



The Compass

Newsletter of the Greater Southwest District United Methodist Women

A note from your President

February 2022 Edition

WORDS OF HOPE FOR A HURTING WORLD

It's been said that we are all angels who only have one wing, so we need each other to fly.

Imagine waking up each morning exclaiming with wonder, "I can't wait to discover the 'angel' I will meet this day!" or "I can't wait to see how God will use me this day to be an 'angel' to someone today!"

Watch how you'll go about your day not full of dread, but full of joy and excitement, looking for the Christ-light in all you encounter.

What if the people we encountered each day were actually here to give us an opportunity to serve? Maybe he or she is there to help us to practice patience or provide an outlet for us to become more selfless?

There was a story in a magazine about a woman and her husband who had to travel out of state for his surgery at a top-notch medical facility. Not knowing anyone in the city, the two checked into their hotel and sat in their room all afternoon with their minds on the next day's surgery. The husband suggested that they go down to the lobby and do some shopping to take their minds off the surgery. Trying on clothes at a woman's boutique, the wife started chatting with the salesclerk, informing her of her husband's upcoming surgery and the upcoming week-long recovery period in the hospital. A few days later, the wife, tired, hungry, and disheveled, was sitting next to her husband's hospital bed when in walked the salesclerk. The clerk said to the woman, "Go back to the hotel, nap, shower, get something to eat. I'll take good care of him while you're gone."

Imagine what the world would be like if more of us were like this salesclerk coming to the assistance of a stranger. Isn't that what Jesus calls us to do? Isn't this what we as United Methodist Women are called to do?

I love the image that we are all angels who only have one wing thus needing each other in order to fly and I can't wait to see how God will use me (and you) this day to be an 'angel' to someone today!

Linda Burton-Collier, President

A note from Program Resources:

After teaching for over 34 years, I was fortunate enough to be able to retire in December of 2013. Our daughter was getting married at the beginning of summer, my parents were aging and needing some support and God had blessed our family with our first grandchild, Jaxon. All great reasons to be able to have a more flexible lifestyle.

I have a plaque that states “My greatest blessings call me Grandma”. We now have four grandchildren that fill our lives with joy and laughter. A great way to reflect on this joy was by reading Leslie Stahl’s book, *Becoming Grandma: The Joys and Science of the New Grandparenting*.

The author claims that becoming a grandmother was more transformative than being a nationally recognized reporter. She includes her own and others’ stories as well as insights from professionals in the medical field. She shares how becoming a grandmother changes a woman’s life.

One of the things I love to do with my grandchildren and the children at church is to share books with them. Consider buying or borrowing some of the children’s books on the reading list. Some of our favorites are *Babbit & Joan, a Rabbit and a Phone* by Denise Turu, *Who Is My Neighbor?* by Amy-Jill Levine & Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, and *Binkle’s Time To Fly* by Sharmila Collins and Carolina Rabei. I’ve shared them during the Children’s Sermon at our Sunday service. Another way to share them would be to read them at your local UMW gatherings. That may peak interest with others and they can record them and get credit on their own individual reading program report. These books have become a nice addition to our Sunday School library.

Just a reminder that we are in the middle of a two-year Reading Program (2021-2022). You may read books from the 2015 through the 2022 reading lists. There are also Faith Talk podcasts, movies or Mission U studies that can count towards Reading Program goals. (Visit <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram> for complete information.)

Happy Reading!

Laura Marlowe



Help Us Strengthen & Build the District Team!

Did your New Year's resolutions include becoming more involved in United Methodist Women? Your chance to keep that resolution is here! We have vacancies on the District Team: Vice President, Secretary, Membership Nurture & Outreach Social Action, and Program Resources. We will also have a couple of vacancies on the Committee on Nominations. Women who are serving in any of these positions in their local unit would be a great candidate as they already have experience in the position. While serving on the District Team you can still hold that position in your local unit. Please prayerfully consider deepening your commitment to UMW by stepping up to one of these positions.

- All positions are elected for 1 year, with a maximum of 4 years in the position.
- Training for these positions is provided by the district. Fees for attending Mission u, District Annual and MI Conference Annual are paid for by the District. Mileage to District Team meetings is reimbursed.
- Vice President: Fills in for the President when she is absent from meetings. She Also coordinates district events with the help of the leadership team.
- Secretary: Keeps records of meetings; communicates information to groups; shares fiduciary responsibility with treasurer.
- Membership Nurture & Outreach: Maintains membership lists, develops ways to attract, welcome and maintain new and current members.
- Social Action: Bring justice issues of concern to women, children and youth to the attention of the units; facilitate advocacy action planning; promote the United Methodist Women social justice priorities.
- Program Resources: Promotes the UMW Reading Program to our District via articles for the *Compass*, public service announcement at events, prepares & presents certificates of recognition for women who have successfully completed the reading program.

Interested parties may contact the District Chair of Committee on Nominations, Cheryl Proctor, at 517-741-3125 or via email at seldominn_1@juno.com.

Thank you!



Michigan Conference
The United Methodist Church



Michigan Conference
Board of Laity

Fulfilling the Great Commission

Developing Bold & Effective Leaders

Equipping and challenging laypersons to live out the call of The Great Commission. Keynote address by Certified Lay Minister Sharon Appling, a panel discussion and small group breakout room discussions.

SAT. FEB. 26 • 9 TO 11:30 AM EST

More info and registration at
bit.ly/BOLWinter

No cost | Must register by Feb. 23

2021 Local Membership Census Form Greater Southwest District

Local Unit Name: _____

Unit President: _____

Church Address: _____

Information reported by: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Number of members as of January 1, 2021:	
Number of new members added in 2021:	
Number of members lost by death or other reasons:	
Total members as of December 31, 2021:	

Unit type: Please circle the type of unit you are: (circle one)

Local Cluster/charge District Online

Instructions: Please fill in the membership numbers for your local unit in the chart above. Also circle the type of unit that best describes your gatherings.

When your form is complete, please send it to the address listed below by February 15, 2022.

Please mail completed forms by February 28, 2022 to:

Cheryl Proctor
104 Tuttle Park Drive
Sherwood, Michigan 49089
(517) 741-3125

Or e-mail: seldominn_1@juno.com

2022 LOCAL UNIT OFFICERS IN GREATER SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Unit (Church) _____ City _____

Meetings Held: Day _____ week of month _____ Time _____

Please complete & return by Feb. 28, 2022

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE

	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL
President				
Vice-President				
Secretary				
Treasurer				
Spiritual Growth				
Education & Interpretation				
Social Action				
Membership, Nurture/Outreach				
Prog. Resources				
Communications Coordinator				
Nominations Chair				
Other				

___ We would like to learn more about hosting a District UMW event at our church.

___ We would like to have a District representative visit our church to discuss UMW.

___ We would like to start a UMW unit. Please contact:

___ We do not have a UMW unit at our church. Contact person & #:

Comments or suggestions for upcoming District events: _____

Send completed form to Beth Mitchell, 3813 Rockwood Drive, Kalamazoo 49004

Or e-mail barmitch55@gmail.com

Charter for Racial Justice Projects Grant

To encourage local UMW units to engage in projects to expand understanding of racial justice issues, the Michigan Conference UMW Charter for Racial Justice Committee is offering grants in amounts up to \$300 to local units.

Some ideas you may want to consider:

Racial justice book study

Guest speaker

Travel to a museum or other site of racial justice significance

More resources for your unit are available at the following UMW website:

[UMW Racial Justice Opportunities for Local Units](#)

Applications are encouraged by April 1, 2022 – but will be accepted until all available funds have been granted. If your grant is accepted, we will ask your unit to send a short report to the Charter for Racial Justice Committee once you have completed your project/program.

Your submitted application letter should include the following information:

Name of Unit, contact person name/address/e-mail/phone number,

Grant amount you are requesting and detailed use of funds

Goals you hope to achieve and estimated # of people participating

Beginning and ending date of project

Any additional information to help us understand your plans.

Please send your application letter to jparadinerice@gmail.com or via snail mail to: Julia Paradine-Rice, 11942 Prairie Edge Street, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

Greater Southwest District United Methodist Women Summary of Giving 2021

A total of 25 units gave during the 2021 fiscal year.

Pledge to Mission

\$19,583.00

Special mission recognition:

\$680.00

All other:

\$6,277.67

Total remittance to conference treasurer:

\$26,540.67

Some Inspiration from our Spiritual Growth Coordinator Mary Blashill

We are a fearful people,
clinging to what we know,
rejecting that which we do not.
Our hearts are closed,
shut tight against those
who are different.
What are we afraid of?
What is it about the "other"
that makes us mean,
unsettled, nervous?

What will it take for
us to embrace our fear?
To walk across the room
and say, "Hello!"
To begin to know someone
not as different, but as
interesting?
To put away our
imaginings and myths,
offering friendship instead?

God-given courage is
what we need.
Courage to change;
courage to transform
our fear into willingness.
Courage to break the
chains that hold us captive,
preventing us from growing.

Give us a clean heart
and a right spirit,
O God! Free us
from our own
oppression.
Teach us a new
way of living:
to seek out
new relationships
with people who
are different from
ourselves,
to no longer tolerate
our own silence when
there is injustice,
to seek out ways
to be of help,
to be merciful,
compassionate,
and to see each
and every person
as a child of God.

I know you.
We are friends.
I know what you like
and what you don't like.
I know your history -
the pain and joy,
the ups and downs.
I know the names
of your children
and grandchildren.
I call you when
I am in need of
companionship,
a shoulder to cry on,
good conversation.
I know you.
We are friends.

I don't know you.
We are not friends.
You seem so different from me.
Different skin color,
different hair,
different language,
different way of doing things.
I don't know what you like
or what you don't like.
I know nothing of your
history, your family.
I do not know you.
We are not friends - yet.

Just a simple "hello"
can change the unknowing.
Questions that fill in
the blanks and begin
a relationship.
Not so hard really;
just a simple "hello"
and a smile.

A large graphic featuring the words "TURN IT UP!" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The text is set against a circular background that is split into two colors: a teal blue on the left and a maroon purple on the right. The circle is positioned on the left side of a horizontal banner that also has a teal blue top half and a maroon purple bottom half.

ASSEMBLY 2022

MAY 20 – 22, 2022
ORLANDO CONVENTION CENTER

WWW.ASSEMBLY2022.ORG

Come to Orlando to care for your spirit, worship with your sisters and celebrate the positive impact women create in the world.



WHY YOU SHOULD REGISTER

In 2022 we will reflect on today's challenges and together find comfort and strength to move forward, building new ways for faith-filled women to make a difference in our communities and the world. We will recommit to our purpose, but also more. For such a time as this we will **TURN IT UP!**

At ASSEMBLY 2022 we will **TURN IT UP!** for spiritual healing and renewal. We will **TURN IT UP!** for rebirth in a new time. We will **TURN IT UP!** for women leaders. We will **TURN IT UP!** for justice for women, children and youth. And it all begins with you. Will you **TURN IT UP?**

PRICE

Assembly is a great value at the early registration fee of \$330. Few other faith-based conferences offer the following for such a low fee:

- Soul-stirring worship infused with music and performing arts
- Impactful workshops and riveting Town Hall meetings with important leaders
- Action opportunities and an Experience Hall with interactive experiences

SAVE FOR ASSEMBLY

Start now! Calculate the costs as broken out below for your location, then divide by 12 for a monthly savings amount. Now it doesn't seem so daunting. The unforgettable experience of Assembly will make it worth every dollar.

Early Registration fee: \$330 (available Sep 1 – Nov 30, 2021, which includes lunch on Friday and Saturday)

Hotel expenses: \$158 – \$203 per night for up to four people (double / double room)

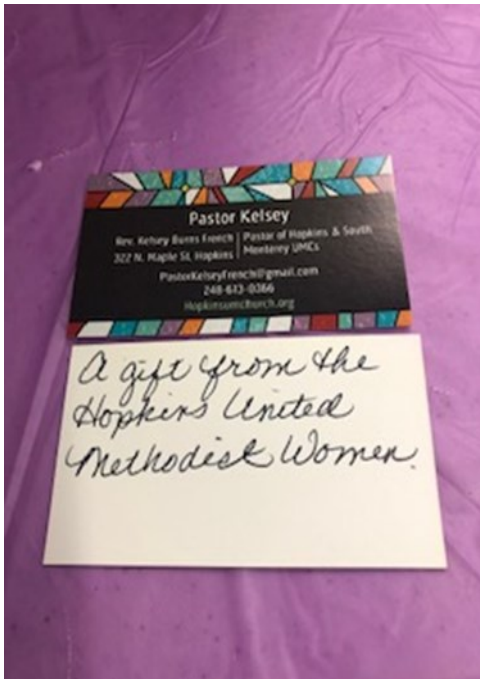
- Travel expenses
- Meal expenses:
 - Friday and Saturday — breakfast and dinner
 - Sunday — breakfast

WWW.ASSEMBLY2022.ORG



Re-Entry Kits

Hopkins United Methodist Church UMW initiated a project to provide “re-entry” kits to inmates being released from the Allegan County Jail. Each kit contains personal care items, a pocket calendar, a pair of socks and/or gloves, a small treat and a card from our church. Funding for the project came from private donations, loose change offerings and a grant from the district. The first 20 kits (10 men and 10 women) were delivered to the jail in early January 2022.





9:30am-noon March 26th 2022

RSVP for a turkey or ham bag lunch

We are gathering socks for Sylvia's Place Domestic Violence Shelter

Cash or checks payable to Greater Southwest District UMW \$10

Register with Cheryl Proctor 104 Tuttle Park Drive, Sherwood, MI 49089

seldominn_1@juno.com (517) 741-3125

Greater Southwest District United Methodist Women
3813 Rockwood Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49004

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

GREATER SOUTHWEST DISTRICT UMW 2022 EVENT DATES AND MORE

March 26th Spring Fling at South Haven UMC 9:30—Noon

May 19-21 National Assembly of UMW in Orlando, FL

June 16th Mission Evening at Climax UMC 6:30pm

August 11-13 Mission u at Lake Huron Retreat Center

October 1 District Annual Celebration at Otsego UMC 9:30am

October 16-18 Mission u at Gaylord UMC

October 22 Conference Annual Celebration at Westwood UMC, Kalamazoo