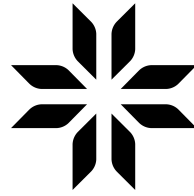


Heritage Vine

The Newsletter of the Heritage District
United Women in Faith
April 2024



United
Women
in Faith

We believe love in action
can change the world.

President's Note

Joy Coyle

Hello all! I cannot believe we are ready for May! I have been in Florida helping my 91 year old Mother-in-Law in the Venice area. Coming home on the 30th (I hope). Lovely weather here. Please pray for her, Doris, as she is in skilled nursing care now. I am sure all of you have prayer concerns also. I wish I could think of a way to share them with each other, maybe one of you has a suggestion?

The business of the Heritage District has been going well. Our audit for 2023 is done and all set. Our 2024 budget is attached to this newsletter. Our upcoming events are the retreat that we are hosting, May 17-18 at the St Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt, MI, and the Celebration set for the last Saturday in September at First UMC in Jackson, MI. (The location for the Celebration needed to be changed, so prior information is incorrect).

Please register for the retreat if you have not already. There is a flyer included in this newsletter. We would like to discuss the Reading Program, so come prepared to share a great book that you have read this year. There will also be a purse sale to benefit a local mission, so bring one or two slightly used purses for shopping! Sounds like fun!

Our team will be calling one or two members of your local unit late this spring just to say Hi and see what is going on with you. I would like to make sure that I have up to date contact information, so please send me a list of your local unit team. And remember, whether your church has disaffiliated or not, whether your friends are even members of either denomination, they are welcome with the United Women in Faith! We are centered on the Purpose, believing in Jesus Christ as our Savior, and focusing on missions for women, children and youth!

If you have not connected with our Facebook page, please consider doing so. It is called UWF Heritage District MI Conference. A registration page for the retreat in May is there, and notice the address change of our registrar! Kay Lambright's neighbor is getting them too! We spread the word in all sorts of ways!

Speaking of spreading the word, we are going to need some new volunteers for 2025. Our district is slightly larger than before, so we need to reach out in all directions. There is more information here later on.

God's blessings to all of you! Can't wait to see some of you at the retreat!

My love to all of you,



6720 Spring Creek Lane
Plymouth, MI 48170
248 486-6686
brcoyle@aol.com

Vice President/Program Coordinator

Judy Christie



Hello to all units in the Heritage District. God's beautiful creation is slowly budding on the trees, birds singing and April rain showers will bring full bloom of May flowers. It is wonderful that we can enjoy our Spring going into Summer. What a wildly wonderful world, God! You made it all, with Wisdom at your side, made earth overflow with your wonderful creations. Psalms 104:24

The Spiritual Growth Retreat is going to be held this year at the Spiritual Retreat Center in Dewitt, May 17-18. The attached Flyer gives the details of the retreat. Reservations will be accepted by May 7 at Noon. The flyer does indicate May 5, but it has been changed.

There will be a Purse Auction will be Friday evening. Please bring a new or gently used purse that will be auctioned off. All kinds of purses, billfolds, coin purses, phone purses, etc, can be donated. All proceeds will go to Redeemer Church Food Pantry that serves Clinton County residents.

The Annual Celebration will be at First UMC in Jackson, MI. It will be September 21, 2024. More information to follow!

I want to invite units to consider hosting any celebration or event that the district will have throughout the year. The event maybe an annual celebration, Epiphany Service, Spiritual Growth Retreat, Heritage Leadership Team Meetings, or any other event that may happen during the year. Please contact me with any questions.

If I can be of any assistance or you would like me to visit your unit, I am open to meeting new friends and areas of Heritage District. My contact Information below
God's Blessings,

2667 Holt Road
Williamston MI 48895
517-294-3321
jchristie664@aol.com

United Women in Faith resources and information

on the UWFaith website and Mighty Networks :

Uwfaith.org,
uwfaith.mn.co (Mighty Networks)

Here are a few more places to see what UWFaith are doing:

facebook.com/uwomenfaith
youtube.com/uwomenfaith
uwfaith.org/flickr

So, if you have lots of spare time (HA!) check these out!!

- Joy

Treasurer

Jayne Worthy-Howlett



I was recently asked where the money sent in by local units as their Pledge to Mission goes. The money from your annual pledge is sent on to the Michigan Conference United Women in Faith (UWF). Upon receipt of the funds, a percentage of the money (I was recently told 30%) is held as administrative costs. This money supports conference and district events such as retreat days, Mission u, annual meetings, and officer training events.

The remaining pledged funds support national and international missions that benefit women, children, and youth and comply with UMC Social Principles. Pledge funds support over 90 National mission institutions within the US.

National mission institutions are community-based organizations and social service agencies, almost exclusively founded by women, that serve marginalized communities and populations across the U.S. The Grand Rapids Community House is one example.

Pledge funds also go towards partners in over 50 countries that support economic development programs for women and youth. Examples include providing interest-free loans to women who then have the funds to start businesses selling vegetables, palm oil, soap, fish, etc. Another example is providing chicks to women which in turn provide eggs for their family along with eggs to sell.

100% of the money sent in for A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2024 will support programs for climate justice put into action by United Women in Faith.

More information can be found on the UWF.org website; look under financials.

Please send your pledges to:

Jayne Worthy-Howlett
45416 Holmes Dr
Canton, MI 48187
jwh255@yahoo.com
734-474-5314

Nominations

The Heritage District Nominations Committee is in need of your assistance to fill several positions for 2025. These positions can be filled as a team of two women. You would only be filling the position for a one year commitment. The positions that need to be filled are: Secretary, Communications Coordinator, Membership Nurture & Outreach, and Committee on Nominations as a Chair or Member, and Historian. Besides assisting the team; a member gets mileage covered, registrations paid, and the benefit of meeting other team and District members.

If you would like to know more about these positions and their requirements, PLEASE contact us:

Kay Ross, Nominations
517-403-7767
kaz4129@gmail.com

Donna Kleiver, Conference Nominations
517-648-6119
dmkleiver2016@gmail.com

Coordinator for Social Action

Shirley M. Carpenter

Happy Spring!

“May we be inspired by the promise of Easter and be encouraged to work with United Women in Faith as we tell our story, pray, celebrate, learn, reach out, promote, give and love.” Words taken from the last issue of Response Magazine. The Response Magazine has many interesting articles each quarter and is part of our reading program requirements.

I have been working on evaluating three books for the Spring 2026 Reading Program. I just finished my reports on the three books and hope they will be selected: *Highway of Tears*, *The Vanishing*, and *We'll All Be Free*. The books are based on the treatment of blacks, indigenous and people of color, racism and countries in conflict.

The Faith Talks have been good this Spring: Climate Crisis, Black Women Making History Today, Women of the Bible and Child Abuse. If you have not joined Zoom with Jennifer Farmer and her many competent speakers you should check it out every other Thursday at 2:00 pm.

I have not had much time to read books for this year's Reading Program. I recommend these three wonderful books: *Lead from the Outside* by Stacey Abrams, *I'm Black I'm Christian I'm Methodist* by Rudy Rasmus and *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We have months to go, so check the list and enjoy the reading.

The Heritage District has scheduled a Spiritual Growth Retreat for May 17 & 18 and the North Central Jurisdiction Event is May 30 to June 2, 2024 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Hope to see you there.

Blessings to all.



Shirley M. Carpenter
8228 Bothwell Hwy
Morenci, MI 49256
517-458-7367
Carpshirley3@gmail.com

Mission u

There is a flyer for July's *Mission u* Welcome Home included in this newsletter, and a scholarship application is on the Heritage District website. Please read them, and consider joining us in Mount Pleasant

The District Newsletter, Forms, and contact information for the Leadership Team can be found on the Conference Website

www.umwmichiganconference.org/hrd.html

Coming soon!

www.uwfmichiganconference.org

Join us on Facebook!

Go to Facebook and search for UWF Heritage District MI Conference (or click on the Facebook icon on the district website)

A reminder to all units:

Please send Joy Coyle your officer list, even if it is unchanged from last year or if it is incomplete.

Green Team



Hi, I'm Elaine Ferris, and I'm from First United Methodist in Mason, MI (Just south of Lansing). I've been Green Team coordinator for awhile – looking for ways we can share and care for our environment – doing or just thinking about how!

Caring for the world entails the ethical, balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things. Reading Genesis 2.8, God put man in the garden with every good thing.

Where is our responsibility towards the garden of Earth today? Do you have a personal philosophy that answers that question? I think it requires prayer and considerable education to develop an individual response. Each of us is unlikely to respond the same way, but most of us can accept the position of the church, that we are stewards.. A good steward conserves resources and provides for their charges with the means available.

Sharing my personal philosophy – I have to answer that I cannot do all things: I have not invested millions of dollars in a floating machine to remove trash from the ocean. I have not built a fence to sift out trash from waterflow in Barbados. I do not dig wells for clean water in the Amazon rainforest, nor invest in infrastructure to maintain safe water use. I don't even recycle every sales slip or plastic bag.

But that doesn't mean do nothing. Being capable of reaching out and educating others on what is available and where problems arise can be an ecological effort. So can scrubbing out cans to recycle individually, or saving old cereal boxes for a scout drive, or composting vegetable scraps for your garden. Or yes, volunteering for a river clean-up, planting a tree, or something as simple as using both sides of a sheet of paper, consistently, in a school setting. Small acts are also valuable.

One of the most dedicated people I know for years stacked Styrofoam cups in the recycle bin at our church. That way, hundreds more fit in the bag to take to recycling, saving trips and gas. After she passed, no one took over. It was a small, but valuable service, and sorely missed. I regret I never thought to ask what started her on the project, and why. But like all small efforts, it builds up a habit. I don't know if there would be a stewardship effort at any place, without a lot of small things to make it happen. From recycling flexible plastic and plastic bags at the grocery store; to using Freecycle online, to thinking about what the packaging is with things we buy, even just bringing a reusable bag or water bottle to save packaging waste: we can all do our part in ministry – start small, keep going, and keep educating others..

Thank you. Pass it on.

Elaine Ferris
417 Sycamore St
Mason Mi 48854
517-676-4175
ejferris@toast.net

Conference Connections! **BOLDLY MOVING FORWARD**

“Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” Isaiah 43:18-19 [ESV]

That is the scripture guiding the Michigan Conference United Women in Faith's Annual Celebration in Essexville, October 25, 26, 2024. As Vice President, I serve as chair of the Conference Program team. Please put those dates on your schedule and plan to attend. If you think the conference events are for only officers or chairs in your unit or district, you would be wrong. Conference and district events are planned for ALL members. If you've never attended Conference Annual, you're missing out on leadership training. You're missing out on educational opportunities (learning is powerful), singing, praying and making and renewing friendships with United Women in Faith from all over Michigan. Leaders should take advantage of the Friday late afternoon program "Implicit Bias". Do you know the meaning of that phrase? Join us for the leadership workshop and learn if you have it!

Are you using the national website? (Uwfaith.org) So much information is provided to help units present meaningful programs. Don't ignore something that makes it easier to plan local programs. Have you logged in and created your personal account on the website? How many Faith Talks have you listened to? Remember if you miss a live presentation, you can always go to the website and listen when you have time. Have you joined Mighty Networks? Mighty Networks is a safe place for all members to communicate with each other – all over the world! Mighty Networks provides support for local, district and conference leaders – just join and see for yourself!

Are you participating in the United Women in Faith Reading Program? Even if you're not interested in tracking what you read, turn to the reading list for descriptions of great books written by excellent authors. The topics relate generally to social action, leadership development, education for mission, nurturing for community and spiritual growth. There are children's books listed as well as books for youth. Take advantage of the UWF list.

Speaking of authors, our keynote speaker for the Conference 2024 Annual Celebration, Boldly Moving Forward, is Rev. Dr. John Harnish. He is the author of *30 Days with E. Stanley Jones* a book included on the 2024 United Women in Faith Reading Program list. He will have copies of his book available at Annual Celebration. You don't want to miss his presentation!

This summer, Mission u will again be held at First UMC in Mt. Pleasant, July 18-20, 2024. If you've never attended Mission u, don't miss another one! Talk with anyone who has attended in the past to hear what a great experience Mission u is! There are concurrent programs for children and youth who may attend with their mom, grandmother, aunt, whoever, for free registration! Add this to your kids' summer schedule along with you!

It is my honor to serve as your Conference Vice President this year. If you have any questions or want more information on any of the topics mentioned above, please reach out. If you would like a District officer to visit your unit and present a program, please don't hesitate to ask. Visiting with UWFaith members is one of the best assignments ever! I look forward to seeing you at a District or Conference event soon!

Blessings,
Sharon Smith
C/T: 517.648.1333
E: sharonanddicksmi@gmail.com

Heritage District 2024 Calendar

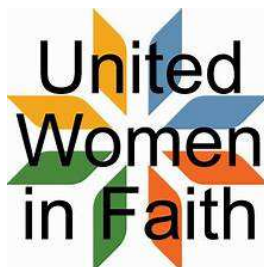
April 23 - May 3		Methodist General Conference Charlotte, NC
May 17 -18	registration begins 4 pm Friday	Heritage District Overnight Retreat St Francis Retreat Center, Dewitt, MI
May 30 – June 1		Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City, MI
May 31 – June 2		UWF North Central Jurisdiction Indianapolis, IN
July 18 – 20		<i>Mission u</i> Mount Pleasant First UMC Mount Pleasant, MI
Sept 20	4 pm	Leadership Team business meeting Jackson First UMC, Jackson, MI
Sept 21	9 am	Heritage Annual Celebration/Business Meeting Jackson First UMC, Jackson, MI
Oct 25	4 pm	Michigan Conference Leadership Training St Luke's UMC, Essexville, MI
Oct 26	9:30 am	Michigan Conference Annual Celebration/ Business Meeting St Luke's UMC, Essexville, MI
Nov 20	3:30 pm	Leadership Team meeting location TBD

Dates and Deadlines:

All units should submit a current officer list to Joy Coyle

Deadline for Pledge to Mission	Sept 1 to Jayne Worthy-Howlett
Deadline for Updated (2025) Officers List	December 1 to Joy Coyle
Deadline for Five Star Person & Unit 2024	December 15 to Jayne Worthy-Howlett
Deadline for Reading Program 2024	December 15 to Karol Fry
Deadline for 2024 Mission Today Unit Objectives	December 15 to Karol Fry

BUDGET		2023	New Budget 2024	difference
Officer Expenses:				
100	Postage	\$400	\$150	(\$250)
101	Office Supplies (inc. Zoom)	\$300	\$260	(\$40)
103	Travel (inc. visits to local units)	\$2,000	\$1,000	(\$1,000)
104	Meals	\$0.00	\$100	\$100
105	Printing	\$100	\$100	\$0
106	Bank Expenses	\$50	\$60	\$10
107	Audit	\$100	\$425	\$325
108	Dependent Care	\$100	\$100	\$0
109	Officer Resources/Literature	\$500	\$250	(\$250)
				\$0
Total Officer Expenses		\$3,550	\$2,445	(\$1,105)
				\$0
Conference Event Expenses:				\$0
200	Conference Annual Meeting	\$1,000	\$500	(\$500)
201	Keep Making Peace Day	\$200	\$0	(\$200)
202	Mission U	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$1,500
203	Other Conference Events	\$100	\$100	\$0
				\$0
Total Conference Event Expenses		\$2,800	\$3,600	\$800
				\$0
District Event Expenses:				\$0
300	District Annual Meeting	\$1,000	\$500	(\$500)
301	Local Unit Leadership Training	\$325	\$100	(\$225)
302	District Spiritual Growth Retreat	\$300	\$1,050	\$750
303	Shepherds/Unit Visitation	\$200	\$100	(\$100)
304	Other District Events (NCJ)	\$0.00	\$0	\$31
	and/or Assembly	\$100	\$100	\$0
				\$0
Total Event District Expenses		\$1,925	\$1,850	(\$75)
				\$0
Other Expenses:				\$0
400	Newsletter/Directory	\$300	\$0	(\$300)
401	Program Resources	\$300	\$350	\$50
402	SMR, GTM, GIM	\$300	\$650	\$350
403	Church Women United	\$100	\$0	(\$100)
409	Miscellaneous	\$200	\$200	\$0
				\$0
Total Other Expenses		\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0
				\$0
Grand Total		\$9,475	\$9,095	(\$380)
District Pledge		\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0



Heritage District
Spiritual Growth Retreat
Friday and Saturday, May 17-18, 2024
St. Francis Retreat Center, 703 E. Main St., Dewitt, MI

(You need not be a member of UWF to attend.)

Rev. Paula Vergowven, pastor of Webberville Methodist Church, will lead us as we explore ***A Closer Walk with God***, make new friends, renew old friendships, and enjoy the beautiful grounds and great food of this 90-acre retreat center.

Take time from this busy world for yourself as you experience renewal on this journey together with other Women of Faith. We should always look for ways to grow deeper in our relationship with God and to share the joy of God's love and grace with people we encounter.

Friday Night Fun Night ingathering event will be a "Purse Auction". Bring a new or gently used purse and let the bidding begin! Proceeds will go to the Food Pantry, Redeemer Church, Dewitt.

Registration information

Time: Friday, 4:00 p.m. through Saturday, 12 noon.

Costs: Commuter (includes 2 meals) \$23 _____

Double occupancy \$75 _____

Single occupancy \$108 _____

Make check payable to Heritage District UWFaith \$ _____

Name _____ Church/Unit _____

Sharing room with _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Unit Office, if any _____ Food Allergies/Restrictions _____

Send registration and check to: **Kay Lambright, 9600 Churchill, 49201 Jackson, MI**

Phone- 517-569-3881 Email – wayneuofm@juno.com Deadline: May 5, 2024



Mount Pleasant First United Methodist Church 400 South Main Street Mount Pleasant, MI 48858

July 18-20 (Thursday-Saturday)

1:00 pm Registration (EST)

Early Registration \$80 by June 15th

Late Registration \$90 June 16 - July 10

Optional group tour Thursday 11 am of the Ziibiwing Center,
6650 E. Broadway, Mt. Pleasant, a Native American Museum \$4.00.
You can check out their website at: <http://www.sagchip.org/ziibiwing/>

Lodging is on your own. **We have a block of rooms until July 1st** at the Hampton Inn, 5205 E. Pickard, Mount Pleasant, **(989) 772-5500**. Mention Mission u or UWF for the special rate of \$119 per room per night: includes breakfast. This price is good for 1-4 people in a room. There is a pool!

The Mission Focus will benefit Community Compassion Network in Mt Peasant. You may bring infant (not toddler) formula, baby food, baby care items, diapers sizes 4 & 5, personal hygiene items.



ADULT STUDY: Led by Rev. Dr. B Kevin Smalls

Welcome Home by Naomi Fletcher

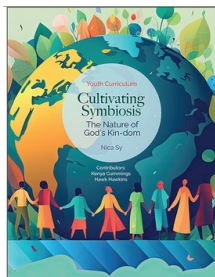
Welcome Home explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us. Abiding in God's safety and dwelling in God's provision, allows us to open our hearts to a fuller embrace of the power and presence of God. Dig deeper into what it means to live in the kin-dom of God and how this helps us develop practices for healthier communities.

Naomi Fletcher is pastor of Haven Chapel UMC in Denison, Texas, and an early childhood policy advocate for Children at Risk.

YOUTH STUDY: Led by Rev. Paul Reissmann and Rev. Kim Bos

Cultivating Symbiosis: The Nature of God's Kin-dom
Explore what it means to live into the kin-dom of God through the lens of symbiosis. Youth will explore what symbiosis means and that it exists on a continuum. They will examine their personal relationships and how they mirror or contrast what God desires, understand that to love God is to love your neighbor and to love your neighbor is to love God. Youth will then move outward in their understanding of relationships and God's kin-dom by looking at economic injustice and how they can collectively work toward social justice.

Nica Sy is a third-generation United Women in Faith and works within The UMC and in her local area to envision and create life-giving community.

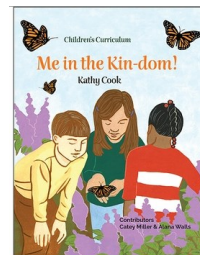


CHILDRENS STUDY: Led by Alyx Kuyers and Jennie Holmes

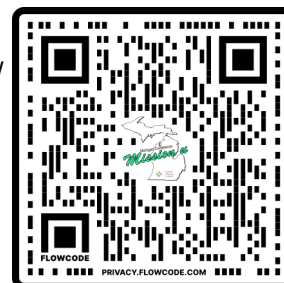
Me in the Kin-dom! helps children explore the kin-dom of God through the lens of the Lord's Prayer.

Children will experience how they are unique members of God's kin-dom and learn they are also part of a larger community that welcomes all of God's children. Children will learn to see, hear, and love as Christ teaches through Scripture study, discussion, music, artistic expression, and even some opportunities to participate in outreach to others.

Kathy Cook is an active United Methodist who has served with UMWIM and UMCOR as well United Women in Faith. She pours her wealth of experience and enthusiasm for sharing Christ's love into this curriculum to draw children into the knowledge that they are unique and cherished members of God's kin-dom.



- This form can be found on the Michigan UMW Website, registration can be paid by check payable to: Mission u, or online at: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/>
- This link is also found on the website.
- The study books are available at: <https://uwfaith.org/events/mission-u/>
- If you prefer, you can order them to be picked up at Mission u . Please indicate this on the order form above.
- You can register for Mission u online at: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/> or scan the QR Code



This form MUST be filled out for Mission u NO OTHER FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Name: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Home Church: _____
 District: _____
 Youth/Children Name: _____ Age: _____

- | | |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Study Book Welcome Home | \$17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Study Book: Cultivating Symbiosis:
The Nature of God's Kin-dom | \$17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Study Book: Me in the Kin-dom! | \$17 |
| ALL BOOKS MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE AND
CAN BE ORDERED HERE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Registration (by June 15) | \$80 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Late Registration (after June 15) | \$90 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Admittance to Ziibiwing Center | \$4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (6th grade or older) | FREE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child (1st grade - 5th grade) | FREE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare (Kindergarten or younger) | FREE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donation Community Compassion Network
(the recipient of our Mission Focus) | _____ |

TOTAL DUE: _____

Late registration due by July 10

If sending a check, please make it payable to: **MISSION U**

Check all that apply:

Information:

- ☐ First time attending
- ☐ Conference Officer
- ☐ District Officer

- ☐ Study Leader
- ☐ Paid online
- ☐ Financial Assistance Applicant
- ☐ Laity
- ☐ Missionary

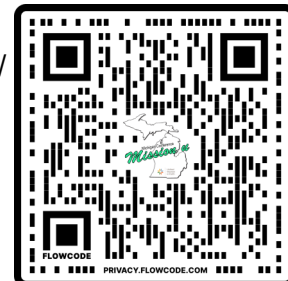
Special needs:

- ☐ Sign language interpreters
- ☐ Dietary requirements (specify) _____



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- You can register for Mission u online at: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/> or scan the QR Code



Send registrations BEFORE JUNE 18th to: Sally Messner, 8543 7 Mile Road, Evart MI 49631, AFTER JUNE 18th to: 1072 Stonehill Drive, Charlotte, MI 48813 mimissionu@gmail.com