



The Compass

Newsletter of the Greater Southwest District United Methodist Women

May 2022 Edition

A note from your President

I look out my windows and I see green grass (some mowed) growing, rain drops falling (once again), trees budding, daffodils blooming, and my rhubarb is starting to grow (it won't be ready for Mother's Day this year) but most of all I see God's creation moving forward. It has been a long two years with Covid shut downs and restrictions but now it feels like we can move forward. Units are meeting again, fund raisers are moving forward, programs are being planned and we are once again answering God's call for us to be bold women, women of action, but most importantly women of faith and love.

The first of March we learned a new name we are to call ourselves: United Women in Faith. I know change is hard (we have always done it this way) and it will take some time and some work but I think we should get excited about the direction this is leading us and the new possibilities for us. This opens our doors to welcoming "all women" to join us, not just other United Methodists. Every one of you must know another woman in your community, a family member, a friend, a neighbor who you could invite to join this sisterhood.

I have spoken with my unit about the opportunity that this offers us and we have decided that this summer we will be planning a special event and invite those women in our community that we know, maybe include a key note speaker and food of course, entitle it "United Women in Faith" no denomination listed. We haven't worked out the details but we are excited about the possibilities that can happen. I encourage every unit to do something along those lines. If every woman in our units invited one other woman they know to an event of your creation our opportunities to touch peoples' lives would multiply.

We have kept United Methodist Women a secret for too long, let's share it with our world so we can change the whole world as God wants it, a loving caring place for everyone. Only then will the faith that Jesus taught us be spread.

When we gather together this year let's share ideas that we have for becoming "United Women in Faith". Let's rise to the challenge of change.

Linda Burton-Collier, President

FROM THE EDITOR of Response Magazine, Tara Barnes

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women is named the successor organization of 15 women’s organizations. The Book of Discipline also declares that “this list shall not be construed as exhaustive.” United Methodist Women is the inheritor of the work of the women’s missionary societies of eight different denominations. The moniker “United Methodist Women” wasn’t established until 1972, after the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged with the Methodist Church to become The United Methodist Church and the Women’s Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild became one organization. We were the Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries as recently as 2012. In other words, change is part of who we are. Name change is part of who we are.

Hopefully you have read about the new look and programs United Methodist Women will debut this year, and now we’re ready to debut a new name: **United Women in Faith**. United Methodist Women will remain our legal name.

Our name changes and mergers have not always been our choice. Today, we are taking our fate into our own hands and declaring our bold future as United Women in Faith, connecting and nurturing women through spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that we can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities. Sounds familiar, right? Our new name and look are to better reflect who we are and who we want to be. This is a bold yet natural change. It is a practice in hope.

Imagining what could be is our charge as followers of Jesus. Members of United Women in Faith are inclusive, supportive, curious, bold leaders for justice who will change the world. I want to be part of the future you make happen.

United Women in Faith’s principles and values include:

- ⇒ Promoting the empowerment of women, children and youth;
- ⇒ Promoting anti-racism and multiculturalism;
- ⇒ Promoting inclusion and equity;
- ⇒ Promoting fair labor practices;
- ⇒ Promoting economical and environmental stewardship and sustainability.



United
Women
in Faith

The Vision of United Women in Faith:

Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

A note from Program Resources:

I'd like to share a couple of books from the 2022 Reading List that I really enjoyed:

One Dress. One Year. By Bethany Winz is the story of a high school student who wanted to shine a light on the issue of human trafficking. She knew these victims weren't allowed to make choices about their lives so she decided to wear the same dress every day for a year as a way of getting others to understand the need to stop human trafficking. Over the year, she realizes how this fashion statement not only affects others but how it changed her as a person.

The Moment of Lift by Melinda Gates gave me insight into the issues of trying to empower women worldwide and how the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation chose what the important needs of women were and how to develop programs that addressed those issues.

I've really enjoyed the Reading Program and the opportunity to learn about so many diverse issues and how United Women in Faith can support that learning and possibly inspire us to get involved.

Just a reminder about how to participate in the Reading Program: Selections can be from the 2015-2022 reading lists, if not included in previous reports, including children and youth titles. All plans require regular reading of *Response Magazine*.

Plan I – 5 books per year. One book from each category.

Plan II – 10 books per year. Two books from each category.

Plan III – Two books from each category plus 5 additional books from any category.

Plan IV – 20 books per year. Two books from each category plus 10 additional books from any category.

Reading Log completion forms can be sent to me via email or snail mail for 2021 right now. (I neglected to mention this deadline in the last newsletter.)

Also, please send your unit's 2021 Mission Today Unit Objectives to me at the same address. I would appreciate receiving these forms by June 30, 2022. Thank you.

Happy Reading!

Laura Marlowe

8018 Fawn Meadow Trail

Galesburg, MI 49053

mmarlowe33@att.net

2021 Reading Program Reporting Form

Name: _____ Plan Choice I ___ II ___ III ___ IV ___ V ___

Education for Mission: List Book names

- 1.
- 2.

Leadership Development: List Book names

- 1.
- 2.

Nurturing for Community: List Book names

- 1.
- 2.

Social Action: List Book names

- 1.
- 2.

Spiritual Growth: List Book names

- 1.
- 2.

Read Response Magazine regularly: Yes _____ No _____

REPORT OF COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

I have completed the required reading for PLAN _____, the books I have read are listed above.

Name _____ Local Unit _____

Address _____ City _____

Please return this report to Laura Marlowe, 8018 Fawn Meadow Trail, Galesburg, MI 49053— mmarlowe33@att.net

IT'S EASY BEING GREEN! MISSION EVENING



Presented by the
Climax United Women in Faith

Visit stations to learn how *your* unit can become green!

We invite *you* to present your progress and ideas.

Scotts United Women in Faith will share information about their Food Pantry...perhaps you'd like to start one at *your* church!

Hosted by Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

Thursday, June 16, 2022

6:30 to 7:15 p.m. view exhibits and displays

7:15 to 8:00 p.m. refreshments and Q & A time

Climax Methodist Church, 133 East Maple, Climax, MI

- Registration fee is \$5 and entire proceeds will go to Community House
- Ingathering of non-perishable protein items (peanut butter, canned meats, beans, etc.) and tortillas for the Scotts Food Pantry

Mail registration forms & checks by June 13, 2022 to:

Cheryl Proctor, 104 Tuttle Park Drive, Sherwood, MI 49089; OR

Email registration form to: seldominn_1@juno.com and bring your payment the day of the event.

Make checks payable to **Greater Southwest District UMW.**

Any questions, call Cheryl at 517-741-3125

Mission Evening Event

Name _____ Unit _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Don't Disband Your Unit / REGROUP YOUR GALS

Many churches are having a hard time reorganizing their Units since Covid. Where to find the officers? Where to find the programs and monies for their pledge and other missions? Or maybe you have been scared off by the new name and changes to the organization? DON'T BE. Your unit can have meetings once a month or once a year. All you need is the basic officers –president, secretary, and treasurer. Your giving can be by Unit or by individual. Combine with another unit. Don't become overwhelmed. The biggest change is that most all resources and information will be online, on the new website—United Women in Faith. And most importantly, call your district or conference team members for help.

2021 Unit Survey

Remember in the past, the letter you got asking how many new members you had and how many members were lost? Now the new 2021 Unit Survey is on the United Women in Faith website. There are the basic questions about your Unit and 15 questions about the new name and using the website. It is easy. All you have to do is check the answer that best fits your Unit. Uncomfortable taking a survey online? Ask a church/family member to find the site.

Cindy Thiele
Conference Membership, Nurture, Outreach
269-673-4514 * cindahthiele@gmail.com

Mission u 2022 Study: Luke 13 Who Can We Be Together

A Transformative Biblical Curriculum for Adults, Youth and Children.

We find ourselves in a period of incredible disruption and uncertainty. In the midst of a devastating pandemic, a divisive political climate and economic turmoil, we are turning to stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities in challenging times for over two millennia. Some of these stories of Jesus are found in the 13th chapter of the Gospel of Luke. The chapter opens and closes with a community trying to make sense of and navigate their way through times of turmoil and tragedy. However, the chapter centers on a story of Jesus teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath when a woman suddenly appears. Jesus makes the choice to “set [her] free from [her] ailment” (Luke 13:12) which causes a great deal of commotion among the leaders and crowd gathered there. In this context, Jesus likens the kingdom to a mustard seed and yeast (Luke 13:18-21). What did those images evoke for Jesus' first-century Jewish audience? And what possibilities might seed and yeast hold for us today?

At the end of this study, our hope is that participants will leave with a bigger and broader vision of the kind of community Christ is calling us to be in times of loss, grief and massive disruption. What would be possible if we tend to the needs of our communi-

SAVE THE MISSION U DATES...

August 11-13—Lake Huron Retreat Center

October 16-18—Gaylord First UMC

More details to follow.

ties in small and often disruptive ways as Jesus did in Luke 13? May we do so with the faith that a multitude of small actions, like seeds, can activate a community's healing and renewal.

**PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR
GREATER SOUTHWEST DISTRICT FOR 2023**

President: OPEN

Vice President: Laura Smith (2023)

(269) 330-4640

smithlaura743@gmail.com

9608 36th Street South, Scotts, MI 49088

Secretary: OPEN

Treasurer: Mary Howard (2021)

(269) 757-3011

maryhowa@att.net

PO Box 114, 209 Grant Street, Hopkins, MI 49328

Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Mary Blashill (2020)

(269) 767-6060

maryblashill@gmail.com

07509 M-43, South Haven, MI 49090

Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator: OPEN

Education & Interpretation Coordinator: OPEN

Social Action Coordinator: OPEN

Program Resources: Laura Marlowe (2021)

(269) 929-7393

mmarlowe33@att.net

8018 Fawn Meadow Trail, Galesburg, MI 49053

Communications Coordinator: Beth Mitchell (2020)

(269) 626-5241

barmitch55@gmail.com

3813 Rockwood Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49004

Committee on Nominations: Cheryl Proctor

(517) 741-3125

seldominn_1@juno.com

104 Tuttle Park Drive, Sherwood, MI 49089

Committee Members: OPEN

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

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



The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women:

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

GREATER SOUTHWEST DISTRICT UMW 2022 EVENT DATES AND MORE

June 16th Mission Evening at Climax UMC 6:30pm

August 11-13 Mission u at Lake Huron Retreat Center

October 1 District Annual Celebration at Otsego UMC 9:30am

October 16-18 Mission u at Gaylord UMC

October 22 Conference Annual Celebration at Westwood UMC, Kalamazoo