



CENTRAL BAY DISTRICT NEWSLETER UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

“Central Bay Women in Action” December, 2024

Co-Presidents



Greetings from Caroline Diaz and Sandra DeWaele, Central Bay District co-presidents for 2025. Sandra will continue as president alone in 2026 as Caroline continues to pursue her new duties on the nomination committee for the Michigan Conference. We both want to thank Doris Simons for all the work she did as co-president with Caroline for the last four years.

In October we had two major events. District Celebration at Coleman Faith UMC was on October 5. The key speaker was Michelle King. Her speech entitled “Making a Miracle” was about mental health and mental wellness. Coleman Faith did a fantastic job hosting the 65 attendees at the event!

The Conference Celebration was held at Essexville St. Lukes UMC on October 25 & 26, 2024. The key speech, “Boldly Moving Forward” was given by Reverend Dr. John E. Harnish. Essexville did a great job hosting again! I say again because Essexville St. Lukes also hosted CBD Spiritual Brunch earlier this year.

Mission u 2024 will be repeated by zoom on four Thursday evenings in January. Watch for more information on registering. This does count as a Lay Leader class if you need one.

We will be having our Spiritual Enrichment Brunch at Midland First UMC on March 1, 2025. Saralyn Temple, Executive Director at Midland’s Open Door will be the speaker.

On Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26. 2025 we will be holding our Spiritual Retreat at The Springs in Gladwin, Michigan. Reverend Kim Bos, Director of

Campus Ministry at FSU Wesley House will be the speaker.

We have acquired many new members for our CBD team this year. But we still need an Education and Mission Coordinator, Nomination Chairman and Nomination Committee members. In 2026 we will also need a Registrar. Please consider joining our team.

Blessings,
Co-President **Caroline Diaz**
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Co-President **Sandra DeWaele**
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Outgoing Co-President, Doris Simons

As 2024 ends I will say goodbye as Central Bay District Co-President and serving on the United Women in Faith District Leadership Team. It has been a blessing to serve the last four years as the District Co-President along with Caroline Diaz.

I want to thank all of you for your support and prayers. It has been wonderful getting to know and make friends with so many of you and I am looking forward to seeing all of you at future events.

Blessings,
Doris Simons
dorissimons@att.net
(989) 781-1492

Secretary



Sending December 2024 Greetings.....and I cannot believe the DATE!! Where did our summertime months go??? That lovely fragrance of milk weed!! I can't say we really had a "colorful" autumn either! Now, I am still coping with Daylight Savings time!! Pretty dark at 5:00!!

Enough with the complaining. I want to share how meaningful this past year's United Women in Faith events have been. I found Mission u in July in Mt. Pleasant very informative with lots of fun, inspirational, lots of fun, great food, lots of fun!! The Reading Program just keeps getting more assessable and meaningful.

We enjoyed a super Annual Celebration in October at Coleman United Methodist Church. NOW, we have been so fortunate to experience that delicious Thanksgiving celebration. We are also so blessed to engage in the lovely Advent season with all the festive colors, cards, music, gifts, and activities of Christmas, a truly a wondrous time of inspiration with Peace, Hope, Joy, Love, Kindness, and Gratitude.

As secretary of CBD United Women in Faith, I want to send a very hardy THANK YOU to all the super diligent units that sent in their updated officers' list and information. This information helps the district team in so many ways. As many of you indicated it is more difficult to fill officer seats. Even your membership keeps dwindling. At District Team meetings we pray, discuss, and pray about this situation.

Although November 1, 2024 was the "deadline" for submission of your lists; you are still very welcome to send me something. I would enjoy hearing from you. A note about your unit's situation would be welcomed. Use my address: 173 Dwyer St. Clare, MI 48617 or send to my email: jmshelander@gmail.com.

Now I'm closing with blessings for all of you.
Jeanne Shelander
989-386-2063



Treasurer

Hello and Merry Christmas to all my sisters in Christ.

Can you believe 2024 is almost over? We have had some wonderful times this year. If you made it to one of our events, I hope I got to meet you. We had a Brunch in Essexville, a Retreat at the Springs, Mission u in Mt. Pleasant, Celebration in Coleman, and just this month Michigan Conference Celebration in Essexville. If you couldn't make it to any of these events, I hope you make one this coming year.

I'm getting ready to close the books for this year. Please if you still have pledges or donations, get them in to me ASAP. I have to close my books on December 1, 2024, so any donations received after that date will be posted for next year. Our pledge and giving is down quite a bit this year. We are asking each unit to consider increasing their pledge by 10%. I know times are hard, but God can do miracles. So please take it to the Lord and see what you can do.

I really want to thank you for all you do in your prayers and support for United Women in Faith. We are helping women, children and youth, both here and abroad. I hope you have a blessed remainder of this year.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sandra Horen

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Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

United Women in Faith offers many ways for you to enrich your life, your faith and put love into action. Please use the website. Go to UWFaith.org/resources.

Here you can explore podcasts, the response moment, reading program, program resources, mission u curricula, and prayer guide. Remember to share what you learn with others.

Next complete the **2024 Mission Today Objectives** and send to me by February 1, 2025. These objectives reflect on what your unit accomplished in 2024, but as importantly help you plan for your 2025 programing. Use it as a guide. I hope to receive these objectives from every unit.

Last, I encourage you to keep reading the **response magazine**. It is the award-winning, official magazine of United Women in Faith. Each issue will touch your heart, stir your soul, and challenge your mind with features such as Bible studies, opportunities for spiritual growth, articles on people and projects supported by your Mission Giving. Now it even includes a puzzle. The response magazine will help make it clear where the money goes from United Women in Faith.

P.S. This is a fun job. Please consider letting me train you. Love to have you on the CBD team!

Sandra DeWaele

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*Mission Coordinators for
Spiritual Growth*

We hope that everyone has been having a wonderful autumn, with the colorful leaves falling, brisk mornings and the time change. We have also had some changes here at United Women in Faith. We have some shifts in offices. Marsha and I are still here with the Spiritual Development. We have been busy getting things lined up for the Brunch and the Spiritual Retreat.

We hope everyone takes the time to slow down and be attentive to what God wants to add to your life. Expect

the goodness that He has planned for you with this upcoming Christmas Season.

God's blessings to you. Marsha and Laurel

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Social Action



Our work as members of United Women in Faith continues, "To connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they may inspire, influence and impact local and global communities."

Now, more than ever, we need to nurture each other, our children and youth, our communities and each other. Perhaps humming or singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth" will help us get through this stressful time in our world and give us courage and stamina to continue the work that has to be done.

I would love the opportunity to visit your unit to share and learn with you. Please let me know a time that would work for you next spring or early fall.

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with US!

Alice "Sharron" Such

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**Secretary of Program
Resources**



Hi Reading Enthusiasts and
Program Resource persons!

What a great reading list available to us for 2025!
There are so many good books...for children, youth
and adults. Of course, you can count any of those
toward your own reading program. There are also two
books available in Large Print, through Bookshop
online, Our Missing Hearts (Social Action) and The
Women of the Bible Speak (Spiritual Growth).

We will have books from the reading list available for
purchase at the Spiritual Enrichment Brunch, March 1,
2025, at Midland First United Methodist, and at the
Spiritual Growth Retreat, April 25-26, 2025, at
Gladwin. Some units have sent me titles of books they
would like to purchase. Please feel free to do that, and
I will try to have them at our upcoming events.

You may count books from the 2020 through 2025
reading lists, this year. You can access the new 2025
reading list, and all previous lists, online
at: uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program/

Finally, I need to receive your 2024 completed reading
lists by September 1, 2025, in order to get Certificates
of Completion ready before our District Annual
Celebration, in October. You may email them to me or
use physical mail. My address info is:

Carol Harfmann
6115 Dublin Ave, Midland, MI 48640-8129
yellowveg@gmail.com
(989) 708-1441

If you have questions, call or email me.

I hope you enjoy these books as much as I have. We
can learn so much about the issues that women,
children and youth face, and that we United Women in
Faith can help to address.



Best wishes for a meaningful Christmas and holiday
season!

I saw the following recently, and believe it really
captures how UWFaith draws us in and guides us
(shared by Julia Peradine Rice in May 2021).

“Why am I a UWFaith member?”

I was invited. I love the fellowship. I trust and
believe in the mission. My mother told me to.
There will be many good organizations that you
can contribute your time and money to, but
none of them will have the impact on you and
others that UWFaith will.”

This is a wonderful time of year to do just that—invite,
enjoy fellowship, expand mission, listen and talk to
those you care about, and trust the impact you are
making in our world. We offer a huge and sincere
thank you to Carrie and Doris for so capably leading us
through these last four years. Dare I say through a
pandemic, redistricting, disaffiliations, and more, and
celebrate that they will continue being part of UWFaith
along with many faithful women and a couple new
faces on the CBD leadership team.

Along with others on the Nominations Committee, we
welcome to our leadership team more new faces—
those who want to make a difference. What are you
passionate about? What new area would you like to
explore? Could you consider the following areas to
support the mission of UWFaith? Or encourage a
friend?

Positions currently open for 2025:

**Mission Coordinator for Education and
Interpretation:** promotes Mission u and the General
Board of Global Ministries, gives “*RESPONSE*” and
mission program reports, receives the Mission Today
reports, plans pledge service, keeps aware of
missionaries and deaconesses in CBD.

Chairperson of Nominations (and committee
members also needed): helps members of the
Nomination Committee see their task as ongoing,
provides information to the committee concerning
vacancies that need to be filled, presents an annual

written report of term and tenure to the Administrative Committee, and prepares the slate of officers to be elected at the Annual Celebration Meeting.

It is exciting to look forward to what we will do together, who we will meet, what we will learn, who we will impact, and how we will grow in 2025!

Many blessings to you,

Joy Clark

(989) 714-9208

Jec3015@yahoo.com



Communication Coordinator

Since we are now sending out the newsletter by email, it is very important that you submit email addresses on the Officers list to our current secretary, Jeanne Shelander. If you have new email addresses not submitted already, please send them to her or to me.

We will, of course, send out the newsletter by regular mail to those who have no email.

Please look at the flyers within this newsletter for the Spiritual Enrichment Brunch, Spiritual Growth Retreat, and Mission Today Unit Objectives and Virtual Mission u. registration. Forms are there for you to fill out and turn in. You can make copies of these forms to share with your church members or friends, as everyone is invited.

I wish you all a very healthy and happy 2025.

Judy Gerken jrgerk@yahoo.com

989-755-4848

3300 Sunnyview Drive,
Saginaw, MI 48604



From the Registrar

It has been my pleasure to serve the Central Bay District as your registrar for the past few years. As my time in elected office was coming to a close, I knew I

would miss the camaraderie of the leadership team. So when I heard that Ele Hunt was “retiring” from the role of registrar, I had my answer: I stepped up to take this position, which is “appointed” rather than “elected.” I am hoping someone in the district will now be willing to do the same when I step down at the end of 2025.

So I thought I’d share what it takes to serve as registrar.

Of course, it takes someone who pays attention to detail: keeping track of the registration forms and the names of members from each unit attending an event, along with the checks. It takes someone willing to respond to emails and phone calls with questions. And to be gracious when you receive a plea to add one more name after the deadline. (I haven’t ever turned anyone down, but don’t let that secret out!)

It takes someone who works well with others: informing the host unit of the number of attendees, along with the spiritual growth coordinator(s), co-presidents, secretary and vice president. It also means keeping the communications coordinator in the loop so she knows how many programs to print. It means passing the checks along to the district treasurer. And the registrar assigns rooms for the retreat at The Springs.

And being registrar obviously means providing name tags. But it’s so much more than that! When you check everyone in at the registration table, it means greeting people warmly. It’s a great way to match names with faces and get to know wonderful women beyond your local unit.

When the Nominations Committee calls, say “yes!” to this opportunity. In the meantime, I hope to see you at our district events.

Rene Johnson

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Education & Interpretation Coordinator

OPEN

Chair of Nominations

OPEN

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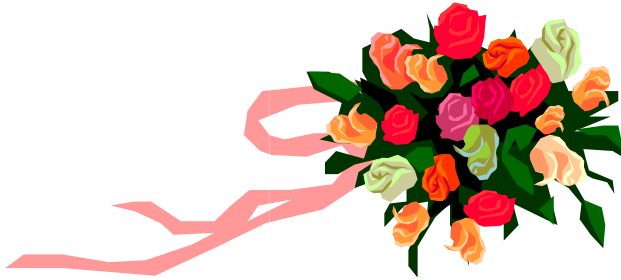
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In Remembrance



Women Who Have Passed Away in Your Unit in 2024

As a district we would like to take this time to remember the women who have passed away from your unit in 2024. They will be listed in our 2025 program booklet of the Central Bay District Celebration and Leadership Training event. *

NOTE! Submit only names of those who passed away in 2024.

Please submit the **names, church and date of death** to:

Judy Gerken

E-mail jrgerk@yahoo.com

Or Mail to: 3300 Sunnyview Drive
Saginaw, MI 48604

***Although the names will not be published until October, 2025, you may want to send me your list early in 2025 while it is available and fresh in your memory.**

Central Bay District United Methodist Women
P O Box 5386
Saginaw, MI. 48603



Central Bay
Women in Action
December, 2024

Dates to Remember for 2025

Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 Virtual Mission u (repeat of in person study held July, 2024)

March 1 Spiritual Enrichment Brunch at Midland First UMC

March 12 Advocacy Day

April 25-26 Spiritual Growth Retreat at The Springs in Gladwin, MI

July 17-19 Mission u at Mt. Pleasant First UMC.

October 4 Central Bay District Annual Celebration at Alma UMC
Elected Leadership Training will be held by Zoom at a later date to be determined

October 17 Michigan Conference Leadership Training, Clio Bethany UMC

October 18 Michigan Conference UWF Annual Celebration at Clio Bethany UMC