

The Compass

Newsletter of the Greater Southwest District United Methodist Women

When Women Thrive, We All Thrive!

As we begin 2020, a new year with lots of questions waiting to be answered let's look at who we are as United Methodist Women first. We are ordinary women doing extraordinary things. Now I know that most of the time it doesn't feel like what we are doing is extraordinary but when we all work together, we are doing extraordinary things.

What is the spirit that drives our work for women children, and youth around the world? I just took a refresher course on United Methodist Women 101 and here are

some answers to that question. When women thrive, we all thrive!

1. When we build strong women leaders, we build strong communities.
2. When we equip strong women leaders with knowledge and tools to eradicate injustice, we fight injustice.
3. When we put the needs of women, youth, and children first, we foster culture shifting attitudes and social norms that promote the wellbeing of society's most vulnerable.
4. When we provide spiritual guidance

for women, we build a strong foundation for revolutionary change.

YES, when women thrive, we all thrive.

I think that sometimes we have to remember what God has called us to do as United Methodist Women, that we seek to be the hands and feet of God wherever God calls us.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our events this year as we learn, share and fellowship together.

God Bless You All.
Linda Burton-Collier
Greater Southwest District United Methodist Women President

January, February,
March 2020

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Spring Fling Flier
Spiritual Growth
Flier



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- Are a part of the United Methodist Women at a local level
- Are a United Methodist Church
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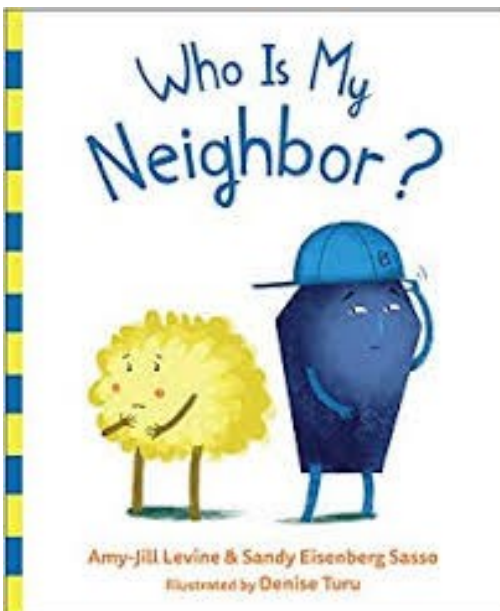
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Reading Program

I thought I would put in a plug for the Reading Program. My New Year's resolution was to spend more time reading so I went on line to United Methodist Women's Reading Program and looked at pages of suggestions.

Unfortunately, we can't order them from Women's Division anymore but the



one's I selected I was able to get from Cokesbury and most were at a discounted price. I ordered several children's books, I teach Sunday School and lead Children's time at my church several times a month, and I like children's books. I would highly

recommend **"Who Is My Neighbor?"** by Amy-Jill Levine & Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, this will prompt conversation about friendship and encourages new ways of seeing others and ourselves. The

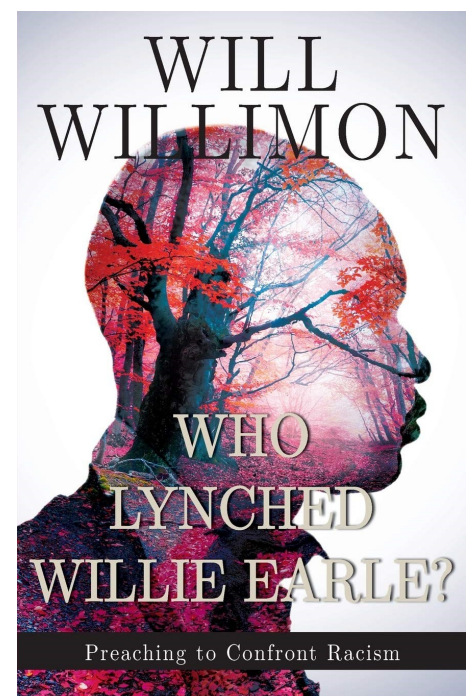
next one I recommend is **"Where Will I Live"** by Rosemary McCarney and it is full of photographs of children and their families who have become refugees through no fault of their own and just hope that somewhere, someone will welcome them to a new home.

For adults I recommend **"Who Lynched Willie Earle?"** by Will Willimon, a retired Bishop. This is an invitation to all good Christians to explore racism and white privilege which is alive today and thriving. I found a Lenten Devotion called "40 Days with Wesley" by Rueben P. Job. It provides a prayer of presence, a scripture reading, a first Wesley reading, reflections, a



second Wesley reading, a time for silent reflection and journaling, and then closes with a blessing. I am looking forward to allowing myself time to do this.

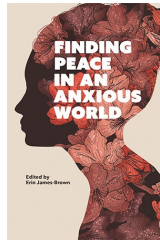
HAVE FUN READING!!
Linda Burton-Collier



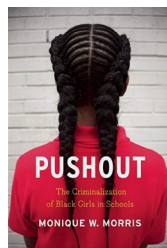
Mission u

SAVE the DATE: July 8-11, 2020 to visit the campus of Albion College (a United Methodist college).

Everyone will be taking the Spiritual Growth class, as well as a choice between two other studies. The Spiritual Growth study is **"Finding Peace in an Anxious World"** In this study we will recognize the prevalence of anxiety today, its impact, and explore ways to find peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines so that we can be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Christ. We will examine anxiety and the impact it has in our lives, explore what the Bible has to say about peace as a Christian discipline, and consider ways to practice peace as a way of life.



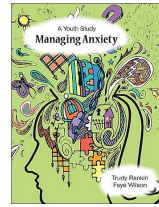
"Women United For Change: 150 Years in Mission" by Ellen Blue will be offered again this year. The new study this year will be **"Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools"**



by Monique Morris. Which will you choose?

Youth will study **"Managing Anxiety: A Youth Study"**

By Trudy Rankin and Faye Wilson
By being a part of this study, youth will understand how anxiety shows up in their lives and learn a variety of practical techniques to manage anxiety, including the Daily Energy Routine and the Emotional Freedom Technique, or tapping. They also will know how they can experience God's help and God's love through spiritual practices, such as reading the Bible, engaging in spoken and embodied prayer, and practicing individual reflection.



encourages all of us—participants and study leaders alike—to be aware of our feelings, understand what the Bible teaches us about the role of feelings in our lives, find ways we can cultivate strength to deal with challenges, and discover a community in which to celebrate.

The registration fee for children and youth who are accompanied by a registered adult is waived. Consider bringing the whole family.

MEN are **ENCOURAGED** and welcome to attend.

Childcare (for pre-school age) will be available at no charge. Scholarships are always available.

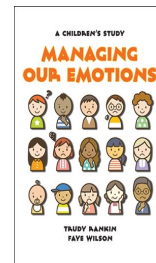
Please check with the District and Conference Mission Coordinators for Education and Interpretation for financial assistance details.

There will be a silent auction, a used book sale, videos and some surprise fun and festivities to complete your Mission u experience!

All we need is **YOU** at Mission u in 2020 to a success!

Children will study **Managing Our Emotions: A Children's Study**

By Trudy Rankin and Faye Wilson
The study uses scripture memorization, Bible study and prayer, as well as exercises such as "tapping" or the Emotional Freedom Technique, to help children manage feelings in a positive and healthy way. This study





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Important 2020 Dates:

March 21~ Spring Fling
Oshtemo UMC

April 25 ~ Spiritual Growth
Washington Heights UMC

June 18 ~ Evening of Mission
Galesburg UMC

June 26-28 ~ North Central
Jurisdiction

July 8-11 ~ Mission U
Albion College
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

September 19 ~ District Annual
Westwood UMC

October 24 ~ Conference Annual
Kalamazoo: First UMC

Meet a New Team Member

I am excited to have returned to the Greater Southwest District, having just moved to Schoolcraft in September. This is a return to my hometown after 40 years! My

husband and I are early retirees and took this opportunity to move closer to lend a helping hand to our parents – mine in Schoolcraft and his in Decatur. We have 2 sons, one in Cleveland, OH



Julia Paradine-Rice

Secretary and Treasurer and in West Michigan Conference and Michigan Conference as Treasurer. This year I begin a new role on the UMW Bureau of Treasurer Trainers,

(where we also lived for a time) and one in Grand Rapids. I have served in Heartland District UMW as

providing training to District Treasurers in Michigan and throughout the Northcentral Jurisdiction, while also serving as Treasurer of Mission u and on the Committee of Nominations with the Greater Southwest District UMW. If you want a program in your local unit on Where the Money Goes, I can certainly help with that, call me!

Julia Paradine-Rice
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