



## GOD SENT HIS SON

### RESCUE US MISSION

How do you give a gift to someone at-risk for exploitation? See pg 3.



### LIFEHOUSE SMILES

Lots of smiling faces at the Lifehouse Thanksgiving event. See pg 6.



### BUNCO TIME

Are you missing the fellowship at Ladies Bunco? It's Bunco Time! See pg. 8.





## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

every ending is followed by a great beginning! So, as we lift up and celebrate the birth of Jesus, we can stand in certainty that God has good things in store for us during this Holy Season. We will always have trials and tribulations, but we will also always have the joy that only God can provide.

There is a country song by Miranda Lambert that reminds me of God's mercy and compassion. It's called, *A Heart Like Mine*. She sings about the things she's done that have disappointed her family - things like smoking and getting tattoos. But then she sings the following:

"I just smile and say God Bless. Cause I heard Jesus He made the wine And I bet we'd get along just fine. He would calm a storm and heal the blind and I bet He'd understand a heart like mine".

Yes, yes He would.

You might have an empty chair at the table this year, or you

might be struggling with health or financial issues. You might be alone as family visits "the in-laws". You might throw yourself a pity party and then suffer over it. Don't do it. Don't suffer. Reach out to a friend and reach out to Jesus. No matter what has come or will come, nothing will ever separate you from the love of God. You are not alone. Let someone know if you are struggling - you are loved by God, but you are loved by your family, your friends, your church family and probably people you haven't seen for years. God did not send His **only Son** to the earth on that dark night in Bethlehem for nothing. **He sent His Son for everything**. That is reason to celebrate! He came to earth to understand a heart just like yours.

*Merry Christmas, ya'll from the entire Executive Board of UMW*

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Pam Bluestein

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## “ Reach out to Jesus ”

Here we are at the end of another year. It's a time for celebration and reflection. We come together as a church and as Christian citizens of the world to celebrate the birth of our savior, Christ Jesus. These last two years have been so difficult due to Covid, the economy, and divisive politics. **We need more Jesus** and less of the rest. I know that we who are in relationship with Jesus absolutely trust that

## VERSE OF THE MONTH

*"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."* John 1:14 NIV

*Merry Christmas!*





# EDUCATION

## HELP STOP THE PERILS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

**“I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged.”**

-2 Corinthians 12:21 NIV

The longer we are involved with *Rescue Us Mission*, the more we learn about human trafficking, the mission itself, and the individuals that make up this amazing group of women. For the founder and staff, the challenges of establishing the mission, obtaining funds, building supportive community relationships, and discovering ways to reach out to the enslaved did not deter them. For the survivors, years of sex enslavement did not defeat them, abuse did not crush them,

evil did not win. They persevere in their fight for freedom from the complicated past they've survived.

The month of November brought new residents to the *Rescue Us Mission* home in Richmond, TX. **This is a wonderful thing!** And yet, it is so tragic. Tragic that there are so many enslaved in the sex industry, so many in need of rescue, and so many waiting for a safe haven, such as the *Rescue Us* home, where they can rest, heal and transition to freedom.

Sex trafficking is a serious topic to bring up at a time when we are anxiously anticipating Christmas and the New Year and wanting to feel “merry and bright”. So why talk about it now? I think because our relationship with survivors of trafficking has grown. We know their names, their faces. They are from families just like ours. And we know that more kids, teens and women will be trafficked until the demand for it

ceases. We need to talk about it and educate ourselves and family members about this tragic trade. Since Christmas and family go hand in hand, this is an ideal time to put forth info about the sex trade. Those who pay for sex and view pornography, whether or not they want to believe it, are responsible for the enslavement, abuse and death of countless women, teens and children. And these buyers of sex come from all walks of life—all races, all socio-economic groups, all professions, all levels of education. Whether or not we want to believe it (those reading this article including myself), we undoubtedly know one or more individuals involved in the commercial sex-for-pay industry. So, it's up to us to talk to family members about the sex industry, including pornography. Make sure they know that those being paid for

**GIVE AN  
AT-RISK  
TEEN A  
GIFT.**

Continued on pg. 4

# EDUCATE STOP SEX TRAFFICKING

“Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” - 2 Timothy 2:22 NIV

Continued from pg. 3

sexual acts and videotaped for porn, do not choose to participate. They, the enslaved, are forced and manipulated into performing these acts and may endure traumatic abuse if they refuse. Make sure those you talk with know it's not okay to watch pornography, even if “everybody” or “all their friends” are watching it. By watching, the viewer is giving permission to traffickers to exploit and abuse preteens, teens and others. The commercial sex industry is high dollar organized crime just like the illegal drug industry. We would typically discourage family members from using illegal drugs, and likewise, we should discourage family members

from consuming products of the commercial sex industry.

Getting back to the holidays, how can we end this conversation on a “Merry and Bright” note? We can give girls, women, even boys and men, the gift of never being trafficked, never bearing the unfair stigma of prostitution, never carrying the physical and psychological trauma that comes from being sold for sex. We can make a difference by decreasing the demand for commercial sex. So, talk! Educate everyone accessible to you this holiday season and beyond. Few will likely admit guilt, but when they are awakened to the fact that they are directly responsible for



RESCUE US MISSION

incredible abuse and destruction, they may stop. **And then, many more can truly have a Merry Christmas!**

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Tara Velasco

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## Hebrews 10: 24-25 NIV

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

## Romans 15:2 NIV

*Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.*



The *Infuse* event on Nov. 13th was good. It was a special gathering of women representing diversity of age, culture and interest as we engaged in worship, workshops and discussions. The feedback received provided good information and insight.

This was a one-time event to connect women, obtain information, and integrate what was learned into the life of the church.

Thanks to all who participated.

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Michelle Hall

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Diane Sindelar

## Holiday Cranberry Jell-O Mold

### Ingredients

- 1- 15 oz. can Crushed Pineapple, drain and reserve 1 cup juice
- 1 cup water
- 1 - 3 oz. pkg. Orange Jell-O
- 1 - 3 oz. pkg. Cherry Jell-O
- 1 - 16 oz. can Whole Cranberry sauce
- 1 - 6 oz. can frozen Orange Juice concentrate
- 1 cup Pecans or Walnuts (choice)
- ½ cup Celery (optional)
- Cool Whip
- Raisins or Nuts
- Mint leaves

### Instructions

In 6-cup mold, spray with non-stick cooking spray. In sauce pan combine water and juice and bring to a boil. Remove pan from heat and add orange and cherry Jell-Os, dissolve granules. Add remaining ingredients, mix, and pour into sprayed mold pan and refrigerate.

### Finish with:

Put Cool Whip topping in center of circular mold, sprinkle raisins or nuts on top of the Cool Whip, or garnish with mint leaves.

“God is within her, she will not fall;  
God will help her at break of day.”  
Psalm 46:5



DEC. 11

## W.H.O. WOMEN HELPING OURSELVES

is the best place for them. The women are in the program for 6 months where they receive help with their addiction issues and finding a path forward. WHO is located on the Santa Maria Hostel campus where BAMBI is located. Debbie Greiner & I went in late June to offer the ladies a 4th of July gathering. We both found the women delightful and appreciative of everything we did. They asked when we were coming back.

Guess what? We're going back to **WHO on Sat. Dec. 11**, to share the Christmas story, provide a craft, decorate cookies, provide

gifts for mothers & babies as we offer Christian love to them. In June only 2 volunteers were able to go, now 4-5 volunteers can attend. Please contact me if you are interested in participating. And may everyone offer a prayer that we will have a successful outing on Dec. 11. You can e-mail Sandra Vautrain at [umw@christchurchsl.org](mailto:umw@christchurchsl.org) or call 281-793-7091.

Sandra Vautrain

In June I became aware of WHO (Women Helping Ourselves), which is a drug rehab program of Harris County inmates who are pregnant, recently had babies, or have medical issues & WHO

# LIFEHOUSE Thanksgiving Gathering



opportunities for housing, help, and hope for women during their pregnancies and beyond.

**F**ood, fellowship, fun, and a day full of giving thanks to our Lord - That's what you helped provide for these ladies and their children. Our congregation has such giving hearts which is so inspiring! *Thank you* to everyone who contributed!



**A**note from Hayley Kosel at Lifehouse:

*"The Thanksgiving event at Lifehouse was such a success. All of the women and children had a wonderful time and everyone raved about the desserts. Thanks so much for contributing those!"*

LifeHouse is a Christ-centered ministry ensuring life for unborn children by providing

Debbie Grenier



## Casual Potluck Friday

stories, sang worship songs, and enjoyed each other's company. I want to give a big 'thank you' to everyone who brought a dish to share. And another big 'thank you' to Liz Williams who made the night extra special by bringing her guitar and leading us in worship songs.

for a fire in the fireplace. What a special ambiance this lent to the evening!

**W**e had such a wonderful time together and hope to do it again soon. Be watching the newsletter for the next date.

Our Casual Pot Luck dinner was a great success! Many sisters-in-Christ gathered together for fun and fellowship. We shared life

**T**he air outside that night was cool which made it perfect

Tomi Belgard

# GROW WITH US

## GIFT OF THE SON

### Isaiah 9:6 NIV

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

### John 3:16 NIV

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

### John 14:27 NIV

*"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

### Galatians 4:4-5 NIV

*"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."*



## GIFTS OF THE SEASON

At Christmas time, our thoughts turn to gifts- buying gifts and receiving gifts. We make out our Christmas lists for family and ask what our loved ones want.

We reflect on and celebrate the gift of Jesus, at this time of year. The gift of salvation and reconciliation with God the Father. Be encouraged that the gifts from God do not stop with salvation. He gives us so many gifts! And as we move along through our lives we are able to "unwrap" the many gifts the Lord showers us with, like peace, joy,

and fruits of the Spirit. Gifts given to you and meant to be shared. Healing, love, power, a sound mind, hospitality, administration, teaching, prophesy - so many gifts that are given to us for us to share with others.

Think on all the gifts that the Lord has given you and how you can bless others in His name.

Christmas : The gift giving season.

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Tomi Belgard

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## Son Of The Most High

*"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."*

- 1 John 5:11 NIV

# BUNCO FUN

It's been awhile since we have had Bunco. Have you been missing it? It's time to get back to our time of fellowship and having fun with our friends.

Come roll the dice with us on **Tuesday evening, Jan. 18th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Gathering Hall. There will be fun, time with friends, and some good eats.



## Time for BUNCO!

The cost is \$8 to play and eat. Please rsvp to Pat Stone at [umw@christchurchsl.org](mailto:umw@christchurchsl.org). Free child care is available with a reservation to Sarah Stewart at [sarahs@christchurchsl.org](mailto:sarahs@christchurchsl.org). All profits go to support our various outreach missions. Hope to see you there!

Debbie Grenier




**TUESDAY, JAN. 18**

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS!**



# MISSION SUNDAY

**Sunday, January 9th - 1-3pm. Room 11/12**

All hands on deck for our *Mission Sunday!* We will be working on lots of projects for our Mission Patners; there will be blankets for *Child Advocates of Ft. Bend*, bags for *The Landing*, and much more! Of course, there will be people to see and meet and refreshments! We Methodists don't congregate often without food! We offer free child care

by reservation to [sarahs@christchurchsl.org](mailto:sarahs@christchurchsl.org). Please note the room change, we will be in Room 11/12 downstairs by the kitchen.

It is always so great when we gather in the name of Jesus to encourage each other and put our hands to work for The Kingdom!

Pam Bluestein  
Photos by Debbie Grenier




LAMPLIGHTERS

*Mission Sunday*

Sunday, Jan. 9

**John 6:27 NKJV**

*"Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."*

# Phone Hub

It's been awhile since we have had Phone Hub, previously know as Phone Bank. *Rescue America* has been working very hard on updating their processes so they are as easy and quick as possible.

The new process is mostly, if not entirely, internet based. There are no dialing programs to load on your computers or phones. Now the names and numbers of the women to call are automatically located for you, pop up on a screen and will even dial the number for you with a single click. How easy! This frees you to share



love and encouragement with a woman that might be looking for someone to care, someone to help give her a way out of the life.

Join us on **Jan. 26th, 1pm, Rm 11/12**. Give a gift of hope.

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Debbie Grenier

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*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

John 8:12

## Lunch at The Landing

Participating in providing a hot meal to women who live on the edge is exactly what we are called to do. Jesus specifically calls us to "feed his sheep", and He doesn't mean just spiritually. Jesus wants us to nurture his people - Mind, Body and Soul.

It is so easy to do! We make a menu and our volunteers make or donate the **easy** recipes. Then we deliver it to the clients and staff at *The Landing* facility on Bissonnet St. **Our next Lunch at The Landing will be on Wednesday, February 2.**



If you have questions or would like to come with us to deliver the next lunch, see *The Landing*, and learn more about what they do, please email Pam Bluestein at [umw@christchurchsl.org](mailto:umw@christchurchsl.org).

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Pam Bluestein

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# Christmas Prayer

"O sweet Child of Bethlehem, grant that we may share with all our hearts in this profound mystery of Christmas.

Put into the hearts of men and women this peace for which they sometimes seek so desperately and which you alone can give to them.

Help them to know one another better, and to live as brothers and sisters, children of the same Father.



Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and purity.

Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for your infinite goodness.

Join them all together in your love.

And give us your heavenly peace.

Amen."

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- Pope John XXIII

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# KINGDOM SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



## G.I.F.T. Give In Faith Today



GIFT is Christ Church's alternative to commercial gift-giving. Choose one of the gift options in the GIFT catalog found in the literature racks or online and you will receive a personalized card for you to give to the person(s) your donation will be honoring.

Pick up a GIFT catalog at the church from **December 5-21**, or visit us online anytime at [christchurchsl.org/GIFT](http://christchurchsl.org/GIFT) to view the catalog and place an order.

Questions? Contact Debbie Straw at [debbie.hardy.straw@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.hardy.straw@gmail.com).

DECEMBER 21: Last day to order in time for Christmas Gifts

***Has God been whispering in your ear about stepping out in faith to nurture and serve His people? If so, we may have just the spot for you! For further info on any of these opportunities, and more, please email us at [umw@christchurchsl.org](mailto:umw@christchurchsl.org).***



## Hospitality



We are also looking for a person to be in charge of our **Hospitality** area. This person would basically keep up with our hospitality items - paper goods, table cloths, decorations, coordinate food, etc. to make sure we have enough of everything prior to an event or meeting. This person would work with our Welcome Committee Chair with set up for events. This position is also a board position, so again, lots of help and support built in!



## Blanket Ministry Coordinator

This person would join us at monthly *Mission Mornings* to coordinate and teach the "art" of no-sew blanket making for our ministry. We have many ladies who make blankets from home, so tracking who is in need of materials and the actual blankets would also be part of the job. Our blankets go to ministries like *Child Advocates of Ft. Bend* and to our Youth Rescue. There are also times when we donate blankets to women on the streets, survivors and their families, *The Landing* and anywhere else there is a need. For more info on this very fun and rewarding board position, please contact us at [umw@christchurchsl.org](mailto:umw@christchurchsl.org)

# KINGDOM SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



## ANGEL TREE



person or a child in need here in Fort Bend County. Thank you for picking up tags and beginning the shopping.

Questions? Contact Terri Schnakenberg at 281.924.4597 or [tlschnak@aol.com](mailto:tlschnak@aol.com).

Terri

**DECEMBER 5 WEEK:**  
Early return of gifts

**DECEMBER 12:**  
Return present in gift bag with tag attached to the tree in the Gathering Hall by 11 am

**DECEMBER 18:**  
Deliver gifts to local nursing home

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Terri Schnakenberg

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Thank you for sharing Christ's love toward those in need this Christmas season. Make someone's Christmas a special one. Each tag represents a Christmas wish from an elderly

## HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS



Many in our community need a helping hand to have a Christmas meal. The Food Pantry plans to give out 600 holiday baskets this year.

Questions? Contact Ginny Schabaker at [schabginny@windstream.net](mailto:schabginny@windstream.net). To help distribute baskets, contact [jordan@humanneeds.org](mailto:jordan@humanneeds.org)

Christmas baskets need the following:  
Stuffing, Mashed potatoes, Gravy-Turkey or Chicken, Canned Yams-29 & 40 oz, Condensed/ Canned Milk-12 oz, Pie Crust Mix (boxed), Frosting, French Onion Topping-6 oz, Cream of Mushroom Soup (Condensed), Pie Filling-21 oz, Cranberry Sauce.

**DECEMBER 12:** Place food donations in EFBHNM Collection Bins

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Ginny Schabaker

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### 4 in 10

Americans report that they experienced food insecurity for the first time during the pandemic

### 37 %

Report skipping meals so the children could eat

### 1 in 9

people in the U.S. struggles with hunger



according to a new poll by Two Good Yogurt and market research company OnePoll.

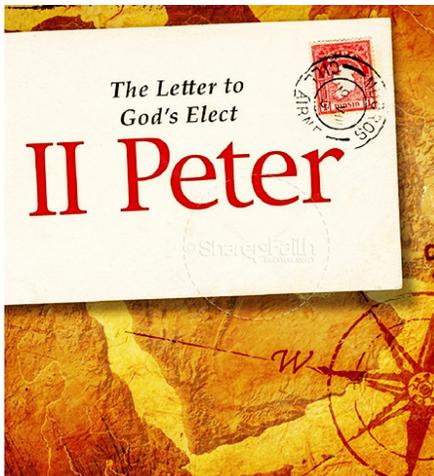
# GROW WITH US

## Women's Ministries Christ Church



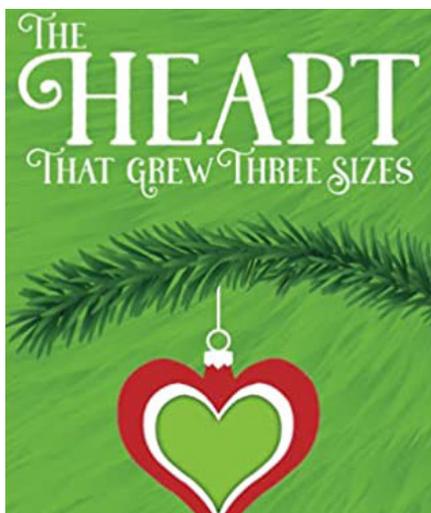
### Monday Bible Study Class

Class will resume in January. Watch for more information coming soon. Contact contact Evelyn Smith at [evelynsmith@hotmail.com](mailto:evelynsmith@hotmail.com) for more information.



### Tuesday Bible Study Class

Do you want to read and understand your Bible better? The Precepts Bible Study class is doing an in-depth study of **2 Peter**. In a day when false teachers are leading countless people astray, to live effectively for Christ we need to know the truth. Learn to live effectively and grow in spiritual discernment. We will begin 2 Peter on **Dec. 7th**. This study includes homework and in-class videos. The class meets from 9:30-11:30 in the Faith Corner. You can also join in via Zoom. All women are welcome! For more information, or to sign up, contact Debbie Grenier at [debgrenier@comcast.net](mailto:debgrenier@comcast.net).



### Thursday Bible Study Class

The Thursday Bible Study Class is doing a study called **"The Heart That Grew Three Sizes: Finding Faith In The Story of The Grinch"** by Matt Rawle. In this new Advent study, Matt Rawle explores the faith themes in the Christmas classic, How the Grinch Stole Christmas! How did Christmas save the Grinch? Could it be that the very thing we think we hate is the one thing that changes our lives? This Advent and Christmas season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture. We will meet Dec. 2, 9, 16 at 9:30 in the Faith Corner. You can order the book online at Amazon or Cokesbury. There is an option to attend class in-person and/or via Zoom. For more information and to sign up, contact Debe Fannin at [dfannin78@gmail.com](mailto:dfannin78@gmail.com).



# NEW BEGINNINGS

**“The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you’re not going to stay where you are.” - J.P. Morgan**

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,  
 a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
 a time to kill and a time to heal,  
 a time to tear down and a time to build,  
 a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
 a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
 a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
 a time to search and a time to give up,  
 a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
 a time to tear and time to mend,  
 a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
 a time to love and a time to hate,  
 a time for war and a time for peace.

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart, yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

- Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 NIV

Over the last years, we have seen many beautiful things that God has done through United Methodist Women at Christ Church. We have seen women step out of their comfort zone to visit prisons, embrace the homeless and work with the

exploited. We have seen women grow in their faith and step out to tell others. Indeed, there is a time for everything. Now, it is time to let go and move on toward a new path that God has laid out. We are closing our unit of UMW at the end of the month. There are many reasons

for doing so that are from our heart, but it basically comes down to integrity and wanting to distance ourselves from certain politics.

We want to thank all of you who go way back - and to also thank those of you who have been with us for just a little while. Your generous spirit and giving heart helped so many and lifted us up to be a wonderful women’s group. Our love and missions will go on, just under a new name with a fresh vision of who we are and what we are doing to **Share God’s Light**. We hope every woman will feel comfortable and welcome and know that we are all on the same team - Team Jesus! We love you all and we will see you next year under our new name -

*Women of Christ - Lamplighters.*

Your Sisters In Christ,  
*The UMW Executive Board 2021*

**TEAM JESUS!**

“ True prayer is a way of life, not just for use in cases of emergency. Make it a habit, and when the need arises you will be in practice. ”

**-Billy Graham**



## Prayers & Concerns

- **Billie Blair** - Healing and strength from ongoing health issues.
- **Boyd Bluestein's parents** - Health issues.
- **Teel Family** - Health, comfort, and healing for Bob. Comfort and strength for Renee.
- **Colleen Flint** - Health issues.
- **Dianne Winkler**- (Debbie Grenier's mother) continue to build strength, healing in her lungs, comfort and security of knowing Jesus.
- **Lynn Epstein**- Health issues.
- **Leslie (Pam Bluestein's Sister-in-law)**- Healing as she recovers from surgery.
- **Sick**- Prayers lifted for those who are caring for elderly or sick family members, or who are dealing with their own health issues.
- **Nation**- As we struggle through the continued pandemic and economic downturn.
- **Becky Neese** - Complete recovery from surgery.
- **Travel Mercies** for traveling families.
- **Comfort** for those missing a loved one during the Christmas season.
- **College Students** - success on final exams and safe travels home.
- **Racole** (Diane Sindelar's niece) - health issues.
- **Susanne Grigsby**- (Sandra Vautrain's mother) healing and strength from health issues. Comfort and peace for Sandra.

## Joys & Praises

- **Debbie Grenier**- Thankful for beautiful weather in Colorado while there taking care of my mother. I'm also very thankful for the programs that help Mom age in place.
- **Debbie Meier** - Praises for successful lung transplant and continued healing and strength. Prayers to be home for Christmas.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Jan. 9                      1 - 3pm                      Mission Sunday
- Jan. 18                    6:30-8:30pm              Bunco Ladies Fellowship
- Jan. 26                    1 - 2:30pm                Phone Hub
- Feb. 2                      11-1pm                    Lunch at *The Landing*



WE WOULD LOVE TO GET  
TO KNOW YOU

*“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

- 1 John 1:7 ESV

