

Heritage Vine

The Newsletter of the Heritage District
United Methodist Women
January 2020



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

President's Note

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another (John 13:34-35) ...

Yesterday is gone, tomorrow is new! Welcome to a New Year and a New Decade! We have so much to look forward to in 2020. We enter this new year with renewed hope and the promise of tomorrow, and this New Year/New Decade is filled with promise and possibilities. Each year has its challenges and celebrations. We can be the hands and feet of God to carry forth the light into the world. I encourage each of us to pray each day for our church and the changes that are coming. Changes are often hard for people, but God has given us the strength to survive challenges by trusting in him. "All things are possible if we only believe" Mark 9:23.



We became united in a new district in the past year and in 2020 we will continue to build on that success. Last year at the Spiritual Retreat we had over 70 people from across the entire Heritage District in attendance at Judson Collins. The Celebration & Meeting at Howell FUMC brought even more members seeking to be a part of what's new. Then our officer training was very successful and brought still more people who have not been involved before.

The year 2020 brings a continued commitment to our Heritage District UMW and our commitment to serve Women, Youth, and Children. Remember, one of the best ways to keep up with what the United Methodist Women are advocating for, is by checking out the UMW National Website (<https://www.umwonline.org>). You can submit your email address to get information on webinars, programs, and so much more. Check out the information available to you and your unit. The *Response* magazine is available as a magazine or online and can be a great source for growth as a United Methodist Woman, as can attending *Mission u*, or hosting (or attending) meetings with other women in your area. Don't forget the UMW Reading program – information is available online and in this newsletter.

One other thing that is very important is that you need to register your unit with the National UMW so we can be counted. Information can be found about how to do that in this newsletter.

This Time of Change by Harriett J. Olson is an important article for each of us to read so take a minute and go to < <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/this-time-of-change>>.

Please plan to join us at the Heritage District Prayer Breakfast on March 28 at Dixboro First UMC. This will be a great morning, and we hope when you leave you can say "this is what it means to be *Spirit Filled!*". Great speakers, songs we love to sing, and prayers. What more can we ask for?

So please check out the other information in the newsletter. Dates will be listed for the year to add to your calendars. We hope that during this year of change we will continue to grow as a district and be women united in love.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

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Vice President/Program Coordinator



Hello from Sunny Florida!
Happy New Year!

As I sit here on a nice sunny day in Florida (because I am on vacation) ... I am trying to put my thoughts on paper for this newsletter article.

Even though I am new to the position of Vice President I am ready for the opportunity to handle the challenge of this position. We have already met to put plans into action for the Spring Prayer Brunch. Our theme is "Can You Hear Me Now: Answering God's Call". Our guest speaker is Jeannette Harris and she will be speaking about her UM Volunteers In Mission trip to Costa Rica. She will also speak on local opportunities where we can answer God's Call. This event will be held in Dixboro UMC in Ann Arbor, MI. Make sure to mark your calendars and save the date of March 28, 2020.

I should have introduced myself ... but I am just so excited about my position. My name is Kathy Snyder, I have three adult children: Matthew who lives in Texas, Kelly, and Marabeth who live close to me in Temperance, MI. I have eight grandchildren ranging in age from 23 down to 8. My home church is Erie UMC in Erie, MI. I have attended that little white country church my whole life. I enjoy camping, reading and playing games.

Now I would like to leave you with this thought ...

Always have eyes to see the best in people,
A heart that forgives the worst.
A mind that forgets the bad,
And a soul that never loses faith

Share your smile with someone today.

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Nominations

Hello to all in the Heritage District and throughout Michigan,

I would like to introduce myself, give you what our team is doing and ask how we can help you, your unit and your district.

A little about me:

Being a member of the United Methodist Women for over 20 years brings me joy each day. As a member of the First United Methodist Church: Brighton and Whitmore Lake, I keep involved in many different paths to become a stronger Christian. I am the vice-president of the UMW, help teach the confirmation class, take classes in Discipleship, and am part of a group of women in Prayers and Squares. I also, participate in Habitat for Humanity in Washtenaw County, The Regency of Whitmore Lake (play BINGO with residents), and go to The Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. In life, balance is very important, so I'm part of a euchre group and Nature Nuts. I like to read, sew and make greeting cards.

Sometimes, you don't see me often because I am volunteering at the National Parks – learning and sharing about history and the environment.

Nominations:

We welcome two new members on our team:
Shirley Carpenter of Hudson First UMC and
Pat Reamsnyder of Hudson First UMC

As a team, we will be looking forward to adding to our Heritage District Leadership Team. The Nominations team is a great way to be part of the Heritage District and get involved with these fun, "get it done" Christian ladies.

Can we help you, your unit or your district?

I am there for you. . . Want a speaker? Have a question? Let's connect.

Blessings,

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

Secretary



A package sat on the counter in my church office, addressed to Ypsilanti Untied Methodist Church. It was humorous at first, a simple typo. But was it no error at all? Was it a God wink – a statement about the way things are?

At the time when my husband, Jim, and I were married, back in the 60's, the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church were considering merging. Eventually the merger took place and the new denomination became the United Methodist Church. Jim and I joked that we rushed the merger. I have always been impressed and influenced by Jim's concern for justice for all people and his openness to all, thinking it was a result of his extensive education, especially in history. He was fond of quoting the old adage, author unknown, "He

drew a circle that shut me out, heretic, rebel, a thing to flout. But love and I had the wit to win. We drew a circle that took him in."

Years later I accompanied Jim to a reunion at the Evangelical Theological Seminary (now part of Garrett) from which he had graduated. I listened to his fellow seminarians talk about how their church had influenced and encouraged them to be socially active and concerned for all God's people. It made me realize I had it wrong. It was the church from whence Jim developed his attitude. Now I wonder if those former EUB's are thinking they should never have merged with the Methodist Church. What are they thinking about this untied situation?

What do we as United Methodist Women do in this untied context? Surely the uncertainty about what is going to happen within our denomination has to spill over into uncertainty about United Methodist Women, in the thoughts and prayers of women other than me. And we know there are no simple answers. But the need for our work of mission and social justice for the world is still so strong. In our own country "43% of Americans ages 18-65 are low-wage workers with a median income of less than \$18,000 a year" (The Nation, December 16/23, 2019). Try living on that! Some economic recovery, right? Draw your circle around those low paid workers and feel their pain. In the recent issue of *Sojourners* magazine, editor Jim Wallis writes, "... going back to Jesus is the only way forward..." His context is different but it's a good mantra for us in our situation. Let Jesus be your guide as you draw your circles. Let Jesus be your guide as we move forward!

(ed. note: Quote is Edwin Markham's "Outwitted")

Malinda Waltz
Secretary
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Treasurer

For anyone who has not met me yet, my name is Mary McCully, I live in Plymouth with my husband Bill. My two boys are married to wonderful girls (Megan and Mame). Wyl's family lives in Mason Michigan, and Andy's family lives in Milwaukee. I currently have four grandchildren with one more on the way, due in June.

I attend Plymouth First United Methodist Church. I taught the *Mission u* Disabilities study for two years, and I have been the *Mission u* treasurer and registrar for the past four years. *Mission u* has always been a blessing, and an enriching time for learning and service. I have met so many wonderful UMWomen with a true heart to serve the Lord through service to others.

As of today, I do not have too much to report about becoming the Heritage District Treasurer. Mary Danforth and I have met several times to work on the details. I will do my best to figure out what the job entails. Until then, I will ask for prayers, help, and advanced forgiveness for any goofs that I might make. I am looking forward to the challenge of becoming treasurer for the Heritage District.



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Mission Coordinator for Social Action



I am so excited to be back on the team for Heritage District in the role of Social Action. The last several years have been spent on the Michigan Conference Team, with my last position as Chair of Nominations being a crucial part of choosing leadership for our joined conference! It was a wonderful experience!

I spent seven years on the previous Ann Arbor District Leadership Team, in the positions of VP, Secretary, and Program Resources. Having spent four years as the Conference Social Action Coordinator, I am excited to get back to that area.

I am a member of the Pearls of Great Price Human Trafficking group, specializing in anything to do with discouraging Sex Trafficking in Wayne and Washtenaw Counties. The group would like to present to any group, church, circle, local unit, or at a district meeting, so if you need a contact and are interested for 2020 or 2021, let me know.

We need to share our resources, speakers, and ideas. I am happy to make that happen. I will be sharing information with you from the National UMW as well as our Michigan Conference. Please let me know what is happening in your area. It may give others a new idea.

God's blessings to all of you in the year 2020!

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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 our 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 or 734-255-9146.

Membership, Nurture and Outreach

(submitted by Kathy Snyder for Nancy Meade (a new member to the team))

Happy New Year to all and Welcome to 2020!

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the Leadership team members who helped me with the position of Membership, Nurture and Outreach (MNO). Without your help I would have been lost as to what to do. I enjoyed my time in that position and am thankful to have met so many wonderful women that I can call my sisters in Christ.

As a Leadership Team we have set up a program called Shepherding across the district. Hopefully we can continue to reach out to all of our units and help them with any questions they may have about upcoming events and opportunities. If you are in need of a speaker, please feel free to contact any member of the Leadership Team.

Now, what's coming up in 2020? I would like to bring your attention to the 2019 Census that is in full swing. Please plan to register your local unit. The website to register is

**www.unitedmethodistwomen.org
then click on 2019 Census**

Our goal is to get **EVERY LOCAL UNIT** registered. The registration deadline date is March 30, 2020. If you have any questions or need help registering, please contact me.

Nancy Meade, incoming MNO :

I am the mother of three sons and a daughter. Two families in Michigan and two in Florida; six grandchildren, three boys and three girls ranging in age from 5-23.

I am a member of the Reading United Methodist Church and our local UMW unit, currently serving as secretary.



Reading is a small rural community surrounded by farms and lakes. About seven years ago our unit began discussing a thrift shop. Our shop will celebrate seven years in May. It has been a joy to see all that we have accomplished for our community, people in need, and mission work both at home and internationally. June's Place is donation based, volunteer run and mission minded. God has greatly blessed our mission.

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Communications Coordinator

As I write this, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is coming up and I'm pleased to see that racial justice is taking a more prominent place in our news cycles.

I attended a program at the Ann Arbor Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church on *Promoting Social Justice Through Voting*. The message from our panelists was for us to **get out the vote**.



Did you know...

- Students can now vote in their own college community.
- Michigan now has no-reason absentee voting.
- You can register on election day.
- Felons can vote in Michigan if they are not incarcerated.
- First-generation immigrant communities may come from a country where the government is not trustworthy, and they may be less likely to participate in elections. They are also more susceptible to conspiracy theories.
- The League of Women Voters is an excellent resource.

Our host reminded us that we all have individual power. Even while we celebrate the legacy of MLK Jr, let us remember that there were numerous unnamed persons who participated in civil rights work.

By gathering info from more than one source, inviting candidates to speak to our groups, asking trusted friends or family for their opinions on candidates and issues, and offering to drive others to the polls, we can do our part to make the upcoming election successful. Our panelists stressed that human relationships are the best way to empower others.

It's also important for us to have a good census count in Michigan. \$700 Billion of federal dollars are distributed annually based on the census. Our state may lose a member in the federal House of Representatives if our population continues to drop with respect to other states. The census counts all persons living in the U.S. and there is no citizenship question on the ballot. Responses are confidential by law and there's a hefty financial penalty for anyone who discloses private information! If you are looking for employment or know someone who is, they have lots of jobs to fill and the pay is good.

Making sure others know that they count is a step toward creating belonging and the beloved community!

The year 2020 will be interesting, to say the least. If you have any questions about Heritage District Communications, please let me know. If you're on Facebook, please look for our page: UMW Heritage District MI Conference.

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The UMW Reading Program

The Reading Program is a cherished United Methodist Women tradition that brings together members in mission as they read, explore, share, and discuss the books. The Reading Program is a study opportunity, but it should also lead to action.

To participate, select one of our four plans and start reading! From captivating novels and heartfelt biographies to urgent messages about issues such as climate change and mass incarceration, there's something for everyone.

Reading Program books are divided into five categories and are available for people of all ages and reading levels. As you read, track your progress. When you submit the Report of Completion Requirements, you will be recognized with a Certificate of Recognition.

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram

Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

What Will the New Year Bring?



This is my fourth year serving as Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth on our District Leadership Team. I am retired after teaching more than twenty-five years in the Michigan public school system. My husband John and I will be married forty years on April 26, 2020. We both enjoy serving others through participating in various church opportunities. Last summer we took part in a mission trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan with our six year old granddaughter. It was an inter-generational experience enjoyed by the team and the new friends we made.

During the recent Advent season I decided to take on a challenge to “count down the days” until Christmas by reading one chapter a day in the Gospel of Luke. This gospel has twenty-four chapters so if I did this daily I would have read the entire book of Luke by Christmas. I started out quite well for the first five days. Then all of a sudden it was December tenth and I was only on the eighth chapter. Though I was a little behind my goal, I persevered and finished reading the Gospel of Luke on Christmas Day. What a great way to anticipate and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

On the first Sunday of January, our pastor challenged us to write down resolutions for the new year. These were to be Spiritual Resolutions. As you know by now I like a challenge so I wrote down one: to consistently read the Bible and study God's word.

One way I have done this in the past was to participate in a weekly prayer pack and Bible study group at my church. In addition, I have read many books from the UMW reading program list. These too have challenged and inspired me to learn more and support many important causes for woman, children, and youth around the world. The current book that I am reading is entitled *The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship-Practicing Resurrection*. It was the 2019 *Mission u* study book in the category of spiritual growth.

In this coming year my hope is to be a shining light to others who I encounter through my daily walk with the Lord. II Corinthians 4:6 reads: For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. NRSV.

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Mission Coordinator for Program Resource

Happy New Year! It's time to start the Reading Program 2020. For further information please go to the United Methodist Women website <www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>. There you will find the list of books for this year, and the reading requirements for each level. Choose your level and then look at your book list.

Now, check your resources to locate the books. See if anyone in your unit has some books that they might lend. See if your local public or church library has a copy of a book you're interested in.

Other resources include Amazon (or other online bookseller), a bookstore local to you, or the Literati Bookstore in Ann Arbor MI. I have contacted Literati at 734-585-5567, and they are willing to work with us. Call them to order a book, and they will order it for you. If you would like it mailed to you there will be an extra charge for that.

If you need more assistance please let me know.

Now let's get out there and Read, Read, Read.

Blessings

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Heritage District 2020 Calendar

February 1, 2020	Due Date for 2019 Reading Program award reports – Joyce Mitchell, Program Resources	
March 28	UMW Prayer Brunch	Dixboro UMC
March 30	Due Date for UMW Unit Census 2019 – United Methodist Women website	
April 4	Keep Making Peace	University UMC, East Lansing
May 28 – 31	Michigan Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church	Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City, MI
June 26-28	North Central Jurisdiction (United Methodist Church) Quadrennial Meeting : <i>Calling u</i>	Sioux Falls, South Dakota
July 8-11	4-Day <i>Mission u</i> and Youth <i>Mission u</i>	Albion College
July 18	One Day <i>Mission u</i>	Big Beaver UMC, Troy
August 13-15	3-Day <i>Mission u</i> & HOME	Lake Huron Retreat Center
September 26	Heritage District Annual Celebration & Meeting	FUMC Saline
October 19-20	<i>Mission u</i> of the North	First UMC Gaylord, MI
October 24	Michigan Conference UMW Celebration & Meeting	First UMC of Kalamazoo
October 1	Due Date for Local Unit Officer lists – Wendy Everett, Communications Coordinator	
November 30	Due Date for 2019 Mission donations – Mary McCully, Treasurer	
December 31	Due Date for 2020 5 Star Person Form – Mary McCully, Treasurer	
December 31	Due Date for Mission Today award reports – Sherry Wagenknecht	
December 31	Due Date for 2020 Reading Program award reports – Joyce Mitchell, Program Resources	

Mission u

Each year, United Methodist Women members prepare for faithful living and action by studying mission studies. Three mission studies are offered each year – **geographical (or historical), topical, and spiritual growth**. These studies motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to global ministry.

For participants, *Mission u* is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society with particular attention to the responsibilities of women in fulfilling the mission work of the church. Participants grow in understanding the mission of the church in the current world context.

Events are open to members and non-members of United Methodist Women.

This year's studies:

Adult Spiritual Growth Study -
Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety
(also Youth – Managing Anxiety
and
Children – Managing Our Emotions)

Issue Study -
Mass Incarceration with
*Pushout: The Criminalization
of Black Girls in School*

Historical -
Women United For Change:
150 Years in Mission

More information is available at <www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-studies>