



THE ANCHOR

News from the Midwest District
United Methodist Women

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This is my last message as your President and it is a bittersweet moment for me. I have enjoyed representing the Midwest District and all of you. I have met many new friends over my tenure in this office and was pleased to bring you many interesting and informative events.

As you all know by now, our District Annual Celebration meeting was held by newsletter and paper ballot. I received your ballots and was proud of your overwhelming support for the new Midwest District team members (see page 11). I was greatly warmed by many notes of kind thanks for my years of service in my role as district president. I thank you all so much.

Our Day Apart at LeValley UMC has been postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic. Many of our 2020 events had to be postponed to 2021 but rest assured, the same great planning and programming will be offered as soon as it is safe to gather again. Our new team is hard at work planning next year with the fervent hope of being able to hold them. Only time will tell what happens.

I end my term of office as your District President with the same hope and prayer I started with in 2016. United Methodist Women is, and has always been, very important in my life. It will continue to be my guiding light as I go forward to do other things with UMW. I pass the torch on to my successor, Jean Sherman. She will be a great District President. I wish Jean and all the team members a wonderful term in office.

With love and gratitude, Sue Rietman, District President, susan.rietman45@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE! SPRING FLING

Saturday, March 20, 2021, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Church of the Dunes, Grand Haven
Registration fee: \$10 (lunch included)
Look for registration details in the next newsletter.



A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT-ELECT

Greetings from your newly elected UMW District President. I look forward to serving in this new position. If we have not met, I am Jean Sherman, a member of Fremont United Methodist Church. I am married to my husband of 47 years, Larry. We are both retired and have two adult children with three grandchildren and one on the way. We just bought a new house plus I had knee replacement surgery one week later. We have not moved yet. We will shortly.



2021 looks to be another interesting year. We hope to present our programs as planned. Only time will tell what we can and cannot do. For some of us learning to participate in Zoom meetings has been a new learning curve. Please let us know what we can do to serve you and your fellow UMW members.

The district UMW team needs your help. We are looking for a few of you that would like to serve on the District team. There is a need for a Vice-President, Treasurer (present Treasurer will train new Treasurer), and a couple of other positions. Please pray about serving on the district team with us.

I pray that you are all well and walking in your faith with Christ.



God bless you all.

Jean Sherman

2020 Vice President

2021 Midwest District President

sherdairy1@gmail.com (note new email)

(231) 519-2542

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! SPRING SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

Friday and Saturday, May 7-8, 2021

Check-In Friday at 4 p.m.

Send-off Saturday at 3 p.m.

DeWitt Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI

Watch for registration details in the next newsletter.



AN ADVENT REFLECTION

When you read this it will be well into Advent and you are probably wondering how you will prepare without some of the traditions in your family, friends group or church in this very different year.

I am challenged to look at what it is that prepares me to receive the Gift which God sent because He loves us beyond comprehension. Central to our celebrations, no doubt, is being with others, either our loved ones and friends or with our church family.

How will we receive the Present when we can't be in the Presence of these dear ones?

Gift giving as an expression of our love may be complicated by a reluctance to go shopping. Will your usual gifts of baked items or homemade candy be well received or are some reluctant to eat things from a home kitchen? Would soup or a casserole be more welcome as they will be reheated?

This year our cards and phone calls can have even more impact. As we substitute these for our hugs and get together, let's not underestimate how they convey our love and best wishes. I encourage you to go beyond your usual card list. Take out your church directory and see who is likely feeling isolated and lonely. Make a call or send a cheerful note to them. Are there some in your address book or on your email contact list that you've become distanced from? Consider the impact that hearing from you would have.

Another gift you can give is the gift of your prayers. When looking at the above lists, or after you've made those phone calls, you may be able to pray more specifically. That is a gift that can be continued well into the new year.

I suggest that you read devotionals that bring to mind and heart the message of this season. Check your bookshelf to see if there are favorites resting there. There are also sources online. Perhaps you can trade with a friend if you want new material.

Let's receive the Gift into our hearts and lives and carry the message and joy of the Advent and Christmas season far into the New Year to all we can reach in whatever way we can. Do recall the message of the angels to the shepherds: "Fear not."

Ann Scott
District Spiritual Growth Coordinator
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momice4014@gmail.com



A NOTE OF APPRECIATION FROM OUR TREASURER

Just want to let all of you know how much you are appreciated. A heads up for all of us. The National UMW has new Remittance Forms for us to use.

Visit www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and click on the Treasurers forms. They have the new Remittance Form, SMR form, Gift to Mission form, Gift to Memory form. The only new forms I really need are the Remittance form and the SMR form. Please be sure to complete all areas, especially your check #. These are new for me also so we are all in the same boat. If you have any questions please let me know and I will try to do the best I can.

Congratulations to these 2020 Five Channels of Giving Units:

- ▶ Hart United Methodist Women
- ▶ Grand Haven Church of the Dunes United Methodist Women

If any of you have not created your own checking account (not with your church account), please contact me so I can give you the IRS and MiLARA information.

Blessings and Merry Christmas to you and your families,
Betty VanderWal, District Treasurer, (616) 813-5684, bettyvwal@gmail.com

GIVING TUESDAY IS DECEMBER 1ST



A global generosity movement to change communities and the world, remember United Methodist Women on Giving Tuesday and put faith, hope and love into action for women, children and youth. Give to your local unit or online at

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org.

2020 MEMORIALS AND NEW MEMBERS

We give thanks to God for the life and light of each of these women:

Anna Land – Church of the Dunes
 Louise DenBraber – Church of the Dunes
 Patricia Hooper – Church of the Dunes
 Millie Porritt – Caledonia UMC
 June Pinkston – LeValley UMC
 Shirley Robinson Anderson – Hart UMC
 Paula Doig – Muskegon Central UMC



We welcome these women as new members of their local units:

Lois Malburg – Hart UMC
 Carla Moore – Supportive Sisters
 Gwen VonHolten – Middleville UMC

BOOKS AND RECOGNITION TOO!

Those of us who are readers know that books teach us, motivate us, move us, entertain us and so much more. But if you follow one of the UMW plans and report it to your Secretary of Program Resources, did you know you get recognized too?

Those LeValley UMW ladies know the drill! We are clapping and cheering the good work and certificates are on the way!

**Congratulations to the ladies
from LeValley UMW for
completing these levels of the
2020 Reading Plan:**

Virginia Ferris - Plan IV
Carol Braun - Plan II
Elaine Nash - Plan I
Judy Huynh - Plan IV

I know that there are many more of you who read the books from the UMW Reading List and this year it was especially hard to keep track, report, and stay on top of things while trying to stay safe, social distance, meet on Zoom, etc. That you read and stay informed and engaged is what is important, but let's try to set a record for next year and report every UMW book read!

Reading Program News for 2021

The Reading List is posted on the website: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram and it covers two years. There are devotionals, mysteries, memoirs, kids and youth, and so much more. You are sure to find something that grabs your interest.



If reading isn't quite your thing right now, you can listen to three FaithTalks podcasts www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks and the trio will count as two books in the Spiritual Growth category. So many options!

As always, contact me if you have questions or concerns about the Reading Program.



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

Reading Program Details:

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

MISSION TODAY UNITS RECOGNITION

This year, three local units in our district returned their completed 2019 Mission Today Unit Objectives forms to me, which were due by February 1, 2020.

There were four categories of achievement:

FAITH Unit – completed any 8 or more objectives

FAITH, HOPE Unit – completed 9 or more objectives, including 8 with asterisks

FAITH, HOPE, JOY Unit – completed 17 or more objectives, including 10 with asterisks

FAITH, HOPE, JOY, LOVE Unit – completed 25 or more objectives, including 12 with asterisks

Because we did not hold our District Annual meeting this fall, the certificates will be mailed to the units who completed one or more categories.

Congratulations to the following 2019 Mission Today Units:

Supportive Sisters
FAITH, HOPE unit

Hart United Methodist Women
FAITH, HOPE, JOY unit

LeValley United Methodist Women
FAITH, HOPE, JOY, LOVE unit

The 2020 Mission Today Unit Objectives are included in this newsletter on pages 7 and 8. I encourage you to look at them when planning your meetings, even if you are meeting virtually. Our local unit found them to be very helpful. The Mission Today Unit Objectives will help you focus on fulfilling the purpose of United Methodist Women by becoming more involved in mission through prayer, study, and action and making use of the wonderful mission resources available through United Methodist Women.



Judy Huynh
District Education & Interpretation Coordinator
(269) 838-1804
judyhuynh@gmail.com

DISTRICT SEEKS LAY MEMBERS FOR AC 2021

The Midwest District will send 31 equalization members to Annual Conference 2021 (tentative dates June 3-6). If you are interested in representing the Midwest District at Annual Conference, please complete an application and email it to Midwest District Lay Leader, Deb Hodges. The registration fee and basic expenses (including lodging) are covered to attend as an Equalization Member from the Midwest District.

Questions? Please contact Liz in the Midwest District Office at (616) 459-4503. Application deadline is January 4, 2021.

2020 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 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 another ecumenical group activity.
- ____ 13. *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attends 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, 2021.

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

Send to your Midwest District Mission Education and Interpretation Coordinator:

Judy Huynh
2101 Clarksville Road
Portland, MI 48875
Phone: (269) 838-1804
E-mail: judyhuynh@gmail.com

MIDWEST DISTRICT LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES CLASSES

Winter 2021 Classes via ZOOM:

All classes begin the week of January 25.

Registration deadline is January 11.

Cost is \$25 including materials.

For details or to register, visit

<https://michiganumc.org/event/midwest-district-lay-servant-classes-winter-2021/2021-01-26/>

Basic Lay Servant Class

Instructor: Pastor Terri Cummins

Day and Time: Wednesdays, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Length: 5 weeks (January 27-February 24)

Advanced Course: Wesleyan Heritage

(required for Lay Speaker Certification)

Instructors:

Sara Wolfson and Rev. Keith Caldwell

Day and Time: Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Length: 5 weeks (January 27-February 24)

Advanced Course: Biblical Interpretation

Instructors:

Jody Pratt and Pastor Eric Magner

Day and Time: Tuesdays, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Length: 4 weeks (January 26-February 16)

To subscribe to our district newsletter, email
District Lay Servant Ministries Coordinator

Sara Wolfson at saraw1104@gmail.com.



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

MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**2021 Budget****PLEDGE TO MISSION****\$ 30,000.00****ADMINISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (A&MD)****OFFICER EXPENSES:***(Those not associated with district or conference events)*

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		-	
TOTAL OFFICER EXPENSES				\$ 1,225.00

CONFERENCE EVENT EXPENSES:*(Those associated with events including travel, meals, scholarships, when not covered by Conference)*

200	Conference Annual Meeting	\$	200.00	
201	Keep Making Peace Day	\$	-	
202	Mission u		1,600.00	
203	Other Conference Events		-	
TOTAL CONFERENCE EVENT EXPENSES				\$ 1,800.00

DISTRICT EVENT EXPENSES:*(Those associated with events including travel, meals, supplies, printing, child care, honoraria, scholarships)*

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	
TOTAL DISTRICT EVENT EXPENSES				\$ 4,500.00

OTHER EXPENSES:

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	
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES				\$ 2,480.00

TOTAL BUDGETED A&MD EXPENSES**\$ 10,005.00**

MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRESIDENT:

Jean Sherman
Fremont UMC
7447 W. 44th Street
Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 519-2542
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VICE PRESIDENT:

Open

SECRETARY:

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TREASURER

[interim]:

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REGISTRAR:

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

Connie Swinger
Wyoming Park UMC
255 Brown Street SW
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**MEMBERSHIP
NURTURE &
OUTREACH:**
Open

SOCIAL ACTION

[interim]:

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COMMUNICATIONS:

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**EDUCATION &
INTERPRETATION:**

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SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

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momice4014@gmail.com

Special thanks to these women for completing their terms of service in 2020:

- Sue Reitman, President
- Jody Pratt, Social Action Coordinator
- Linda Hagan, Membership Nurture and Outreach

**COMMITTEE ON
NOMINATIONS**

Jean Sherman, Chair
Fremont UMC
7447 W. 44th Street
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Sue Rietman
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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

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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.



2021 IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE:

✂ clip and save ✂

- **Saturday, March 20**, Spring Fling, Church of the Dunes, Grand Haven
- **May 7-8**, Annual Spring Retreat, DeWitt Retreat Center
- **July 7-10**, Mission u of the West, Albion College
- **Saturday, September 18**, District Annual Gathering, Holland First UMC
- **August 12-14**, Mission u of the East, Lake Huron Retreat Center
- **October 18-19**, Mission u of the North, Gaylord, MI
- **Saturday, October 23**, Conference Annual Celebration, Westwood UMC, Kalamazoo
- **Thursday, November 4**, Evening Apart (tentative)