

Heritage News

The Newsletter of the Heritage District
United Methodist Women
April 2019



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

President's Note

Dear Sisters in Christ!

What joy I feel today! We just had the first Heritage District UMW Retreat at Judson Collins Retreat & Camp Center. What a great event it was as we celebrated together with women from all over our district. We had about 70 women who attended over the two days.

Friday night gave us a good look at the School-to-Prison Pipeline. An amazing trio joined us to share their experiences: Sharon Appling, William Wilder, and his mother Avas Taylor. William shared the emotional story of his life. When he was 18, he received a prison sentence for life. After some time in prison, and learning he was losing what really mattered most, he turned his life around and was released from prison after serving 27 years. He now works to help children stay out of the pipeline that leads to prison. His mother, Avas, sat quietly in the background and talked with others after the meeting. Then Ms. Sharon Appling, Detroit Public Schools' Administrator and minister at Central United Methodist Church in Detroit, shared how children can get caught up in the pipeline to prison and ways we could intervene to stop it. She asked us to make a commitment to the children in our communities by contacting the schools, writing to our legislative representatives, and more.

Saturday started out with fun and getting acquainted. We even had a singing puppet! The Rev. Faith Fowler, from Cass Community Church in Detroit, was phenomenal in sharing, *Money, Money, What About It*. I can't wait to see the evaluations on these two programs.

Even the rain did not dampen the celebration of 150 years of United Methodist Women!!! You can see some pictures by checking out our Facebook page at Michigan Conference Heritage District UMW.

The next event you might be interested in is *Mission u*. If you have never attended a *Mission u*, you may want to consider it. This is a program to continue the education of United Methodist Women on how to advocate for Women, Youth, and Children. This year's topics include:

- *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*
- *What About Our Money? A Faith Response*
- *Women United For Change: 150 Years in Mission*

There are also studies for youth and children. Please see the flyer that is included in your newsletter. There are different places and times of the year that you can choose to attend.

Two exciting events will be held at the Howell First United Methodist Church this fall. The first one is Heritage District UMW Annual Meeting & Celebration on Saturday, September 28. The other is the Michigan Conference UMW Leadership Training & Annual Meeting and Celebration, to be held on October 25 & 26. A special thank you to those ladies for taking on both events! More information to come soon so please Save the Dates!

Lastly, I would encourage you to watch the message Harriett Jane Olson (Secretary and CEO of United Methodist Women) sent after the General Conference <<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>>. Please continue to pray for all those who are affected by the decision from the General Conference on A Way Forward.

Have a great Spring and I look forward to seeing you soon.



Sherry Wagenknecht
wagen88@hotmail.com

Vice President/Program Coordinator

Wow, April already – I am sure the snow will melt soon and the sun will warm us again. Before we know it, the trees will be covered in leaves and the gardens filled with flowers of every color.

The following devotion reminded me so much about what Rev. Faith was talking to us about at the Retreat this past weekend, I wanted to share it with everyone. If you could not make it to the Retreat this year find one of the many women that did attend and ask them to share with you. Even better, the topic Rev. Faith presented was from the *Mission u* study "What About Your Money" which you can attend this year at one of the upcoming *Mission u* events.



For if, the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has – not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, "The one who had much did not have too much and the one who had little did not have too little." (2 Corinthians 8:12-15) Paul asks the Corinthian church to help the struggling church in Jerusalem. He reminds them that giving is a matter of faith. Today there is abundance in Corinth, so that they may help others. Tomorrow, it may be Corinth that has need and because they shared so freely, others will help them out of their abundance. When we give, we give in the knowledge that what we have was given by God and that God will supply what we need. All our resources, natural and financial, are from God, and it is the responsibility of people of faith to see that these resources are made available to meet the needs of all. Luke 8:1-3 tells us of how the women who followed Jesus helped support his ministry.

On the topic of the Retreat, we had a record number in attendance this year. On Friday night we listened to a powerful testimony of William, a young man who came with Sharon Appling, who was our speaker on the topic of *Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline*. Wow, did we learn a lot of great things that we can be doing. Again ask someone to share what they learned and perhaps you can have Sharon Appling come speak to your unit soon.

September 28, 2019 - The Annual meeting and Celebration will be hosted by Howell First UMC UMW. This year the District is trying something new. At the Annual meeting there will be no leadership training in the morning. We are going to celebrate UMW. We will be having a Leadership Training Retreat for all the Unit leaders on November 2 at Marble Memorial UMC UMW. The Leadership Training Retreat is for the leadership of units to learn, and for all the Leaders to collaborate. We will be learning to share the Abundant Grace of God, so we can lead and fulfil the Mission of the United Methodist Women together.

In closing:

Contact me should you like to have Sharon Appling come to speak to your unit.

Sign up for one of the many choices that we have to attend *Mission u* this summer.

Watch for more information about the Annual Meeting and the New Leadership Training Retreat, coming soon.

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Look for us on Facebook! Search for Michigan Conference, Heritage District UMW and ask to join our group

Newsletter and Forms can be found on the Conference UMW Website
www.umwmichiganconference.org/hrd.html

The National site for the UMW is at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org
This is where to register UMW units for the census, view messages from UMW leadership, and to donate to the Legacy Fund.

Secretary

Her name is Marian Waltz and to me she inspires great respect. I met her years ago during a five state meeting of Church Women United. During that function she was selling fair trade items from a shop that she and her husband, Jim, operated. As a fair trade shop volunteer, I was impressed knowing what was involved in the packing, organizing, bookkeeping and all that it took for such an effort. Of course my curiosity was roused because we had the same last name – still don't know the answer to that. Over the years I have learned their activity in Fort Wayne, Indiana is much more than a shop. Called "Friends of the Third World" it ministers to the poor in their local community and promotes mission throughout the world. This past Saturday, I read the following in their newsletter: "Over the years, Friends of the Poor has sought to be an example of fairness by being honest and responsible when doing business. This is especially important since our mission is to serve as partners with the poor by opening opportunities to work toward self-reliance to live with dignity and hopefulness. One of the important ways we demonstrate this commitment is for our staff to live simply. To us this has meant donating our annual salaries and accepting only enough to support the basics of housing, food and the like. For Marian and myself, this has meant living on \$200 a month each, which we have done for almost 40 years."



This I read just after hearing and participating in the District Retreat at which the Rev. Faith Fowler led us in the Money, Money study. She challenged us to think seriously about economic justice – not "me and mine" but "us and ours". What are our consumption habits? Do we have more than we need? How much unnecessary stuff do we have? [My new acronym: STUFF – Stashed Things Unneeded For Family.] Rev. Fowler reminded us that ten percent of the households in the United States control 76.7% of the wealth. That doesn't leave much for the other 90%. But assets of people in the US are in the top 5% of the world and if you make \$40,000 or more you are in the top 2%. These figures compel us to seriously consider how we live out our Christian calling in terms of economic justice. But I must admit I thought I was doing well, living frugally, volunteering often, donating what I thought was a lot, until I read about what Marian and Jim have done for 40 years. What an inspiration! What a challenge!

Money, Money, What About It? Pray for wisdom. Pray for courage. Pray for justice. Keep the conversation going.

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Program Resources

Hi my name is Joyce Mitchell. I am the new Program Resource person for the Heritage District. I am a member of the Springport United Methodist Church. My husband is Pastor Mark Mitchell. We have 2 daughters and 4 grandsons. I have been involved with UMW since a little girl as mom is a UMW woman in Indiana. I have served on the Kalamazoo district team and the Conference UMW team. You might say it's just who I am. I am looking forward to meeting all of you at our district events.

It is now April and spring is here. This year has changed a lot of things at Program Resources.

We can no longer order books through United Methodist Women. The reading list can be viewed and printed from your computer. You need to go to the United Methodist Women web site. Then go to Reading Program. It will give you the list. <<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/reading-program/all-books>> One of the best ways to find a book (if you don't wish to purchase it) is to go to your local public library. Take the name of the book and author with you, and ask the librarian to help you. If they don't have the book, they may be able to borrow it from another library, or purchase it for their collection if there is enough interest. I will discuss other ways to find your books in future newsletters.

In just a few days it will be Easter. May your Easter Day be filled with joy and knowledge of our Risen Lord!!!

Joyce Mitchell
joycemitchell56@gmail.com

Treasurer – April 2019

My contact information has changed! My husband and I have downsized to a ranch house. We are giving up on daily stairs. **My new mailing address is: 4671 Midway Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.** We only moved about 1/2 mile from our previous home, but it still has not been easy. We are slowly working on getting rid of excess furniture, kitchen items, books, clothes, and many other miscellaneous things we don't need. The house we bought didn't have any appliances or kitchen cabinets. The installation of cabinets and counters should be done in May. Then we can start to put things away.

NEWS for ALL READERS of this Newsletter:

Many of you may be familiar with the **5-Star Woman** recognition opportunity. For some of you this will be new. Basically, a woman (or possibly a man who is interested) who donates to all 5 channels of Mission Giving in 2019 will receive a 5-star pin and a certificate recognizing her (or him) for 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, 2019, 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 2020. The 5-Star Woman form is included in this newsletter. Call me if you have questions!

Legacy Fund – Even though many of us celebrated 150 years of United Methodist Women being active on March 23, 2019, and even though many of us donated to the Legacy Fund to support the administration of United Methodist Women for another 150 years, the fund-raising drive is not over. The goal is to raise \$60,000,000. So far \$26,000,000 has been raised (43% of the goal). If your unit, or individuals in your unit, would like to donate to the Legacy Fund, please send your money directly to National United Methodist Women. Go to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and click on the square that says "150 Legacy Fund". You can find instructions how to donate and learn much more about the fund.

If you would like to invite me to one of your unit meetings, I would be delighted to give a presentation and answer questions about the Legacy Fund and what United Methodist Women does with the money you donate.

NEWS for ALL TREASURERS:

My email and phone number have not changed. I would like every Treasurer who has read this article to let me know via email or regular mail that you have received this information. I will start to personally contact all those I don't hear from. You might also tell me what your most confusing issue is with regard to being a local treasurer.

Remittance Form – Every time you send a check to me, make sure you make it out to: **Heritage District UMW.** Also be sure to fill out the Remittance Form. 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. See the contact information below.

Questions – Please feel comfortable to contact me with any questions you may have – especially those related to local or district Treasurer activities.

Blessings,

Mary Danforth, Heritage District UMW Treasurer
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Keep Making Peace Report

Wendy Everett, Communications

We had a stellar array of speakers at this year's Keep Making Peace Conference on April 6 in East Lansing! Each told us about ways that one person can make a difference.

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, pediatrician and author of *What the Eyes Don't See*, held our rapt attention with tales of her experience uncovering the crisis of lead in the water of Flint. Her love of her work and her drive for social justice was inspiring. Some of the shocking facts she shared were that children born in Flint have a life expectancy that is 15 years less than average. Despite assuring her clients that the water was okay, she gradually came to recognize that children were being poisoned, that "there was something in the water that was literally threatening their tomorrows."

Dr. Mona asked us to open our eyes to the injustice around us. Regulations are driven by industry and not by doctors and science and safety, she stated. She encouraged us to work on our areas of passion and recognize how our power is multiplied when we work together. I have started reading Dr. Mona's book and highly recommend it. It's very engaging and inspiring! Oprah called it "Revealing, with the gripping intrigue of a Grisham thriller."

Next up was Jim Cason, who grew up as a United Methodist missionary kid. He is now a lobbyist with the Friends Meeting (Quakers). He asked us to engage with our legislators, share stories, and show our political support for issues. "There is room to make progress if you engage," he told us. Our lawmakers do change their mind on subjects if we are persistent and take the time to listen to them as well. We are not required to know what the legislation should be to address a problem, but if we do not talk with and listen to those in our government we cannot move forward. Learn more at FCNL.org.

Rev. Melanie Carey and Rev. Paul Perez were up after lunch. Rev. Carey shared her perspective as a delegate to the Special General Conference. Particularly poignant was when she went to the airport and saw some young United Methodists who told her that they felt hopeless after watching the events of the conference unfold. She asked us to make love visible. Rev. Perez introduced himself as your friendly neighborhood "beaurocrat", and described his visit to the Mexico/Texas border last fall. He noted how the "Triangle Countries" in Central America are sandwiched between the countries that supply drugs and the country that consumes drugs, that is, the U.S. He encouraged us to recall our own migration stories and consider how we can apply justice, mercy, and reconciliation to the issues that are arising at our borders.

Watch for KMP 2020 and plan to attend! Not only will you hear great ideas and inspiration for making a difference, but you will probably reconnect with friends from around the conference!

Honoring Our Foremothers' Legacy

(from the national UMW website)



United Methodist Women continues to build upon the foundation set forth by our founders almost 150 years ago. Yet the difficulties encountered by women, children and youth around the world continue to sustain separation from life affirming compassionate care and support that heals, restores and empowers. Imagine what is achievable, what is possible, if United Methodist Women had the resources to deepen and expand its mission to transform lives and ignite change in places near and far.

The Legacy Fund, established in 2013, has not reached their goal so there is still time to contribute. The link to give either as a unit or a personal gift is: <<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/home>> . You can also find ways to share information about the Legacy Fund with others at that page.

Mission Coordinator for Social Action

Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and does not give them their wages (Jeremiah 22:13).

Human Trafficking is modern-day slavery, where people profit from the control and exploitation of others. It is defined, in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and by the United Nations, as the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving a person through the use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person having control of the victim. All this is done for the purpose of exploitation, which includes the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or similar practices or the removal of organs for sale.

These persons, children as well as adults, are held by acts of violence and/or threats and are unable to walk away from their enslavement. They work in a wide variety of industries, and in the most deplorable of working and living conditions, all the time under the control of their traffickers. The yearly profit in the Human Trafficking industry is estimated at \$32 million dollars. Its profit is second only to that of the drug industry, a profit that is greater than McDonald's realizes in a year! The trafficking of humans is considered to be the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Over 20 million persons are enslaved today, 26 % of these are children and 22% are engaged in the sex industry

Human trafficking is BIG BUSINESS in the USA. It has been reported in all 50 of our states, with over 14 thousand new victims brought into this country every year. These victims may be moved from state to state, or city to city, which makes apprehending their traffickers and rescuing the victims a difficult endeavor for law enforcement.

A recent UMW ACTION Alert painted a very accurate picture. They used the metaphor of a box; a box "used to trap or confine or to prevent from acting freely". This ALERT tells us that those victimized by human trafficking may feel that they are in a box, unable to escape the box of prostitution which entraps them. This same ALERT explained how all this might happen.

It discusses the complexity of the causes of trafficking which has its roots in a globalized economy resulting in poverty manifesting itself in joblessness, inequality, discrimination and worldwide violence. We see it all around us in our own country. This environment puts our children and youth at risk, their vulnerability – perhaps due to homelessness, an unstable living situation, a young person unhappy in foster care, or an adolescent who has been thrown out of the family home – making them easy prey, visible to the forever hunting trafficker.

Please note the runaway just arrived in the big city bus station. She (or he) is lost, homeless, lacking assets to provide for herself; and is usually in the hands of some kind soul within 48 hours, who offers her a place to sleep, the promise of a job, even a meal, but he is not the friend he seems to be. Instead, he is a pimp, ready to sell her to a john, and if she does not submit to his demands there are ways to ensure she does. Ever hear of using a vegetable peeler as a weapon? She may get some skin peeled, in a place not likely to be seen by his customers, but it keeps her under his control.

She may be a high school girl, perhaps from a dysfunctional family, subject to one or more of the vulnerabilities cited above but maybe not. She may be that sweet young "girl next door", flattered by the attention of a new boyfriend, a young man who just happens to be a bit older than he says he is. He may treat her well, takes her out on fun dates, buy her gifts, and then takes her to a party, say in another city, we don't tell parents where – she may not even know – it's all very well planned by the boyfriend/future pimp, a party from which she never returns.

Did you know that the average age for a female to be first involved in the sex industry is 13 years? But what can WE do to reduce the incidence of Modern Day Slavery, we ask?

Just remember, "We recognize that we are called to follow Christ in proclaiming release to the captives and setting the oppressed free." Luke 4:15-19.

Patricia Jennings
Social Action Coordinator
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Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation



Enjoying a "Son" Filled Spring

Having just completed the Spring Retreat at Judson Collins, it hardly seems possible that I need to shift gears and focus on the next large event for the Heritage District.

I have been touch with the UMW Unit in Howell and they suggested that the ingathering be in support of Lacasa, a center for victims of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault. This center's mission is very much in line with the mission ideals of United Methodist Women.

They have requested the following items: **paper napkins, paper plates, toilet paper, and diapers (all infant and toddler sizes)**. So start gathering these items for delivery to Howell in September.

Also please remember to save those soup/pop tabs and clean aluminum foil and aluminum pans of all sizes and shapes. These last items are recycled by the pound and provide funds to support Ronald McDonald Houses in southeast Michigan.

One more thing, just in case your units take a brief break during the summer, do not forget to complete your 2019 Mission Today Objectives and submit them to me by September 1. I will accept them from now until September 1, so complete the form and submit it to me, thus one more thing will be off of your "to do" list.

God's Sunshine for a Beautiful
Spring and Summer!

Sheryl Zorn
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Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

"How Firm is your Foundation?"

This is the third year that I will be serving as Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth on our district mission team. As we continue on our faith journey we look with anticipation and excitement as to where God will lead us this year.

This past weekend more than sixty ladies from our district experienced and were blessed by enlightening and powerful messages of our speakers during the Spring Retreat at Judson Collins Camp & Retreat Center. Through song, scripture, and personal stories we encountered God with us.

The devotional message looked at one's faith foundation. "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11. When building a structure one needs a solid foundation. In our faith journey, we need to base our foundation on Jesus Christ. Everything we are and do should fit into the pattern provided by him. We should ask ourselves the following question, "Are you building your life on the only real and lasting foundation, or are you building on a shaky one of wealth, security, success, or fame?" As the hymn, *How Firm a Foundation* (UMC hymnal, verse 1 pg. 529), reads:

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in His excellent Word.
What more can He say than to you He has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled."

Dear God, thank you for your promise, "I'll never, no never, no never forsake you." You are my solid foundation. Amen.

Diane Tandy
(734) 475-8880
tandyd56@gmail.com

Nominations

April showers bring May flowers. I do hope you are all enjoying the green grass coming up, lovely spring blooms on trees, and the flowers we see everywhere.

A few weeks ago, I attended the Heritage Spring Retreat at Judson Collins. It was delightful and the most attended in several years. We sang many songs, and I was moved by *We Are Called*. It made me think of the job Nominations has in the Heritage District. We are to fill the positions that will be vacant at the end of this year (2019).

The committee and I have been calling women to fill these positions. For the year 2020, Heritage District still needs a Treasurer, Mission Coordinators for Membership Nurture & Outreach and Education & Interpretation, and several people for the Committee on Nominations.

If you are contacted, maybe you could think of this line:

"we are called to love tenderly,
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God"

Please consider being on the Heritage District team!
We need you!

You don't have to wait for someone on the committee to call you! If you are interested in being on the District Leadership team, contact the current Mission Coordinator, or one of the members of the Committee on Nominations.

Jan Olari
248-887-2004
Email robertolari001@comcast.net

Mission Coordinator for Membership Care & Outreach

Happy Spring and Happy 150th Anniversary. This is an exciting time when the earth renews its beauty. The buds on the trees and bushes are getting ready to open and flowers will be popping up soon. It is also exciting to be a part of a dream that started 150 years ago.



In February, our district leadership team participated in a team building meeting, which was facilitated by Micki Phelps. Thanks, Micki ... what a great way to build a stronger team.

I hope many of the local units have taken the opportunity to celebrate our 150th Anniversary. Feel free to send any pictures of your celebrations to Sherry Wagenknecht at <wagen88@hotmail.com>.

If you missed the Spring Retreat, you really missed a weekend full of spiritual growth, fellowship and fun. There were 70 plus ladies from across the Heritage District. What an informational weekend with our speakers, Sharon Appling and William as they presented the *School to Prison Pipeline* on Friday and Rev. Faith Fowler who spoke about *Money, Money What About It* on Saturday. While at the retreat we had computers set up so that the local units could register for the 2018 Census with the National UMW Office in New York.

May God Bless you as you await the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Easter morning!

Kathy Snyder
(419) 343-9261

Road Trip Opportunity

The East Winds District UMW is organizing a trip to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum (in Kentucky), and have invited anyone interested to come along.

The trip is scheduled for August 9-11, and includes bus travel, accommodations, and some meals.

Further information can be found at the Michigan Conference UMW page (<https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/>), or call Sally Andrews at (810)444-4823

Heritage District

Michigan Conference United Methodist Women

C/O 120 S. State St

Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1606

Change Service Requested

Heritage District 2019 Calendar

May 29 – June 2	Michigan Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church	Grand Traverse Resort and Spa Acme MI
July 10-13	<i>Mission u</i> of the West	Albion College Albion, MI
July 20	One day <i>Mission u</i> of the East	Southfield Hope UMC Southfield, MI
August 15	One day <i>Mission u</i> & HOME	Lake Huron Retreat Center
August 16 & 17	Two-day <i>Mission u</i> of the East	Lake Huron Retreat Center
September 1	Deadline for Reading Program and Mission Today award reports	
September 28	8:00 - 3:30 Heritage District Annual Meeting	Howell First UMC Howell, MI
October 21-22	<i>Mission u</i> of the North	Gaylord UMC Gaylord, MI
October 25 & 26	Michigan Conference UMW training and meeting	Howell First UMC Howell, MI
November 2	Heritage District Leadership Training	Marble Memorial UMC, Milan
November 15	Deadline for 2019 Five Star Person & Unit donations	