



The UMW Voice

The Newsletter of Bozeman's United Methodist Women

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Spiritually Speaking

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As I sat down to write this month's column, I looked back to see when I started doing this. In what surely must be me channeling my mother, "Where does the time go?" It's been more than ten years now, a fact which astounds me (and maybe makes you long for fresher voices.)

Back then I wrote about looking forward to the breath of fresh air that September always brings for me. I talked about new schoolbooks with that wonderful smell, clean notebooks with blank pages full of promise, freshly polished shoes without a single scuff mark. Though my school days are decades behind me, I continue to be drawn to the optimism of autumn and the promise of a fresh start.

I talked then about how I began attending BUMC three years prior after a 30-year absence from any church – how that was the biggest fresh start of my life. I'd still have to agree with that sentiment, but ten additional years of Christian life have changed me from that wide-eyed convert. In those ten years, I've wrestled with God and my faith, fallen in and out of and back into love with Jesus. Just like a marriage matures into a settled state that can be alternately wonderful and mundane, so too has my faith journey changed.

C.S. Lewis continues to help me navigate this Christian life. Back then, I was contrasting my longing for fresh starts with my discomfort of the one-and-done sentiment of being "born again." Today this quote reminds me not only that fresh starts can occur every minute, but also that I must be the one responsible for every step of the continuing journey. He says, "Every time you make a choice, you are turning the central part of you, the part of you that chooses, into something a little different from what it was before. And taking your life as a whole, with all your innumerable choices, all your life long you are slowly turning this central thing either into a heavenly creature or a hellish creature...To be the one kind of creature is heaven: that is, it is joy and peace and knowledge and power...Each of us at each moment is progressing to the one state or the other."

Each thought, each word, each action continues to offer an infinite number of fresh starts, new choices to turn to a life that is pleasing to God, a life of joy and peace and knowledge and power. I pray for the grace to remember that as clearly now as I once did, to find the hunger and longing that still lives just under the surface of a more settled faith.

Welcome Back to fall activities and The UMW Voice!

Please mark your calendars for the return of our fun Christmas event and fundraiser the BUMW Mission Market.

It will be held **December 2** which is the first Sunday morning in December. The Fireside Room and Narthex will have more fun crafts, delicious baked goods and fabulous silent auction items including some wonderful framed photos by a local photographer. If you are a crafter or baker your donations are welcome and all the profits will go to our Mission pledge and more information will come closer to the event.

The Western Mountains District meeting will be held at Grace UMW in Dillon on September 15 and women from our unit will be attending. The theme of the meeting will be "Celebrating the Power of Storytelling" and registration fee of \$25 is due by September 5. Please contact Gloria Zimmer or Jeannie Haight for more information if you are interested in going and a registration form can be found on the UMW bulletin board in the hallway.

The Yellowstone Legacy BUMW Annual Meeting will be held in 2 locations this year and our designated location is Missoula First on September 28-29. More information will be available soon

October will be UMW pledge month and brief pledge services will be held in each small group as well as a mailing to our members.

Special event this fall! The Treasure Tea is Returning!

It is time for our biennial, intergenerational and fun Treasure Tea. The Treasure Tea will be **November 4** (the first Sunday in November) at 2:00pm. Little ladies to grandmas will gather together for sweet refreshments and the fun exchange of treasures. Mark your calendar for November 4 and more information will be coming.

What scripture defines UMW?

United Methodist Women interprets the biblical passage from Luke 4:18 as both a model and a mandate for Christian social action and advocacy:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

From the UMW website.

September 2018 Upcoming Meetings

Sept 11	Tues.	10am-noon	Mission Team Meeting Friendship Room
Sept 15	Sat.		Western Mountain District Meeting Dillon, MT
Sept 18	Tues.	10am	Newly Retired Group, IHOP
Sept 19	Wed.		Miriam-Ruth will not meet in Sept but will begin in Oct.
Sept 19	Wed.	1:15pm	Trinity Circle, Fireside Room
Sept 27	Thurs	noon	Noon Luncheon, BUMC upstairs conference room/art room
Sept 28-29	Fri-Sat		Conference UMW Annual Meeting