

Heritage News

The Newsletter of the Heritage District
United Methodist Women
January 2019



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

President's Note

Welcome to 2019! On March 23rd we will celebrate 150 years as United Methodist Women and that is something to be proud of! I hope you are planning a celebration for this remarkable accomplishment with your units, just like women from around the world. Women who have and continue to serve Women, Youth and Children in our local communities and around the world. Perhaps your mother and grandmother were a part of this history and now you are as we continue on in this mission.



As we begin our year together let me share a little about myself. I am in my second year as Heritage District President. I have served UMW at the Local, District and Conference levels. I have served as Nominations, Spiritual Growth and Education & Interpretation and more. I really have a passion for the work UMW's do and really enjoy getting to know so many women. I live in Ida Michigan and attend the Erie United Methodist Church. I am a Volunteer Coordinator for Immaculate Heart of Mary in Monroe. I am married and have three children and 5 grandchildren. I love being a disciple of Christ and reading the UMW books, Response Magazine, devotions and my bible. I am a Certified Lay Servant/Speaker in the Michigan UMC. "Life is Good".

I want to let you know that your Heritage Mission Team is available to you for support. Each Mission Team member has been assigned a group of Units and will contact them to offer things like speakers, ideas and answer questions. See Kathy Snyder's MN&O article for more information on this and how to register for the UMW National Census.

We are also eagerly planning the Spring Retreat March 29 & 30 at Judson Collins Conference Center. See attached flyer for more about our great speakers!

While looking at the UMW National Website I found a program on how to share the Legacy information and came across the following program piece called "Apple Seeds: A Meditation". This is only a small portion of the program but I thought it was great to share with all of you as we live in a world of change.

One day a woman who loved to shop noticed a new stall in the local market. God was in the stall. "What do you sell here?" she asked. God smiled and replied, "All your heart desires." The woman was astounded. "Wow!!! I'll have peace, joy, and a nice house. Not just for me, but for everyone and...." God interrupted her. "I think you've misunderstood, my dear. I don't sell fruits here, only seeds."

God gives us seeds. What we do with them is up to us.

That is UMW and God gives us the seeds in everything that we do! Thank you and please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sherry Wagenknecht
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Vice President

Happy 2019

Make the Time to "Think about God's Word"

This year I am starting to read -- and really think about what I am reading -- during my devotion time, putting forth an extra effort to meditate on God's Word. The psalmist makes it quite clear that meditation on and thinking about God's Word bring results. "But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law {His precepts and teaching} he {habitually} meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree firmly planted {and fed} by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season; its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers {and comes to maturity}" Ps. 1: 2-3



The Word of God teaches us what we should spend our time thinking about. The psalmist said he thought about or meditated on the "precepts" of God in the verse "I meditate in your precepts and consider your ways" (Ps. 119:15) -- that means he spent a lot of time pondering the thinking on the way of God, His goodness, His instruction. I recommend that we spend time daily just thinking about God, how amazing He is and all the wonderful things He has promised in His Word.

My challenge is for every one of us to spend daily time in God's Word really thinking and listening to what God is saying to us. To think positive thought and I believe the world will become a better place. Please join me in this challenge to make a difference in our own lives first, which will shine into those around us.

Parts of this devotional message were adopted from *Battlefield of the Mind* a commentary by Joyce Meyer on the Psalms

Looking ahead, March 29 and 30th are the dates for the Spring Retreat at Judson Collins Center in Onsted. Friday we are going to learn ways in which we can "Interrupt the School to Prison Pipeline" with Sharon Appling as our leader for the evening, then on Saturday join us as we learn from Rev Faith Fowler "Money, Money -- What about It?". Carol Love from *Better Way Design* will be joining us for the weekend and we there will be even more to do and learn.

As our ingathering for Spring Retreat we would like to collect the following for Cass Social Services

- laundry Detergent
- toilet paper
- paper towels
- microwave meals
- body wash

Come join us as we learn together.

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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,
and to donate to the Legacy Fund

Secretary

It is interesting to reflect on the experiences and events that have led up to a certain point in one's life. Here I am beginning a term as secretary of the Heritage District UMW Leadership Team. My first experience with United Methodist Women was growing up in New Jersey where my family attended a small rural Methodist Church and my mother went to Ladies Aid meetings. As a student at Michigan State University I experienced the Methodist missions that ministered to me at the Wesley Foundation, which became my home away from home.



The Wesley Director encouraged me to travel to South America on a Methodist Student Movement Work and Travel Seminar. There I saw missions in action as they worked with people in dire poverty. That was a life changing experience. My husband was part of the Evangelical United Brethren denomination that merged with the Methodist to form the United Methodist Church. Through the EUB denomination we both taught for a year in Puerto Rico. Our first son was born at a Seventh Day Adventist Hospital in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. Upon returning to Michigan, Jim taught at Albion College and eventually Ypsilanti where he taught at Eastern Michigan University.

After attending a UMW Circle meeting at a neighbor's house, I mentioned to the local president that I would like to be involved in a young mother's circle with childcare. She had us organized within a week and it turned out to be a vibrant, creative, and meaningful group.

Later, a friend invited me to attend the Church Women United meetings and I appreciated the diversity of the group and the social action that the CWU movement espoused. So for years I concentrated my time and energy on CWU activities, eventually serving as president of the state unit. During my term as president I was invited by Church World Service to join a travel group to Honduras to witness their work in that country. In addition, I helped organize 5 CWU in Michigan sponsored trips to Cuba.

As others have assumed leadership in CWU, I have become more involved in the local UMW unit and now the District Leadership team. Although I have abilities and gifts to bring to this position, I also have faults and imperfections to overcome. As our Conference President wrote for the Winter Newsletter, "We are in this together. We are connected..." Thus I invite your prayers on my and the district's behalf and, in advance, thank you for them.

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Communications Coordinator

I really like inspirational quotes. I found this one that seems suitable to begin the year:

"Sometimes you can do everything right and things will still go wrong. The key is to never stop doing right."

Angie Thomas, author of *The Hate You Give*

One thing about United Methodist Women is that we never stop trying to do right. I enjoy being part of the district mission team and discover all the good that is being done by each member in her own community.

You might recognize me as your district registrar since 2016. I'm transitioning into the newly created role of Communications Coordinator. At my local unit (Ann Arbor First) I'm the social action coordinator and enjoy working with Mary Danforth (district treasurer) to organize annual workshops on racial justice, immigration, human trafficking, and other social justice issues. I'm employed full-time at Ann Arbor First as the associate youth director and have worked with its youth since 2000. I lead an annual mission trip of 7th & 8th graders to the Zeba Indian Mission, which is located close to L'anse, MI in the Upper Peninsula.

I'm looking forward to working on communications for our district. We want to find fresh ways to connect with you and create avenues for all of us to connect better with one another. There is a wealth of ideas and expertise among us and sharing those gifts can serve to glorify God and lift up her children!



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Renewing the Covenant with God

Shannon Priddy

national president of United Methodist Women

The new year is upon us. I don't make New Year's resolutions. They are quickly forgotten.

Each year, I renew my covenant with God. With each new beginning, I take comfort in the words from "A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition" (UMH #607). These words, this sentiment, are true to the heart of resolutions and renewal.

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

*Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
Exalted for thee or brought low for thee.*

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

*I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure
and disposal.*

*And now, O Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,*

Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,

Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

These words carry different meanings each year I read them and renew my faith. Each year we grow and change. Our faith walk may carry us on to a different path. We encounter Jesus daily in different ways, through different people. Each one of us is at one time each line of this prayer.

Heavenly Father, as we move into another year, continue to be all that we need. Let us see your son in every face we meet. Remind us to share all that we are and all that we have.

We have experienced the birth of our savior. It is time, like the shepherds, to share the good news, to travel in faith like the magi, and to treasure up all these things and ponder them in our hearts like Mary.

Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

Blessings for a Christ
Centered New Year

My name is Sheryl Zorn. I am a member of the Ida United Methodist Church and its United Methodist Women's unit. I am not a newbie to the Ann Arbor District Mission Team, as I served four years as the Coordinator of Social Action and this the beginning of my fourth year as the Coordinator of Education and Interpretation. Through this position I have had the honor of visiting many churches in the Ann Arbor District, participating in spring retreats, prayer brunches, annual meetings, and the bi-monthly meetings of the mission team. It has also been my responsibility, with the help of the team, to select and promote an organization in the area of our annual meeting to receive our ingathering items, along with pop tabs and aluminum foil items.



The Mission Team is currently gearing up for the Spring Retreat being held at Judson Collins on March 29 -30. There will be an ingathering at this retreat with the items going back to CASS Community with our Saturday speaker, Faith Fowler. We are to bring are: toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, body wash, and microwave meals.

Next on my agenda is connecting with the Howell First United Methodist women about an ingathering project for our Annual Fall Conference being held on September 28. Stay tuned for more information about that endeavor.

Have a safe and happy beginning to 2019 and try to stay warm.

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Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

Loving Each Other

As we look back at last year, our new Heritage District has come a long way.

On several occasions we met and shared God's love, fellowship, and grace. New & old ideas abounded on how to move ahead in our combined mission work to serve others. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ reminds us of the greatest commandment: Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (taken from Matthew 22:36-39, KJV)

Music is another powerful way to remember God's message to us. The song *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love* was written by Peter Scholtes to the tune of St. Brendan. The lyrics are as follows:

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

As we go through our daily lives in the new year, let us remember to be Christ's body. The following is taken from an inspirational pocket card by St. Teresa of Avila:

CHRIST has no body but yours; no hands, no feet on this earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which His COMPASSION looks out upon the world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do GOOD. Yours are the hands with which He BLESSES all the world.

May God continue to bless you & your mission: Remember, "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us" (adapted from Philippians 4:13).

Diane Tandy
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Nominations

Dear Sisters in Christ, this is Jan Olari, Chairperson of Heritage District Nominations Committee. I'm not sure what season it is, Winter or Spring!

I am looking forward to this year 2019, as it will be the first under our new name Heritage District of the Michigan UMW Conference. There are more churches in the larger Heritage District and hopefully we will have more women in UMW.

We have a full core of officers for 2019 and we are starting to look for women who will be a part of the Heritage District Mission Team for 2020.

We have several offices that will be vacant at the end of 2019. They are: Vice President, Treasurer, Social Action, Mission Coordination for Education/Interpretation, and Nominations committee. In order to achieve diversity and inclusiveness for our Heritage District Mission Team we need ladies willing to **BE BOLD** and step out of their comfort zone. We need your help!

- Be a part of a wonderful group of Christian Women, a "Supportive Fellowship."
- Meet about 6 times a year (we know dates, time, location a year ahead)
- Mileage to meetings (which are 2-2 1/2 hours) reimbursed.
- Registrations to District and Conference Annual meetings paid.
- Attend Leadership Trainings and *Mission u.*

Our committee will be calling UMW units to get acquainted, learn when you meet (day and time), and what missions/services your unit is involved in.

We are here to help each other have joy in our heart for the Lord.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Spring Retreat at Judson Collins United Methodist Camp in March

Do call me if you have questions or want to be on the committee.

God's love and Mine

Jan Olari
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Mission Coordinator for Membership Care & Outreach

Happy New Year!

Hope this finds one and all in good spirits. I would like to introduce myself... I am Mission Coordinator for Membership, Nurture and Outreach (MNO). This is my second year on the team and I am loving it! My home Church is Erie United Methodist Church in Erie, MI (real close to the Michigan/Ohio Line). I have attended Erie UMC my whole life. My mother, bless her soul, was a very active United Methodist Woman. I have three adult children, Matthew, Kelly and Marabeth. I have seven grandchildren from the ages of 7 to 21. My exciting news this year is that my oldest grandchild will be married in October, 2019.



As we start a new year, we look forward to a new District team. Some ladies have been on the Team for awhile and some are just joining us. I myself have been on the Team just a year. And Oh What a Year it has been! We worked hard to become one conference – The Michigan Conference. We also worked together to join with our sisters of the Albion District to become the New Heritage District. Now it is time to get busy and start the year out right.

The time is here to register for the United Methodist Women (UMW) Membership Census 2018. You can register online at <www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2018>. This is a link to the National UMW website to complete the registration. I am asking that all local units register so that we can get an accurate count of how many United Methodist Women are out there doing the work of God. You can have one person register for the entire unit. If you have any questions, or need help feel free to call me at 419-343-9261 or e-mail me at nanasnyder0124@gmail.com, I would be happy to help you out.

The district team has a new program called Shepherding. What does it mean to Shepherd? The dictionary describes shepherding as a person who protects, guides, or watches over a person or group of people. The team members have picked local churches to be a Shepherd to. They will be calling on you as a local unit. If there is something that you want to ask or need, they will be the one to direct the question to. If you have an event that your unit would like to share, please feel free to contact them and we can advertise your event to churches that are close in proximity to your unit. I will have a list of the district team members and contact information, along with the local units in next month's newsletter.

God's blessings to my sisters in Christ,

Kathy Snyder
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Honoring Our Foremothers' Legacy

(from the national UMW website)



On March 23, 1869, in Boston, Massachusetts, Clementina Butler and Lois Parker informed six women members of the Methodist Episcopal Church about the desperate health care and educational needs of women in India. Their Call to Action raised funds to send Isabella Thoburn, a teacher, and Clara Swain, a doctor, to India. The meeting in March led to the formation of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, the first of many Methodist women's mission

organizations to address the injustices imposed on women and girls in the 19th century. United Methodist Women is their successor, and we celebrate 150 years of changing the lives of women, children and youth.

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 reached 40% of 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.

Heritage District Treasurer's Report

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas.

We are officially reorganized as the Heritage District United Methodist Women – part of the new Michigan Conference. I have opened a new bank account for our district under the Heritage District UMW name. The main reason for mentioning this is that:

ALL CHECKS you send to me should be made out to **Heritage District UMW**.

{I am mentioning this because the 3 checks I have received so far in 2019 were made out to: (1) Mary Danforth, (2) Ann Arbor District UMW, (3) Heritage District Treasurer, UMW}

If you want to donate to the **Legacy Fund**, either as an individual or a local unit, send your check directly to the Legacy Fund. That information can be found on the National UMW website (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org). Click on the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign.



Information specifically for Treasurers –

Are you a new treasurer for your unit? If you are new, WELCOME to this important job. Also, if you are new (or even if you are NOT new), please feel free to call me, email me, or send me a hand-written personal letter, with your questions. I have many more answers than I did when I first started as District Treasurer (4 years ago). And if I don't know the answer, I know how to get the answer. My contact information is at the end of this article!

FORMS, FORMS, FORMS

The following forms are available on the National UMW website (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org). Under "Where the \$ Goes", click on Treasurers' Resources.

- **Remittance Form** – If you are sending me a check, for whatever purpose, it is helpful to always send a Remittance Form. This helps me keep track of the donations by unit. If you don't send one, I fill one out for you. If you don't know what a Remittance Form is, CALL ME!
- **Special Mission Recognition Form** – When ordering SMR pins, fill out the SMR Form. Almost everyone does this correctly.
- **Gift to Mission Form** – If you want some of the special cards offered by UMW and you donate in the Gift to Mission Category, please fill out the Gift to Mission Form and let me know which cards you want!

There will be more information about 5-Star Women and 5-Star Units in the next newsletter.

I hope you all have a Happy and Blessed New Year!

Mary Danforth, Heritage District Treasurer,
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Social Action

CHOCOLATE: But at What Price? and Who Pays?

Our beloved chocolate is the product of the cacao bean, grown primarily in the tropical climates of Western Africa, Asia, and Latin America. 70% of the world's cocoa comes from Ghana and the Ivory Coast in western Africa and is sold to a majority of chocolate companies, including such international giants as Hershey, Mars, and Nestle, "revealing the industry's direct connection to the worst forms of child labor, human trafficking, and slavery".

"In recent years, a handful of organizations and journalists have exposed the widespread use of child labor, and in some cases slavery, on cocoa farms in West Africa. Since then, the industry has become increasingly secretive, making it difficult for reporters." They cannot access farms where human rights violations occur, thus preventing them from increasing awareness of the public about these very serious conditions. Journalists' very lives are put in danger when they undertake this work. It is known that supporters of the First Lady of the Ivory Coast were instrumental in the 2004 abduction and murder of a journalist reporting on the involvement of government corruption in its profitable cocoa industry. Again, in 2010, that same Ivory Coast Government "detained three newspaper journalists after they published an article exposing government corruption on the cocoa sector."

The growth of the chocolate industry has increased the demand for cheap cocoa, hence the use of cheap labor, the cheapest labor done by young children. After all, cocoa farmers earn, on average, less than two dollars a day, far below the poverty level. They need cheap labor to be competitive and what can be cheaper than children, some as young as five years of age? Most are young teens, 12-16 years of age. 40% of these child slaves are girls. What is this culture that allows child slave labor? Without child labor laws just about anything is possible. Look back at our own history of slavery. Whole families were enslaved!

The children of West Africa live in an environment of abject poverty and are forced to work at an early age to help support their families. Some children end up on cocoa farms because traffickers have told them the job pays well. Sometimes their relatives sell them to traffickers or cocoa farmers, unaware of the dangerous working condition or the lack of provisions for an education. Young children are often abducted from villages in neighboring countries by traffickers. "Once they have been taken to the cocoa farms, the children may not see their families for years, if ever." So much for helping support their families.

They are, in fact, helping to support the wealthy owners of international giants of the chocolate industry who make those Hershey's chocolate kisses or Mars Bars or Nestle's chocolate chips for our well-loved cookies.

What is life like for a child working for a cocoa farmer? Not so different than those working in the "sweat factories" in Asian countries except for their younger age and the frequent lack of wages. They work from 6am until evening doing very dangerous work, with dangerous tools. Children use tools such as chainsaws to clear the forest, or climb trees while carrying very sharp machetes to cut down bean pods. They open the pod by striking it with the machete, each strike offering the potential to slice into the child's flesh. All are left with scars on hands, arms, legs or shoulders. They then use the tip to pry the pod open so as to extract the cocoa beans. More danger for cuts! After packing pods in sacks, weighing as much as 100 pounds when full, they carry them through the forest, balancing the sacks on their heads. If they move too slowly they are beaten.

In Ghana and the Ivory Coast, to control insect infestation, they spray the pods with large amounts of industrial chemicals, without protective clothing. They are fed the cheapest food available, bananas and corn paste. They sleep on wooden planks, in small windowless rooms, without clean water or sanitary bathrooms, and are frequently locked in at night to prevent escaping. Few children in Ghana and only 40% in Ivory Coast receive any schooling, giving these children any hope of ever escaping poverty.

Acts of violence are a part of their daily lives, such as whipping for working too slowly or trying to escape.

These practices are rife with violations of international labor laws.

Drissa, a recently freed slave, had never even tasted chocolate. When asked what he would tell people who eat chocolate made from slave labor, he replied that they enjoyed something that he suffered to make, adding "when people eat chocolate they are eating my flesh".

Information for this report comes from the Food Empowerment Project. You may contact them through email: info@foodispower.org

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Heritage District

Michigan Conference United Methodist Women

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Change Service Requested

Heritage District 2019 Calendar

	Spiritual Retreat	
March 29-30	Friday <u>Social Action</u> with Sharon Appling Saturday <u>Spiritual Growth</u> with Rev Faith Fowler	Judson Collins United Methodist Camp Onsted, MI
April 6	Keep Making Peace	University UMC East Lansing, MI
May 29 – June 2	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 Five Star Person & Unit, Reading Program, and Mission Today award reports	
September 28	8:00 - 3:30 Heritage District Annual Meeting w/training	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 UMC Howell, MI