

## **NOTHING WILL EVER..... BE THE SAME AGAIN**

So.....how ARE you? How is your family?

Your church? Your neighborhood? I pray that you are safe and as healthy as can be and are handling this craziness!! Have you reminisced where you were when 9-11 happened? If you are old enough, like me, you have probably reminisced about where you were when Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.

Maybe you have reminisced about where you were during Woodstock! Or, when the astronauts first landed on the moon. NOW, the topic of reminiscing will be.....how we handled /survived the pandemic of 2020!

I feel so blessed to live in the middle of Michigan, where life is still very safe. According to my mother, bless her soul; and, also my son who lived in Vegas for 13 years, we live in a bubble!! The middle of Michigan is still very safe, quite protected or insulated from "the real world." My husband and I are definitely practicing "social distancing," but it is very easy for us where we live. And, everyone around us is being responsible.

There are so many people in so many places where being safe and feeling safe is much more difficult. Even for people who are being responsible. And, then there are reports of so many people who are not even trying to be responsible, which makes staying safe that much harder for everyone else.

For example, I have a brother, who is NOT young, who lives in another state (thank goodness) who thinks this is all ridiculous. HE'S not going to be told where he can and cannot go or how far apart he needs to be from others, or wear gloves or masks!

This makes me very sad. I hope and pray that he nor any of his immediate family become casualties of this serious situation. I pray for him.

I feel blessed to have my faith and know that God is all around me. We don't understand any of this and we don't have to. We know that God works in mysterious ways! How many ways right now, are people all around us being the hands and feet of Jesus? SO many people need extra help right now, but there are also SO many people everyday trying to make a terrible time easier for all those around them.

It didn't take long before there was request after request from our UM sisters asking about making face masks, asking for the patterns, asking where they could send the finished masks. I've heard example after example of our sisters working in food pantries and shelters and schools, spending hours of their time making contributions in their communities where the needs are so great.

Many churches have organized old fashioned "phone trees" to make sure that everyone in their church family is getting called and being checked on.

I really hope you are staying connected with your family and friends in all the approved and acceptable ways you can. I hope you are checking in with that neighbor, who lives alone, or the person at church who has recently lost a loved one. And, I hope you are taking advantage of the MANY devotional opportunities available on facebook and youtube or tv.

Check out [michiganumc.org](http://michiganumc.org) for good resources.

Even if you are physically alone, you are NOT alone! Everyone should be reaching out to others. Which means, YOU also need to be reaching out. Don't wait for someone else to reach out to you!

We have been forced to slow down! We have been forced to re-evaluate how we spend our time. We are learning new ways to communicate, like ZOOM. We are reverting to many old fashioned ways of communicating, like writing letters!! I hope you have all discovered some new way to spend time or re-discovered an activity you haven't done in a long time. I am loving reading through my pile of books.

Sending you each a virtual HUG,

**Linda Darrow, President**  
**Michigan Conference, United**  
**Methodist Women;**  
**989-763-8750**  
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*The primary responsibility of leaders is to promote the well-being of people, not themselves.*



## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

My first interesting bit is my name. My name is WalthaGaye- legally Gaye is a middle name, but always used together. My mother was a school teacher and had too many alike common names in the classroom. She and her sister fixed that- it took the 2 of them to come up with a version of my grandfather's name that they both liked.

I grew up in the most upper portion of NY State. We lived on a large parcel of land and rented most of it out for grazing cattle. I had one sister, whose name is Hilaire. We each had a horse and I worked at the neighbor's farm in the summer. My pay was mostly in hay bales. We were involved in 4-H and had many chores to do- gardening, cleaning the stalls, mowing lawn, fencing and housework.

Upon graduation from Canton Central High School, I enrolled in the nursing program in Ogdensburg which sat on the banks of the St Lawrence River. It was a three year clinical program and part of a network of 26 state schools that graduated on the same day. The smaller hospital jobs in my area were snatched up quickly. In a Nursing magazine, I saw that Michigan was desperate for nurses. And so in 1977, I packed up and moved to Carson City, Michigan. The United Methodist Church looked like a good place to worship and find a "family". It wasn't long before I was teaching Sunday school and singing in the choir.

At a Spiritual Growth Retreat at Wesley Woods, I was asked to be on the District team. That started my chapter with UMW. The more I learned what UMW was all about, the more I wanted to be a part of that

organization. My little piece of heaven burned in 2012 and it was my church family that supported me through my recovery. I found that one never knows how many people you have touched until they start touching back. On the District, I was Secretary, Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth and chair of CON before becoming President and I am now holding an office on the Conference.

My hobbies are reading, sewing, playing piano, crafting and gardening. I retired in 2014 after 36 years, mostly working in the Recovery Room. My biggest and hardest accomplishment was getting a woman out of prison and back into society. Karen had been incarcerated for 30 years for killing her abusive husband. Thanks to all of you for helping in that adventure and holding me up when the going got tough.

**Waltha Gaye Leavitt**

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**Wally@cmsinter.net**



Beth Mitchell, Wally Leavitt, and Linda Schramm relax before Conference Annual Celebration in Howell!

## MISSION COORDINATOR FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

United Methodist Women, in planning for the 2020 Mission u study, recognized the persistent battle with anxiety for the human spirit. I recommend to you the study book "Finding Peace in an Anxious World" even though our Mission u will not happen this summer. It seems that the topic is more needed than we could have imagined.

The study uses timeless spiritual disciplines, scripture, and well-known prayers like "The Serenity Prayer" (Reinhold Niebuhr, 1943) to guide us to the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Phillippians 4:7). This peace that Jesus offers (Luke 24:36) is not pax pernicioso (inward bliss) but pax Christi (inspired action). Most scripture references cited are from Proverbs.

The "Serenity Prayer" scaffolds the book, with one phrase explored in each of the four chapters: Serenity,

Acceptance, Courage, and Wisdom. Each chapter ends with a suggested spiritual practice: The Examen, Welcoming Prayer, Kataphatic Prayer, and Finger Labyrinth Prayer.

What a blessing this study book is for a time like this!

**Ruth Jones**

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**tcgrannynanny@yahoo.com**





## NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

Here we are in very challenging times. Local units aren't meeting, District and Conference events are cancelled, we weren't able to gather with our church, families and friends on Easter and we all are impacted in some way, some much more than others.

We are still all part of United Methodist Women. We can connect through this newsletter and in many other ways - phone calls, email, ZOOM meetings, and even handwritten notes and letters. I send a card every day to my 100-year-old mother in an assisted living facility. It is the best way to communicate with her since she can't hear very well over the phone (and doesn't always remember what a phone is...).

United Methodist Women has now been around for 151 years! Let's think how we can continue to support the mission of United Methodist Women even while we cannot meet in our local groups. We can still donate money to help serve the vulnerable women, children, and youth in Michigan, in the United States and around the world, especially in this time of crisis for almost everyone.

If for some reason, you can't donate to your local unit, you can send money directly to your District Treasurer (with a note acknowledging your local unit). If for some reason you are getting this newsletter but no longer have a local unit, you can donate as an individual. Each of you can become a 5-Star Person and donate to each of the 5 channels of giving (Your Pledge, Special Mission

Recognition pin for someone, Gift to Mission card, Gift in Memory donation, and World Thank Offering).

If any of this information seems too confusing to you, or you would like to know more, I am always happy to get emails or phone calls – even letters. ASK ME QUESTIONS! Now is a good time.

As Shannon Priddy, United Methodist Women President, said in her "Good Friday: What We are Called to Do" devotion – "We go to bed each night, not knowing what tomorrow will bring, but that has always been true. It is through faith we wake each morning and start anew."

Prayers and support for everyone,

**Mary Danforth, Treasurer**  
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**4671 Midway Dr, Ann Arbor, MI 48103**



### North Central Jurisdiction UMW Quadrennial Meeting Postponed

**North Central Jurisdiction UMW, originally to be held on June 26-28, 2020, has been postponed until further notice.**

According to Mildred Braddock, a member of the Jurisdictional Committee on Nominations, "Please stay at home, keep your distance when you have to go out, and be safe! May God bless you and everyone all over the world!"

**Mildred Braddock**

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**NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION LEADERSHIP TEAM**

## MISSION COORDINATOR FOR SOCIAL ACTION

### STAY SAFE, BUT REMEMBER?

Yes, we must stay in and be safe. We must remember our purpose. The most vulnerable of those among us are in nursing homes, jails and prisons.

We must also recognize the disproportionate impact the coronavirus has on brown and Black people. We have been passionate about a living wage for all and must continue to be.

United Methodist Women is partnering with "Family Values at Work" to advocate for paid family and medical leave as part of the "Living Wage for All" Campaign. It is essential to guaranteeing all workers a living wage. Low-wage workers are least likely to have any paid time off. We also fight for affordable health care. Ask your Senators and Representatives to support this cause.

Though we are home we can't forget. Our focus must remain on women, children and youth.

If you are not familiar with your Racial Justice team, now is a good time to get in touch. Be part of the School-to-Prison Pipeline Bible Study. As a member of this team, we are all committed to Racial Justice. Learn more about Mass Incarceration. Stay home and be safe.

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## MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH

Hello District MN&O gals!

I bet you are wondering "is there anything to do since all the meetings have been cancelled?" Yes.

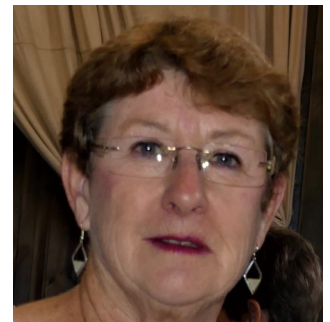
First, call, text, or write team members to check in with them. Joys & concerns? Encourage others to keep sending cards and notes to members. Everyone loves real mail!

Encourage the women to continue knitting baby sweaters and making cover-them-with-love quilts for the mission challenge. (Midwest Mission Distribution center) Ask if they are making face masks or finding supplies for others to sew. Great!

One other idea is while cleaning drawers, files, and closets and UMW memorabilia is found—programs and pictures—get the names and dates written on them. These are part of your Unit or District legacy. Make historical albums. It is important to keep members connected to each other.

**Blessings.**

**Cindy Thiele**  
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**[cindahthiele@gmail.com](mailto:cindahthiele@gmail.com)**



## MISSION u EVENTS CANCELLED FOR 2020!

**It is with deep regret that we are informing you that the 2020 Mission u events in Michigan (Albion College, Troy Big Beaver UMC, Lake Huron Retreat Center & Gaylord First UMC) are all CANCELLED!**

A message from National UMW/Mission u was received on April 2 stating that with the ongoing threat of COVID-19, study leader trainings have had to be cancelled. The leaders feel that in-person gatherings are a risk for the summer ahead.

We will alert you if any 2020 study offerings will be available online. Please make plans to attend Mission u in 2021 when new studies will be offered. Again, we are saddened to make this announcement but, as with the National UMW Office, we want everyone to be safe and healthy. Many thanks to our hosts and study leaders for the work already done. We will miss seeing your faces, but look forward to studying mission with you in 2021.

**In Christ's service,**

**Simmie Proctor, Co-Dean; Jackie Euper, Co-Dean; Marchelle Phelps, Assistant Dean**





### **MISSION COORDINATOR FOR EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION**

Greetings Dear Sisters.

By now I'm sure you have all sent in your completed Mission Today Objective forms to your District E&I Coordinators. Thank you! They will be tallied up and the list and certificates will be presented at your Annual Celebrations this fall. Thank you for all your patience and hard work fulfilling our UMW Objectives for 2019. Yes, it's a bit confusing to report on last year's accomplishments quite a while after the year ended, but it does help the rest of the UMW programs in which we participate to report things all at the same time, covering the same full time period. For this I sincerely thank you for your assistance and understanding. Change is sometimes complicated and confusing, but it promises to be smoother going forward.

Now, while things are calm and we have a little time to breathe and reflect back on our beautiful season of Lent, we really appreciate your Sheltering in Place and keeping our communities safe and healthy. I trust you have been able to spend some quiet time with God and feel His presence and protection while at home, weathering this present storm we are enduring.

Since our churches have wisely closed to gatherings, please look for the many resources the Michigan Conference UMC has available on webinars and training for us. I pray you will watch for the communications from the Conference and your District and take advantage of the several opportunities for learning, understanding and loving that we otherwise don't seem to have time for in our usual Church and UMW World! This too shall pass. God is in control. Blessings to all of you my friends.



**Michele Weston**  
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### **SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES**

#### **“READING IS ESSENTIAL AND FUNDAMENTAL”**

Where are the books from the Reading Program you wanted to read but were too busy? Since we are on lock up and lock down, it is a good time to read them. This is also a great time to share a book with someone.

As we go through this period of “pandemic”, let's reflect on some of the titles of books in our Reading Program.

Sunday, April 12, 2020, many of us celebrated “Resurrection Sunday” at home. We may have been involved in a Zoom service or a conference call worship service. Others may have been on a social network or watched a worship service on television.

“In Mark's day and now, Christians are caught in a world of crisis and confusion, a time of uncertainty and fear. There's a struggle going on and evil appears to be winning, injustice reigns, money and greed measure our living and our dying, divisions deepen, and hope is sometimes hard to find. Then and now, part of the crisis is the church's complicity, complacency, and silence in a world where so much has gone wrong. This is a time for “Practicing Resurrection” (Jane Wolfe). Read further to know how to Practice Resurrection.

We are concerned about the elderly during the Pandemic. We are living longer and very actively in our society. We ask, “When Did Everyone Get So Old”? Jennifer Grant may have the answer.

Mark 10:14 “Suffer the little children to come to me and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God”. Our children's schools are closed during the Pandemic and they are at home with their family. What is the “Hope for Our Children?” (Shannon Daley-Harris). Why do we accept “A Cage Without Bars” (Anne Dublin)? Is there justice for all children? The pipeline from school to prison affects the boys as well as girls. “Push Out” (Monique Morris) is a Mission u book we should read, discuss and put our Faith and Love into Action.

As the pandemic spreads, we must still focus on Climate and Economic Justice. Where is our “Hospitable Planet” (Stephen Jurovic)? Do we recognize “The Water Walker”? (Joanne Robertson). Clean and safe water is imperative for all of us.

As we encounter those “Born on Third Base” (Chuck Collins) there are those who ask “What About the Money”, (Susan K. Taylor), yet we must “Be Still” (Emmett Fox); “Pray for the World” (Brian C, Stiller) and find peace as you “Pray and Color” (Sybil MacBeth),

These are just a few of the book titles that you can enjoy being part of the Reading Program. Let's continue to promote Faith-Hope-Love in Action through our Reading and Sharing.

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## NEWS FROM THE CHARTER OF RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### The Racial Justice Symbol

The symbol represents United Methodist Women's commitment to work for racial justice. It symbolizes a world of racially and ethnically diverse peoples working together side by side to create a world in which every person has a voice, rights and opportunity for abundant life. Within the image are two hands joined together to work for justice for all God's children. This image appears on the Charter for Racial Justice and is often used on related news and resources. Feel free to use it to help identify your racial justice efforts.

**NOW GO TO:** [unitedmethodistwomen.org](https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

Here is a summary of what you will find. Please become familiar with this resource which is a wealth of information.

#### Living the Charter

Racial justice is a **biblical** issue.

- Read Exodus 1:8-14. How were the Egyptians and the Israelites each "raced"? Who are the "Egyptians" and who are the Israelites" in the United States today?

Racial justice is a **leadership** issue.

- Who are the leaders in United Methodist Women? When and how are leadership and power shared across lines of race, ethnicity, language and class? Make institutional changes that build relationships of mutuality rather than charity.

Racial justice is a **community** issue.

- Assess changes in your community, state and nation. Where are racial/ethnic tensions arising? Make standing up for racial justice a regular part of your spiritual practice.

Racial justice is a **public policy** issue.

- Learn about laws that limit the rights of immigrants, racial/ethnic minorities and the poor to public education, social services and jobs. Join with others to exercise your political power to ensure equal and basic rights for all.

### Racial Justice: Advocacy and Education

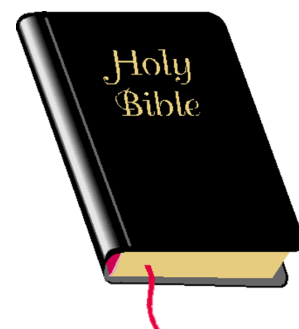
Because We Believe...United Methodist Women is deeply committed to the ongoing work of racial justice. We seek to be in right relationship with one another. We work together for the transformation of church and world, following the teaching and example of Jesus Christ. To learn more about our racial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

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

- Access the Charter for Racial Justice
- Explore our history
- Learn more about mass incarceration and the criminalization of communities of color
- Connect with our current campaign to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline
- Meet the Racial Justice Charter support team
- Download the Racial Justice Toolkit: Tools for Leaders: Resources for Racial Justice

#### The 4 Racial Justice Priority Issues are:

1. **Criminalization of Communities of Color:** Interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.
2. **Economic Inequality** - Adopt legislation in states/localities that builds the base for a living wage
3. **Climate Justice**—Reduce carbon footprint emissions of corporations and individuals
4. **Maternal and Child Health**—Decrease maternal mortality, develop a network of women's health advocates for access to health care and education





**COMMITTEE on the CHARTER  
for RACIAL JUSTICE Policies -  
UMW Bylaws of UMW, Article 4 - Committees,  
Section 6**

By Linda Darrow, Chairperson

Now..... did that grab your attention?? I bet *not*! Please don't let this title turn you off from reading this article!

Are you aware that this is one of the standing committees of our conference, of all conferences? It is listed on pages 139-40 in the 2017-2020 UMW Handbook. Short and sweet!

Our Conference Committee on Charter for Racial Justice has been revamped over the past couple of years after getting lost in the shuffle of the merging of the two former conferences. After several conference phone calls and lots of discussion and the persistence, diligence and commitment of the former Detroit Conference President, Micki Phelps, this committee has gotten reorganized and motivated to "get to work."

**The current committee members (and their districts) are:**

Linda Darrow, chr. (CB)	Micki Phelps (GD)
Judy Chasney (EW)	Linda Schramm (EW)
Kathy Freeland (CB)	Joyce Simons (CB)
Patti Steinberg (NS)	Loretta Lee (GS)
Dorie Litchfield (GS)	Alice Tucker (GD)
Nichea VerVeer Guy, consultant	

**We would really like to have a representative from all districts on this team, so if you know someone who would like to serve, or would like to serve yourself, please contact Linda Schramm, Chairperson of Nominations.**

If you attended the 2018 Conference Annual Celebration in Petoskey, you will remember that our special Friday evening was a two part program. First was an introductory power point explanation of the School to Prison Pipeline. Next was an extremely well executed and received panel discussion with four well-spoken, well-versed professionals from the Grand Traverse and Detroit areas, each speaking about their respective experiences and knowledge of this same topic and how it affected

their work and the young people with whom they work. Everyone was impressed with that program. It was a great way of introducing this topic to our membership. It was a beginning.

Last fall our conference was given the opportunity to apply for funding to support a campaign to interrupt the school to prison pipeline. Specifically, *"the GOAL of Funding Support: Advance UMW's efforts to organize to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline by providing small-scale funding support to enable deepening of existing campaigns and/or development of new campaigns."*

We were not given much notice or time to get this application filled out and submitted. With much effort by Micki Phelps, Alice Tucker, and myself, we got the paperwork filled out and sent in - on time! **Unfortunately, we did not receive any money from the national office.** But, our Charter Committee felt strongly, that if our conference could come up with any extra money, we still wanted to move forward with a basic plan of action. Our conference budget was evaluated by our out-going and in-coming treasurers, Julia Paradine-Rice and Mary Danforth. After all bills and commitments were paid for 2019, there was going to be surplus money in our conference account that would be returned to the National office. An Executive decision was made to allot some of this money to the Committee on the Charter for Racial Justice.

The grant from the National Office was to do social and racial justice work, specifically the issue of dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline and eliminating zero tolerance policies. How timely, as United Methodist Women ALWAYS are, that the initiative focus this year is Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration, specifically dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline and eliminating zero tolerance policies. Below is the link! Please copy & paste!

**<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-do/service-and-advocacy/mission-focus-issues/racial-justice-and-mass-incarceration/schooltoprisonpipelineposter.pdf>**

### School-to-Prison Pipeline

*The school-to-prison pipeline is a term describing how children and youth of color are rerouted by systems and institutions and funneled away from educational success towards the criminal justice system.*

Our Conference did not receive that grant, but our conference committed to do SOMETHING. Thanks to organization efforts and much time and energy from Micki Phelps, immediate past Conference President, and Kathy Freeland, Conference Communications Co-Coordinator, the Charter Committee hosted an overnight retreat, Feb. 28-29, 2020. A total of 30 people from across the conference, including a couple of retired pastor husbands, met at the Lapeer UMC. Our retreat was led by Ms. Sharon Appling and Rev. Carter Grimmett. These two amazing resource persons offered very specific perspectives and MUCH "food for thought."

The basis of the time together was UMW's School to Prison Pipeline Bible Study Series — a six-part curriculum. We worked through the entire study as a group. We had several **goals:**

- 1. to provide an opportunity to really begin to understand this topic, in a personal way and in a safe environment.**
- 2. to begin discussing how we can take this material out to our entire conference membership, through the districts and to the local churches:**
  - a. to educate;**
  - b. to understand the issues;**
  - c. to put action plans into place to help alleviate and/or solve this problem wherever possible.**

The response from everyone who attended was positive. Everyone agreed that it was time and money well spent. We encourage ALL of you to take time to "do"

this entire bible study. NOW, is the time. Here is the link to the studies The link is also listed on the Michigan Conference UMW website! You will have to copy and paste the website into your browser to access it.

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/school-to-prison-pipeline-bible-study>

1. Reading the Bible Together: Focus on Women, Children and Youth
2. Biblical Women: Claiming Justice for Ourselves and Our Children
3. Children and Youth Through God's Eyes
4. Claiming Joy and Truth in a World that Misses Out on #BlackGirlMagic
5. Seeking the Lost with Love
6. Systemic Racism, Social Holiness and the Powers and Principalities of Our Time

Soon after the retreat, the whole world turned *upside down!*

### So, What's Next?

The committee had a conference call on April 4 to review the overnight retreat and discuss what next steps could be taken. Everyone feels strongly that we need to get out into the communities where there is something already happening -- identifying positive situations, and also identifying where work needs to be done for improvement.

Lots of ideas were discussed. What can be done now, even though we are living under quarantine? What will we do when we are able to again be out and about? Our Conference Committee on the Charter for Racial Justice will coordinate and oversee this work.

Micki Phelps and Sharon Appling have already done several presentations. They are scheduled to present in the Greater Southwest district on June 11-12.





Hopefully, this event will not be cancelled. Kathy Freeland has also done a presentation recently. This committee has already outlined and developed different materials to accommodate different lengths of time allotted for a program or a training session and for variations or personalities of audience in attendance.

**Keeping in mind, the previously mentioned goals, the committee makes the following recommendations:**

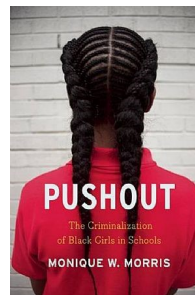
1. **Educate all District Leadership Teams.** Teams of charter committee members request being invited to upcoming district leadership team meetings and given some time for sharing ideas and discussing what action might be taken, as well as to solicit additional suggestions and information in each respective district. Linda Darrow, Conference President and Alice Tucker, Conference Coordinator for Social Action, will coordinate this with their nine district counterparts.
2. **Educate as many women in the local churches** as possible in the most efficient way, by giving a presentation at each District Annual Celebration in the fall. Linda Darrow will coordinate this with each District Vice President.

It is important to know what is already happening across our conference, in our districts, and in our local schools and churches.

**We invite ANY of you who has an example of a situation or a story that is relevant, to please share it with us. Contact anyone in your district or anyone on this Committee. If you are interested in being more involved with the work of the Committee for the Charter of Racial Justice, please contact me any time!**

Our plan is to do what we can right now, even with social distancing. We also want to make plans for what we can do once our world turns right side up again!

**ALL Mission u events for 2020 have been cancelled.** But, that does not mean that we should not be studying the topics or reading the books from the Mission u studies! How timely the mission studies are this year! They include *"Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools,"* (a 2 year study that repeats in 2021); and *"Finding Peace in an Anxious World"* (the Spiritual Growth study for 2020). Let's also make sure we read the 2-year mission study ending this year: *"Women United for Change"*. In 2021 the study will be *"Moral Witness of the Church."* And, the children/youth study will be on violence, so stay tuned!.



**S2PP Bible Study Participants representing eight of the nine districts**

**A Note from the Charter For Racial Justice Committee**

Please take a moment and fill out the survey on page 12 of the newsletter! While we are planning to attend all District Annual Meetings, our committee is willing to come to a group of local units or small district gathering to present some of this information!

**NEWS FROM DISTRICT PRESIDENTS****HERITAGE DISTRICT**

Which Way Lord? Have you ever wondered in what direction you are going or where you need to be at what time? Romans 5:3-4, "There's more to come: We continue to shout our praise even when we're hemmed in with troubles, because we know how troubles can develop passionate patience in us, and how that patience in turn forges the tempered steel of virtue, keeping us alert for whatever God will do next". (The Message Bible)

What to do next is the question many United Methodist Women have been asking themselves. How do we function during the Covid-19 Pandemic? What changes are we seeing, how do we cope with those? I think we are all doing a lot of praying and learning Passionate Patience.

If you want to look forward to the future please plan to join us at the: **Heritage District Annual Celebration & Meeting, Saturday, September 26, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Saline UMC, 1200 N Ann Arbor St, Saline, MI 48176.**



Our special guest speaker Shonagh Taruza will be speaking on Racial Justice. "Establish Justice and Ensure Tranquility", are words Shonagh uses in her Art series, "Finding Jesus in Contemporary America". She has a great passion for justice and this

comes through in her message. So please plan to join us at the Heritage District Annual Meeting and Celebration to learn more.

God's Blessing to all of you!  
Stay Safe and see you in the fall!

**Sherry Wagenknecht**  
**734-347-5868**  
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**MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT**

With the Coronavirus and multiple social distancing regulations, including closings, the Mid-Michigan District doesn't have much to report. We had to cancel our Spiritual Growth Retreat for May 1-2 and several unit events we had planned to attend. Our new focus will be our District Annual Celebration in September.

As the President, I attended the Michigan Conference UMW Leadership Team ZOOM meeting in January. I visited New Lothrop UMW for their monthly unit meeting followed by a tea. They are a vibrant and enthusiastic unit. In addition, I was invited to attend the cluster unit meeting for St Louis, Alma and Bannister; presented by WalthaGaye Leavitt and Karol Fry. The cluster meeting was a wonderful way to connect with several District Friends in order to answer questions and present information. I highly recommend this format.

I pray for each and every one of you who are doing the best you can in these unprecedented times. I cannot wait until we will be able to celebrate together, in person.

**Blessings to You,**  
**Donna Kleiver**  
**517-663-4193**  
**dmkleiver2016@gmail.com**





### **NORTHERN WATERS DISTRICT**

I've wondered what to write in my article. We could all write—we have cancelled thus and so events. But I decided instead to be positive and share this little blurb with you and if you have read it previously, it bears repeating:

A new cookie for Girl Scouts this year, Lemon Ups, has various slogans on them and it made me think of UNITED METHODIST WOMEN and also the crisis in which we find ourselves .....but I'm finding "stay in place" to not be a sacrifice at all for me but an opportunity to get things done.....or most of the time!

**I am bold. I am courageous.**

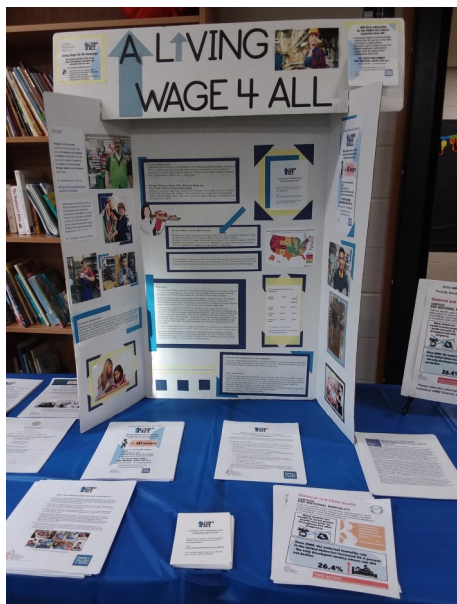
**I am a leader. I am creative.**

**I am an innovator. I am a go-getter.**

**I am strong. I am a risk-taker.**

**I am gutsy.**

**Susan Wirgau**  
**(231)-838-5986,**  
**onthebay@chartermi.net**



### **GREATER SOUTHWEST DISTRICT**

In a Lenten devotional by Rueben Job, a late UM Bishop, he offered this reflection. "Methodists were known for their prayers and their commitment to the poor and disenfranchised. This commitment resulted in persistent efforts to build houses of prayer and worship as well as consistent efforts to visit the prisons, build schools and hospitals and work for laws which moved toward a just and peaceful social order."

When I read this I thought of United Methodist Women, of the work we have done over the past 151 years and continue to do. We build hospitals, start schools, work to change laws and change the lives of women, children, and youth, both here and throughout the world. In the "new normal" in which we are all living today I know that, like our foremothers, we too shall continue to work for the marginalized wherever they may live.

I have grieved with all of you over the cancellation of Spring Flings, Spiritual Growth events, and all the Mission gatherings. My heart breaks to not be fed by the Spiritual Growth study, "Finding Peace in an Anxious World", which I think we all need about now. I will miss not expanding my knowledge about "Mass Incarceration with Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools". I will miss not learning more about "Women United for Change" and most of all I will miss the fellowship of all you United Methodist Women.

I continue to look forward to gathering once again with all of you at the Greater Southwest District UMW Annual meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> at Westwood UMC and the big gathering of all of us for Conference Annual at Kalamazoo 1<sup>st</sup> UMC on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Maybe our greetings will not be hugs but smiles of joy to see each other again. Stay well, keep the faith, and look to the future. See you all this fall.

**Linda Burton-Collier**  
**Greater Southwest District**  
**UMW President**  
**(269)793-7340**  
**lindaburtoncollier@gmail.com**





**CALLING ALL WOMEN TO THE 2020 CONFERENCE RACIAL JUSTICE PROJECT**

Michigan Conference UMW, through the Charter for Racial Justice committee, will be starting a project focusing on the School to Prison Pipeline. The term school-to-prison pipeline refers to the troubling national trend where public school children are harshly penalized for minor infractions of school rules. Severe policies and practices such as zero tolerance, disciplinary alternative schools, police in schools, court involvement and juvenile detention employed by school districts and municipalities disproportionately penalizes disadvantaged youth, Black, Latino and special needs students.

For 2020 this topic will be the focus of many of the activities conducted by the Charter for Racial Justice Committee of Michigan UMW. We would start by conducting a Bible Study, put together by National UMW. This study could be done by several different methods:

A set of conference calls, which would take 3 sessions, or

A one-day retreat

This study would mark the beginning of our efforts to end the school-to-prison pipeline within the state of Michigan through our study, our hopes and our prayers for everyone involved.

We want to see if there is a commitment from the women from the conference to begin this project. If you are interested, please call or e-mail **Kathy Freeland at 989-843-5247 or [ksfdaf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ksfdaf@sbcglobal.net)**.

If you don't want to call or e-mail, please fill out the following form and send it to: **Kathy Freeland, PO Box 195, Mayville, MI, 48744**

**CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE** - Linda Darrow, chair, Judy Chasney, Dorie Litchfield, Patti Steinberg  
Kathy Freeland, Micki Phelps, Joyce Simons, Loretta Lee  
Linda Schramm, Alice Tucker

**Deadline—June 30, 2020**

\_\_\_\_ I would be interested in participating in 3 conference calls concerning the School-to-Prison Pipeline Bible Study.

\_\_\_\_ I would be interested in attending a one-day retreat concerning the School-to-Prison Pipeline Bible Study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address, including local address, city, state, zip code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail





Even though it seems early it's not too soon to think about our Conference Annual Celebration to be held in Kalamazoo! Registration is below, and you won't want to miss a moment of this grand celebration! Hotel and speaker information to follow in the September newsletter!

United Methodist Women  
Michigan Conference Annual Celebration

October 24, 2020  
Kalamazoo First UMC

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

District Officer ☐

Conference Officer ☐

District \_\_\_\_\_ Office Held \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church and City \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Training ☐ 4 pm-8 pm Officer training ☐ Mission Project ☐

Saturday Celebration ☐ 8:30 am-3 pm

Childcare Needs: Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_ Ages \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergy: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobility Issues ☐

Celebration Cost: \$16.00 per person After cut off date: \$20.00 Walk-in: \$25.00

Last Day for Registration: October 14, 2020

Please send registrations 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

Register online at: <https://my-site-102740-102533.square.site/>



## Food Pantry Needs

The In-gathering for the Food Bank: cereal, peanut butter, canned meats and canned foods like spaghetti o's, chili, soups etc

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PROGRAM ADVISORY GROUP (National)**

**~ Ruby Anderson, Taylorie Bailey, Suzanne Hewitt**

The 2017-2020 United Methodist Women (UMW) Program Advisory Group (PAG) gathered for its final meeting of the quadrennium March 5-7 at Scarritt Bennett Center in Nashville, TN, just after a large storm cut through the city, causing extensive tornado damage and loss of life.

PAG members heard various reports and participated in a workshop on implicit bias led by the Rev. Michelle Ledder with the General Commission on Religion and Race.

UMW members gave over \$10 million in Mission Giving in 2019. Twenty UMW conferences met or exceeded their pledge including Michigan by 3.05%.

The time together included meeting as jurisdictions and in teams to help inform the UMW National Office of its strategic plan. PAG discussed the 2020 United Methodist General Conference, including legislation submitted from UMW and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. UMW's presence at General Conference was emphasized, as well as strategizing for women's leadership at all levels of decision-making in the church. They also heard from Bishops Cynthia Fierro Harvey and LaTrelle Easterling, who discussed and answered questions about the Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace through Separation.

Work done over the past four years was acknowledged and celebrated: the new strategic plan on membership, identity and relationship, on engaging social justice priorities, and on being careful stewards of the organization's assets. UMW also hosted the Power of Bold Assembly 2018 in Columbus, Ohio and celebrated 150 years in mission in 2019.

A new board of directors will be elected at UMW jurisdiction events and a new PAG established for 2021-2024. UMW continues the work of women organized for mission in a changing church and world.



**Suzanne Hewitt, Taylorie Bailey and Ruby Anderson pose at their last meeting of PAG in Nashville!**





## 2020 Michigan Conference UMW Leadership Team

**PRESIDENT:** Linda Darrow (2017) Central Bay  
232 N. Cooley St. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
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**SECRETARY:** Beth Mitchell (2017)  
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**COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATORS:**  
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**MISSION COORDINATORS:**  
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### COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS:

**CHAIRPERSON:** Linda A. Schramm (2019) East Winds  
244 South Elk St., Sandusky, MI 48471  
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Julia Deemer (2019) Northern Waters  
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231-275-7954, [jujadeemer@gmail.com](mailto:jujadeemer@gmail.com)

Evelyn Delaney (2019) Central Bay  
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Shirley Chappell (2019) Midwest  
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Carol Gorham (2020) Heritage  
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Jimmie Jones (2020) Greater Detroit  
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### NOMINEES TO UNITED METHODIST WOMEN, INC.

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Judy Huynh (2020) Midwest  
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5 61 269-838-1804, [judyhuynh@gmail.com](mailto:judyhuynh@gmail.com)

Alternate: Marchelle (Micki) Phelps (2020) Greater Detroit  
19622 Syracuse, Detroit, MI 48234  
313-618-5361, [marchellephelps@gmail.com](mailto:marchellephelps@gmail.com)

### VOTING DELEGATES TO QUADRENNIAL MEETING

Mary Danforth – Alice Tucker – Michele Weston

### CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE - Linda Darrow, chair

Judy Chasney	Dorie Litchfield	Patti Steinberg
Kathy Freeland	Micki Phelps	Joyce Simons
Loretta Lee	Linda Schramm	Alice Tucker



Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church  
www.umwmichiganconference.org

**United Methodist Women**

PO Box 195, Mayville, MI 48744



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Methodist  
Women

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times this year: January, May, August

Submissions requested by the 10th of each previous month  
to: Kathy Freeland, ksfdaf@sbcglobal.net

## ***2020 Calendar of Events***

<b>May 16</b>	<b>Michigan Conference UMW Team Meeting</b>	<b>Zoom Meeting</b>
<b>July-Oct.</b>	<b>All Mission u Events Cancelled!</b>	
<b>Aug. 19</b>	<b>Michigan Conference UMW Team Meeting, Finance Meeting, Comm. On Nominations, Mission u</b>	<b>Kalamazoo 1st UMC</b>
<b>Sept.-Oct.</b>	<b>District Annual Celebrations</b>	
<b>Oct. 23-24</b>	<b>Conference/District Officer Training &amp; Michigan Conf. UMW Celebration</b>	<b>Kalamazoo 1st UMC</b>
<b>Nov. 21</b>	<b>Michigan Conference UMW Team Meeting</b>	<b>Cedar Springs UMC</b>