



THE ANCHOR

News from the Midwest District
United Methodist Women

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I hope this newsletter finds you doing well. Please stay safe and well. Our world keeps changing. We can only do what we can. Remember the Lord is with us always.

For those who feel safe getting out among others we hope you will attend Spring Fling on Saturday, March 19. Church of the Dunes, Grand Haven will be our hostess. Nancy Snell from the Kalamazoo area will be our keynote speaker. Some of you may know Nancy from Mission U. Nancy will bring her singing and guitar skills to speak with us about the Civil Rights Tour that she spearheaded last Fall. Also, someone from Community House will be present to give us a status report. Our in-gathering will be for Community House. Enjoy lunch and afternoon break-out sessions: Book review and discussion, a *Stampin' Up!* greeting card craft project, ideas and information on writing grants for social justice, and Needles for Mission: an informative “how-to” session regarding *Dresses for Africa* (sewn baby gowns) and *Love N Stitches* (knitted sweaters and mittens). Send in the registration form on page 3 by March 12th.

Then in April we are having a one-day Spiritual Growth Retreat. Please refer to the registration form on page 9 and Ann Scott’s article on page 6 for details on this super event. A big thank you to Middleville UMW for hosting this event. We will not be having an overnight retreat this year. Due to special circumstances, we were unable to make that happen. Thank you for your understanding.

Bless everyone and hope to see you all at one or both of these great events.



Jean Sherman
District UMW President
sherdairy1@gmail.com
(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.
- ▶ **Membership Nurture & Outreach:** Maintains membership lists, develops ways to attract, welcome and maintain new and current members.

Training for these positions is provided and registration fees for district and conference events are paid including Mission u, District Annual and Conference Annual Celebrations. Mileage to team meetings is also reimbursed.

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



SPRING FLING *(registration form page 3)*

Saturday, March 19, 2022, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
Church of the Dunes, Grand Haven



SPRING SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

(registration form page 9)
Saturday, April 30, 2022, 9:30 a.m.–3:15 p.m.
Middleville UMC

ASSEMBLY 2022

May 20-22, 2022, *Orlando Convention Center*
Visit www.assembly2022.org for virtual registration options.



Midwest District United Methodist Women Presents...

Spring Fling 2022

Civil Rights and Racial Justice: Our History, Our Future

Saturday, March 19, 2022

Grand Haven Church of the Dunes, 717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, Michigan

9:30 a.m. Check-in • 10:00 a.m. Welcome • 3:00 p.m. Send-off

Featured Speaker:



Nancy Snell (Westwood UMC, Kalamazoo) will share details of her trip on the Civil Rights Bus Tour that she organized in October 2021. Experience first-hand the sights, sounds, tastes and voices of those who lived (and still live) under the oppressions of racial injustice. The trip included stops at the National Civil Rights Museum, the Legacy Museum and National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the Rosa Parks Freedom Rides Museum, and a walk across the Edmond Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Nancy will also lead us in singing the songs of the Civil Rights Movement. Come and learn how you can “get on the bus” to expand your understanding of racial justice issues.

Enjoy lunch and afternoon break-out sessions: Book review and discussion, a *Stampin' Up!* greeting card craft project, ideas and information on writing grants for social justice, and Needles for Mission: an informative “how-to” session regarding *Dresses for Africa* (sewn baby gowns) and *Love 'N Stitches* (knitted sweaters and mittens).

INGATHERING: requested supplies for United Methodist Community House, Grand Rapids. A donation table will be located near the entrance for these items:

- For children and youth: tissues, art/craft supplies (packing tape, double-sided tape, wash tape, dry erase markers, white and colored copy paper, crayons, pencils, and coloring books for kindergarteners and 1st graders.
- For seniors: coffee, creamer, sugar, adult coloring pages, colored pencils/markers, yarn.

Registration Cost: \$15 by March 12th. Use one form per person. Please print.

Name: _____ Church: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

_____ Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Special Dietary Needs: _____

Daycare needed? (advanced notice only) _____ If yes, # of children and ages: _____

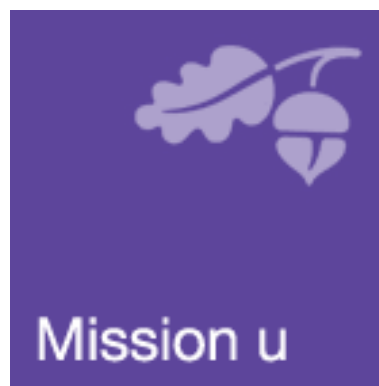
Cost: \$15 by March 12th. Make checks payable to: *Midwest District UMW*

Send registrations to: Sue Van Portfliet, 1333 Ravanna Drive SE, Grand Rapids MI 49508

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.

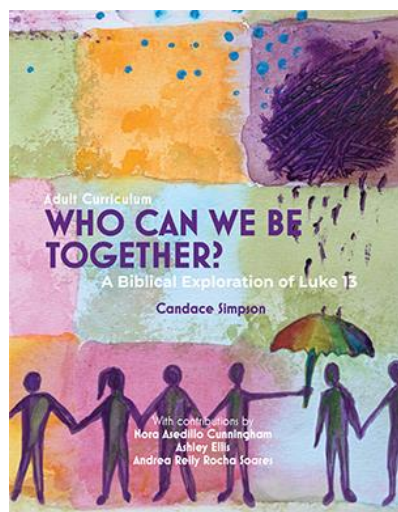


There will be two opportunities to attend Mission u in 2022. The study will be based on Luke 13 but the study book is not yet available. The format will be different from past years as there is only one major study, and there will be more time for some other types of programming. Rev. Tiffany Newsom from Laingsburg UMC will be the Study Leader. She will be assisted by Ethel Gil and Ruth Sutton.

Check these dates on your calendar and plan to attend one session:

- August 11-13 at Lake Huron Retreat Center in Burtchville Twp, Michigan.
- October 17-18 in Gaylord

Mission u for children and youth is on hold due to COVID. Watch for registration details in the next ANCHOR newsletter.



Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13, written by Candace Simpson brings participants deeper into Jesus' teachings in this chapter of Luke to explore what it means to be in community.

As the author notes, *"For followers of Christ 2,000 years later, it's important for us to sit with the range of emotions we have in response to these words. It's not easy to build and sustain communities, especially when there are forces that drain us, exhaust us, and even push us to act uncharacteristically. And yet, we are called to act on the most ethical principles of our faith so we can witness the kin-dom of God on earth."*

Who Can We Be Together? can be adapted to a variety of settings outside of the Mission u format, including Sunday school, distance learning and other church school settings.

NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT TREASURER

We understand that fund raising efforts over the last few years have been challenging. Despite the challenges, our Midwest District United Methodist Women sent a total of \$26,314.40 to the Michigan Conference treasurer: \$22,841 through 5 Channels of Giving, \$1,304.00 in Supplemental giving, and \$2,168.84 in A&MD funds were returned. We were \$3,685.60 short of our \$30,000 Budget for 2021.

Our Pledge to Missions for 2022 is \$25,000. As United Methodist Women, we continue to look for new ways to support the United Methodist Women's ongoing effort to transform the lives of women, youth, and children in the United States and around the world.

DO YOU KNOW . . .

- Your Unit could be a 5 Star Unit? Each Unit that sends a minimum donation in each of the 5 channels of giving will be recognized as a 5 Star Unit. (Minimums: \$5 Pledge to mission, \$40 for Special Mission Recognition, \$5 for gift to mission, \$5 for gift in memory, and \$5 for World Thank offering)
- You could be a 5 Star Person? An individual from any local unit can give personally in all 5 channels of giving with a minimum donation of \$60 (\$5 for pledge to mission, \$40 for Special Mission Recognition, \$5 for gift to mission, \$5 for gift in memory, and \$5 for World Thank). There is a form on the MI Conference UMW website Michigan Conference United Methodist Women (umwmichiganconference.org), left side, partway down the page. The Local Unit treasurer gives this form to anyone who wants to individually give in all 5 channels of giving. The local Unit Treasurer sends the form along with the donation to the District Treasurer. The individual will receive a "5 Star" pin, which will be presented at your District Annual Meeting (usually in September or October). With consecutive years of personal giving, you could earn a 5-year pin, a 10-year pin, or even a 20-year pin.
- You may order cards to go with your Gift to Mission giving? You may send a Gift to Mission on its own, or you may choose to honor someone by giving a Gift to Mission in their name. There are a variety of cards available either individually or in packs of 10 (\$50) or packs of 5 (\$25). Christmas cards are also available in packs of 5 (\$25) only. The inside of all cards reads "A Gift to Mission has been given in your honor through United Methodist Women." Local treasurers order Gift to Mission cards through me.

I'm sharing this information with you; maybe as new information, or maybe just as a reminder. Many wonderful reasons for Mission giving. There's no limit! If I may help you in any way, please let me know. May God bless you and keep you in His care,



Penny Brubaker, District UMW Treasurer
432 N. York Rd., Hart, MI 49420
(231) 873-3124
pennybrubaker@hotmail.com



**NEW REMITTANCE
ADDRESS FOR UNIT
TREASURERS**

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT IS APRIL 30

I encourage you to attend the Spiritual Growth Retreat on April 30. It's a fantastic way to grow—personally and for ministry. Our speaker, Dawn Ferguson, is looking forward to sharing her message of Healing Hearts and I know her dynamic presentation will be a blessing to you. She has shared with other UMW groups and comes well recommended. I hope you will each bring a car load of women with you.

I also hope that you invite at least one woman, either in your church or someone you know, who you think would benefit from hearing a message which recognizes hearts that hurt, how healing can occur and how to maintain a healthy heart. This message is for any one of us or perhaps it will help us minister more effectively to others. It is an invitation and a blueprint to grow in our faith walk. The Middleville UMW is looking forward to hosting the Retreat.

The one-day format is new for us and we hope it fits your schedule well. Please pray now for the impact of this event: Pray that God will enable our speaker to lead us in ways that bring each of us closer to the life God means us to have. Pray for the readiness of each attendee to benefit from the message that will be given. Pray that those who most need this opportunity will come.

I trust you are taking extra time personally and in worship to focus on the need we each have to seek a deeper relationship with God. We may still be in the season of winter but—there is HOPE. I encourage you to open a United Methodist Hymnal and meditate on the words of #707 *Hymn of Promise*. I think these words that remind us of God's plan and God's timing offer just the encouragement we need. May your FAITH be strengthened.



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

Hymn of Promise (UMH707)

Written by Natalie Sleeth

In the bulb, there is a flower
In the seed, an apple tree
In cocoons, a hidden promise
Butterflies will soon be free

In the cold and snow of winter
There's a spring that waits to be
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

There's a song in every silence
Seeking word and melody
There's a dawn in every darkness
Bringing hope to you and me

From the past will come the future
What it holds, a mystery
Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see

In our end is our beginning
In our time, infinity
In our doubt, there is believing
In our life, eternity
In our death, a resurrection
At the last, a victory

Unrevealed until its season
Something God alone can see.

PROGRAM RESOURCES BOOK SHARE TIME

I hope you are all taking time to read some good books during this quiet time of year. Some great suggestions can be found here: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org.

And speaking of suggestions, we'll have a time at both Midwest District events coming up, Spring Fling on March 19 and Spring Retreat on April 30 to share about books you have read and enjoyed. They can be from the Reading Program or others that you have found and think United Methodist Women would be interested in. I'm looking forward to hearing what you are reading!

As always, I am available for anything related to Program Resources or the Reading Program. I'd be happy to come talk to your local unit about books or the Reading Program. Happy Reading!



Connie Swinger, District UMW Program Resources Secretary
(616) 813-4670, connieswinger@att.net
Reading Program book list and details can be found here:
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>

Celebration Open House

Monday, March 21, 5–7 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church
1100 Lake Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Come celebrate the official launch of
United Campus Christian Fellowship
a multi-denominational, inclusive campus ministry
integrating faith with life, career, and the pursuit of social justice.

Our Lutheran, Presbyterian, and United Methodist campus ministries are now fully combined with one single board, two campus ministers, and student involvement on three campuses, GVSU, GRCC, and Kendall College of Art and Design.

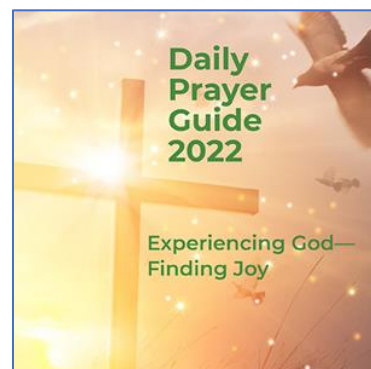
Meet campus ministers Nancy Janisch and Kate Van Valkenburg. Talk with volunteers from the "Listening Post" and representatives from our three denominations. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres with fellow supporters, volunteers, and other interested people.

See what new thing God is doing in college ministry. *Contact Nancy* (nancy@uccfmi.org) or *Kate* (pastorkatevv@uccfmi.org) with questions.



NEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM UMW

As many of you know, there is a new *Daily Prayer Guide* available through the United Methodist Women. This guide replaces the United Methodist Women's Prayer Calendar; the new name reflects its devotional features. From surveys that were conducted by the United Methodist Women, it was determined that most members used the prayer calendar for reflection and connection, rather than as a calendar or appointment book. Therefore, it was decided that the prayer calendar would be revised to become more of a prayer guide.



I recently received my copy of the *2022 Daily Prayer Guide*, and I love it! Each week begins with a short reflection for Monday, along with a list of lectionary readings for each day of the week. Tuesdays show “Your Gifts at Work” to help you learn more about projects supported by United Methodist Women. Wednesdays are mid-week prayers. Thursdays are weekly advocacy days with scriptural reminders of God's justice and compassion in the world. Fridays list birthdays for staff and mission personnel that week to guide you in prayer for those carrying out our work.

Other features included in the *Prayer Guide* are:

- Weekly pages with holidays
- Directory of Mission Personnel
- List of Places of Service and National Mission Institutions
- At-a-glance calendar for 2022 and 2023
- Maps to help locate places of service and National Mission Institutions

If you don't have a copy of the *2022 Daily Prayer Guide*, I highly recommend that you get one soon. They are available at www.umwmissionresources.org for \$14.00.

I am sure you will find this prayer guide to be very informative and inspiring. Order your copy now!



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

Healing Hearts: A Spiritual Growth Retreat

Hosted by the Midwest District United Methodist Women

Saturday, April 30, 2022

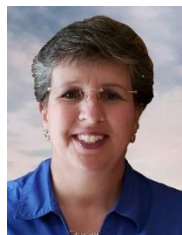
Middleville United Methodist Church, 111 Church Street, Middleville, Michigan

9:30 a.m. Check-In • 10:00 a.m. Welcome • 3:15 p.m. Send-off

As we walk through life, it is almost impossible not to be hurt along the way. Some of us have been wounded by harsh words that, years later, continue to pierce our hearts. Others have been disappointed by relationships leaving them feel emotionally bruised and battered. Still others have suffered horrific injustices where something was stolen from them that no man can restore. In all of these, the Lord desires to bring healing and restoration. Throughout this inspirational day, we will explore foundational Scripture verse Isaiah 61:1. Then bring our thoughts from deception to truth and recognize the lies that the enemy has spoken to us about ourselves, our situation, about God and others. We will recognize the truth of what God says so that we can begin to receive God's healing for our wounded hearts. Enjoy a day of fellowship, speaker-led sessions, break-out activities, lunch and giveaways.



Featured Speaker:



DAWN FERGUSON considers herself amazingly blessed to have met the Lord as a child and to have walked with Him throughout the years. Nearly seven years ago, she retired as a Police Sergeant. While at one time she put people in jail, now (for the past ten years) she ministers to people in jail - specifically women. The Lord also has opened doors for her to speak, teach, preach, and minister in a variety of settings. With the encouragement of her Pastor, she became a Licensed Minister in 2017 and then Ordained in 2018. Today, she finds everyday with the Lord absolutely exciting!

INGATHERING: the Middleville Community Food Pantry needs items that must be purchased for their patrons: paper products (paper towel and Kleenex), cleaning supplies (dish soap, Clorox cleaner and wipes).

REGISTRATION COST: \$15 by April 23rd. Use one form per person. Please print.

Name: _____ Church: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

_____ Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Special Dietary Needs: _____

Daycare needed? (advanced notice only) # of children and ages: _____

Cost: \$15 by April 23rd. Make checks payable to: Midwest District UMW

Send registrations to: Sue Van Portfliet, 1333 Ravanna Drive SE, Grand Rapids MI 49508

REborn, REgrow, REjuvenate

These words are on the front of the Rehace Puerto Rico work shirts from Team #001 Middleville/Michigan Conference. Although not a UMW sponsored activity, four of the seven team members were "mature " females who worked from January 15-22, 2022 in the Arecibo area roofing and painting. As I wiped the sweat that dripped from under the hard hat (80 degrees in the hot sun), I reflected on *our UMW commitment to live by our actions of faith, hope, and love throughout the world.*

In both households the adult male had physical challenges limiting ability to work on roofs in need of repair or replacement due to damage from Hurricane Maria in 2017. Rebuilding physical structures is certainly primary and projects are scheduled over a year out! Employment in construction provides opportunities but also programs that support emotional needs after a disaster are being addressed. Originally UMCOR supported the work but FEMA is now providing funding/employment and the Michigan Conference team was the first one since March 2020 to provide volunteer assistance. Yeah Michigan! Social Action is WHEREEver you model and practice your faith, hope and love in WHATEver project and for WHOever is in need.

BRA AND READING GLASSES COLLECTIONS STARTING SOON!

Peru Health Care 2023 will be announcing dates soon for the next mission journey; probably late winter 2023. We will be taking any size bras in new or gently used condition. Reading glasses will also be collected. We will be collecting these items at UMW events in the upcoming year and I can arrange for pick up.



Jody Pratt
UMW District Social Action Coordinator and
Michigan Volunteers In Mission Coordinator
(616) 292-4908
prattgji@gmail.com



MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2022 LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRESIDENT:

Jean Sherman [2021]
Fremont UMC
8465 W. 16th Street
Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 519-2542
sherdairy1@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Open

SECRETARY:

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

TREASURER:

Penny Brubaker [2022]
Hart UMC
432 N. York Rd.
Hart, MI 49420
(231) 873-3124
pennybrubaker@hotmail.com

REGISTRAR:

Sue VanPortfliet
Cornerstone UMC
1333 Ravanna Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(616) 246-7183
suezeequ@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:

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
judyhuynh@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. 16th Street
Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 519-2542
sherdairy1@gmail.com

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
- 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 four times yearly – February, May, August, and December. Email newsletter submissions to saraw1104@gmail.com before these copy deadlines: 2/10, 4/10, 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 |
| Registration Form for Spring Fling..... | 3 |
| Mission u Update..... | 4 |
| Treasurer’s Notes..... | 5 |
| Spiritual Growth Retreat Invitation | 6 |
| Program Resources..... | 7 |
| UCCF Open House Invite | 7 |
| <i>Daily Prayer Guide</i> Now Available | 8 |
| Registration Form for Spring Retreat..... | 9 |
| Social Action Updates..... | 10 |
| 2022 District Leadership Team | 11 |
| Upcoming Events..... | 12 |

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.



2022 IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE:

✂ clip and save ✂

- **Saturday, March 19**, Spring Fling, Church of the Dunes, Grand Haven
- **Saturday, April 30**, Spring Spiritual Growth Retreat, Middleville UMC
- **May 20-22**, Assembly 2022, Orlando, FL, virtual option available
- **August 11-13**, Mission u of the East, Lake Huron Retreat Center
- **Saturday, September 17**, Midwest District Annual Celebration
- **October 16-18**, Mission u of the North, Gaylord UMC
- **Friday, October 21**, Officer Training and Leadership Development
- **Saturday, October 22**, Conference Annual Celebration, Westwood UMC, Kalamazoo