

NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2024



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

National United Methodist Church

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

APRIL

18-21 - NEJ UWF QUADRENNIAL MEETING
Providence, RI

**27 - JAZZ@WESLEY: THE BLUES
BROTHERS**
6:30-8:30 PM, Wesley

28 - SPRING UMW JEWELRY SALE
8:30 AM-noon, Christie Rm,
Metropolitan Memorial

28 - GAME NIGHT AND POTLUCK DINNER
5-7 PM, Great Hall, Metropolitan
Memorial campus

MAY

4 - GREAT DAY OF SERVICE
noon-3 PM, Metropolitan campus

JUNE

24-28 - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Metropolitan campus

Metropolitan Memorial campus: 3401 Nebraska Ave NW, Washington, DC 20016

Wesley campus: 5312 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20015

Phone: 202-363-4900

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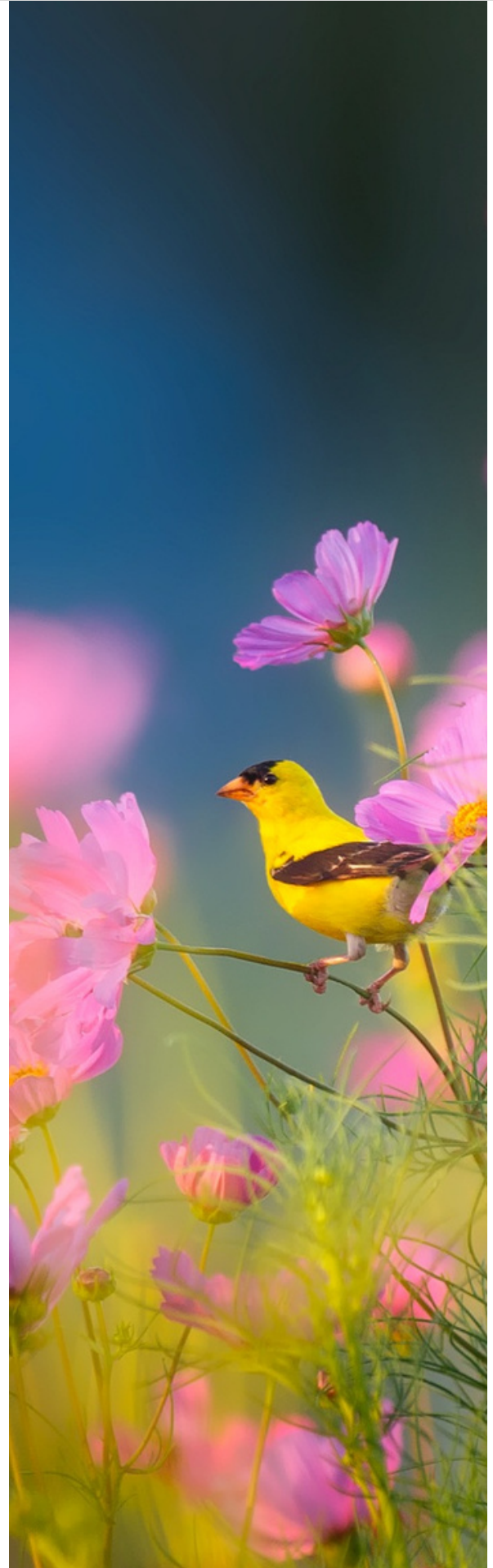
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Reflections

by John Wesley

Sermon 69: The Imperfection of Human Knowledge

From a consciousness of our ignorance we may learn ... a lesson of resignation. We may be instructed to say at all times and in all instances, 'Father, not as I will; but as thou wilt.' This was the last lesson which our blessed Lord (as man) learnt while he was upon earth. He could go no higher than, 'Not as I will, but as thou wilt,' till he bowed his head and gave up the ghost. Let us also herein be made conformable to his death, that we may know the full 'power of his resurrection'.

Spring UMW Jewelry Sale

Sunday, April 28, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Christie Room, Metropolitan Memorial campus

Join us for a sparkling celebration of Spring at our eagerly awaited UMW Jewelry Sale on April 28th! From delicate florals to bold statement pieces, there's something for every style and occasion. So mark your calendars and come check out our Spring collection while raising money for our UMW unit.

See you on April 28th in the Christie Room of Metropolitan Memorial.



Great Day of Service May 4

Featuring Food Drive and Luncheon to Support KenAid Children's Fund

Saturday, May 4, noon-3 PM

Great Hall, Metropolitan Memorial campus



The UMW will hold its annual Great Day of Service on Saturday, May 4, from 12:00 to 3:00 PM in the Great Hall at the Metropolitan Campus.

At 12:00 we will have a light fundraising luncheon with the proceeds going to KenAid Children's Fund, which supports the Blueview-Bamburi and Blueview-Ugatuzi Schools in Kenya. During the luncheon Lois Weaver will give a presentation on the KenAid Children's Fund.

Then from 1:00 to 3:00 PM we will engage in projects to help those in need in our community and beyond. Projects will support groups such as The TraRon Center, Wendt Center Grief Camp, Project

Let's Do Lunch!



Transformation, Educare, Ballet Elite, KenAid, and Impact Fellowship.

This is a church-wide event and we hope to see members of our congregation of all ages come together for this time of fellowship and action.

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You should soon receive a signup genius invitation in your email with some specific opportunities, but you can also just come on May 4 and help out. In the meantime, please begin gathering the following to help those in need in our community.

Food Drive: We will have a food drive as part of the Great Day of Service. Hold onto your canned goods and foods in plastic containers. No glass or expired foods please. There is a special need for peanut butter, jelly, and canned meats such as tuna fish.

Tee Shirts and Old Towels: Please hold onto old tee shirts and old towels to bring along on May 4 as part of a project to make dog toys for a local shelter.

Toiletry Items for AsylumWorks: AsylumWorks has created a community co-op to serve a wide range of needs for its clients. We will be focusing our collection on the following items and would appreciate your help:

- Gentle face cleansers
- Chapstick
- BPA-free water bottles
- Journals/spiral notebooks
- Deodorant
- Face lotion/skincare and body lotion
- Dishwashing liquid
- Vegetable cooking oil
- Jersey hijabs/ hijab pins/ under scarf hat or hijab cap
- Baby wipes

Questions? Contact Beth McConnell at LSHEARL@AOL.COM



Donate Supplies for TraRon Campers' Ditty Bags to be Assembled at Service Day

by Ann Michel

One of our Service Day projects is assembling 24 ditty bags for young people from the TraRon Center who will be attending West River camp this summer. You can contribute needed items through this Amazon wish list:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2P66N6YU6RKKI?ref=wl_share

The TraRon Center serves DC children and youth who have been impacted by gun violence. Last year, NUMC members generously raised scholarships to make this opportunity available to kids from the TraRon Center. And this year we plan to do the same.



2024 Reading Program

If you would like to participate in the UMW Reading Program, read at least one book from each category.

Here is a quick run-through of the categories in the catalog:

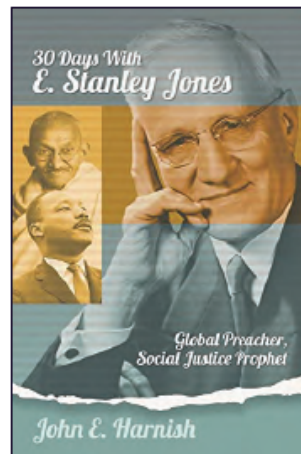
1. Education for Mission - Pages 9 - 11 (19 books)
2. Leadership Development - Pages 12 - 18 (19 books)
3. Nurturing for Community - Pages 19 - 26 (23 books)
4. Social Action - Pages 27 - 33 (19 books)
5. Spiritual Growth - Pages 34 - 41 (22 books)

The catalog can be found [here](#) or paste into your browser:

[https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?](https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=10846&catid=2178)

[productID=10846&catid=2178](https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=10846&catid=2178)

If you have any questions, contact Program Resources Coordinator, Rev. Mele Taumoepeau Aho
mtmp.ahol4@gmail.com



30 DAYS WITH E STANLEY JONES:
 GLOBAL PREACHER, SOCIAL JUSTICE
 PROPHET

by John Harnish



FIERCE LOVE: A BOLD PATH TO
 FEROCIOUS COURAGE AND RULE-
 BREAKING KINDNESS THAT CAN HEAL
 THE WORLD

by Dr. Jacqui Lewis

Recognition honoree: Lois Weaver

by Debbie Hines

Presentations for the other honorees from the January 13, 2024 Recognition Brunch - Dana Lehmer and Richard Tilley - will be included in upcoming issues. The presentation for Joan Gordon was included in the March newsletter.

1 Corinthians 13 speaks of faith, hope and love. Paul, the Apostle says the greatest of these is love. When I think of Lois Weaver, I think of the agape love that Paul speaks about. Agape love is the highest form of love, the kind of love that we all should give and be fortunate enough to receive. Lois gives love without asking for anything in return. She extends her love and action towards those in need. And she does it in a quiet and unassuming way. This is the Lois that I know.

Lois Weaver, an only child, attended high school in Boston and then attended Dickenson College as a math major. There she met another math major, Kent Weaver. Kent and Lois's love of math allowed them to



Honoree Lois Weaver
& Debbie Hines

spend lots of time together, which eventually turned to love of each other.

Upon graduation, they both headed south to DC where Kent grew up with deep roots in Metropolitan. Kent's parents were members of Metropolitan. Lois and Kent married and had two lovely children, Kenley and

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Todd. Todd resides in DC and Kenley lives in Auburn California. Together they blessed Lois and Kent with four grandchildren. Lois spent 50 years—almost 51 years married to the love of her life, Kent before his untimely passing.

Lois's love extends as a church bridge builder. At Wesley, we sing the song "I'm Building a Bridge for You so that maybe by and by, I can meet you halfway there.... Lois is one of the few perhaps only 1 or 2 members who regularly attends Sunday services at both campuses. Lois not only attends the services at Wesley but has made it her commitment to get to know the Wesley community. And we love her for that.

Many people see a problem but never do anything about the problem. Lois sees a problem and works tirelessly to do something about it. Lois saw a problem with gun violence. Instead of thinking nothing can be done. She started our gun violence prevention ministry.

·Gun Violence prevention ministry – It Works to bridge the gap between those who have experienced gun violence and those who are in a position to help victims----- Lois's faith led her to start National's gun violence prevention ministry with Silence the Violence annual concert The first concert in 2016 was called Concert Across America.

·The concert raises money and supports the TraRon Center --- lead us to foster a community and support for the youth of the TraRon Center who have been affected by gun violence. Silence the Violence (STV) 2023 raised over \$12, 000 for The TraRon Center's support of gun violence victims and for its empowerment of community members to produce solutions for gun violence.

·Through her efforts, we were able to send TraRon Kids to Camp (TKTC) to West River Camp for a transformational one week experience last Summer with plans to expand efforts in

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2024. Her work has impacted and saved lives of kids affected by gun violence.

·Without any church title, she makes sure to stay in community with members who are experiencing health, grief issues and other challenging personal issues.

For her many acts of agape love, I'd like to point out a few examples;

1) When Monu, a Zimbabwean refugee started looking for a church and came to us, Lois embraced him and grew to know him. Her agape love extended to learn of Monu's so far unsuccessful efforts at asylum in this country. And when Monu recently had an accident in his car which is his means of employment as an Uber driver and caused the loss of wages, she stepped in to provide meals for Monu and encouraged others to do the same.

2) Lois's agape love extends regularly on the morning prayer

calls where she prays for those near and far and for an end to the chaos of the world that we're experiencing. Ever since 2020, when the calls started during the pandemic, Lois has likely said a prayer or two for those of us gathered here today.

3) On a personal note, she stayed in constant contact with me by text when my brother experienced his cancer illness and ultimate death on September 22, 2018. And even after Emery's illness and passing 5 years ago, Lois has continued to be in touch with me on or near the anniversary date of my brother's passing---every single year to check on how I'm doing and feeling.

My one prayer is that I can grow in agape love as Lois has extended her love to me and to so many others.

For her service, her strength and her love, it is my great honor to present to you my friend Lois Weaver for this recognition by the UMW.

Thank you note



5614 Connecticut Ave NW #285
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info@greaterdcdiaperbank.org
greaterdcdiaperbank.org

March 13, 2024

Gretchen Smith Mui
United Methodist Women, Metropolitan Memorial Methodist Church
1522 Red Oak Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Starts June

Dear Gretchen,

Thank you for United Methodist Women's continued support! We are so appreciative of your gift of \$2,000 received on 2/14/2024 and \$100 received on 2/26/2024, in honor of the 2023 babies born at National UMC, for a combined total of \$2,100. Your support helps us continue to grow and more equitably serve our nonprofit partners and their clients throughout the DC metropolitan region.

At the beginning of 2024, we brought on eight new nonprofit partners, located in Prince George's County, Maryland, and in northern Virginia. These partners are expanding our reach in zip codes where our data shows we are meeting the smallest percentage amount of diaper need.

This outreach is critical in light of the most recent study published by the National Diaper Bank Network, which shows that **1 in 2 American families with young children are now facing diaper need**. With your support, we can continue to serve the families that rely on us while simultaneously expanding our outreach to new families facing an unprecedented amount of need.

Donations enable us to build a safer, healthier, and happier community – one in which each and every family has their needs met.

With your support, we served a record number of patients, including a record number of prenatal patients, this past calendar year. This partnership has allowed us to do some amazing things – but most importantly, it allowed our patients to focus on their health when they walked through our doors.

– CCI Health Services, Greater DC Diaper Bank Partner

Thank you for your gift. Working with 85 social service organizations across the region, we not only support thousands of families but also strengthen the services of our partners. Diapers become the stepping stone to other needed services, opening doors for families.

Your donations support much #morethanadiaper and strengthen the comprehensive services that are available to vulnerable families. Thank you for being part of this work!

With gratitude,

Jacquelyn Lendsey
Interim Executive Director, Greater DC Diaper Bank
jlendsey@greaterdcdiaperbank.org
(202) 702-4001

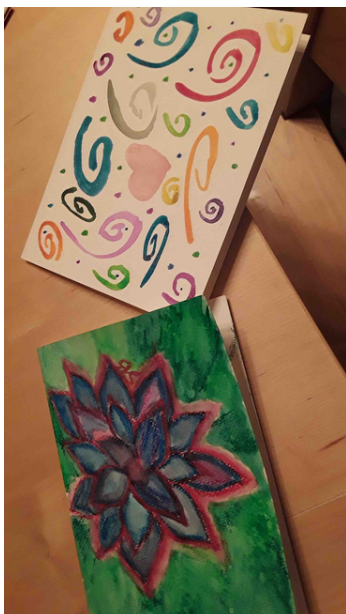
Greater DC Diaper Bank is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the District of Columbia and is recognized as tax-exempt under § 501(c)(3). All donations are deductible to the fullest extent of the law. You did not receive any goods or services in return from Greater DC Diaper Bank.

Retreat 2024 photos

from Caralee Adams, Ellen Evans Agee, Barbara Gaskill, Dana Lehmer and Jeanie Mah



Above, Sunday morning church service.



Left, craft projects: cards and fabric bookmarks

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Left, Lois Weaver showing the memento of her parents' influence on her faith, a reading board her father made for her mother

Below, mothers and daughters: Sarita Buoga and Margaret Patterson, Marilyn Dickenson and Kode Nascimento, Eugenia Evans and Ellen Evans Agee



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Above, WVA stained glass window (left); Eugenia Evans and Ellen Evans Agee by Opequon Creek (right)

Below, signs of spring at Preist Field Pastoral Center





Presents

The Blues Brothers *featuring Tiya!*

Saturday, April 27 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Sanctuary, Wesley campus
5312 Connecticut Avenue, NW



Get ready for fun this Spring with The Blues Brothers! Featuring vocalist Tiya Adé and led by renowned DC band leader Bobby Felder, these seasoned musicians will have you dancing in the aisles. Join Jazz@Wesley for its liveliest and grooviest show of the year.

Tickets: \$12

Meals available for purchase: \$15

Menu: Jerk chicken, baked chicken, turkey chili, and vegan chili. All meals come with a salad, rice, and beverage. A la carte items available.

nationalchurch.org/jazz

All ages game night and potluck dinner

April 28, 5-7 PM

Great Hall, Metropolitan Memorial campus

by Caralee Adams

Join us on Sunday, April 28, from 5-7 p.m. in the Great Hall on Metropolitan's campus for an intergenerational evening of board games, cards, food and fellowship.

Think back to the UMW retreat and how much fun it was to play games on Saturday night! Quiddler anyone? Bananagrams? This is a chance to pick up where you left off and teach others.

Bring your favorite games and dish to share. Or just visit and get to know one another. This will be an informal gathering for families with young children, youth, college students, and adults of all ages to have fun together. It will be a loaves-and-fishes kind of event to see what kind of spread we will feast on!

This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors looking for a place to plug in and find connection in our church community.

Questions, contact

communications@nationalchurch.org

See you there!



Circles

AU Contact women@aumethodists.org

1 Contact Rita Guenther, ritaguenther@yahoo.com; Paula Pree, iamasong@aol.com

2 Contact Jeri Weaver, jerilyn.weaver@gmail.com

6 Contact Ann Michel, amichel@wesleyseminary.edu

7 Contact Ellie Dawson, elizabeth.b.dawson@gmail.com, or Cindy Stanton, cindy.stanton@hotmail.com

8 Contact Dana Lehmer, danaklehmer@gmail.com

9 Circle 9 will meet on Wednesday, April 3 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Please contact Bobby Turnbull, bobbyturnbull@comcast.net

10 Contact Jeanie Mah, msjcmyu1@gmail.com or Jan Bufkin, jbufkin@gmail.com, if you are not on the Circle 10 email list and would like to be added!

Newsletter prepared by Alexandra McPherron. To add items to the next newsletter, email alexmcph@gmail.com