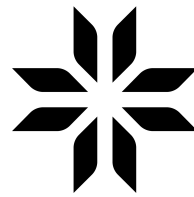


Heritage Vine

The Newsletter of the Heritage District
United Women in Faith
April 2022



United
Women
in Faith

President's Note

Joy Coyle

Hello all

I'm so anxious for Spring to come – I know it's going to be here soon! Many of you are waiting – I certainly am.

The first thing I want to mention is of course our name change. If you have not noticed we are now called **United Women in Faith**, which certainly can include any woman in the world. Please look on the conference website (still at <https://www.umwmichiganconference.org>) if you would like to read more about the reasoning behind the change. You can also find some videos there from the national committee.

Don't be concerned about officially changing the name for your Unit right away. They are telling me that it could be up to a year before Units really need to consider that, so just do whatever works best for you. I know that the district has not done any changes in names yet so so we're going to go on and everyone's just doing the best they can. There are no changes in our goals or plans of working with women, children, and youth.

We are looking for a few ladies to help us out on the district this year! It looks like we need a new treasurer, social action coordinator, secretary, and Chair of Nominations, so please keep those positions in mind, whether for you or someone you know. It's a great way to work with a wonderful group of ladies.

Please keep our future dates in mind. We have the National Assembly in May and the Michigan Annual Conference the beginning of June so I may see some of you at both of those meetings. Then we have *Mission u* in August and October, and our district Annual Celebration which this year will be held in Adrian on October 1st – this is a date change *and* a venue change, please keep that in mind as you publicize.

Special thanks to Jenn and Wendy for writing, organizing, and putting out this newsletter. We appreciate your work on this as usual and hope everyone has a wonderful Spring.

May God bless all of you



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Vice President/ Program Coordinator

Kathy Snyder



To all the United Women in Faith within the Heritage District of the Michigan Conference. Greetings from probably the furthest point in southeast Michigan that you could live. This is your Vice President / Program Coordinator. And do I have some exciting news for you!

A lot has happened in this first quarter of this new year. We had a very, very, successful Spring Prayer Brunch at Dixboro UMC. The fun and fellowship that was had by all was outstanding. It felt so good to be able to meet in person, face-to-face. So many beautiful ladies to share the day with. Oh, did I mention – there were 45 ladies in attendance! I want to say a BIG thank you to the Dixboro local unit of ladies (and their helpers) for the wonderful food that was served and the hospitality that was shared. To the young ladies, Ms. Kaitlyn Fisher for our special music and Ms. Jodi Johnson for being our accompanist. To Barb Terry our most favorite song leader. I want to thank Gemaya Griffin from The House By The Side Of The Road, for joining us and carrying on for Mary Danforth. We had an outstanding donation of our in-gathering that was given to The House By The Side Of The Road. My heart-felt thanks to Lora Crombez for sharing "Her Story". We have been encouraged to do this, but it is a hard task to look back and wonder could I have made better decisions in my life? I think the trials and roads that we travel is what makes us the women we are today! Thank You again to all that made our Spring Prayer Brunch possible.

I am sure by this time you have been made aware of our name change. We are now being called United Women in Faith. Embrace it! Because we all are Women of Faith. That is how WE Get Things Done – by Faith.

We are now starting to experience warmer days and before we know it, the summer will be upon us. Things that are coming up...

Make sure to sign up for a *Mission u* event.

East ... Aug. 11-13 at Lake Huron Retreat Center

North ... Oct. 16-18 at Gaylord UMC

Make sure to save the date for Our Annual Celebration/Business Meeting. Mark your calendars for September 30 and October 1. To be held at Adrian First UMC.

Feel free to contact me with any questions. May God Bless you and keep you until we meet again.

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

Join us on Facebook!

Search for UMW Heritage District Michigan Conference
or click on the link on the webpage
(the group 'name' is a bunch of numbers....)

Nominations

Shirley M. Carpenter

Where is our Spring weather?

Due to my comprised immune system I received my fourth shot on March 30. COVID and location of the National led my doctors to say "still not a good idea". I changed my registration to virtual. Doctors decided I could occasionally go out if I made safe choices with vaccinated people and places where they would wear masks. It has been over two years of attending church service on line. My church of 56 years is a Methodist Church just not a United Church.



When I read about the Prayer Brunch at Dixboro and the guidelines being used for the event I decided to sign up. I was a little apprehensive to drive the 60 miles one way trip alone and be around other people for the first time since COVID started in March 2020. Upon arriving I was met at the door by a masked church member who stated you must wear a mask in our church. I decided I was going in and if I didn't feel comfortable with the situation I would leave and head for home.

It was great feeling to see people in person all in masks and social distancing following the rules of the church.

The Prayer Brunch was a big success. I was near tears just sitting there in their sanctuary enjoying every minute.

I have a renewed faith in people – some do care enough to wear a mask. Thank You Dixboro Ladies for a wonderful day.

The Heritage Leadership Team still has the following open positions to fill: Secretary, Treasurer, Social Action, Spiritual Growth, and Nominating

Committee members, please pray about joining our team. If you have any questions just call or email me anytime.

Have a Blessed Day.

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Newsletter Distribution

Wendy Everett, Communications Coordinator

Newsletter distribution is primarily done as an email containing either the newsletter files as PDF attachments or direct links to the newsletter files on the District website. We also post it on our Facebook page.

We are happy to print and mail the newsletter to any local Units who do not use email, but it has become too expensive to mail a physical copy of the newsletter to every member.

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Everett, District Communications Coordinator, at UMWHeritageDistrict@gmail.com or 734-255-9146.

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Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

Donna Williams



If I were to Google my own name, I would find thousands, perhaps millions, of women with the same first, middle, and last name. Further sleuthing would reveal that even though my first, middle, and last names are very common, I am unique because of my heritage. My parents, grandparents, and great-grand parents and beyond for many more generations give me unique ties to the past. Likewise, my children and grandchildren are unique.

I admit that I was a bit surprised by our name change from United Methodist Women to United Women in Faith. (I should pay better attention!) However, I have lived through personal name changes (maiden name to married name) as well as the name changes that Methodist women have made in my lifetime. I remember "Woman's Society of Christian Service (WSCS), my mother's group, plus "Wesleyan Service Guild" (WSG), working women in my past, "Women's Society of Christian Service", my earliest affiliation, and "United Methodist Women" (UMW). Notice that "Methodist" is not in the older names. What matters is that these names are all about women who were/are dedicated to growing, loving, learning, supporting, and promoting earlier and future goals of these organizations. Six (there are more!) of us at my local UMW meeting in April read from an "old" poster the "Purpose". I had crossed out the old parts and added the new. Yes, we six are all Methodists, but we are open to having women who might not be Methodists join with us in the same purpose.

Keeping up with change is always challenging, especially as I grow older. My husband (more tech savvy than I), and my family are a great help when I need it. I encourage those who are not technically adept to reach out for assistance as well as assisting those in need if you are adept. Share the Good! The new connections are usually positive, informative, and hopeful...if you go in the right direction! Go to <https://www.uwfaith.org> for news, podcasts, connections to programs, the free-to-all issue of March/April 2022 *response* magazine, and more. I have found the monthly *Faith Talks* really inspiring. If you are going to Assembly in May (in person or virtually), you will be enriched. My first Assembly in 1970 opened up windows I never before imagined.

Closer to home, there are connections that are helpful for keeping up. <https://www.umwmichiganconference.org> will take you to our Michigan Conference UMW district connections as well as *Mission u* information for 2022. You can also find United Women in Faith, Michigan Conference UMW, and Heritage District UMW on Facebook.

Continue to track your unit's progress towards becoming a Mission Today unit. Live in to your new name!

Faithfully yours,

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Mission Coordinator for Program Resources

Diane Tandy



Welcome Spring! Look for the joy in your life!

1 Peter 1:8 & 9 (NIV) reads: Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. As we feel and smell the fresh breezes of Spring, see new green grass and the small buds that form on the trees, let us remember that the Lord Jesus Christ walks with us each and every day of our lives and surrounds us with his loving arms.

The Reading Program is a cherished tradition that brings together people to explore, share and discuss books. There is something for everyone (children too!). Enlightening subjects in diverse genres, including Education for Mission Leadership, Development, and Spiritual Growth. The *response* magazine and Faith Talks podcast are part of the Reading Program as well. My unit plans to share a book from the reading list and have a "mini" book talk at each of our local gatherings.

The book that I would like to spotlight in this article is *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*. The author is Bishop Michael Curry, the first African American to lead the Episcopal Church. This was a wonderful book to read, share and discuss with others. Bishop Curry walks the path of love and shows the importance of putting one's faith into action. This book is listed under the Spiritual Growth category in the United Women in Faith/UMW reading program. Information on the 2022 Reading Program can be found on the new UWF site, at <https://uwfaith.org/resources/>

Congratulations to the twenty-eight Readers for 2021. They represent eight churches and seven units. We will be celebrating and recognizing these participants at our fall gathering on Saturday, October 1 at Adrian First. I hope you will be able to join us for a wonderful day of worship, prayer, and fellowship.

We still have quite a few books from current reading selections available for purchase. If interested or if you have any other questions about Program Resources, please contact me at (734) 660-8875 (cell) or by email at tandyd56@gmail.com

May God continue to bless you, your family, and your units.

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United Women in Faith, or, A Rose By Any Other Name

As Donna reminds us in her article, this is not the first time the UMW has changed its name.

"Remind everyone that our purpose and mission are unchanged, we will continue to put our faith, hope and love into action for women, children and youth. And look forward to Assembly where we will be getting so much more information on the future of United Women in Faith!"

Julia Paradine-Rice
President

Michigan Conference United Women in Faith

United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith! The move is part of a refreshing of the organization that includes a new logo and an array of new and improved programs to nurture current members, and to welcome new women to join to put their love in action on behalf of women, children, and youth.

The changes are designed to address the different needs and life stages of current members and new women and expand options for membership and engagement. The new name also aims to welcome current members whose local churches may choose to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church, as well as women of other faith traditions who want to join.

Changes include:

A new website and (later this year) a members' portal with additional resources.

Innovations to *Mission u*, the longtime spiritual growth and transformative education program.

‘Ainise ‘Isama’u, United Women in Faith board president, said the changes express the organization’s core values in ways that will excite current members and invite new women to join us. "I’m confident our members will be excited about these changes," she said. "Together we are creating more opportunities for engagement with more women through new programs and updates of long-standing programs that embody our core values. Things change. People change. But God remains, and that continues to be the purpose behind everything that we do in this organization."

Treasurer

Greeting Heritage District

I would like to take a minute to introduce myself. I am Carol Gorham and I will be your Interim Treasurer – in other words I will be subbing – while Mary McCully recovers. Since I will be the acting Treasurer I will need you to update the return address on any forms you have to my email and home address.

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I would like you to reach out to me with any concerns and or question as it relates to the Treasurer’s position. I work fulltime, so please leave a message so I can call you back, or email me.

Heritage District 2022 Calendar

May 20-22	UMW National Conference, Orlando, FL		
June 2-4	Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City MI		
June 9	Leadership Team Meeting		
mission U Dates	August 11-13 October 16-18	East North	Lake Huron Retreat Center Gaylord
September 8	Leadership Team Meeting, Saline UMC		
September 30	Set up for Annual Celebration, Adrian First UMC		
October 1	8:00 - 3:30 District Annual Celebration/meeting Adrian First UMC		
October 21	(evening) Michigan Conference Leadership Training for District Officers Westwood UMC Kalamazoo, MI		
October 22	Michigan Conference Annual Celebration Meeting Westwood UMC Kalamazoo, MI		
December 1	Leadership Team meeting (Zoom (probably))		