

The United Methodist Women met in Room 804 and in the Family Life Center at Pleasant View UMC at 6:30 pm on October 5, 2021. Attending were Ruth Adkins, Melissa Belcher, Patsy Horney, Carla Jarvis, Dixie Medford, Karen Radnoczi, Vickie Scyphers, Cathy Swindall, Jeannene Thompson and Brenda Walch.

President, Cathy Swindall, **called the meeting to order and welcomed** the group.

Brenda W. shared **The Response Moment, “Staying Connected in Illinois.”** A Sycamore, Illinois, UMW took on the task of staying connected with their church’s 200 older members who did not get out during the worst of the COVID pandemic and did not have internet access. At their monthly meetings members wrote messages in cards offering words of encouragement and letting those members know they were loved and remembered in prayer. This small and simple action brought great comfort and joy to those missing their church family and worship services.

Brenda continued with the **Prayer Calendar** recognizing the **Mission Focus**, Dallas Bethlehem Center, which is launching an afterschool program for elementary-aged children. Four **birthdays** were celebrated today and have been recognized with a card from our group: Laurel Akin of Enterprise Alabama; Mandy Caruse-Yahne of Kansas City, Missouri; Myra Salapang Duncan of Yakima, Washington; all deaconesses and home missionaries; and Dobromir Troansky on staff in Atlanta.

The **Devotion** given by Vickie was **“Autumn Blessing.”** The poem celebrated the seasons of life, focusing on autumn as a place of promise and where most of us would find ourselves. As we related to the description of the “messiness” of family life, we prayed for our own families and asked for peace in the midst of the disorderly relationships which inevitably arise from time to time.

Minutes of the September 2021 meeting were approved on a motion made by Brenda and seconded by Melissa, and they will stand as submitted.

The September **Treasurer’s Report** was presented by Cathy S. The opening balance was \$1,765.14 with receipts of \$446.00 and spendings of \$41.93, leaving a balance of \$2,169.21 going forward into October. The report was accepted as submitted on a motion made by Karen and seconded by Carla.

Old Business

- **Nominating Team** – Ruth gave a report from the team consisting of Ruth, Dixie and Judy Hayden. The team was successful, and the following slate of officers was submitted for 2022: President – Cathy Swindall, Vice President – Freda Pickle, Secretary – Marjorie Tester, and Treasurer – Brenda Walch. Cathy asked others to think about being an officer, and asked for volunteers to help Freda with planning programs and for someone to help Kathy W. with sponsoring new members. That person would be responsible for making calls or sending cards to visitors and new members, and helping them become familiar with our group and the ministries it supports. Brenda and Vickie suggested that could be done in a less formal way by

members who invite new folks or encounter women in daily life who might be interested in joining UMW.

- **Foundations Meal** – The Taco Bar we provided for the Wednesday night youth worship service last month was gratefully received and more than ample for the group that gathered that night. The hope is that we can provide a meal periodically.
- **ZOOM Meetings** – Two of our members participated in The Holston Conference Call to Prayer and Self Denial Spiritual Enrichment program on September 17, and at least two participated in the Holston Conference Annual Meeting on September 18.

New Business

- **Trip to the Holy Land** – The entire congregation has been invited to hear Barbara Farmer share stories and show pictures from her trip to the Holy Land on Sunday, October 17, at 5:00 in the sanctuary. As sponsors of this event, we have been given permission by our pastor to serve punch and cookies in the Family Life Center following the presentation. Masks should be worn when not eating, and members will be stationed behind the table with gloves to serve the punch and pass the cookies with tongs. Dixie will be in charge of decorations, Ruth and Vickie will be in charge of making punch, and all other members are invited to bring 2 dozen cookies. Cookies may be labeled “Trip to the Holy Land” and brought to the kitchen that Sunday morning. Please bring the cookies ready to serve, either covered well in plastic or sealed in a baggie, on a disposable plate or one you will be able to take home after the event.
- **Preschool Silent Auction** – The deadline for bringing items to fill our “Manly Basket” is this Sunday, October 10. The basket is located in the Sunday School classroom across from the FLC. Dixie will be taking it home to arrange the basket for auction.
- **Pennies** – In the course of delivering breakfasts through our New Hope Outreach on a recent Saturday morning, a church member encountered a gentleman who asked if our church did ministries to help children. When assured that we did, the man asked if we could use his jar of pennies. The task of using those pennies was given to our UMW. The jar turned out to weigh 50 pounds, contain 8,430 pennies plus a few dimes, for a total of \$85.00! We enjoyed visiting with each other as we worked to count and roll all those pennies into 168 rolls (plus 70 cents in change) for deposit into our account. The group decided to use the money to purchase small toys for the Abingdon Police Department to help fulfill their recent request. Officers will carry them to give to children who are caught up in domestic violence, accidents, or other chaotic situations. Cathy took pictures of our group with all the rolls and will write a thank you note to let the man know how his pennies will be used.

Closing Prayer – We closed with prayer and a blessing for items brought for the Cancer Centers and various other missions. A special prayer was added for members and their loved ones who are in urgent need of God’s comforting and healing hand this evening.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Radnoczi, Secretary