



# THE ANCHOR

News from the Midwest District  
United Methodist Women

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This year has been one for the history books! I don't remember the pandemic of 1918 but I am sure the women of the Wesleyan Service Guild were hard at work helping people with food and supplies while grieving their loved ones. Women have always persevered in times of trouble and this season is no different. We go on loving and serving our Father and praying for better times to come.

I have just returned from my home office where I participated in Annual Church Conference by ZOOM. Though not a child of technology, I still managed to support my church with my votes on church matters. I missed all my friends at Annual Conference and the gathering of like-minded Christians. The hardest part of this isolation is missing the warm hugs from friends and family.

The **UMW Midwest District Annual Celebration** has been suspended this year BUT please consider voting by ballot and giving a small contribution in lieu of registration fees. The ballot and other details are found on page 7.

The **UMW Conference Annual Meeting** is set for Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> via ZOOM with a special message from Michigan Conference UMW President Linda Darrow. A registration form and voting ballot can be found on page 11.

We hope to end our year with a nice gatherings of fun and fellowship: **A Day Apart** will be held at LeValley UMC in Ionia on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m. This special day is designed to enjoy fellowship together. I hope you will join us!

I am ending my term of office as your District President this year. It was a unique four years. First, as West Michigan District President, then transitioning to a united Michigan Conference with redistricting and renaming all the newly established districts and ending my service during a pandemic. It has been a wild ride.

I wish to thank my wonderful team members for their love and support. I am sure the Midwest District will continue to be a star in the Michigan Conference.

With love and gratitude, Sue Rietman, District President, [susan.rietman45@gmail.com](mailto:susan.rietman45@gmail.com)

## A NOTE FROM OUR VP

Greetings from Fremont. Miss you all. The Midwest Annual Meeting is taking a different format this year. We had a meeting planned but just felt that another Zoom meeting was not something that would work for us. So we will save the Zoom option for another time. Please mail your ballot (page 7) back to us along with your offering.

I want to thank Holland First United Methodist Women for hosting a team meeting Saturday, August 8. You were a gracious hostess. We look forward to you hosting the 2021 Annual Meeting next September.

Could your church host an upcoming event? The size of the church will depend on the event. Some events require seating and a meal for at least 50 people. Other events only require space and snacks for about 30 women. In addition, the planning team sometimes meets ahead of time to decide the logistics of our gathering. If your church is willing to host an event, send me an email: [sherdairy@att.net](mailto:sherdairy@att.net).

Could you serve? We have exciting opportunities to serve on the district leadership team in 2021. Volunteering pays dividends in two ways. One is to you and the other is to the organization you are volunteering for. If you are willing to invest your time in United Methodist Women we will invest in you by providing paid mileage, event registrations, and child or dependent care, if needed. Join us for fellowship, learning and teaching. Contact me if you would like to learn more about any of these open positions: Vice President, Treasurer, Social Action Coordinator, Member Nurture and Outreach Coordinator.

Jean Sherman, Midwest District Vice-President, [sherdairy@att.net](mailto:sherdairy@att.net), (231) 519-2542

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## LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES CLASSES

### **Fall 2020 Classes:**

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts (via ZOOM)

Tuesdays: October 13, 20, 27 and November 3, from 6:30–9:00pm

Registration Deadline: September 22, 2020

Instructor: Jody Pratt, [prattgji09@gmail.com](mailto:prattgji09@gmail.com)

Cost: \$25

Watch for a full schedule of virtual classes offered statewide by ZOOM!



### **Winter 2021 Classes:**

Tentative dates: Saturdays, January 9 and 23, at Cedar Springs UMC.

Questions or to subscribe to our district newsletter, email District Lay Servant Ministries Coordinator Sara Wolfsen at [saraw1104@gmail.com](mailto:saraw1104@gmail.com).

## A REFLECTION: TAKE TIME TO LOOK FOR GOD'S PROVISIONS

How are you? By any chance are you feeling malnourished? Oh, I don't mean in a physical sense. With the bounty of Michigan fruits and vegetables at this time we can't have a lack of good and good-for-us things to eat. I'm thinking of being underfed in a spiritual sense. I appreciate the on-line worship services of my church and of other churches.



In fact I get to participate virtually with congregations I would never be able to otherwise visit. Our pastor is doing a twice daily devotion on Facebook. Another group of Michigan clergy is presenting Extraordinary Connection daily devotionals, again online. These are very meaningful. But, it isn't like taking these in with others as in a Bible Study, Christian Education class or in-person worship. The presence of others strengthens the message for me.

However, this time of separation and being apart can be a time of personal growth in coming closer to God, one on one. There are many references in scripture where the writer is feeling isolated and pours out his/her heart directly to God. Jesus went to the wilderness alone following his baptism to prepare for His ministry. He needed a time with no distractions to connect to God the Father.

Perhaps the question for each of us is *"How can this present circumstance prepare us for opportunities that lie ahead?"* The challenge is to let this time do its best work as we look toward the time when we joyfully join again to celebrate what it means to be the Body of Christ.

The following comes from Joy For Today, *"God knows our needs and invites us to exchange our problems for His peace, our sorrows for His joy, our hurts for His hope! We will find all that we need in all that He is. A-men."*

Ann Scott, District Spiritual Growth Coordinator, (616) 696-1567, [momice4014@gmail.com](mailto:momice4014@gmail.com)

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## 2020 READING LOGS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

As we near the end of 2020, it is time to send me a copy of your 2020 Reading Log. Please send your reading logs to me at the address listed below. I'm looking forward to recognizing you for a job well done in the next issue of the ANCHOR newsletter.

Connie Swinger, Program Resources Secretary,  
(616) 813-4670, [connieswinger@att.net](mailto:connieswinger@att.net)  
255 Brown St. SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49507



Reading Program Details:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>

**ATTENTION: UNIT TREASURERS*****2020 Remittances and 2021 Unit Pledge Cards are due November 30<sup>th</sup>***

This year has been a challenge for all of us. Many have not been able to stay within budget due to lack of income. This we all understand, you are not alone.



Please note the following:

Send your **2020 remittances by November 30<sup>th</sup>** so I can send the year end reports into the Conference the beginning of December. Any remittances received after November 30<sup>th</sup> I will keep and process in January 2021.

Fill out the 2021 Unit Pledge Card (below) and mail it to me **by November 30<sup>th</sup>**.

Review the 2021 Proposed District Budget on page 12. Our Pledge to Missions has been decreased due to the reduction in pledges. We have kept our expenses (A&MD) as low as possible and still keep our promise.

If you have any questions or concerns, call me, email, or snail mail me.

Peace and Joy,

Betty VanderWal, District Treasurer, [bettyvwal@gmail.com](mailto:bettyvwal@gmail.com), (616) 813-5684  
11644 Townsquare Blvd., Rockford, MI 49341

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**MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
LOCAL UNIT PLEDGE CARD**

We have prayerfully considered the Purpose of UMW and would like to commit \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as our annual pledge for 2021.

Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of Unit Treasurer/President

## KNITTED TOGETHER FOR GOD'S GOOD WORK!

Greetings to all of you in the Midwest District. I am Judy Huynh, your Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation. I am a member of the LeValley United Methodist Church, near Ionia. I am particularly excited this month to have my youngest son and his wife visiting us from California, having moved there from Seattle in July. They will be here until they can move into their newly purchased home in Vallejo, California, on September 8th. They are both great cooks, so we are eating really well, and we're loving it!



I recently received the United Methodist Women Program Book for 2020-2021, “*Knitted Together for God's Good Work*”, and it's great! The description from the back of the book says: “Knitted Together for God's Good Work explores how we as children of God are joined and linked together into the whole body of Christ. Even at times when social distancing or other obstacles may keep us physically apart, we are knit together in community to transform the world.”

From the book's Introduction:

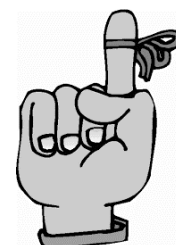
*“In spite of things that may try to separate us such as a health crisis, political differences, worship styles, theological differences or even simple misunderstandings, Jesus calls us to be knit together as disciples. How can we work to be the body of Christ working for justice? Where do we see God at work in the world, calling us to join in the work of resisting evil? What practices of faith draw us closer to our companions in Christ?”*

The twelve monthly programs explore Biblical passages highlighting the role of unnamed or named women, emphasizing their role in carrying out God's will. They challenge us to join in the courageous, bold witness of faithful women, joining with our sisters in Christ to resist evil and injustice. A new feature this year is called “Knitted Together Virtually”. It includes instructions on how to use videoconferencing platforms and gives tips on how to adjust the program activities to use for virtual meetings, which is very helpful for this time. The programs are very well organized with easy to follow directions. The book also includes two special programs – “Pledge to Mission Service 2021” and “A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2021”. I highly recommend this program book! It is available at the UMW website: [umwmissionresources.org](http://umwmissionresources.org)

Judy Huynh, District Education & Interpretation Coord., (269) 838-1804, [judyhuynh@gmail.com](mailto:judyhuynh@gmail.com)

## NAMES NEEDED FOR MEMORIALS AND NEW MEMBERS

Please submit the names of anyone from your local unit who shall be included as part of an upcoming Memorial Service or will be recognized as a new member. Names can be emailed to [saraw1104@gmail.com](mailto:saraw1104@gmail.com) or you can call Sara at (231) 830-4092. **Submit all names by September 30, 2020** for inclusion in the next issue of the ANCHOR newsletter.



## UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

By Jody Pratt, UMVIM Coordinator

In the Michigan conference there are three mission sites within the Michigan Conference that operate with restrictions and limited programming. They are all in need of support though funding or special projects. Please be encouraged to contact the directors and donate in some way.



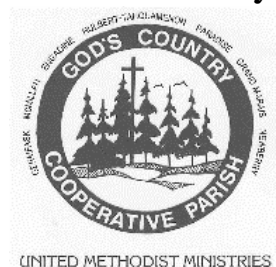
### Cass Community Social Services\*



An inner-city Detroit-based agency with a person-centered philosophy, dedicated to providing food, housing, health services, and job programs.

Contact: Sue Pethoud, Volunteer Coordinator, [suepethoud@casscommunity.org](mailto:suepethoud@casscommunity.org)

### God's Country Cooperative Parish\*



Brings together people of the seven northern Michigan United Methodist churches to provide mutual love and support for a greater impact, serving Christ, community and mission to all in and around Newberry, Michigan.

Contact: Randy Hildebrant, Director, [rhildebrant@umcmmission.org](mailto:rhildebrant@umcmmission.org)

### Mo-Town Mission\*



The Motown Mission Experience is an urban work mission destination in Detroit, Michigan for Christian youth, college, and adult groups interested in economic disaster recovery work in the name of Jesus.

Contact: Amanda Mountain, Director, [info@motownmission.org](mailto:info@motownmission.org)

***\*Please consider supporting these organizations with your financial gift in lieu of a registration fee for the annual meeting this year. See page 7 for details.***

### Mission Trip: Puerto Rico 2021

January 16-23, 2021

In partnership with UMCOR to assist with hurricane recovery projects.

Cost: \$1,200 covers all costs, including airfare

Application deadline: September 15, 2020

Co-leaders: Terry Minton, Clarkston UMC and Jody Pratt, Middleville UMC

Donations are welcome to support participating individuals. Contact Jody Pratt at [pratteji09@gmail.com](mailto:pratteji09@gmail.com) for more information or to register





# Our Annual District Gathering has been suspended due to COVID-19.

*But your input is appreciated! Vote for 2021 leadership and approve the budget by returning this ballot by September 19<sup>th</sup>.*

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## MIDWEST DISTRICT VOTING BALLOT

Deadline: September 19, 2020

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**I approve the Proposed Budget for 2021** Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

*The proposed budget can be found on page 12 of the August 2020 ANCHOR newsletter.*

**I approve the Proposed Slate of Officers** Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

*The proposed slate of officers can be found on page 13 of the August 2020 ANCHOR newsletter.*

In lieu of registration fees, ***please consider making a donation of \$10 or more*** to support three important Michigan mission organizations:

God's Country Cooperative Parish in Newberry, Michigan,  
Cass Community Social Services and Mo-Town Mission in Detroit.

Read more about each ministry on page 6.

Make checks payable to: *Midwest District UMW*  
and mail your check with this voting ballot before September 19<sup>th</sup> to:

Susan Rietman and Jody Pratt,  
15 Market Street, Middleville, MI 49333

Your input matters.

*Thank you.*

## SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

*"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female: for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." – Galatians 3:28*

These powerful words from scripture remind us that in God's eyes we are all equal. The United Methodist Women website has loads of information on current topics to support local church learning and activities. Spend some time on the site:

(<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-do>) and visit sections like:

- \* Equip Leaders
- \* Organize for Growth
- \* Educate to Transform
- \* Serve and Advocate
- \* Foster Spiritual Growth
- \* and so much more!

I enjoyed these recent and timely tidbits from the website:

### On Racial Justice History:

*Racism* is defined as the belief that one race is innately superior to all other races. In principle, the United States has outlawed racial discrimination, but in practice, little has changed.

On July 17, 2020 The UMW Board of Directors called upon all women to:

LISTEN to God's stirrings as you pray for a church that does not perpetuate white supremacy and how can you help build a more just KIN-dom.

LEARN! read these helpful publications from United Methodist Women:

- \* Charter for Racial Justice [[free download](#)] (*UMC Book of Resolutions* # 3371) .
- \* Tools for Leaders: Resources for Racial Justice [[free download](#)].
- \* Take an online class from the UMC Religion and Race website:  
Online Course – Implicit Bias: What We Don't Think We Think [[registration link](#)]

LOVE is *action*! And love is letting our learning transform us, ensuring the safety of all God's children, living up to our commitments. [Registering for Action Alerts](#) and reading the Calls to Action from the UMW Board provides a clarity and call for us as individuals and groups.

Jody Pratt,  
District UMW Social Action Coordinator  
(616) 292-4908  
[prattgji09@gmail.com](mailto:prattgji09@gmail.com)



## **Midwest District United Methodist Women presents...**



# **A DAY APART**

**A special time of fellowship and learning together...**

**Thursday, November 12, 2020**

**1 - 3 p.m.**

**LeValley UMC**

**4018 Kelsey Hwy**

**Ionia, MI**

**Enjoy an interesting program with refreshments  
and door prizes, too!**

**No advanced registration needed.**

**Cost: \$3 at the door.**

**Coffee, Tea and Desserts included.**

**We will gather as long as it is safe to do so.**

**The district team will make a final decision by November 1<sup>st</sup>.**

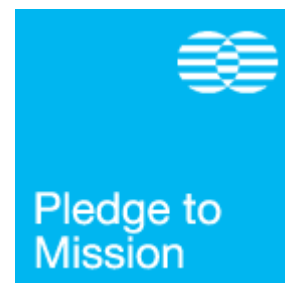
**Questions? Call Jean Sherman at (231) 519-2542.**

**United Methodist Women  
Michigan Conference Annual Celebration  
October 24, 2020 held as a Zoom meeting  
9:30 a.m.- Noon**

**Featuring:**

- Greetings from the Bishop
- Devotions by Ruth Jones
- Memorial Service with Cindy Thiele
- Speaker Tracey Weaver Brame on School to Prison Pipeline
- Updates from the Conference President and Various Officers
- Report on Offering and Election Results

Monetary donations, given in place of your registration fee, will be gratefully accepted for the Pledge to Mission and for the United Methodist Community House for their programs.



Please fill out the registration form and the ballot on the next page and send it, along with your donation to:

Dorie Litchfield  
61470 CR 657  
Lawton, MI 49065

OR email to: [creator.dorie@gmail.com](mailto:creator.dorie@gmail.com)  
Phone: 269-580-3449

## CONFERENCE ANNUAL CELEBRATION REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline: October 14, 2020

*Once you are registered, the link for ZOOM will be sent to you via e-mail.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested donation \$16.

Make checks payable to: *Michigan Conference UMW*

Please send this form and donation to:

Dorie Litchfield

61470 CR 657

Lawton, MI 49065

OR email to: [creator.dorie@gmail.com](mailto:creator.dorie@gmail.com)

Phone: (269) 580-3449

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## VOTING BALLOT

*Please mark Yes or No*

**I approve the Proposed Slate of Officers** Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

*(Since we have a full proposed Slate of Officers and we are doing this meeting virtually, we are not asking for nominations from the floor. If there are people that you think would be good in an office, please contact Linda Schramm at [lars@greatlakes.net](mailto:lars@greatlakes.net))*

**I approve the Proposed Budget for 2021** Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

**I approve the Changes to the Standing Rules** Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

More information can be found at <https://www.umwmichiganconference.org>

**MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN****Proposed 2021 Budget**

<b>PLEDGE TO MISSION</b>		<b>\$ 30,000.00</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION &amp; MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (A&amp;MD)</b>		
<b>OFFICER EXPENSES:</b>		
<i>(Those not associated with district or conference events)</i>		
100 Postage	\$ 50.00	
101 Office Supplies	50.00	
103 Travel (including visitation to local units)	800.00	
104 Meals	-	
105 Printing	-	
106 Bank Expenses	75.00	
107 Audit	150.00	
108 Dependent Care	100.00	
109 Officer Resources/Literature	-	
<b>TOTAL OFFICER EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 1,225.00</b>
<b>CONFERENCE EVENT EXPENSES:</b>		
<i>(Those associated with events including travel, meals, scholarships, when not covered by Conference)</i>		
200 Conference Annual Meeting	\$ 200.00	
201 Keep Making Peace Day	\$ -	
202 Mission u	1,600.00	
203 Other Conference Events	-	
<b>TOTAL CONFERENCE EVENT EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 1,800.00</b>
<b>DISTRICT EVENT EXPENSES:</b>		
<i>(Those associated with events including travel, meals, supplies, printing, child care, honoraria, scholarships)</i>		
300 District Annual Meeting	1,000.00	
301 Local Unit Leadership Training	-	
302 District Spiritual Growth Retreat	1,500.00	
303 Shepherds/Unit Visitation	-	
304 Other District Events:	-	
Spring Fling	1,000.00	
Other	1,000.00	
<b>TOTAL DISTRICT EVENT EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 4,500.00</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENSES:</b>		
400 Newsletter, Directory (printing, postage)	2,000.00	
401 Program Resources (including sales tax)	350.00	
402 Gifts (District SMR, Gift in Memory, etc.)	80.00	
403 Church Women United	-	
404 Miscellaneous	50.00	
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 2,480.00</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED A&amp;MD EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 10,005.00</b>

## MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2021 PROPOSED LEADERSHIP TEAM

**PRESIDENT:**

Jean Sherman  
Fremont UMC  
7447 W. 44<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fremont, MI 49412  
(231) 519-2542  
[sherdairy@att.net](mailto:sherdairy@att.net)

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Open

**SECRETARY:**

Nancy Duiven  
Caledonia UMC  
9100 84<sup>th</sup> Street  
Alto, MI 49302  
(616) 891-1404  
[grannyd2@charter.net](mailto:grannyd2@charter.net)

**TREASURER****[interim]:**

Betty VanderWal  
Cedar Springs UMC  
11644 Townsquare Blvd.  
Rockford, MI 49341  
(616) 813-5684  
[bettyvwal@gmail.com](mailto:bettyvwal@gmail.com)

**REGISTRAR:**

Sue VanPortfliet  
Cornerstone UMC  
1333 Ravanna Drive SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49508  
(616) 246-7183  
[suezeeeque@gmail.com](mailto:suezeeeque@gmail.com)

**SECRETARY OF  
PROGRAM RESOURCES**
**(Reading Program):**

Connie Swinger  
Wyoming Park UMC  
255 Brown Street SW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507  
(616) 813-4670  
[connieswinger@att.net](mailto:connieswinger@att.net)

**MEMBERSHIP****NURTURE &****OUTREACH:**

Open

**SOCIAL ACTION****[interim]:**

Jody Pratt  
Middleville UMC  
2984 Fifth Street  
Shelbyville, MI 49344  
(616) 292-4908  
[prattgji09@gmail.com](mailto:prattgji09@gmail.com)

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Sara Wolfesen  
Fremont UMC  
7476 Orchard Circle  
Fremont, MI 49412  
(231) 830-4092  
[saraw1104@gmail.com](mailto:saraw1104@gmail.com)

**EDUCATION &  
INTERPRETATION:**

Judy Huynh  
LeValley UMC  
2101 Clarksville Road  
Portland, MI 48875  
(269) 838-1804  
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**SPIRITUAL GROWTH:**

Ann Scott  
Cedar Springs UMC  
4014 Russell Road  
Cedar Springs, MI 49319  
(616) 696-1567  
[momice4014@gmail.com](mailto:momice4014@gmail.com)

**COMMITTEE ON  
NOMINATIONS**

Jean Sherman, Chair  
Fremont UMC  
7447 W. 44<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fremont, MI 49412  
(231) 519-2542  
[sherdairy@att.net](mailto:sherdairy@att.net)

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Jody Pratt  
Middleville UMC  
2984 Fifth Street  
Shelbyville, MI 49344  
(616) 292-4908  
[prattgji09@gmail.com](mailto:prattgji09@gmail.com)

**HELP WANTED:**

Would you like to serve on our district team? We are looking for the following members:



- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Social Action
- Membership Nurture and Outreach

If you would like to learn more about a role, or would like to nominate a friend, please contact a board member. Board meets four times per year. Benefits include paid event registrations and mileage.

The ANCHOR, Midwest District United Methodist Women newsletter is published four times yearly – February, May, August and December.

Copy deadlines: 1/10, 4/10, 7/10, 11/10

Midwest District UMW  
7476 Orchard Circle  
Fremont, MI 49412  
[saraw1104@gmail.com](mailto:saraw1104@gmail.com)

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



### **2020/2021 IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE:**

**✂ clip and save ✂**

- **September 19**, deadline to cast ballot for 2021 district leadership and budget (page 7)
- **September 30**, deadline to submit names to be recognized as new members or in our memorial service. Deadline to submit reading logs.
- **Saturday, October 24**, Michigan Conference Annual Meeting, Virtual by ZOOM
- **November 10**, deadline for *Anchor* newsletter articles
- **Thursday, November 12**, Day Apart, LeValley UMC, Ionia
- **November 30**, deadline to submit 2020 remittances and 2021 unit pledge cards
- **Saturday, March 20, 2021**, Spring Fling, Church of the Dunes, Grand Haven
- **April/early May, 2021**, Annual Spring Retreat, DeWitt Retreat Center
- **Mid-July 2021**, Mission u of the West, Albion College
- **Saturday, September 18, 2021**, District Annual Gathering, Holland First (tentative)
- **Saturday, October 23, 2021**, Conference Annual Celebration (tentative)