



THE MESSENGER

News from the Mid-Michigan District
United Methodist Women

Volume 3, Issue 2

April, 2020

BUT, WE'VE ALWAYS DONE IT THAT WAY

How many times have we all heard someone say, "but, we've always done it that way,"? It doesn't matter what the organization or who comprises the membership, there's usually always someone who offers that comment.

As leaders, it is important to believe and encourage others to believe that change is not a bad thing. That's not to say change is easy, because it's not. Whether you are changing a meeting time and/or day, offering a program that has never been offered before, or assuming a leadership role, change can be challenging.

Some leaders fear change simply because they don't want to offend their predecessor. Or feel they are stepping on the toes of those who have always done it their way. Good leaders understand and encourage those who follow them. If we've done our job of leading, learning and training, the person following us will be even more successful in her endeavors as the next leader.

When leaders hear the "we've always done it that way" response to a new concept, it is up to us to listen to the new ideas - even if they are old ideas to some - and consider whether or not it might be appropriate to accept and activate the new/old idea. Sometimes it takes only one time for a newer member to hear the "we've always done it that way," comment before she decides the organization isn't open to new ideas and new activities. And, she will decide to spend her time elsewhere.

Change for the sake of change isn't the objective. Change for the good of the organization we're serving or leading is a goal worth achieving. Remember the next time you're discussing a project or program to listen to all who offer suggestions or ideas and to support change for the good of the organization.

Sharon Smith, Vice President
(517-648-1333) sharonanddickson@gmail.com

President's Column

“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”. Joshua 1:9

During the past several months the entire world has been experiencing uncertainty. Covid-19 has not singled out any race, country, economic class, sex or age throughout the world. This has become a time all of us need to take care of each other. If you have abundance of items, share with those who do not by taking to your local pantry. If you can run an errand for a neighbor to pick up prescriptions or some supplies, offer your service. Write a letter to those in nursing homes or restricted to the hospital so they do not feel out of touch and alone. Send notes of appreciation to medical staff in the hospital for all they are doing and sacrificing to care for the ill. I am sure there is so much more you can do while we are in isolation.

Within our families we have a rare opportunity to be together to speak and listen to each other, play games, watch TV/movies, or work on a project as suggestions. Individually we have the opportunity to read, work on a project we have laid aside, or call a friend we haven't spoken to in some time. Most of all pray and read God's word for encouragement and peace.

As United Methodist Women we already do the above for women, children and youth in our areas and around the world. Be creative and keep doing what you have through your giving of supplies and money. After visiting several Mid-Michigan units and Michigan Districts over the past couple of months, I have seen how caring and creative you are. Keep up the fantastic work even though celebrations, Lenten programs, and unit activities have had to be canceled. You are strong and resourceful. We will all come out for the better and with strength in the end.

Finally, I would like to share with you some of my favorite Bible passages that have seen me through uncertainty and anxious times. Joshua 1:9, Psalm 29:11, Psalm 56:3, Isaiah 26:3-4, and I Peter 5:7. Read your favorite scriptures as well to keep us physically and mentally healthy.

In God's most gracious name I bless and pray for each of you.

Donna Kleiver, Mid-Michigan District President
(517- 663-4193) dmkleiver2016@gmail.com

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION



Mid-Michigan District United Methodist Women and guests enjoyed an inspirational gathering on January 4, 2020 at First United Methodist Church of Eaton Rapids (FUMER) for our Epiphany Celebration. The First UMC women warmly welcomed us by providing a variety of refreshments and coffee. Pastor Nancy Patera was our guest speaker and she spoke on "When is Old Too Old". We learned that we are never too old to do God's work through her references of Biblical leaders who loved and worked for God. The FUMER Flutes provided special music and we are grateful for their talent and inspirational music. The Epiphany Celebration was a lovely way to begin the New Year.



Reminder

All local United Methodist Women units are encouraged to turn in their membership report as soon as possible. The membership information is used to welcome new members and to remember deceased members at the Mid-Michigan District Annual Celebration. The form is available in the January, 2020 issue of *The Messenger*. Send information to Patty Puckett, 1868 Burrwood Circle, East Lansing, MI. Thanks to those whose reports are already in.



“FINDING PEACE”

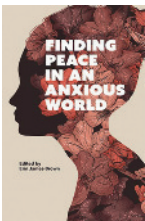
Of the West
Albion College, Albion
 July 8-11 (Wednesday-Saturday)
 6:30 pm Registration

Of the South
Troy Big Beaver United Methodist Church, Troy
 July 25 (Saturday)
 8 am Registration

Of the East
Lake Huron Retreat Center, Burtchville
 H.O.M.E. August 13 8:30 am
 August 13-15 (Thursday-Saturday)
 3:00 pm Registration

Of the North
First United Methodist Church, Gaylord
 October 19-20 (Monday-Tuesday)
 9 am Registration

#1 EVERYONE ATTENDS THIS STUDY



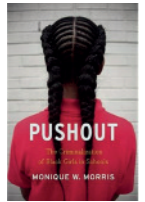
Adult Spiritual Growth Study - Finding Peace in an Anxious World In this study we will recognize the prevalence of anxiety today, its impact, and

explore ways to find peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines so that we can be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Christ. We will examine anxiety and the impact it has in our lives, explore what the Bible has to say about peace as a Christian discipline, and consider ways to practice peace as a way of life.

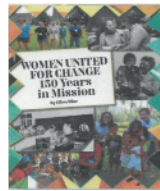
CHOOSE ONE STUDY

#2 Issue Study - Mass Incarceration with Pushout:

The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools by Monique Morris Our 2020 issue study will focus on the school-to-prison pipeline. This is a powerful book and an opportunity to dive deeper into the issues of school pushout, mass incarceration and the criminalization of children of color.



#3 Women United For Change: 150 Years in Mission by Ellen Blue



This study is the first in a two-year study commemorating United Methodist Women’s 150th anniversary in 2019. It will provide a historical survey of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations and amplify the voices that shaped the work through an overarching story of United Methodist Women changing the face of mission.

Study Leaders: #1



Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell

#2



Sharon Appling



Rev. Dale Milford

#3



Linda Burton-Collier
(W & E)



Diana Miller
(S & N)

All Conference and District officers are to attend and assist where needed at a multi day event paid by the Conference or District. Participating is one of the privileges given for their UMW work. It helps us all be well informed. Officers will be expected to pay to attend any additional Mission u events. Exceptions will be granted by UMW Conference/District Presidents and must be relayed to Mission u Deans.

This form MUST be filled out for Mission u NO OTHER FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Name: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Home Church: _____
 District: _____
 Roommate Request: _____

Check all that apply:

- Information:**
- First time attending
 - Conference Officer
 - District Officer
 - Paid online
 - Study Leader
 - Missionary
 - Financial Assistance Applicant
 - Laity
 - Clergy
- Special needs:**
- First floor housing
 - Minimal stairs
 - Minimal walking
 - Help moving around campus
 - Sign language interpreters
 - Special dietary needs (specify)

Child Care Age: _____ (Not available 8/13-15/2020)

Study choice: (for multi-day events)

- "Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools"
- "Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission"

This form can be found on the Michigan UMW Website, registration can be paid by check payable to: Mission u or online at: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/> This link is also found on the website.

You may attend as many Mission u events as you like. To ensure that you are correctly registered, please use a separate form for each location, and mail this form to the registrar listed for the indicated area.

**Mission u of the West, Albion College
 July 8-11 (Wednesday-Saturday)**

On Campus:

- Adult - with a roommate \$250
- Adult - with a room to yourself \$275
- (Additional fee is not reimbursed by District/Conference)
- Children/Youth (Grades K-12) FREE
- Enriched Child Care (Ages 0-4) FREE

Commuter With 5 Meals:

- Adult \$150
- Children/Youth (Grades K-12) FREE
- Enriched Child Care (Ages 0-4) FREE

Commuter With NO Meals:

- Adult \$100
- Children/Youth (Grades K-12) FREE
- Enriched Child Care (Ages 0-4) FREE

TOTAL DUE: _____

Youth name: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____
 Youth name: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____
 Youth name: _____ Grade: _____ Age: _____

Registration due by June 24 to:

Beth Mitchell ~ 3813 Rockwood Drive,
 Kalamazoo, MI 49004 ~ barmitch55@gmail.com

**Mission u of the South,
 Troy Big Beaver UMC ~ Troy, MI**

July 25 \$40

TOTAL DUE: _____

Registration due July 15

Dianne Osburn ~ 5785 Marble, Troy MI 48085
 dosburn3@aol.com

**Mission u of the East
 Lake Huron Retreat Center
 (NO child care)**

- HOME ~ August 13, 8:30 AM-2 PM (NO lunch) FREE
- August 13-15 ~ Commute/ Six Meals \$90
- August 13-15 ~ 2 Nights/6 Meals ~ 1 per Room \$250
- August 13-15 ~ 2 Nights/6 Meals ~ 2 per Room \$225
- August 13-15 ~ 2 Nights/6 Meals ~ 3 per Room \$200
- August 13-15 ~ 2 Nights/6 Meals ~ 4 per Room \$175

ALL PRICES ARE PER PERSON

TOTAL DUE: _____

Registration due July 31

Wendy Everett ~ 2322 Pittsfield Blvd.
 Ann Arbor, MI 48104 ~ wendy@fumc-a2.org

Mission u of the North, 1st UMC, Gaylord

- One Day ~ October 19 or 20 (Your Choice) \$40
- October 19-20 (Lodging on your own) \$70

TOTAL DUE: _____

Registration due October 9 to:

Tiffany Crawford ~ 1490 Crest RD,
 Gladwin, MI 48624 ~ missionuofthenorth@yahoo.com

Mission u Merchandise

T-shirts and tote bags must be ordered in advance. They will be available to be picked up at the earliest Mission u you are registered for. Design on shirt and bag is the Michigan Conference Mission u on front of this flier.

- Tote Bag \$15 each
- T-shirt: S M L XL 2X 3X \$10 each
- Study Book **Finding Peace in an Anxious World** \$12 each

TOTAL DUE: _____

MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
2020 Officers as submitted by the Committee on Nominations
Chairperson: Bernice Natoli

ELECTED POSITIONS

President: Donna Kleiver(2018)
(4 yr term expires 2021)
8905 Petrieville Hwy, Eaton Rapids MI 48827
517-663-4193
Dmkleiver2016@gmail.com

Vice President: Sharon Smith (2018)
(4 yr term expires 2021)
460 S Edgar Rd, Mason MI 48854
517-648-1333
sharonanddicksmit@gmail.com

Secretary: Rita Baird (2017)
(4 yr term expires 2020)
2031 W Olds Rd, Leslie MI 49251
517-589-9132
Camp2rit@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Jackie Ricketts (2016)
(6 yr term expires 2021)
4827 Marian Hills, Pleasant Lake MI 49272
517-812-5107
Jricketts657@gmail.com

Mission Coordinators

Spiritual Growth: Judy Marr (2017)
(4 yr term expires 2020)
1290 Barry Rd, Williamston MI 48895
517-655-2348
marrvalley@gmail.com

Membership N & O: Patty Puckett (2020)
(1 yr term expires 12-31-2020)
1868 Burrwood Circle, E Lansing MI 48823
517-351-3151
Wodstone1@sbcglobal.net

Social Action: Nancy Nay (2017)
(4 yr term expires 2020)
868 Shawano, Mason MI 48854
517-676-3024
Chicago868@gmail.com

Education & Interpretation: Karol Fry (2020)
(4 yr term expires 2023)
601 E Randolph, Mason MI 48854
517-525-6561
fry@msu.edu

MSU Wesley Foundation: Open position

Program Resources: Karol Fry (2020)
(4 yr term expires 2023)
601 E Randolph, Mason MI 48854
517-525-6561
fry@msu.edu

Committee on Nominations

Chairperson: Bernice Natoli (2017)
(4 yr term expires 2020)
5105 Deana Dr, Lansing MI 48917
517-321-3070
bnaatoli@provide.net

Linda Huyck (2019)
(4 yr term expires 2022)
2614 Ranger Rd, Perrinton MI 48871
989-838-2523
huyck@msu.edu

Beverly Saunders (2020)
(2 yr term expires 2021)
2232 Pollard Rd, Lansing MI 48911
517-887-7512
Pearllou30@yahoo.com

Open Position 2020 (4 yr term expires 2023)

Open Position 2020 (4 yr term expires 2023)

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Green Team: Elaine Ferris (2017)
(4 yr term expires 2020)
417 W Sycamore St, Mason MI 48854
517-676-4175
eiferris@toast.net

The Messenger Editor: Lynda Crandall (2020)
(temporary position)
6350 W Columbia Rd, Mason MI 48854
517-663-9114
lcran2126@gmail.com

Registrar: Joyce Plumhoff (2018)
1858 W Columbia Rd, Mason MI 48854
517-676-2716
Tplumhoff1858@gmail.com

Ex-officio: WalthaGaye Leavitt (Conference Team)
8524 E Colby Rd, Crystal MI 48818
989-640-0238
wally@cmsinter.net

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST for Mission u

Application Deadline: June 20, 2020

To encourage involvement in the Michigan Conference United Methodist Women, we are offering scholarships or financial assistance for Mission u:

- 2 or more first time attendees
- 2 or more young women between the ages of 18 and 40
- 2 or more women of diversity
- 2 or more first time attending pastors, male or female
- Other – please explain

All of these include child care and/or registration for Children/Youth session (at Albion College only) if needed

All requests by anyone will be considered. Please check the line that applies to your request.

____ Financial Assistance (some funding)

____ Scholarship
(Full funding for young women or first time attendees)

Tell us more about yourself (Use the other side if needed)

Date submitted _____

Name _____ Phone No. _____

District _____ Local church/UMW unit _____

Address _____
(street) (city) (zip)

Email address (print clearly)

Age group: ____ 18-30 ____ 31-40 ____ 41-55 ____ 56-65 ____ 66+

Name and age(s) of youth / children who will be attending; or will need child care (pre-school):

For Mission u Registration form, information and details, go to: www.umwmichiganconference.org

RETURN to: Marchelle Phelps, Mission u Assistant Dean, 19622 Syracuse St., Detroit, MI 48234; 313-618-5361; marchellephelps@gmail.com

Application Deadline: June 20, 2020

MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT UMW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

MISSION u 2020

One of the goals of Mid-Michigan District UMW is to provide scholarships for two local church women who have not previously attended Mission u. Childcare will be included at Mission u of the West at Albion College if needed. If there are more than two requests, the final decision will be made by the Executive Team of the Mid-Michigan District Mission u Team. Individuals may apply or you may submit a nomination in someone's name.

Name of person submitting form: _____ Phone _____

E-Mail _____ Name of local church/UMW Unit _____

Name of Nominee _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

E-Mail if available _____

Nominee's age level: 18-25 _____ 26-40 _____ 41+ _____

Is nominee now a member of UMW? _____ If yes, where? _____

Will nominee attend full time (Thur. through Sat.) _____ (Mission u of the West)

Name and ages of children attending that will need childcare: (Mission u of the West)

Name and ages of children who will attend Kid's or Youth Mission School (K-12th grade)

Please explain below why nominee should be considered: (use back of sheet if necessary)

Complete and return by June 1, 2020

Karol Fry: 601 Randolph Street, Mason, MI 48854

fry@msu.edu

Maternal and Child Health Program Idea

As we welcome spring, let us rejoice in God's gift of renewal and new beginnings. Warm breezes, budding plants and lengthening days are so up lifting.

On March 5, Mason First United Methodist Church sponsored a unit and district Mission Morning event on maternal and child health. Our guest speakers were from Bethany Christian Services, Hannah's House and Ingham County Health Department. They shared current information on sheltering expectant mothers (and their infants). We also learned about transitional foster care for unaccompanied minors who have been separated from their families. All three agencies welcome volunteers (vetted), diapers and clothing donations for infants and children.

God calls children a blessing and a gift - all children are precious to Him regardless of their race, gender or nationality. Matthew 25:40 says in part-... "Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me."

If you are interested in more information or a presentation, the contact numbers for these agencies are:

Bethany Christian Services	(616) 295-0884
Hannah's House	(517) 482-5856
Ingham County Health Department.	(517) 887-4311

In His Service,

Nancy Nay, Social Action Coordinator
(517-676-3024) chicago868@gmail.com

POP TABS

The Michigan Conference of United Methodist Women is still collecting Pop Tabs for the Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids. Please remember these are only the aluminum tabs. You can bring them to any United Methodist gathering in Michigan and the leadership team will be sure to get them to Grand Rapids.



CANCELLATION

Due to the COPID-19 rapid spread, along with the precautions and requirements by the CDC and our various government recommendations, Mid-Michigan District has canceled our Spiritual Growth Retreat on May 1-2, 2020 at St Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, MI.

PLEASE stay safe, out of crowds, isolate and wash your hands. Prayers are being lifted for God's mercy for you, our nation and our world.

Five Star Person – 2020
Michigan Conference United Methodist Women
[The 5 Channels of Giving are represented by the 5 points of the “5-Star” Pin.]

Give this form and your donations to your UNIT TREASURER by November 15, 2020. She will send it to the District Treasurer. You will receive a “5 Star” pin, which will be presented to you at your District Annual Meeting in 2021” (usually September or October).

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Your Address: _____
 Your Unit: _____

1. Pledge to Mission - An individual member’s pledge to mission is the amount she/he decides is her/his share of the local unit’s budget. (A unit Pledge to Mission is the portion of its budget which is set as a goal to send through district and conference treasurers to the National United Methodist Women for support of mission programs beyond its community. The decision about the amount to be pledged is the responsibility of the unit. The remainder of the unit’s funds are used for administration and membership development expenses, and for local missions supported by the unit.)

Your Pledge amount _____ (_____ enclosed _____ already given to unit)

2. Special Mission Recognition (“SMR” - minimum \$40) - A gift to mission in honor of any person in amounts of \$40, \$60, \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1000, and \$2000. For each gift an oval gold pin with a cross and a certificate with the name of the honoree and the giver are provided by the National UMW Mission Resource through the District Treasurer. Your local treasurer will fill out a Special Mission Recognition Form with the following information:

Amount of Gift _____ (\$40 minimum)
 Name of Honoree: _____
 Send pin to: _____

(Gifts may also be made in honor of a group or without an honoree’s name.)

3. Gift to Mission (minimum \$5) - A gift of \$5 or more for mission may be made in honor of any individual, and a card will be provided for you to send to the honoree. Cards available are: ***Baby, Special Day, Thank You, Thinking of You, Happy Birthday, Christmas, Congratulations, In the Service of Christ, and Peace.*** You need not provide the name of the individual honored.

Amount of Gift _____ Type of Card Requested _____

4. Gift in Memory (minimum \$5) - Gifts may be made in memory of any individual, in the amount of \$5 or more. Gift in Memory cards, available free, will be provided to send to the family of the deceased. You need not provide the name of the individual or the family.

Amount of Gift _____

5. World Thank Offering - Spontaneous additional gifts can be given in gratitude for God’s abundance and in celebration of the joys of life. This is an opportunity to respond to God’s grace one time or collect coins throughout the year.

Amount of Gift _____ (_____ enclosed _____ already given to unit)

YOU ARE A FIVE STAR PERSON!

****Please give your completed form and donations to your UNIT TREASURER.**

2020 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 other ecumenical group activity.
- ____ 13. *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended 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, 2021.

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



Send to your District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation:

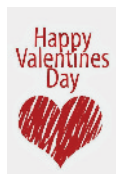
Karol Fry
301 E. Randolph St.
Mason, MI 48854

Valentines for Vets

Each year members of Holt UMW make Valentines for Veterans. This Martin Luther King Jr Day project started 10 years ago at a circle meeting. Six years ago, the Unit's Executive Board asked to expand the event, inviting everyone in the church and encouraging people to bring a friend.

Holding the event on Martin Luther King Jr Day provides an opportunity to honor our service men and women on a day when volunteering is encouraged. Along with the local UMW members, working Moms have the day off and bring their daughters, and husbands come along with their wives. Once the Valentines are finished, refreshments are enjoyed as everyone signs the cards.

The 25 cards created 10 years ago has now grown to 200. In addition, Valentines are sent to some very special ladies of our UMW unit who are no longer able to attend our events.



The Valentines are taken to the Ingham County Veterans Affairs Office where they distribute some of them, but the majority travel by van to the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The hospital staff then distributes them to the patients in the hospital.

Karol Fry
Kathy Reincke
Karen Syroka

Meet Patty Puckett Membership, Nurture and Outreach



Patty is our new Mid-Michigan District Coordinator for Membership, Nurture and Outreach. We asked her to give us a bit on her background.

"I have been a member of University United Methodist Church in East Lansing since 1982. Since retiring from Okemos Public Schools, much of my time is spent volunteering. My volunteer work includes being our church archivist/historian, quilting for the homeless, and working for the Greater Lansing Area Food Bank. While not volunteering I enjoy reading, gardening, and traveling."

Welcome Patty!

In this time of uncertainty one thing is certain, spring is here. God is revealing His renewal of all things. Just look at the buds on the trees and the flowers popping through the soil.

God is also showing us through this pandemic and time of separation that we should listen to his instructions from the Bible. As Christians we should spend time together in prayer, worship, fellowship and support of each other. As our face to face worship, meetings and programs

have been canceled I have come to realize just how important these times together are.

Let us all pray that we will come through this time of darkness and isolation with a renewed spirit and passion (just as spring is a time of renewal) to work hand and hand with each other to fulfill our mission as United Methodist Women.

I would like to encourage all of you to invite someone you know to join your UMW unit. Joining

United Methodist Women could be the path to a more meaningful life.

If you or someone in your unit would be interested in becoming part of the leadership team please contact me and I will be happy to answer any questions and get information to you.

Bernice Natoli, Chair
Nominations Committee
bnatol@provide.net

517-321-3070

2020 Mission Studies

- **Spiritual Growth Study: Finding Peace in an Anxious World**
 - Spiritual Growth Youth Study: Managing Anxiety
 - Spiritual Growth Children's Study: Managing Our Emotions
- **Issue Study: [Pushout - The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools](#)**
- **Special Publication: [Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission](#)**

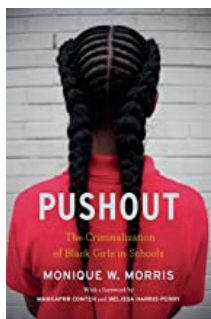


Each year, United Methodist Women members prepare for faithful living and action by studying mission studies. Mission studies are offered each year - a **geographical, topical, and spiritual growth** study. These studies motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to global ministry.

Contact Mission Resources to order your Mission study books at: cs@umwmissionresources.org or call them directly at: (800) 305-9857

Be sure to check **AMAZON.COM** where you can find this year's Issue Study **[Pushout-The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools](#)**.

Karol Fry
fry@msu.edu
 517-525-6561



Reading Program: 2020

The Reading Program is a cherished United Methodist Women tradition that brings together members in mission as they explore, share and discuss the books.

To participate, select one of our four plans and start reading! From captivating novels and heartfelt biographies to urgent messages about issues such as climate change and mass incarceration, there's something for everyone.

Reading Program books are divided into five categories and are available for people of all ages and reading levels. As you read, track your progress using the [Reporting Form](#). When you submit the Report of Completion Requirements, you will be recognized with a [Certificate of Recognition](#).

Where to Find Books

You might notice that books in this publication are not listed with stock numbers; nor will you find the usual order form and shipping information. For the first time, this year United Methodist Women members will obtain Reading Program books exclusively through third parties—libraries, local bookstores and online. Think of this resource not as a catalog, as in past years, but as a guide.

Reading Program

(continued from page 14)

- School and public libraries
- Local independent bookstores
- Franchises of larger bookstore chains

As always, most Reading Program books can also be found for reading electronically on your Kindle, tablet or other devices. For ebooks free of charge, check your local library, Google eBookstore, Project Gutenberg or Open Library.

Children and Youth Books

As in the past, this year's Reading Program includes books for readers of all ages. Books that would formerly have been listed under "Children" and "Youth" are now distributed among the remaining categories. Look for the line "Suitable for children" or "Suitable for youth" when selecting books to read.

Bonus Books

As always, Bonus Books count as two books. This year, Bonus Books are also the current mission studies, providing even more of an incentive to select these books as part of your Reading Program plan. To purchase United Methodist Women mission studies.

Go to unitedmethodistwomen.org to see lists by year:

[2020](#) | [2019](#) | [2018](#) | [2017](#) | [2016](#) | [2015](#) | [2014](#)

If you need further assistance with the reading program, please let me know.

Karol Fry
fry@msu.edu
517-525-6561



PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The organized unit of 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 fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



The Messenger
Mid-Michigan District
United Methodist Women
Mason First UMC
201 East Ash Street
Mason, MI 48854

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Deadlines

June 1, 2020.....Mission u Scholarship Application

Events

July 10 - 13, 2019.....Mission u, Albion College, Albion

September 16, 2020.....Mid-Michigan District Annual Celebration, St. Louis, MI

October 24, 2020.....Michigan Conference Annual Celebration, Kalamazoo First UMC

Cancellations

April 4, 2020.....Keep Making Peace, University UMC, East Lansing

May 1-2, 2020.....Spring Renewal, St. Francis Retreat Center, Dewitt