

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS 2021



Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:3-10

Welcome back to our Monthly Newsletters, its a New year 2021. Last year was not an easy year for us all, but we thank God for his promises to us in times like these.

For one of our daily staff worships Karen Holford talked about the Sermon on the Mount. Found in Matthew 5:3-10. She changed the text to be more of what Jesus might say to us today.

Clair Sanchez-Schutte

Jesus is still saying things that will bless us and bring us joy and peace and hope and love.

He might say Blessed are those who are tired of being locked down for they shall eventually be set free.

Blessed are those who are mourning because they cannot be with their loved ones, for they will be together again soon and their joy will be even greater.

Blessed are those who are quietly and justly doing the right things, wearing their masks, using hand sanitizer, staying home, and maintaining social distancing, for they are protecting human lives.

Blessed are those who are hungering for creative and innovative ways to minister to others through Zoom, for one day they will see them face to face and their joy will be complete.

Blessed are those who are sharing peace with those who are anxious and alone, by listening to their fears and comforting them for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are the kindhearted who are looking out for ways to bring joy and hope and love to others, for their kindness will return to them in joy.

Blessed are those who are risking their lives to care for COVID-19 patients, for their great sacrifices have been noticed and great will be their reward.

May you be blessed!

Karen Holford

18 VIRTUAL LADIES NIGHT IDEAS!



Zoom and other video conferencing platforms are great for virtual Bible study and small group meetings. They also provide an opportunity for women to gather for a virtual ladies night out. Many of the ideas listed below could quickly fill an hour on Zoom. Or you may want to split your time together between a testimony or teaching and a fun activity.

Some of your women feel very isolated and alone. Others are desperate for a break from their daily routine. A virtual ladies night out may be just what your women need right now!

1. Painting Party

If possible, recruit a woman in your church to give a drawing or painting lesson. You can find some tutorials on Pinterest and YouTube. Just make sure you give credit to the source.

2. Bible Journaling Lesson

Not sure if anyone in your church does Bible journaling? Ask! Invite them to give a mini-class online. Loads of ideas on YouTube and Pinterest.

3. Cooking Class

Is there a woman in your church that would be willing to reveal the secrets to a beloved recipe? Or maybe one of your women can give a lesson on canning, baking bread, or making a pie crust.

4. Teach a Skill

Many of the workshops you might lead at church can be adapted online. Survey your women – ask for volunteers but also ask for recommendations – some of your women may not come forward on their own, but their friends will be quick to brag on their skills. Flower arranging, meal planning and DIY cleaners are just a few ideas to get you started.

5. Game Night

Many board games can be adapted to play via video. Use Zoom's whiteboard feature to play Pictionary.

6. Karaoke

Enlist someone from the worship team or a gifted woman to play piano or guitar for your group while you sing worship songs (provide the words via slides or a handout). YouTube is filled with karaoke videos that you could stream and ask everyone to sing along.

7. Lip Sync Challenge

If you're not sure a group sing-along would work for your group, go the lip-sync route instead. Ask for volunteers before your meeting and let the audience vote for the winners.

8. Drop-In (aka Open House)

Open up your Zoom link for women to drop-in as they are able. No agenda. Just casual conversation. Send out an email with the time and the link, maybe two or three hours long. You'll need to change the settings so guests can join before the host. I would suggest asking at least one team member to be present for an hour at a time, so no one is there alone.

oh what
FUN

9. Ladies Lunch

Invite women to sit down for lunch together in front of their cameras. Consider asking a woman in your church to share a devotional teaching or personal testimony.

10. Craft Party

Search Pinterest for easy crafts that women could complete at home. If you have the resources and local governments permit, you could provide the craft supplies and bag them for pick-up from the church.

11. Ask Any Question

Invite women to submit questions in advance via email, text, or Google form (if you want them to be able to remain anonymous) to the hostess who will then pose the questions to the group or a preselected panel of women.

12. Host a Show & Tell

Ask women to show and tell about a favorite thing, piece of family history, favorite book, etc. Encourage them to hold up the item or a photo of the item for everyone to see.

13. Group Mad Libs

Invite your women to share a noun, verb, adjective, etc. to fill in a Mad Lib worksheet. One of your leaders will need to complete the sheet with the suggestions and then read the silly story the group has created.

Be sure you explain the difference between an adjective and adverb (if they are needed for your story).

14. Drinks & Conversation

Invite women to grab a cup of coffee or tea and circle up for some conversation. You can use some of the Isolation Icebreaker Questions or these three conversation starters: What are you grateful for this week? Where did you see God at work? What was challenging this week? Or ask women to bring their favourite mug and share a favourite scripture.

15. Scavenger Hunts

Send your women in a race around their homes to return first with the item on the list OR let the group vote on the item that best meets the requirements. Here's a list to get you started: a kitchen utensil, something furry, something that begins with the letter "b," something you use every day, something that smells good, something round, something taller than 22cm, something bumpy, something you can eat, something you don't want to get wet, something heavier than a shoe.

16. Host a Talk

Show Set up some time to interview women in your church. You may want to survey your women and ask them who they'd like to see interviewed. Once the selection has been made, invite your women to submit questions in advance. Please give your guest the questions before your interview time so they can think through their answers and can let you know if there are any questions they prefer not to answer. Don't limit yourself to the women in your group; consider interviewing church staff members or missionaries your church supports.

17. Virtual Book

Club Meeting Select a book and set a date and time to meet. If your local library allows online check-out of e-books and your title is available, be sure to include instructions for your women to access it.

18. Exercise Together

Do you have a personal trainer in your church? Ask them to lead a 20 or 30-minute exercise class for your women via video. If that's not an option, search YouTube for an easy, free exercise class that you can stream online and do together. Frustrates you, ask for help! Recruiting a helper can help smooth your online event too.

Keep your ministry momentum moving forward don't give up meeting together!

Women's ministry toolbox



SEEUC WM ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR 2020



Despite the news of the new virus spreading throughout the entire world, the year 2020 was going pretty normal in the SEEUC for the first two months. The WM department continued to implement its planned activities and was eager to try new concepts and ideas. Then, in the second half of March, everything changed. Pandemic. Lockdown. Isolation. However, the department did not stop its work, but changed the ways and the methods of doing things.

Here is the story of Jelena Trajković, South Conference, WM Director. For a year and a half, we have been doing a Bible studying program for non-Adventist women called "Teatime with a Book". At the beginning of the year 2020, we had a special Agape dinner to give a Bible gift to each regular participant. It proved to be key in helping these women with their own Bible studies during the days of the lockdown. From March to June, we stayed in contact with them through different social media outlets and organised food and medicine distribution for the elderly, sick and deprived members.

During the summer months of July and August, we continued the Bible studies online and as a result, we had three baptisms in September when the restrictive measures became somewhat released. It was a delight for the South Conference WM department to organise the baptismal ceremony and the entire worship service program.

We had a delightful Prayer Breakfast in October for the church women sharing Bible topics and everyday experiences, praying together and having creative workshops that helped us become connected and inspired. In November we had a special Creative Workshop meeting making gifts for medical staff on the Infection Ward of the City Hospital in Čuprija, central Serbia. We gave out Decoupage boxes, smelling candles and Bible messages that brought back smiles to the faces of the exhausted nurses and doctors, fighting restlessly.

In December, when the restrictive measures got tighter, we made a Viber group for the South Conference WM members to stay connected, encouraged and motivated for the new activities. Svetlana Paunović, WM director in the Main Belgrade church in Belgrade, Serbia, says that, during the pandemic, women were the frontline workers in the church and community. We managed to have only two special WM meetings during the pandemic, WM International Day of Prayer on March 7, 2020, and WM Emphasis Day on June 13, 2020, and had a lot of other activities.

When church services were active, we engaged Adventist doctors and nurses in creating Health Sabbaths, with information and instructions about proper diet, immunity improvement, prevention and protection from the coronavirus. We then created a special Viber group for easier mobilization of Belgrade women for food and medicine distribution to the elderly and sick people. We also took part in the humanitarian action 'Solidarity kitchen' providing and preparing food for the deprived and homeless people. At the same time we were collecting food, clothes and other necessities for the Street Children Shelter institution and the Parentless Children institution 'Small Home Community'. Organizing prayer chains we were praying for the medical staff and donated a bigger amount of masks and gloves for the workers of the Clinical Center and City Hospital in Belgrade, Serbia. We also donated blood in several emergency cases.

Maybe it was not much but we did what we could." Similar is the story of Nataša Mihajlović, WM Director in Bosnia and Herzegovina. When the restrictive measures prevented us from having worship services, we organised WM prayer groups, praying regularly for the marriages and families in our communities, especially for the prevention of domestic violence, which according to the public reports, increased drastically during the pandemic times.

We also organised zoom meetings educating people to get rid of their addictions and gain control over their thoughts and emotions in non-violent ways. "Mira Pastonjicki, WM Director from the Macedonian Mission, reports of Strumica and Kolesino, two districts in eastern Macedonia, having WM Emphasis Day in November rather than in June, due to the temporarily relaxed measures in Northern Macedonia. WM department of the Main Skopje Church, in Skopje, the capital of Northern Macedonia, though reduced in number, diligently worked on keeping a well-known tradition of making New Year surprises for the public service workers on duty during the holiday seasons. "Their smiles and gratitude were unforgettable, " says Mira. We also organised a WM Prayer Group but after 13 regular meetings, we had to switch to online meetings. This was our way to stay connected, encouraged and cared for. We regularly pray for our visitors and church members and do what we can to help those in need."

Marija Trajkovska, SEEUC WM Director, who now also works as a professor and dean of women at the Belgrade Theological Seminary, informs of a special worship time during which the WM SOS Scholarship Awards were presented to three female theology students. After presenting the role and importance of the WM department and inviting students to write devotionals for the WM Devotional Book, she also presented Jelena Dokmić, Danijela Rajić and Marija Živković - Spaić with the Scholarship Awards letters giving them hope in finishing their studies successfully. Read more about them in the newsletter for March.

"The previous year was different and difficult but it was nevertheless blessed - enormously blessed with the gifts of God's love, protection and provision. Let us rely on Him in these difficult times and everthing will gain its new meaning and purpose."

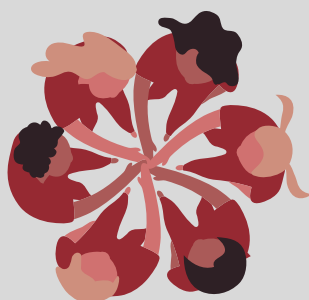
Marija Trajkovska
SEEUC WM Director





SEEUC
WM ACTIVITIES IN
THE YEAR 2020

Upcoming Events 2021



International Women's Day of Prayer
March 6, 2021



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