

VIRTUAL FESTIVAL OF QUILTS June 1— 5, 2020



The Festival of Quilts, a Cunningham Children's Home tradition and signature fundraiser, is now in its 16th year. To ensure the health and safety of our kids, staff and community, this year's event will be five days of online FUNdraising!

The Festival will still feature something for everyone:

- **ONLINE QUILT SALE** featuring more than 100 beautiful traditional and contemporary quilts and wall hangings available for purchase.
- **ONLINE GIFT SHOP** packed with generously donated unique and handcrafted items for sale.
- **DAILY FACEBOOK LIVE EVENTS**, June 1-5 at 11am, with engaging hosts giving you an up close and personal look at quilts and gift shop items.
- **UNBAKE SALE**; an opportunity to support Cunningham without getting your pans dirty or your fingers sticky.
- **FEATURED SPEAKER** Kelly McCleary, "The Quirky Quiltress," will share her quilting techniques and expertise in an online event.

- **SPECIAL GUESTS** will join our hosts during the Facebook Live events including Cunningham staff and Festival committee members.

The Festival site will go live on Monday, June 1 at 9am. The link will be available on Cunningham home.org.

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COMMENTS FROM THE CONNOR CORNER

Blessings to all Christ's faithful IRD UMW members. I sincerely send you my well wishes for your spiritual and physical health. I miss all of you so very much. Please take care of yourself and your family. I am sitting in my home doing the physical distance thing our Governor and President have strongly urged us to do. The occasional grocery run does happen as well as trips to pick up elastic and material and to deliver finished face masks to our Sullivan coordinator.

I am greatly saddened that our Spring Celebration had to be cancelled, the IGRC UMW has cancelled Mission u for this summer, as well as Cunningham's Quilt Show being on-line greatly saddens my heart. I have learned how to attend meetings on Zoom and use the video phone app to talk to family. I wish to thank all of you who have called me and or sent cards and emails. Those virtual visits certainly brighten my day.

Paul writes in his 2nd Corinthians letter that Christ is the one who comforts us in all our trouble so that we can comfort others...we receive so much comfort through Christ .. so that if we have trouble it is to bring you comfort and salvation. I ask you to remember all of the Missions of the UMW as we pass this time of physical isolation. There are still missionaries and UMW employees around the world that still rely on your generous prayers

and giving. Please find ways of sending care or funds to LBDNH and CCH as well as all your local food pantries and help organizations. The harvest is great but the workers are few. In Ephesians 4 Paul encourages us to live as people worthy of the call we received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit. Now is a good time to read the Bible through this year. Now is a good time to read books from the UMW Reading List and the Response magazine. Keep yourselves informed because the need the original formers of the UMW predecessor organizations saw is still present in our world today.

Looking forward with great anticipation to seeing many of you at our IRD UMW Fall Celebration in my home church of Sullivan in September and also at IGRC UMW Annual Celebration in Morton in October.

God willing, these two events will not have to be cancelled. I pray for you daily. Stay in touch with each other, and more importantly stay in touch with God.

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2019 READING PROGRAM RECOGNITION

Plan 4

Pam Socie, Champaign Faith
Susan Connor, Sullivan

Plan 2

Sharon Johnson, Champaign First
Cindy Sellers-Evans, Rossville

Plan1

Pat Davis, Champaign Faith
Diane Beaty, Hindsboro
Judy Duzan, Hindsboro
Shirley East, Hindsboro
Noelle Greathouse, Hindsboro
Phyllis Humes, Hindsboro
Kelly Jackson, Hindsboro
Amy Richardson, Hindsboro

Denise Matthews, Rossville
Sandy Morris, Rossville
Rosella Ray, Rossville
Anita Althaus, Savoy
Judy Ozier, Sullivan
Lois Shuman, Sullivan
Judy Carr, Weldon

Participants

Beverly Bell, Champaign Faith
Susan Kessler, Champaign Faith
Sheryl Palmer, Champaign Faith
Nancy White, Champaign Faith
Terry Benson, Champaign First
Sylvia Herzog, Champaign First
Anne McKenney, Champaign First
Karen Wood, Champaign First

Donna Motley, Hindsboro
Glenda Cremeens, Rossville
Cathy Douglas, Rossville
Miranda Duncan, Rossville
Tami Hathaway, Rossville
Susan Kentnor, Rossville
Cindy Cook, Savoy
Deb Foertsch, Savoy
Linda Frizzell, Savoy
Mary Hackl, Savoy
Marilyn Hancock, Savoy
Vera Maase, Savoy
Kay McCoy, Savoy
June Wiente, Savoy
Karen Reed, Sullivan
Marge Herrman, Villa Grove
Susie Mikeworth, Villa Grove

TREASURER'S NOTE

Thank you all for continuing to give in these challenging times. Please continue to submit your unit remittance forms to me as you are safe and able to do so.

Here are the current giving numbers:

- District Pledge: \$38,000
- Total Given to Pledge: \$6,203

Remember you MUST set a unit Pledge in order to achieve Five Star and Rainbow Status.

- We have 12 units that have set a pledge for 2020: Arcola, Bismarck, Camargo, Catlin, Champaign Faith, Champaign First, Crescent City, Danville St. James, Mahomet, Savoy, Sullivan, Weldon
- If your unit has not set a pledge for 2020 please email it to me at bethanysocie@gmail.com with UMW Pledge in the subject line as soon as you are able

There may be a delay in the shipping of Special Mission Recognition pins due to COVID-19. If you need one

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Greetings, Dedicated United Methodist Women,

Happy Spring, Happy Easter, Happy Celebration of Life! There is much joy in the warmth of the sunshine that God provides for us every single day. During the rainy days of April, we may have to create our own sunshine. During our time alone in our homes, we may have to search a little harder to find those golden rays, but I know you have done so. We know who brings sunshine into our world, and He is only a quiet prayer or a loud plea away. His purity assures us He doesn't have to be six feet away from us! When the dark clouds threaten, He is wrapping us in His arms and lighting up our hearts. He is providing us with ideas and actions that extend to others, as well. As we circle our wagons around our Risen Savior, let us remember to leave space to invite the hurting, the suffering, the lonely,

NOMINATIONS

Hi Ladies,

I am asking that you please read this with understanding and prayers in your heart. Come fall the district is going to need the following officers -

- President
- Vice-President
- Membership/Nurture/Outreach
- Education/Interpretation (need now)
- Social Action (need now)
- Spiritual Growth
- Secretary of Program Resources (need now)
- a Nominations person for 2022

urgently please let me know, if not they are expected to ship once we are given the all clear to resume non-essential business.

With the timing of agencies receiving gifts being critical please considering sending gifts directly to them instead of through the remittance. Both Cunningham and Lessie Bates are in critical need to receive funds now, so it is best to send your gifts to them directly as going through the remittance process takes several months to funnel back to the organizations. Supplemental gifts such as these do not impact the district of unit pledge so there is no need to worry about these numbers not being counted with the remittance giving.

Thank you and stay well!

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the exhausted to join our circle. Let's be a messenger of Hope for the world, a beacon of Light in the darkness, and a calming breath of Peace for those living in chaos. *Because He lives, I (we) can face tomorrow, because He lives, all fear is gone...*

God bless each and every one of you. God be with you until we meet again.

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As you can see, this is almost all of the officers. The future of the entire district is in jeopardy unless we can fill these vacancies. Won't you please, please, help me find these officers. I'll be anxious to hear from you with positive results.

In prayers and blessings,

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LESSIE BATES DAVIS NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

In mid-March the agency received notice from the Illinois Department of Human Services that Neighborhood House would be placed on the Stop Payment List. The agency immediately began calling IL DHS to resolve the issue, however, the “social distancing” of COVID-19 was already taking hold and our calls were not being returned. With the help of our lawyer, we began litigation against the state to rescind the Stop Payment order.

Over the past two weeks we had been working on this issue, but to no avail. Although we had faith, we were afraid we were going to have to lay off staff because no funds were coming in from the state of Illinois. We sent out layoff notices to our staff and started calling our elected officials to see if they could be of assistance with DHS.

On Thursday of last week, we received notice from DHS that they would like to meet concerning this matter. On Friday we received word that the judge had ruled in our favor and the Stop Payment action was to be rescinded. We all breathed a sigh of relief, as our prayer were answered.

During all of this, the Board and leaders of the United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women have been kept up to date.

With COVID-19, we still have obstacles to face, but we feel we are better prepared to face them.

Thank you for your dedication, support and prayers for Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House. If you have any further questions, please feel free to email me. We are working from home most of the time, so I don't see your voice messages for a few days.

In his Love,

Lisa A. Graves
Executive Administrative Assistant
Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House

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**Lessie Bates Davis
Neighborhood House**

2019 UNIT AWARDS

LOVE UNITS

Arcola
Bellflower
Broadlands
Camargo
Champaign First
Hindsboro
Indianola
Loda
Mahomet
Middlefork
Mt Vernon
Rankin

Rossville
Savoy
Sullivan
Tolono
Tuscola
Urbana Wesley
Villa Grove
Weldon

FAITH UNITS

Bement
Donovan

HOPE UNITS

Bismarck
Catlin
Crescent City
Danville St James
Farmer City
Paxton

5 STAR UNITS

Bellflower
Bismarck
Broadlands
Crescent City

Rossville
Savoy
Tuscola
Urbana Wesley
Villa Grove

RAINBOW UNITS

Champaign First
Loda
Weldon

The Beacon is a publication of the Iroquois River District United Methodist Women. Editor: Pat Setzler, Communication Coordinator, 217.369.4071, IroquoisRiverUMW@gmail.com. The Beacon is published to report and inform UMW of district and conference programs. For more information visit the Iroquois River District website (www.igrc.org/iroquoisriver) and click on the UMW link.

CUNNINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOME

As most things have come to a standstill, or close to it, Cunningham Children's Home has continued to do what it does best. The teachers have continued to prepare lessons, the cooks have continued to prepare meals, the administration has continued to make decisions and the kids' support staff has continued to take care of our kids and families.

Through all of this Cunningham needs our support more than ever. Please send the monetary gifts to Cunningham that you had planned on taking to our spring meeting. That can be sent directly to Cunningham Children's Home.

Another way to give is thru an Amazon site called Amazon smile. Through this web site it is an easy way to help our kids. Not only can you order items on Amazon Smile that has been especially chosen by the staff, but when you designate Cunningham Children's Home of Urbana, IL as your favorite charity, Cunningham also receives a percentage of the sale. Easy and efficient!

These last few weeks have been stressful for everyone involved but through our continued support and prayers Cunningham Children's home will prevail. God has taken care of us for 125+ years, I do not believe he will stop now.

Please remember, we representatives, Roberta and Bobby, would love to visit your unit when all of this stuff is over. Call to set up an appointment with us.

God tells us in Joshua 1:9 " Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage: do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

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DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
June 1 - 5		Virtual Festival of Quilts	Cunningham Home
June 26 - 28		UMW North Central Jurisdictional Mtg	Sioux Falls SD
July 31 - Aug 2		Weekend Mission U — CANCELLED —	
August 2 - 5		Weekday Mission U — CANCELLED —	
August 14 - 15		Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference	Peoria
August 29	9:00 am	District UMW Leadership Mtg	Sullivan
Sept 26	9:15am - 2:30pm	District UMW Annual Mtg	Sullivan
Oct 3		IGRC UMW Annual Mtg	Morton



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Address Service Requested