



CENTRAL BAY DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN AROUND THE BAY

July 2020

President



We've never done it that way before!

This is a statement that we are encouraged to avoid. However, in this year of pandemics and in my case floods, I find myself saying this often. I have attended church meetings by Zoom. I have attended exercise classes by Zoom! I have attended a family gathering by Zoom! I will be attending the Michigan Annual Conference by Zoom! I have attended a Mission u program by Zoom! And on and on. I also, have been wearing a face mask anytime I am with others outside of my family. Our church service has been conducted outside with masks and sitting 6 feet apart. And with the impact of the flood in my community, I find myself often saying, "How can we get there from here, with all of the bridges destroyed?"

In light of the safety concerns, the Central Bay District Annual Celebration will be held by **Zoom**. We are in uncharted territory. The leadership team is not exactly sure how it will go, but we are willing to do a Zoom meeting, to be sure that all participating are safe. We are asking you to register as you have always done. There will be no registration fee, but we are asking you to send in your offering. The offering will be divided equally between Grand Rapids Community House, God's Cooperative Parish, and the Michigan Disaster Relief for Flood Victims. On October 3, we are inviting you to join us with your computer, cell phone or tablet. The process is relatively simple. You will receive an invitation to join the Zoom

meeting after you have registered. On Oct. 3 you will click on the link and your device will take you to the meeting. It should be just that simple! If you are unsure of how to do this, please call me or any other officer and we will walk you through the process. I am also willing to set up a trial meeting with you ahead of time. If you do not have a computer, cell phone or tablet ask a friend if you can join them at their home. It will be a fun watch party! I am looking forward to meeting with all of you on Oct. 3 for our first ever Zoom meeting and second annual Central Bay District Annual Celebration.

At the meeting we will have almost all the elements that we have had in person, including music, special speakers, the annual business meeting, and induction of officers for next year. Our speaker will be our own Linda Darrow, president of the Conference UMW. We will try to fit all of this in between 9:30 and 12:30. So, get your cup of coffee or tea and your favorite muffin, bagel or doughnut and join us for something we have never done before.

I have one more request. Are you able to join the District Leadership team for next year? Or do you know someone else who would be a good candidate? The nominations committee is still looking for people to join the slate of officers. I will not tell you that you will not have to do anything, but none of the work is terribly difficult and we work together as a team to get it done. I would love to talk with you about serving. Give me a call at 989-708-9968.

I hope you are reading for the UMW Reading Program and becoming an activist for the

issues that you are called to stand up for. We all can become a lobbyist of one. We as UMW members speak up for women, children, and youth.

Need a speaker for your local UMW meeting, call me at 989-708-9968. I will do my best to be there!

Ruth Sutton, Chairperson,
Central Bay District, UMW



Vice President

I hope this finds all of you healthy and safe. It has sure been a difficult few months with the pandemic and social distancing, not being able to see our family and friends, and not being able to attend church services. Then the very scary time I spent away from my home due to the flood and being evacuated, afraid of losing my house and everything. But I was very lucky, thanks to God. I didn't have water in my house, only in the garage and lost many items. But this I can live with when seeing the devastation with all my neighbors, all the damage done to their houses, and some still not able to return home. I am truly blessed, thanks to God.

Now on with the planning of the Central Bay District Annual Celebration on October 3, 2020. This also will change due to the pandemic with it now being done on Zoom. This will be quite different and a lot of work for everyone, but I hope you all will plan on joining us to Celebrate. We plan on having the Training of the Local Officers on a different day, maybe in November

I do want to THANK Midland First UMC and UMW for offering to Host the Celebration this year until everything changed our plans. It was decided it would be done on Zoom for the safety of everyone and not knowing what

October will bring. I pray that the rest of 2020 be much better for all of us. May God bless all of you, and I hope you all stay safe and healthy.

Blessings,
Doris Simons
District Vice President
dorissimons@att.net
(989)781-1492



Secretary

I'm so thankful that summer is here and for the warm weather. Hopefully soon all of us can be with our wonderful families and church families. I have attended many United Methodist meetings by ZOOM. Having also watched my church's Sunday morning services and a weekly Bible class on Facebook, I am so thankful for all the new ways we can still be connected.

Please reach out to your family, neighbors, small group members and UMW members to keep connected. Make phone calls, send cards, volunteer to run errands etc. Use your hearts, hands and prayers towards the concerns of others.

Please submit your 2021 officers list by November 1, 2020 to me by mail at 5622 West Spring Knoll Dr., Bay City, MI 48706 or by email (diazc5282@gmail.com). The form is included in this newsletter. **Even if you do not have a change of officers, I need to receive a completed form from your unit.** For those units who have their election of officers at the end of the year, please remember to send me your officer information as soon as possible.

When you complete the form "Report for Central Bay District UMW Secretary from UMW Unit Secretary":

- If there is no change, write no change (NC) in front of the officers' names.
- If the officers are the same and addresses have changed indicate the changes.
- Include **Zip codes with zip code extensions for every officer. E-mail addresses if available, (needed for electronic communications).**

(You will receive your newsletter by email if it is provided to us)

- Record home phone & cell phone numbers (indicate the primary number).

Thank you for paying attention to detail. It makes a big difference in whether or not you receive information from the UMW Central Bay District. A big thank you to all the unit secretaries for your time and talents.

God bless the United Methodist Women and all they do. Be well, be safe, and be blessed.

Caroline (Carrie) Diaz
diazc5282@gmail.com
 (989) 450-1735

their pledge, SMR giving , etc. as soon as possible. There were some units who sent in money in late November and December. I am unable to process these monies until January 2021. So if you want credit for giving in 2020, be sure that I receive them no later than Nov. 15, 2020.

We will not be having an in-person district wide meeting in October, but will have it instead on ZOOM. The Leadership Training part of it will be postponed until November. If you are a unit treasurer, please feel free to call me about any concerns or questions you might have about your duties as treasurer. If I don't know the answer I will find someone who does and get back to you.

I pray that all of you are well and enjoying the beautiful weather we have been receiving.

God Bless,
Bonnie Dunstan
 5760 Pine Dr., Caseville Michigan 48725
 989-856-3263
willbdun@comcast.net



Treasurer

In these uncertain times in which we live, dealing with coronavirus and racial injustice, our Lord is the only one on whom we can depend. I am aware that many UMW units have not met since March, but I would like to suggest that individual members take the initiative and send in a remittance form which you can get from your treasurer or me. Fill out the top part of the form (the 5 areas of giving), send it with a check for \$60 made out to Central Bay District UMW. Doing this will guarantee that you and your church unit will be a 5 star person and unit for 2020.

By the time you receive this newsletter your UMW may be back meeting again. I pray that it is so!! Please encourage your unit to send in



Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

We are all too aware of how very "different" this year has been. How sad that we have not been able to participate in our "normal" Mission u events. However, how prophetic that one of our studies that would have been presented is, "Finding Peace in an Anxious World".

Truly, we are all - - world-wide - - experiencing new and anxious times. Anxiety, worry and fear are real, as the study points out. However, anxiety is different from fear or worry. An excerpt from the study states that worry is repetitive thoughts or emotions as we assess risks and threats, whether real or

perceived. Fear is our emotional response to impending danger, again whether real or perceived. When we have large amounts or many events that cause fear or worry, real or perceived, that leads to anxiety. Our anxiety is a physical and emotional response to those real or perceived worries and fears.

The events of this year alone have given us more than enough reasons to have a heightened sense/level of anxiety. All of which hopefully has turned us to an increased amount of time spent in reading "The Word" and praying. (especially since we certainly have had the time because we really couldn't go anywhere.) If you have a copy of the book "Finding Peace in an Anxious World", I encourage you to read it. It is well worth your time.

The Serenity Prayer truly lays it all out for us and couldn't be a better prescription for dealing with our current situation. GOD, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.

Stay Safe! Remain Cautious! Know that GOD is in control! Be grateful!

Yours in Christ,

Nancy Cline 989-401-1217
nancyleecline@gmail.com



Mission
Coordinators for
Spiritual Growth

What "Strange Times" we are living in! On January 4, 2020 the District Team met and jumped into the business of this year. We went over last-minute decisions for the Spiritual Brunch to be held in Clare. Little did we know that it would be the last meeting to be held until

who knows when because of the Covid virus that was carried to the United States.

On the brighter side of things, we are happy to report that we had a very successful Spiritual Brunch, and there were over one hundred ladies attending to hear our guest speaker, Ellen Harbin.

Things are still being taken care of through Zoom meetings and lots of telephone calls. Sadly, the remaining events for the year have been cancelled or scheduled through Zoom meetings.

I would like to share a shortened version of a devotional I have.

When you thought you couldn't or even when you wouldn't, I was there. I was there in every haggard breath, in every racing thought, even in the irrational fear. My voice called out in clarity and truth, and at those times when you couldn't hear me, I was there. Waiting. Waiting for you to acknowledge me.

You were made for such a time as this. You are never alone. You are not forsaken. I have been with you since your conception, and will be with you through eternity. So when you feel overwhelmed, just know that I am there and together we can.

Because I made you for such a time as this.

Moving forward in the Love of God

Linda Kube and Pam Ginderske
lindaakube@yahoo.com
pamelaginderske@yahoo.com

Mission Coordinator for
Social Action



As we find ourselves half way through 2020, we find advocates of multiple

Social Action issues calling.....demanding..... protesting.....for change. "REAL CHANGE"!!! We began the year with a decade tradition of a CENSUS; a political upheaval of a presidential impeachment; and much global unrest! THEN....a global pandemic of a new deadly virus....probably a situation no living person had ever faced! There was so much confusion and anxiety with such a complex issue.

Even as we were told church services and meetings COULD not be held, we were comforted that the "church" WOULD not be closed. We read: Romans 15:13.... "May the God of hope fill you with the joys and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". As United Methodist Women we are so blessed with the assurance of guidance from our loving, understanding Lord. We are so blessed with an already prepared, organized unit known as the United Methodist Church. We would face this pandemic with prayers, phone calls, inspirational cards, face masks, and Zoom meetings!!! We would physically isolate, but never spiritually isolate.

Ironically, as if a global pandemic wasn't enough, mid-Michigan experienced a "500 year flood" that devastated hundreds of homes, businesses, and lives! Racial injustice AGAIN led to protests. Police, once viewed as helpful civil workers, now are accused as being the "problem"!

By asking ourselves WWJD? (what would Jesus do?), we can focus on what and where our social action activities take us. By using the guidelines of the United Methodist Church we can be directed where our capabilities can make a difference.

Locally we are still the "church" to our own congregation, to our neighbors, to our community. We can support positive, reasonable attitudes. We can follow face mask guidelines and social distancing, while nodding

and smiling with our eyes, and "talking" in a positive voice.

Psalm 18:19: "In your strength, I can crush an army; with my God, I can scale any wall."

Jeanne Shelander 989-386-2063
jmselander@gmail.com



Secretary of Program Resources

Congratulations to the 28 readers in the District who read 193 books for the 2019 report! Yeah Central Bay District!! Now my Challenge.... For our 2020 report, lets break 200 books with 35 readers Encourage your fellow people to Read! Read!! Read!!!

Here are a few ways to help meet our goal. Share the Program, start a Book Club to meet and discuss books. Present book reviews at group meetings. Display a progress chart for all who participate in the reading program to encourage more readers.

When we have District events, books will be present and available for purchase. If there is a specific book you are interested in, feel free to contact me and I will hopefully be able to have it available to you. For the year 2020, meeting together has been more of a challenge

Always check out your school and public libraries for books from the list. Book stores, either local or larger chains, or even Amazon are good sources to obtain books. Electronic books for kindles, tablets or other devices are great ways to purchase books, or find free books through your local library or Google eBookstore. The National UMW page mentions Project Gutenberg or Open library as places to obtain free ebooks. I'll have to check these two out as I'm not familiar with them. And then my all-time favorite way of reading is audible books, I can drive or knit and still read.

Remember that children's books count and bonus books count like you've read two books.

If you have anything I can help you with for the Reading Resource Program, please do not hesitate to contact me and ask. If I don't know the answer, I'll seek to find it. I will be moving sometime in the next couple of months but my email and phone will remain the same.

Lisa Wightman

1399 Mertz Road, Caro, MI 48723

After Sept 1st :

1902 Pierce Road, Caro MI 48723

klwrightman@yahoo.com (989)673-7079



*Mission Coordinator for
Membership Nurture and
Outreach*

Due to the Coronavirus (Covid 19), our April 11 District Team meeting was held via ZOOM. I could not get connected, but I did join the June 6 meeting via ZOOM. I know that everyone was disappointed as the 'Spiritual Life Retreat' scheduled for April 24-25 was cancelled. The 'Michigan Annual Conference' in May was also cancelled until further notice.

I did participate in several **Webinars**: The first being "Faith Talks" on May 7th; the second one was "Just Energy" Climate Justice, May 7 and May 21; the 3rd one being "Faith Talks on Emotion & Anxiety" on May 21st. We also received an email from Cindy Thiele, MN&O chair, encouraging us to participate in the 'Spiritual Growth Study' which I did join on the u-tube presentations of '**Finding Peace in an Anxious World**' held on Tuesdays May 12 – June 2, 2020; these sessions were very interesting. She also forwarded us the results of the national UMW Census.

I am in the process of sending out letters to my DZone units and am looking forward to when churches will reopen and seeing everyone again. I do miss my church family and hope we will all continue to stay safe throughout the rest of the year.

Please continue to pray for all units and churches that are undergoing changes, and prayers for our new District Superintendent, Rev. Kasper, and all members who have lost loved ones during this pandemic, and those who had to face natural disasters.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord". (Ps 122:1).

Blessings to you all,

Edith Cooper 989-752-0340

ecsaginaw@aol.com

Nominating



In business, ROI means Return on Investment. It's an important number that indicates whether an investment will earn a profit. In volunteer work, return on investment pays dividends in at least two ways: for the volunteer and for the organization. United Methodist Women is an organization that provides invaluable assistance to women, children and youth around the globe when you invest your time as a volunteer.

Would you like to increase your ROI in UMW? Consider investing your time on the district leadership team. We need at least four more members to pledge their skills and talents on the team. If you're willing to invest your time, UMW will invest in you! District officers receive training, mileage to meetings, and free registration to district and conference events. Who benefits the most? You and the district benefit, but the women, children and youth around the world who are helped by our

mission support are the real beneficiaries. When you invest your time and talents in UMW, you make the world a better place.

We'll be voting on the slate of 2021 district officers at our Annual Celebration on Saturday, October 3. If you would like to join the team, beginning January 2021, send me your name! Here's how you can nominate yourself: E-mail me at renejohnson@charter.net or call me at (989) 631-2378. Make an investment in yourself that will bring you a spiritual return that's priceless. I hope to hear from you soon!

Rene Johnson, Chair

809 Wyllys St., Midland, MI 48642
989-631-2378 renejohnson@charter.net



Communication Coordinator

This year has been a very different year in every way. Because your safety and health is important to us, we are having the Annual Celebration meeting online instead of in person. Therefore, in this newsletter you will

find much of the information that would be in the Celebration booklet handout. Look for it and save it to use in October, as you participate online. You will need to register in order to view the event online. The registration form is in this newsletter.

We are sending the newsletter by email to those who have given us their addresses. For those without email, we will continue to send you the newsletter by regular U.S. Mail. If you prefer to get it by email and have not given us your address, please send it to me at the email address below.

For those who get this by email, you will notice that some forms are listed separately for you to download and print out. Be sure to select those you need and do that.

Officers please look at the forms that need to be filled out and try to get them in by the deadline, so that your group is recognized for **their great achievements at our next Celebration!!**

Judy Gerken 989-755-4848
jrgerk@yahoo.com

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| <p>2021 PLEDGE FORM January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021</p> <p>Unit Name _____ Church _____ Pledge Amount _____ Unit Treasurer _____ Address _____ Phone _____ E-Mail _____</p> <p>Please fill out this form and have it mailed to the District Treasurer, by November 20, 2020</p> <p>Bonnie Dunstan, 5760 Pine Drive, Caseville, MI 48725</p> |
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Central Bay United Methodist Women

Central Bay District

3764 Fashion Square Blvd.

Saginaw, MI. 48603



AROUND THE BAY

July 2020

Dates to Remember!

Sat. October 3, 2020

Central Bay District UMW Annual Celebration
Virtual Meeting on ZOOM

Sat. October 24, 2020

Detroit Conference Annual Celebration
Virtual Meeting on ZOOM

Sat. February 13, 2021

Spiritual Enrichment Brunch
Gordonville UMC

Sat. April 3, 2021

Keep Making Peace
East Lansing

Fri. & Sat. April 23 & 24, 2021

Spiritual Life Retreat
"The Springs", Gladwin