

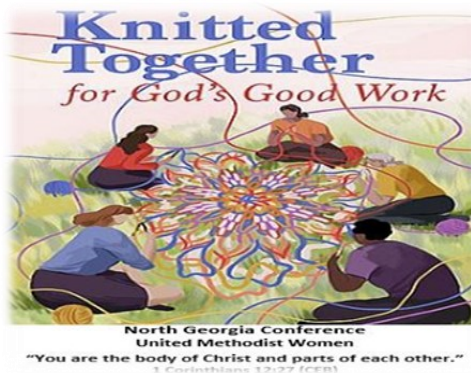
THE ILLUMINANT

Casting light on what's happening in the District

This newsletter is a publication of the
CENTRAL NORTH DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
The newsletter is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November



From the President: Mary Stamper-Murray



Greetings Sisters!

Welcome to the new Central District United Methodist Women and welcome to our first newsletter!

First, let me thank each of you for the confidence you have shown in me by electing me as the charter president of our new Central North District United Methodist Women.

Each of you brings tremendous gifts and talents to this organization. Just as our logo: “Knitted Together for God’s Good Work” indicates, we are bound together to execute the purpose of our organization and fulfill our legacy of faith, hope, and love in action as we focus on women, youth, and children throughout our community and throughout the world.

As we continue in this pandemic, we have already discovered different ways to gather and we will continue to look for ways where we can do our work effectively. We have proven our resilience throughout our 150+ years history and with God’s grace and mercy, we will continue to be faithful to our calling and to our mission.

In this issue, you will be reminded of our new officers and our calendar events as well as other activities planned for this year. I hope all of you are willing to “roll up your sleeves” and join us enthusiastically. We will need to work quickly in some instances so that we can remain on track with our goals. I encourage you to review our 2021 calendar in this issue to make plans to become involved and serve in any area of your preference with your time, talents, gifts, and service. I assure you that everyone is welcome and we pledge to affirm you and your contributions.

Finally, I want to remind you that this is OUR organization and no one person is more valued than any other person. The scriptural reference to our logo is from 1Corinthians 12:27 (CEB), which reads thusly: “You are the body of Christ and parts of each other.” I take this to mean every one of us is important to the entire organization and connected to each other. Together we can do great things!

I am humbled and blessed to be working with this great Sisterhood of Grace and because of this, I am

Rejoicing in Hope!

Mary Stamper-Murray



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THE PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The organized unit of **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN** shall be a community of women whose **PURPOSE** is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a create supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

NEW LOGO FOR NEW CENTRAL NORTH DISTRICT

With a new district we needed a new logo. We received 13 submissions for the name. Overwhelmingly, here is the title that you voted for:



Thanks to Jacqueline Twiggs of Ben Hill for this suggestion.

VISIT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ONLINE

North Georgia Conference/Districts UMW: <http://www.ngumw.org/>

National UMW: <http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/>



SAVE THE DATE

*Central North District
United Methodist Women
Virtual Service*

Lenten Day Apart

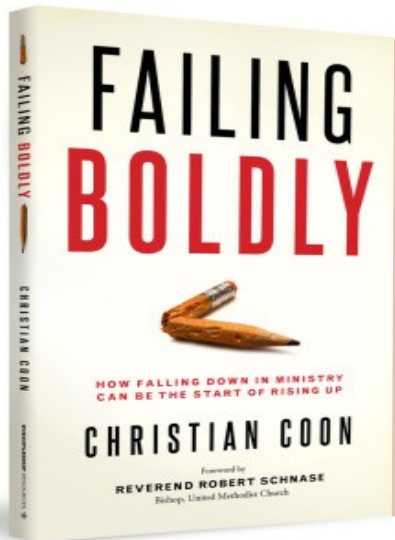
SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

2:00 PM

*Speaker:
“First Lady” Wanda McQueen
Central North District*



Virtual United Methodist Women Book Review



Failing Boldly

How Falling Down in Ministry Can Be the Start of Rising Up
by Christian Coon

Few people would consider failure to be a gift from God. If you are trying to energize and grow a ministry, however, embracing the lessons and gifts of failure may be the best way to maintain an encouraging place for people to seek the heart of God, according to Christian Coon, who is also the author of a chapter in the 2020 Spiritual Growth Study, *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*. Personal stories of missteps and mistakes of those working to grow ministries show how failure is a springboard to new experiences and, hopefully, a deeper connection to God.

Category: Leadership Development

Book Review Facilitator

The Author

CHRISTIAN COON

CHRISTIAN COON is a co-founder and current lead pastor of Urban Village Church, a multisite United Methodist Church in Chicago. You can read his blog and hear his podcasts at www.christiancoon.com

Virtual Book Review: Saturday, March 6, 2021 — 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Note: The link to join will be sent to you prior to March 6

The discussion is open to all male and female members and friends of Warren Memorial UMC. All ages are welcome. For information and to RSVP, contact Eloise Sykes at eksykes181@gmail.com

**A project of the United Methodist Women of Warren Memorial UMC
Dr. Icey Johnson, UMW President
Rev. Leon Matthews, Senior Pastor**

**WARREN
M E M O R I A L U M C**

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE, AND OUTREACH

Claudette Neal, Coordinator



Greetings, Everyone

Welcome to the Central North District! How great it is to be part of a new district within the North Georgia Conference as we continue our purpose and mission as United Methodist Women. We are a new district poised to plan and implement activities and events that will nurture the members of our local units and support priorities set at the conference and national levels. Also with our new district organization come new ways of doing things. We welcome the changes that technology is bringing in how we do our work – i.e., virtual meetings, webinars, classes via Zoom, and more online registrations and links.

Census
2020

So, we begin year 2021 as we have in the past by ensuring that all units complete the *2020 Unit Survey* formerly known as the Census by the March 30, 2021 deadline. The Unit President or a designee should go to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and click on United Methodist Women. On the next page, click the orange box labeled CENSUS 2020 to begin the survey. When you have finished the survey, click submit.

myUMW:
Add your info,
& get your
membership
card

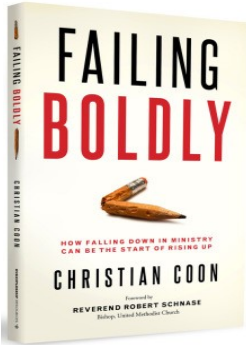
Individual members in each unit are encouraged to print a personal membership card which is also obtained at the www.unitedmethodistwomen.org website. The membership card only needs to be printed once and not annually. So if you have already printed your card in a previous year, you do not need to do it again in 2021.

I want to invite all unit Membership Nurture and Outreach (MNO) coordinators to contact me for membership growth issues and concerns at claudette915@aol.com.



EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

Patricia A. Kenly, Coordinator



1. **UMW READING PROGRAM - Upcoming Virtual Book Review - Saturday, March 6, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.** *“Failing Boldly: How Falling Down in Ministry Can Be the Start of Rising Up”* by Christian Coon Book Review Flyer attached.

NOTE: The facilitator of this book review will be the author, Christian Coon. **CHRISTIAN COON** is a co-founder and current lead pastor of Urban Village Church, a multisite United Methodist Church in Chicago. He was a contributing writer for our Spiritual Growth Mission Study, “Finding Peace in an Anxious World” - a study providing wisdom on living with serenity and not anxiety through the book of Proverbs and the Serenity Prayer.



2. **FAITH TALKS PODCAST - *Lent in the Midst of COVID*, Thurs, Feb. 25, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.** Guests will include:

- The Rev. Dionne Boissiere, Chaplain of the Church Center for the United Nations.
- Hugo Zurita, Executive Director of the Good Neighbor Settlement House, Texas
- Kim Jenkins, Executive Director of Open Door Community House, Columbus, GA

Register today for Faith Talks here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_czBgGIRUT4SGMZpbZ-pzvA.



3. **DAY OF GIVING - March 23, 2021.** Let’s honor our foremothers by giving to the legacy Endowment Fund to ensure UMW can continue serving women, children and youth around the world for the next 150 years. Generous donors have agreed to match gifts received for the Day of Giving.

NOTE: Black History Moment - Pictured Deaconess Clara Ester (holding baby), UMW Board of Directors involvement as an activist in the Civil Rights Movement with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Highlights in YouTube Video “Looking Back and Moving Forward with Clara Ester.”

ANDREWS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WOMEN'S DAY PROGRAM

The United Methodist Women at Andrews Chapel United Methodist Church (ACUMC) did not allow the pandemic to stop their activities and events. They held a virtual Women's Day Program on November 15, 2020 in conjunction with ACUMC's 145th Year Anniversary. The theme was "**Let Your Light Shine, Ignited for Justice.**" The Worship Leader was Georgia Wilson, President of ACUMC United Methodist Women.



**Rev. Jasmine Rose
Smothers**

The program began with a themed selection, "Shine Your Light" performed by Carlotta Cole. The Holy Scripture, Luke 18:1-8, was read by Dr. Connie Ward, followed by Gwendolyn Winston, who led the corporate prayer. The United Methodist Women's Day Litany, "A Litany of Lament" was directed by Cornelia Smith, and Carlotta Cole sang the sermonic selection "He's Been Faithful". Linda Turner introduced the guest speaker, Rev. Jasmine Rose Smothers (Rev. Jasmine).

Rev. Jasmine's inspirational subject for ACUMC Women's Day Program was "**The Problem with Two Masters**", using Scriptural text from Matthew 6:24 (CEB): "*No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be loyal to the one and have contempt for the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.*" The original text translates serve as slave, and master as absolute ownership. She further stated that we cannot serve God, and worship at the altar of partisanship, injustice, instability, and racism because division leads to destruction. We are to serve God and Him only, because we are owned by God.

Rev. Jasmine, a native of Atlanta, GA, is a graduate of Spelman College (B.A., Political Science) and Emory University's Candler School of Theology (M.Div.). Rev. Jasmine serves as Lead Pastor of the historic Atlanta First United Methodist Church. She is the first female, the first person of color, and the youngest leader in the congregation's 172-year history.

So if you are committed to being the light of God in the world, then walk in the light of God to illuminate not only the dark places in the world but also the places within you that need a little more light.

- *More light to see yourself as fearfully and wonderfully made.*
- *More light to see yourself as loved by God*
- *More light to see others as God sees them – whole, missing nothing and deserving of God's love*



Let us walk in the light, so we may SEE the path ahead of us

BETHEL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Heritage Celebration

Catherine Lemons: President, Lillie King: Social Chairperson,
Carolyn Williams: Heritage Program Chairperson
February 25, 2021

Who could have imagined it? Who would have spoken it? Who would have believed it? Not !! Not !! Certainly not I could have imagined, spoken or believed that Bethel United Methodist Women (BUMW) would be hosting their annual Heritage Celebration at home during its regular time on its regular day and sharing it with others.

What was first perceived as opposition turned into opportunity. So, not only did the unit go big but it went really BIG.

In spite of the unimaginable, BUMW did host its annual Heritage Celebration via Zoom during the pandemic. The program's theme was "A Poetic Celebration of Black Women," chaired by Carolyn Williams, under BUMW Social Action umbrella where Lillie King serves as program chairperson. The poetic celebration presented videos, biographies, songs, the spoken word, written works from male and female black poets and a custom BUMW Black History 'Wheel of Fortune' game.

The organization was especially grateful for those who volunteered or accepted requests made. Guest participants: Delores Morton, Rev. Kimberly Tyler and Tonda Lawrence; even though they are either church members or associate members, are appreciated for their willingness to perform and for doing so at such an admirable level. Of course, it goes without saying that Pastor Tucker strutted her stuff with her IT skills during the celebration. Catherine Lemons made sure appropriate virtual backgrounds were available for participants. Joyce Spaulding-Hix was co-zoom host for this celebration. Jacqueline Hicks presented lovely, Bethel engraved mugs to the game winners: Chip and Delores Morton, Nina Smith and Marilyn Sullivan. Also, Marilyn was recognized for her solid gold, stunning, African hat.

The guest Game Master Host: Roland Foster, Jr., custom designed a Black History "Wheel of Fortune" game especially for BUMW. He zoomed in from Friendswood, Texas, but is a native of Atlanta and a two-degree graduate of Xavier University.





CENTRAL NORTH DISTRICT 2021 UMW CALENDAR

- January 23 - Organizational Meeting (Election/Installation)
- February 20 - Central North Executive Committee Meeting
- February 27 - Leadership Development Training
- March 28 - Central North District Lenten Day Apart
- April 24 - Central North District Faith Fun and Everyone
- May 1 - Spiritual Growth/Social Action Event (Virtual)
- May 15 - Limitless Event
- May 22 - Central North Executive Committee Meeting
- June 4 - North Georgia Annual Conference (Virtual)
- July 31 - Central North Executive Committee Meeting
- September 11 - Central North Executive Committee Meeting
- October 2 - North Georgia Conference Annual Meeting
- October 23 - Central North District Annual Meeting
- November 6 - Leadership Development Training
- December 4 - Central North Executive Committee Meeting (OPTIONAL)
- General Conference - August 29 - September 7, 2021

CONTINUE - Maya Angelou

Into a world which needed you,
My wish for you
Is that you continue

Continue

To be who and how you are
To astonish a mean world
With your acts of kindness

Continue

To allow humor to lighten the burden
of your tender heart

Continue

In a society dark with cruelty
To let the people hear the grandeur
Of God in the peals of your laughter

Continue

To let your eloquence
Elevate the people to heights
They had only imagined

Continue

To remind the people that
Each is as good as the other
And that no one is beneath
Nor above you

Continue

To remember your own young years
And look with favor upon the lost
And the least and the lonely

Continue

To put the mantel of your protection
Around the bodies of
The young and defenseless



Continue

To take the hand of the despised
And diseased and walk proudly with them
In the high street

Some might see you and
Be encouraged to do likewise

Continue

To plant a public kiss of concern
On the cheek of the sick
And the aged and infirm

And count that as a

Natural action to be expected

Continue

To let gratitude be the pillow
Upon which you kneel to
Say your nightly prayer

And let faith be the bridge
You build to overcome evil

And welcome good

Continue

To ignore no vision
Which comes to enlarge your range
And increase your spirit

Continue

To dare to love deeply
And risk everything
For the good thing

Continue

To float

Happily in the sea of infinite substance
Which set aside riches for you
Before you had a name

Continue

And by doing so
You and your work
Will be able to continue

Eternally

CENTRAL NORTH UMW LEADERSHIP 2021

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TBD

FAITH, FUN, AND EVERYONE

TBD



HOW TO CONTACT US

bethelumchurch@aol.com

DUE DATES FOR ARTICLES

WINTER - February 1
SPRING - May 1
SUMMER - August 1
FALL - November 1

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES:

1. in Word or Publisher
2. to bethelumchurch@aol.com

Catherine Hart

Communications Coordinator



CENTRAL NORTH DISTRICT

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Michael McQueen

michael.mcqueen@ngumc.net



ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Mozelle Mitchell



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45 LESSONS LIFE TAUGHT ME

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short – enjoy it.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and family will.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Stay true to yourself.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye, but don't worry, God never blinks.
16. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
17. Get rid of anything that isn't useful. Clutter weighs you down in many ways.
18. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
- 19.. It's never too late to be happy. But it's all up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion.
Today is special.
22. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important sex organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words: 'In five years, will this matter?'
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
- 31.. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36. Growing old beats the alternative of dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Envy is a waste of time. Accept what you already have, not what you need.
42. The best is yet to come...
43. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift."

