



THE ANCHOR

News from the Grand Rapids District
United Methodist Women

A Message from Our President

Happy New Year Ladies! 2018 started with our first ever event for the Grand Rapids district. We celebrated Epiphany with a hardy brunch hosted by the Middleville UMW ladies followed by a music and video presentation on the gifts of the Magi. Our program ended with a beautiful interpretative dance by professional dancer Julie Coon. If you missed this first event, you really missed a special time of fun and fellowship. We hope to repeat it again every year. We also saw a sample of the baby blankets. Did you know the Kalamazoo District UMW has challenged us to make more baby blankets than their district in 2018? LET'S DO IT! (Instructions are on page 3).

You have probably heard that structural changes are coming and we are working to prepare for that. Our 2018 event schedule is set and your Grand Rapids District Leadership Team hopes to see you all at all our events. Write Saturday, March 17 on your calendar for a special day at the Spring Fling in Cedar Springs (more information and a registration form is on page 6). Plans are all made and some surprises are in store for you. AND! Keep May 4 & 5 open for our Spring Retreat where there is always great fellowship, food, learning and resources with United Methodist Women. Registration is open – see page 7. It's the start of a great year. Hope to see you all soon.

Sue Rietman, President, Susan.rietman@sbcglobal.net

IN THIS ISSUE: Page

President's Message.....	1
UMW Purpose.....	1
VP Introduction.....	2
Social Action Update.....	2
Epiphany Breakfast Thanks.....	3
Assembly Information.....	3
Receiving Blanket Instructions.....	3
Upcoming Events.....	3
Peru Update.....	4
Reading Program 2018.....	4-5
Spring Fling Registration Form.....	6
Spiritual Growth Retreat Reg. Form..	7
Treasurer's Report.....	8
District Team Contacts.....	9
Help Wanted.....	9

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.



AN INTRODUCTION



My name is Jean Sherman. I am the Grand Rapid District Vice President. I served as the District Secretary last year. I would like to introduce myself to those of you that I do not know. I am a member of the Fremont United Methodist church and local UMW unit. I attend the Ethelyn Circle. I have served as unit president and secretary in the past. I have also been a member of the following units in the distant past: Lowell; Hesperia; Newton (Battle Creek Area) and Homer United Methodist Church.

I am married to Larry Sherman. He is a part-time farmer and full time A.I. Tech for North Star Cooperative (Select Sires). We have two adult children who live on the east side of the state. Both are married with our son, Mark, just getting married this past October. Our daughter, Katie, has one child age 4 and is expecting her second child this April.

2018 brings many new adventures for me and you. As I learn the role of district vice-president we move into a new and exciting time as we become the Michigan Conference. We will be losing some units and gaining other units. I look forward to the new sisters in Christ joining us, as one is a cousin whom I enjoy spending time with.

As I close I would be remiss if I did not mention the Spring Fling. I am co-chairing this event with Sara Wolfesen. We are currently in the process of fine tuning the event. We will have a program on Christian Women we should know. We are also planning interesting workshops such as Bible journaling, crafts, Coloring in Prayer and a Book Review.

Jean Sherman, Vice President

sherdairy@att.net

GREETINGS FROM YOUR DISTRICT SOCIAL ACTION COORDINATOR



West Michigan Conference Social Action Chairperson (Randi Clawson) shared a document with the district coordinators that speaks about the word "Shalom." The piece explains that living a life of shalom is living a life of stewardship that honors God. A life that overflows with mercy while striving for justice. My life and email sometimes "overflow" and it is a challenge to discern what is stewardship and what is not...It would be appropriate if I could give others the opportunity to discern and share the information I receive.

Over this past year I have received one name for a unit social action contact - my hope is we can do better! I am challenging the UMW units to send the email of a person who can discern and disseminate social action information to their local unit members. Units can send an email to me at prattgj09@gmail.com. Let us be part of "shalom", a sacred community.

Jody Pratt, Social Action Coordinator



THANK YOU
to the wonderful ladies of Middleville UMW for hosting a tasty Epiphany Breakfast on January 6th. Thank you to Julie Coon for her beautiful interpretive dance.



Photo credit: Suzanne Hewitt

ARE YOU REGISTERED YET?



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ASSEMBLY
MAY 18-20, 2018
GREATER COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER
COLUMBUS, OHIO**

Info and register at: <https://umwassembly.org/>
Registration closes April 9th:

Questions? Contact Suzanne Hewitt at (616) 334-9614 or suzmckhew@att.net.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECEIVING BLANKETS

The Kalamazoo District has chosen receiving blankets as our 2018 challenge. The district with the most receiving blankets will choose the ingathering item for 2019. Let's do it! Blankets must be 28"x28" or 32"x32" of unwashed fabric only. Fabric must have no advertising, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols as well as no hand, foot or paw prints. Blankets must have doubled-over sewn edges. If you have extra material, please make washclothes (9"x9" or 11"x11") to match the receiving blankets. Bring your finished blankets and washclothes to the Spring Fling or Spring Retreat. District President Sue Rietman will collect blankets. Happy sewing!



2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Saturday, March 17**, Spring Fling, Cedar Springs UMC, Cedar Springs, MI
- **May 5-6**, Spring Retreat, St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI
- **May 18-20**, UMW Assembly, Columbus, OH
- **July 11-14**, Mission U, Albion College, Albion, MI
- **Saturday, September 20**, District Annual Meeting, Location TBA
- **Saturday, October 27**, Conference Annual Meeting, Midland UMC, Midland, MI

PERU 2018 UPDATE

The West Michigan/Wisconsin Peru 2018 team has ten volunteers from age 15-75 signed up for the June 21-29, 2018 trip. This will be the final trip to Ica (Pastor Dennis-Tania Barrios) and the start of a project in Independencia (Pastor Mirtha). The team took donations of bras, beads and vitamins in 2017 and we look forward to doing so again. Several Grand Rapids District UMW units sent funds to the units in Peru and they went directly to the projects already in place. Ica UMW sent purses back for our auction at the Spring Retreat at DeWitt in May. I look forward to auctioning the work they do as fund raisers for outreach work in Ica/ Independencia. Donations of bras, beads, and vitamins (any kind) can be brought or sent to Dewitt or a pick up can be arranged.

Jody Pratt, Middleville UMC, prattgji09@gmail.com

IT'S HERE! UMW Reading Program: 2018



The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work. The Reading Program Leads to Action. For almost 150 years, United Methodist Women have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study and action. The Reading Program is a study opportunity, but it should also lead to action. The purpose of the program is to encourage United Methodist Women members to:

- Expand understanding of and participation in God's mission.
- Increase sensitivity to all human beings—their needs, interests and concerns.
- Encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today.
- Grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life.
- Enhance self-knowledge and act from that knowledge.
- Strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

This year there are several fantastic book titles and topics to choose from in the areas of Education For Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing For Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. There are books for youth and children too. Many books are available in print and Kindle formats as well as large-print. Check with your local unit leader for more details or contact me for more information and a reading record. Follow this link to read a detailed description of each book: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/members-leaders/2018-reading-program-books-/2018descriptions>

Remember: Reading Program requirement levels start with just five books (see all the plan levels on the next page). Many local libraries have the books on their shelves. Approved books from 2013-2018 lists can be counted. Keep a list of your readings and turn your record into me in the Fall for recognition. Books will be for sale at the Spring Fling, the Spring Retreat and Mission U. Come ready to shop!

Sara Wolfsen, Secretary of Program Resources
saraw1104@gmail.com or (231) 830-4092

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2018 READING PROGRAM PLANS

Choose and follow one of the four plans. When you have read the required number of books and magazine issues, report your completion to your local member in charge of program resources. Titles read from the 2013-2018 lists will be credited through December 31, 2018.

PLAN I

5 BOOKS PER YEAR

- ☐ One book from each category *:
 - Education for Mission
 - Leadership Development
 - Nurturing for Community
 - Social Action
 - Spiritual Growth
- ☐ Regular reading of *Response Magazine*¹

PLAN II

10 BOOKS PER YEAR

- ☐ Two books from each category *:
 - Education for Mission
 - Leadership Development
 - Nurturing for Community
 - Social Action
 - Spiritual Growth
- ☐ Regular reading of *Response Magazine*¹
- ☐ Regular reading of *New World Outlook Magazine*²

PLAN III

15 BOOKS PER YEAR

- ☐ Two books from each category *:
 - Education for Mission
 - Leadership Development
 - Nurturing for Community
 - Social Action
 - Spiritual Growth
- ☐ Five additional books from any category*.
- ☐ Regular reading of *Response Magazine*¹
- ☐ Regular reading of *New World Outlook Magazine*²

PLAN IV

20 BOOKS PER YEAR

- ☐ Two books from each category *:
 - Education for Mission
 - Leadership Development
 - Nurturing for Community
 - Social Action
 - Spiritual Growth
- ☐ Ten additional books from any category*.
- ☐ Regular reading of *Response Magazine*¹
- ☐ Regular reading of *New World Outlook Magazine*²

*Selections can be chosen from the 2013-2018 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including Children and Youth titles).

¹ *Response* is the official magazine of women in mission. It is published six times per year and available by subscription in print and online.

² *New World Outlook* is an award-winning quarterly magazine that chronicles the mission activities of The United Methodist Church around the world. It is available by subscription in print and online.

Pick up your 2018 Reading Program Guide and Reading Program Reporting Form at any UMW event or download copies of the reading lists and forms at:

www.umwonline.org/groups/readingprogram.

Sara Wolfesen, Program Resources, saraw1104@gmail.com



Grand Rapids District UMW Presents...

Spring Fling 2018

Learning From Our Heroines of Faith



Saturday, March 17, 2018

Cedar Springs United Methodist Church

140 South Main Street, Cedar Springs, MI 49319

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

Enjoy a day for yourself when you attend our fantastic Spring Fling! This year, our theme comes from a book entitled “50 Women Every Christian Should Know” from our Reading Program. Take a step back in time as you meet several bold, courageous and inspiring women. Enjoy fun, fellowship and a tasty lunch with friends. Breakout sessions include Bible Journaling, Color and Prayer, Personal Peace discussion, a book review “*The Book of Joy*” co-authored by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, and more!

INGATHERING: women’s hygiene items (soaps, lotions, deoderant, feminine products, etc.)

Registration Cost: \$10 by March 3rd, \$12 after the date. Use one form per person. Please print.

Name: _____ Church: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

_____ Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Special Dietary Needs: _____

Daycare needed? _____ If yes, # of children and ages: _____

Cost: \$10 by March 3rd, \$12 after March 3rd.

Make checks payable to: *Grand Rapids District UMW*

Send registrations to:

Sue Van Portfliet, 1333 Ravanna Drive SE, Grand Rapids MI 49508

Spiritual Growth Retreat

“What the Celts Knew About Theology of the Land”

Ecological, Theological, Fun!



May 4-5, 2018

St. Francis Retreat Center

703 East Main Street, Dewitt, MI (517) 699-8321

Check-in: Friday 4-5 p.m. <> Send-off: Saturday 3 p.m.

Hosted by: Lansing and Grand Rapids District UMW



Rev. Deb Johnson is a retired elder in the West Michigan Conference and is living in her family home near Cadillac. She served churches in Manton, Marne, Hudsonville, Lansing, and Sturgis during her 35 year career. Before seminary she was a US-2 Missionary through the Board of Global Ministries and served in campus ministry at Iowa State University. Currently she is serving as the chair of the Ferris Wesley House Board and on the Board of Ordained Ministry. She also enjoys gardening and making applesauce for her family.

INGATHERING: Bring prizes for Seniors' games at Grand Rapids Community House: hand soap, dish soap, nail polish, aftershave, etc.

FUNDRAISER: Bring items for an accessories auction: scarves, belts, hats, gloves, jewelry (all necklaces must be placed in small, closed plastic bags), etc.

Registration Deadline: April 23, 2018. Use one form per person. Please print.

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

District: _____ Local Church: _____

Roommate: _____ Email: _____

All rooms have twin beds and a bathroom

Make checks payable to: Lansing District UMW <> Cost: \$85.00

Send registrations to: Joyce Plumbhoff, 1858 West Columbia Road, Mason, MI 48854

All facilities are accessible. This is a fragrance-free event.

**Grand Rapids District United Methodist Women
2017 Budget vs. Actual as of December 31, 2017**

MISSION GIVING (Five Lanes)	2017 Budget	2017 Actual
Gift in Memory	\$ 750.00	\$ 700.00
Gift to Mission	750.00	215.00
Pledge	47,500.00	39,620.00
Special Mission Recognition	750.00	850.00
World Thank Offering	2,000.00	2,149.63
Total Five Lanes	\$ 51,750.00	\$ 43,534.63

SUPPLEMENTARY GIFTS

Legacy Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,913.19
Other (UMCOR)	-	500.00
Prayer and Self-Denial	-	1,303.00
UM Community House	-	3,354.50
Total Supplementary Gifts	-	7,070.69
MISSION GRAND TOTAL	\$ 51,750.00	\$ 50,605.32

ADMINISTRATION & MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

Audit	115.00	115.00
Bank Charges	40.00	40.50
Books/Literature/Resources	175.00	155.15
Directory	-	-
District Annual	650.00	413.12
Evening/Day Apart	200.00	325.00
Mission Day	200.00	90.00
Mission U	2,000.00	881.54
Spring Fling	500.00	-
Spring Retreat	750.00	765.00
IRS/State of Michigan Fees	20.00	25.00
Mileage	800.00	648.96
Miscellaneous	100.00	-
Newsletter (Anchor)	1,900.00	1,809.47
Postage/Shipping	50.00	63.71
Scholarships (1/2 Mission U)	100.00	125.00
Special Mission Recognition – pins	240.00	200.00
Supplies/Printing	80.00	-
Total A & MD	7,920.00	5,657.45
BUDGET GRAND TOTAL	\$ 59,670.00	\$ 56,262.77

Checkbook balance at 12/31/16: \$908.69

A & MD Income:	\$5,332.36	Expense:	\$5,657.45	Available:	\$583.60
Mission Income:	\$50,605.32	Expense:	\$50,605.32	Available:	-
Tile Art Project Income:	\$158.00	Expense:	\$158.00	Available:	Project ended

CHECKBOOK BALANCE AT 12/31/17: \$583.60

GRAND RAPIDS DISTRICT UMW 2018 LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRESIDENT: Sue Rietman
15 Market Street, Middleville, MI 49333
(269) 795-7644, Susan.rietman@sbcglobal.net

VICE PRESIDENT: Jean Sherman
7447 W. 48th Street, Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 519-2542, sherdairy@att.net

SECRETARY: Nancy Duiven
Grannyd2@charter.net

TREASURER: Betty VanderWal
11644 Townsquare Blvd., Rockford, MI 49341 (**note new address**)
(616) 813-5684, bettyvwal@gmail.com

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

MISSION COORDINATORS

SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES (reading program):
Sara Wolfson
7476 Orchard Circle, Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 830-4092, saraw1104@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH: Jody Pratt
2984 Fifth Street, Shelbyville, MI 49344
(269) 792-0481, prattgji09@gmail.com

SOCIAL ACTION: Open Position

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

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION:
Open Position

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: Open Position

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS
Julie Riemersma, Chairperson
(616) 656-0155, julu4208@yahoo.com

Terri Shackleton
3979 Cheyenne Drive, Grandville, MI 49418
(616) 206-0511, terri.shackleton@gmail.com

Jody Pratt
2984 Fifth Street, Shelbyville, MI 49344
(269) 792-0481, prattgji09@gmail.com

Open Position (x2)

HELP WANTED: Do you like to meet new friends? Do you like to plan events? Do you enjoy attending inspiring programs? Do you try to live a life of purpose? Do you try to live the purpose of United Methodist Women? Yes? Then we need you! We would like to fill the following important leadership roles on the district team: *Secretary, Education and Interpretation, Nurture and Outreach, Spiritual Growth, Social Action Coordinator, Committee on Nominations (two positions available).*

Please prayerfully consider serving on this fun team, and pray we find ladies with heart and skills to lead our district. If you are interesting in serving or learning more about a role, or would like to nominate a friend, please contact me. I hope to meet you at one of our great upcoming programs we have planned for 2018.

Julie Riemersma, Chairperson
Committee on Nominations
(616) 656-0155 or julu4208@yahoo.com

The ANCHOR, Grand Rapids District UMW newsletter is published four times yearly – February, May, August and December. Copy deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publishing.

Grand Rapids District
United Methodist Women
7476 Orchard Circle
Fremont, MI 49412
saraw1104@gmail.com

Presort Std
US Postage
PAID
Fremont, MI
Permit No 1131

Connect with United Methodist Women around the world by visiting any of these websites:

- www.new.gbgn-umc.org/umw
- www.umwonline.org
- www.wmc.michiganumc.org
- www.umwmissionresources.org
- Facebook – Search “Grand Rapids District United Methodist Women”



You're invited to a 

**United Methodist Women
Spring Fling**

Rest, relax and restore your spirit with us.
Step back in time and meet bold Christian Women
that helped shape today's world.

Saturday, March 17th, 9-3 p.m.
Cedar Springs UMC (140 S. Main, Cedar Springs, MI)
Cost: \$10 (\$12 after March 3rd)
Register today!