



CENTRAL BAY DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Around the Bay December, 2019

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

President



As I look out the window, winter is upon us. The winter solstice is only a few weeks away. Each day gets shorter and the night gets longer. I find myself being less active and more inclined to staying in, reading a book and just plain being quieter and more contemplative. The solstice is a good time to look back and evaluate where you have been, and as the days get longer, plan for what might be in the next year.

As I look back over the UMW year, the district leadership planned and conducted several events which were well attended and seemed to be satisfying to those who attended. In February, Melene Wilsey was our featured speaker at Frankenmuth United Methodist Church. In April, at the Spiritual Retreat in Gladwin, the Revs. Lisa and Ron Cook shared with us using the Psalms in worship. During the summer, many of us attended Mission u programs in Southfield, Albion and at the Huron Retreat Center. A highlight of the Mission u events was having our own Bishop David Bard lead the spiritual study. In October the Central Bay District UMW held the first annual celebration and leadership training at Ames United Methodist Church. Our speakers were Deborah Moore, speaking about midwifery in Liberia and Kenya, and Dorothy Frederickson, speaking about the use of baby boxes in Haiti. In October, many took the opportunity to attend the Mission u in Gaylord. What a year! So many opportunities.

In looking forward to the next year, I hope you are planning to attend UMW events. The Spiritual Brunch to be held in Clare will feature Ellen Harbin. In April, The Springs in Gladwin will again be the site of the Spiritual Retreat. This event is a time to get away, spend time with friends and be spiritually renewed. And again, next year, the Mission u events will be held in the summer and again in October. Put these events on your calendar and plan to join other UMW women as we worship and learn together. And don't forget that there is always the opportunity for fellowship.

Winter can be a time of rest. This is a great time to get started on the books on the UMW Reading Program. If you have not read the book, Eleanor – a Spiritual Biography, I highly recommend it. This is a book that will leave you in admiration of a woman who worked for the things she believed in. Recently, I received a call from the National UMW office. They asked me if I would be willing to be a reader to evaluate books for the next year's reading program. Of course, I said "Yes!" So, I will get a preview of the books that you will be able to read next year. What an honor! What a pleasure! If you aren't a reader, then I suggest that you check out the children's books. (Most are available at the library.) They also count for the reading program. Read them to your kids or grandchildren. You will be glad you did.

Can you tell I love UMW? No matter what happens to our church in the next couple of years, UMW will still be there, doing what they have always done – working for the benefit of women, children and youth. Call me up! I would love to answer your questions about UMW and I am willing to meet with you and your unit to talk about UMW.

In Christ's love,

Ruth Sutton

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Vice President

It has been an exciting and challenging year. The Central Bay Annual Celebration and ELT was great. Everything went well and the speakers did a great job. A big Thank You to Ames United Methodist Church for hosting the Celebration, and to Nancy Cline and Ames United Methodist Women for the all their hard work in making the day a success.

October is always crazy with the Central Bay District Celebration, Mission u of the North and then the Michigan UMW Annual Celebration, celebrating 150 Years.

Next year's Annual Celebration will be held at Midland First on October 3, 2020. Plans are almost completed with only a few items left to take care of and then on to the Annual Celebration for 2021. I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

God's Blessings
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Secretary



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

My third year as District Secretary is coming to an end. This has been such a special year as it is the 150th Anniversary of United Methodist Women. I hope your local units have had a chance to celebrate it. Our District and Conference events were especially 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 submitting your 2020 officers list. The official deadline was November 1, 2019. Please continue to send them to me at 5622 West Spring Knoll Dr., Bay City, MI 48706. If there is no change in officers or addresses, I would still appreciate receiving a completed form from your unit. Please remember to send me your officer information as soon as possible.

When you fill out the forms, don't forget zip codes with zip code extensions, e-mail addresses if available, and write (NC) in front of the officers' names if there is no change. **If the officers are the same and addresses have changed** I really need to know that.

Thank you for paying attention to details. This is critical information in whether or not you receive communication from the Central Bay District. A big 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
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Treasurer

In the previous newsletter I explained about becoming a 5 star person; how each one of you in your unit or church could give a minimum of \$60 and become a 5 star person. Please keep that in mind as you enter 2020. You have 11 months in which to do this, so please give it some consideration. Your unit could also become a five star unit by giving a minimum of \$60 in the five channels of giving. We had 23 UMW units doing that in 2019.

Another way of giving to missions is by sending special cards, which I have, to your family and friends. There are cards for almost every occasion: Christmas, new baby, congratulations, in memory, birthday etc. just to name a few. There is a form which your unit treasurer should have, fill it out, pay for the card you want and your unit treasurer will send it on to me. Each card is \$5, but it is on

very high quality paper, and you will have the satisfaction of honoring someone special in your life and also giving to missions at the same time.

I have been the Central Bay District treasurer for only one year and it has been a learning experience for me and for all of you as well. Some people have asked about recognition pins and certificates. This was the year of transition. Any money you gave in 2019 will be honored at the October meeting of 2020. That is different than in past years. Please be patient with us for your district team is learning about the changes right along with all of you.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your district treasurer and I want to wish all of you a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

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Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

First let me say a very heartfelt “THANK YOU” for all your prayers and concerns. When the Lord wants to get your attention He certainly has a way of doing so. In my case, it came in the form of a bout with bronchitis and walking pneumonia.

There are a couple of housekeeping items that I need to bring to your attention. First and foremost is that each unit, whether you have formally elected officers or not, needs to send to Carrie Diaz the name of the contact person for your unit, her email address, her mailing address and her phone number. We want to have our records as current as possible.
We need your help!

Next, as we approach the end of this calendar year, it is time to work on completing your **Mission Unit Objectives** report. Those reports for all the activities you completed from **January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019** are **due** to be mailed

or emailed to me by **FEBRUARY 1, 2020**. You will receive your certificates at our District Annual Conference in October of 2020. I hope the process is now becoming clearer for everyone. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to give me a call.

As you look ahead to the coming year and the programs you would like to present to your members, think in terms of inviting a District Officer to come to your meeting. Each one of us is more than willing to come and fellowship with you. (That visit also becomes an item you can check off on your next Mission Unit Objective Report.)

I hope at least one member in each local unit receives our UMW Response magazine. There are so many interesting and informative articles in each issue. Additionally, there are some great ideas that are shared in the “Bright Lights” articles that let us know about the mission work that other local units around the country are doing.

There are so many ways that we can serve and there is so much need. As we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior, let us also diligently look for new ways that we too can become a “Bright Light” within our own local communities.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW
YEAR!

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Social Action

Awareness and Knowledge
Leads to Planning and
Taking Action

As I pondered writing a UMW social action article, I thought about “awareness”. Just how “aware” of the UMW social action issues are the women reading what I might write?

Just the other day I was in Lansing having lunch with my son. In the conversation with the waitress I

mentioned November 15 being a day where schools would be closed. She reacted with confusion. What? Why? She didn't know about schools being closed in Lansing. I said, "It's the first day of deer hunting season. All schools up north close on that day!!" We, who live up here, are soooo **aware** of that day!! We not only know about it, we understand it, we plan for it; we SHOP on it!! On the other hand, our "awareness" of UMW social action issues might be more like the Lansing waitress.

Of the four social action issues for 2019-2020, climate justice would be the issue we are probably most aware and knowledgeable of. We live with the air pollution problems produced by burning fossil fuels. We become irate with companies when we learn how they are exhausting unfiltered pollutants into the air. News stories tell about the development of renewable energy sources using wind, water, and solar power. Becoming more informed has increased our knowledge, understanding and, thus, our awareness. As with opening day of deer hunting season, we make "plans" to deal with the problem.

As an extra bonus in making and sharing these plans, the UMW social action web site provides HELP. As shown below there are six areas to explore for guidance, information, and understanding. There are posters, games, and you tube videos available. These can be shared as a UMW program.



United Methodist *Book of Discipline*

All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because

they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect. (Social Principles, ¶ 160)

United Methodist Women calls for sound stewardship of the earth and environmentally friendly lifestyles that preserve creation for the benefit of present and future generations.

Blessings, Jeanne Shelander
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 989-386-2063



*Mission Coordinator for
 Spiritual Growth*

This is the season of giving, but more important is the gift we all received during this season. While we find ourselves caught up in the hustle and bustle of the up-coming holidays, we need to remember to stop and reflect on the "Reason for the Season". Take time to read your Bible and renew the story of the journey to Bethlehem in your mind and heart. Reflect back on the first time you heard the Christmas Story and let the wonder of it all fill you with joy and praises to our Savior who continues to be with each of us on our journey through life.

We have completed another year at the district level as we offered a Spiritual Brunch hosted by Frankenmuth UMW and our annual Spiritual Retreat held at The Springs Retreat Center. Both events being very successful and we are busy planning for those events in 2020.

We send tidings of joy, peace and happiness for the New Year. Isaiah 9: 6-7

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Spiritual Growth Co-Chairs



Secretary of Program Resources

Once again, I'll remind all of you, we have made changes in the timeline for reporting to the

Central Bay District UMW. **Anytime after January 1st you can mail or email me your unit's Reading report for 2019.** This report will include all books read from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, from the lists of years 2014 thru 2019. And in January of 2020 it will be time to dig into those 2020 books, and read any from 2015 thru 2020. Reading books remain current for six years.

If you remember in the past receiving in the mail a booklet that gave you titles and a brief description of the books for the new upcoming year, you still can find that on the UMW Website. National is looking for ways to conserve Mission resources so they do not print and mail it but do provide it on the website. The website contains a great deal of helpful information in many areas related to UMW. Check it out, the address is

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org>

During District UMW events I have books available for purchase. You may also take the list from the website and check with your local library. Our library in town also has audio books which are my favorite way to read because I can knit at the same time.

The Reading Program is an opportunity for us to grow through study, but it should also lead to action. It encourages us as UMW members to expand our understanding of and to participate in God's Mission. We become more sensitive to ALL human beings, their needs, interests, and concerns. Books encourage us to think critically about issues facing humanity today. And we can grow in our understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in our forever changing World.

I am very drawn and sensitive to books that deal with taking care of our elderly and their health and vulnerability to people in today's world that may try to take advantage of them. Dementia and Alzheimer's affects so many of our population. "On Pluto: Inside the Mind of Alzheimer's" by

Greg O'Brien is a book that discusses how not to give up, and shares that every forgetful moment in your life is not necessarily a road heading to a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

If you have any questions Please do not hesitate to contact me. If I don't know the answer to your questions we can seek to find out the answer.

Lisa Wightman

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Caro MI 48723

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989 673-7079 Call or text



Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach

Greetings to my sisters in Christ of Central Bay District;

This year I attended Mission u of the East on August 17 and 18 in Lake Huron Retreat Center. It was well attended and we had a class by our very own Bishop Bard. He spoke on 'Radical Discipleship' and the Gospel according to Mark.

The annual District Celebration was held at my home church, Ames UMC. We had a great attendance and the guest speaker was very interesting. We learned a great deal of information about medical conditions in parts of Africa where she served as a mid-wife.

I did not attend the leadership training in Howell in October as I was out of town. I hope all the units in Central Bay District have submitted their membership reporting. The website for the census is: **www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2020**.

I will be sending out my cluster letter to my D-Zone and hope the team members have done the same. We encourage all units to attend the programs for 2020 and cluster leaders should call the presidents of local units to invite them to the events such as *Spiritual Enrichment Brunch, Spiritual Life Retreat, CBD UMW Annual Celebration & ELT*, and

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150 YEARS IN MISSION



Paste picture

As we are ending 2019, celebrating UMW's 150 years in mission, we know many of your units had special events.

Trinity UMW in Rose City, Michigan, put on a big celebration. They made a cake that was three feet square and six feet high. It had three layers with candles on the top. It was made of painted cardboard boxes, crepe paper and beads. It was in the 4th of July Parade in Rose City.

Paste picture

The UMW Ladies had T-shirts made that said "United Methodist Women, 150 years". Enjoy the pictures they sent.

Central Bay District United Methodist Women
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Saginaw, MI. 48603



“Around the Bay” December 2019

Dates to Remember for 2020

February 8

Spiritual Enrichment Brunch, Clare United Methodist Church

April 4

Keep Making Peace, East Lansing, MI

April 24-25

Spiritual Life Retreat, The Springs Retreat Center, Gladwin

October 3

Central Bay District Celebration Day, Midland First United Methodist Church

October 19-20

Mission u of the North, Gaylord UMC

October 23-24

Michigan Conference UMW Annual training and Celebration, Kalamazoo UMC