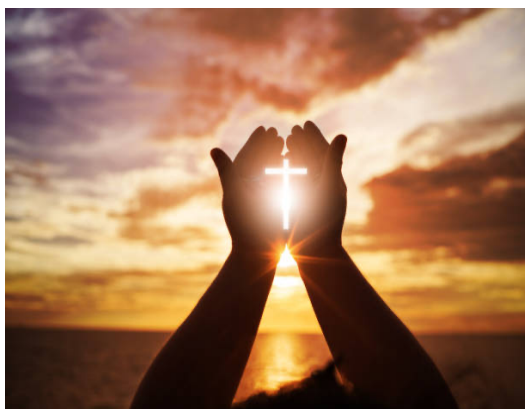




THE PHOENIX

GREATER DETROIT DISTRICT

SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Morning Prayer

May today there be peace within.
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.
May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.
May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.
Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance,
praise and love.
It is there for each and every one of us.

St. Therèse of Lisieux and St. Theresa of Avila

Sisterhood Of Grace

We are a sisterhood of grace. As a community of women organized for mission it is important that we be the creative, supportive fellowship espoused in our Purpose. In that spirit, we offer this covenant as a guideline for interactions in our programs. These ground rules provide us with a framework to ensure that dialogue and participation is open, respectful and brave as we share, pray, learn and listen together.

Sisterhood of Grace Covenant:

- Listen actively with head and heart
- Speak from your own experience
- Be aware of body language
- Respect confidentiality
- Respect personal space

- Own your intentions and your impact
- Practice sustainability
- Expect unfinished business - both discomfort and joy

President

Turn it Up! Get on up!! Act now!!!

The theme of Assembly 2022 was “Turn it Up”. Turn it Up to heighten your game; what we’ve been doing isn’t enough. In the next few months, you will be hearing from the women who attended the Assembly who will share what they learned and help us all find resources to “Turn it Up”.

We must do more. In the past few weeks we were in the midst of mass shootings, civil discourse. Also, diminution of women, formula shortages, resurgence of COVID-19 and a horrific tornado in Michigan. We have got to Turn it Up. Do more service, but do more to make changes in systems and policies that will make a difference in the lives of women and children. Act to make a difference in the lives of children. Do your part to promote energy efficacy and take on climate change. When you get up, grab a friend and ask them to get up and to act with you.

There are so many issues. But we cannot become numb and immobilized or, worse yet, indifferent.

In the 20 years since our organization was founded, we have undergone more changes than just name changes. Our leadership is more diverse, more focused on changing systems and not just putting a “band-aid around the problem”. In a time such as this, we are called to dismantle systems of oppression and work to build the beloved community.

Let us not be weary. Get on up. Write your elected officials weekly at the national and at the state level and let them know how you feel about issues that affect women and children. School shootings have replaced accidents as the leading cause of death in children. Horrible!! But preventable!!

In the next few months, the website for United Women in Faith will have information and groups with whom you can connect. This will be found at <https://uwfaith.org/get-involved/connect/>

But no need to wait. Talk to other women of faith about the issues you care about. In my case, I am on the mailing list for Everytown for Gun Safety, The Sandy Hook Promise, Southern Poverty Law Center, Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition and Pro-Literacy. What’s near to your heart?

The Methodist is out of our name – but the sense of connection remains strong. Turn it Up! Get on up and Act.

Jeanette Harris

jharris48@yahoo.com

248.752.7147

Treasurer

First, I want to thank each church and individual for their continued support of United Women in Faith. I am still trying to remind myself not to say “United Methodist Women”.

Second, this is just a reminder that we are doing business as United Women in Faith but please continue to write all checks payable to Greater Detroit District UMW because our account at the credit union has not changed. I am uncertain if we will be required to change the name officially regarding the financial aspects. Stay tuned because as soon as I know, all Unit Treasurers will also know.

Where does your money go? I want to assure everyone that when you send money to the District from your church, I send every penny to the Michigan Conference UMW and then they forward it to the National Office. You can go on their website to see exactly where the money goes. What I love about United Women in Faith is they are so transparent. I think God uses us, who have resources financially, to help those who are less fortunate. I also think God works through people. Some UMW Units send money quarterly, some send once a year and others send on a random basis. There is no requirement except that you send all monies before November 30th. The United Women in Faith operate from January through December and close their books in December of each year. The Michigan Conference UMW close their books by the first or second week of December. That is why I must close my books November 30th.

Another friendly reminder. Giving for 5-Star persons is due by September 15th, only if you're interested in having your name published for the District Annual Meeting October 8th. Also note, you can send monies for 5-Star persons or units anytime, from January 1 through November 30th. Your monies are needed even more because our financial contributions for the Greater Detroit District UMW have dropped drastically. Again, make all checks payable to the Greater Detroit District UMW and mail them to me at the address below. Please leave any messages on my home telephone, 734-221-5478, and I will return your telephone call.

Viola Jones

3975 Cornerstone Drive
Canton, Michigan 48188
734.221.5478
jonesaja342@yahoo.com

Spiritual Growth

Please welcome Jill Sestok who is our new Spiritual Growth Coordinator. Jill joined us for the June Greater Detroit District board meeting and did a great job bringing us scripture readings to start the meeting. Jill is a certified candidate for Deacon through the Michigan area UMC. She is a member of Dearborn First United Methodist Church where Lorraine Murdoch, our former beloved Spiritual Growth Coordinator worshipped.

Jill B. Sestok

49027 Hawksburry Rd.
Canton, Michigan 48188
313.948.7050

Secretary of Program Resources

Hello to all United Women in Faith members!

It is once again time for an update on our Program Resources. More of what we are doing is digital these days. More material will be moved online and new material that will be developed will be online.

For those of you who are not computer users, please ask your church office to assist finding someone to help you with this.

For our Reading Program, you can buy a book from the Resource Center, but it is recommended that you purchase it digitally since this may afford you more information as the year goes on. Often the components of the 2021 – 2022 Program Resources will be available on a monthly basis in order to integrate the most current information.

The Prayer Calendar is now called “The Daily Prayer Guide” and is available from the Resource Center which can be reached by phone at 1-800-305-9857; fax 214-528-2288. Payment is to be mailed to United Methodist Women Mission Resources, P.O. Box 742349, Atlanta, GA 03074-2349. You can order online at cs@umwmissionresources.org.

The Reading Program continues, and books can be read from the 2015 list through the 2022 list. These can be found at uwfaith.org/resources. We continue to read one book from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. You must read the **response** magazine as well. This would complete requirements for Plan I. There are three other Plans in the program. Mission u books are considered Bonus Books. This year, Mission u will have only one curricula with books for adults, youth and children. The topic is “Luke 13: One Transformative Biblical Curriculum for Everyone”. Watch for information about Michigan’s Mission u programs.

Andris Salter, Operations Manager, United Methodist Women, states: “The purpose of the Reading Program is to better understand and participate in God’s mission today, to increase sensitivity to all human beings, to explore contemporary issues, and enhance and act on self-knowledge.”

It continues to be true that you have to purchase the books through local bookstores, Amazon or get them at your local libraries. Look at the list and order one for a gift and then share it with others in your unit.

I have read: “One Dress. One Year. One Girl’s Stand Against Human Trafficking” by Bethany Winz and Susana Foth Aughtman. “My Little Golden Book About Ruth Bader Ginsburg” by Shana Corey. This would be good for children. “Before We Were Yours” by Lisa Wingate.

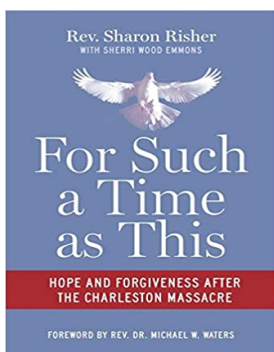
Please keep reading and enjoy all these exciting books which broaden our knowledge and understanding of the world around us.

Mary Hutzel Beltzman

maryhutzelbeltzman@gmail.com

734.502.8487

Book Reviews

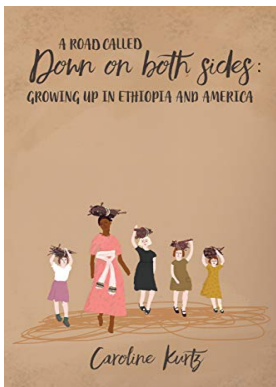


There are so many great books listed in the current Reading Resource list. Here are brief reviews of two you might be interested in reading:

[For Such A Time As This: Hope And Forgiveness After The Charleston Massacre](#) by Rev. Sharon Risher with Sherri Wood Emmons. How can you

forgive the unforgiveable? The instant her phone rang, Rev. Sharon Risher sensed something was horribly wrong. Something had happened at Emanuel AME Church, the church of her youth in Charleston, South Carolina, and she knew her mother was likely in the church at Bible study. Even before she heard the news, her chaplain's instinct told her the awful truth: her mother was dead, along with two cousins. What she couldn't imagine was that they had been murdered by a white supremacist. Plunged into the depths of mourning and anger and shock, Sharon could have wallowed in the pain. Instead, she chose the path of forgiveness and hope - eventually forgiving the convicted killer for his crime.

Rev. Sharon begins with the story of her mother, Ethel Lee Lance, who sought refuge in the church from poverty and scorn while raising her family despite that horrid violence that rattled Sharon to her core years later. She writes of how she overcame her own struggles and answered the call to ministry. Her story is one of transformation of how she joined survivors of other gun-related horrors as reluctant speakers for a heartbroken social-justice movement. As she recounts her grief and the struggle to forgive the killer, Rev. Sharon learns to trust God's timing and lean on God's loving presence to guide her steps. Where her faith journey leads her is surprising and inspiring, as she finds a renewed purpose to her life in the company of other survivors. Sharon has become a nationally known speaker as she shares her raw, riveting, story of losing loved ones to gun violence and racism.



[A Road Called Down On Both Sides: Growing Up In Ethiopia And America](#) by Caroline Kurtz. Growing up in the remote mountains of 1950s Ethiopia, Caroline enjoyed American missionary family life with her parents and three sisters. Outside, her world was shaped by drums and the joy cry; treks into the countryside; ostriches on the airstrip; and the crackle of several languages she barely understood but longed to learn.

She felt she'd been exiled to a foreign country when she went to Illinois for college. She returned to Ethiopia to teach, only to discover how complex working in another culture and language really is. Life under a Communist dictatorship meant constant outages of water, electricity, sugar, even toilet paper. But she was willing to do anything, no matter how hard, to live in Ethiopia again. Yet the chaos only increased. Guerillas marched down from the north, their t-shirts crisscrossed by Kalashnikov bandoliers. When peace returned, Caroline got the chance she'd longed for, to revisit that beloved childhood home in Maji. But maybe it would have been better just to treasure the memories.

Kris Miranne

Co-Communications Coordinators **Communicating with our Elected Officers**

President Jeanette Harris and National General Secretary Harriett Jane Olson (page 10) speak of the imperative that citizens communicate concerns to our elected officials. You can communicate your concerns about **gun safety** by contacting by phone, letter or Email your Michigan State Representative and Michigan State Senator to bring to the floor and vote to pass the following bills:
Michigan House Bill Numbers HB 4869, 4870, 4871. HB 5066, 5067, 5068, 5069. HB 5371, 5372.
Michigan Senate Bill Numbers SB 454, 455, 456. SB 550, 551, 552, 553. SB 678, 679. Go to

my.lwv.org>mylo>issues>social-policy>gun for more information and go to Vote411.org to find your particular Representative and Senator's address. Our legislators act upon hearing directly from their constituents. Add your voice. There is a deadline on these bills – July 2.

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. These are websites you should bookmark in your “favorites” list. 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

Once you open the page, you can scroll down to the Greater Detroit District.

Facebook Page

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

Reading Program

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

MIConnect

[http://news.michiganumc.org/.](http://news.michiganumc.org/)

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Kristine B. Miranne

kristine.miranne1921@gmail.com

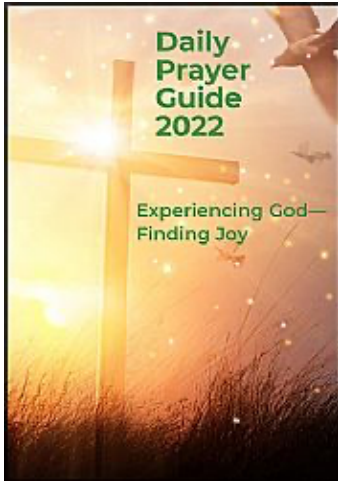
313.303.9536

We Serve
We Advocate
We Make a difference

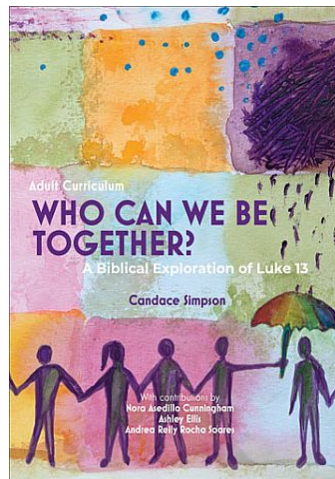
How Do I Get My Mission u Materials And Prayer Guide?

Start here: <https://www.umwmissionresources.org/>

Samplers are not sent out anymore. If you want it, you have to order it. If you lack the Internet, phone a friend or contact Mary Hutzelt Beltzman our Program Resource Coordinator at (734) 502-8487.



Cost is \$10



Cost is \$14

We equip women for leadership

In our sisterhood, we lift each other up.

We equip women and girls around the world to be leaders in their communities, their agencies, their governments and their churches.

We are committed to ensure these opportunities reach women of all races and ethnicities, across every language and economic group.

News from United Women in Faith Units

We would love to highlight the great work Women United in Faith units are doing – not only service projects but events, even if it is just getting together and sharing each other's company. Send what you are doing to Anne Cramton at annecramton34@gmail.com and we'll feature you in the next *Phoenix*. Photos are certainly welcome!

Charter for Racial Justice Project Grants

The Michigan District of Women United in Faith is continuing to offer grants to support projects that expand our understanding of racial justice issues. Grants will be up to \$300 for local units. Suggested ideas include:

- racial justice book study
- a guest speaker
- travel to a museum or other site of racial justice significance.

Information about the application process can be found on the conference website:
<https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/>.

**We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of
the world without hesitation**

Driven by God's love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. Every day, we show up. We take action. We get it done.

MWINDO

In May, the Troy United Methodist Church hosted a touring performance of Mwindo, performed by the Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit. The event was sponsored by Women United in Faith units from Detroit Metropolitan United Methodist Church and Ferndale United Methodist Church. Both units received a \$300 racial justice grant. Additional funding was provided by the Rice Allen Fund of Detroit Metropolitan Women United in Faith.



The Epic of Mwindo is a mythological tale traditionally shared orally by generations of the Nyanga people of the Congo in Central Africa. The tale is about a pretentious boy, Mwindo, born walking, talking and laughing and who possessed supernatural abilities and traversed many mystical realms, encountering heroic beings and fantastical creatures along his quest to take on his rightful inheritance of the throne that his father refuses to relinquish. Mwindo is a teaching story used by the Nyanga people to nurture the human experience of its community with universal truths interlaced throughout the tale. The hard-earned moral lessons gained by Mwindo include the virtues of harmony, acceptance, humility, kindness, perseverance and reverence for life. Eventually, Mwindo led his kingdom in peace as is the ultimate goal for all who give audience to this bountifully courageous, cultural and imaginative story.

Not only were there youth actors but large puppets that helped tell the story. The young artists involved in the production led a post-show discussion which dived into

the themes of finding your inner warrior, parent and guardian relationships, and overcoming obstacles.

Over 100 attendees laughed, cheered and thoroughly enjoyed the production. Here are but a few photos from the event:



IN MEMORIAM

Mary Lynn Fox, age 77, passed away on Monday, June 13, 2022, at MyMichiganMedicalCenter in West Branch.

Many of you may remember her from when she served as an officer in the District. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.steuernolmclaren.com/obituaries/Mary-Lynn-Fox?obId=25118600#/obituaryInfo>

A Message on Gun Violence from Harriett Jane Olson

June 3, 2022

Dear friends:

Despite the joy of so many of us being together at Assembly, these past several weeks have been filled with lament and sorrow. I seldom write to you directly about steps for action, but it feels to me like now might be the time to make an exception.

We have lost children and adults and family members to gun violence in recent weeks in mass shootings in Uvalde, Texas; Buffalo, New York; and most recently in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Of course, these precious individuals are not the first. Despite a long litany of mass shootings and the **nearly 19,384 individual shooting deaths** that occur across the country annually, our nation seems unable to generate the resolve to make a substantive response.

I want to suggest to you several things:

1. I encourage you to make partnerships. At Assembly we talked about partnerships. Partner with statewide groups such as **Dignity in Schools** as an effective way to engage in this important work. Despite the gridlock at the national level, state work in this area can be very powerful.
2. I also want to suggest that we know some things that we can contribute. From our work on **Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline** we know that the answer is **not** to put more law enforcement personnel or more weapons in schools. This is detrimental to young people, especially young people of color. Indeed, in this most recent horrific incident, the presence of trained persons with weapons was not effective to save lives.
3. I plead with you to remember that while mental health care is a critical need across our country, there is no correlation between mental health needs and mass shootings. Please do not allow our yearning for action to be assuaged by setting up persons who need mental health care as villains. Rather, I urge you to insist on adequate funding for counselors and mental health services in schools and communities.

And please contact your senators and representatives, national and state, to let them know that common-sense regulations to reduce mass murder is something that needs their urgent attention.

I encourage you to work with organizations that have been working in this area for a long time and who have evidence of things that work. Now is not the time to wring our hands, as if we had no information about potential solutions. We know that raising the age at which it is possible to legally purchase and possess guns, conducting universal background checks, red flag laws, limiting access to assault weapons, and reducing the capacity of magazines for sale to the public have been effective.

We do know what to do. The truth is our leaders have demonstrated a lack of resolve to do it.

You can find the church's position against the proliferation of violence **here**. Please let your voice be heard. We urgently need action on this, but we do not need to take just any action. We must insist that our leaders take action that is based on proven results. Together, we can do more.

Let us continue to pray for the families and communities of Tulsa, Uvalde, Buffalo, and those of the thousands of individuals whose lives have been lost to gun violence around the country. As an outward sign of solidarity, we ask you to consider wearing orange on Pentecost Sunday as part of the national campaign demanding a future free of gun violence. We join together to demand a future free from gun violence once and for all.

Harriett Jane Olson

General Secretary and CEO
United Women in Faith

Educated women can transform the world

We offer educational experiences designed to inspire spiritual growth, personal development and community nurture to enable powerful collective change.

Action Alert!



Join the #Post4thePlanet postcard campaign to tell our leaders that access to healthy air is an inherent human right!

Many of our communities have experienced the severe impacts of climate change, and over 40% of U.S. residents live in areas with dirty air.

United Women in Faith has been highlighting how unjust our current energy system is through the Just Energy for All campaign. The air from burning fossil fuels and woody biomass is making us sick and causes climate change. Those who suffer most in the U.S. are Black, Indigenous, Latino, Asian American, and low-wealth communities. Around the world, those least responsible are most affected. This is a health emergency. This is a climate emergency.

Solutions exist

The good news is that solutions exist. Ambitious investments in renewable energy, grid modernization, and transportation would fight air pollution and move toward climate justice. Zero emission school buses would drastically reduce climate and ozone pollution and protect the health of our communities, especially our children.

This is why United Women in Faith has partnered with five other organizations to form the Breathe Again Collaborative to tell Congress and state leaders that the time to act on climate and air pollution is now.

Right now, you, your United Women in Faith unit, district and conference, and others can take action that will help get clean air and climate solutions passed. Let your senators and governor know you want them to act for climate justice and health care by making ambitious climate investments!

What can you do?

- Print out our [postcards](#) and use the instructions to send them to your senators and governor. You can also organize a postcard writing party with your family, unit, or friends. We hope thousands of postcards will flood Congress and state governments throughout the summer. [You can find the postcards and instructions here.](#)
- Before mailing your postcards, take a picture with your postcards and post your photo on social media. You can find the directions and draft social media posts in the guide.
- Once you send postcards or ask others to join, [please record your postcard actions here.](#) This will help track the impact of our campaign. Later, we'll recognize the top three states who sent out the most postcards
- Finally, please continue the drumbeat by calling and emailing your members of Congress through our [action page](#), urging them to make climate investments.

<https://uwfaith.org/latest-news/2022/climate-justice-postcard-campaign/>

May 19, 2022

Upcoming Events



Save these Dates

August 11 - 13, 2022, Mission u – Lake Huron Retreat Center

The study is Luke 13, *Who can we be together*. This is a transformative bible curriculum for adults, youth and children. Watch the short video link below for more information:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_yPzh792pk

October 8, 2022, Annual Meeting United Women in Faith, Greater Detroit District – Dearborn First UMC. The format will be in-person and Zoom. As we get closer to the event, we will request a firm commitment from those who plan to attend in person.

October 6 – 18, 2022, Mission u of the North – Gaylord First UMC

October 22, 2022, Annual Conference – Westwood UMC, Kalamazoo

February 11, 2023, Prayer Workshop

March 11, 2023, Mission Workshop

May 12 - 13, 2023, Spiritual Life Retreat, Lake Huron Retreat Center