



THE MESSENGER

News from the Mid-Michigan District

United Methodist Women

Volume 4, Issue 1

January, 2021

“When I am afraid I put my trust in you.” Psalm 56:5

We are living in a time that most of us have never experienced. We don't understand why a virus has infected and sickened or killed our family, friends, and neighbors throughout the world. When will it end? Why can't we go back to what life once was? Why are we being put through these trials? I do not have any answers to these questions. One thing I do know is that our God is with us. He knows that we are tired, frustrated, emotionally and financially hurting. Have faith and remember that God is with us and will see us through!

With so many questions and uncertainties I have faith that God will see us through and bless each of you as we begin a new year. I pray that the vaccine our scientist have produced will prevent further outbreaks of Covid19 and we will get back to a point of in person gatherings and a new normal. We will never be the same after Covid19, but as humans, we are social creatures who desire interactions with each other.

Mid-Michigan District had planned our Epiphany Celebration for January 9, 2021. Unfortunately, with the spike in Covid19 positive cases and the continued closures, we decided it would be best to cancel the program.

However, with faith, hope and lots of prayers we are planning to hold our Spiritual Growth Retreat and District Annual in person for 2021, as long as it is safe according to Michigan Health Department and the CDC regulations. Otherwise, we will provide what we can through Zoom.

Our Leadership Team will continue to remain connected with your local UMW unit by phone, letter and, eventually, in person. United Methodist Women are resilient, creative women who think outside the box to continue our work for Women, Children and Youth. Even though we have had to cancel many activities, we are also going through these difficult times with our sisters around the world. Whether we meet or not, they continue to need our prayers and financial support. Please look into your resources as to what you can do to support United Methodist Women.

With Blessings for the coming year,

Donna Kleiver, President
Mid-Michigan District UMW



A Prayer for Putting on a Face Mask

Creator God, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacramental nature of the wearing of this cloth. Let it be a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ Jesus, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully and caringly to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and may each breath that it holds be filled with Your love. In Your name and in that love, I pray, A-men.

Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator
Presbyterian Church of Canada
Courtesy of Midwest District *Anchor*

Keep the Faith Keep on keeping on !

With the promise of a Covid-19 vaccine coming soon, we are all hopeful that we can safely serve our congregations and communities more fully in person in the future. In the meantime, we continue to be of service to others by supporting food pantries, clothing banks, soup kitchens , local social service agencies and church mission projects.

In this time of social distancing we can still read and learn about the social injustice present in our world (check the UMW reading program books). We can support those who struggle for equality whether monetarily or digitally. As ever, we need to be patient and faithful that God will prevail. "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. "

John 16:33

As outgoing social action coordinator for the Mid-Michigan district, I want to thank all the board members and special friends who made this job a pleasure. Getting to know all these other sisters in Christ was a privilege and gift I'll treasure always.

Blessings,

Nancy Nay,
Social Action



PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The organized unit of 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.

You've Got Talent!

Happy New Year! This is the time to change old habits and resolve to change things in our lives that we feel need improving and changed to make our lives and the world better. Now could be the time you decide to serve on the district UMW leadership team! It would certainly make the world better and I assure you, you would be blessed serving. This is a wonderful opportunity for meeting new people who are like-minded and working toward the same goals of helping women, children and youth at home and around the world. If you would like more information, or to nominate someone, contact me at [<bnatoli@provide.net>](mailto:bnatoli@provide.net), or complete the **Talent Bank Form** in this issue. We meet four times a year. Benefits include paid event registration and mileage.

Bernice Natoli,
Nominations Chair

Spiritual Blessings For the New Year!

Congratulations to Beverly Saunders on your election as Spiritual Growth Coordinator of the Mid-Michigan District UMW. I wish you the same warm and fulfilling experience I have enjoyed in that position over the past four years. And I hope it helps you grow as it has helped me.

As I leave the Spiritual Growth position, I will miss the wonderful group of officers with which I have served-- their energy, creativity, caring and commitment to serving as Christ's messengers and hands and feet. It also has been a joy to share spiritual lessons I have learned through readings and life experiences. It's been especially uplifting to participate in the Spring Renewal retreats, the Epiphany Celebrations and the district annual meetings.

But I have also learned over the last several months' pandemic, and especially the shut-down. The break from our usual schedules taught me I needed to slow down and pay more attention to my family and friends. And I need to leave some quiet times for my soul, for praying, reading, walking, bird watching, enjoying our pets, etc. So this is that time.

I thank UMW, which will always be in my heart, for the experience and the growth. Best wishes to the Mid-Michigan District!

Judy Marr,
Spiritual Growth

MISSION TODAY

Mission Today Objectives under the best of circumstances, let alone during a pandemic. It would still be good to follow through and submit what you have, even if your form is blank.

Perhaps you designed your own mission program. It would be interesting to see who was able to meet through some form of virtual gathering and what you learned about not being able to shake hands or hug another person. My local church circle has been able to meet via the church ZOOM. Perhaps you have donated money to your local food bank or made a donation to your own church, perhaps you made your favorite dish and gave it to your neighbor.

Remember that February 15, 2021 is the due date for the 2020 Mission Today Objectives. The 2020 reporting form can be found in the April 2020 issue of *The Messenger*, which is available on line at umwmichiganconference.org under Mid-Michigan District. The 2021 Mission Today Objectives are included in this issue of *The Messenger*.

Karol Fry,
Education and Interpretation

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

The year 2020 was unique, to say the least. Is there anything to be learned from the challenges we faced? Maybe we learned way back in March that life, as we knew it, was changing. We were required to stay at home, except for essential livelihood activities for a couple of weeks that turned into several weeks, and here we are months later, learning how long and extended the changes have been.

We have learned that scientific predictions were right in warning of an upswing in the spread and resultant deaths in the fall and winter. We learned that it was safest not to gather for traditional Thanksgiving celebrations, and were warned that gatherings for Christmas were risky. And, above all this, we learned to wear masks, wash our hands frequently, and social distance. We also learned about the sacrifices and risks to first responders, medical professionals, and other essential workers. Some of us have experienced it first-hand or know friends and acquaintances who have had the virus. We have empathized with families who can't visit their loved ones in hospitals, assisted living residences or rehabilitation venues. We can understand, if we haven't personally experienced, how devastating it is to not be allowed to comfort those sick and passing away alone. Our hearts break with compassion and understanding.

Yet, there is HOPE. We are excited that scientists have been able to develop vaccines that are already being distributed in Great Britain and in America. While some of us have come to enjoy the changes the pandemic created, most of us long for a return to normal (even though we may not ever know our previous normal). HOPE is ours. Even though we are stressed and worry about the future, let's not let it diminish our HOPE. Jesus renews our HOPE whenever we seek him. Much of our world today lacks HOPE. Our challenge is to remind ourselves that Jesus came to bring HOPE; that He is our HOPE and that our HOPE is alive.

What did we learn in 2020? I pray that we learned to keep HOPE alive in our thoughts, actions and deeds, and that in 2021 we will face our challenges knowing that HOPE is ours through Jesus Christ. Please stay safe and healthy throughout the New Year.

Sharon Smith,
Vice President

2021 Mission Today Unit Objectives

United Methodist Women - Michigan Conference

Please print clearly!

Name of Unit _____ District _____

Name (_____) Telephone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

A unit will receive a Certificate of Achievement upon completion of one of the following categories between January 1 through December 31, to be presented at their District Annual Meeting the following October. Check the numbers completed.

- Units completing any 8 or more objectives will be a “FAITH” unit.
- Units completing 9 or more objectives, with 8 asterisks (*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” unit.
- Units completing 17 or more objectives, with 10 asterisks (*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” “JOY” unit.
- Units completing 25 or more objectives, with 12 asterisks (*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” “JOY” “LOVE” unit.

Mission Giving

- _____ 1. *Made and met its Pledge to Mission.
- _____ 2. *Became a 5-Star Unit by contributing to all 5 channels of undesignated giving.
- _____ 3. Donated to local women’s shelter or children’s/youth program.
- _____ 4. Offered scholarships to *Mission u* and/or other United Methodist Women activities.

Spiritual Growth

- _____ 5. Observed a Call to Prayer and Self Denial.
- _____ 6. Participated locally in a retreat, prayer vigil or Bible study.
- _____ 7. Attended a District Retreat, Spiritual Day Apart, or Prayer Breakfast/Brunch.

Membership

- _____ 8. *Added one new member from women who have joined the church in the current year.
- _____ 9. *Added one new member not included in above.

Attendance

- _____ 10. Invited a District or Conference officer (other than a member of the unit) to one meeting.
- _____ 11. Had a combined meeting with another United Methodist Women’s unit.
- _____ 12. Attended Church Women United or other ecumenical group activity.
- _____ 13. *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended a conference *Mission u*.
- _____ 14. *At least two members (other than conference or district officer) attended the conference or district annual meeting/celebration.
- _____ 15. *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended the *District Elected Leadership Training*.

Mission Education

- _____ 16. *Unit or circle conducted at least one *Mission Study*.
- _____ 17. *Two members completed a *Reading Program Plan* and reported on one of the books.
- _____ 18. Participated in but did not complete the *Reading Program*.
- _____ 19. *Used two programs from the *Program Book*.
- _____ 20. *Used the *Prayer Calendar* regularly in the unit meetings.
- _____ 21. Communicated with five persons listed in the *Prayer Calendar*, one from Michigan Conference.
- _____ 22. *Unit had two members reading **response** each month.
- _____ 23. *Unit included a *response Moment* during its meeting using an article to tell our mission story.
- _____ 24. Unit had one *Social Action* program.

Mission Action

- _____ 25. *Participated in a District or Conference ingathering project.
- _____ 26. Had a member of United Methodist Women present a mission program for youth or children in the church.
- _____ 27. Had at least one member visit a United Methodist Mission Project and report to the unit.
- _____ 28. *Had at least one person receive and respond to legislative information from the United Methodist Women's Action Network.
- _____ 29. Unit or member participated in a workshop, seminar, or book study related to social concerns that stimulated and enriched the total community.
- _____ 30. *Unit participated in the *Campaign for Children* in at least two ways. Possibilities are:
- Co-sponsored with the local church, a Children's Sabbath.
 - Involved with mentoring, tutoring or "big sisters" programs.
 - Communicated with representatives advocating for children issues.
 - Attended a school board meeting.
- _____ 31. Made a pledge to care for God's creation and worked to become a "green" United Methodist Unit.
- _____ 32. *Implemented the Charter for Racial Justice policies in at least one way during the year. Possibilities include:
- Read books and articles about another race or culture.
 - Sponsor an inter-ethnic event between two or more units.
 - Recruit women of color to be members or officers of the unit.
 - Correspond with elected representatives to support legislation affecting issues such as immigration, affirmative action, civil rights, and programs for low-income persons, etc.
- _____ 33. Sent this completed form to your District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation by **deadline date: February 1, 2022.**

This year our Unit qualified as a Mission Today FAITH HOPE JOY LOVE unit. (Circle all that apply)



Send to your District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation:

Karol Fry
601 E. Randolph
Mason, MI 48854

Mid-Michigan District United Methodist Women
TALENT BANK INFORMATION ON PROSPECTIVE LEADERSHIP
(To be completed by prospective leader)

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary)

Date _____

Name _____

Complete Address _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____ Email _____

Local Church _____

Age: 20's _____ 30's _____ 40's _____ 50's _____ 60's _____ 70's _____ 80's+ _____

Languages Spoken _____ Racial/Ethnic Group _____

Professional skills, job experience _____

Office(s) held in United Methodist Women with dates of service.

Local _____

District _____

Conference _____

Additional experience on the local, district, conference or general church level (other than United Methodist Women) or in the community _____

Special Talents or Skills:

Areas of Special Interest or Concern:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> secretarial | <input type="checkbox"/> recruiting members | <input type="checkbox"/> publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communication | <input type="checkbox"/> social issues | <input type="checkbox"/> workshops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> computer | <input type="checkbox"/> creativity | <input type="checkbox"/> newsletters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> accounting/bookkeeping | <input type="checkbox"/> recording minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> retreats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> organization of details | <input type="checkbox"/> public policy | <input type="checkbox"/> music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nominations | <input type="checkbox"/> public relations | <input type="checkbox"/> youth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> program planning | <input type="checkbox"/> community building | <input type="checkbox"/> children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> administration | <input type="checkbox"/> inclusiveness/pluralism | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Which office(s) on the Mid-Michigan District United Methodist Women's Team would you most like to hold if given the opportunity to serve?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Nurture & Outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Growth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair of Nominations | <input type="checkbox"/> The Messenger Editor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nominations Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Interpretation |

Why are you interested in this position and what qualifications do you feel you have for your office(s) of choice?

Would you be able to use your gifts and talents to uphold and strengthen United Methodist Women through the PURPOSE of the organization? _____

Is it possible for you to be away from home or employment for: (answer yes or no)

Full day _____ Weekend _____ Extended Time _____

_____ I am sorry but I am unable to accept an office this coming year but am interested at a future date.
Please keep my name on file and contact me in (time when you will be available)

Return this form to: Bernice Natoli, 5105 Deanna Dr., Lansing, Mi. 48917 517-321-3070

Mid-Michigan District UMW 2020 Membership Report

Please return the following names of new and deceased members no later than February 15, 2021 to:

Patty Puckett

1868 Burrwood Circle, East Lansing, Michigan 48823

(517-351-3151 or woodstone1@sbcglobal.net)

Name of Local Unit _____

City _____

Total number of members on December 31, 2020 _____

Name of person submitting information _____

New Members between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020

Name

Name

Name

Name

Name

Deceased Members between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020

Name

Name

Name

Name

Name

(If additional space is required, use the back of this form.)

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2021 Mid-Michigan District UMW Friends List

Local units have been assigned a friend from the district leadership team. Please invite your district friend to a unit or circle meeting. They are also available to help with induction of officers, provide information and help for your unit.

Churches/Units	Leadership Friend
Alma, Breckenridge*, Ithaca, Mason, Leslie, Millville, Riverdale, St. Louis, Stockbridge	Karol Fry 517-525-6561
Carson City, Maple Rapids, Middlebury/Ovid, Shepardsville, Redeemer St. Johns (First), St. Johns Pilgrim	Linda Huyck 989-838-2523
Lansing Asbury, Lansing Central, Lansing First, Lansing Grace, Lansing Mt. Hope, Sycamore Creek/Lansing*, Sycamore Creek/Pottersville*	Sharon Smith 517-648-1333 Cynthia Grostick 517-230-8405
Brookfield, Eaton Rapids, Grand Ledge, Gresham/Charlotte, Wacousta	Sharon Smith 517-648-1333 Beverly Saunders 517-887-7512
Ashley, Banister, Chapin/Elsie, Chesaning Trinity, Henderson*, Pompeii	Waltha Gaye Levitt 989-640-0238
Corunna, Corunna NW, Juddville, New Lathrop, Owosso First, Owosso Trinity, Vernon	Donna Kleiver 517-663-4193
Fowlerville Trinity, Webberville, Wheatfield*, Williamston Crossroads	Jackie Ricketts 517-812-5107
Dimondale*, East Lansing University, Holt	Joyce Plumhoff 517-676-2716
Delta Mills, Dowling*, Kalamo, Nashville, Peace, Vermontville	Bernice Natolli 517-321-3970
Hastings/Greenstreet, Hastings /Welcome Corners, Lake Odessa Central Sunfield/Freeport, Woodland*	Rita Baird 517-589-9132
Morrice/Bancroft, Okemos, Perry, Shaftsbury	Lynda Crandall 517-663-9114
Bath*, Laingsburg, Portland, Redeemer DeWitt Campus.	Patty Puckett 517-351-3151

*UMW Unit currently inactive.

Note: If your UMW unit does not have a Mid-Michigan District Friend, please let Patty Puckett know at 517-351-3151 or woodstone1@sbcglobal.net and a Friend will be assigned to provide information and help.

NEW SPIRITUAL GROWTH MISSION COORDINATOR

Hello, my name is Beverly Saunders. I am a member of the Holt United Methodist Church, and have recently taken on the roll of Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Mid-Michigan district.

Spiritual Growth is a goal throughout the UMW organization, for all of it's members. The opportunities for spiritual growth include, but are not limited to, programs and functions given at the local level. The "Program Book" can assist in developing a presentation on different subjects for a unit or circle meeting. There is an ongoing Reading Rrogram, that includes several new books annually. That program also includes the *response* magazine, a publication about activities going on around the world, A "Prayer Calender" is also published annually asking us to pray for our missionary teams. In addition there is "Mission u", a group study that changes from year to year, and offered several time at different locations throughout the state. These are only a few of the ongoing opportunities, and I will be watching for more. I will do my best to keep people informed about new things as I hear of them.

At this time when it is so difficult for us to be together our individual efforts are so very important. Even if prayer is all we can do, remember prayer puts everything into God's hands and He can do what we can't. Job 11:13,15,18 "If you devote your heart to Him and stretch out your hands to Him...then you will lift up your face without shame; you will stand firm and without fear...You will be secure, because there is hope; you will look about you and take your rest in safety. "

Thanks

Bev Saunders,
Spiritual Growth

FAREWELL AND GREETINGS!

I have served as *The Messenger* editor for five of the last six years and am pleased that Cindy Grostick, from Holt United Methodist has agreed to become your editor for the next few years. I am sure you will get to know and enjoy Cindy when her first issue comes in April, 2021.

I am also pleased that I will continue my involvement in the Mid-Michigan District Leadership Team by serving as the Social Action Mission Coordinator for the next four years. Social Action is near and dear to my heart. During my career I spent 34 years working for what is now known as the Department of Health and Human Services. As a Children's Worker in the 1960s (adoption, foster care, delinquent youth), as a Family Services Worker (families needing assistance for the first time), a supervisor of those who processed applications for assistance and eventually as the state director of policy during welfare reform in the 1980s and of Child Support, Medicaid, Energy Assistance, Food Stamps (now SNAP), etc. in the 1990s. I even spent a number of years as the Department's representative on the Michigan State Housing Development Authority board, advocating for children's play areas in new housing developments. I've been retired since 2002 but the treatment of those families and individuals who Christ leads us to help will always be of concern. I hope my background will help me bring your attention to those issues and people who can benefit from our mission work in the coming years.

Blessings!

Lynda Crandall
Social Action

REPORT OF COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

(Send completed form to your secretary of program resources or equivalent according to your conference's schedules.)

I have completed the required reading for PLAN____. The books I have read are listed on the reverse side.

LOCAL UNIT

PRINT NAME

DISTRICT

ADDRESS

CONFERENCE

CITY, STATE, ZIP

Current Year _____

PLAN CHOSEN:

IV

III

II

I

NAME:

Education for Mission

Leadership Development

Nurturing for Community

Social Action

Spiritual Growth

response

Reporting Form

Formulario de Información del Programa de Lectura

독서 프로그램독서 프로그램

Los libros adicionales que he leído para completar el PLAN _____ del Programa de Lectura son:

[illegible]

☐ También he leído **response** con regularidad.

Due: February 15, 2022

MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2021 OFFICERS

President: Donna Kleiver (2018)
(4 yr. term expires 2021)
8905 Petrieville Hwy., Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
(517) 663-4193
dmkleiver2016@gmail.com

Vice President: Sharon Smith (2018)
(4 yr. term expires 2021)
460 S. Edgar Rd., Mason, MI 48854
(517) 648-1333
sharonanddicksmit@gmail.com

Secretary: Rita Baird (2017)
(term expires 2021)
2031 W. Olds Road, Leslie, MI 49251
(517) 589-9132
camp2rit@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Jackie Ricketts (2016)
(6 yr. term expires 2021)
4827 Marian Hills, Pleasant Lake, MI 49272
(517) 812-5107
jricketts657@gmail.com

Mission Coordinators -
Spiritual Growth: Beverly Saunders (2021)
(4 yr. term expires 2024)
2232 Pollard Rd., Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 887-7512
pearllou30@yahoo.com

Membership N & O: Patty Puckett (2020)
(4 yr. term expires 2023)
1868 Burrwood Circle, East Lansing, MI 48823
(517) 351-3151
woodstone1@sbcglobal.net

Social Action: Lynda Crandall (2021)
(4 yr term expires 2024)
6350 W. Columbia Rd, Mason, MI 48854
(517) 663-9114
lcran2126@gmail.com

Education & Interpretation: Karol Fry (2020)
(4 yr. term expires 2023)
601 E. Randolph, Mason, MI 48854
(517) 525-6561
fry@msu.edu

Program Resources: Karol Fry (2017)
(term expires 2021) See Education & Interpretation

Committee on Nominations:
Chairperson: Bernice Natoli (2017)
(term expires 2021)
5105 Deanna Dr., Lansing, MI 48917
(517) 321-3070
bnatoli@provide.net

Linda Huyck (2019)
(4 yr. term expires 2022)
2614 Ranger Rd., Perrinton, MI 48871
(989) 838-2523
huyck@msu.edu

Beverly Saunders (2020)
(4 yr. term expires 2023)
2232 Pollard Rd., Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 887-7512
pearllou30@yahoo.com

Open Position:
(4 yr. term expires 2024)

Open Position:
(4 yr. term expires 2024)

APPOINTED POSITIONS -
Green Team: Elaine Ferris (2017)
417 W. Sycamore St., Mason, MI 48854
(517) 676-4175
ejferris@toast.net

The Messenger Editor: Cynthia Grostick (2021)
507 Jones St., Lansing, MI 48912
(517) 230-8405
grostickc@att.net

Registrar: Joyce Plumhoff (2018)
1858 W. Columbia Rd., Mason, MI 48854
(517) 676-2716
tplumhoff1858@gmail.com

Ex-officio: WalthaGaye Leavitt (Conference Team)
8514 E. Colby Rd., Crystal, MI 48818
(989) 640-0238
wally@csminster.net

MSU Wesley Foundation: Open position



The Messenger
Mid-Michigan District
United Methodist Women
Mason First UMC
201 East Ash Street
Mason, MI 48854

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. Postage Paid

Permit #47

Mason, MI 48854-1775

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 7-8, Mid-Michigan District Annual Spring Retreat, DeWitt Retreat Center, DeWitt

July 7-10, Mission u of the West, Albion College

August 12-14, Mission u of the East, Lake Huron Retreat Center

September 15, Mid-Michigan Annual Celebration, Mason First UMC, Mason

October 18-19, Mission u of the North, Gaylord, MI

Saturday, October 23, Conference Annual Celebration, Westwood UMC, Kalamazoo

CANCELLATION

2021 Epiphany Celebration