful vision for Christianity and our church family in Bozeman. Thank you Pastor Amy!

Coming in December Advent Brunch 9:30am December 5 with speaker Brenda Anderson Baker

Mission Recognition Awards will also be given and the UMW budget will be presented for vote

November meetings:

Nov. 4	Sunday	UMW Women's Treasure Tea 2pm Friendship Room
Nov 13	Tuesday	Mission Team Meeting (Program Planning) Friendship Room, 10am –noon
Nov. 19	Monday	Inkspots card making home of Martha Hendricks
Nov. 20	Tuesday	Newly Retired Group, IHOP, 10am
Nov. 14	Wednesday	Miriam-Ruth Circle church conference room, 9:30-11am (Rev. Amy will be speaking!) Trinity Circle, Fireside Room no meeting in November
Nov 29	Thursday	Noon Luncheon Group Church conference room/art room Noon-1pm (Nov-Dec meeting)