



THE ANCHOR

News from the Midwest District
United Methodist Women

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings Ladies of the Midwest District! We began 2019 with great excitement at our district leadership planning session. Our event calendar is bursting with gatherings that offer opportunities for learning, mission and fellowship. We have reactivated our LINKS program to stay connected with all units in our new larger district. Each member of our district team has adopted units as their contact with the Midwest District team. Watch for a letter, e-mail or phone call from a team member. We want to know all of you better.

Our first event of 2019 is **Spring Fling** which will be held at Fremont UMC on Saturday, March 16th. Our topic will be *"Immigration, How It Affects Us All"*, which is a topic many of you have requested. Our speakers will represent several sides of this important issue and include Patsy Coffman from The Neighbors Project, as well as representatives from Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON) and Farm Bureau. It will be an interesting discussion and we hope to learn more about this very current issue. Look for the registration form in this newsletter.

Keep Making Peace Day at University UMC in East Lansing will be held on April 6th. Join other women as we pray for world peace.

A wonderful **Spring Spiritual Growth Retreat** is set for May 3-4 at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt. Our theme is *"What Is Your Spiritual Style?"*. Come and discover the true person that God created you to be. This is an overnight event that includes meals, snacks and workshops to renew your spirit that will include a book discussion, oils of ancient scripture, crafts, prayer walk, and more. The popular purse and accessories auction will be back, too. A registration form is included in this newsletter.

Mission U will again be at Albion College on July 10-13. Plan to join us as we learn, pray and fellowship together. The **Midwest District Annual Meeting** will be on Saturday, September 21st with the location to be announced soon.

The **UMW Conference Annual Meeting** is set for Saturday, October 26th at Howell UMC.

We will end our year with two gatherings of fun and fellowship: **An Evening Apart** and a separate (new) **Day Apart** gathering will be scheduled in the northern region and southern regions of our district. Locations will be announced soon.

In His name, Sue Rietman, Midwest District President, susan.rietman45@gmail.com

HOSTS, TOPICS AND CRAFT IDEAS NEEDED

Greetings to everyone, old and new friends. As your vice-chairman, I need your help. My responsibilities include locating sites for district events. If your group is willing to host an event please let me know. Some events will be for the entire district, while others are for small group events.

Another responsibility is finding speakers and topics for our district events. If you have ideas, again please let the district team know. We, as a team are also willing to come to your unit to visit with you. Some of us are able to present a program, while others would rather just visit with you. A listing of officers and topics are below.



As a crafter, I am always looking for Christian Crafts that can be done at various events. I would really like to hear about your crafts. The crafts need to be ones that can be completed within an hour.

Looking forward to seeing you at Spring Fling or Spring Retreat.

Jean Sherman, District Vice Chairman, sherdairy@att.net

PRESENTERS AND PROGRAMS:



DISTRICT OFFICERS WILL TRAVEL

Are you looking for a speaker for an upcoming circle meeting or event? Call these officers directly for more information. Look for their contact details in this issue.

- Jody Pratt — Social Action; Volunteers in Mission; Lay Servant Ministries
 - Sara Wolfsen — Oils of Ancient Scripture; Health and Wellness; First Person Drama – Women of the Bible; Certified Lay Speaker
 - Ann Scott — Personal Prayer; Heifer International
 - Judy Huynh — Heifer International; Nyaka Aids Orphans Project; Interfaith Connections; UMW Reading Program
 - Connie Swinger — UMW Reading Program; Growing Friendships; UMW 101
 - Jean Sherman — Simple Crafts
-

MEET DISTRICT TREASURER BETTY VANDERWAL

Hi, my name is Betty VanderWal and I am your District Treasurer. I was born, raised, and graduated from high school in Detroit. Started working at National Bank of Detroit and have been in finance and business ever since. While working at NBD I received degrees in Finance and Business Management. My first husband and I moved to Grand Rapids when he was hired as an officer with a local bank. We moved to Cedar Springs where he passed away shortly after. Jerry and I have been married 43 years, blended 4 children (my daughter died 6 years ago), 13 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. I am a member of the Cedar Springs UMC and was their Finance Secretary for 32 years and enjoyed singing in the choir. I am still Treasurer of two other groups and involved in community and township. Retired as a school bus driver after 35 years. I enjoy crocheting, cooking, sewing and decorating.

Betty VanderWal, District Treasurer, (616) 813-5684, bettyvwal@gmail.com

2019 UNIT LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Help us keep our records current and save postage costs by completing this form and returning it by **February 15th** to District Communications Coordinator:

Sara Wolfsen
7476 Orchard Circle
Fremont, MI 49412

Church Name: _____

President: _____ E-mail: _____

Vice President: _____ E-mail: _____

Secretary: _____ E-mail: _____

Treasurer: _____ E-mail: _____

Other officers and/or women wishing to receive UMW newsletters:

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing addresses can be provided for those who do not have access to e-mail.

- ☐ We would like to learn more about hosting a UMW event at our church.
- ☐ We would like to have a district representative visit our church to discuss UMW.
- ☐ We would like to start a UMW unit. Please contact: _____
- ☐ We do not have a UMW unit at our church.

Comments or suggestions for upcoming events/topics: _____

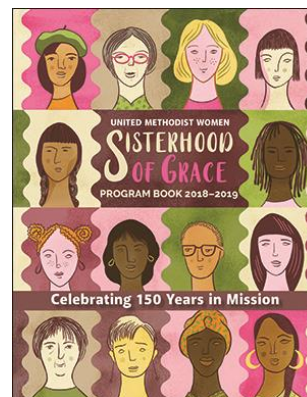
A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR PERSONAL AND GROUP USE

I am the Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation for the Midwest District beginning in 2019. Since this is a new position for me, I went to the United Methodist Women's website (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) to find the expectations of this position. It says there the:

"Education and Interpretation Coordination Leader empowers women to understand, interpret and participate in United Methodist Women's mission with women, children and youth, and outreach of the church, as well as engage in raising funds for mission and outreach."

And to do that, one of the suggestions given was to promote and utilize United Methodist Women print, online and audiovisual resources to tell the mission story.

This month I would like to promote the 2018 – 2019 Program Book, *United Methodist Women Sisterhood of Grace – Celebrating 150 Years in Mission*. Since we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of our organization this year, I think that discovering more about our history and our connections is a wonderful way to understand more about our mission as United Methodist Women.



Each year I purchase the program book published by the United Methodist Women for use in my local unit, and we try to do one or more of the programs at our meetings. Of all the program books we have used over the past several years, I believe this one is the best! As described on the back of the book: *"This Program Book celebrates United Methodist Women's 150 years of women organized for mission. Each of the monthly programs looks back to our legacy and connects it to where we are today."*

A variety of methods are used to make the programs interactive and exciting: food, art, songs, Bible studies, historical vignettes, reflections, etc. The programs are easy to use, well organized and interesting, both for those new to United Methodist Women and for those who have been part of the organization for many years.

I encourage you to [purchase this program book](#) – or borrow from someone who has it – and do at least one of the programs in your local unit. If you are unable to use it for programs in your local unit, then just read it yourself! I think you will be inspired and motivated to become more engaged in the mission work of the United Methodist Women as you become better informed of our past and our future.



In Christ's love,
Judy Huynh, District Education and Interpretation Coordinator,
judyhuynh@gmail.com

A SPRING REFLECTION

Right now it is a wintry day, but when you read this it will be much closer to spring. I hope the cold, stay-in-the-house days gave you times to rest, reflect and perhaps plan for the time coming when you can get out and about more easily. Does Spring charge your batteries? How do you feel when you hear the eaves dripping because the snow on the roof is melting? Are you drawn to a sunny window to feel the warmth? Does this change of season bring you joy? Is it bubbling up within you and are you finding a way to express it?



There is much to bring joy as we observe the changing seasons--the reawakening of the earth, new shoots in grass, flower beds, bushes and trees. The changing sounds of bird song reminds us that new life is about to emerge. As Christians preparing to celebrate Easter and the new life it promises, we can joyfully anticipate renewal--in our outlook on the life that is ours; in new opportunities to learn more of God's gifts and promises; in re-commitment to walk closer to our Savior. Psalm 66 says *"Shout with joy to God, all the earth. Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious! Say to God, 'How awesome are your deeds!----All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name--come let us rejoice in him.'"*

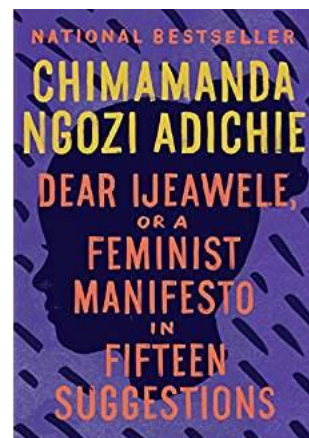
Let your soul shout and sing. Share your joy with someone who really needs encouragement. Plan to participate in an event or read a book that strengthens your faith. As it says in Ecclesiastes, *"There is a time for everything, a season for every activity under heaven."* May spring be a time that lets your joy bubble over and touch many!

Ann Scott, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, (616) 696-1567, momice4014@gmail.com

BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS! A BOOK REVIEW

Dear Ijeawele, or a Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions

I just finished reading a very short and amazingly easy book to read from the 2019 Nurturing for Community Youth category. It packed a lot of good reading in just 63 short pages. It is written by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, an author who you may remember wrote one our 2015 Reading List books, *Americanah*. Adichie is responding to her friend and new mother, Ijeawele's question about how to raise her new baby girl to be a feminist. In 15 suggestions, Adichie gives advice on how to raise strong, independent, capable women.



This is a book that I believe every new mother, every young woman, (and even some of us who fit the older woman age group) should read. I highly recommend it! And it would be a great book for your unit to purchase (I got mine at [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B075838888) for \$6) and share with new women to UMW or for those non-readers in your group. As always, if you have questions about the UMW Reading Program or if I can help in any way, contact me. I work full-time so email me or leave me a voice mail at (616) 813-4670 and I will get back to you.



Connie Swinger, Program Resources Secretary, connieswinger@att.net
2019 Reading Program:
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram/2019>

SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

Human Relations Sunday in the United Methodist tradition was celebrated on January 20th by many local churches. The focus is on giving to special projects and celebrating what your local unit/church is doing while reminding us that God provides for all. In unsettling times (financial and political) we tend to pull back and take care of ourselves first – which is a very normal reaction for anyone so we see a hesitance to give back.

The sermon ideas for January Human Relations Sunday described holding on to an egg so tight we crush it! We become self-absorbed and lose our perspective of the world and what we are called to do. Do you know there are 10,000 seed samples stored in a special vault on an arctic island that are kept from sprouting in case of a world catastrophe? I understand the scientific concept but 2 Corinthians 9: 10-11 says “*when we give and act generously we plant a seed for God.*”

As we move into 2019 remember to stop holding so tightly to your "eggs" and plant a seed for humankind. This will look different for everyone and that is what makes us United Methodist Women so strong!

God bless and plant those seeds!

Jody Pratt, Social Action Coordinator, prattgji09@gmail.com

UPCOMING MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Jody Pratt at prattgji09@gmail.com for more information or to register.

Discovery Mission - Detroit 2019

North Central Jurisdiction VIM Team
 Tammy Kuntz and Jody Pratt
 July 29- August 3, 2019
 Cass Community/Detroit sites
 Leadership development/VIM training
 Limit : 15
 Adults 18-35 are invited to apply
 \$100 application fee (\$500 total cost)

Discovery Peru Mission

Dec 30, 2019 - January 10 , 2020
 Lynnette Jordan and Jody Pratt
 Adults 18-35
 Limit: 10
 Peru work site TBD by mid spring 2019*
 \$1,200 covers all food/internal
 transport/lodging
 Air fare is extra

Michigan Emergency Relief or Volunteer in Mission Training

Clarkston UMC, March 30, 2019

9:00 am start **

VIM training with Tammy Kuntz ends at 4:00

ERT training with Dan O'Malley ends at 5:00

Lunch and materials provided

** Bring several people and share the information

VIM - \$20 (no limit of participants)

ERT - \$35 (limited to 14**)

Registration deadline: March 15 , 2019





Midwest District United Methodist Women Presents...

Spring Fling 2019

Immigration: How Does It Affect Me?

Saturday, March 16, 2019

Fremont United Methodist Church

351 Butterfield, Fremont, MI 49412

9:30 a.m. Registration • 10:00 a.m. Welcome • 3:00 p.m. Send-off

Hear from several viewpoints by representatives from Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON), Patsy Coffman from the Neighbors Program, and Farm Bureau. Lunch will be served by Fremont United Methodist Women. Enjoy these breakout sessions: Book Review by Connie Swinger, Oils of Ancient Scripture with Sara Wolfesen, Craft Projects, and more.

INGATHERING: women's hygiene items (soaps, lotions, deoderant, feminine products, etc.) for the women of the Grand Rapids Community First Step House.

Registration Cost: \$10 by March 2nd, \$12 after the date.

Use one form per person. Please print.

Name: _____ Church: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

_____ Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Special Dietary Needs: _____

Daycare needed? _____ If yes, # of children and ages: _____

Cost: \$10 by March 2nd, \$12 after March 2nd. Lunch is included.

Make checks payable to: *Midwest District UMW*

Send registrations to:

Sue Van Portfliet, 1333 Ravanna Drive SE, Grand Rapids MI 49508

MIDWEST DISTRICT LAY SERVANT CLASSES



Fall 2019 Classes: October 1, 8, 15, 22, 7-9 p.m.

Fremont UMC. \$25 registration fee.

Class offerings: Basic Class, Preaching and other advanced classes to be announced.

Questions? Contact Jody Pratt at prattgji09@gmail.com

A NOTE FROM COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS



Hello from your Chairman on Nominations Committee! We are still in need of some friends to join our wonderful district leadership team. Do you love to meet new women, learn about UMW missions, make plans, take road trips, fulfill our purpose, eat good food and pray with others in Christ? If so, we have room for more ladies on our team. Please pray about this. You may be the friend we need right now!

Julie Riemersma, Chairman for Committee on Nominations, juju4208@yahoo.com

UMW ARE STILL COLLECTING POP TABS



The 4F's Men's Group at Wyoming Park UMC collects, sorts, and takes pop tabs to the recycling center. Proceeds from the tabs are used for programming at United Methodist Community House. Bring them to any UMW event or if your church is within 50 miles of Wyoming Park, leave a message at (616) 813-4670 and someone will pick them up.

BABY BOX PROJECT PRESENTATION AND POTLUCK

Thursday, February 14th, Noon at Middleville UMC



Join the ladies of Middleville UMW for a tasty potluck lunch (bring a dish to share) and enjoy a presentation by Dorothy Frederickson. Dorothy will discuss her mission of making sure newborns in Haiti have a good start in life through the Baby Box Project. Frederickson will also be presented with the blankets the Midwest District UMW units made in 2018. Contact event organizer Sue Rietman for more information, (269) 795-7644.

2019 LEGACY CHALLENGE



Is your unit seeking a mission project for 2019? United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is collecting Hygiene Kits, Health Kits and School Kits for use around the world. We will collect the kits at our Annual meeting in September. Challenge your unit, small group or entire church to assemble at least 20 kits and bring them to our annual meeting in September and/or take up a collection for shipping costs. Together we can make a difference. Visit <https://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies/Kits> for kit details.



Midwest and Mid-Michigan District United Methodist Women presents...

2019 Spiritual Growth Retreat

“What is your Spiritual Style?”

A meaningful weekend of peace and prayer with our soul sisters.

May 3 – 4, 2019 • St. Francis Retreat Center

703 East Main Street, Dewitt, MI

Check-in: Friday 4-5 p.m. • Send-off: Saturday 3 p.m.

Enjoy a weekend of interaction, conversation, small group discussion, afternoon workshops to support and enhance your spiritual joys as well as lots of laughter and fun.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Jody Pratt works in a variety of capacities for the United Methodist Church of Michigan and North Central Jurisdiction. As the co-director for Lay Servant Ministries and Volunteers In Mission (VIM) Coordinator for Michigan she is responsible for trainings that identify and use your spiritual gifts to bring joy into your life. Jody currently works with pre-service teachers in the Ferris State program, Junior Achievement volunteer and as an occasional classroom substitute. Currently she is working with teams going Cass Community Social Services, God's Country Community Parish, and two upcoming teams to Peru (Discovery Mission and health care focused).

INGATHERING: Bring prizes for seniors' games at Grand Rapids Community House: soaps, lotions, nail polish, aftershave, etc. and/or gently-used children's books for the day care.

FUNDRAISER: Bring items for an accessories auction: new and gently used purses, scarves, belts, hats, gloves, jewelry (all necklaces must be placed in small, closed plastic bags), etc. Proceeds benefit the Grand Rapids Community House.

Registration Deadline: April 23, 2019. Use one form per person. Please print.

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

District: _____ Local Church: _____

Roommate: _____ Email: _____

All rooms have twin beds and a bathroom. All facilities are accessible.

Make checks payable to: Midwest District UMW • Cost: \$85.00

Send registrations to: Sue Van Portfliet, 1333 Ravanna Drive SE, Grand Rapids MI 49508

**Midwest District United Methodist Women
2018 Budget vs. Actual as of December 31, 2018**

<u>MISSION GIVING (Five Lanes)</u>	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>
Gift in Memory	\$ 600.00	\$ 945.00
Gift to Mission	500.00	240.00
Pledge	40,000.00	37,580.00
Special Mission Recognition	500.00	740.00
World Thank Offering	1,500.00	991.11
Total Five Lanes	\$ 43,100.00	\$ 40,496.11

SUPPLEMENTARY GIFTS

Legacy Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,925.25
Prayer and Self-Denial	-	1,390.00
UM Community House	-	1,760.00
Total Supplementary Gifts	-	5,080.25
MISSION GRAND TOTAL	\$ 43,100.00	\$ 45,576.36

ADMINISTRATION & MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

Audit	115.00	115.00
Bank Charges	40.00	48.38
Books/Literature/Resources	125.00	141.24
<u>Events (meals, supplies, program, a/v):</u>		
District Annual	1,000.00	734.77
Epiphany Breakfast	40.00	293.00
Evening/Day Apart	100.00	31.49
Mission Day	200.00	-
Mission U	100.00	-
Spring Fling	500.00	498.22
Spring Retreat (2019 partial payment)	100.00	684.00
IRS/State of Michigan Fees	20.00	30.00
Mileage	800.00	891.00
Miscellaneous	100.00	1,228.25
Newsletter (Anchor)	1,900.00	2,251.21
Postage/Shipping	50.00	10.89
<u>Registration Fees (non-district):</u>		
Conference Annual	100.00	80.00
Mission U	1,250.00	750.00
Spring Retreat	700.00	765.00
<u>Scholarships:</u>		
2018 Assembly	100.00	-
Mission U	200.00	-
Special Mission Recognition – pins	160.00	120.00
Supplies/Printing	200.00	0.00
T-Shirts (UMW 150 years – cost of goods paid by sales)	100.00	0.00
Total A & MD	8,000.00	8,672.45
BUDGET GRAND TOTAL	\$ 51,100.00	\$ 54,248.81

Checkbook balance at 12/31/17: \$583.60

A & MD Income:	\$ 8,088.85	Expense:	\$ 8,672.45	Available:	\$ 0.00
Mission Income:	\$45,576.36	Expense:	\$45,576.36	Available:	\$ 0.00

CHECKBOOK BALANCE AT 12/31/18: \$0.00

MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2019 LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRESIDENT:

Sue Rietman, Middleville UMC
15 Market Street, Middleville, MI 49333
(269) 795-7644, susan.rietman45@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Jean Sherman, Fremont UMC
7447 W. 44th Street, Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 519-2542, sherdairy@att.net

SECRETARY:

Nancy Duiven, Caledonia UMC
9100 84th Street, Alto, MI 49302
(616) 891-1404, grannyd2@charter.net

TREASURER:

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

REGISTRAR:

Sue VanPortfliet, Grand Rapids First UMC
1333 Ravanna Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508
(616) 246-7183, suezeeeque@gmail.com

MISSION COORDINATORS**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

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH:

Open Position – Your Name Here? ☺

SOCIAL ACTION:

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

Sara Wolfsen, Fremont UMC
7476 Orchard Circle, Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 830-4092, saraw1104@gmail.com

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION:

Judy Huynh, LeValley UMC
2101 Clarksville Road, Portland, MI 48875
(269) 838-1804, judyhuynh@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

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

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Chairperson: Julie Riemersma,
Wesley Park UMC and Supportive Sisters
(616) 656-0155, julu4208@yahoo.com

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

Three Open Positions – Maybe YOU!

HELP WANTED

Would you like to serve on our district team? Leaders for these important roles are needed:

- ▶ Membership Nurture & Outreach
- ▶ Committee on Nominations

If you would like to learn more about a role, or would like to nominate a friend, please contact Nominations Chairwoman Julie Riemersma at (616) 656-0155.



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

Copy deadlines: 1/15, 4/15, 7/15, 11/15

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sarav1104@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.



2019 IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE:

✂ clip and save ✂

- ➔ **Saturday, March 2**, Spring Fling registration deadline (registration form enclosed)
- ➔ **Saturday, March 16**, Spring Fling, Fremont UMC
- ➔ **Saturday, March 23**, UMW celebrates 150 years! #dayofgiving, online giving event
- ➔ **Saturday, April 6**, Day of Making Peace, University UMC, East Lansing
- ➔ **Monday, April 15**, deadline for *Anchor* newsletter articles
- ➔ **Tuesday, April 23**, Spring Retreat registration deadline (registration form enclosed)
- ➔ **May 3-4, 2019**, Spring Retreat, St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI
- ➔ **July 10-13, 2019**, Mission U, Albion College, Albion, MI
- ➔ **Saturday, September 21**, Midwest District Annual Meeting, (location to be determined)
- ➔ **Saturday, October 26**, Michigan Conference Annual Meeting, Howell UMC
- ➔ **Thursday, November 9**, Evening Apart, Middleville UMC