

Heritage Vine

The Newsletter of the Heritage District
United Methodist Women
April 2020



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

President's Note

Which Way Lord? Have you ever wondered what direction you are going in or where you need to be at what time? **Romans 5:3-4**, "There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop **passionate patience** in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next." The Message Bible.

What to do next is the question many United Methodist Women have been asking themselves. How do we function during the Covid-19 Pandemic? What changes are we seeing, how do we cope with those? I think we are all doing a lot of praying and learning **Passionate Patience**.

In most of our districts across the state, spring programs and Mission u have been cancelled. Those beloved programs will be back next year and perhaps we can find a bit more passion for them. Have you tried the new live stream Sunday Services? The creativity has been amazing! You can attend a different church every day if you want. But what else can we look forward to? UMW Annual Celebrations and Meetings!

The **Heritage District Annual Celebration & Meeting** will be held at Saline UMC in Saline, MI on Saturday, September 26.

Special guest speaker Shonagh Taruza will be speaking on Racial Justice. Shonagh was born in Scotland to a white Scottish mother and black Zimbabwean father in 1974 and was raised in both the UK and Zimbabwe. She immigrated to the US with her family fifteen years ago and has a deep love for this country. She left a career in science for a life of ministry and service, and has served in a local church and as a hospital chaplain. She is a candidate for ordained ministry based at Ann Arbor First and serves on their Justice League. Her faith, her love of this country, and her passion for racial justice and healing inspired her to paint an art series *Finding Jesus in Contemporary America* that has been installed at a number of churches in the past three years and highlights issues of racial injustice with the hope of and helping us to grieve, to remind us of our values and who we really are as a nation, and to hopefully inspire us all into action in order to create a better place for all.

"Establish Justice and Ensure Tranquility" are words Shonagh uses in her Art series, *Finding Jesus in Contemporary America*. She has a great passion for justice and this comes through in her message. So please plan to join us at the Heritage District Annual Meeting and Celebration to learn more.

God's Blessing to all of you! See you in the fall!



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Vice President/Program Coordinator



Greetings! He has Risen, Christ is Risen indeed!

As we celebrate a risen Christ, are we celebrating to our full capacity? Are we really joyous that our Christ has risen? Can we permit ourselves to be joyous in a time where everyone is so anxious? We hear the news of the Covid-19 virus and we are sad for the families that are affected by this virus. We are sad for the people that have lost their jobs because of this virus. And yet as Christians we should be jumping for joy that our Savior is alive! How can we "jump for joy"? Call a friend, send a card, say a prayer. Look forward to events that we have planned.

Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting/Celebration on Saturday, September 26, 2020 at Saline UMC. Our speakers will be Shonagh Taruza, from Ann Arbor First, who will be speaking on Racial Justice; and also Rev. Tim Kobler, Director/Chaplain Wesley Foundation of the University of Michigan. More information to come.

What else can we do? We can Pray! *"My mom taught me a long time ago, that when a person pops into your mind and you can't shake it. You should say a prayer for that person and then call them. She always said, they must be going through something that they need a prayer."*

Some of my sisters in Christ know this memory of mine. And they must have said prayers for me in the beginning of March when we discussed the Prayer Brunch. Re-scheduling the Prayer Brunch was a task in itself. Thank You goes out to the Dixboro UMW unit which graciously allowed us to secure a new date for the Prayer Brunch. Thank You goes out to Jeannette Harris who re-arranged her schedule to be available to speak. Thank You to the many hands behind the scenes who helped me notify the ladies that had already registered. It is with regret that we, as the Leadership team of Heritage District, have decided to cancel the Prayer Brunch entirely because we have been asked to shelter in place, stay home, and stay safe.

This is hard for United Methodist Women, we like to be out there, to be doing good things. Well we still can. Call that friend, they may be going through something that is weighing heavy on their heart. Maybe they just need a friend to talk to. Send that card, the person may really need to hear from someone. And Pray! This is the most important one. Pray for your family, pray for your pastor, pray for the lives that this virus has invaded. And Pray for yourself. This is our mission right now. Remember this "We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19. God Bless each one of you. Share your smile with someone today!

See you in the fall!

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Membership, Nurture and Outreach



As we "Stay Home, Stay Safe", I'm hoping everyone has found time to check in with the UMW units in their respective zones to make sure the 2019 census was completed. While we consider just how we move forward in these unprecedented times, shepherding -- even from a distance -- can be a positive tool in keeping us vital and engaged in mission.

During this time I'm making prayer time an ever-increasing part of my daily life, lifting all those who are working on essential positions and those unable to work, while being thankful that my family is healthy and able to engage in their classes online. As are many others, we are adapting to an altered normal. I pray you are also doing the same.

In Christian love

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Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth



What just happened?

As I write this article my thoughts are many and uncertain. How to make sense of these unexpected and challenging times? I have often reread the verse I shared in the last newsletter: "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ." II Corinthians 4:6, NIV. This verse spoke to me several weeks ago and speaks to me now, as I see and hear about people letting light shine out of darkness as the world opens their hearts to others in need.

As we are asked to shelter in place, stay home, stay safe, it is wonderful to know that God is with us. We are not alone though we are definitely out of our normal comfort zones. In a split second our lives went from being full to being empty. I thought, "My life is canceled," but was it? What was it full of?

- On Wednesdays, I would attend Prayer Pack and Bible study at my church in the morning. Canceled until further notice.
- I would help my friend pack up bags of food to send home on weekends. School was canceled so this was too.
- The fitness center where I had a part-time job closed due to the world wide pandemic.
- I often volunteered at my granddaughter's school on Fridays, canceled as school will not reopen until the next school year.
- All church services, events, and activities were canceled until further notice.

Having my daily routine canceled has led me to do many things that were always going to be done "someday": household projects, mending, reading, writing a letter, calling a friend, and regular home cooked meals to name a few. In addition, I am able to home school my granddaughter. Since his lay-off, my son has quality time to spend with his daughter, and to assist his father with construction projects and splitting the wood for our wood stove. There's a lot of time for family game nights after supper as well. These are added blessings in the midst of this upside down world.

Having more quality time with our families is a new blessing and a wonderful example of God's light shining through the darkness during these challenging times. May God continue to bless you and keep you safe.

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Mission Coordinator for Program Resources

This past month has been something that none of us have gone through. Both my husband and I have found people out there who need words of encouragement. My husband has a person who calls the same time every night. They live alone and just needs to have someone to talk to. I have a former coworker whom I worked with while I lived in Homer Michigan -- I sent them some words of encouragement, and they messaged me back and asked how I always seem to know when they needed those words.

I would have you think of people you know who could use words of encouragement or just someone to talk to. Can you find a person who could use words of encouragement or just to know someone cares?

Blessings

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Mission Coordinator for Social Action



We are in very different times now, and I am sure that by publication time, we will see improvement, but many things will stay different. But we are in God's world, whatever the future brings.

Social Action on a personal level is so very important right now. We still need to engage however we can with our works, but the simple things like checking on neighbors or grandparents, supporting local businesses, and lots of prayer to be God's hands and feet are of the utmost importance too. Our educational system needs our help, however we can.

I just heard a new song from Jon Bon Jovi that reminds us that "When you can't do what you do, do what you can." With God's guidance and help, we can all do what we can.

Stay safe and God's blessings to all of you.

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Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

Currently we do not have a woman serving on the District in the E & I position. This is a very important role in the UMW. In an attempt to fill that space, I am sending you a few things you may want to know about.

All Mission u's have been cancelled for the year. That is sad news for many of us but what can we do? Remember one of the primary goals for United Methodist Women is Mission and we have supported programs since we began in 1869. A better question may be "how do we find out about how we can support women, children, and youth?"

The best place to start is the UMW National website. <<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org>>

There are many resources available there. You can find UMW Mission Projects, Legacy Program, and more. You will also be able to sign up to get information on Action Alerts, E news, *Response* Magazine, on line education, and Faith talks. You can also find the book list and why not do some extra reading? I would recommend *When Others Shuddered*, by Jamie Janosz, stories about 8 women who refused to give up. You can get program ideas and supplies as well.

I would encourage you to get the book that we would have used in this year's Mission u Spiritual Growth, *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* by Erin James-Brown, and the recommended reading book *PUSHOUT* by Monique W. Morris. *Pushout* is about the criminalization of black girls in schools. This is part of our work in the school to prison pipeline.

So explore ways you can support United Methodist Women Mission Giving. Wishing you good health and many blessings for your day!

Sherry Wagenknecht
President

Where's My Newsletter?

Newsletter distribution is primarily done as a PDF email attachment. You should also be able to find it on the UMW Heritage District website within a few days of us sending the files out. We also post it on our Facebook page. The newsletter is available to any district member who wishes to view it.

We are happy to print and mail the newsletter to any local units who do not use email, but it has become too expensive to mail a physical copy of the newsletter to every member.

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Everett, Communications Coordinator, at wendy@fumc-a2.org or 734-255-9146.

Communications Coordinator

In the middle of the fifth week of COVID-19 quarantine, it's difficult to know what to talk about. I feel like I have the same conversations over and over again. There have been some major disappointments as big events get cancelled. I was really looking forward to our prayer brunch, the Civil Rights Tour, and Mission u. However, the best way to love our neighbors currently is to stay home and reduce our physical contact to the tiniest possible amount.

Living alone makes it especially challenging. I'm thankful I have two cats and a dog to keep me company! I hope you are all finding ways to remain connected. In my neighborhood, I have witnessed so many acts of kindness. We have a Facebook group and people have offered to pick up items from the store if they are going out for those who cannot go shopping due to compromised immunity. Tonight a neighbor dropped off some extra onions. Signs are popping up thanking medical professionals, essential employees, and the many people who must continue to work to serve the public.

Knowing the loving and caring ways of United Methodist Women, I have no doubt that you are the hands and feet of Christ in your own community. We're in this for the long haul, and we're in this together. I pray for blessings over your acts of kindness that show the world that the church has left the building and is in the world.



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We Are The Church Together

Pat Reamsnyder is a member of the Heritage District Nominations Committee from
Hudson First UMC

Here she shares with us her church's reaction to the current pandemic.

Hudson is a small rural community surrounded by farm land. Fortunately we haven't been hit by many cases of the corona virus so far (early April), but our ministerial team and the members of our church family sprang into action immediately. Members of our church are making facemasks and scrub caps to be delivered to front line responders from Adrian to Ann Arbor. Food is being delivered to people who are home bound. Our local food pantry is also delivering food directly to people's homes, and members of our church are volunteering their time at the pantry. Food from our Backpack Buddy program is being distributed to four school districts in our area.

Gift bags of personal supplies are being given to truck drivers as they travel through our community. We are developing a twenty four hour Hotline for people who need emotional support during this crisis. Members of our church are developing daily devotionals which are then sent to all our church family, keeping us connected and optimistic. All of these acts are God driven and all of us at Hudson First feel blessed to reach out to our community.

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The District Newsletter, Forms, and contact information for the Leadership Team can be found
on the Conference UMW Website
www.umwmichiganconference.org/hrd.html

Treasurer



My morning devotional, written by Kathy Troccoli, says, "I am constantly reminded of the faithfulness of God, and that His mercies are new every morning. What I was yesterday, what I felt yesterday, what I did yesterday is covered by His grace.... There is so much beauty to the morning, and there is so much beauty in the heart filled with the certainty that the Lord has once again come to fill, restore and heal." I am writing this report on April 15, 2020, the midst of the pandemic, and people are protesting at the Michigan Capitol. I am hoping that by the time you will be reading this, the worst of the situation will all be behind us. I am also hoping that in this future time, as you are reading this, we are in the time of healing, thanking the Lord for all He has blessed us with, and that "Joy is new every morning".

In the short time that I have been the New Heritage District Treasurer, I have found that there is a great deal to learn, and that each transaction might, or might not, be able to be easily processed and understood. I am grateful for the help and support of Mary Danforth as I learn the many facets of this job.

Contact Information

Please note my mailing address is not my home address.

I prefer to get the mail at my office!

My mailing address is: 7664 North Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48187

Cell phone number is (734) 634-6484 email: missionumary@gmail.com

Filling Out the Forms:

I am working through the information so this is what I have learned so far (from my ever patient and faithful teacher, Mary Danforth):

I know some of you, as well as me (well, maybe mostly me), scratch your head and say, "Now which form is it?" Ecclesiastes 3 V. 1 says, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." I guess one of the activities God was thinking about when this was written was filling out forms. Each form (activity) has a purpose and each purpose is to serve the Lord through our giving. I want to be sure that I am getting "it" right; where "it" is how your unit intends to have the funds recorded and donated. The forms you fill out will help me do that.

All forms are available on the National UMW website (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org). Under "Where the \$ Goes", click on Treasurers' Resources.

All checks should be made out to Heritage District UMW. Any money that you send me needs to have a form, or I won't know what you want done with it.

Remittance Form – This is the documentation for the money and how your local unit wants it allocated. If you are sending me a check, for whatever purpose, always send it with a **Remittance Form**. This will help me keep track of the donations by unit. If you don't know what a Remittance Form is, or can't find one, email me and I will help you as much as I can.

Special Mission Recognition Form – When ordering SMR pins, fill out the SMR Form.

Gift to Mission Form – Special cards offered by UMW belong with the Gift to Mission Category, please fill out the Gift to Mission Form and let me know which cards you want!

Legacy Fund – If your unit, or individuals in your unit, would like to donate to the Legacy Fund, please send your money directly to National United Methodist Women www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and click on the square that says "150 Legacy Fund". Instructions for how to donate are right there for you.

As of now, we don't have any future dates secured for meetings, etc. but I know all of that will fall into place on the Lords Timing.

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Nominations



Hi Everyone!

Hope all is well with you and your family. This is a very unusual year for everyone – elderly, mid-aged, and young – a new normal is the new way of life. The Heritage District is on a “new” way of doing things, too.

Your leadership team was able to connect on line through Zoom. It was great to see so many team members and have our meeting to finalize some events. As I am the chair of the Nominations Team, here is what is happening regarding the team. I also will tell you about my life and life within First United Methodist Church, Brighton/Whitmore Lake.

As chair of the Nominations team, my job is to fill out the Heritage District Leadership 2021 ballot. Most of the team will stay on, but there are some places we need to fill. Here they are:

- **Spiritual Growth** – this person gives prayers and spiritual support.
- **Education and Interpretation** – you will line up a mission for district to provide for.
- **Program Resources** – this is our reading program – books and pamphlets.

Prayerfully consider one of these positions. I am here for you. Ask about a position on this great team of Christian women and get to know others in the district and beyond.

During these past weeks, I have been sewing, deep cleaning, cooking and taking an on-line Disciple class within our church. I listen to music while walking each day and watching many Hallmark movies – always a happy ending and no real life drama. This is what makes me happy. I have also tried to call someone each day to let them know I’m thinking of them.

Last, my church family has supported Stay Home, Stay Safe, by having online meetings and live Facebook church. Many have sewn face masks, helped supply food banks, connected with others via phone calls or cards, running errands and more. We’re all in this together.

Come help us be the church together, and become part of the Heritage leadership team.

Blessings,

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Secretary

Sometimes it’s okay to be a copycat! *Response* readers know the magazine often contains short articles about UMW units and their projects. What a great way to spread the word and to give other units ideas about what they might be doing.



Recently I read about a unit making fidget quilts – quilts made especially for Alzheimer patients to hold and to – yes – fidget with. Since we in Ypsilanti have a small fledgling quilt circle, that article caught my attention and I spoke about it to others in our unit. Another member did some on-line research and produced several fidget quilts that basically are made from six inch squares of fabric – seven across and five down – and just fits on a lap. This is just a start for us here in Ypsilanti. The need to self-isolate during the pandemic has kept the group from working on it together. But as I spend some of my “home time” sorting through fabric, remembering articles made from certain fabrics, wondering why I purchased some fabrics, completing a few UFOs, dreaming about potential projects..., I have produced a large quantity of six inch squares. Some are simply one piece of fabric cut to size. Others are 2, 3, or 4 varied pieces sewn together, using up small scraps. I’m having fun while diminishing the fabric hoard! Hopefully our group will have fun planning how those squares will go together and what fidget items will go with them. Hopefully patients will find comfort, release of tension, or some positive reaction while holding those quilts. Thanks to the unit that shared their work with *Response* staff. Thanks to *Response* for printing the story. This is a good copycat project.

Have you been a copycat? Do you have a story to tell? Are you reading *Response* to get ideas? Do you want to be a copycat? Just go for it! Then share your story. We need to hear those stories!

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Heritage District 2020 Calendar

May 16	Heritage District UMW Prayer Brunch (rescheduled)	Dixboro UMC
May 28 – 31	Michigan Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church	Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City, MI
June 26 – 28	North Central Jurisdiction (United Methodist Church) Quadrennial Meeting: <i>Calling u</i>	Sioux Falls, South Dakota
July 8 – 11	4 Day <i>Mission u</i> and Youth <i>Mission u</i>	Albion College
July 18	One Day <i>Mission u</i>	Big Beaver UMC, Troy
August 13 – 15	3 Day <i>Mission u</i> & HOME	Lake Huron Retreat Center
September 26	Heritage District Annual Celebration & Meeting	FUMC Saline
October 19 – 20	<i>Mission u</i> of the North	First UMC Gaylord, MI
October 1	Due Date for Local Unit Officer lists – Wendy Everett, Communications Coordinator	
October 23	Michigan Conference UMW Officer Training & Leadership Development, 4 - 8 p.m.	First UMC of Kalamazoo
October 24	Michigan Conference UMW Celebration & Meeting	First UMC of Kalamazoo
November 30	Due Date for 2019 Mission donations – Mary McCully, Treasurer	
December 31	Due Date for 2020 5 Star Person Form – Mary McCully, Treasurer	
December 31	Due Date for Mission Today award reports – Sherry Wagenknecht	
December 31	Due Date for 2020 Reading Program award reports – Joyce Mitchell, Program Resources	



The April 9 Zoom meeting of the Leadership Team