



CENTRAL BAY DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Around the Bay December, 2018

OUR NEW NAME!

A few words of explanation about the new name of our newsletter:

Now that we are Central Bay District, we have given our District Newsletter a new name. We were previously "*The Nautical*", but now we are called "*Around the Bay*". Since we now include churches that were in other districts, we felt it was important to begin anew with our newsletter to embrace all those churches in our district "around the bay".

WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESSES!

The Conference has requested that
we send out

mailings by email to reduce costs
and make it

easier to communicate more often.

Therefore, be

sure to send in your email address
to Caroline

Diaz, our CBD secretary,
diazc5282@gmail.com.

Co-Presidents



What a whirl wind tour of Liberia! I recently returned from a two-week trip to Liberia. Unlike other mission trips I have been on, this was not work focused as much as it was an opportunity to

see the United Methodist Church in action. We visited 22 Methodist mission sites. As one of my fellow travelers described it, it was a "pop in and pop out" trip. We visited the Judith Craig Children's Village, five schools, including a school for the deaf, several medical clinics, a hospital, a

nursing school, a facility for lepers, an agricultural site (a farm), the women's training center and dedicated two wells in small remote communities. As you can see, we were constantly on the go.

A highlight of the trip was observing the Ganta United Methodist Women as they brought a donation of food and charcoal to the Ganta Hospital for use by patient families. In Liberia when a person is hospitalized, the family is responsible for providing food for the patient. We know that here in this country the UMW local units do a lot of things to benefit their communities. But observing the generosity of this local unit brought home to me the fact that UMW is an international organization with the same goals, whether in Liberia or the United States.

Now back to UMW life here in the Central Bay District. The Annual Celebration was an opportunity to make new friends, learn about missions, get organized for the new district and say a sad good-bye to people leaving our district. I, especially, will miss Julia Hulka, who has served as co-president along side me for the last two years. I owe her a BIG THANK YOU for all she has done. She picked up the pieces that I dropped and helped to keep things on an even keel. She will move to the Northern Waters district where I am sure she will serve them well.

Get out your calendar and put these UMW events on the calendar: February 9 Frankenmuth UMC will host the Spiritual Enrichment Brunch with Melene Wilsey from the New Heart UMC in Saginaw as the speaker; April 9 Keep Making Peace

will be held in East Lansing; and April 26 and 27 plan to attend the Spiritual Life Retreat at The Springs in Gladwin. I hope to have the opportunity to meet all of you at these events.

Finally, as your president I hope to serve you well in advancing the purpose of the United Methodist Women. I am an e-mail or phone call away. Oh, and by the way I would enjoy meeting with your local unit to hear what you are doing and share what I know about UMW.

In Christ's love,

Ruth Sutton

e-mail: suttonr1@charter.net

phone: 989-708-9968

This, That, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, & Goodbye!

Julia Hulka

Greetings from your outgoing Co-President! I'll soon be landing in Northern Waters District – actually I've already been splashing around with them – by being their Vice-President. I will miss all of you! I really will! You have absolutely one of the best district leadership teams in the Michigan Conference! Your officers know their stuff, work well together, and work very hard! I think maybe they LIKE each other! I never dreamed I'd become as active with United Methodist Women as I have, nor did I ever dream of learning so much and making so many friends! Nor did I ever in my wildest dreams imagine learning how to make a pasty! I will always wish you well and I will be back to visit, I promise!

I hope all of your bazaars have gone well – or will go well! Lots of work, but hopefully joyful work promoting a sense of community and working toward a common, worthwhile purpose, and putting a little more money toward your district pledge and other projects!

After attending three Annual Celebrations I have heard from our new Michigan Conference President, Linda Darrow and North Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women President, Rita Smith, and also Grace Okerson, a Global Mission Fellow (US-2) at NOAH in Detroit. That's

really a big spread, but that's what United Methodist Women are about. And did you see the wonderful article by Kathy Freeland about the UMW Michigan Conference Annual Celebration that was in MIConnect Oct. 31? Kinda makes you proud!

As a president, or an officer supporting your president, or know someone who will but doesn't want to be called 'president', have an upbeat sense of purpose – our UMW PURPOSE – promote the bigger picture of United Methodist Women, plan ahead and try to balance your meetings between Spiritual Growth, Social Action, Membership Nurture & Outreach, and Education & Interpretation. Try sending cards, reading books from the Reading Program, sponsor a fun mystery trip and don't tell ANYONE where you're going, visit a nearby United Methodist mission location or a local food bank or baby closet or domestic violence shelter and ask what you might do to be helpful, collect socks or underwear – have a light touch – make fun of yourself – try something NEW – don't be afraid to fail – relax and have a good time with this UMW stuff! Go out for ice cream or chocolate!

Fill a car and attend the CBD Spiritual Brunch Feb. 9, Keep Making Peace Apr. 6, or Retreat Apr. 26-27, or any other district event! Participate in one of our Mission u events. Recognize the contributions of each woman in your unit. Thank them! Appreciate them! NO 'Woe is me...' Absolutely NOT allowed! That only drags everyone else down – engage the support of your pastor – make sure he/she is included in your meetings and knows the good things your unit is doing. Even if you only have a few meetings a year, you can still be a vital unit or circle. Be an encourager and a team player. Volunteer to help others and let them help you. Participate in whatever spiritual disciplines that have meaning for you in growing as a Christian. Well, enough of my ramblings.

I hope & pray that your 2019 will be showered with blessings as you renew your commitment with United Methodist Women. Remember, we didn't get to be 150 years old by being wishy-washy non-entities! Come March 23, CELEBRATE! Settle in with your newly organized district and drive the

miles it takes to attend district functions. Enjoy those blessings God has for you! There is a PLAN!

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11



Vice President

Greetings,

The Holiday Season is upon us and the cold weather is here. As I'm writing this it was snowing for a few minutes and I'm not sure about you but I'm not ready for it.

It has been a very busy and exciting year with a lot of changes. We are no longer the Detroit Conference but as of July 1, 2018 we are The Michigan Conference...no longer Saginaw Bay District but Central Bay District UMW. We are saying good bye to some and welcoming others.

After much planning the District UMW Annual Celebration and Training on October 6th was a success. We are now planning for The Celebration for 2019. It will be held at Ames UMC on October 5, 2019 and the Speaker is Deborah Moore, Individual Volunteer Midwife to Kenya and a nurse-midwife.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I'm looking forward to seeing you all next year.

Blessings

Doris Simons

989-781-1492

dorissimons@att.net



Secretary

MERRY CHRISTMES AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE SECRETARY FOR UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CENTRAL BAY DISTRICT!!

As my second year as District Secretary on the Mission Team is coming to an end, I have been busy attending many of our District and Conference events. I have been inspired by all the wonderful speakers and fellowship at the events. I'm feeling very blessed to have met so many women who are willing to serve to fulfill the mission purpose of the United Methodist Women.

Thank you for those who have submitted your 2019 officers list. The official deadline was November 1, 2018. Please continue to send them to me at 5622 West Spring Knoll Dr., Bay City, MI 48706. Even if you do not have a change of officers, I would still appreciate receiving a completed form from your unit. I know some of the units have their election of officers at the end of the year, so please remember to send me your officer information as soon as possible.

When you fill out the forms, don't forget;

- Write (NC) in front of the officers' names if there is no change. If the officers are the same and addresses have changed indicate this.
- Zip codes with zip code extensions.
- **E-mail addresses if available, (needed for electronic communications).**
- Record home phone & cell phone numbers (indicate the primary number).

Thank you for paying attention to detail. It makes a big difference in whether or not you receive information from the Central Bay District.

Thank you to all the unit secretaries for your time and talents. God bless the United Methodist Women and all they do.

Be well, be safe, and be blessed.

Caroline M. Diaz

diazc5282@gmail.com

989-450-1735



Treasurer

Greetings,

Our Annual District meeting was held in Essexville this year. It was a wonderful day to celebrate the beginning of the Central Bay District! Thank you to all the treasurers that made the trip to attend the leadership training session, I pray that you were able to learn some valuable information. As we transition to our new district, we will continue to use the same forms we have in the past, unless otherwise instructed. While things may seem a little confusing this first year, I know that we as United Methodist Women will work together to ease the transition.

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your district treasurer for the past 5 years. It has truly been a blessing! I have had the opportunity to meet a great deal of amazing women and I have enjoyed my time on the district team. All future mailings should be sent to your new Central Bay District Treasurer, Bonnie Dunstan. The following is how you can reach her: Bonnie Dunstan, 5760 Pine Dr. Caseville, MI 48725 989-856-3263 or willbdun@comcast.net

I would like to applaud you all for your efforts toward the commitment to our Pledge this year. At this time our giving has not met our pledged amount. We have made the decision to leave the 2019 pledge amount at \$55,000, as we are still unsure how the transition to the new conference will be. To date, we have collected \$42,698.25 in pledge and \$5,438.65 in special mission giving, for a total of \$48,136.90. I would like to thank you all for your efforts and encourage you to encourage your local units. Please lift our district in prayer, so that we may have the opportunity to meet our pledge in 2019.

I would like to extend a personal invitation to our Spiritual Enrichment Brunch on February 9, 2019 at Frankenmuth UMC. It would be a great time to meet some of your newly added district members.

May God grant you all a **Merry CHRISTmas** and a safe and **Happy New Year!**

Should you have any questions before the team transitions to their new members in January, you can continue to contact me at: 989-474-4477 or entrepreneurjs@yahoo.com

Shona Vennevy, Outgoing Treasurer

From your Incoming Treasurer:

I will be your new district treasurer starting January 1st 2019. Any time after Jan. 1st you may start sending me money for your unit pledge, special mission recognition, world thank offering, etc. I hope your unit has given or will consider giving a \$150 donation to the legacy fund. The UMW organization will be 150 years old in 2019, so we should CELEBRATE!! I hope the officers of every unit subscribe to Response magazine and in turn inform their members of the happenings of UMW. I look forward to being your district treasurer and to seeing some of you at the district, conference, prayer breakfast, and retreats that are planned for 2019.

I have been the Blue Water District treasurer for two years, so I feel I'm still learning how to do the job, and I may call on some of you for help as we are all getting used to the changes. I live in Caseville which is a small community on Saginaw Bay. In the winter the community is quite small, but in the summer we grow to 3 or 4 times the winter population. If any of you have been here in August when the cheeseburger celebration is going on, you know what I'm talking about. All of us natives avoid town during those 10 days of August.

I've been a widow for almost 4 years now and it's still hard to get used to. I felt I now had time to devote to UMW that I didn't have when my husband was living. He was a UM minister and I loved working with him in the churches we served. I now have a maltese, named Charlie, a small dog that's my constant companion.

Blessings to you all,

Bonnie Dunstan

5760 Pine Dr., Caseville, MI 48725



Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

*"Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not
all His Benefits"...(Ps 103:2)*

To My Sisters in Christ;

What a blessed year 2018 has been; God is good;
what an *AWESOME* God we serve. You ladies
have been delightful to serve with, what a dedicated
bunch. The Missions we serve are grateful to have
such caring women who strive to work hard to serve
them.

While attending all of these celebrations and
workshops, it is amazing to learn of all the various
organizations and missions that we contribute to, all
the dedicated missionaries who are out there in the
field working hard. As we come together as the
new '*CENTRAL BAY DISTRICT*' we hope to do
bigger and better things; will miss those who are
leaving for another district, but will gain a few new
members.

May God continue to bless us and keep us in good
health as we continue to serve him in anticipation of
a successful and inspirational slate of programs and
events for 2019. I'm looking forward to my new
role in the MNO position in 2019. May you all
have a blessed holiday and prosperous, healthy new
year.

Peace & love,
Edith Cooper, Outgoing E&I

INCOMING E & I COORDINATOR

There are so many ways we can make our Unit
meetings both interesting and informative. I hope

that each of you receive the Response magazine.
There are so many articles in there that are
interesting and add to our knowledge about the
work that the UMW does around the world. I
would also urge each of you to take a look at your
church's copy of the Engage Michigan booklet.
That booklet contains information about many
different missions and missionaries not only
overseas, but also throughout Michigan. I would
also encourage each local E & I Coordinator to get a
copy of the Prayer Calendar and that each unit
member look up their birthday in the calendar and
select the name of a missionary with the same
birthdate. Then send them a card and perhaps
periodic cards of encouragement or just hand
written notes. As one of my friends constantly
reminds me – "God blesses us so that we can bless
others."

This is an exciting year for us as we merge into one
UNIFIED conference across the State. Yes, there
will be changes, but along with the changes comes
the opportunity to view things a little differently
than we have in the past. Hopefully we can tweak
the way we have done things so that we can do
things even better going forward, which might just
entice others to join with us in our efforts.

If you are the E&I Coordinator for your local unit,
please send me your name, email address (mailing
address if you do not have a computer) and the
name of your church and your city. This way I can
be sure that I get information to you as quickly as
possible.

Wishing each of you a blessed Christmas and a joy
filled New Year.

Nancy Cline 989-401-1217
nancyleeline@gmail.com



***Mission Coordinator for
Spiritual Growth***

Luke 10:38-42 The story of two sisters - Mary and Martha. Excerpt from “The Hidden Life Awakened”, one of the 2019 UMW reading program books.

“Mary and Martha represent the conflict we all live with. When we are out of balance in either one of these ways of living, our relationships and our spiritual lives suffer. The Mary in us has to be redeemed through our willingness to become servants in places where we may be very uncomfortable, the world of our reality. If we don’t take our spirituality into the real work we are called to do, nothing will ever get done.

The question for the Martha in us is ”Can I do this work without feeling put upon or resentful but in love and gratitude?” It takes the work and energy of a redeemed Martha to do God’s work in the world, and it takes compassion flowing through the redeemed Mary to draw people into the community of love. This is the movement toward wholeness, toward the best.”

As United Methodist Women, let us all strive to live in a community of love, with a balance of work, energy, and compassion.

Martha Clapp
989-821-9115
caseysmom107@gmail.com



Secretary of Program Resources

Here we are about to celebrate our Savior’s birth! Again, where does the time go? Here’s hoping you were able to attend your district meeting (I was at two!) and also our first MI Conference in Petoskey. It was a wonderful experience to be with so many of our sisters and share our stories, to share ‘our bold moments’!

Ways of getting our hands on Reading Program books is changing but don’t let that discourage you from engaging and being enlightened by the many books we have on our Reading Program.

National has informed us that the Reading Program booklet, as we know it, will no longer be printed. You can find it and print a copy by going to: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org. At the top click on ‘Members and Leaders’, then Reading Program on drop-down menu. Then at the upper left click on ‘Print Friendly catalog’ – pages 1-2, 4-22, 28-30 (will give you 24 pages and not all 43!) On the same page, at middle right, you can click on the green box ‘2019 Print Friendly Reading Program list’—this version lists book titles, authors, and publishers, but not a picture or description of the book and is only six pages. Don’t have a computer? You must absolutely know someone who does and will do this for you. Be bold and ask somebody to do it for you!

National also informed us that after the 2019 Reading Program books and e-books will no longer be sold and we will be encouraged to purchase our books from Amazon or another online source, as well as borrowing from our public libraries.

Most of the 2019 books I’ve read so far are on the children’s/youth list but that’s okay, they still count! If your children/grandchildren question you why they are the color they are, read All the Colors We Are by Katie Kissinger. Did you know there are just three reasons? Read the book and find out what they are.

Red by Jan De Kinder tells about a young boy whose face keeps getting red and thus is bullied by his classmates. What happens to him? Read the book and find out.

All Around Us by Xelena Gonzalez has a little girl walking with her grandfather while he teaches her about the circle of life. What do they see? Read the book and find out.

Step Up to the Plate Maria Singh by Uma Krishnaswami is set in WWII time with nine-year-old Maria growing up in California with a father from India and her mother from Mexico. She desperately wants to play softball, but, you know, it is hard to play in a long dress which her father insists young girls must wear. She also has a pesky six-year-old brother whom she must watch so the local bullies won’t beat him up when he walks

home. What happens to them? Read the book and find out.

Lastly, Better by Melvin Bray, Nurturing for Community, is a book that might not be for everyone but certainly will make you reconsider 'the story' you tell, not just yours but from the Bible. In our upbringing, in the home and outside, we grow up with certain beliefs many which deal with our place in society – are you among the 'privileged' or 'not so privileged'? Bray believes we can do 'better' with 'the story' we tell.

My short time as your Secretary of Program Resources comes to an end very soon due to the fact my church is one of those moved into a new district. It has been my privilege and honor to serve you and to meet so many wonderful ladies, especially on the district team. I will miss you but we must be 'bold' and move forward with the changes we are dealt and make the most of it! You are in good hands with Lisa Wightman, your 2019 Secretary of Program Resources. I pray that someday I can be as knowledgeable as she is about the Reading Program!

May you have a blessed holiday season!

Love and God bless

Linda J. Pitts

2018 Secretary of Program Resources



Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach

Membership reporting is from
Jan 1st, 2018 thru Dec 31st, 2018

and is done online. Below is the web address for reporting. But, as always, if you have any difficulties please call me in January. I will also bring my computer to the Brunch in Frankenmuth on Feb. 9th, 2019, so bring your numbers and we can input them. You will find me in the Program Resources area.

Please follow these step by step instructions and be **SPECIFIC** so we can identify your unit in the final report. Reporting is Due by March 30, 2019.

Here is how it goes....

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2018

1. Church's zip code or city (**Do not add UMW in name**) Start all with the city name
 - a. Drop down menu will identify church, District, and Conference and Jurisdiction automatically
2. Church address
3. Unit type - most will be local
4. Primary Language
5. Unit President's name, telephone number and email
6. Number of members as of January 1, 2019
7. New members added in 2018
8. Members lost by death or other reasons
9. Further training on Facebook, digital/virtual circles
10. Person reporting - name and position (other), phone number and email
11. Strategies using to increase membership?
12. Questions on Mission giving, Spiritual growth, Charter for Racial Justice, National Mission Institutes, International Ministries
13. Check all information - then click Submit

There is no printout. Once you send it to National, they will gather it by Conferences and send it back later.

As of January, 2019, Edith Cooper will be the new Central Bay District MNO Mission Coordinator and I will still be on the Mission Team as Program Resources. So Read! Read!! Read!!!

Lisa Wightman

1399 Mertz Road

Caro MI 48723

(989)673-7079

klwightman@yahoo.com



Committee on Nominations Chair

On October 6th we held our Annual Celebration and installed our new slate of Officers for 2019. We have also voted on another member to our Nominating Committee, Rita Wilkins.

We will be moving forward into the new year with our new roster of women, ready to work hard and serve the surrounding churches of our new Central Bay District.

As we approach the holiday season I want to wish everyone a time of peace, hope and joy found only in the celebration of our Lord and Savior.

Seasons Blessings to All,

Linda Kube
lindaakube@yahoo.com
989-928-8165



Communication Coordinator

We have gone through many changes this past year, and more are to come.

Starting (maybe) in July, 2019, our Central Bay District newsletter will be sent to you by e-mail. It is very important that you submit email addresses on the Officer's list, sent to our secretary, Caroline Diaz. If you have new email addresses not submitted already, please send them to her or to me.

We will, of course, send out the newsletter by regular mail to those who have no email. It may be a bit confusing for a time, and it is all a work in progress.

Please look at the flyers within this newsletter for the Spiritual Brunch and Spiritual Retreat. Registration forms are there for you to fill out and turn in so that you may attend these events.

May you have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed 2019!

Judy Gerken
jrgerk@yahoo.com
989-755-4848

What's in a Name?

Naming the new Michigan Conference UMW Newsletter

As I'm sure you know by now, all things United Methodist Women in Michigan are changing, complete with a new title for the combined conference – The Michigan Conference UMW! Complete with a new slate of officers that will begin their terms January 1st, 2019, we now have a new team of participants in Communications! Kathy Freeland, Sally Messner, Amber Hassler and Diana Miller will work together to keep you all informed of important updates through a new newsletter, Facebook page, Michigan UMW website and more to come!

Here's the thing – we think that you all have a better idea of a name for our new publication rather than the "Michigan Conference UMW Newsletter". So, instead of the *Detroit Conference News* and *Highlights*, the current names of the two newsletters, we are asking you to help us create a new name!

All entries need to be submitted by January 31st, and you can submit your names by phone, snail mail or e-mail to:

Kathy Freeland
PO Box 195, Mayville, MI 48744
989-843-5247
ksfdaf@sbcglobal.net

Good luck – we look forward to seeing your creative choices!

Central Bay District United Methodist Women
3617 Mackinaw Suite 1
Saginaw, MI. 48602-3342



“Around the Bay” December 2018



Dates to Remember for 2019

February 9

Spiritual Enrichment Brunch, Frankenmuth United Methodist Church

April 6

Keep Making Peace, East Lansing, MI

April 26-27

Spiritual Life Retreat, The Springs Retreat Center, Gladwin

October 5

Central Bay District Celebration Day, Saginaw: Ames United Methodist Church

October 21-22

Mission u of the North, Gaylord UMC

October 25-26

Michigan Conference UMW Annual training and Celebration, Howell UMC