



# THE MESSENGER

News from the Mid-Michigan District  
United Methodist Women

Volume 4, Issue 2

April, 2021

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***“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”.***

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

A tumultuous year has passed and I Praise God that we are finally experiencing some needed relief from COVID-19; however, we must remain vigilant by staying safe. It is always better “safe than sorry”. During the past few months of 2021, the Mid-Michigan District has operated on the side of caution by not holding our Epiphany Celebration in January and planning to hold our Spiritual Growth Retreat by Zoom on Saturday, May 1, 2021. Please reference the information in this issue of The Messenger to register.

As the COVID-19 positive numbers are dropping and more people receiving the vaccine, it appears that we will be able to resume in person gathering by this fall for our District Annual Celebration on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at Mason First UMC. I am sure you are just as excited for social activities and your unit meetings to return to normal. So please mark your calendar and we will all have much to celebrate.

Even though we have not been able to meet in person, I have had the honor of attending, by zoom, the National UMW’s Leadership Training for Presidents in January; heard about the new format for Mission u starting in 2022 and so many exciting Reading Program possibilities. Reference the following websites:

**[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)** The National website has information on Faith Talks to participate in, or listen to, information regarding our Social Action studies and so much more to hear and learn about United Methodist Women.

**[www.umwmichiganconference.org](http://www.umwmichiganconference.org)**: Find out what is happening in the Michigan Conference of United Methodist Women. Review programs from all Districts that are scheduled and what is happening in their units.

**So much information and resources are available for our programs and learning to be in service for women, children and youth.**

Donna Kleiver, President  
Mid-Michigan District

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Jackie Ricketts , Treasurer

I would like to begin by thanking everyone for your faithful financial support last year. Despite the shut-down, we were able to still meet our pledge! By the time you read this, one quarter of 2021 will have already passed. I suspect most, if not all, units will not have been able to resume face-to-face meetings yet. This understandably makes planning any fundraisers or holding pledge services challenging. I encourage each unit to reach out to its members via email or phone call to encourage individual giving. It is my hope that we can all contribute something, "each according to his means." With the continued limitations on gatherings, the importance of each individual woman's giving has perhaps never been more needed.

**LEGACY FUND MONEY DOES NOT GET SENT TO ME.** Please send directly to:

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NATIONAL OFFICE

Attn: Legacy

475 Riverside Dr. 15th Floor


New York, NY 10115

**I thank you in advance for your faithful support of the world's most vulnerable.**

Spring is here, the daffodils are popping through the soil. We are in the season of Easter, celebrating the gift of eternal life that Jesus gave us. There is light at the end of the long tunnel of the past year of the COVID-19 pandemic. God has given us many blessings! Let us praise Him every day through our service to others, especially through our service as United Methodist Women.

If you are interested in becoming part of the leadership team or know any lady in your unit or church that might be interested, please complete a **Talent Bank Form** found in this issue. Should you like more information or have any questions on being on the team or completing the **Talent Bank Form**, please call me at 517-321-3070 or email [bnatoli@provide.net](mailto:bnatoli@provide.net). I would love to talk with you.

Bernice Natoli  
Nominations Chair

	<p><b>PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN</b></p> <p>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.</p>
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## SOCIAL ACTION PRIORITIES

The national organization of United Methodist Women has selected two social action issues for us to focus on for the coming four years. Both Climate Justice and Racial Justice are topics for us to study and advocate for, and our Mid-Michigan District has agreed to concentrate on the topic of Racial Justice for both 2021 and 2022. There is a wealth of information available at [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice) that I encourage you to access, both for your personal growth and to help in planning unit and/or circle meetings for the next two years.

Racial Justice issues rose to the forefront of our national news in 2020, unfortunately because of numerous examples of injustice toward American minorities. Whether bias against Black Americans by various police organizations, hate crimes against Jewish synagogues or violence against Asian Americans due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the stark reality of racial injustice has been front and center in the news recently. United Methodist Women have studied this issue for a number of years but the need for united action is more pressing than ever.

The following is a roadmap for us; it outlines the beliefs of United Methodist Women and the opportunities we have to influence the future for all our sisters and brothers.

### Racial Justice: Advocacy and Education

#### Because We Believe...

United Methodist Women is deeply committed to the ongoing work of racial justice. We seek to be in right relationship with one another. We work together for the transformation of church and world, following the teaching and example of Jesus Christ. To learn more about our racial justice work:

Access the [Charter for Racial Justice](#)

Explore our [history](#)

Learn more about [mass incarceration and the criminalization of communities of color](#)

Connect with our current campaign to interrupt the [school-to-prison pipeline](#)

Download the Racial Justice Toolkit: [Tools for Leaders: Resources for Racial Justice](#)

Read the book [So you want to talk about race](#) and sign up for a free online course.

Lynda Crandall  
Social Action

## Receive The Messenger by Email:

Have you considered receiving the Mid-Michigan newsletter The Messenger by email? With the cost of paper and postage on the rise, the Mid-Michigan District would like to send out The Messenger by email rather than US Postal Service where possible. If you are currently receiving The Messenger by US mail and have a computer, would you please provide your email address to [midmiumwnews@gmail.com](mailto:midmiumwnews@gmail.com).

As UMW we promote being a Green organization. Through the use of email less trees will be cut down, less pollution from making trees into paper, and less chemicals used for the ink, and less paper and ink cartridges going into landfills. Besides, you will receive the newsletters faster than by the US Postal service. Please consider email if at all possible.

If you would like to have your Conference newsletter, Voice, also come as email, you can go into the Michigan Conference website and on the left hand side of the home page is a box to enter your email address. [www.umwmichiganconference.org](http://www.umwmichiganconference.org)



## ASSEMBLY 2022

Mark your calendar and be on the lookout for information about Assembly 2022 in Orlando, Florida. The dates are May 20-22, 2022 and early registration will begin September 1, 2021 for \$300 and will include two box lunches. Watch for more information in the Voice, The Messenger and the National website. You will have the opportunity to meet other United Methodist Women from all over the states and other countries, have fun, and learn more about our purpose as United Methodist Women.



Do you have a Facebook account? If so, you can follow the United Methodist Women on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/UMWomen](https://www.facebook.com/UMWomen).

For other ways to follow the United Methodist Women, you can visit their website at [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/outlets](https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/outlets) where you can find links to Twitter and YouTube to name just a few.

## EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Although the 2020 Mission Today Objectives were due February 15, I am still accepting them as they arrive. I hope everyone takes the time to fill out a form to the best of your ability and send it to me either by e-mail attachment or US Mail.

### Mission u Curricula

Each year, United Methodist Women members prepare for faithful living and action by engaging in transformative educational experiences at Mission u events. These events are centered around Mission u curricula that are designed to motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to global ministry.

Local leaders are trained to lead one of the Mission u curricula through the organization's Mission u Training Events. Those leaders in turn lead the curricula of their conference Mission u events and in their local and district groups.

### 2021 Curricula



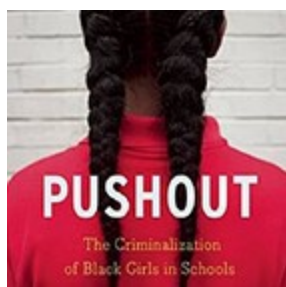
Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship  
2021 Spiritual Growth Mission Study



A Youth Study: Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence  
2021 Spiritual Growth Mission Study



A Children's Study: Responding to Violence  
2021 Spiritual Growth Mission Study



Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools

2021 Issue Mission Study

Contact Mission Resources to order your Mission study books at:

[www.umwmissionresources.org](http://www.umwmissionresources.org) or call them directly: (800) 305-9857

Karol Fry

Education and Interpretation

## READING PROGRAM

I have received several reading lists (due February 15). I will continue to accept these lists as they are received either by e-mail or US Mail.

The Reading Program is a cherished United Methodist Women tradition that brings together members in mission as they explore, share and discuss the books.

Reading Program books are divided into five categories and are available for people of all ages and reading levels. As you read, track your progress using the **Reporting Form**. When you submit the Report of Completion Requirements, you will be recognized with a **Certificate of Recognition**.

### Where to Find Books

For the first time, United Methodist Women members will obtain Reading Program books exclusively through third parties (libraries, local bookstores and online). Think of this resource not as a catalog as in the past years, but as a guide.

Although Amazon is always a convenient option, please consider obtaining Reading Program books through:

- School and public libraries
- Local independent bookstores
- Franchises of larger bookstore chains

As always, most Reading Program books can also be found for reading electronically on your Kindle, tablet, or other devices. For ebooks free of charge, check your local library, Google eBookstore, Project Gutenberg or Open Library.

As always, Bonus Books count as two books. This year, Bonus Books are also the current mission studies, providing even more of an incentive to select these books as part of your Reading Program plan. To purchase United Methodist Women mission studies, go to [umwmissionresources.org](http://umwmissionresources.org).

Karol Fry

Reading Program

## READING PROGRAM (CONT)

### With Permission From Andris Salter, Operations Officer UMW

This is an unusual year, we find ourselves living through a virus that has impacted millions of people, many have lost jobs, family members, friends, homes. We are working remotely, worshiping online, we have postponed or cancelled many events. Annual Meetings and Conferences are virtual. General and Jurisdictional Conference have been delayed.

United Methodist Women has had to develop new ways to continue the work remotely with COVID-19 keeping so many quarantined. Delayed elections meant naming committees were delayed, including the Assembly. Editorial and Reading Program Committee. The national office being closed since March, books could not be sent to evaluations in the usual manner. We determined that combining the 2021-2022 Reading List would be a better way to handle the situation, at least until we found a better solution.

The 2020 Reading Program Committee made new offerings to encourage more reading. We realize this is a lot of change, but changes are needed to continue the work remotely.

During COVID-19, more persons are participating in the Reading Program, many books have been recommended and we are determining ways to involve evaluators differently. Publishers have also suggested books and ways to help send books to evaluators.

Think of ways to enjoy the books, zoom book clubs, book reports. Invite book authors to join you for discussions time, programs, etc.

Many of you have asked how a two-year Reading Program Plan would work. This is new for us as well, so I would like to offer the following. But I encourage you to be creative in your work. Hope this helps.

**Reading Book List:** The reading forms should be sent to your conference or district Secretary of Program Resources, in alignment with their schedule.

**Participation:** Anyone can participate in the Reading Program and all can receive a certificate for participating.

**Recognitions:** Be creative in recognizing persons who are not UMW/UM. Another list of books will be shared by January 2021 to serve as the 2021-2022 books. Award certificates as you would yearly recognitions. Or you can add another award to books read in 2021.

Mix it up by recognizing books in 2021, and the Faith Talks podcast, movies and books in 2022. Think of ways to be creative and promote the Reading Program. Titles read from the 2015 list will be credited through 2022.

**Faith Talks:** Faith Talks can now be counted in the category of Spiritual Growth. You must participate or listen to two Faith Talks podcast. If you participate/listen to three, it will be counted as a Bonus Book in the Spiritual Growth category.

**Movies:** These movies will also count toward the Reading Program:

1. Just Mercy
2. The Hate U Give
3. Pushout

Children and youth books can be found within the categories.

**Bonus Books:** These count as two books in different or the same categories. The Mission u studies also county as Bonus Books.

I have tried to answer the questions I have received about the Reading Program. Most of this information can be found on the Reading Program website but some adjustments have been made. I hope you find this information helpful.

Andris



**Mid-Michigan District United Methodist Women**  
**TALENT BANK INFORMATION ON PROSPECTIVE LEADERSHIP**

(To be completed by perspective 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

Talent Bank page 2 of 2

**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?**

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**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)

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

**FIVE STAR PERSON – 2021**  
**Michigan Conference United Methodist Women**  
**[The 5 Channels of Giving are represented by the 5 points of the “5-Star” Pin.]**

**Michigan Conference United Methodist Women**

**[The 5 Channels of Giving are represented by the 5 points of the “5-Star” Pin.]**

**Give this form and your donations to your UNIT TREASURER by November 15, 2020.** She will send it to the District Treasurer. You will receive a “5 Star” pin, which will be presented to you at your District Annual Meeting in 2021” (usually September or October).

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Pledge to Mission** - An individual member’s pledge to mission is the amount she/he decides is her/his share of the local unit’s budget. (A unit Pledge to Mission is the portion of its budget which is set as a goal to send through district and conference treasurers to the National United Methodist Women for support of mission programs beyond its community. The decision about the amount to be pledged is the responsibility of the unit. The remainder of the unit’s funds are used for administration and membership development expenses, and for local missions supported by the unit.)

**Your Pledge amount** \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ already given to unit)

**2. Special Mission Recognition** (“SMR” - minimum \$40) - A gift to mission in honor of any person in amounts of \$40, \$60, \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1000, and \$2000. For each gift an oval gold pin with a cross and a certificate with the name of the honoree and the giver are provided by the National UMW Mission Resource through the District Treasurer. Your local treasurer will fill out a Special Mission Recognition Form with the following information:

**Amount of Gift** \_\_\_\_\_ (**\$40 minimum**)

**Name of Honoree:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send pin to:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Gifts may also be made in honor of a group or without an honoree’s name.)*

**3. Gift to Mission** (minimum \$5) - A gift of \$5 or more for mission may be made in honor of any individual, and a card will be provided for you to send to the honoree. Cards available are: ***Baby, Special Day, Thank You, Thinking of You, Happy Birthday, Christmas, Congratulations, In the Service of Christ, and Peace.*** You need not provide the name of the individual honored.

**Amount of Gift** \_\_\_\_\_ **Type of Card Requested** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Gift in Memory** (minimum \$5) - Gifts may be made in memory of any individual, in the amount of \$5 or more.

**Gift in Memory** cards, available free, will be provided to send to the family of the deceased. You need not provide the name of the individual or the family.

**Amount of Gift** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. World Thank Offering** - Spontaneous additional gifts can be given in gratitude for God’s abundance and in celebration of the joys of life. This is an opportunity to respond to God’s grace one time or collect coins throughout the year.

**Amount of Gift** \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ already given to unit)

**YOU ARE A FIVE STAR PERSON!**

**\*\*Please give your completed form and donations to your UNIT TREASURER.**

Rev. 12/31/19 - msd

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Mid-Michigan and Midwest Districts United Methodist Women present

## 2021 SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT VIA ZOOM

Saturday, May 1, 2021 10 a.m. - 12 noon-ish

Please join us for a program that we all need to hear! The topics will be presented by RUTH JONES who is currently the Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth for the Michigan Conference UMW. Many of you have participated in Ruth's programs across the state and know you are in for a treat!

What are the topics?

**\*\*BOLD BY DESIGN\*\***

**\*\*VIRTUE DURING A VIRUS\*\***

**\*\*BE YE FLEXIBLE\*\***

There is no charge to participate in this zoom event. If you would like, contributions may be made to Haven House of East Lansing. Haven House provides emergency housing and support services for one-parent and two-parent families with children. The shelter helps families who are homeless prepare for permanent housing by developing and promoting self-sufficiency, stability, and financial responsibility.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 25, 2021**

**Please use one form per person. Please PRINT.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ DONATION ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

If donating, please make check payable to Mid-Michigan District UMW. Send registration to Joyce Plumhoff, 1858 W. Columbia Rd., Mason, MI 48854

Register by email by providing the same detailed information to Joyce at [tplumhoff1858@gmail.com](mailto:tplumhoff1858@gmail.com)

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:sharonanddicksmit@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Rita Baird (2017)  
(term expires 2021)  
2031 W. Olds Road, Leslie, MI 49251  
(517) 812-5107  
[jncketts657@gmail.com](mailto:jncketts657@gmail.com)

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

**Mission Coordinators -**  
**Spiritual Growth:** Beverly Saunders (2021)  
(4 yr. term expires 2024)  
2232 Pollard Rd., Lansing, MI 48911  
(517) 887-7512  
[stiffler1959@gmail.com](mailto:stiffler1959@gmail.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](mailto:woodstone1@sbcglobal.net)

**Social Action:** Lynda Crandall (2021)  
(4 yr. term expires 2024)  
6350 W. Columbia Rd, Mason, MI 48854  
(517) 663-9114  
[lcraan2126@gmail.com](mailto:lcraan2126@gmail.com)

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

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

Beverly Saunders (2020)  
(4 yr. term expires 2023)  
2232 Pollard Rd., Lansing, MI 48911  
(517) 887-7512  
[stiffler1959@gmail.com](mailto:stiffler1959@gmail.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](mailto:ejferris@toast.net)

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

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

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

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**SAVE THE DATES**

May 1—Spiritual Growth Retreat

**MISSION U DATES**

July 9-10, July 23-24, August 13-14 - All will be virtual.

October 18-19 - At Gaylord First UMC in person.

Look for details in the next *The Messenger* and *Voice*!