

Heritage News

The Newsletter of the Heritage District
United Methodist Women
August 2019



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

President's Note

Dear Sisters in Christ!



Quilting Party, SR. Helen David Brancato



"...it has been women's task throughout history to go on believing in life when there was almost no hope. If we are united, we may be able to produce a world in which our children and other people's children can be safe."

Margaret Mead

Today, as I sit enjoying some cooler weather, I can't help but remember this painting that is hanging in the IHM (Immaculate House of Mary) Motherhouse in Monroe. Many of you may not know I work there, but I am the IHM Volunteer Coordinator. One of the many privileges I have, besides being in such a historic place with its many wonderful women, is the art displayed throughout the year. Sr. Helen David Brancato, IHM, has her works displayed until September 19th. I love quilts, so as I was walking by, I had to stop. I was in awe when I beheld its beauty, but more than anything the quote from Margaret Mead beside it made me know that the United Methodist Women share very similar values and beliefs.

When I think of our 150-year history striving to make life a bit better for people all over the world, it stuns me that we still continue in a united support for Women, Youth and Children. Our vision has been, "Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of youth, women, and children around the world". Our *Mission u* study book, *Women United For Change*, shares the voices and stories of our foremothers' decades of advocacy for justice, telling women's stories, and addressing inequality that continues today.

How did the picture, the words and the book come together in my mind, you may ask. If you look closely at the picture you can see several women working together on the same quilt, women of all ages, each with their own issues and concerns, working together for a common goal. If you look closely, you will see the images of those who have gone on and that is what ties it together. Our task as United Methodist Women is to keep believing that there is hope, that we are united, that we may be able to help give our children a better, safer world. Whether we choose to send a letter to a legislator, recycle, contribute to those in need, it is we who can help. Please remember the most important factor is prayer.

I recently had the opportunity to volunteer for a week at Midwest Mission Distribution Center and I was able to help make desks for children. These desks are sent to other countries so children do not have to sit on dirt floors to do their school work. We prayed over each desk we made, and for the children who would sit at that desk. Each time we prayed I couldn't help but feel emotional and excited that I could help in some minute way. So, let's continue to do whatever we can to keep our United Methodist Women going

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(President's article, continued)

forward for another 150 years, in our local units, District, Conference, and National so we can make a difference in someone's life.

One way you can be a part of this is to attend the Heritage District Celebration and Annual Meeting on September 28th at Howell First United Methodist Church. More information is available in this newsletter! I hope to see all of you there as Heritage District continues to grow!

Have a wonderful rest of your summer and we will see you in the fall. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Sherry Wagenknecht
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Vice President/Program Coordinator

Reflections

As I sit here listening to the birds, insects, and the streaming water, I feel blessed to be a part of God's creation; to be able to enjoy nature all around me, to be free to freely worship Him, and share His good news with others. I am thinking about what to write in my last article for the district newsletter. I am reflecting over the past years I have been privileged to serve. I am reminded of the wonderful women I have met along my journey across our district and conference, many of whom I have worked with on events or met while attending events around the district and conference. I am thinking about how I have changed, grown, in my walk with the Lord. He has placed so many women on my path to learn from along my journey. I am so thankful to have had the guidance of God-fearing women & men who are not afraid to step up to the plate to be leaders. I encourage any woman – young or old -- to step into UMW leadership. You will not be sorry. You will learn so much from those around you. God is good, all the time. I have learned I can do all things I never thought I could do because God gives me what I need at the time I need it to fulfill His purpose. I have been blessed with the opportunity to attend many *Mission u* events and to serve as a part of the *Mission u* team. I have read many different types of books because of the Reading Program, some of which I probably would never have otherwise picked up, let alone read. I have learned a lot from those books and enjoyed many of them. If you haven't attended *Mission u*, attend; pick a book listed on the Reading Program list and step out of your comfort zone, I promise you won't regret it.



As I am finishing the last events and my years as Vice President and Program Coordinator for the Heritage District, I wanted to thank everyone for the privilege to serve, and for your support and guidance over the years

Speaking of my final planning, I want to invite all Units to attend this year's Annual Celebration & Business Meeting – it will not be like any you have attended before.

I would also like to mention that the training for Local Unit Officers will not be held at the Celebration & Business Meeting this year – training will be separated this year. The training will be November 2, 2019. It will be Saturday morning for a few short hours for training and a retreat period to bring all the local Unit Officers (and anyone wanting to learn more about being an officer) together for a time to learn and share to get ready for the next year. As you begin on the next steps of your journey, I look forward to my next adventure. I invite all of you to do the same and remember "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13 13

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Nominations

Nominations is the committee that finds women to fill positions that become vacant as officer's terms are up for the Heritage District UMW.

As we approach the Heritage District UMW Annual Meeting (September 28, 2019), we still are in need of two positions to be filled for the ballot year 2020.

They are:

Mission Coordinator for Social Action.

Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation.

Please consider volunteering!

Last week I read this devotional and want to pass it on: Matthew 25:14-20 "To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability" (V.15a NIV)

A woman once laughingly said to me, "I'm not good for anything except yelling at the children." Yet that woman became the president of our altar guild and had eleven other women harmoniously and happily working under her direction.

We may think we have no talent and refuse to do anything-- because we can't sing like Pavarotti, we don't open our mouth during the hymns; because we can't preach like Billy Graham, we don't mention Jesus to our friends or acquaintances; because we haven't got a million dollars, we don't send a ten-spot to a mission agency.

But God says, as He said to Moses, "What is that in your hand?" (Exodus 4:2) It may be just a few wooden sticks, or a handful of flour in a jar (1Kings 17:12), or five barley loaves and two small fishes (John 6:9), or a creaky car, or a rusty voice, or the ability to tell jokes, or the time to visit someone in the hospital, or a telephone, or a pen. But if we give any of these things to God, He will use it and multiply it in His work.

Everyone of us has something of ourselves that we can give to God today!

God's Love and Mine

If you are willing to serve on the Heritage District UMW Team for 2020.

Please contact Jan at 248-887-2004

Leave a message if no answer.

Email robertolari001@comcast.net

Hope to hear from you!

Jan Olari

Program Resources

Changes in the Reading Program:

There will be no Reading Program Certificate given this year at the District Celebration. The Reading Program will now be following the calendar year for Certificates. So you have an additional 3 months this year to get that reading done! We are changing the time frame to start Jan. 1 and end Dec 31.

The Reading Certificates for 2019 will be given out at the 2020 District Celebration. I will need the names of all who participated in a 2019 program, and which program they completed, by Feb 1, 2020. You may mail the list to my Home address or via Email.

The 2020 Reading List has been posted to the national UMW website, and can be found at <www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/rp/2020list>. Some books will be available at the Celebration & Business Meeting in September.

Remember to use your local libraries as a resource. Be sure you take both the title of the book and the name of the author with you.

If you have any of the District Lending Library books that you have finished, please bring them with you to Celebration so others may read them.

I look forward to meeting you all at the District Celebration.

Remember: Read! Read! Read!

Joyce Mitchell
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Remember to bring your pop tabs and clean aluminum foil/pans to the District Celebration in September.

The Ingathering for the District Celebration will be for LACASA in Howell.

Please bring:

paper napkins

paper plates

toilet paper

diapers (all infant and toddler sizes)

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

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|------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| September 28 | 8:00 - 3:30 Heritage District Celebration and Business Meeting | Howell First UMC Howell, MI |
| October 1-15 | (National) UMW Unit Census | UMW National Site |
| 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 Local Unit Leadership Training | Marble Memorial UMC, Milan |
| November 30 | Due Date for 2019 Mission donations – Mary Danforth | |
| December 31 | Due Date for 2019 5 Star Person Form – Mary Danforth | |
| December 31 | Due Date for Mission Today award reports - Sheryl Zorn | |
| December 31 | Due Date for Local Unit Officer lists – Wendy Everett | |
| February 1, 2020 | Due Date for Reading Program award reports – Joyce Mitchell | |

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