



The Compass

Newsletter of the Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

A note from your President

May 2023 Edition

It finally looks like May spring weather is on the way. No more snow, freezing temperatures, or cloudy days. Now we have May flowers blooming. The Holland Tulip Festival is going to have gorgeous flowers blooming and thousands of people attending. My only fear is that we won't have much spring weather and we will go straight into summer, been there before. Oh well, it is all in God's hands and we will learn to live with it. I am looking forward to putting away the turtlenecks and winter coats and getting out the spring jackets, short sleeve shirts, and crop pants.

You have all been in my thoughts and prayers as we journeyed through the storms of winter and beyond. Hopkins had catastrophic damage due to hail 1-2 inches in diameter with every house and church in town hit. We will be getting a new roof on our farmhouse outside of town. The church and hall in town had roof and siding damage, but insurance will take care of all that, thank God.

Our district event, the Spring Fling, was held on a cold and messy day the end of March. In previous years, we have actually experienced a beautiful spring day, but not this year. There were some new ladies that attended along with about 27 brave souls that came out. We made some new friends, sang songs, played games and learned more about our 2023 mission challenge (making diapers). The reading program was lifted up with examples of books for children, youth, and adults. Mission u was talked about. It will be held July 13-15 in Mt. Pleasant at the First United Methodist Church. It is open to men, women, youth, and children. There is no charge for youth or children. Julia Paradine-Rice, our Conference President, was our keynote speaker and inspired us all. I forgot to tell you that a wonderful luncheon was served and a good time was had by all.

We posted an Action Board and invited every unit to share post-it notes in response to what is happening in their units with regards to Growth, Fund Raising and Church Support. There was not much response to Growth. There were numerous responses to Fund Raising. It looks like the pandemic is behind us and units are reaching out to their communities again. There are lots of different ways that units are helping support their local churches. We need to continue to work on ways to grow our units.

Our next gathering (hopefully the weather will be better) will be on June 22nd for our Mission Evening event at Union City. We will gather at the church, have a light dessert, learn about the history of their Thrift Store, and then walk a block down to the Store, look around and even purchase any treasure that you find there.

Oh! The sun is shining as I type this, God is good all the time, all the time God is good. Bless you all.

Linda Burton Collier, President

Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

UWF Reading Program

I have to share a couple of children's books that I've purchased from the Reading Program that will be placed in our Sunday School library:

Magic Like That by Samara Cole Doyon and illustrated by Geneva Bowers is about the many ways a little girl wears her hair. She is so confident in how she looks! Isn't that what we want for all of our children?

Change Sings is by Amanda Gorman, who is the young person who wrote and performed a poem for Joe Biden's inauguration, and illustrated by Loren Long. This is a powerful book for our children to think about how they can impact our world.

Consider sharing these books with your church children as a children's sermon or Sunday School lesson. Maybe share them with your own children or grandchildren. I believe they can also be shared with adults because the message is meaningful to all ages.

Enjoy!!

Program Resources/Reading Program
Laura Marlowe
8018 Fawn Meadow Trail
Galesburg, MI 49053
mmarlowe33@att.net
269-929-7393

Education and Interpretation

How is your unit doing on achieving the 2023 Mission Objectives? Our local unit took time at a recent meeting to acknowledge and celebrate the objectives we achieved last year and to determine what additional objectives we wanted to work on this year. Please feel free to contact one of the members of the District Team if there is something we can do to support your unit.

Education and Interpretation
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**Greater Southwest Michigan United Women in Faith
Proposed Slate of Officers for 2024**

Officers

Co-Presidents

Laura Marlowe and Cheryl Proctor

Vice President

Laura Smith

Treasurer

Mary Howard

Secretary

Open

Committees Chairs

Committee on Nominations Chair

Open

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Mary Blashill

Secretary of Program Resources

Laura Marlowe

Education & Interpretation
Coordinator

Laura Marlowe

Membership Nurture & Outreach
Coordinator

Cindy Thiele

Social Action Coordinator

Open

Communications Coordinator

Beth Mitchell

Mission Evening: A Night at the Thrift Shop

Presented by Union City United Women in Faith

Hosted by Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Union City United Methodist Church, 200 Ellen Street, Union City

6:30 to 7:15 p.m. enjoy refreshments, hear a brief presentation with Q & A time and view an exhibit about our 60th Anniversary celebrated in 2022.

7:15 to 8:00 p.m. tour the Thrift Shop to experience how we receive donations, how they're sorted and placed on the sales floor.

You may also S-H-O-P-!

It's a one-block walk from the church.

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

Mail completed registration form & check by June 19, 2023 to:

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

Email completed registration form to: seldominn_1@juno.com and bring your payment the day of the event. Please put "Mission Evening" in the subject line of your email.

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

Any questions? Call Cheryl at 517-741-3125



We look forward to seeing you!

Mission Evening: A Night at the Thrift Shop

Name: _____ Unit: _____

Address: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____



United
Women
in Faith



What is the Diaper Mission Challenge?

The Diaper Mission Challenge 2023 is where UWF/UMW Units in our district sew as many diapers as they can for the overseas mission. In the past we have done pillow-case dresses, diapers, school bags, knit baby sweaters, and sewn quilts. Competition is high and fun. How many diapers can your Unit make? 100? Here are a few ideas you may want to use:

- *Look for 'new' flannel sheets at Goodwill
- *Find used flannel sheets for the diaper padding.
- *Dig out flannel fabric from boxes or drawers that were never used
- *Share fabric with those that sew
- *Watch for sales at JoAnn Fabrics
- *If your Unit doesn't have patterns go, to Midwest Mission Distribution Center to request patterns.

*****Have a sewing party at your church*****

Can you trace, or cut, or pin, or turn, or stitch fabric?
We need you!

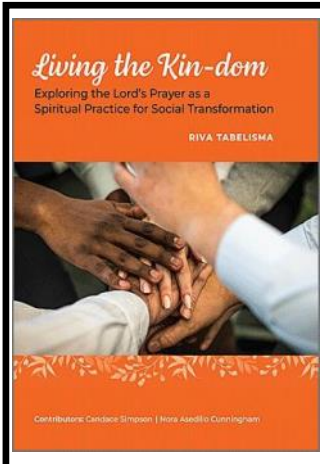
Michigan Conference

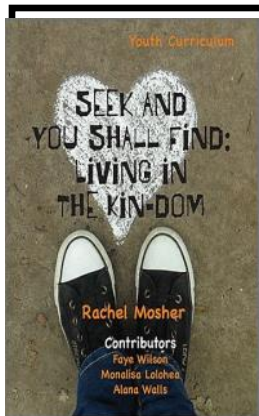
Mission u

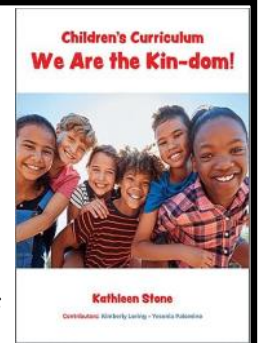


**Mount Pleasant First
United Methodist Church**
400 South Main Street
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

July 13-15 (Thursday—Saturday)
6:30 p.m. Registration (EST)

	<p>ADULT STUDY <i>Living the Kin-dom</i> by Riva Tabelisma</p> <p>This study gives fresh eyes to the Lord’s Prayer. Often leaned by rote, the Lord’s Prayer is a rich guide for how we can live out God’s kin-dom in our lives. Tabelisma invites participants in this study to step away from our automatic recitation of the prayer and dive deep into the meaning of each line over the course of eight one-hour sessions. Each of the sessions examines a section of the Lord’s Prayer from Matthew 6:9-13 as it is recorded in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.</p>	<p>\$75 Early Registration \$40 ZOOM</p>
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	<p>YOUTH STUDY <i>Seek and You Shall Find: Living in the Kin-dom,</i> by Rachel Mosher</p> <p>The 2023 youth curriculum leads youth through eight one-hour sessions that teach participants to find the kin-dom in the world around them, how to live what they have learned, and how to share the Good News about the kin-dom with others.</p>
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<p>CHILDREN’S STUDY <i>We Are the Kin-dom!</i> By Kathleen Stone</p> <p>This curriculum guides children through an exploration of earthly kingdoms in contrast to God’s kin-dom and our role in living out the latter here and now. Children will be introduced to the concept of kin-dom vs kingdom to help distinguish between the flawed human construction of a kingdom that often results in oppression and exclusion, and God’s perfect kin-dom that offers freedom and inclusion. The study is supplemented by a four-part video, <i>We Are the Kin-dom: Global Kids’ Voices</i>. This video includes interviews with children from around the world who were asked about their understanding of what kingdom means.</p>	
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These books are available at: <https://uwfaith.org/events/mission-u/>
If you prefer, you can order them to be picked up at Mission u. Please indicate this in the Mission u merchandise section of the order form. **AVAILABLE ONLY FOR IN PERSON.**
You can register for Mission u online at: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/>

This form MUST be filled out for Mission u - NO OTHER FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Home Church: _____
 District: _____
 Youth/Children (name and age)

Adult Study Book: Living the Kin-dom	\$17
Youth Study Book: Seek and You will Find	\$17
Children's Study Book: You are the Kin-dom	\$17
ALL BOOKS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE AND CAN BE ORDERED HERE FOR IN PERSON ONLY	
Virtual	\$40
Early Registration (by June 15)	\$75
Late Registration (after June 15)	\$85
Youth (6th grade or older)	FREE
Child (1st grade—5th grade)	FREE
Child (Kindergarten or younger)	FREE
Donation Community Caring Network (the recipient of our In-Gathering) _____	
TOTAL DUE: _____	
Late registration due July 1	

Circle all that apply:

Information:

- First time attending Study Leader Laity
 Conference Officer Paid online Missionary
 District Officer Financial Assistance Applicant

Special Needs:

- Sign language interpreters
 Dietary requirements
 (specify) _____

**This form can be found on the Michigan UMW Website, registration can be paid by check payable to: Mission u or online at: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/>
 This link is also found on the website**

Send registrations to: Sally Messner, 124 Boyd Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633, mimissionu@gmail.com



Lodging is on your own. **We have a block of rooms until July 1st** at the Hampton Inn, 5205 E. Pickard, Mt. Pleasant **(989) 772-5500**. When you reserve your room, mention Mission u to receive a special rate of \$119 per room per night. This price is good for 1-4 people in a room.

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

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The PURPOSE of United Women in Faith:

United Women in Faith 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 United Women in Faith — Event Dates for 2023

June 22nd Mission Evening at Union City United Methodist Church, 200 Ellen St., Union City, MI. This will include a visit to the thrift store that has been in the community for 60 years.

July 13-15 Mission u Retreat at Mt. Pleasant First United Methodist Church, 400 S. Main St. Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. All women and men are invited to attend, **children and youth will be free.** You can make this a family event!

September 30th District Annual at South Haven First United Methodist Church, 429 Michigan Ave., South Haven, MI.

October 28th Michigan Conference Annual Celebration at Holt United Methodist Church, 2321 Aurelius Rd., Holt, MI.