



THE MESSENGER

News from the Mid-Michigan District
United Women In Faith

Volume 6, Issue 2

April, 2023



United
Women
in Faith

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Sharon Smith



The calendar says that spring is right around the corner. That's a change that most of us look forward to. And there's a word I've used so many times — CHANGE. You may recall that in the last issue of *The Messenger* I told you the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church was reducing the number of districts from nine to seven. You may also recall that I indicated that some of us may find ourselves no longer a part of the Mid-Michigan District. Much to my surprise, all of our units will be in a new district. The Mid-Michigan District has been eliminated. Well, not eliminated, but renamed. Some of our units will be in the Heritage District, some will join Central Bay or East Winds.

The seven Michigan districts as of July 1, 2023 are: Northern Skies, Central Bay, Western Waters, East Winds, Greater Southwest, Heritage, and Greater Detroit.

Much of the Midwest District is now encompassed within the Western Waters District. Northern Waters is now encompassed within the Northern Skies District. The borders are now easier to define, inasmuch as they are county lines.

For example, the following counties will be in the new Heritage District: Eaton, Ingham, Livingston (including Milford Oak Grove in Oakland County), Jackson, Washtenaw (including Plymouth First in Wayne County), Hillsdale, Lenawee and Monroe.

While the Michigan Conference United Methodist Church will make the changes effective July 1, Michigan Conference United Women in Faith, its districts and units, will REMAIN the Mid-Michigan District until **December 31, 2023**.

Mid-Michigan District will have its final annual celebration on September 20, 2023, at the Mt. Hope United Methodist Church in Lansing. Much of the regular business won't be necessary. However, there will be leadership development presentations for all unit leaders, lunch, recognitions, and a special presentation by Pastor Carolin Spragg that promises to inspire and entertain. More details will be provided in the next *Messenger*.

In this issue, you will find the registration for our annual Spritual Growth Retreat at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt on May 12-13. In addition to the information on the registration form, please note that we will have a gently USED BOOK SALE/EXCHANGE. Donations from this sale/exchange will be used to support Missions.

I pray that you and your units have enjoyed programs and participated in mission activities this winter. Please know that any of your District Leaders would be happy to present a program to your unit. You need only reach out.

Blessings to each of you.

Register Now for Spiritual Growth Retreat (see page 3)

**Appropriate gently used books are needed for
the book exchange.**

Receive The Messenger By Email


Cynthia Grostick, Newsletter Editor

Have you considered receiving the Mid-Michigan newsletter The Messenger by email? With the cost of paper and postage on the rise, the Mid-Michigan District would like to send out The Messenger by email rather than US Postal Service where possible. If you are currently receiving The Messenger by US mail and have a computer, would you please consider providing your email address to grostickc3@gmail.com. I am no longer able to access the att account.

As UWIF, we promote being a Green organization. Through the use of email less trees will be cut down, less pollution from making trees into paper, less chemicals used for the ink, and less paper and ink cartridges going into landfills. Besides, you will receive the newsletters faster than by the US Postal service. Please consider email if at all possible.

PLEASE NOTE: Do we have your current email address? Several are coming back as undeliverable. We are deleting those emails off our contact list. Also, some email systems have blocked the sending of the newsletter. Please make sure that our email (midmiumnews@gmail.com) is on your safe email list. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you would like to have your Conference newsletter, V.O.I.C.E., also come as email, you may visit the Michigan Conference website www.umwmichiganconference.org and on the left hand side of the home page is a box to enter your email address.

	<p style="font-size: 24px; margin: 0;">United Women in Faith</p>	<p>PURPOSE OF UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH</p> <p>We are 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.</p>
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Mid-Michigan District United Women in Faith 2023 Spiritual Growth Retreat

Join Jesus in the Journey: How can we Love our neighbors?

When:

Fri – Sat, May 12 – 13, 2023

Registration: 2:00 pm

Begin Promptly at 3:00pm

Where:

St. Francis Retreat Center

703 E. Main Street

DeWitt, Michigan

Offering:

The Latinx Ministries

Ingathering: Art Kits–Latinx Ministries
Crayons, coloring books, markers, chalk,
glue sticks, watercolor paint sets, tape,
construction paper, scissors, pencils.

Sonya Luna is the Latinx Ministries Coordinator for the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church. She served as a General Board of Global Ministry missionary with the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministries for the Michigan Conference from 2008 to 2020. She works with churches and leaders to support migrants on their journeys. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development and Social Relations from Kalamazoo College and a Graduate Certificate in Non-profit Management from Eastern Michigan University. Sonya is a member of First United Methodist Church of Ypsilanti and is involved in the United Methodist Women at her church. She serves on the Board of Justice for Our Neighbors – Michigan (JFON), a nonprofit organization that provides free immigration legal services. She has lived in Mexico and has traveled to Costa Rica and Puerto Rico. She likes studying about Latin America and hopes to travel to South America one day. Sonya enjoys learning about different cultures, quilting, cooking, reading, and creating art.



Registration Information

Name _____ Church/Unit _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Costs: Commuter(includes meals): \$50.00
Double occupancy: \$95.00
Single occupancy: \$129.00

Check payable to Mid-Michigan District UMW or UWF \$ _____

Special Needs/Diet: Please Specify _____

Send registration to: **Audrey Putman, 1931 Loraine Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910**

Last day for registration: May 5th



**Mount Pleasant First
United Methodist Church**
400 South Main Street
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

July 13-15 (Thursday-Saturday)
4:00 pm Registration (EST)

In-Gathering will benefit Community Care Network in Mt Peasant. You may bring infant (not toddler) formula, baby food, baby care items, diapers sizes 4 & 5, personal hygiene items.

	<p>ADULT STUDY <i>Living the Kin-dom</i> by Riva Tabelisma</p> <p>This study gives fresh eyes to the Lord's Prayer. Often learned by rote, the Lord's Prayer is a rich guide for how we can live out God's kin-dom in our lives. Tabelisma invites participants in this study to step away from our automatic recitation of the prayer and dive deep into the meaning of each line over the course of eight one-hour sessions. Each of the sessions examines a section of the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9-13 as it is recorded in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.</p>	<p>\$75 until July 1 \$85 After July 1 \$40 ZOOM</p>
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<p>YOUTH STUDY <i>Seek and You Shall Find: Living in the Kin-dom</i>, by Rachel Mosher</p> <p>The 2023 youth curriculum leads youth through eight one-hour sessions that teach participants to find the kin-dom in the world around them, how to live what they have learned, and how to share the Good News about the kin-dom with others.</p>	<p>CHILDREN'S STUDY <i>We Are the Kin-dom!</i> By Kathleen Stone</p> <p>FREE for all youth</p> <p>This curriculum guides children through an exploration of earthly kingdoms in contrast to God's kin-dom and our role in living out the latter here and now. Children will be introduced to the concept of kin-dom vs kingdom to help distinguish between the flawed human construction of a kingdom that often results in op-pression and exclusion, and God's perfect kin-dom that offers freedom and inclusion.</p> <p>The study is supplemented by a four-part video, <i>We Are the Kin-dom: Global Kids' Voices</i>. This video includes interviews with children from around the world who were asked about their understanding of what kingdom means.</p>	
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These books are available at: <https://uwfaith.org/events/mission-u/>

If you prefer, you can order them to be picked up at Mission u . Please indicate this in the Mission u merchandise section of the order form. **AVAILABLE ONLY FOR IN PERSON.**

You can register for Mission u online at: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/> or scan the QR Code



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: _____

Youth/Children (name and age): _____

- Adult Study Book **Living the Kin-dom** \$17
- Youth Study Book: **Seek and You will Find** \$17
- Children's Study Book: **You are the Kin-dom** \$17
- ALL BOOKS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE AND CAN BE ORDERED HERE FOR IN PERSON ONLY**
- Virtual \$40
- Early Registration (by June 15) \$75
- Late Registration (after June 15) \$85
- Youth (6th grade or older) FREE
- Child (1st grade - 5th grade) FREE
- Childcare (Kindergarten or younger) FREE
- Donation Community Caring Network (the recipient of our In-Gathering) _____

TOTAL DUE: _____
Late registration due July 1

Check all that apply:

Information:

- First time attending
- Conference Officer
- District Officer
- Study Leader
- Paid online
- Financial Assistance Applicant
- Laity
- Missionary

Special needs:

- Sign language interpreters
- Dietary requirements (specify) _____

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.

Send registrations to: Sally Messner, 124 Boyd Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633, mimissionu@gmail.com



Lodging is on your own. **We have a block of rooms until July 1st** at the Hampton Inn, 5205 E. Pickard, Mount Pleasant, (989) 772-5500. Mention Mission u or UWF for the special rate of \$119 per room per night: includes breakfast. This price is good for 1-4 people in a room. There is a pool!

SAVE THE DATE!

5th Conference Annual Celebration
October 28, 2023

Holt United Methodist Church
2321 N Aurelius Road, Holt, MI

Registration starts @ 8:30 am

Keynote speaker: Bishop Bard

Celebrate our accomplishments!



INTENTIONALLY LEAVE BLANK

GREEN TEAM

Elaine Ferris, Green Team Chairperson

HOW YOU CAN “SAVE THE PLANET” JUST BY THINKING

One of the most critical aspects of learning was explained yesterday in a presentation aimed at readying teens in high school for life later on. It’s a surprise to me, but research has shown that within three years after employment, grades have ceased to be any measure of success.

What does continue to be a measure is creative flexibility. Basically, not finding another way to solve a problem; instead, asking is this the right problem to solve?

This caused me to sit back and think a minute. How often have we wracked our brains to figure out “is this the right way to do the program, the devotions, the daycare ... like we’ve always done it” when the question we could have asked was “is this the way that is most effective and best conveys the point we wish to make?”

I’m sure you have read a number of articles and listened to presentations on how to save the Earth — reduce, reuse, recycle comes to mind along with recyclingraccoons.org. But try thinking in terms of what is personally sustainable and can be turned into habit — one piece at a time. Turn it upside down — is the event needful? What can we do instead to accomplish the goal? Are we reaching who we want to serve?

In an everyday example: think about buying with minimal packaging. In a microwave breakfast package you get a box, two cardboard folders and two film wraps. The cardboards are lined with foil and not recyclable. The box may not be either unless you have a boxboard option. If you, instead, had boiled eggs, you could even use the shells for compost. And offered up the egg cartons on social media for a local farmer—or use them to start seedlings — if you thought ahead and buy the compressed paper ones, they are even compostable. New egg cartons cost almost 60 cents nowadays. Just one change — but small changes can make a difference. It can be overwhelming... but if we change one habit a week, or a month, it will add up. Let’s keep God’s creation going strong — think for a different world!

Do just one thing — and think about it!



EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Karol Fry, Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation and Program Resources

By now you should have sent me your 2022 Mission Today Unit Objective. As of today, I have received seven. I usually have more than that by now. If you have forgotten, please send yours today.

I look forward to the many in-person events that our district has to offer this year. For the Mission U this summer, you will find in this newsletter a Scholarship Application for first time attendees. Please consider bringing a friend from your circle or a friend from outside of your church.

Many church circles are meeting in-person. Presidents should remember to take their copy of the 2023 Mission Today and make those check marks where applicable.

READING PROGRAM

This year's selection of reading books has some great choices. Please consider picking up some of these books to read for earning a reading certificate at the annual celebration September 20th.

Via the internet access UMFaith.org, locate **Resources**, click on the link for **Shop & Downloads**, click on the link for **Downloads & Resources**, scroll down this screen to locate **Reading Program**, click on the second link **2023 Reading Program 2018-2023**.

This list gives you all the books from 2018-2023 that are eligible for a reading certificate this fall. Enjoy!

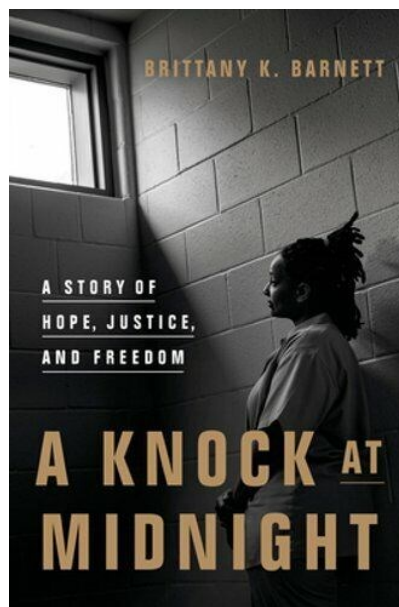


BOOK REVIEW

There is a book that comes highly recommended. That book is **A Knock at Midnight** by Brittany K. Barnett. Brittany was only a law student when she came across the case that would change her life forever — that of Sharanda Jones, single mother, business owner, and like Brittany, a black daughter from the rural south. A victim of America’s devastating war on drugs, Sharanda had been torn away from her young daughter and was serving a life sentence without parole — for a first-time drug offense. In Sharanda, Brittany saw haunting echoes of her own life, as the daughter of a formerly incarcerated mother. As she studied this case, a system came into focus in which widespread racial injustice forms the core of America’s addiction to incarceration. Moved by Sharanda’s plight, Brittany set to work to gain her freedom.

This had never been the plan. Bright and ambitious, Brittany was a successful accountant on her way to a high-powered future in corporate law. But Sharanda’s case opened the door to a harrowing journey through the criminal justice system. By day she moved billion-dollar deals, and by night, she worked pro bono to free clients in near hopeless legal battles. Ultimately, her path transformed her understanding of justice in the courts, of genius languishing behind bars, and the very definition of freedom itself.

Brittany’s riveting memoir is at once a coming-of-age story and a powerful evocation of what it takes to bring hope and justice to a system built to resist them both.



TREASURER’S LETTER

Judy Christie, Mid-Michigan District Treasurer

LOCAL UNIT TREASURERS:

During the month of January, I will be sending out packets to all unit Treasurers with information and forms to use for the 2023 year.

Please send your 2023 Pledge to Mission to me when your unit agrees on a new 2023 Pledge. You can use the form below and either email or call me with your amount.

Blessings.

MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT, UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH, 2023 PLEDGE TO MISSION

UNIT NAME

FULL NAME OF CHURCH

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

FOR THE CHURCH YEAR 2023, OUR UNIT PLEDGES THE FOLLOWING AMOUNT:

UNIT PRESIDENT OR TREASURER’S SIGNATURE

Please complete the pledge information and return.

Please mail to:
Judy Christie
Mid-Michigan District Treasurer
2667 E. Holt Road
Williamston, MI 48895

MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH 2023

MEETING DATES

MEETING SITES

2023 Spritual Growth
Fri-Sat, May 12-13, 2023

St. Francis Retreat Center
Speaker: Ms. Sonja Luna
Coordinator of Latinx Ministries
703 E. Main Street, Dewitt, MI

Leadership Team
Wednesday, June 14, 2023

Lansing Mt. Hope
501 E. Mt. Hope Ave
Lansing, MI

Leadership Team
Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Millville UMC
1932 N M-52
Stockbridge, MI

Annual Celebration
Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Lansing Mt. Hope
501 E. Mt Hope Avenue
Lansing, MI

Leadership Team
Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Webberville UMC
4215 E Holt Rd
Webberville, MI

2023 Mid-Michigan District UWF Friends List

Local units have been assigned a friend from the district leadership team. Please invite your district friend to a unit or circle meeting. They are also available to help with induction of officers, provide information and help for your unit.

Churches/Units	Leadership Friend
Alma, Mason, Leslie, Millville, Riverdale, St. Louis	Karol Fry 517-525-6561
Carson City, Maple Rapids, Middlebury/Ovid, Shepardsville, St. Johns First, St Johns Pilgrim	Linda Huyck 989-838-2523
Grand Ledge, Lansing Central, Lansing Grace, Lansing Mt. Hope, Sycamore Creek	Sharon Smith 517-648-1333 Cynthia Grostick 517-230-8405
Brookfield, Gresham/Charlotte, Wacousta	Beverly Saunders 517-887-7512
Ashley, Banister, Chapin/Elsie, Chesaning Trinity, Pompeii	Waltha Gaye Levitt 989-640-0238
Corunna, Corunna NW, Eaton Rapids, Owosso Trinity	Donnal Kleiver 517-663-4193
Fowlerville Trinity, Laingsburg, Webberville	Judy Christie 517-294-3321
East Lansing University, Holt, Kalamo, Nashville	Audrey Putman 517-482-2023
Juddville, New Lothrop, Vernon	Elaine Ferris 517-676-4175
Hastings/Greenstreet, Hastings/Welcome Corners, Lake Odessa Central, Sunfield	Mary Ann Elzerman 517-712-0269
Morrice/Bancroft, Okemos, Perry, Shaftsburg	Lynda Crandall 517-663-9114
Delta Mills, Nashville Peace, Portland	Patty Puckett 517-351-3151



FINAL CELEBRATION

Mid-Michigan District United Women in Faith

September 20, 2023

Mt. Hope UMC — Lansing

Registration will be in the summer edition of The Messenger

**MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
2023 LEADERSHIP TEAM**

President

Sharon Smith 2022 (Holt UMC)
460 S Edgar Rd
Mason, MI 48854
517-648-1333
sharonanddicksmit@gmail.com

Education & Interpretation and Program Resources

Karol Fry 2020/2017 (Holt UMC)
601 E Randolph St
Mason, MI 48854
517-525-6561
fry@msu.edu

Vice President

Mary Ann Elzerman 2022(Webberville UMC)
3786 E Grand River
Williamston, MI 48895
517-712-0269
maelzermm@wowway.com

Committee on Nominations

Donna Kleiver, Chair 2022 (Lansing Grace UMC)
8905 Petrieville Hwy
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
517-633-4193
dmkleiver2016@gmail.com

Secretary

Linda Huyck 2022 (Pompeii UMC)
2614 Ranger Road
Perrinton, MI 48871
989-330-9706
huyck@msu.edu

Beverly Saunders 2020 (see Spiritual Growth)

Mary Ann Elzerman 2023 (see Vice President)

Open Slot: _____

Open Slot: _____

Treasurer

Judy Christie 2022 (Webberville UMC)
2667 E Holt Rd
Williamston, MI 48895
517-294-3321
jchristie664@aol.com

Green Team

Elaine Ferris 2017 (Mason First UMC)
417 W Sycamore St
Mason, MI 48854-1535
517-303-8397 or 517-676-4175
ejferris@toast.net

Spiritual Growth

Beverly Saunders 2021 (Holt UMC)
2232 Pollard Rd
Lansing, MI 48911
517-887-7512
stiffler1959@gmail.com

Registrar

Audrey Putman 2022 (Lansing Mt Hope UMC)
1931 Loraine Ave
Lansing, MI 48910
517-281-9006
putman_family@yahoo.com

Membership, Nurture & Outreach

Patty Puckett 2020 (University UMC)
1868 Burrwood Circle
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-351-3151
woodstone1@sbcglobal.net

The Messenger Editor

Cindy Grostick 2022 (Holt UMC)
507 Jones St
Lansing, MI 48912
517-230-8405
grostickc3@gmail.com

Social Action

Lynda Crandall 2021(Mason First UMC)
6350 W Columbia Rd
Mason, MI 48854
517-663-9114
lcran2126@gmail.com

MSU Wesley Fdn Rep:

Open Slot: _____



The Messenger
Mid-Michigan District
United Methodist Women
Holt UMC
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Holt MI 48842

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SAVE THE DATES—2023

May 12-13 — 2023 Spiritual Growth Retreat
at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt

June 2— 4— MI UMC Annual Conference
in Traverse City

July 13—15 — Mission u
in Mt. Pleasant

September 20 — District Annual Celebration
at Lansing Mt. Hope UMC

October 27 –28 — Conference Annual Celebration
at Holt UMC