



# The Compass

Newsletter of the Greater Southwest District United Methodist Women

## ***A note from your President***

**May 2021 Edition**

Dear Sisters in Christ

Spring has sprung and we are all looking forward to summer, outdoor activities, and meeting and worshipping in person once again. It is a new year. We survived the old, although with scars. Some of those scars are deeper than others, missed time spent with loved ones and friends, missed eating out, missed in person gatherings, missed singing praises to God and missed saying goodbye to those who have left this earth for a life with our Lord.

That was last year and this is a new year. It may look a little different, but we have learned to adjust. We had our Spiritual Growth event in April on Zoom. Numbers were small but all those that participated were filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit and the message that Mary Blashill shared that we can choose joy and experience joy even in tough times. Thanks Mary!

We are looking forward to an evening of inspiration from Micki Phelps and Sharon Appling at our Mission Evening Event on June 10<sup>th</sup>. They will be speaking on "Loving our Children...Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline". We decided, for everyone's safety, we would conduct this on Zoom once again.

As the weather warms up, start meeting again if you haven't already. Nervous about meeting inside? Take your chairs and gather outside in the church yard or in a member's backyard, be creative. We will be back together in person for our District Annual Celebration on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> and it will be a real celebration!! Stay safe, wear your mask, get your vaccination, and social distance. I look forward to seeing you on Zoom and then in person once again.

God bless you all

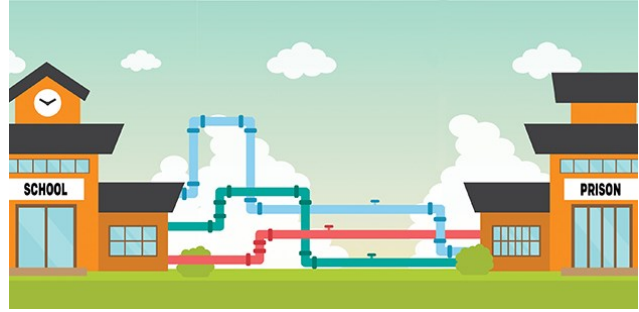
Linda Burton-Collier

## ***Goodbye and Hello...***

It is with bushels of thank yous and barrels of well wishes that we send to Cheryl Rumery, our district UMW treasurer for the last 5+ years and an important part of our district leadership team. Cheryl will be moving on as the new Michigan Conference UMW treasurer effective immediately. This is not goodbye, we will see her at our district and conference events. Thanks for all your years of service Cheryl!

We offer our hellos to Mary Howard from Hopkins as our new district treasurer. Mary is a former elementary principal and teacher and is a member of the Hopkins UMC with her husband Bill. Mary is active in the Hopkins UMW and the Hopkins Community Food Pantry and is the past president of the Hopkins Village Council. Contact information for Mary will be sent to each unit by Cheryl. Welcome Mary!

# “Loving Our Children”



Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline

## Mission Evening

Guest Speakers: [Marchelle \(Micki\) Phelps](#) (North Central Jurisdiction UMW President) and [Sharon Appling](#) (Retired Principal for Detroit Public Schools)

Hosted by Greater Southwest District United Methodist Women

Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>

6:30-8:30 PM

On Zoom. We will email the link.

You are encouraged to get together with others in your units to watch online. At least one registration required to get a zoom link.

Cost is Free but donations will go towards our District Pledge to Mission of \$35,000

Send registrations/checks by **June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021** to **Cheryl Proctor, 104 Tuttle Park Drive, Sherwood, MI 49089** or email at **seldominn\_1@juno.com**. Please enter "UMW Event Registration" in the subject line

Make checks payable to Greater Southwest District UMW

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



## Mission u

# There's Far More Here

## THAN MEETS THE EYE

*So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without [God's] unfolding grace. [...] There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18, The Message (MSG)

We have known and felt what it is like when “things are falling apart on us.” We have experienced a great unraveling that has shifted, quite literally, everything.

Could there be, as 2 Corinthians put it, “far more here than meets the eye”?

**Mission u**, like many activities in our lives, has moved online. While virtual, we are still creating spaces for spiritual community, lifelong friendships, lessons that change us and our communities, and spiritual practices that arrive when we need them most. In a time when it looks like things are falling apart on us, God's grace is still unfolding and life is being made new.

Indeed: There's far more here than meets the eye.

Will you join us?

At our upcoming **Mission u**, we will examine anxiety, the culture of violence that impacts children in and out of schools, and how we as God's people can deepen our moral witness and respond faithfully.

Our 2021 **Mission u** will offer the following studies:

- ***Finding Peace in an Anxious World***, edited by Erin James-Brown
- ***Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*** by Monique Morris
- ***Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship*** by Darryl W. Stephens

Join us:

Available Now: **Finding Peace in an Anxious World**, edited by Erin James-Brown  
at: <https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/MissionuVideos.html>

July 9-10, 2021 VIRTUAL: ***Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools***  
by Monique Morris (FREE)

August 13-14, 2021 VIRTUAL: ***Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship***  
by Darryl W. Stephens (FREE)

October 18-19, 2021: Mission u of the North, Gaylord UMC – \$70  
Payable to: Mission u. Lodging is on your own

RSVP: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/>

Or email to: [MIIMissionu@gmail.com](mailto:MIIMissionu@gmail.com) Name, District, Church, and Dates attending.

Mail check/info to: Sally Messner, 124 Boyd Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633



Greater Southwest District United Methodist Women  
3813 Rockwood Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI 49004

Prsrt. Std.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Kalamazoo, MI  
Permit No. 384

***Some friendly reminders...***

- Our mission project for this year is feminine hygiene kits. Patterns and instructions were in the March Compass or you can call Lori Roof at (269) 720-9903 or email her at llroof1@gmail.com for the patterns.
- Don't forget to turn in your 2020 Mission Today forms to Lori Roof.

**IMPORTANT 2021 DATES**

**Mission Evening - June 10<sup>th</sup> 5:30-8:00 pm via Zoom**

**Mission u - July 9-10 and August 13-14 via Zoom**

**Greater Southwest District UMW Annual Celebration - October 2nd 9:30-2:30**

**Mission u of the North - Oct. 18-19<sup>th</sup> at Grayling 1<sup>st</sup> UMC**

**Conference Leadership Training for District Officers - October 22**

**Conference UMW Annual Celebration - October 23 at Westwood UMC in Kalamazoo**