



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

On Saturday, April 13, United Methodist Women journeyed down Rt. 119 to Man, West Virginia to the Midland South District UMW Spring District Meeting at Bruce McDonald Memorial UMC. It was a relatively smooth ride in the church van with a great driver. The trees were turning green and the red bud was everywhere and beautiful. The rock banks along the highway where the highway had been cut through the mountains were awesome, some towering so high they seemed to touch the sky. West Virginia is really a beautiful place.

After arriving at the church at around 9:30 a.m., we registered and had snacks before meeting in the sanctuary to begin the session with music and welcome. Rev. Terry Stone gave the opening prayer and Dorothy Siemiaczko gave the devotion. The program, Diversity of Mission in the Midland South District, was really interesting as United Methodist Women shared what each of their Units were doing in regard to missions. It was amazing to hear all that they did to support women, children, and youth. This was followed by the business meeting. Items were collected for the Gabriel Project and a love offering was taken for the local Food Panty of the Baptist Help Center. After a delicious lunch provided by the Bruce McDonald UMW, we climbed back into the van and traveled back to Charleston with a good feeling of a morning well spent.

I'd like to recommend the book **Spoken into Being by Michael E. Williams.** Everyone is a storyteller. Storytelling helps you make sense of your life, the world around you, and God. When you tell stories, you speak a world into being, just as God did in the Creation accounts in Genesis." (from Spoken into Being). There are topics such as "What are Stories, and What Do They Do?"; "Finding the Sacred in Your Story." Part of the First Creation Story reads like this: "God said that once upon a time there was light. As the phosphorescent words rolled out of God's mouth, there was light. There wasn't anything to see yet, but when God saw the light

standing next to the darkness and the darkness standing next to the light, God said, ‘This is great.’” After finishing the book, I am convince that I should write my own “creation” story to hand down to my family. Who knows what memories will surface! This book is on our reading list and can be found under **Spiritual Growth**.

**Did you know** that May was named for the Roman goddess Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants? Also, from the Latin word maiores, “elders,” who were celebrated during this month.

**Mother’s Day.** The basic idea goes back to ancient mythology—to the long ago civilizations of the Greeks and Romans. The Greeks paid annual homage to Cybele, the mother figure of their gods. In 16th century England a celebration called “Mothering Sunday” was inaugurated—a Sunday set aside for visiting one’s mother. The eldest son or daughter would bring a “mothering cake,” which would be cut and shared by the entire family. Family reunions were the order of the day with sons and daughters assuming all household duties and preparing a special dinner. Sometime during the day, the mother would attend special church services with her family. (From the 2019 Old Farmer’s Almanac.)

**A little humor:** A Sunday school teacher asked, “Michael, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the ark?” “No,” replied Michael, “How could he, with just two worms?”

**Scripture:** Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. (1 Peter 3:15 NIV)