

Heritage Vine

The Newsletter of the Heritage District
United Methodist Women
August 2021



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

President's Note

Sherry Wagenknecht

In the book *Connected Wisdom: Living Stories about Living Systems* by Linda Booth Sweeny we learn about living systems and connectedness. One example is a spider web "In a spider's web, what happens on one part of the web affects every other part. The same is true of a living system, whether it be an ant colony, a forest or a city. Like a spider web, a living system is so interictally woven together that no part exists in isolation." UMW Reading Program Book.

I feel that United Methodist Women come together with a common purpose and work together to support Women, Youth, and Children all over the world. The idea of the connectedness of the spider web made me think of how over 150 years ago, 8 women worked together to pay for a female doctor to be sent to India to treat females because they could not get healthcare from a male doctor. They saw a need and began spinning their web.

Over the years there have been breaks in our web but we work together to mend those webs. One huge break happened the past year when we were all caught in the middle of a pandemic, something *none* of us were ready for. The UMW at that point could have failed and the web collapsed. Many of our ladies did not know what to do, but they tried to do their best to hang in there. Many learned how to have meetings by Zoom, raise funds to support Missions, and discovered new ways to support their communities. I wonder how many millions of masks were made by UMW hands, how many meals were provided to truckers when the restaurants were closed and how many new ways to do Virtual fundraising came to be.

It would seem when things are the hardest UMW women do not just let their beautiful web collapse, but they find new ways to go on. I like the words from the book, "Like a spider web, a living system is so interictally woven together that no part exists in isolation." It was hard to exist in isolation and most of us experienced that in one way or the other. It was hard not to see one another months on end but now we are ready to rebuild that web and make it even stronger.

I have been watching the 2020 Olympics and really love to watch the swimming competitions because it takes me back to when my sons swam on their school teams and I would be on the sidelines rooting for them. When the swimmers are in the water and focus on their goal there is no stopping them. That is how it is with United Methodist Women, they TURN IT UP!

TURN IT UP! is the title for the 2022 UMW Assembly being held in Orlando Florida May 20- 22. I hope many of you are making plans to attend! If you have never been to a UMW Assembly you don't want to miss this one. Maybe you are not able to go this time but want to help someone else attend, let them know. We all need to TURN IT UP! for United Methodist Women.

Here is the link for the Assembly and more information is available in this newsletter!
<https://assembly2022.org>.

My Sisters in Christ may the God of love surround you with his peace and help you to make your web strong! Blessings to you all!



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The Heritage District (United Methodist Church) office mailing address has changed to:
PO Box 128, St. Clair Shores, MI, 48080

Newsletter Distribution

Newsletter distribution is primarily done as an email with links to the PDF files on the District website (<https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/hrd.html>). You may also go to the website directly – the newsletter is posted to the website before the email is sent. The newsletter is available to anyone who wishes to view it.

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.

Heritage District Celebration September 25 2021

Join us at Saline First UMC for the 2021 Celebration and Annual Meeting of the Heritage District UMW.

Guests will be Marcella "Michelle" News from the Central Jurisdiction UMW (and past president of

Eric Williams, the Co-Chair Executive Officers of the United Methodist Community House (Grand Rapids, MI).

Registration is \$15 per person – form available in the newsletter and on the Heritage District website.

In person event cancelled. Watch the website/communications from the District for more information

Where does my money go?

Some stays local to cover Unit/District/Conference expenses. Most goes to National for various Mission and advocacy efforts.

The UMW website <<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-fund>>

National Mission Institutions social services in the US (UM Community House in Grand Rapids)

Regional Missionaries worldwide

International Work developing local leaders and supporting economic development

Grants to encourage research into needs, and to fulfill those needs

Service and Advocacy to improve the lives of women, children and youth nationally and internationally.

Each year we release an annual report that describes much of the work we were able to do together.

You can read notes from our key leaders, see pictures and stories about projects, view the financial reports and imagine the possibilities for the coming years!

We do a lot with our members on service, training, social action and more; but another part of our work is awarding grants and scholarships to deserving organizations and individuals. The recipients and purposes of the grants and scholarships are released each year in our Grants Disclosure.

Visit [unitedmethodistwomen.org/finance](https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/finance) to view multiple years of our annual reports and Grants Disclosures.

Mission Coordinator for Program Resources

Diane Tandy



Finally Summer! As we enjoy the warm, (sometimes hot) weather, plentiful rain, and the beauty of our world, may we thank God for these blessings along with the chance meetings of those we encounter each and everyday.

One of the United Methodist Women Mission u Book studies this year is entitled *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* by Monique W. Morris. This study will raise awareness of this crisis in the lives of Black girls, thereby providing an opportunity for missional engagement and social justice advocacy by Christian women, congregants, and the community of faith. This tool will assist in navigating an in-depth personal study and as an introductory resource to understanding how mass incarceration affects Black women and girls in the United States.

I recently received a request from a local unit as to how to obtain a copy of the film documentary *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* for them to view in their local unit.

I asked the National UMW, and this is their reply:

I'd direct you to the website for the Pushout film (pushoutfilm.com) for information on local showings that might be available in your area or to the distributor website.

<<https://wwwvideoproject.com/pushout-criminalization-of-black-girls-in-school.html>> for information on purchasing the film

We purchased a digital file distribution copy for the national office, which allowed us permissions to download the film and then screen it on Zoom for educational use (no fee charged to participate). We are not able to share that file with others given licensing permissions, but we would encourage you to purchase a copy for yourself if you might be interested in a screening. One note if you do go that route: when I spoke with the distributors, we qualified for the less-expensive option, and so I think it's safe to assume that you would, as well. It's actually listed "K-12 Classrooms, Public Libraries" but they said we could purchase at this price point, as well. Hope this is helpful!

Thanks,

Emily Jones, Executive for Racial Justice United Methodist Women.

The book I would like to Spotlight this month is entitled *Beyond Loneliness: The Gift of God's Friendship*. It is written by Trevor Hudson, and can be found in the category of Spiritual Growth in the UMW Reading Program Catalog 2021-2022. Loneliness touches everyone, and it can be one of the most painful experiences of life. People long for relationship with others, but what may surprise them is that God longs to be friends with them. This book provides guidance for building a close friendship with God and easing the ache of loneliness. This book has two interwoven themes: Friendship with God and Personal Transformation. It is a guidebook for stepping into the eternal living described and modeled by Jesus. A personal note on this book: Each chapter includes 'Friendship Exercises' which offers time to reflect the content being given, either on your own or with others in a small group setting. I am thinking of using this in a small group book study.

The Reading Program is a cherished UMW tradition that brings together members in mission as they explore, share and discuss the books. From captivating novels and heartfelt biographies to urgent messages about issues such as climate change and mass incarceration, there's something for everyone. See the updated reading list at the UMW Reading Program website <umw.org/readingprogram> look for the list 2021-2022 season. It is printer friendly.

As the Heritage District UMW Program Resources Coordinator, I always appreciate feedback on the UMW recommended books. This feedback is shared with our National office. They have assured us they want feedback on book selections. Emails with book recommendations and concerns may be sent to Andris Salter, Operations Officer UMW: Asalter@unitedmethodistwomen.org

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Treasurer

Mary McCully

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”



Practicing generous living requires faith. In fact, it might just even be a testimony to how strong our faith really is. Are we able to believe enough to make sacrifices because we believe in the goodness of God and His abundant blessings, knowing that when we give to others, we are not really losing anything? Our generous God doesn't want to have us give out of guilt or fear. He's inviting us to put our complete faith in him, to totally trust Him and his provision for us, as well as our ability to “abound in every good work.”

Thank you to the units who have sent in your pledges and continue to send in donations. As we take off the masks maybe we will be able to get to a place of fundraising and generous giving again.

Lora Crombez shared some ideas at our last leadership team meeting to try to think about and organize ideas about fundraising. She sent out an email of ideas for fundraising and the following information:

According to AARP: In the United States, the average charitable giver is 64 years old, with Baby Boomers accounting for 41% of charitable giving. AND in 2019, more than \$449.64 billion was donated to nonprofit organizations.

I picked a few of her suggestions just to get you thinking about some new ways to be able to re-begin some fundraising. (*editor's note: Lora collected three pages worth of ideas. I've not included them all in the newsletter. They are available on the district UMW website as part of the Spiritual Growth leaflet.*)

****It's raining money:** Hang an umbrella upside down in the narthex and ask people to contribute their extra pocket change each Sunday for a month.

****Summer Grandma Read-a-thon:** sponsors could donate a specific amount based on how many pages they read with their grandchildren.

****Hold a Bakeless Bake Sale**

****Host a "guess how many" jar** guesses are bought for a small donation. The winner receives a prize for the closest guess that does not exceed the number of items in the jar.

Dates for 5 Star Donation Recognition

There has been some confusion in regards to when units send the final yearly pledge donations for remittance and how that applies to the 5 Star Recognitions. The “Fiscal Year” for processing unit/district giving, ends in November (NOT December). Any amounts given in December are held for processing until January of the following calendar year. This, I have found, affects whether a unit or a person qualifies for Five Star recognition. If the unit/person has given to 4 categories from January to November and then sends a check in December for the 5th category that donation is held and posted for the following year, and is not applied to the 5 star categories for that year. I hope this makes sense. If this is really confusing for anyone, please give me a call.

As always please let me know if you have any questions or concerns in regards to donations or pledge amounts.

May the Lord abundantly bless you, giving all that you need at all times so that you may be able to “abound in every good work.”

Mary McCully
Heritage District Treasurer
7664 North Canton Center Road
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Secretary

Pat Reamsnyder

It's been a season of transition for our family and our congregation. We are welcoming a new pastor and his family, as are many churches. Several of our grandchildren graduated from high school and are entering their first year of college. Our children are adjusting to an "empty nest". Very little remains the same but I take comfort in knowing, with confidence and joy, that our Lord's love never changes.

We are blessed to worship within a community and district of believers who uplift each other every week and who believe that God has brought us together to do his good work. God's blessings on you all as you discover new ways to reach out in Christian love.

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Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth



Thank you so much for your ideas!

Lora received so many good ideas for both fundrasing and membership outreach that there was too much to include in the newsletter.

There is a PDF file on the district website entitled Ideas for Spiritual Growth (leaflet) containing eight pages of ideas!

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Nominations

Shirley M. Carpenter

The summer has flown by and the pandemic is still with us.

I am going on 17 months in house due to my compromised immune system. Since the arrival of the Delta variant I must double mask and get my booster shot in September. Praying the pandemic will be over soon.



What a blessing technology has been in my life this past year! Most meetings for church, leadership team, doctors, and lawyers have been virtual. Also Sunday church service, Mission u, and Faith Talks. It is great to see the friendly faces.

I finished the Reading Program books and purchased the two books for Mission u. If you did not attend the Mission u study *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School*, it was a very educational and entertaining event. Our breakout group was very informative, and the members shared many personal events regarding black and white issues. Growing up in a rural white community, there were no blacks in church, school, or the work place. As an adult I joined a few state and national organizations where I met and made friends with many wonderful Black ladies.

Looking forward to attending the virtual Mission u in August: Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom.

We are still praying and calling on United Methodist Women to join the Heritage Leadership Team. We need members to fill the Social Action Chair, Spiritual Growth, and five to seven Nomination Committee Members.

My faith is keeping me busy each day. If you have any questions, give me a call and chat for a while.

God bless each and every one of you.

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The District Newsletter, Forms, and contact information for the Leadership Team can be found on the Conference UMW Website

www.umwmichiganconference.org/hrd.html

Heritage District 2021 Calendar

As of August 21, Mission u and the Michigan Conference events have been shifted to virtual events.

Watch for Zoom information.

September 11	Leadership Team Meeting Saline UMC
September 25	8:00 – 2:00 Annual Celebration/Meeting Saline UMC
October 18-19	Mission u of the North
October 22	(evening) Michigan Conference Leadership training
October 23	Michigan Conference Annual Celebration Meeting
November 13	9:00 - 1: 30 Local Unit Leadership Training Dundee UMC

Unit Officer Report Deadlines

October 1	Officer List	Wendy Everett, Communications Coordinator
November 30	2021 Monies/Pledges	Treasurer
December 31	Mission Today Reports	Donna Williams, Education and Interpretation
	Reading Program Participants	Diane Tandy, Program Resources
	5-Channel Units/5-Star Person Names	Treasurer

In the works:
a sharing platform!
a new prayer tool!
a great Fall Event that addresses racial justice!
. . . STAY TUNED!