

United Methodist Women's News
By
Lessie Runner, Information Coordinator

I hope all women of the church will plan to attend the March 17 Unit Meeting. We will have the Prayer & Self Denial Service and approve the St. Mark's United Methodist Women's 2019 Budget.

Every year, the UMW observes a Call to Prayer and Self-Denial that gives members and friends of local and district units an opportunity to reflect on the gospel of Christ, pray together and designate funds for ministry. Offerings support mission with women, children and youth. **If you cannot attend the March 17th luncheon** and would like to make a donation to "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial," you can contact me, Anita Ellis or Margaret Waybright.

It is a difficult time when we lose to death a beloved family member or a dear friend. United Methodist Women have "Gift in Memory Cards" that can be sent to honor the memory of those persons. The cards cost \$5.00 and the money is used to further the mission work in the United States and around the world. If you would like to consider a "Gift in Memory" as an appropriate memorial for a special person, please contact Margaret Waybright.

The Souper Bowl looked like it was a great success. It was great fun to listen to the auction of the special desserts with the bidding going back and forth as someone really wanted that delicious looking dessert. Can't wait until next year. Look for more information at another place in this ReMarker.

Thank you to those who sponsored the program **on Human Trafficking** that was held after church on Sunday the 17th. **According to information that we were given**, there are 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally: 81percent - forced labor; 25 percent children; 75 percent female. "...That's the population of California and Maine combined. **One (1) in seven (7) runaways** become victims of sex trafficking. Forced labor and human trafficking is a **\$150 billion industry worldwide**. Since 2007, **34,700** sex trafficking cases have been reported inside the United States. The average age of entry for youth into sex trafficking in Arizona is 14. Only **1 -2 percent** of human trafficking victims are ever identified.

Recently I ran across an article about why the cross is carried into the sanctuary. I thought it might be of interest to you. "The symbolism behind a processional cross is that as we gather to worship and come in from our work in the world, we carry the cross of Christ as a symbol that Christ comes into worship with us from the world, and Christ is the focus of our worship. After the benediction at the end of the service, the cross is carried out of the sanctuary, and it is meant to symbolize that Christ goes with us to our work in the world." (Author unknown).

Did you know that March is named for the Roman God of war, "Mars?" This was the time of year to resume military campaigns that had been interrupted by winter. (*The Old Farmer's 2019 Almanac*).

A little humor: "A little boy was heard praying, "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it; I'm having a real good time like I am." ([Devotions to Leave You Smiling](#))

Scripture: He called a child, whom he put among them and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."(Matthew 18:2-3)