



THE ANCHOR

News from the Midwest District United Methodist Women

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Change, Change and more change!! What a world we have been in lately! Change is happening in all places. This includes UMW. As the next few years progress, please check out your *Response Magazine* and United Methodist Women's website. Speaking of UMW's website, have you checked out the website lately. I keep finding new items all the time. Of course, there is the usual information on the reading program, pledge information, worship services, membership resources, etc. One of the unique items I found was in the Logo and Template page. For those of you that do machine embroidery they have the UMW logo digitized for you in the PES and DST forms. I have used the PES file many times and it sews out beautifully. Keep watching the UMW website for *Faith Talks* and information on the New Wineskins program.

We have several interesting events planned in 2022 and hope to see you! On March 19 we will be holding Spring Fling at Church of the Dunes, Grand Haven. Our theme for this event is Women and Children's Health in Missions. A morning with a couple of speakers to be announced later. Then workshops in the afternoon. We are looking for groups in your church that make quilts, dresses, female sanitary items, totes etc. for mission work. We would like you to share them with us and to maybe demonstrate their construction for a hands-on activity.

On April 30, we will host a one-day Spiritual Growth retreat. This event replaces the two-day retreat we have hosted with the Mid-Michigan District. Save the date and watch for details in the next newsletter. Assembly 2022 is May 20-22. If you cannot travel to Orlando to attend in person, please consider attending virtually. Visit Assembly2022.org for registration details.

Lastly, there are two district officer positions open. Read about these opportunities on the next page and contact me if you are being nudged to come aboard this leadership team.



Jean Sherman
District UMW President
sherdairy1@gmail.com
(231) 519-2542

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO DEEPEN YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN UMW

Has your spiritual gifts inventory revealed a desire to provide hospitality, serving others, shepherding or being a helper? We have opportunities to use these gifts on the District United Methodist Women Team. Positions available are:

- ▶ **Vice President/Program Coordinator:** Coordinates district events with the help of the leadership team and fills in for the President when she is absent from meetings.
- ▶ **Membership Nurture & Outreach:** Maintains membership lists, develops ways to attract, welcome and maintain new and current members.

Training for these positions is provided and registration fees for district and conference events are paid including Mission u, District Annual and Conference Annual Celebrations. Mileage to team meetings is also reimbursed.

To learn more, contact District Chairwoman for Nominations, Jean Sherman, at (231) 519-2542 or by email: sherdairy1@gmail.com. Thank you!

SAVE THESE DATES!

Look for registration details in the next newsletter.



SPRING FLING



Saturday, March 19, 2022, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Church of the Dunes, Grand Haven

SPRING SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT



Saturday, April 30, 2022

Location and topic to be announced.

ASSEMBLY 2022

May 20-22, 2022

Orlando Convention Center – and new virtual option available!

Visit www.assembly2022.org for registration details.

MEET OUR NEW DISTRICT TREASURER!

Hello. My name is Penny Brubaker. As of October 1st, I'm your new Midwest District UMW Treasurer. Thank you to Sara Wolfsen, who stepped up to fill in as temporary Treasurer from February through September. I also thank Sara and Jean Sherman for all the help they have given me as I take on this new role.

I grew up in Colorado, moving to Michigan in 1972. My husband's name is Bill. I have 3 grown children, 4 grown stepchildren. Together we have 9 grandchildren ranging in age from 24 years to 1 year old. I retired from the Oceana County Prosecutor's Office, Child Support Division, in January 2015. I have attended the Hart United Methodist Church since 1979 where I have been actively involved in many ways over the years. I have been Hart UMW's Treasurer for several years.

I can't remember a time when I didn't believe in God. He is my rock and my Redeemer. I remember when I was a child my mother went to something called the Suzanne Circle. When I was 28, I was blessed to become a part of the Marilyn Joyce Circle at Hart UMC. Times have changed; we no longer have active Circles at our church, but as a United Methodist Woman, I have not lost my desire to serve and to be in mission, both locally and around the world.

LOCAL UNIT TREASURERS:

Please send your final remittances to me **by December 5, 2021**. I'm required to forward final remittances to the Conference Treasurer by December 10th. Therefore, anything received after December 5th may not be credited to your local Unit until January 2022. Contact me if you have any questions. My address and contact information are listed below.

I look forward to serving on the Midwest District UMW Team as your Treasurer, and I look forward to getting to know each of them and all of you better. If you have questions, please contact me.

May God bless you and keep you in His care,



Penny Brubaker
District UMW Treasurer
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Hart, MI 49420
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**NEW REMITTANCE
ADDRESS FOR UNIT
TREASURERS**

A REFLECTION – SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

As we enter a time in the year where we are encouraged to give thanks, receive the Christmas message once again, and contemplate how 2022 will be different from 2021, the words of the hymn, *Spirit of the Living God*, come to mind. This is a prayer and the request is that the Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on us.



As we approach the time of Christmas, we might pray this as we hope to experience the wonder of the Gift that is Jesus in a more profound way. As we enter the New Year, we may want this to be a year that brings us closer to God and more open to serving in a more devoted or invigorating way. We may think of this when we see a new snowfall and marvel at how everything looks different and clean. We ask the Spirit to fall on us in a way that makes us new as the snow does our surroundings. How might we set the stage for this “freshness” to happen?

Perhaps we can renew our commitment to a time of devotional reading and prayer each day. Some find that starting the day with a quiet time sets the tone for the remainder of the day. Others may find that it is better for them to do this when they are more fully awake. Maybe you choose to end your day this way. What to do?

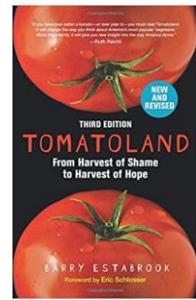
Find a devotional guide that speaks to you. Perhaps it is the *Upper Room*. The scripture reading suggested along with the personal story brings a contemporary, relatable message. It may be a resource you find online. Many pastors offer daily devotions there. Ask another person what resource they have found helpful. There are likely guides in your church library as well. This is a good place to identify authors who speak to your heart and mind. Develop a process that works for you. Do you play music or light a candle? Do you choose to read first and then enter a time of prayer? Do you include a Psalm as a reading or a prayer? Look at a hymnal and center yourself on the message in the words of a selection. When your heart and mind are calmed, pour yourself out to God. Then allow some quietness so you can “hear” a message meant for you.

Ask yourself what the words “Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on me” mean to you. I pray that you will experience the Spirit of the Living God refreshing you and energizing for the work you are called to more fully in the seasons ahead.

Ann Scott
District Spiritual Growth Coordinator
(616) 696-1567
momice4014@gmail.com

TOMATOES!

As a former farm girl who has lived in the city for the last 42 years, I am still very interested in how our food is grown. My small garden always has at least a couple of tomato plants in the summer that produce the best tasting tomatoes and cherry tomatoes. My granddaughter loves to eat them right from the plant when she visits. I don't have to worry about the safety of the fruit because we grow them organically and know what goes into each bite of the juicy goodness.



After reading *Tomatoland: How Modern Industrial Agriculture Destroyed Our Most Alluring Fruit* by Barry Estabrook, a Social Action book on our Reading Program List for 2021-2022, I will now always have second thoughts about any tomatoes not grown in my own garden. The book reports the widespread use of herbicides and pesticides not only makes the fruit less nutritious, but also creates an unsafe environment for slave market workers who are forced to plant, weed and harvest the tomatoes often causing serious and life-threatening illnesses and birth defects. The tomatoes are picked when they are green, trucked all over the US and then gassed to make them turn red. There is so much more evidence in the book that agribusiness in the US has ruined this once magical fruit.

This book really made me see that buying fruits and vegetables in season from local producers is really still the best way. I'll stick to tomatoes from my own garden but I hope you'll read this enlightening book and decide for yourself!

As always, I am available for anything related to Program Resources or the Reading Program. I'd be happy to come talk to your local unit about books or the Reading Program. Happy Reading!



Connie Swinger
District UMW Program Resources Secretary
(616) 813-4670
connieswinger@att.net

Reading Program book list and details can be found here:
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>

Congratulations to the following readers for completing these Reading Plans:

- Virginia Ferris** – Plan 2 (2019), Plan 3 (2020), LeValley UMC
Carol Braun – Plan 2 (2019), Plan 2 (2020), LeValley UMC
Elaine Nash – Plan 4 (2019), Plan 2 (2020), LeValley UMC
Judy Huynh – Plan 4 (2019), Plan 4 (2020), LeValley UMC
Natalie Graham – Plan 1 (2020), LeValley UMC
Nancy Spalenka – Plan 1 (2019), Plan 1 (2020), Wesley UMC
Janice Lipfert – Plan 1 (2019), Church of the Dunes
Rhea Eldred – Plan 3 (2019), Church of the Dunes
Connie Swinger – Plan 1 (2019), Plan 1 (2020), Wyoming Park UMC

A STEP BACK IN TIME INSPIRES A STEP FORWARD FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Last month, I was able to participate in the Civil Rights Tour to Memphis, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma with many other United Methodist Women, a few men, and several people from other denominations. It was an eye-opening trip, and I am thankful to Nancy Snell from Westwood UMC for organizing it. We confronted the painful history of enslavement, segregation, Reconstruction, convict leasing, lynching, Jim Crow, and the fight for equal rights. We talked to people there and listened to their stories. We returned from our trip determined to work for racial justice for all.



The trip began in Memphis with a visit to the National Civil Rights Museum & Lorraine Motel (where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot), and a Heritage Tour of the city, which included a visit to a home that had been part of the Underground Railroad. Our tour guide, Elaine Turner, was a Director for the Slave Haven Underground Railroad Museum. Elaine shared with us about her participation in protests during the 1960's. She and her sisters were arrested 17 times, earning them the title of "Most Arrested Civil Rights Family"!

The next day, we went to Birmingham, Alabama, where we visited the Bethel Baptist Church (Rev. Shuttlesworth's church), the 16th Baptist Church (where the four young girls were killed by a bomb blast in 1963), the Kelly Ingram Park, and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. The following day was spent in Montgomery, where we visited the Legacy Museum, the Civil Rights Memorial at the Southern Poverty Law Center, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and Wall of Tears, and the Rosa Parks Freedom Rides Museum. Our final stop was in Selma, where we visited the Interpretive Center, listened to "foot soldier" Annie Pearl Avery, and then walked across the famous Edmund Pettis Bridge, where we remembered John Lewis and the events of Bloody Sunday.

If any of your units would like to hear more about this trip, I would be happy to come and share. As you know, the United Methodist Women is deeply committed to the ongoing work of racial justice; one of the two social action campaigns for the 2021 – 2024 quadrennium is about the Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration. I would love to visit your local unit and talk with you about what you can do.



Blessings!
Judy Huynh
District Education &
Interpretation Coordinator
(269) 838-1804
judylhuynh@gmail.com

New member welcome!
Kathy Swanson
Wesley Park UMC

2021 Mission Today Unit Objectives

United Methodist Women - Michigan Conference

Please print clearly!

Name of Unit _____ District _____

Name _____ (____) _____
Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

A unit will receive a Certificate of Achievement upon completion of one of the following categories between January 1 through December 31, to be presented at their Annual Meeting the following October. Check the numbers completed.

- Units completing any 8 or more objectives will be a “FAITH” unit.
- Units completing 9 or more objectives, with 8 asterisks (*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” unit.
- Units completing 17 or more objectives, with 10 asterisks (*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” “JOY” unit.
- Units completing 25 or more objectives, with 12 asterisks (*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” “JOY” “LOVE” unit.

Mission Giving

- 1. *Made and met its Pledge to Mission.
- 2. *Became a 5-Star Unit by contributing to all 5 channels of undesignated giving.
- 3. Donated to local women’s shelter or children’s/youth program.
- 4. Offered scholarships to *Mission u* and/or other United Methodist Women activities.

Spiritual Growth

- 5. Observed a Call to Prayer and Self Denial.
- 6. Participated locally in a retreat, prayer vigil or Bible study.
- 7. Attended a District Retreat, Spiritual Day Apart, or Prayer Breakfast/Brunch.

Membership

- 8. *Added one new member from women who have joined the church in the current year.
- 9. *Added one new member not included in above.

Attendance

- 10. Invited a District or Conference officer (other than a member of the unit) to one meeting.
- 11. Had a combined meeting with another United Methodist Women’s unit.
- 12. Attended Church Women United or another ecumenical group activity.
- 13. *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attends a conference Mission u.
- 14. *At least two members (other than conference or district officer) attended the conference or district annual meeting/celebration.
- 15. *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended the District Elected Leadership Training.

Mission Education

- 16. *Unit or circle conducted at least one Mission Study.
- 17. *Two members completed a Reading Program Plan and reported on one of the books.
- 18. Participated in but did not complete the Reading Program.
- 19. *Used two programs from the Program Book.
- 20. *Used the Prayer Calendar regularly in the unit meetings.
- 21. Communicated with five persons listed in the Prayer Calendar, one from Michigan Conference.
- 22. *Unit had two members reading response each month.
- 23. *Unit included a response Moment during its meeting using an article to tell our mission story.
- 24. Unit had one Social Action program.

Mission Action

- 25. *Participated in a District or Conference ingathering project.
- 26. Had a member of United Methodist Women present a mission program for youth or children in the church.
- 27. Had at least one member visit a United Methodist Mission Project and report to the unit.
- 28. *Had at least one person receive and respond to legislative information from the United Methodist Women's Action Network.
- 29. Unit or member participated in a workshop, seminar, or book study related to social concerns that stimulated and enriched the total community.
- 30. *Unit participated in the Campaign for Children in at least two ways. Possibilities are:
 - Co-sponsored with the local church, a Children's Sabbath.
 - Involved with mentoring, tutoring or "big sisters" programs.
 - Communicated with representatives advocating for children issues.
 - Attended a school board meeting.
- 31. Made a pledge to care for God's creation and worked to become a "green" United Methodist Unit.
- 32. *Implemented the Charter for Racial Justice policies in at least one way during the year.

Possibilities include:

 - Read books and articles about another race or culture.
 - Sponsor an inter-ethnic event between two or more units.
 - Recruit women of color to be members or officers of the unit.
 - Correspond with elected representatives to support legislation affecting issues such as immigration, affirmative action, civil rights, and programs for low-income persons, etc.
- 33. Sent this completed form to your District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation by **deadline date: February 1, 2022.**

This year our Unit qualified as a Mission Today FAITH HOPE JOY LOVE unit.
(Circle all that apply)

Send to your Midwest District Mission Education and Interpretation Coordinator:

Judy Huynh
2101 Clarksville Road
Portland, MI 48875
Phone: (269) 838-1804
E-mail: judylhuynh@gmail.com

UNCHANGED PRIORITIES

As we near the end of 2021 it has been another year of significant change and challenges. Meeting in person or not, use of technology, budget constraints, and dwindling membership challenges the work of UMW. As I reread the initial foundational statement for the UMW Social Action campaign I was reminded of why we identify areas of focus every four years (ending infant mortality, interrupting the school to prison pipeline, and ensuring just energy for all).

For over 150 years Methodist women have organized for missions and worked in the name of Jesus to take a position on social issues and to change legislative systems, structures, and practices considered unjust and oppressive! The Gospel writer Matthew reminds us of our priorities of loving God first and then to love your neighbor as yourself.

I rediscovered the *Faith Talks*, an online podcast resource, and press releases which are available for us to read in the UMW e-news. Assembly 2022 (register NOW!), district events and retreats and statewide mission u classes will be available in person or on Zoom as UMW moves forward regardless of challenges, to be witnesses and to build a better world.



A personal thank you to those who have contributed bras for our missions in Michigan and South America. I had 95 bras left from past collections. ALL were distributed in Satipo Peru

during the Oct 10-17, 2021 Health Care Mission Trip. It looks like we will do a 2023 trip to the same area AND we will take bras again. All sizes of new or gently used bras are welcome.

Jody Pratt, Social Action Coordinator
Michigan Volunteers In Mission Coordinator
(616) 292-4908
prattgji@gmail.com

2020 & 2021 Memorials

We give thanks to God for the life and light of each of these women:

From Caledonia:

Clara Vanderlaan
Millie Poriett

From Fremont:

Carol Premo
Jan Kremmel
Joyce Hill
Marilee Whitman
Jenny Kroeze

From Georgetown:

Peg Buckman
Carol DeWeerd
Mary Lou Klawiter

From Hart:

Barbara Hansen

From Middleville:

Lois Bremer
Leona Smith
Marilyn McWhinney
Chris Shumway

From New Life-Six Lakes:

Sharon VanderWall
Marge Larsen
Betsy Leppink
Gilda Nichols

From Trinity-Grand Rapids:

Verna Ackerman
Ricki Chowning
Laurie Sproul
Joan Patterson
Eileen Pohley
Betty Booth
Micki Young

From Wesley Park:

Dolores Sanford
Pauline Shinn

MIDWEST DISTRICT LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

Winter Lay Servant Classes

Saturdays: January 8 and February 5, 2022

(Snow date: February 12, 2022)

9:00-3:00 p.m. at Heritage UMC, Pierson

Registration cost: \$25* (lunch provided both days)

Registration deadline: Friday, December 31, 2021

*New: class materials must be purchased separately.

A link to purchase the book will be sent with registration confirmation.



Introduction to Lay Ministry: The Basic Course

Instructor: Pastor Terri Cummins

This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

Advanced Course: Planning and Leading Worship

(Required for Lay Speaker Certification)

Instructor: Jody Pratt

This course focuses on the ministry of the lay servant who either regularly or occasionally leads a group or congregation in worship and is grounded in the principles and practices of worship planning.

Advanced Course: Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century

Instructor: Keith Caldwell

This course is a practical guide for building ministry for older adults including Boomers and beyond.

To subscribe to the Midwest District Lay Servant Ministries newsletter or register for a class, email District Coordinator Sara Wolfsen at saraw1104@gmail.com.



MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2022 LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRESIDENT:

Jean Sherman [2021]
 Fremont UMC
 8465 W. 44th Street
 Fremont, MI 49412
 (231) 519-2542
sherdairy@att.net

VICE PRESIDENT:

Open

SECRETARY:

Nancy Duiven [2018]
 Caledonia UMC
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TREASURER:

Penny Brubaker [2022]
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 (231) 873-3124
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REGISTRAR:

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 Cornerstone UMC
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suezeeque@gmail.com

**SECRETARY OF
PROGRAM RESOURCES****(Reading Program):**

Connie Swinger [2018]
 Wyoming Park UMC
 255 Brown Street SW
 Grand Rapids, MI 49507
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MEMBERSHIP

**NURTURE &
OUTREACH:**
 Open

SOCIAL ACTION:

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**COMMITTEE ON
NOMINATIONS**

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HELP WANTED:

Would you
 like to serve
 on our
 district
 team? We
 are looking
 for the
 following
 members:



- Vice President
- Membership Nurture and Outreach

If you would like to learn more about a role, or would like to nominate a friend, please contact a board member. Board meets four times per year. Benefits include paid event registrations and mileage reimbursement.

The ANCHOR, Midwest District United Methodist Women newsletter is published four times yearly – February, May, August, and December. Email newsletter submissions to saraw1104@gmail.com before these copy deadlines: 1/10, 3/10, 7/10, 11/10.

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The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women:

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose *purpose* is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive community; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in global ministries of the church.



2021/2022 IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE:

✖ clip and save ✖

- **Sunday, December 5**, deadline for 2021 financial remittances and 2022 pledge cards
- **Saturday, March 19**, Spring Fling, Church of the Dunes, Grand Haven
- **Saturday, April 30**, Spring Retreat
- **May 20-22**, Assembly 2022, Orlando, FL, virtual option available
- **August 11-13**, Mission u of the East, Lake Huron Retreat Center
- **Saturday, September 17**, Midwest District Annual Celebration
- **October 16-18**, Mission u of the North, Gaylord UMC
- **Friday, October 21**, Officer Training and Leadership Development
- **Saturday, October 22**, Conference Annual Celebration, Westwood UMC, Kalamazoo