

# Heritage Vine

The Newsletter of the Heritage District  
United Methodist Women  
August 2020



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

## President's Note

Are you ready for an awesome thought to live with today? The Holy Spirit is alive and living in you right now! In fact, the Bible says

***Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? — 1 Corinthians 6:19***

In the Old Testament, God had a temple for His people. There, they would come to worship Him through the giving of their animal sacrifices. But in this new dispensation, God's temple is found in His people. You and me. We are His place of residence on this earth.



Dear Sisters in Christ,

Every day in my email I receive Devotionals Daily. These devotions provide reflection and thought and are often right on target with what I am doing for the day. Today's devotion is by Dr. O.S. Hawkins, from *The Apostles' Code*. When I saw the words, "*We are His place of residence on this earth*", it made me stop and think about being his place on this earth! Wow, that is a huge responsibility! What do people see when they look at me? Do I reflect what that God is in me? I hope so.

This devotion also made me think about the change due to the Pandemic that is going on in our lives today. None of us can escape it, none of us can change what is going on, we can simply be a place of residence and do the best we can. Some days are hard and some better but things have changed for all of us.

This brings me to the change of our ***Heritage District Celebration and Annual Meeting, September 26***, which I pray you have received the details for. A Virtual Meeting, "oh no", some may say but I say, try it out. Give it a chance. Just think, this meeting will be a place for women from all over our district to continue to meet even though we won't do it in the same ways. Maybe you'll sit in your PJ's that morning and watch from home. Maybe you can meet with a small group to watch the Virtual Meeting together. If you are not able to be on line then find someone who will be and share this with them.

United Methodist Women all over the world have much to talk, think and pray about these days. Our speakers, Tim Kobler, Wesley Foundation at U of M, and Shonagh Taruza, speaker on Justice & Diversity, will be talking in very real time about students at the university and racial justice. So please join us and make this a great Annual Celebration & Meeting.

May the Peace of God surround you today and every day. Let every one see God in you.

**Sherry**

The District Newsletter, Forms, and contact information for the Leadership Team can be found on the Conference UMW Website  
[www.umwmichiganconference.org/hrd.html](http://www.umwmichiganconference.org/hrd.html)

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## Vice President/Program Coordinator



This is the day that the Lord has made, Let us Rejoice in it!

I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the summer. I can tell you it sure has been a different one. I am usually up at the campground socializing and enjoying the company of my friends up there. But not this year, as is everybody ... I'm Home, that is where I have been. I do need to say it hasn't been that bad. I have had the joy of cleaning out and refreshing my flower beds. I have also had the enjoyment of sitting on my patio with my coffee, and reading my devotional. I listen to the birds sing and wonder at the beauty of God's world. My church has asked different people if they would like to share a devotional with the congregation during this crazy time we are in. My devotional this past week talked about trust. My Bible verse was "Thy word is a

lamp unto my feet, and a light onto my path." Psalm 119:105 The Word is a lamp. All we have to do is rely on the Lord to light the path that we are on.

As Program Coordinator for the district, I can tell you it has been busy. I have been involved in multiple zoom meetings overseeing the committee to plan for the Annual Celebration/Meeting in the fall. And I want to say that I am so thankful for the ladies on this committee that have been helping me. Special Kudos to these ladies. It had been suggested by MI Conference UMW that we should plan a virtual meeting since we are not able to meet face-to-face. This has been very hard to figure out everything we need to accomplish. And how to do it in a time frame as to not lose the interest of the ladies watching. Well, I believe we have done it! All we need is YOUR HELP to make this a huge success.

We need YOU to register to attend the Zoom meeting. Spread the word to the ladies in your unit and your friends. All are welcome. We ask if there are ladies out there that do not have internet connection, help them get connected via phone, or host a small watch party. Registration deadline is August 8, 2020. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 419-343-9261.

Our theme this year is *Sowing the Seeds of God's Love*. We have some wonderful speakers that will be attending. Rev. Tim Kobler, Director/Chaplin Wesley Foundation at the University of Michigan, will be speaking on "Cultivating Discipleship"; and Shonagh Taruza, Minister for Social Justice and Diversity at Ann Arbor First UMC, will be speaking on "The Wind of Change". We will have music, prayer, a business meeting and (I am sure) some laughter.

This year's Annual Celebration/Meeting will be one to remember! Plan to be with us and be a part of this history. Remember, United Methodist Women are trail blazers and We Are Bold! We can do anything that we put our minds to. Even having our Annual Celebration/Meeting via Zoom.

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## Mission Coordinator for Program Resources

Good Day Ladies! This certainly has been a different year. Earlier this week I attended the Virtual Annual Conference. We too, as the Heritage District of United Methodist Women, will be having a Virtual Annual Meeting. I know that some of us are not sure if we are ready to venture out yet. So please join us.

I hope that during this time, you have had time to read. If you need help finding the booklist, check the United Methodist Women website. Then find the Reading Program. There will be a list of books. Check with your library. They should be able to help you. If not you may call me at (517) 539-2061 and leave a message.

If you didn't turn the count of the books you read for 2019, please let me know as soon as possible.

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## Secretary

I hope you all are doing okay through these unusual times. So much of what I read and hear tells me we are not going to get back to normal, at least not the normal to which we were accustomed. Perhaps that is good.

My son jokingly suggested the pandemic was nature's way of getting back at humans for all the damage we have done. That's really not so funny and I feel for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones, putting their own lives at risk to provide needed services, or struggling with the consequences of the pandemic and the isolation.

I know how blessed I have been and wonder if I should be doing more to help and, if so, what. In the meantime "Tis a gift to be simple..." I take my morning coffee (organic, fair trade, grown in the shade...a poem in the making?) and sit on the front porch. A tiny bird with a loud voice is chirping in a nearby tree. A butterfly flits around the overgrown flowerbed. Across the grassy area I see a hummingbird checking out the native plants. To the north I view the oak tree standing tall, now 4 times the size it was when we moved it from a place too close to the garage. An oak tree supports at least 200 species and as those critters are part of our food chain, it supports us as well. So I feel a certain satisfaction that it survived the move and is flourishing. That feeling extends to the Michigan native maple tree on the west side, also relocated and now 3 times as tall. For a few simple moments I sit and enjoy God's wonderful world.

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good." Admittedly, the average person driving by would be thinking, "... too many weeds, too overgrown, not in keeping with the rest of the neighborhood; why don't these people use some of those readily available chemicals to clean up this place?" Alternatively, someone with native plant knowledge might be thinking, "...we need more of that!"

There are so many ways in which we humans do bad things to God's world. Each one of us needs to increase our awareness and our knowledge so we reverse that trend, not just by what we do but by how we use our money, what we support, how we use our influence, how we vote, what we see as normal. A recent newsletter from the Environmental Defense Fund reports the Environmental Protection Agency has rolled back more than 95 environmental rules and regulations during the current administration. This by an agency supposed to protect us and help us to live in a healthy environment. Maybe it should be called the Environmental Degradation Agency. Will the new normal be better or worse for God's world? Will we embrace it or reject it? Enjoy it or suffer from it? I have no answers but pray for God's wisdom to guide us. "Tis a gift to be simple..."

More results from my reading: check out the videos at <edf.org/monachVR> and <www.wilderness.org/gwichyaa-zhee>.



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## Where's My Newsletter?

Newsletter distribution is primarily done as a PDF email attachment. You should also be able to find it on the UMW Heritage District website within a few days of us sending the files out. We also post it on our Facebook page. The newsletter is available to any district member who wishes to view it.

We are happy to print and mail the newsletter to any local units who do not use email, but it has become too expensive to mail a physical copy of the newsletter to every member.

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Everett, Communications Coordinator, at [wendy@fumc-a2.org](mailto:wendy@fumc-a2.org) or 734-255-9146.

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## A Note from the Conference Treasurer

Hello to my Heritage District friends from your UMW Conference Treasurer! I am still a member of Heritage District so I thought I would share some information with you in these challenging times

The needs of women, children, and youth around the world have not gone away. Even if we as individuals are not able to go out and meet with our units in person, we can continue to donate to meet our pledge for 2020.

- Maybe we can imagine how much money we would have spent at a rummage sale and donate that amount without having to add any clutter to our homes.
- Maybe we can calculate how much money we have saved by not eating out during the past 4 months and donate that amount.
- Maybe we can see how much we have saved in gasoline by not driving so much and donate that amount (and pat ourselves on the back for reducing our impact on climate change)
- Maybe each one of you has more creative ways to fund-raise or save money to donate in these times. Call each other on the phone and share your ideas!

No matter what, we need to plan how we can continue to support the mission of United Methodist Women, to serve the vulnerable women, children, and youth in Michigan, in the United States and around the world.

If, for some reason, you can't donate to your local unit, you can send money directly to your District Treasurer Mary McCully (with a note acknowledging your local unit). If you are getting this newsletter but no longer have a local unit, you can donate as an individual. See Mary McCully's article and contact information in this newsletter!

Prayers and support for everyone,

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## Mission Coordinator for Social Action

I hope that all of you are staying safe and healthy. I have known 2 people with the virus and they have both recovered well. These are unprecedented times, needing unusual actions. We always have God as our great protector!

So much that is happening falls within Social Action. Racism, Food Supply, Mental and Physical Health, Education, Vaccines, you name it and it falls somewhere within. I am currently reading a book entitled *Be the Bridge* -- very interesting. Wherever we live, our lives are touched by racism. Do you remember years ago when we did the group exercise of comparing hand color? We were all over the board!

Be sure to look at the Reading Program for suggestions. Many of us have more reading time available. I would love to hear what you have been doing that is the same and what is different.

I have made over 800 masks with a friend. They have been donated to St Joseph's Hospital, nursing homes, my church getting ready to open, and other places of need. 85 went to a local group preparing backpacks for students, no matter how and when the schools open. I have family ready to start in 2 public districts, U of M, and Schoolcraft Community College. The weight of these decisions is tremendous! I pray they have God with them.

Check the national UMW website and the Heritage site as well for news, needs, and prayers. Our *MI Connect* is another great read. These help us stay connected with our fellow Methodists.

It is time to register for our Heritage Annual Celebration too!

I have a copy of a newsletter prepared for the Plymouth Canton Schools by a group of former students and teachers about systemic racism in the schools with positive suggestions for change. I don't like just complaining. This is what is always suggested, having an advocacy part.

So, God help us navigate thru these murky waters!



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## Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

### *Sharing God's Blessings*

These last few months have been uncertain, often confusing, as well as challenging. Reading the Bible, enjoying morning daily devotionals from the Upper Room, and daily prayer have provided much comfort and peace in our home. I have the blessing of being connected via Zoom, provided by my granddaughter's iPad, to our church's weekly morning Prayer Pack and Bible Study.

On Sunday mornings after worship, either at home through Facebook or at our outdoor services on the church property, we gather for a Zoom fellowship time which runs about thirty minutes at the conclusion of the worship service. Seeing people face to face as we converse is an added blessing. So many blessings come our way each and every day.

When you think of someone you haven't seen or spoken to for awhile, reach out in prayer for them, if possible give them a call or send them a written note. It is guaranteed to put a smile on their face and a hug in their heart. The *101 Seeds of Faith* book (Christian Art Publishers) includes one written by Corrie ten Boom: "Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible." For we live by faith, not by sight. (Second Corinthians 5:7 NIV.)

Having faith in the Lord that He will provide gives us hope. The following is a devotional I received from a friend and it was adapted from *In The Family Farms*.



#### Plant Your Spring Garden

Three rows of peas:

Peace of mind  
Peace of heart  
Peace of soul

Three rows of squash:

Squash indifference  
Squash hatred  
Squash bullying

Three rows of lettuce:

Let us be kind  
Let us be compassionate  
Let us love one another

Water with patience and cultivate with love.

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## Treasurer



“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” Jeremiah 17:7-8

As we continue through these difficult times let us not forget that as we trust in the Lord He will continue to build us up and continue to provide all we need. We never have to worry as He is our confidence. We can continue to bear fruit as we work to serve others as the Lord directs us. We need to continue to support and to give as we are able.

**5-Star Person** recognition opportunity. For some of you this will be new. Any person who donates to all 5 channels of Mission Giving in 2020 will receive a 5-star pin and a certificate recognizing their financial contributions. The 5 channels of giving are:

- (1) Pledge to Mission (your donation to your local UMW unit based on your pledge)
- (2) Special Mission Recognition (ordering a pin for someone's special mission work)
- (3) Gift to Mission (ordering one or more UMW special cards)
- (4) Gift in Memory (sending a UMW Gift in Memory card and giving a donation in their name)
- (5) World Thank Offering (contributing to the WTO collection)

You have until November 15 2020 to consider donating in all 5 categories and sending in your donations. You will be recognized at the Heritage District Annual Celebration meeting in September of 2021. The 5-Star Person form is available on the MI Conference UMW site. Call me if you have questions!

Please remember to send a **Remittance Form** every time you send a check. Please fill out the Remittance Form indicating how you wish to allocate the funds for mission. Make all checks out to the **Heritage District UMW**. If you don't know what a Remittance Form is, or if you don't know how to get one, call me or email me.

**Please note my mailing address is not my home address.**

I prefer to get the mail at my office because there is someone there regularly, and I work from my office computer.

May the Lord bless you and keep you safe within His Loving Arms.

Mary McCully  
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## Membership, Nurture and Outreach



Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12 NRSV

Allowing Jesus to be the light in my life has given me a sense of peace amongst all the unknowns of the current times.

The light of Christ keeps us moving forward. 2020 has presented us with so many new challenges. Not being able to gather in person for events has been a strange new concept. Especially for those, like me, who enjoy having face to face conversations, which makes it feel more personal and connected. I am extremely grateful for the internet for Zoom worship and meetings allowing us to be connected without being together. Technology is giving us the opportunity to hold our Heritage District Annual Meeting on September 26 via Zoom. I pray that lots of you have registered. This

program, *Sowing the Seeds of God's Love*, is the culmination of many hours of planning and preparation. It should be an inspiring morning.

Our local United Methodist Women units are a vital part of the global UMW mission. During these challenging times we, as your leadership team, have endeavored to be in contact with all the units in our district. If at any time we can be of assistance, please feel free to contact us. As the Membership, Nurture and Outreach person on the team I will do my best to be of help to you.

God's Blessings to all of you,

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## Nominations



Good morning United Methodist Women!

This has been a busy and exciting year! Let's also include interesting and unique in many ways. I hope you can say the same and find the positive intertwined with the unknown.

I've been busy with medical concerns, but still found time for camping. My motorhome has all that is needed when I travel. This summer I've camped at UM Retreat in Pentwater, Frankenmuth, and Jackson County park. Each place had new adventures for me and fun to explore.

Since I'm nomination chair, my position is to invite new "chairs" (Mission Coordinators) to join the Heritage District leadership team. I have been in touch with many women and enjoyed every conversation learning about them and their unit. Only one more position to fill - Treasurer! A most needed and important position. If you can – or know someone who can – be our treasurer, please contact me. Thank you for prayerfully considering to be on our team.

A special thank you to all that stayed on the team and all our new team members. Your dedication and commitment is most appreciated and truly inspiring.

Blessings to all, Carolyn Combs

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## Heritage District 2020 Calendar

August 29	10am Zoom Question/discussion session (for Celebration)	
September 26	Heritage District UMW Annual Celebration & Meeting (via Zoom)	
October 1	<b>Due Date</b> for Local Unit Officer lists – Wendy Everett, Communications Coordinator	
October 23	Michigan Conference UMW Officer Training & Leadership Development, 4 - 8 p.m.	via Zoom
October 24	Michigan Conference UMW Celebration & Meeting	Virtual, based at First UMC of Kalamazoo
November 14	UMW District Officer training 10am- 12 noon ( Zoom, more information to follow)	Dundee UMC
November 30	<b>Due Date</b> for 2019 Mission donations – Mary McCully, Treasurer	
December 31	<b>Due Date</b> for 2020 5 Star Person Form – Mary McCully, Treasurer	
December 31	<b>Due Date</b> for Mission Today award reports – Sherry Wagenknecht	
December 31	<b>Due Date</b> for 2020 Reading Program award reports – Joyce Mitchell, Program Resources	

On August 29, there will be a Zoom meeting to discuss the items up for voting for the District Annual Celebration. Wendy Everett will be sending more information to those who have registered for the Annual Celebration.

Items subject to voting are the revised Standing Rules, the Elected Leadership Team, the proposed budget for 2021, and the acceptance of the 2019 expenses. All these items will be physically mailed to you if you have registered for the Annual Celebration, and should arrive before the Question/Discussion session. In addition, the 2021 Standing Rules and 2021 proposed budget are posted on the Heritage District webpage: [www.umwmichiganconference.org/hrd.html](http://www.umwmichiganconference.org/hrd.html)