

# The V.O.I.C.E.

Valuable Organizational Information Connecting Everyone

Business Name

## May the Peace of God Guard Your Heart!

Dear Michigan UMW Sisters:

As 2021 began and COVID vaccines were a reality, your Michigan Conference UMW Leadership Team was excited at the prospect of holding our Conference Annual Celebration in-person on October 23. Plans were well underway, and it seemed that things were returning to

something resembling "normal".

However, we are not quite there yet, and the Leadership Team has made the difficult

decision to go virtual - again - for 2021. We made that decision to keep all of you safe as well as the communities we travel through and back home to. No tears and long faces now! We have so much more Zoom experience (did you attend one of the outstanding live virtual Mission u events?) and when we don't know how to do something we know who to call. So, get excited for a wonderful, virtual Conference Annual Celebration on Saturday, October 23 (the registration form is included in this newsletter).

Also, if you have never attended

a UMW Assembly, now is the time to start planning to attend in Orlando, Florida May 20-22, 2022. My Mom encouraged me to attend my first one in Anaheim, CA in 2006 and I have attended each one since then. The theme of Assembly 2022 is TURN IT UP and we will TURN IT UP! for spiritual healing and

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

~Philippians 4:6-7

renewal, we will TURN IT UP! for rebirth in a new time, we will TURN IT UP! for women leaders, we will TURN IT UP! for justice for women, children, and youth. At this

event you will find spiritual growth, engaging missions, social activism, uplifting worship and so much more. Want more information? Call me or check out the website [assembly2022.org](http://assembly2022.org).

Sisters...do not be anxious about anything - the peace of God will guard your heart!

Blessings,

*Julia Paradine-Rice*, President

Michigan Conference UMW  
[jparadinerice@gmail.com](mailto:jparadinerice@gmail.com)  
(989) 576-0675

Volume 3, Issue 3  
September 2021

### Inside this issue:

United Methodist Community House	2
Secretary	3
Membership Nurture & Outreach	
Education and Interpretation	
Program Resources	4
Spiritual Growth	
Social Action	
2022 Proposed Budget	5
Conference Annual Registration	6
2022 Slate of Officers	7
Important Dates	8
Mission u of the North	
Where to find District	

United Methodist Women: Faith • Hope • Love in Action

**We are women with a Purpose!**

The organized unit of the 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 fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

## Growing Together: 2021 Summer Day Camp at UMCH

*"We could still provide for her by going to work, and not worry about where she is or what she's doing or whether she's coming home safe." —2020 UMCH Day Camp Parent*

Can you relate to the sense of peace in the quote above? We certainly can. Every parent and caregiver wants to know that their child is safe, cared for, and happy. And that's exactly what Day Camp at UMCH does for parents.

**When parents send their children to Day Camp, they have peace of mind knowing that every day while they are working to provide for their family, their child is staying active, having fun, and learning new things about themselves, other people, and the world around them.**

It's hard to imagine anything more important than giving parents that peace of mind. But we're even more excited about what Day Camp does for kids—especially this year!

**After a year of quarantine, virtual learning, and time inside, we knew Day Camp this year had to be all about getting out into the world safely and connecting with the natural environment.**

Summer Day Camp at UMCH was held from June 21 – August 13 this year. One day each week, campers visited Roanoke Ranch in Lowell to spend time with the horses. Through time spent riding and caring for the animals, the kids learned important lessons about confidence, self-esteem, and trust.

Another day each week, campers headed to



**Eric J. Williams**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Carla Moore**  
Chief Operating Officer

Groundswell Community Farm, a black-owned organic farm in Zeeland. Led by owner Bruce Michael Wilson, the kids learned about gardening and farming, outdoor survival

skills, all about the history of people of color in farming, and even future career paths in farming and agriculture.

Each day in between was full of time outside, exploring the community, and making new friends.

**Every day of camp opened up a new world of possibilities for campers in a healthy, safe setting. Throughout the summer, campers learned to think in new ways and learned that they're capable of more than they ever imagined.**

**And you helped make it possible!** Support from the United Methodist Women throughout Michigan helps to meet the needs of children, families, and older adults all year long. We're

so excited to share this recap of camp as just one way you've helped to make a difference.

As you read this, campers are just beginning a new school year. There's a lot ahead of them, and we



know this summer they spent growing as students, as people, and as members of the community will stick with them throughout the school year. **That's what camp is all about. Thank you for being a part of it!**



United Methodist  
**Community House**

## Can Tabs



Aluminum can tabs are no longer being collected for United Methodist Community House. If you have a local organization that collects them, please feel free to donate them. If you are crafty, there are many crafts that can be made using these tabs.

## A Word from the Secretary

My position as the Secretary of the Michigan Conference United Methodist Women has opened a new world for me. The position offers opportunities to participate in many meetings and events and I am learning more about the United Methodist Women and their work. I am a member of the Mission u Team and we just completed two studies which were well received and provided thoughtful reflections on how we treat each other. I attended Mission u Studies in the past, but I never thought I would actually work with others to plan one! I am excited about the next three years of my term and what comes next.

I also enjoy attending Faith Talks hosted by the National Office of the United Methodist Women. The topics provide insight into issues that affect women, youth and children such as living wage disparities, criminalization of people of color, social justice issues, and lack of adequate education and health services. The Faith Talks presents ways to help alleviate the pain these issues cause. The information received calls us to action as United Methodist Women. I recently attended a Faith Talk on Zoom which offered an opportunity to meet Jennifer R. Farmer, author of "First & Only: A Black Woman's Guide to Thriving at Work and in Life." Jennifer R. Farmer is a writer, trainer, and activist who has worked with a host of entrepreneurs, social justice organizations and advocates. The author is a young, black woman and the mother of two. The book is on the United Methodist Women's Reading List for 2021. I recommend the book; it is an eye-opener for all women!

I pray that everyone enjoys the rest of summer as we settle into a new school year! I hope to meet all of you at our Annual Meeting in October, 2021.

God Bless you all! Be Safe!

*Ethel M. Gill*

Secretary  
313 530 5393, butterfly1425@yahoo.com

## Education & Interpretation

It's almost over??? It's almost here??? Ladies, it's soon going to be time to get out of our Covid+ shells and get back to our mission work of learning, helping and donating!! I have so missed this myself. But it's time we move forward.

What I mean is, although most of us have not been able to meet in person in our Local, District and Conference UMW groups, we still need to finish filling out our 2020 Mission Today Unit Objectives. In fact, the forms were due months ago, but if you hurry, I'm sure your District E&I Coordinator can still get you included in your Unit's participation at your local Annual Meeting coming up in the next couple of months. If you need another copy of the form, please ask your E&I District Mission Coordinator for a copy, or you can e-mail me and I will send you one! Remember this report is for your activities in 2020, not this year! You still have a few months left to complete your 2021 activities, that form will be sent in the next newsletter.

What we need to be concerned with going forward, is the question so many of us ask, "Where Does Our Money Go?" I have a lot of information to share with you at our

## Membership Nurture and Outreach

Did you know that you can still be a United Methodist Woman even though your Unit has disbanded? Did you know you can be a United Methodist Woman and not go to a Methodist church?

Here are some of the ways to remain active as a member of the United Methodist Women----

You can join a Unit at another church. You can be an independent individual member at large. You can join an online group.

Stay involved! Be sure you are on the mailing lists for District and Conference newsletters. Stay involved with the National Reading Program and receive your certification of completion for one of the four plans. Register of the free Faith talks and Climate Justice podcasts. Sign-up for the various District and Conference Events in your (and other) districts. Plan to attend Mission u.

You can still earn a 5 Channels of Giving award. Send your Pledge to Mission to the District Treasurer to benefit women, children and youth at state, national, and international UMW mission locations.

Subscribe to the response the national UMW magazine.

Register on the National website under MyUMW  
[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/myumw](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/myumw)

Be informed through the state and national websites:  
[www.umwmichiganconference.org](http://www.umwmichiganconference.org)  
[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

You can be connected to the network of women in mission for women, children, and youth as stated in the PURPOSE of UMW. You can still be a United Methodist woman!

*Cindy Thiele*, Membership Nurture & Outreach  
[cindahthiele@gmail.com](mailto:cindahthiele@gmail.com), (269) 673-4514

**You can still be a  
United Methodist  
Women!**

Leadership Training this year, which will be held on Friday evening, October 22, via Zoom, as part of our Conference UMW Annual Celebration which begins on Saturday morning, October 23rd. You'll notice we must meet via Zoom again this year, rather than in person like we had hoped. Please, please, please, register for this Annual Celebration, as well as Friday night's Leadership Training. The Training is open to present, continuing and newly elected E&I Coordinators. I will receive a list of the participants as the event gets closer and will mail you materials you'll need for the training, so please register early so I get your information in plenty of time.

I look forward to seeing a good turn-out at this year's Annual Celebration and Leadership Training.

Blessings,

*Michele Weston*

Education & Interpretation Coordinator  
[mweston38@att.net](mailto:mweston38@att.net)  
(810) 694-6266



## Program Resources

Once you get into reading from the UMW reading list, you can't stop at just one. I hope you are making progress in meeting the requirements for one of the levels on the reading program. The Secretary of Program Resources in your district is waiting for your report for 2020. Do not include books that you have read in 2021. And as you continue to read in 2021 keep a list and submit it anytime after Jan. 1, 2022.

"Reading one book is like eating one potato chip."  
— Diane Duane, *So You Want to Be a Wizard*

It has come to my attention that the Sampler Pack will no longer be available from the UMW Resource Center. They are evaluating the program and will only have the books available as singular purchases. It is time to order your Program Book for 2021-2022. If you struggle to find meaningful and educational programs for your local unit, you will find this book to be very helpful.

Because the UMW Conference Annual Celebration will be by ZOOM again this year, there will be no book room. If you are having trouble locating books, let me know. I may be able to help you. I also have a list of the books that are available in audio format from Amazon. Feel free to e-mail me with your questions.

There are other ways to meet the requirements of the Reading Program besides reading books. If you listen to three Faith Talks, available on the United Methodist Women.org website, they will count as two books. You also can watch the movies, *Pushout*, *Just Mercies* and *The Hate U Give*. They also count as a book. Do you read to your children or grandchildren? The children's books also count on the reading program. Just keep on reading. Books are sort of like potato chips. You can't read just one! Feel free to contact me,

*Ruth Sutton*, Secretary of Program Resources  
suttonr1@charter.net, (989) 708-9968

## Spiritual Growth

A church friend told me last week of her frustration at not understanding some familiar phrases in the Bible, e.g. "thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." I promised her a copy of Phillip Keller's book, "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23." She is not as apt as I am to google every question as it occurs, thousands per year. As a VERY curious person, I am daily thankful for this great convenience. Still, there are seldom satisfying answers for the oft repeated question, "Why?" Charles Tindley, orphan son of enslaved parents, certainly must have had some questions for God. Inspired by I Corinthians 13:12, he wrote the hymn "We'll Understand It Better By and By." (Google his FASCINATING life!) My favorite Bible verse has always been Hebrews 11:1, and I am comfortable with the fact that only God is all-knowing. My prayer is that we will help each other to hold fast the anchor of faith during these challengingly times.

*Ruth Jones*, Spiritual Growth  
tcgrannynanny@yahoo.com, (231) 645-1761

## Social Action

We are currently experiencing several social action concerns this year. All of the concerns are important to me. Not all concerns are listed. I ask that we pray for these concerns.

### Haiti Earthquake

Haiti suffered a magnitude 7.2 earthquake on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Approximately, nearly 1300 are dead and search continues for survivors. This country is going through a lot with the president recently killed. Please pray and support UMCOR.

### Climate Justice

A United Nations report said that the earth will reach a critical warming threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius within two decades and that catastrophic weather events including droughts, floods, fires, and hurricanes will intensify. Global heating is affecting every region of the earth.

In Michigan, this summer we have experience tornados, severe storms, and massive flooding. Some households have experience flooding in their homes, streets, and freeways with every storm. Change is needed now.

### Rent Moratorium

July 31, 2021, the Rent Moratorium expired with no action from Congress. All around the country renters stand a chance of being evicted with no place to go. In Michigan, the moratorium is effective through October 3, 2021 but it only covers counties that have substantial or high levels of COVID-19 transmission.

### COVID-19 Delta Variant

Delta variant is spreading rapidly in the South and in Michigan. Far more kids are getting sick with COVID-19. A Children's hospital in Dallas Texas are running out of intensive care beds telling parents if you child is sick you will have to wait until another child dies. If you child comes to the hospital needing intensive care, that they will be air-lifted to Oklahoma.

This breaks my heart because children under age 12 cannot be vaccinated and the parents make the decisions if they should or should not wear a mask while the virus is spreading rapidly. Are we listening to scientists or politicians?

### Right to Vote

Voting is an American principle and democratic right for all US citizens. Voting laws are being challenged and changed in most states. We have seen unprecedented attacks on voting rights.

All Americans should have a right to vote.

### Middle East

Pray for Afghanistan's women and children as the Taliban take control of the country.

I will continue to pray for these concerns.

*These comments are my opinions. Feel free to agree or disagree.*

*Jocelyn Davis*

Social Action Coordinator  
missydavis32@gmail.com  
(810) 694-6266

## 2022 Budget

### MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UMW BUDGET for 2022

ITEM	BUDGET 2021	BUDGET 2022	Difference
District A&MD	\$94,415.00	\$84,650.00	-\$9,765.00
North Central Jurisdiction A&MD	4,000.00	3,000.00	-1,000.00
Assembly/NCJ/Seminars	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Charter for Racial Justice Initiatives	0.00	0.00	0.00
Church Annual Conference Attendance	1,000.00	500.00	-500.00
Church Women United State Assembly	400.00	400.00	0.00
Conference Annual Celebration	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00
Conference Directory	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
District Officer Leadership Training	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Keep Making Peace - attendance	350.00	350.00	0.00
Newsletter	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00
Officer Resources/Literature	500.00	500.00	0.00
Mission u - Conference Scholarships	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Mission u - Subsidy Albion/Conf Officer Registration	9,000.00	8,500.00	-500.00
Mission u - Subsidy East/Conf Officer Registration	9,000.00	8,500.00	-500.00
Mission u of the North - Subsidy/Conf Officer Reg.	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Church Women United - donation	400.00	400.00	0.00
Justice For Our Neighbors - donation	500.00	500.00	0.00
Keep Making Peace - donation	2,000.00	0.00	-2,000.00
UMCH Program Support - donation	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00
Audit	500.00	500.00	0.00
Conf SMRs/Gift to Mission/Gift in Memory	500.00	500.00	0.00
Conference Leadership Retreat	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dependent Care	80.00	80.00	0.00
Lodging	600.00	500.00	-100.00
Meals	500.00	300.00	-200.00
MI Non-Profit Corp Annual Fee	20.00	20.00	0.00
Mileage	2,000.00	1,500.00	-500.00
Misc/Contingency	185.00	150.00	-35.00
Postage	200.00	150.00	-50.00
Printing, Supplies & Checks	300.00	200.00	-100.00
Technology	250.00	250.00	0.00
TOTALS	\$149,700.00	\$134,450.00	-\$15,250.00
MI CONFERENCE MISSION GIVING PLEDGE	\$228,300.00	\$206,550.00	
TOTAL PLEDGE TO MISSION FROM DISTRICTS	\$378,000.00	\$341,000.00	
Approved by Finance committee 8-21-21			
Approved by Leadership team 8-21-21			

# United Methodist Women 2021 Michigan Conference Annual Virtual Celebration

October 23, 2021 9:30 am ET      Leadership Training    October 22, 2021 6:30 pm ET

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Local Officer ☐

District Officer ☐

Conference Officer ☐

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

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

Friday Officer Training ☐ 6:30 pm ET    Saturday Celebration ☐ 9:30 am ET

**Celebration donation: \$18.00 per person** Your donation will be divided between the Pledge to Mission Kalamazoo Drop in Child Care Center. **Please make checks payable: Michigan Conference UMW**  
Last Day for Registration and Voting: October 14, 2021

Please send registrations to:

Dorie Litchfield,

61470 CR 657,

Lawton, MI 49065

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

Phone: 269-580-3449

Email: [creator.dorie@gmail.com](mailto:creator.dorie@gmail.com)



## Voting Ballot

Please mark Yes or No

**I approve the Proposed Slate of Officers for 2022** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit names of individuals to be considered for future office vacancies to Julia Deemer at [jujadeemer@gmail.com](mailto:jujadeemer@gmail.com) due to our meeting virtually.

**I approve the Proposed Budget for 2022** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Changes are found in the Voice/ full document found on the website.)

Once your form and ballot have been received, the Zoom link for the Annual Celebration will be sent to you—please make sure that you fill in the e-mail address and your name so we can reply to you!

[UMWMichiganConference.org](http://UMWMichiganConference.org)



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

# Proposed Slate of Officers

## MICHIGAN UMW CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM

### President:

Julia Paradine-Rice (2021) Greater Southwest  
11942 Prairie Edge Street, Schoolcraft MI 49087  
(989)576-0675 jparadinerice@gmail.com

### Vice President:

Waltha Gaye Leavitt (2020) Mid Michigan  
8524 E. Colby Rd. Crystal, MI 48818  
(989)640-0238 Wally@cmsinter.net

### Secretary:

Ethel Gill (2021) Greater Detroit  
21900 Farmington Rd. # 323 Farmington MI 48356  
(313)530-5393 butterfly1425@yahoo.com

### Treasurer:

Cheryl Rumery (2021) Greater Southwest  
35686 Mill Lake Rd. Gobles, MI 49055  
(269)620-4894 milllake@frontier.com

### MISSION COORDINATORS:

#### Spiritual Growth

Susan Wirgau (2021) Northern Waters  
917 W. Sheridan, Petoskey MI 49770  
(231)347-5463 onthebay@charter.net

#### Membership Nurture & Outreach

Cindy Thiele (2020) Greater Southwest  
319 River Street, Allegan, MI 49010  
(269)673-1184 cindahthiele@gmail.com

#### Education and Interpretation

Michele Weston (2019) East Winds  
5158 Sandalwood Circle, Grand Blanc MI 48439  
(810)624-1184 mweston38@att.net

#### Social Action

Jocelyn Davis (2021) Greater Detroit  
17391 Louise Street, Southfield MI 48075  
(248)722-8638 missydavis32@gmail.com

#### Secretary of Program Resources

Ruth Sutton (2021) Central Bay  
2335 N Meridian Rd. Sanford MI 48657  
(989)708-9968 sutton1@charter.net

#### Communications Coordinator

Sally Messner (2021) Northern Waters  
124 Boyd Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633  
(269) 783-6334 sallymessner@yahoo.com

### Media Coordinator

Cola Hill (2022) Northern Waters  
PO Box 217, Boyne Falls, MI 49713  
(231) 347-5463  
northernwatersdistrictumc@gmail.com

### Committee on Nominations: Chairperson

Julia Deemer (2019) Northern Waters  
16671 Fewins Road, Interlochen MI 49643  
(231)275-7954 jujadeemer@gmail.com

### Members of Committee on Nominations

Evelyn Delany (2019) Central Bay  
1050 Grandjean Rd. Rose City MI 48654  
(989)685-2591 no email

Shirley Chappel (2019) Midwest  
2647 Shadow Pine Dr. Fruitport MI 49415  
(231)563-6489 shirley2billchapel@att.net

Linda Schramm (2019) East Winds  
244 South Elk St. Sandusky MI 48471  
(810)404-4698 lars@greatlakes.net

Carol Gorham (2020) Heritage  
13539 S. Rainbow Dr. Gregory MI 48137  
(734)904-5312 carolgorham1492@gmail.com

Jimmie Jones (2020) Greater Detroit  
570 Piper Ct. Detroit MI 48215  
(313)331-5553 jimeli1231@yahoo.com

Donna Kleiver (2022) Mid-Michigan  
8905 Petrieville Hwy, Eaton Rapids MI 48827  
(517)663-4193 dmkleiver2016@gmail.com

Donna Blair (2022) Greater Southwest  
2470 Quail Run, Kalamazoo, MI 49009  
(269)270-6096 dblair@hotmail.com

Jane Yeager (2022) Northern Skies  
1610 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. #6 Menominee, MI 49858  
(906)290-1884 Jyeager210@gmail.com

### Charter for Racial Justice Committee:

#### Members by virtue of office:

President – Julia Paradine-Rice (GSD)  
Social Action – Joycelyn Davis (GDD)  
Chair. Comm. On Nom. – Julia Deemer (NWD)  
Additional Team Member – Ethel Gill (GDD)  
District President – Julia Hulka (NWD)  
Members at Large:  
Taylorie Bailey (2021) (GDD)  
Lynda Crandall (2021) (MMD)  
Susan Wirgau (2021) (NWD)  
Judy Huynh (2022) (MSD)  
Sherry Wagenknecht (2022) (HER)  
Ex Officio Nichea Verveer Guy (2021) MWD)

State Leadership Team presented by Michigan United Methodist Women Committee on Nominations 2021  
Julia Deemer, Evelyn Delany, Shirley Chappell, Linda Schramm, Carol Gorham, Jimmie Jones, Joyce Plumhoff, Dorie Litchfield, Patti Steinberg



## Messages from District Presidents

I send you greetings from the Mid-Michigan District of United Methodist Women. We are very busy with planning our "in-person" District Annual Celebration for September 15, 2021 at Mason First UMC in Mason, Michigan. Ellen Harbin will be our keynote speaker presenting "Be the One". In addition to speaking she is an author of three books. If you would like a registration form, please look in July 2021 The Messenger found under Mid-Michigan District newsletter in the Michigan Conference UMW website or contact me.

Some of our members have been attending Mission u, participating in the program reading, attending Faith Talks and looking forward to the fall activities.

In addition, we are still looking to fill several positions for the 2022 Leadership Team; Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you are interested or know of a woman, in the Mid-Michigan District, that might fill a position for a year, please contact me.

Blessings,

*Donna Kleiver*

President  
Mid-Michigan District  
dmkleiver2016@gmail.com  
517-648-6119, (517) 663-4193



Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Heritage District has been very busy and our blessings have been flowing!

I have heard many units are resuming their activities and that is great! It is such a joy to know that Heritage District UMW Units continue to be a vital part of our Michigan Conference UMW and Church.

Our Leadership Team is busy planning the fall Annual Celebration and Meeting that will be held in person on September 25th and will be hosted by Saline First UMW. We are excited to welcome Marchelle Phelps, President of the North Central Jurisdiction UMW and past co-president of Michigan Conference UMW and president of Detroit Conference UMW. She is a friend to many of the Heritage District Women. We will also welcome representatives from the Community House in Grand Rapids. There will be book sales and other community groups such as SERRV. Check the conference website for the flyer and more information.

The Local Units Leadership Training will be held November 13 at Dundee UMC and hosted by their

UMW. Stay tuned, more information.

We are still seeking two members for the Leadership Team in the Spiritual Growth and Social Action Coordinator positions. Let us know if you are interested, or know someone else who is.

The Leadership Team has 10 women who are interested in attending the UMW Assembly next year and we are ready to "TURN IT UP". Five of them attended the Mission u Pushout Program in July. Many are reading and participating in various Faith Talks and other UMW programs.

Be a blessing, "Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God" by Leo Buscaglia. Share your gifts and God will always know what you are doing.

Gods Blessings and Happy Fall!

*Sherry Wagenknecht*

President  
Heritage District  
(810) 694-6266  
c (810) 624-1184  
wagen88@hotmail.com

We are called to be the lay leaders of our church, district and conference. Most especially we have been called to be the leaders in United Methodist Women. You may feel you are not a leader, but in one form another, we all are. You may be the person in charge of funeral lunches. You may be the person in charge of a bake sale. You may be the person who faithfully attends all the meetings and get togethers. We all are important in the make-up of our group. We have all been called to help in one way or another. We are the laity who are the hands, feet and voice of

Jesus.

Midwest District is continuing to work on future events. Our District Annual is Saturday, Sept. 18 in Holland. We then plan to have our Annual Day Apart event in November.



*Jean Sherman*, President

Midwest District  
(231) 519-2542  
sherdairy1@gmail.com



Our district is looking forward to meeting in person for our September 11, 2021 Leadership Team Meeting at Bay City Grace West UMC. We are working on our Annual Celebration and Training which will be held on October 2, 2021 at Mt. Pleasant First UMC. The Keynote Speaker is Rev. Anita Hahn from Midland First UMC. The Theme is "Who will Sing my Song", the speaker for those not attending Leadership Training will be Saralyn Temple from Bay City Grace UMC. We are hoping that we are able to hold this in person but have plans if we are not able to do so. For access to the Flyer for information and how to sign up for the Celebration please click on this link [CBDCELEBRATIONFLYER2021.pdf](#) ([umwmichiganconference.org](http://umwmichiganconference.org)), the information can also be found in our last District UMW Newsletter sent out in July.

We have been very busy with everything that is involved with being the District Co- Presidents, we have attended some of the Faith Talks, the UMW Presidents gatherings & training, Michigan Conference Leadership Team Meetings and also Mission u.

We held our Spiritual Life Retreat via Zoom on April 23 -24, 2021. Debbie Line Yancer was our speaker and she was wonderful. We had 44 registered.

We have several positions open on our Central Bay District United Methodist Women Team. If you are interested in making a difference with a bunch of great women, we would like to have you join our team. Please contact our Nominations Chairman Rene Johnson at 989-631-2378 or [renejohnson@charter.net](mailto:renejohnson@charter.net)

*Caroline Diaz*

Co-President, Central Bay District  
[diazc5282@gmail.com](mailto:diazc5282@gmail.com)  
(989) 450-1735



*Doris Simons*

Co-President, Central Bay District  
[dorissimons@att.net](mailto:dorissimons@att.net)  
(989) 781-1492, (248) 408-0797



Then – Now – Next

**Then** is what was. We have learned about our past, maybe from our mothers, grandmothers and older friends, or maybe from the Mission u study a couple of years ago entitled Women United for Change – 150 Years in Mission by Ellen Blue. We have a wonderful heritage. (Or maybe some units are still living in the past!)

**Now** is, well, now, but it's different than the NOW of a couple of years ago. We went through a very unexpected pandemic. And it hasn't disappeared yet. It affected much more than our health, though. For the first time our grocery store shelves didn't have everything on our list. Many had to supervise online learning. Living together 24/7 provided its own challenges! Betcha some people even had to learn to cook! ZOOM took on a whole new meaning, at least for me! We had to learn how to properly wear a mask and wash our hands. Too many challenges to list! It's not over yet, either! We're still feeling our way back to 'normal.' Hopefully, normal will be different. NOT THE SAME - DIFFERENT!!!

Looking to the future, we see **Next**. Next is our opportunity to intentionally changes. Maybe drop some unnecessary traditions. Can't stand the thought of another spaghetti supper or rummage sale? See if your Unit would like to make individual donations for your Pledge to Mission if you feel you have spent too much time and effort on projects with very little monetary return.

Always wanted to participate in Mission u? There is still one more opportunity Oct. 18-19 in via Zoom. Want to form a Book Study around some of the UMW Reading Program books? Tackle learning more about one of our 2021-2024 Mission Priorities: Criminalization of Communities of Color and Climate Justice. Maybe start corresponding with a missionary or National Mission Institution. Volunteer to explore local topics of concern. Invite some new women. My circle has had five new women at our last two meetings. All we did was invite! Meet more often or less often. Try a Mystery Trip. Join a mutual project with another Circle from your church or a nearby church. Meet at a park, at a lake, after a concert – lots of ideas here! But our mission is still to serve women, children, and youth: locally, nationally, and globally. There are always opportunities to learn and be of service. Find a new groove! And have a little fun along the way! Or maybe even a LOT of fun!

*Julia Hulka*, President

Northern Waters District  
[jahulka49@gmail.com](mailto:jahulka49@gmail.com)  
(989) 348-1992, c (989) 860-8189



2021 has proven to be a time of adjustment and hope. We were able to hold our Spiritual Growth Event in April and our Mission Evening Event in June, both on Zoom. Now we are planning to join in person on October 2nd at Allegan UMC for our District Annual Celebration and celebrate we will even if masked up!!

Rev. Paul Perez, Director of Connectional Ministries in our conference says that "God is graciously inviting us to sing a new song." He says we need to "reset",

- to let go of things we learned we can do without
- embrace the new as we labor to adapt and adopt
- prepare to respond with care and compassion
- as we heal and celebrate together

Is this something we can do as United Methodist Women? Can we let go of the old "we've always

done it this way" attitude? Can we embrace new ideas and new faces in our units? Are we prepared to respond with love to those who look and act differently than we do? Isn't this what Jesus asked us to do when he said to love our neighbors. If we do this then we will heal and be able to celebrate at unit, District, and Conference meetings, at events, and even at National Assembly.

I can't wait to see all your smiling faces at our Conference Annual Celebration and share new ideas so that United Methodist Women will continue to grow and our purpose will live on for generations to come.

*Linda Burton-Collier*

President, Greater Southwest  
(269) 793-7340, lindaburtoncollier@gmail.com



As we prepare to celebrate how Jesus has used our gifts and talents at our Annual Celebration on Tuesday, October 5, in Menominee, we celebrate our local units who have found creative ways to meet during the pandemic. In Crystal Falls, the annual pie social in July included masking up and social distancing. Many customers came in and bought a whole homemade pie for \$20.

Our District Team has recently filled the MNO position with Iron Mountain Trinity's, Wendy Mulka. We thank God for women who have served on the District Team and women who are stepping in to serve.

*Patti Steinberg*, President

Northern Skies District  
(906) 367-2128  
pattisteinberg@gmail.com

Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church  
www.umwmichiganconference.org  
**United Methodist Women**  
PO Box 195, Mayville, MI 48744

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LANSING, MI  
PERMIT NO. 933

**Important 2021 Dates:**

**October 18-19** ~ Virtual  
Mission u of the North

**October 22** ~ Virtual  
Counterpart Training

**October 23** ~ Virtual  
Conference Celebration

Please visit our website at:

<https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/>  
to look over the changes to the Standing  
Rules to prepare for our Conference  
Celebration.

**The V.O.I.C.E.**

Valuable Organizational Information Connecting Everyone

The Official Newsletter of the Michigan Conference United Methodist Women

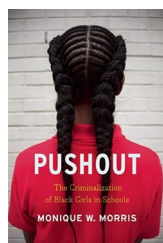
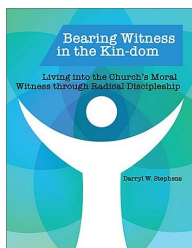
Published three times a year: January, May and August

Send submissions by the 10th of the previous month to  
Sally Messner, [sallymessner@yahoo.com](mailto:sallymessner@yahoo.com)

## Mission u of the North is Virtual

If you were unable to attend Mission U events this summer, you have another chance! Go to <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/> or scan the QR Code below.

Both of the studies will be reviewed in this two day event October 18 and 19, the cost is \$40 to help cover expenses.



## District President Messages

Due to space restraints and required information to prepare for our Conference Celebration, the Messages from the District Presidents will be on-line at our website at: <https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/>

In an effort to reduce expenses and become more efficient, we are attempting to update our mailing list. If you receive this newsletter but the person it is addressed to no longer lives at this address, or if you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please let Sally Messner know at [sallymessner@yahoo.com](mailto:sallymessner@yahoo.com) or 269-783-6334.

