



THE ANCHOR

News from the Midwest District
United Methodist Women

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We are called to be the lay leaders of our church, district and conference. Most especially we have been called to be the leaders in United Methodist Women. You may feel you are not a leader, but in one form another, we all are. You may be the person in charge of funeral lunches. You may be the person in charge of a bake sale. You may be the person who faithfully attends all the meetings and get togethers.

We all are important in the make-up of our group. We have all been called to help in one way or another. We are the laity who are the hands, feet and voice of Jesus.

Please think about serving on the District UMW team. We would like you to help us be the hands, feet and voice of Jesus with the women of the Midwest District. There are several open positions that need to be filled for 2022. We are looking for a Vice President/Program Coordinator, Treasurer, Social Action Coordinator, Secretary of Program Resources and a Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator.

When asked “*why do you serve?*” it is usually because we believe in the organization and do not want to see it disappear. Do we have fun? Yes! Are there perks? Yes! What are the perks? We pay mileage for meetings as well as registration fees for events and for Mission U. Plus, of course, the fellowship and friendship of women from across the state.

Is there training for the positions? Yes! The conference offers training each year in the Fall. Do you have to attend Conference Annual Meeting, or Mission U or other district and conference meetings? We ask that you attend as many events as you can. If you have any questions about any of these positions, please reach out to any of our current officers or myself. We will be happy to answer any questions you might have.



Jean Sherman, District UMW President
sherdairy1@gmail.com (note new email)
(231) 519-2542

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO DEEPEN YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN UMW

Has your spiritual gifts inventory revealed a desire to provide hospitality, serving others, shepherding or being a helper? We have opportunities to use these gifts on the District United Methodist Women Team. Positions available are:

- ▶ **Vice President/Program Coordinator:** Coordinates District events with the help of the leadership team and fills in for the President when she is absent from meetings.
- ▶ **Treasurer:** attends district meetings and provides recordkeeping, reporting and disbursement responsibilities for all district funds.
- ▶ **Social Action Coordinator:** Engages members in service and advocacy for justice as it is rooted in our biblical tradition and encourages promotion and service on the quadrennial priorities of United Methodist Women.
- ▶ **Membership Nurture & Outreach:** Maintains membership lists, develops ways to attract, welcome and maintain new and current members.
- ▶ **Program Resources:** Promotes the UMW Reading Program to our District via articles for *The Anchor*, public service announcement at events, prepares and presents certificates of recognition for women who have successfully completed the reading program.

Training for these positions is provided by the district. Fees for attending Mission u, District Annual and Conference Annual are paid for by the district. Mileage to District Team meetings is reimbursed.

To learn more, contact District Chairwoman for Nominations, Jean Sherman, at (231) 519-2542 or by email: sherdairy1@gmail.com. Thank you!

NAMES NEEDED FOR MEMORIALS AND NEW MEMBERS

Please submit the names of anyone from your local unit who shall be included as part of the Memorial Service at our District Annual meeting on September 18th. Names can be emailed to saraw1104@gmail.com or you can call Sara at (231) 830-4092.

Deadline for submission is August 31, 2021 so names can be included in the District Annual program book.



IMPORTANT NOTES FOR UNIT TREASURERS

2021 Remittances and 2022 Unit Pledge Cards are due soon! Please note the following deadlines:

1. Fill out the 2022 Unit Pledge Card (below) and bring it to the District Annual Celebration on September 18th or mail it to me by **December 15th**.
2. Review the 2022 Proposed District Budget on page 12. Our Pledge to Missions has been decreased due to the reduction in pledges. We have kept our expenses as low as possible and still keep our promise.
3. Send your 2021 Remittances by **December 15th** so I can send the year-end reports into the Conference in December. Any remittances received after December 15th will be processed in January.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.



Sara Wolfsen
7476 Orchard Circle
Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 830-4092
saraw1104@gmail.com

MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN LOCAL UNIT PLEDGE CARD

We have prayerfully considered the Purpose of UMW and

would like to commit \$ _____

as our annual pledge for 2022.

Unit Name: _____

Signature of Unit Treasurer or President _____

Complete this pledge card and bring it to the District Annual Meeting on September 18th or mail it by December 15, 2021 to: Sara Wolfsen, Treasurer, 7476 Orchard Circle, Fremont, MI 49412.

FRUITS OF THE SEASON...AND THE SPIRIT!

If you're like me, one of the joys of this season is the abundance of fresh fruit that is available. I like picking, stopping at local fruit stands, eating the beautiful cherries, blueberries, raspberries and later, peaches, melons and apples. These are so appealing that I can't imagine anyone refusing them.



A previous pastor preached a series on the Fruits of the Spirit and, each week, brought a fruit which illustrated that week's characteristic. I admit that I don't remember all of them but I do know we got the point of her messages. One I do recall was the fruit of gentleness which she illustrated with a banana. She said that this was the fruit often given when one was getting better after tummy troubles, and a fruit that was likely to go easy on the digestive system. I'm glad I remember this one; there are so many times I need the gift of gentleness rather than offering judgment or "good advice."

As we look at all the fruits that will be coming in season, how would you match each one with a fruit of the spirit? As you pick or select from the bounty this season brings, remind yourself that the Holy Spirit offers to grow love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in your life.

May you reap a bountiful harvest! Do enjoy the wonderful fruits and gifts of this season. They are created for your benefit. As the gifts of the Spirit grow in your life, you will be enriched and you will have a bounty to share with those around you.

Ann Scott
District Spiritual Growth Coordinator
(616) 696-1567
momice4014@gmail.com

***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this.
– Galatians 5:22-23 CEB***



Midwest District United Methodist Women Presents...

Annual Celebration and Luncheon

Saturday, September 18, 2021

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, 57 W. Tenth Street, Holland, Michigan

“Be The One”



With intention, humor, and personal story, Keynote Speaker Ellen Harbin will use Jeremiah 5:1 as the theme verse and take us on a deep dive into the four-fold purposes of the UMW. She is engaging, easy to listen to, and applies Biblical truth to everyday life. Ellen is married to Kevin, pastor at the Houghton Lake UMC. They have six children, one son-in-law, three daughters-in-law, and one grandchild. Ellen is the author of five books with incredible stories of faith to share with all.

INGATHERING: travel size personal hygiene items for people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity through Holland’s Refresh Ministry. Items needed: men’s deoderant, shaving cream, toothpaste, shampoo.



An offering will be collected to support the UMCOR Greatest Need Fund.

2021 MIDWEST DISTRICT ANNUAL CELEBRATION REGISTRATION FORM

COST: \$12 by September 10th. Use one form per person. Please print.

Name: _____ Church: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

_____ Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Special Dietary Needs: _____

Daycare needed? (advanced notice required. Pack a sack lunch for each child)

Number of children and ages: _____

Make checks payable to: *Midwest District UMW* and mail with this registration form to:
Sue Van Portfliet, 1333 Ravanna Drive SE, Grand Rapids MI 49508

BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS! CONTINUING A LEGACY...

Our dear UMW sister, Jenny Kroeze, was an avid reader. Before she passed, she gave away hundreds of books to family and friends. We can continue to be a recipient of Jenny's love for reading at our Midwest District Annual meeting on September 18th in Holland.

There will be tables full of some of Jenny's books (mostly Christian fiction and Reading Program books) available for a small donation. All monies raised will be given to UMCOR in Jenny's name. It's a Win-Win! Jenny and her love of reading is remembered and honored, UMCOR gets some much-needed funds, and we get new reading material!

Speaking of new reading material, the Reading Program list for 2022 is out and it has some wonderful choices! Find the reading list at the link below, then go check out some books from your local library, your favorite bookstore, Amazon, or Hoopla.

Reading Program certificates will be presented at the Annual Meeting on September 18th. Because we did not have an in-person meeting in 2020, those readers will also be recognized. Please send me the names, Plan completed, and unit of anyone deserving a certificate for 2019-2020 **by August 31**, either by email or mail at the address below. Happy Reading!



Connie Swinger, Program Resources Secretary
(616) 813-4670, connieswinger@att.net
255 Brown St. SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Reading Program book list and details can be found here:
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

For more information, contact Michigan Volunteers In Mission Coordinator Jody Pratt at (616) 292-4908 or email prattgji09@gmail.com

January 15-23, 2022

Michigan Conference Volunteers to Puerto Rico
Team will be the first group in over one year!
All ages are welcome.

Contact Jody Pratt if interested : prattgji09@gmail.com
Application deadline is September 1st.



FAITH TALKS PODCAST – A NEW RESOURCE

During the past year, when I spent much of my time at home because of the pandemic, I started listening to the Faith Talks podcasts. Faith Talks, introduced in 2019, is a series of podcasts that explore themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action. These resources help connect us to the work happening nationally and internationally through our mission giving and participation. These podcasts are well done, and I have learned a lot from listening to them.



Each one lasts about one hour; they are recorded, so if you are not able to listen to them at the scheduled time, you can listen to them later. A bonus is that Faith Talks podcasts ***can now be counted on the Reading Program*** in the category of Spiritual Growth. You must participate or listen to two Faith Talks podcasts. If you listen to three, it will be counted as a Bonus Book in the Spiritual Growth category.

An example of one of the Faith Talks that I found to be very interesting was an interview with Jennifer Farmer, the author of *First & Only*, a book on the 2022 list for the Reading Program. Other Faith Talks this past year include the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP), a discussion of the book *Pushout*, AAPI Heritage Month, Gun Violence, and others.

The next two Faith Talks podcasts will be Faith Talks: Back to School, on August 5th at 2 p.m. and Faith Talks: Labor Day, featuring The Poor People's Campaign on August 19th at 2 p.m. You can sign up for Faith Talks at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks>.

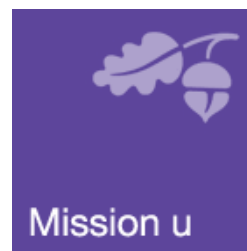
I encourage you to register and participate in one or both of them.



Blessings!
Judy Huynh
District Education & Interpretation Coordinator
(269) 838-1804
judyhuynh@gmail.com

MISSION U UPDATE:

Mission u is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society based on current mission study topics with particular attention to the responsibilities of women in fulfilling the mission work of the church.



Participants grow in understanding the mission of the church in the current world context. Conference events are open to members and non-members of United Methodist Women. Don't miss these two upcoming Mission u opportunities:

August 13-14, 2021: VIRTUAL *Bearing Witness in the Kingdom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship* by Darryl W. Stephens. FREE registration.

October 18-19, 2021: Mission u of the North, Gaylord UMC. Cost is \$70 plus overnight lodging.

For questions or to RSVP for virtual learning or Mission u of the North in Gaylord, email mimissionu@gmail.com with your name, district, church, and dates of attendance.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES:

Advanced Notice:

Virtual Advent Series on the Holy Land

Randi Clawson (Heritage District) and her international team are creating an online Advent series Zoom. Watch district publications for more information in September.



Civil Rights Bus Tour – October 17-22, 2021

A Civil Rights Tour of the South has been organized, led by two women from Westwood UMC. They will be hosting pilgrims and learners through sites in Memphis, Birmingham, Montgomery, Selma, and Nashville. Speakers, discussions, and plenty of great Southern food are promised as well. The Tour culminates with a walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, led by an original “foot soldier!” This is a bus tour, starting and ending in Kalamazoo. Cost is \$750., and is for only fully-vaccinated people. Please contact Nancy at 630-926-1235, or nsnell1997@gmail.com, for more information and a complete itinerary and registration form.



MIDWEST DISTRICT LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES: Fall Lay Servant Classes Announced

Saturdays: October 9 and October 23, 2021

9:00-3:00 p.m. at Cedar Springs UMC

Cost is \$25 including materials and lunch

Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Class size is limited



Introduction to Lay Ministry: The Basic Course

Instructor: Pastor Terri Cummins

This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

Advanced Course: Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (United Methodist Polity)

(required for Lay Speaker Certification)

Instructors: Dave Gombert and Jody Pratt

This course gives participants an overview of the structure and organization of The United Methodist Church.

Advanced Course: Justice in Everyday Life

Instructor: Sarah Zachow

This course explores the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church.

To subscribe to the Midwest District Lay Servant Ministries newsletter or register for a class, email Coordinator Sara Wolfsen at saraw1104@gmail.com.

3rd ANNUAL UMW CONFERENCE CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 23, 2021, Westwood UMC, Kalamazoo

Keynote speaker is Emily Jones, Executive for Racial Justice.

The event is expected to be held in-person, but we need to be ready to change if needed. Westwood UMC has the ability to live-stream so we are looking into using this option.



For questions or to register, call Dorie Litchfield at (269) 580-3449 or by email: creator.dorie@gmail.com.

ASSEMBLY 2022: HELP SPREAD THE WORD!

May 20-22, 2022, Orlando Covention Center, Orlando, Florida

You do not want to miss this inspiring event that happens only once every four years. Be sure to invite others to Assembly and help spread the word! In 2022 we'll Turn It Up for spiritual healing and renewal, for rebirth in a new time, for women leaders, and for justice for women, children and youth.

Visit Assembly2022.org to get updates, get excited, and find ways to help let women in your life know about this amazing gathering. Early bird registration starts September 1st.



TURN IT UP! for spiritual healing and renewal

TURN IT UP! for rebirth in a new time

TURN IT UP! for women leaders

TURN IT UP! for justice for women, children and youth

Early registration - \$330 - Sept 1 – Nov 30, 2021

UMW Holland Women Reach a Milestone with Their 60th Annual Holiday Bazaar



For nearly six decades, the United Methodist Women of Holland FUMC have worked together to hold a traditional holiday bazaar, and in 2021 they'll reach a new milestone with their "A Candy Cane Christmas"—their 60th event. All proceeds go to support nonprofit programs, especially those that benefit women and children.

When the pandemic shut down most in-person events in 2020, UMW members were determined not to give up on raising funds, instead creating their first-ever virtual bazaar with online sales and curbside pickup of purchases.

With the lifting of restrictions this year, the 60th Holiday Bazaar will be in person and in the church on Friday, November 12, from 9:30 am to 3 pm.

"We're celebrating that we can return to a traditional event," said UMW president Nelda McCrocklin. "Being able to provide support for a significant number of local, state, and national service programs for 60 years means a great deal to us. Being together to feel the spirit of Christmas and helping people buy delicious cookies, a special gift for a loved one, or decorations for their home makes the day even more worthwhile."

Holland's UMW Holiday Bazaar is well known for its offerings of thousands of homemade cookies, pigs-in-the-blanket, handicrafts, tree and table decorations, a Country Store, Attic Specials, and Bargain Boutique. Lunch and snacks will be available for purchase.

A Second Chance Sale of items not purchased on November 12 will be held at the church on Sunday, November 14, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm.

First United Methodist Church of Holland is located at 57 West 10th Street, Holland; free parking is available adjacent to the church. There is no entry fee for the bazaar, and the church is fully accessible. Any remaining COVID-19 requirements or guidelines will be followed, organizers say.

Cindy Helder, chair of the UMW bazaar, can be reached at (616) 848-7204. In early September, additional information will be available on the church website www.fumcholland.org.

MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
2022 Proposed Budget

INCOME

Pledge To Missions Income	\$	25,000.00
Administration & Member Development (A&MD) Income		9,700.00

TOTAL INCOME	\$	34,700.00
---------------------	-----------	------------------

EXPENSE**ADMINISTRATION & MEMBER DEVELOPMENT (A&MD)****CONFERENCE EVENTS**

Annual Meeting	\$	200.00
Mission u		1,600.00
Other		-
Total Conference Events	\$	1,800.00

DISTRICT EVENTS

Annual Meeting		1,000.00
Spiritual Growth Retreat		1,500.00
Other:		2,000.00
Spring Fling	\$1,000.00	-
Scholarships	\$500.00	-
Day Apart	\$500.00	-
Total District Events	\$	4,500.00

(travel, meals, supplies, printing, child care, honoraria, scholarships - local women)

OFFICER EXPENSES

Audit		150.00
Bank Expense		25.00
Dependent Care (not at events)		100.00
Mileage (meetings)		800.00
Resources, Subscriptions		40.00
Postage, Shipping (not for events)		55.00
Supplies, Printing (not for events)		30.00
Total Officer Expenses	\$	1,200.00

OTHER EXPENSES

Anchor, Meeting Programs		2,000.00
Books, Program Resources		100.00
District SMR, Gift in Memory, etc.		80.00
Miscellaneous		20.00
Total Other Expenses	\$	2,200.00

TOTAL A&MD EXPENSES	\$	9,700.00
--------------------------------	-----------	-----------------

TOTAL PLEDGES SENT TO CONFERENCE	\$	25,000.00
---	-----------	------------------

OVER/UNDER BUDGET	\$	-
--------------------------	-----------	----------

MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRESIDENT:

Jean Sherman [2021]
Fremont UMC
8465 W. 44th Street
Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 519-2542
sherdairy@att.net

VICE PRESIDENT:

Open

SECRETARY:

Nancy Duiven [2018]
Caledonia UMC
9100 84th Street
Alto, MI 49302
(616) 891-1404
grannyd2@charter.net

TREASURER

[interim – note change]:

Sara Wolfsen [2021]
Fremont UMC
7476 Orchard Circle
Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 830-4092
saraw1104@gmail.com

REGISTRAR:

Sue VanPortfliet
Cornerstone UMC
1333 Ravanna Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(616) 246-7183
suezeeeque@gmail.com

**SECRETARY OF
PROGRAM RESOURCES**

(Reading Program):

Connie Swinger [2018]
Wyoming Park UMC
255 Brown Street SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 813-4670
connieswinger@att.net

MEMBERSHIP

**NURTURE &
OUTREACH:**
Open

SOCIAL ACTION

[interim]:

Jody Pratt [2013]
Middleville UMC
2984 Fifth Street
Shelbyville, MI 49344
(616) 292-4908
prattgji09@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS:

Sara Wolfsen [2018]
Fremont UMC
7476 Orchard Circle
Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 830-4092
saraw1104@gmail.com

**EDUCATION &
INTERPRETATION:**

Judy Huynh [2019]
LeValley UMC
2101 Clarksville Road
Portland, MI 48875
(269) 838-1804
judyhhuynh@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

Ann Scott [2018]
Cedar Springs UMC
4014 Russell Road
Cedar Springs, MI 49319
(616) 696-1567
momice4014@gmail.com

**COMMITTEE ON
NOMINATIONS**

Jean Sherman, Chair [2021]
Fremont UMC
8465 W. 44th Street
Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 519-2542
sherdairy@att.net

Sue Rietman
Middleville UMC [2017]
15 Market Street
Middleville, MI 49333
(269) 795-7644
susan.rietman45@gmail.net

Jody Pratt [2013]
Middleville UMC
2984 Fifth Street
Shelbyville, MI 49344
(616) 292-4908
prattgji09@gmail.com

HELP WANTED:

Would you like to serve on our district team? We are looking for the following members:



- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Social Action
- Membership Nurture and Outreach

If you would like to learn more about a role, or would like to nominate a friend, please contact a board member. Board meets four times per year. Benefits include paid event registrations and mileage reimbursement.

The ANCHOR, Midwest District United Methodist Women newsletter is published three times yearly – April, August and December. Email newsletter submissions to saraw1104@gmail.com before these copy deadlines: 3/10, 7/10, 11/10.

Midwest District UMW
7476 Orchard Circle
Fremont, MI 49412
saraw1104@gmail.com

Presort Std
US Postage
PAID
Grand Rapids, MI
Permit No 1131

<u>IN THIS ISSUE:</u>	<u>Page #</u>
President’s Message	1
District Leadership Opportunities	2
Treasurer’s Notes	3
Fruits of the Season: A Reflection.....	4
Registration Form: District Annual Mtg.	5
Books! Books! Books!	6
<i>Faith Talks</i> Podcast.....	7
Mission u Update	8
Upcoming Opportunities.....	8
District Lay Servant Ministries Classes....	9
Conference Annual Meeting Info.....	9
Assembly 2022 Info.....	10
Holland UMW Holiday Bazaar.....	11
2022 Proposed Budget.....	12
2021 District Leadership Team.....	13
Upcoming Events	14

The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women:

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 community; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in global ministries of the church.



- 2021 IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE:** **✂ clip and save ✂**
- **August 13-14**, Mission u Spiritual Growth Study: *Bearing Witness*, Virtual Event
 - **August 31**, deadline for reading logs, new members and memorials
 - **Friday, September 10**, deadline to register for District Annual Gathering in Holland
 - **Saturday, September 18**, District Annual Gathering, Holland First UMC
 - **October 18-19**, Mission u of the North, Gaylord, MI
 - **Saturday, October 23**, Conference Annual Celebration, Westwood UMC, Kalamazoo
 - **November 30**, Assembly 2022 Early Bird Registration deadline
 - **December 15**, deadline for 2021 financial remittances and 2022 pledge cards