



THE ANCHOR

News from the Midwest District
United Methodist Women

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings Ladies of the Midwest District! Our first event for 2019 was a rousing success. Spring Fling was held at Fremont UMC and our topic was *“Immigration, How It Affects All of Us”*. We chose this topic from your requests. Our speakers represented viewpoints from Justice For Our Neighbors (JFON), Farm Bureau and the Neighbors Program. We heard about what farmers must go through to get workers and what immigrants go through to get to this country. We had over 75 women in attendance. The Fremont ladies served us a wonderful lunch and made a beautiful cake to celebrate UMW’s 150th birthday. It was a great day! Thanks to Jean Sherman, District VP, for organizing a fantastic event.

A wonderful **Spring Spiritual Growth Retreat** is set for May 3-4 at St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt. This annual retreat is a continuing collaboration with the ladies of the Mid-Michigan District.

Mission U will again be at Albion College on July 10-13. Plan to join us as we fellowship and pray with other like-minded women. This year, classes are offered on UMW history and money management as well as an interesting spiritual growth study on Radical Discipleship from the book of Mark. Read more details in this newsletter.

The **Midwest District Annual Meeting** will be held Saturday morning, September 21st at New Life UMC in Six Lakes, Michigan. Rev. Devon Harrell will share details of the Wesley Foundation – a nurturing ministry with college students. Come and hear about how you can support this important ministry. We will also celebrate your successes in UMW for 2019.

The **UMW Conference Annual Meeting** is set for Saturday, October 26th at Howell UMC. This statewide meeting is always enjoyable and offers a chance to meet new women and catch up with old friends.

We will end our year with two gatherings of fun and fellowship: **An Evening Apart** will be held at Middleville UMC on Thursday November 7th. **We are seeking a church that can accommodate up to 50 women to host A Day Apart gathering in the northern region of our district.** If you would like to host, contact District VP Jean Sherman at (231) 519-2542.

Finally, our District Team is searching for a Membership Nurture Officer. If you enjoy using creative ways to nurture others, working together to fulfill the UMW mission, and serving on our dynamic planning team, please contact me.

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

MISSION TODAY UNITS

Please read the Mission Today Unit Objectives that are printed in this newsletter (next page) and use them to help plan your meetings for the year. In the past, each district had its own Mission Today Unit Objectives that were created by its own district team. Last fall, the Mission Coordinators from each district worked together with the conference to create a new list of objectives to be used for all districts. I believe that using these objectives in the planning of your unit meetings can be very helpful and can strengthen your unit. Some objectives may be difficult for the smaller units to achieve, such as the ones listed under membership, but others are much easier to complete; all are very worthwhile. I encourage you to try to meet as many of these objectives as you can. Maybe this year you are only able to complete eight objectives; that's perfectly okay! Each year you can try to increase the number of objectives you complete.

At the end of the year, please fill out this form and send a copy of it to me by February 1, 2020. Your unit will receive a Certificate of Achievement upon completion of one or more of the categories listed on the form (FAITH, HOPE, JOY, LOVE). The certificate will be presented at our District Annual Meeting in 2020.



Hoping you are all enjoying our longer days and warmer weather! Looking forward to seeing you at the Spring Retreat!

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

2019 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, 2020.

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

**Send to District Mission Education and Interpretation Coordinator:**

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

A SPRING REFLECTION

I am struck by many aspects of this season, Spring. A look at the magazine covers on any newstand or grocery aisle or in the local library gives us suggestions for cleaning our home and yards and the newest plant varieties for our gardens and decks. Of course, there are the latest fashions to perk us up and colorful decor items featured as well.



As we live in this post-Easter time, let us look for renewal in our spirits also. Look for reminders in all the “newness” around you, things you see each day, that let you see God at work. Be reminded that His promises of “seed time and harvest” and the gifts in each new day really do happen. *While there is much in the news that may be discouraging, see the evidence that God is showing that His dependability is a reality.*

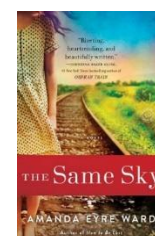
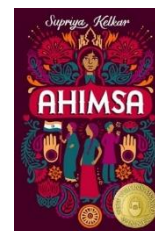
I encourage you to let it spur you on to discovery of a new joy in your relationship with God. Read a new book from the 2019 UMW Reading List or your church library for inspiration. Have a meal with someone new and listen to their story. Give your service in some new capacity. Re-read favorite Bible passages and understand their messages in new ways. I hope to see you at the Spiritual Growth Retreat and that you will share a new insight that has come to you.

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

BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS! {FICTION OPTIONS}

Would you rather read fiction or non-fiction? Are you ready to change it up and read a novel from the UMW Reading Program? The 2019 Book List has at least three novels that are good reading while also teach about an issue.

- *The Feathered Bone* by Julie Cantrell is a 2019 Social Action book, (also available as an audio book), which deals with teenage abduction, depression, domestic violence, but the unending hope and faith of two mothers shines through.
- *Ahimsa* by Supriya Kelkar is in the Youth Education for Mission category. It tells the story of a young girl during the freedom movement in India. You will learn about the caste system, women’s roles in India and the struggle for equality.
- *The Same Sky* by Amanda Eyre Ward tells the story of two people whose lives intersect ‘under the same sky’. Alice may live in Texas and Carla in Honduras, but they are both trying to find a place to belong. This easy to read book is in the Nurturing for Community category.



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

SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

As a member of the Midwest District Lay Servant committee, I just finished teaching a basic lay servant class at La Nueva Esperanza in Grand Rapids. One of our discussions included our responsibility to take care of "creation." An interesting conversation followed about what/why we do things in our churches: paper or plastic? recycle or not? As we celebrate Earth Day on Monday, April 22nd, this is an excellent reminder to review what your church does to conserve energy and recycle. Consider these questions: Have you ever had an "energy audit " from your energy provider? Does your church recycle? Are you washing dishes or using degradable paper products? What kind of light bulbs does your church use? In the midst of change in the UMC we can not forget the responsibility of being good stewards of creation. Going "Green" in the earth sense (not just for basketball) should be of our United Methodist heritage! Read about UMW's *Be Just. Be Green.* initiatives for climate justice here: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice>



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 Youth Mission – Peru

December 30, 2019 – January 10 , 2020

Adults ages 18-35

Health Care Mission – Peru

October 9-19, 2020

Adults ages 18+

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 Come To the Waters (Baptism)

Questions? Contact Jody Pratt at prattgji09@gmail.com

2019 LEGACY CHALLENGE



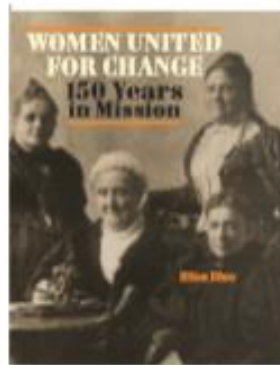
Is your unit seeking a mission project for 2019? United Methodist Commission on Relief (UMCOR) is collecting Hygiene Kits, Health Kits and School Kits for use around the world. We will collect the kits at our Annual meeting in

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.

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP—THEN AND NOW

Join United Methodist Women at Mission u 2019!

Take a deep dive into the Gospel of Mark, the topic of money,
and the inspiring story of women organized for mission.



THIS YEAR, OUR STUDIES ARE:

Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship
by Janet Wolf (Additional studies on Mark for children and youth also available.)

Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission by Ellen Blue

What About Our Money? A Faith Response by Susan K. Taylor

Be inspired. Be challenged. Respond to God's call.
Continue the powerful legacy of compassionate service
and passionate advocacy.

All are welcome!

Location: Mission u of the West
Albion College, Albion, Michigan

Date: July 10-13, 2019

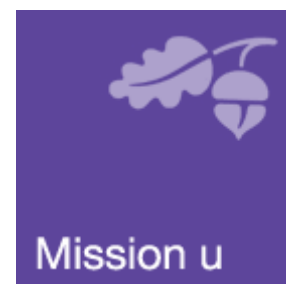


United
Methodist
Women
Faith • Hope • Love in Action

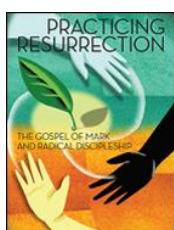
MISSION U: LEARNING TOGETHER FOR TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD

Mission u is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society based on current mission study topics with particular attention to the responsibilities of women in fulfilling the mission work of the church.

Participants grow in understanding the mission of the church in the current world context; conference events are open to members and non-members of United Methodist Women. Mission u also includes worship and singing, interest groups around current issues, mission projects, audiovisual presentations and fellowship opportunities. This summer our studies include:

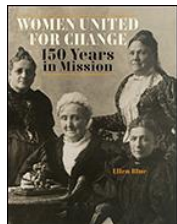


Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship



Author Janet Wolf presents this well-known Gospel through voices and experiences that are often relegated to the margins. Where we stand, what we see, who we listen to, whose stories and voices we value and dismiss will all shape the way we understand the world and the Bible. This study incorporates the stories of those on the margins to uncover how the gospel is alive and well today – how God is, and always has been, calling us to live out the Word in a radical way.

Women United For Change: 150 Years in Mission



This study is the first in a two-year study commemorating United Methodist Women's 150th anniversary in 2019. It will provide a historical survey of United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations and amplify the voices that shaped the work through an overarching story of United Methodist Women changing the face of mission. This study, keenly written by Ellen Blue, is about women who established vibrant societies to support mission.

What About Our Money? A Faith Response



This social action study written by Susan K. Taylor explores how we relate to money within the context of our faith. The focus of this study is both personal and communal. Readers will explore their own relationship with money, the money choices available to us, and how we individually and collectively respond in light of our faith.

Mission u is being offered in four locations throughout Michigan in 2019. While each location offers the same courses, the length of the sessions and the settings are options for you to choose. All locations are handicapped accessible.

- West – July 10-13 – Albion College. Cost: \$100-\$250, free children and youth programs
- South – July 20 – Southfield Hope UMC, Cost: \$35
- East – August 15-17 – Lake Huron Retreat Center, Cost: \$35-\$120
- North – October 21-22 – First UMC, Gaylord, Cost: \$65 plus lodging

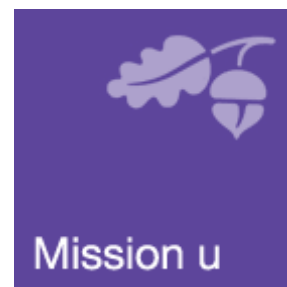
Scholarships are available. Contact a Mission u Dean for more information: Jackie Euper (810) 441-7624, Simmie Proctor (616) 283-6053, Mary Whitman (989) 781-9223

2019 MICHIGAN CONFERENCE MISSION U REGISTRATION FORM

July 10-13, 2019

Albion College, Albion, Michigan

Registration begins Wednesday, July 10 at 6:30 p.m.
(no dinner provided)



Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Home Church: _____ District: _____

Name on nametag (if different than above): _____

Roommate Request: _____

☐ Child Care? Names and Ages: _____

Information (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First time attending | <input type="checkbox"/> Study Leader |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Missionary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship applicant | <input type="checkbox"/> Laity |

Special Needs (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First floor housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Help moving around campus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal stairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign language interpreters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Special dietary needs (specify): _____ |

REGISTRATION TYPE (choose one) – scholarships are available:

On Campus:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth (Grades K-12) | Free |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enriched Child Care (ages 0-4) | Free |

Commuter with 5 Meals:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult | \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth (Grades K-12) | Free |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enriched Child Care (ages 0-4) | Free |

Commuter with No Meals:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children/Youth (Grades K-12) | Free |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enriched Child Care (ages 0-4) | Free |

Study Choice (choose one):

- ☐ *“What About Our Money? A Faith Response”*
☐ *“Women United For Change: 150 Years in Mission”*

Registration deadline: June 26, 2019

Return your registraton with a check payable to “UMW” to:

Beth Mitchell, Registrar, 3813 Rockwood Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49004

Questions? Email Beth at barmitch55@gmail.com

**Midwest District United Methodist Women
2019 Budget vs. Actual as of March 31, 2019**

MISSION GIVING (Five Lanes)	2019 Budget	2018 Actual
Gift in Memory	\$ -	\$ 205.00
Gift to Mission	-	265.00
Pledge	-	19,277.00
Special Mission Recognition	-	145.00
World Thank Offering	-	983.72
Total	\$ -	\$ 20,875.72
MISSION (Supplementary)		
Legacy Fund	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	-	500.00
Prayer and Self-Denial	-	171.00
UM Community House	-	750.00
Total	-	1,421.00
MISSION GRAND TOTAL	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 22,296.72
ADMINISTRATION & MEMBER DEVELOPMENT		
Audit	150.00	115.00
Bank Charges	80.00	48.38
District Special Mission Recognition, etc.	120.00	141.24
Mileage (not events)	800.00	339.60
Miscellaneous	50.00	0.00
Newsletter/Programs/Directory	2,000.00	519.60
Office Supplies/Printing	20.00	0.00
Postage/Shipping	50.00	0.00
Program Resources	160.00	264.79
Subtotal	3,430.00	1,206.42
Conference Events¹		
Annual Meeting	200.00	0.00
Mission u ²	1,350.00	0.00
Subtotal	1,550.00	0.00
District Events³		
Valentine Teas	400.00	0.00
Spring Fling	700.00	1,009.30
Spiritual Growth Retreat	1,200.00	0.00
Annual Meeting	1,000.00	0.00
Evening Apart	400.00	0.00
Subtotal	3,700.00	1,009.30
A&MD GRAND TOTAL	8,000.00	8,672.45
BUDGET GRAND TOTAL	\$ 51,100.00	\$ 54,248.81

Checkbook balance at 12/31/18: \$1,163.90

A & MD Income:	\$ 2,572.46	Expense:	\$ 2,215.72	Available:	\$ 1,520.64
Mission Income:	\$22,296.72	Expense:	\$22,296.72	Available:	\$ 0.00

CHECKBOOK BALANCE AT 3/31/19: \$1,520.64

Notes:

¹ Registration, mileage, meals, lodging, supplies – when not covered by Conference

² Includes up to \$100 each for two first time attendees

³ Meals, mileage, lodging, supplies, program, AV/music/speaker

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, Cornerstone 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: 1/10, 4/10, 7/10, 11/10

Midwest District UMW
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Fremont, MI 49412
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.



2019 IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE:

✂ clip and save ✂

- **May 3-4**, Spring Retreat, St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI
- **July 10-13**, Mission u of the West, Albion College, Albion, MI
- **July 10**, deadline for *Anchor* newsletter articles
- **July 20**, Mission u of the South, Southfield Hope UMC
- **August 15-17**, Mission u of the East, Lake Huron Retreat Center
- **Saturday, September 21**, Midwest District Annual Meeting, New Life UMC, Six Lakes
- **October 21-22**, Mission u of the North, First UMC, Gaylord, MI
- **Saturday, October 26**, Michigan Conference Annual Meeting, Howell UMC
- **Thursday, November 7**, Evening Apart, Middleville UMC
- **November 10**, deadline for *Anchor* newsletter articles