



THE PHOENIX

GREATER DETROIT DISTRICT

SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER

President

Attending the first United Methodist Women Michigan Conference Leadership Meeting in January was a pleasure. It was good to be with friends I knew and to meet and get to know leaders from other parts of the state at this overnight two-day workshop. Much was accomplished and I look forward to the next conference leader meeting May 18 at Howell UMC where the Michigan Conference Annual Meeting will be held October 26.

The Greater Detroit District Mission/Ministry Workshop March 9 at Beverly Hills UMC was well attended and well received. Though Sharon Appling was featured on the flyer, she was one of seven panelists. Vice President Tina Campbell put together the panel which included one attorney; two women who work in corrections, one in Macomb County and the other at the Michigan women's prison in Ypsilanti; a police officer in the Detroit Public Schools Community District's Police Department; a man who was sentenced to life at the age of eighteen, and one who was principal of an alternative school within the DPS System. Kristine Miranne, Co-Communications Coordinator on our Leadership Team, researched the questions and moderated the panel discussion. The panel gave those in attendance a varied, interesting and meaningful look into the topic of the "School to Prison Pipeline" and even gave the audience some ideas during questions for how we might interrupt that pipeline.

William, in spite of good parenting, made his own decisions and at the age of 18 he

committed a crime that sent him to prison for life. When he decided he wanted to be on the outside he started taking as many classes and earning as many certificates as he could. After serving 27 years he was released and was employed. He shares his story with kids and it was apparent that I was not the only one who found his story and comments so meaningful.

I also found what Sharon Appling had to say about the alternative school which she began and for which she served as principal very enlightening. Every adult who works in or comes into the school knows the students are to be respected and greeted in a friendly manner. Schedules are flexible for students and teachers. Two-way communication with listening is vitally important and students know that within reason and the law confidentiality is observed.

My sincere apologies to those few who had or were going to register for the Spiritual Life Retreat which was to have been held April 5 and 6 at Lake Huron Retreat Center. It may seem wrong for the decision to cancel be made the day before the final registration date. On that day we had three members from one church registered and only five Leadership Team members committed to attend (one to be there only for Friday evening). Although a decision to cancel an event should never be made except for dangerous driving conditions, I made that decision and I stand by it.

The concern that had been on my mind: the unfairness to the facilitator. The facilitator for

whom I have high respect was to be Nichea VerVeer Guy. She was receptive to the news of the cancellation although she had started her preparations. She was also receptive to the idea of being our presenter for next year April 24 and 25, 2020.

Why make the decision the day before the final day of registration? It was my opinion that even ten more registrations with only four leadership team members attending both days would still be a disappointing number. I thought there would be less back and forth communication for our registrar, Linda Pittman, if she could tell persons right away of the cancellation. My sincere apology to Linda if this was not the case.

May we go forward with God's blessing!

Kay Korns

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Vice-President

Greetings, United Methodist Women members!

Happy Spring and best wishes on hopefully a fast-approaching summer! I am looking to turn off the heat for good as soon as Mother Nature gives us a favorable weather report.

I hope those of you who attended the Mission Workshop, "School to Prison Pipeline", enjoyed it. In light of what is going on in today's world regarding our children, we felt the need to share some biases related to this issue. This issue is being addressed widely at our district and conference levels.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the various scheduled Mission u events being hosted throughout the district. The studies are absolutely outstanding and a must-read that addresses and speaks to our every-day lives and agendas. Please note that the one-day

session will be held throughout several churches within the conference and of course the two-day session will be at the beautiful Lake Huron Retreat, Port Huron. So I look forward to seeing all of you at a Mission u of your choice.

It is time for Annual Conference again and I am sure we will have a busy agenda there in Acme (Grand Traverse Resort). We want to continue to pray for a fruitful United Methodist church that will address the needs of all who seek to serve, especially coming out of a difficult decision for many from General Conference.

Moving on to our Annual Meeting which will be held in October at one of our historical United Methodist Churches in downtown Detroit, Central United Methodist Church. Our local leadership training will be at First United Methodist Church in Ferndale, Michigan, November 9th. Please encourage leaders in your local units to attend. We can never receive enough training!

In closing, please continue to do great things in your District and churches as we celebrate a rich heritage and legacy of 150 years of GREATNESS. I also would like to remind you of the need for churches to volunteer to host the District events we have yearly. My information is below so feel free to contact me. Have a great summer, everyone!

Tina (Ernestine) Campbell

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Treasurer

Last year, the Detroit Conference pledge to mission was \$195,000 but we submitted \$201,233. We should all be proud and grateful that our monetary gifts blessed so many who are less fortunate around the world.

I know we are all enjoying the warmer weather,

after our brutal winter. But once again, we need to focus on our year-end UMW reports. If you have never considered becoming a Five Star Woman, please consider it. Under this program, you give to all five channels of Mission Giving and a gold pin is sent to an honoree you choose.

Please note the Greater Detroit District Annual Meeting is October 19th. The deadline to submit Five Star Woman funds is September 15th. There is a great deal of preparation for the annual meeting. We must print certificates, check and recheck names, send names to the printer and prepare the bulletins for the program. So, deadline dates are important and should be honored. Also remember, you can complete the Five Star Woman giving at any time. It is not necessary to wait until September. In January you can put \$10 in a jar, and within 6 months you will have \$60.

November 30th will remain the deadline for all other year-end reports. All monies received from UMW Units are sent to the Michigan Conference. The Conference Treasurer closes her books in December and the monies are sent to the national office in New York.

The following forms are included with this newsletter: The Remittance Form for All Treasurers, Special Mission Recognition (pin order form), the Gift to Mission order form for cards, and the Five Star Person or Unit form. You can also obtain these forms online. Go to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org, then go to the bottom of the page, in the gray area under "Where the \$ Goes" and click on "Treasurers' Resources".

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

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Education and Interpretation

As we continue to celebrate the 150th birthday of the United Methodist Women, let us be mindful of all the women who came before us. All of the women who saw a "need" and met it. All the women who made enormous sacrifices to enhance the lives of others. All the women who continued the mission through the years, no matter what the challenges. All the women who put others first in their service to God. We pay homage to all these women who lit the way for us to continue this great work.

It is important to study the lives of these women to help understand their commitment to the will of Jesus Christ - to care for those less fortunate. They left us a roadmap to follow. A legacy to lean on and push us forward to mission. The book, "Women United for Change, 150 years in Mission" offers a great history of the United Methodist Women, explores the lives of key women in the movement and offers great insight into pivotal events that shaped the organization as it is today. This book is a great read! Make it a "must read" for the summer!

Just as we celebrate our 150 years in mission, let us continue to work diligently to answer the needs now; fight against injustice now and give hope to women, youth and children around the world. Let us educate ourselves and prepare ourselves so we are ready for the tasks ahead of us. Please attend the Mission events in your area. Education is the key to understanding the plight of those we serve. Let us all answer the call to the mission!

Finally, the 2019 Mission Today Unit Objectives form is included in this issue of *The Phoenix*. These need to be returned to me no later than September 1st so they can be compiled for our Annual Meeting reports.

God bless us all,

Ethel M. Gill
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Social Action

Hello, United Methodist Women members!

It's that time of year when we are thinking about Ingathering. Last year the Greater Detroit District had our first District Ingathering and we were very successful in assisting three shelters with diapers and pull-ups.

This year I would appreciate your assistance with our second Ingathering by helping the Methodist Children's Home Society's boys who are 18 years old and will be transitioning from the Methodist Children's Home. These boys will be on their own. I contacted the Methodist Children's Home Society and the following items are needed:

Clothing (Men sizes S-XXL)

Shorts (cargo, denim, khaki, and mesh basketball shorts)
Jogger sweatpants
Sleeveless t-shirts

Hygiene Items

Body wash (gentle, sensitive-skin brands)
Wash cloths
Shampoo and conditioner
Lotion
Laundry bags (net or canvas with drawstring)

Household Items

Small rugs
Bath towels
Kitchen towels
Dish set

Gift cards for Restaurants or Grocery Stores

I know this is a long list. Any donation would be greatly appreciated. Please bring any of these items to the Greater Detroit District annual meeting on October 19, 2019. Also, please

remember to report your local churches' Ingathering projects on forms attached in this newsletter.

I also need your completed Ingathering Report indicating your unit's donations over the past year. The summary of these donations will be included in our Annual Meeting reports. Please see the Ingathering Gift Report form within this issue of *The Phoenix* and make note of the deadline of September 15th to submit your information.

Thanks for all you do!!!

Jocelyn Davis
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Membership Nurture and Outreach

God is Good All the Time and All the Time God is Good!

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. By the time you read this, we will be basking in the joys of the sweet smells of summer in Michigan. The crisp smell of freshly cut grass, the fragrant scent of flowers blooming, sounds of birds chirping, bees buzzing, and the aroma of charcoal grills smoking your favorite edible delights. Summertime in Michigan is a beautiful time of year. A perfect time to refresh, relax, and reflect on the many blessings God provides.

I want to express my sincere THANKS to all of the units in the Greater Detroit District (GDD) that were able to complete the 2018 Membership Census. We had a total of twenty-one (21) units that reported. I'd like to extend a hearty welcome to all of the new churches that are now part of our GDD district. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, or needs. Lastly, as your units recruit new members, make sure they complete the individual membership registration which can be found on the unitedmethodistwomen.org

website and clicking on MyUMW. At the end of this registration process, new members will be issued a membership card.

Now may peace, love, and abounding joy be yours as you get out and enjoy your summer.

Yours in service for Christ,

Susan Howze

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Secretary of Program Resources

Since spring will soon be over and summer will begin, we need to remember to read our **response** magazines which now come every other month. May - June is the current issue with many good articles and information on the 2019 General Conference. You also need to continue to read your five books for your yearly United Methodist Women Reading Program report that will be due in September. Don't forget to read the two for Mission u which can make up two of your books: *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship* is a Spiritual Life Study and *Women United for Change / 150 Years in Mission* is a Social Action selection.

If you need these books you can order them from the Mission Resource Center by calling 1-800-305-9857 or go online to the United Methodist Women website; www.umw.org and look up the Mission Resource Center or the Reading Program. This will also help you know the other books in the Reading Program. Some of them can be gotten from your local library and some you will need to order from Amazon or get at your local book store. Some units will get some for others at your church to read. The keyword is: read. There is so much that you can learn and enjoy finding out about.

Currently I am reading the Mission u book *Women United for Change / 150 Years in Mission*. It tells us so very much about the women who have gone before us. All of their

many attempts and successes and failures in the 1800s all over the world and all over the United States are documented in it. The many ways they learned to work with the groups they were trying to support as well as the effects that much of their work had on the societies in which it was done. It will surely help you to understand how the United Methodist Women got to where it is today and why we do what we do. I am finding it a riveting read and am sure you will too. Cannot wait to go to Mission u!

Finally, our Reading Reports are due September 15, 2019. You can find a copy of the Reading Program reporting form at: https://s3.amazonaws.com/umw/pdfs/RP_2017+form_P1.pdf. This form gives the directions for keeping up with your reading in each plan. The unit Secretary of Program Resources should send the report to my attention at the below noted email address. Please put "Reading Program 2019" in the subject line.

Mary Beltzman

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Co-Communications Coordinators

As communication coordinators, we are responsible for sending out the two issues of *The Phoenix* each year along with other notices. We are more than happy to help send out information from your individual UMW units, social action notices and other information of interest to the Methodist community. Just send your information to Kris Miranne and she will forward it to the individuals on our various listservs. If you know someone who would like to receive our emails, be sure to have them send Kris their contact information and they will be added.

Anne Cramton

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Nominations Committee

“BOLD & EFFECTIVE LEADERS: Wisdom, heart, courage”. That is the theme of the 2019 Michigan Annual Conference.

Bold and effective leaders are needed all throughout the church. Do you see yourself as one such person in the Greater Detroit District of United Methodist Women? Have you been ruminating through ideas to make us stronger as we enter 151 years of service? Do you have new ideas of how we can work to put faith, hope and love into action? If the answer is “yes” to any of these questions, we need you!! But, you say, I live too far away? Well, maybe we can try other forms of meetings – satellite locations, Zoom meetings or conference calls. This is the 21st Century and as we heard in Columbus last year, we are called to be **BOLD!** Are you up to it? If “yes”, email me at jharris48@yahoo.com.

Jeanette Harris
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News from UMW Units

We welcome any news from local units – please feel free to share your activities – photos are certainly welcome too!

Detroit Metropolitan United Methodist Women

The Detroit Metropolitan UMW unit oversees the Rice Allen Fund, an endowment established in the 1940s. These monies allow our unit to fund proposals that support Christian education and programs that serve women, children and families. Recently funded projects include:

- *Sugar Crush Camp*, Centro Familiar Cristiano UMC
- *Mother's Day Lunch/Essay Contest*: Metro Kids, Metropolitan UMC
- *Detroit Public Library Youth Outreach-Dance and Movement*, ArtLab J
- *UMW Reading Program*, Metropolitan UMC
- *Children's Birthday Parties*, Children's Center
- *Methodist Children's Home Society*, Detroit Eastside Resource Center

Children's Center

This spring, we hosted our first 2019 birthday party for children served by the Children's Center (in midtown). Sixty children along with their caregivers were provided with a meal and birthday cake. The children got to play games and there was an entertaining magician whom the children loved. The room was decorated so that it felt like a real birthday party.



Gerald the magician engaging the children

Each child received a goodie bag to take home. Our UMW unit is partnering with members of Wayne State University's Circle K Club to host the parties. These energetic college students really engaged with the kids and their parents!



WSU Circle K Helpers

NOAH Project

On April 15th, twelve Metropolitan United Methodist church members met to make 300 sandwiches for the Networking, Organizing and Advocating for the Homeless project (NOAH). The project's bag lunch program, housed at Detroit Central United Methodist Church, has been going for more than 40 years and it is more than just lunch. It is a warm, safe space where people who are known by name can start a transformation. Lunches are served Monday through Thursday to the downtown homeless community and the program is open to anyone, with no qualifications or restrictions.

Metropolitan's United Methodist Women members provided the funding for lunch materials. Using donations from our church's "loose change Sunday" helped pay for the food that went into each bag. Kris Miranne's grandsons stuffed the 300 bags with everything but the sandwiches.

It is never too early to understand about service and its impact on vulnerable populations. As Caleb, the younger grandson, reminded us, "There but for the grace of God go I".



UMW members Jeanette Harris, Mary Floyd and Janice King, along with other help from Metropolitan, delivered the lunches and then stayed to serve those who came for nourishment.

We hope to be able to repeat this project later this year. Just another example of how Metropolitan's UMW is putting their faith in



action throughout our community.

Kristine Miranne
Secretary/Treasurer

Detroit Scott Memorial United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Women members of Detroit Scott Memorial United Methodist

Church held their 42nd Annual Prayer Luncheon on May 11, 2019, at the American Serbian Memorial Hall in Detroit, Michigan. The luncheon is a celebration of the accomplishments of the United Methodist Women members over the past year. A “United Methodist Woman” is chosen each year to spotlight exemplary dedication to the ideals, purpose and work of the United Methodist Women.



Attendees at the 2019 Prayer Breakfast: Jocelyn Davis, Taylorie Bailey, Susan Howze, Claudette McMillian, Rev. Phyllis Mealing-Hightower, Ethel M. Gill, Tina Campbell and Ruby Anderson

We also celebrated the “Sisters of Grace – Celebrating 150 Years in Mission.” The guest speaker was Rev. Phyllis Mealing-Hightower, Associate Pastor at Lomax Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, Detroit, Michigan. She delivered an inspiring and uplifting message. It was a great affair and a great tribute to the United Methodist Women organization.

Ethel M. Gill
Program Chair and Vice President

Southfield Hope United Methodist Women

Sisterhood of Grace Luncheon Celebrating 150 Years

In keeping with the “Sisterhood of Grace” theme for our 2018-2019 Programs, and celebrating our 150th anniversary, Hope United Methodist Women members held a fundraiser luncheon Saturday, April 6, 2019. We were graced by the attendance of more than 200 guests. They included members of other United Methodist Women units, our friends and church family. We are most grateful for their support.

We were blessed to have as our guest speaker Ms. Ruby Anderson, a member of the Board of Directors, United Methodist Women National Office. Ms. Anderson spoke of our history dating back to 1869, when the first predecessor of United Methodist Women was founded.

The highlight of Ms. Anderson’s message was simply this. The PURPOSE of the United Methodist Women remains steadfast. It is to support women, children and youth around the world. Her message educated our audience on what we do and why our ministries hold true to this day. We received many inquiries on how to become a member of the United Methodist Women ministry and how they may continue to support our fundraisers in the future.

Southfield Hope United Methodist Women will ALWAYS make the PURPOSE live in our works locally, nationally and globally.

During one of their scheduled monthly meetings, Southfield Hope United Methodist Women members celebrated 150 years of women organized for mission. A specially decorated birthday cake marked the occasion. The focus of our discussion was the importance of the legacy of United Methodist Women and the continued commitment to its Purpose.



Look at those lovely smiles!



Emmie Hawkins
Communications Coordinator

Detroit Trinity Faith United Methodist Women

On May 18th, Detroit Trinity Faith UMW hosted their annual Vivian Cook Memorial Salad Luncheon. The luncheon honored the United Methodist Women's 150 years of mission work through Faith, Hope, and Love. Jeanette Harris, a member of Detroit Metropolitan UMW, was the featured speaker. She spoke of the United Methodist Women legacy of action in many areas.



Jeanette Harris and Taylorie Bailey



Methodist Children's Home Society



Methodist Children's Home Society (MCHS), originally named "Methodist Child Care", was founded in 1917, a

year in which Detroit factories were busy turning out war materiel for the conflict in Europe. Many families had moved into the metropolitan area from all over the country, leaving behind their extended families. When a

disastrous epidemic of influenza hit the city, children whose parents died were often left without friends or relatives to care for them. Such was the plight of numerous children discovered by members of the Order of Deaconesses of the Methodist Church when making their rounds in the residential sections of Detroit's industrial areas.

Working with children at Metropolitan Methodist Church, Anna Kresge (wife of Sebastian Kresge) was also concerned with the needs of the larger community of children. Together with Sophie Sprague, Superintendent of the Deaconess Home, and members of the Women's Home Missionary Society, Mrs. Kresge persuaded presiding Bishop Theodore Henderson of the need for a haven for children without families or for those receiving inadequate care in their own homes. In 1927, Sebastian Kresge authorized a substantial grant from the newly-established Kresge Foundation for the purchase of 28 acres of land and the construction of the first buildings that would comprise Methodist Children's Home Society's "Children's Village". The Kresge grant was augmented by gifts from such prominent Detroiters as the Webber, Hudson, and Edsel Ford families.

Although originally founded to care for girl and boy orphans, today the facility is providing a safe haven to hundreds of boys who come searching for hope, love and acceptance. Through its wide-ranging programs, it fulfills its vital and challenging mission of providing individualized and residential treatment, care, and advocacy to children impacted by abuse, neglect, and trauma and their families.

On April 8th, the organization opened its first satellite office on Detroit's eastside. Supplies, resources and services will be provided for Detroit children and families in need. For further information about MCHS, go to their website: <https://www.mchsmi.org/> where you

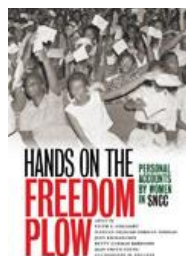
can see how they are making a difference in the lives of these boys and young men.

Book Review

As Secretary of Program Resources, Mary Beltzman outlined the program in her article above. Be sure to take some time to review the United Methodist Women Reading Program website because the 2019 reading list has outstanding selections within various categories:

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

A recent addition to the list is *Hands on the Freedom Plow: Personal Accounts by Women in SNCC*. With the exception of Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King and Fannie Lou Hamer, the role that women played in the Southern freedom movement of the 1960s has been conspicuously absent in the writings of the Civil Rights Movement. This collection of essays is the reminiscences of 52 women who worked for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) from roughly 1960 to 1966.



Through their first-hand accounts, we see that women led local grassroots campaigns, organized voter-registration drives in dangerous Southern backwaters, challenged Jim Crow on many levels and led SNCC as well. Most of the

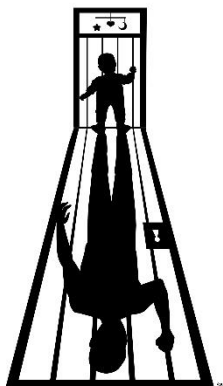
contributors were of high school or college age in the 1960s – so young to face these incredible challenges. Almost 50 years later, their voices ring out to remind us that grassroots organizing was the force behind many a civil rights victory.

The movement's organizing tradition, in turn, was rooted in the bravery of ordinary people such as Carolyn Daniels of Dawson, GA, who dared allow SNCC workers to stay overnight in her house; local whites retaliated by firebombing her home. Near the end of her

vivid depiction of this and other terrorist acts directed at African Americans, Daniels writes matter-of-factly: "We just kept going, we just kept going."

Kristine Miranne
Detroit Metropolitan UMW

2019 Mission/Ministry Workshop



The school-to-prison pipeline is a term used to describe how children and youth of color are rerouted by systems and institutions, funneled away from educational success and towards the

criminal justice system. This all-important topic is one that the national United Methodist Women organization will continue to focus on as we grow our missional leadership skills. The intent is to work as school-to-prison pipeline interrupters to build a better future for children and youth.

On March 9, 2019, the Greater Detroit District of United Methodist Women presented a workshop titled: **THROWING CHILDREN AWAY, SCHOOL to PRISON PIPELINE**. This was a panel discussion that included a retired Detroit Public School principal, a therapy coordinator for Macomb County Corrections, a security officer for Detroit Public Schools, an attorney, the deputy warden from Michigan's women's prison and an individual who was previously incarcerated for 27 years. Over 100 attendees were engaged and asked many great questions trying to determine what we can do through our churches at the local level.

Michigan Annual Conference

United Methodist Women were well-represented at this year's Michigan Annual Conference held May 30 – June 2 in Acme, MI. There will likely be many updates and discussions based on the various sessions and elections held during this time.

The theme for this year's conference was: "**BOLD & EFFECTIVE LEADERS: Wisdom, heart, courage**". On Friday, May 31st, Laura B. Witkowski, Associate Director for Lay Leadership Development, gave a moving sermon on courage. Below you will find a few of her comments from that talk titled: *Taking a Leap of Courage*.

Courage originally meant "heart, innermost feelings, temper." Innermost feelings? That sounds like vulnerability to me. So where did that lead me? Researcher, author, speaker, patron saint of vulnerability, Brené Brown. Her book *Rising Strong* changed my life! ... Brené Brown says in her book *The Gifts of Imperfection*, "Over time, this definition (of courage) has changed, and today, courage is more synonymous with being heroic. Heroics is often about putting our life on the line. We've lost touch with the idea that speaking honestly and openly about who we are, about what we're feeling, and about our experiences (good and bad) is the definition of courage." She goes on to say, "Ordinary courage is about putting our vulnerability on the line."

... Friends, that is not easy. Looking at courage through this lens is hard. Leaders would much rather be bold by being heroic. That's what all those Avengers movies have shown us! That's way more fun. In her book *Searching for Sunday*, the eloquent, courageous, truth-teller and truly missed, Rachel Held Evans says, "The annoying thing about being human is that to be fully engaged with the world, we have to be vulnerable. And the annoying thing about being vulnerable is that sometimes it means we get hurt."

[Talking about the disciples at sea where Jesus walks on water] Peter had been on the water his whole life, so this trip across the lake wasn't a big deal. He had probably done it thousands of times. Taking all night, against the wind, however, that's kind of intense. Then comes the big moment! Jesus walks out to them in the storm ON. THE. WATER. The disciples freak out! They scream! They cry out in fear! They thought Jesus was a ghost. They didn't recognize anything about this figure, the face, the voice. Then Jesus says, "Have courage. It is I! Don't be afraid." Some translations say 'take heart' or 'be encouraged' 'I AM.'

In the Gospels of Mark and John telling of this story, it ends undramatically with either Jesus getting in the boat and calming the wind, or immediately the boat reached the land. Some say Matthew's telling focuses on what discipleship looks like. Notice Jesus doesn't say, "everyone come out here, the waters fine! Come follow me!" Well, maybe he would have except impulsive, leap before he thinks, Peter blurts out his request. Peter, also known as Simon Peter, often has stories told of his failures. I mean, come on, he denied knowing Jesus three times. ... So, Peter, the rock, basically demands Jesus prove himself, as if walking on water wasn't enough. "Lord, if it's you order me to come to you on the water." I feel like in this moment Peter had some ordinary courage. I can't imagine he wanted to be vulnerable in front of the disciples, in front of Jesus. He was being open and honest about who he is. Peter had the courage to show up when he didn't know or couldn't control the outcome.

... Brené Brown found in her years of research on courage that no one could "give an example of courage that did not require uncertainty, risk or emotional exposure" in other words vulnerability. This is totally Peter to me at this moment. His courage to get out of the boat required vulnerability. Then, when Jesus said "come" he had that moment! 'OMG, I'm on top of the water! Incredible! This is what it feels like

to have faith in Jesus. This is amazing!' The euphoria, the joy at the moment must have been a lot for Peter. I'm not sure it's that he took his focus off of Jesus, like so many say. It may be that he never experienced something quite like this and that excitement and joy of his faith and courage to even take that step is what caused him to 'see the strong wind.' My favorite commentary I found about Peter in this moment was "Once in a while, the church needs a few ridiculous people like Peter to go try something that no one in the church thinks we should be doing."

Too many of us are staying in the boat where it's safe and watching. Be vulnerable in ways you never have before. Find your ordinary courage, don't be like the other disciples in the boat that day, be like Peter!

... If you're hanging out in your boat, whatever that may be and aren't sure how to take that first step. Number 1: ask Jesus to invite you out on the water. Number 2: have conversations with those who have stepped out of the boat. ... Number 3: Take the step!

To read Laura's full sermon, click on the link: <https://mailchi.mp/c3ce3d6526dc/your-ac-daily-news-for-thursday-2769421?e=eb379901cc>

A couple photos from the conference:



Look for representatives of GDD!



Jeanette Harris, Alice Tucker and Alice Woods Reissmann

Solution for Loneliness – Get out and volunteer

The following article was recently published on Scientific American's website. As United Methodist Women members, we know the value of volunteering and serving our community with our faith in action. Research suggests that volunteering can address loneliness and various health concerns.

I was riding a bus recently and noticed an older man sitting outside a coffee shop on a busy sidewalk. He had set up a chessboard on the table in front of him, and he watched as people passed by, mostly engrossed in their phones. His eyes kept jumping from person to person, searching for someone to notice and join him for a game of chess. Right before the traffic cleared and my bus moved on, he reached over to make the first move, and then resumed his searching.

"Loneliness is rampant, and it's killing us—literally. Anywhere from one quarter to one half of Americans feel lonely a lot of the time, which puts them at risk for developing a range of physical and mental illnesses, including heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and depression. This is a public health problem that needs to be addressed on a wide scale.

"But at the individual level, there is much we can do to ward off loneliness. One strategy is to bring a chessboard to a busy street and wait

for someone to play with you. For the older man's sake, I sincerely hope that this is effective, but I can't be sure.

"Another strategy is to volunteer. In a recent survey of over 10,000 people in the UK, two-thirds reported that volunteering helped them feel less isolated. Similarly, a 2018 study of nearly 6,000 people across the US examined widows who, unsurprisingly, felt lonelier than married adults. After starting to volunteer for two or more hours per week, their average level of loneliness subsided to match that of married adults, even after controlling for demographics, baseline health, personality traits, and other social involvement. These benefits may be especially strong the older you are and the more often you volunteer.

"Participating in volunteer opportunities may help alleviate loneliness and its related health impact for several reasons. The first and most obvious is that it's a meaningful way to connect with others and make new friends. I experienced this firsthand when I moved to San Francisco and knew almost no one. After joining a young professionals volunteer group, getting involved with a local nonprofit serving seniors and adults with disabilities, and both organizing and assisting with neighborhood events, I felt my own sense of community and social support increase dramatically.

"Second, volunteering can make up for the loss of meaning that commonly occurs with loneliness. Research using the UCLA Loneliness Scale and Meaning in Life Questionnaire has shown that more loneliness is associated with less meaning. This makes sense, given our deeply rooted need for belonging. By volunteering for social causes that are important to us, we can gain a sense of purpose, which in turn may shield us from negative health outcomes. For example, purpose in life has been linked to a reduced likelihood of stroke and greater psychological well-being.

“Third, loneliness and isolation can lead to cognitive decline, such as memory loss. But according to the neuroscientist Lisa Genova, people who regularly engage in mentally stimulating activities build up more neural connections and are subsequently more resilient to symptoms of Alzheimer’s. So, volunteering is one way to stay engaged and stimulated, rather than isolated and lonely, and thereby protect against cognitive decline.

“These insights may be especially relevant for the growing senior population. By 2030, one in five residents in the US will be of retirement age, may no longer have work to provide purpose and connection, and will be prone to isolation due to increased physical limitations and loved ones passing away. Given that loneliness seems to be most prevalent among those over 65 and under 25 years old, mentoring across ages could be a powerful way to volunteer and connect. Indeed, I recently experimented with hosting an intergenerational friendship gathering and found that it left baby boomers and millennials—not to mention me—feeling gratified.

“I wish I could have stopped my bus and skipped my plans that day to play chess with the older man. He struck me as a symbol of our times: people wanting desperately to connect—not through a screen, but face-to-face, with others from their community. Now more than ever, we have a real need and opportunity to build a culture of social health, one interaction at a time. Volunteering is a great way to start.”

By Kasley Killam on May 21, 2019

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-solution-for-loneliness/?redirect=1>

LEGACY STORIES

The United Methodist Women’s website has a long list of stories highlighting women who

have made an impact on the legacy of our organization. This is but one...

Theresa Hoover: Leader and Vanguard

Theresa Hoover was the first African-American chief executive of United Methodist Women’s national policymaking body. An outspoken advocate for women and children, she was the leader of the Women’s Division from 1968 to 1990.

During Hoover’s leadership, United Methodist Women’s membership rolls totaled 1.2 million. While other Christian faith-based women’s groups were losing financial and organizational autonomy at that time, under the leadership of Hoover, United Methodist Women grew in membership and retained its separate status.

“Every other denomination’s women’s mission organizations are now non-existent,” said former colleague Joyce Hamlin. “We’re the only one left and Theresa Hoover had everything do with that.”



Theresa Hoover

As a leader, Hoover made sure to lay solid groundwork for the future United Methodist Women by emphasizing the need to understand its membership and mission. Traveling across the U.S. as a black woman in Jim Crow days required sacrifices that others did not have to make, but her steadfast optimism persevered, and her strong leadership left a legacy of transformation.

Hoover was a firm believer in mentorship, taking women of all races under her wing,

knowing that women from all walks of life are the foundation of the Church and organization. In recognition of her mentoring prowess, the Women's Division created the annual Theresa Hoover Community Service and Global Citizenship award when she retired in 1990.

Early Years

Theresa Hoover grew up in Texas and Arkansas, and studied business administration at Philander Smith College. In 1948, she joined the staff of the Woman's Division of Christian Service as a field worker, and in 1962 she earned a master's degree from New York University's Steinhardt School. In 1968 she was elected chief executive of the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

In 2004, *Ebony* magazine named Hoover one of the 100 most influential African-American women. In 1983, Hoover chronicled the work of United Methodist Women in her book *With Unveiled Face*. The Theresa Hoover United Methodist Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, was named for her, an exceptional honor, as few churches are named for women in their lifetime. Over the years, the church has built new homes and supported projects for women, children and youth. Theresa Hoover's legacy lives on to this day.

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/theressa-hoover-leader-and-vanguard>

United Methodist Women Launches Nationwide Paid Parental Leave Campaign

United Methodist Women has launched a nationwide paid parental leave campaign in conjunction with this year's Mission u. During Mission u events from June – October, 2019, participants will study United Methodist Women's 150-year history, the Gospel of Mark and radical discipleship and money from a faith perspective. Each year, Mission u selects an

action that all participants organize in support of and the Paid Family Leave Campaign has been selected as the 2019 Mission u action. Participants will write to their elected officials urging them to pass the bipartisan federal FAMILY Act.

"Everyone should be able to take time away from work to care for themselves, a sick child or loved one without fearing that their jobs are at risk," said United Methodist Women Living Wage for All Campaign Lead Staff Carol Barton. "For United Methodist Women, advocating for the economic and social needs of women, youth and children has always been a part of our history, driven by our faith and commitment to justice and full inclusion. Too many times, women and men are unable to take time off to care for a newborn, themselves or loved ones when they are ill. They are forced to choose between a paycheck and their /or their loved one's health. We are organizing to help ensure that parents and caregivers aren't penalized when they do what they have been called to do: to love and care for themselves, their children and families."

Working in partnership with Family Values @ Work, United Methodist Women is urging its members to organize in their states and at the national level for legislation that provides paid time off for family and medical leave.

Sophia Agtarap, dean of the Mission u in the Tennessee Conference of The United Methodist Church and a deaconess in the denomination, knows firsthand about the need for the Paid Family Leave Campaign.

"I started my position in July 2017, and my son was born in January 2018," said Agtarap, director of communications at Vanderbilt Divinity School. "Because I'd switched from a part-time to a full-time position and hadn't been in the full-time position for six months, I was ineligible for short-term disability or FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act). At the time, I had only accrued two weeks of paid vacation time. I

am married and also had a supportive boss. I can only imagine what it must be like to be a new mom, away from family – or without the support of family – and not have access to paid leave and yet still need to support a newborn while worrying about rent, bills and the expenses of a new baby. Paid parental leave is an issue of equity and access. Living in one of the most developed countries and not having paid parental leave is criminal. Had I not been married or had a supportive boss; I would have had to come back to work two weeks after giving birth. This sets up families for disaster.

The was a press release from May 24, 2019.

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/united-methodist-women-launches-paid-parental-leave-campaign>

Call for Nominations

The North Central Jurisdiction is holding its Quadrennial Meeting June 26 – 28, 2020, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Mildred Braddock, NCJ Nominations Committee member, is looking for persons who show leadership qualities, and would be willing to be considered as potential nominees to serve on the North Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team for 2021-2024. Please contact her for further information if you are interested.

Mildred Braddock
mildred.braddock@sbcglobal.net
248.910.1731

Congratulations Ruby Anderson!

Our very own Ruby Anderson, United Methodist Woman National Delegate from the Greater Detroit District, has been elected to be a delegate to the 2020 General Conference. Ruby will be joining other delegates in Minneapolis, MN to celebrate the theme of “Bold and Effective Leadership”. We know she will bring her thoughtful insights to the larger

group and we will look forward to her report after the conference is over.

Twitter Comments from UMW

Here are but a few Twitter comments coming from UMW as we seek God’s guidance.

God of justice, you hear every cry and are always found with the oppressed. Open our ears to hear the cries around us and move us to action as we stand with the most vulnerable and overlooked in our community and our world.

You are the gathering one who calls us into community with the whole creation; to live in harmony, to cherish and renew. Let us worship the God who makes us one.

God of creation, you have made this world and call it good. Inspire us to care for the earth and protect all creatures from harm. Empower us to change our wasteful ways as we cultivate a home for generations to come.

Be sure to follow United Methodist Women on Twitter – a great way to see what United Methodist women are saying.

United Methodist Women, Tennessee Faith Groups Call on Ford Motor Co. to Support Clean Car Standards That Protect Public Health

United Methodist Women members in Tennessee have taken on the Ford Motor Co. as part of a larger environmental justice campaign. United Methodist Women, Tennessee United Methodist Women and Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light have urged Ford Motor Co. to adopt Clean Car Standards. In March, the group delivered a series of “Faith to Ford” letters. The letter delivery effort is part of the United Methodist Women’s “Just Energy for All” campaign, which seeks to highlight and end the harmful impacts

of climate change on children and frontline communities.

“The United States emits 15 percent of greenhouse gases annually, even though we only represent just four percent of the world’s population,” said Harriett Jane Olson, CEO, United Methodist Women. “This is not the time for Ford Motor Company to retreat from its full support of the clean car standards that not only reduce air pollution but save families money at the pump.”

“We are uniting with other people of faith to urge Ford Motor Co. and its dealerships to recommit to the achievable Clean Car Standards that they once supported,” said Shannon Priddy, president, United Methodist Women. “We’re asking the company to do so for the common good of God’s Creation and our most vulnerable communities that suffer most from pollution and the effects of climate change.”

The Clean Car Standards would raise fuel-efficiency standards to an average of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025. Although Ford fully supported these standards in 2011, it lobbied the current administration for a review, asking for “additional flexibility” that would roll back important benefits for emissions reductions and fuel savings. The Environmental Protection Agency and National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration are expected to release weakened clean car standards by the end of this spring.

“Tailpipe pollution is a major contributor of air pollution. It has been linked to a variety of health problems, including aggravating asthma and other respiratory, cardiovascular conditions, and even premature death,” said Margaret Howell, president, Edgehill United Methodist Women in Nashville. “We are called by our faith to try to protect creation and protect life. That is why we want Ford to stop all efforts to weaken the clean car standards.”

“Undoubtedly, the health of low-income families and communities of the black and

brown population is disproportionately damaged by tailpipe pollution,” said Rita L. Smith, president of the North Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women. “Rolling back fuel economy and emissions standards means denying low-income children the promise of cleaner air and healthier communities – financially and environmentally.”

“The efforts to roll back America’s clean car standards will force American families to give billions of dollars to oil companies for gasoline for the privilege of driving less-efficient vehicles, instead of spending the savings from more-efficient vehicles on food, housing, medical care and other things families need,” said Dan Joranko, coordinator for Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light, and owner of a Ford Focus.

Update: *On March 28, United Methodist Women, Tennessee United Methodist Women and Tennessee Interfaith Power and Light leaders met with Katherine Cannata, who said, “I support you. I support Ford. I support the environment. I especially support The United Methodist Church. I grew up Methodist. My dad helped rebuild Madison Street United Methodist Church in Clarksville after a tornado. I will send the letter to Ford on your behalf.”*
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/united-methodist-women-tennessee-faith-groups-call-on-ford-to-support-clean-car-standards>

Websites Every United Methodist Women Member Should Know

We include these websites in each issue of *The Phoenix* because we think they are valuable resources. Be sure to visit them on a regular basis so you can keep up with the great work of United Methodist Women!

National

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

Michigan Conference United Methodist Women

www.umwmichiganconference.org

Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/MichiganUMW/groups/>

Reading Program

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

MIConnect

<http://news.michiganumc.org/>

In this time of darkening clouds, it is important to remember the words of John Wesley:

Do all the good you can.

By all the means you can.

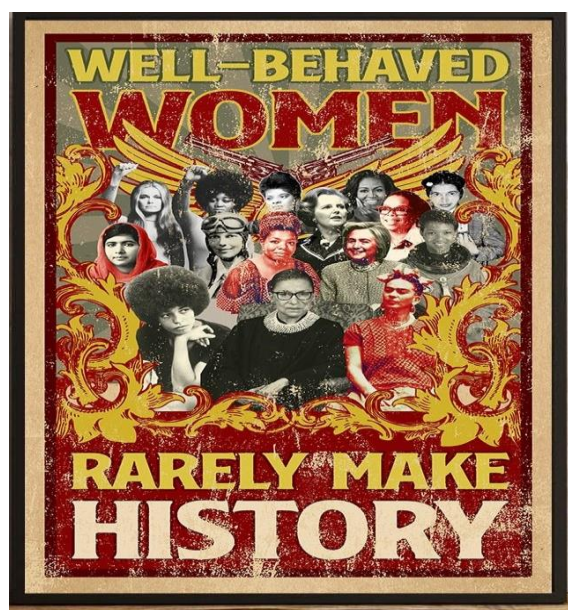
In all the ways you can.

In all the places you can.

At all the times you can.

To all the people you can.

As long as you ever can.



SAVE THE DATE

United Methodist Women Greater
Detroit District

Spiritual Life Retreat

April 24 – 25, 2020

“Threads of Hope”



Nichea VerVeer Guy
Facilitator

Lake Huron Conference Center

Deadline Reminders:

2019 Mission Today Unit Objectives: 9/1/19

Five Star Person Unit forms: 9/15/19

2019 Ingathering form: 9/15/19

REM: 11/30/19

SMR: 11/30/19

Gift to Mission form: 11/30/19

2019 UMW Greater Detroit District Upcoming Events

Month/Date	Event	Location
June 10	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
July 10 - 13	MC Mission u	Albion College
July 20	MC One Day Mission u	Southfield Hope UMC
August 15	One Day Mission u and H.O.M.E.	Lake Huron Retreat Center
August 16 – 17	MC Two Day Mission u	Lake Huron Retreat Center
September 9	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
October 14	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
October 19	GDD Annual Meeting	Detroit Central UMC
October 21 – 22	MC Mission u North	Gaylord First UMC
October 25	MC GDD UMW Leadership Training	Howell First UMC
October 26	MC Annual Meeting	Howell First UMC
November 9	GDD Leadership Training	Ferndale First UMC
November 11	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
December 9	GDD Executive Board Meeting and Christmas Party	Beverly Hills UMC