

THE MESSENGER

News from the Mid-Michigan District
United Methodist Women

Volume 2, Issue 5

January 2020

DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE? A Leadership Lesson



What do you see? We likely see something different than the person next to us. It's fun to look at illusions like Rubin's Vase, but an important message to take from looking at the pictures is that we not only see things differently than other members in our circles and units, but our actions and reactions may be very different from the others. And, that's not bad! One area that leaders often struggle with is how to effectively communicate with the members in our units. The methods of communication are extremely varied today. We have written communications, text communications, phone communications, and sometimes we still have face to face communications.

John C. Maxwell is an American author, speaker and pastor who has written many books primarily focusing on leadership. According to Maxwell, without effective communication, you travel alone. He also says that effective communicators have EMPATHY - the ability to share in another's emotions and thoughts; effective communicators are good LISTENERS - when we listen and pay attention to people, we are showing our respect; effective communicators are COURTEOUS - respecting the receiver's culture, values and beliefs and that sends a message that is polite and unbiased.

Remember the first Great Communicator? Jesus used parables to communicate his stories, and they have certainly stood the test of time.

There are many characteristics found in great leaders. To name a few, there is LOVE for your purpose or organization; MODESTY; SELF-DEVELOPMENT - we're never too old to learn; MOTIVATION - we want to achieve; INTEGRITY - we do the right things for the right reasons; and, in our case, FOLLOWERS OF GOD'S WILL.

Here's a definition of leadership that I especially like: "True leadership is much more than authority and recognition from the outside world. Leadership is about developing people and helping others reach their full potential. It's about equipping others with the right tools and strategies not only to maximize the success of an organization (in our case, UMW) but also the lives of individuals [we serve]."

A leader must be able to share knowledge and ideas and to transmit a passion and enthusiasm to others. If a leader can't get a message across clearly and motivate others to act on it, having a message doesn't matter. Do you see what I see or hear?

Sharon Smith, Vice President
(517-648-1333) sharonanddicksmit@gmail.com

President's Column

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." -Psalms 118:24

The Lord gives us a new day when we awake each morning to do all the good we can in His name and we rejoice. Reflecting on 2019, I rejoice at what the Mid-Michigan District of United Methodist Women accomplished as we blended our units into a new district. We celebrate Epiphany, Spring Retreat, Annual Celebration, visited many units, and developed new standing rules. Many from the leadership team and units attended Mission u, Conference Annual and programs hosted by other Michigan districts and national office. We have a new year with 366 days to rejoice for what can be done in the name of our Lord. In fact, we have an extra day due to 2020 being a leap year. I look forward to our celebrations, and the leadership team will continue to visit with our units, participate in the conference and national United Methodist Women programs. Your input from the District Annual Celebration was helpful and we will do what we can to improve the program to better fit your needs as officers and members of United Methodist Women. If you should have any suggestions to make Mid-Michigan United Methodist Women a better district please forward them to me or any of the district leadership team members.

Please remember that the district leadership team is available to assist you with questions, suggestions, training, providing a program, guidance and visits. We aim for your units to have the most up-to-date information so you can do what you can for women, children and youth in our local areas, state, country and the world. I look forward to a great 2020 and meeting each of you.

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

DISTRICT FRIENDS

Included in this issue of *The Messenger* you will find a list of Mid-Michigan District Friends. Each District Leadership Team member has been assigned churches as a Friend. She is available to guide and keep you informed of what is going on in the District, Conference and Nationally regarding United Methodist Women. She is available to answer questions, train, provide guidance, programs and education. Please allow her to assist your unit to be the best it can. She would love to attend a meeting, activity or be the program.

Mid-Michigan District United Methodist Women
Leadership Team

2019 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Included in *The Messenger* January newsletter you will find the 2019 Membership Report. Please complete the form and mail it to Patty Puckett, 1868 Burrwood Circle, East Lansing Michigan 48823 no later than February 15, 2020. Include all unit members deceased or added between the dates of January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019. The deceased members will be recognized the Mid-Michigan District Annual Meeting in September 2020,

Mid-Michigan District UMW Friends List

Local units have been assigned a friend from the district leadership team. Please invite your district friend to a unit or circle meeting during 2020. District friends are also available to preside over induction of officers or present programs for your unit.

Churches/Units	Leadership Friend
Riverdale, St. Louis, Ithaca, Breckenridge, Alma	Karol Fry 517-525-6561
Mason, Leslie, Millville, Stockbridge	Karol Fry 517-525-6561
Carson City, St. John's First, Ovid, Maple Rapids, St. John's Pilgrim, Shepardsville	Linda Huyck 989-838-2523
Grand Ledge, Charlotte, Wacousta, Brookfield, Eaton Rapids	Beverly Sanders 517-887-7512 Sharon Smith 517-648-1333
Ashley, Banister, Pompeii, Chesaning, Henderson, Elsie	Waltha Gaye Levitt 989-640-0238
New Lothrop, Juddville, Owosso First, Owosso Trinity, Corunna, Vernon, Corunna NW	Donna Kleiver 517-663-4193
Bancroft, Morrice, Perry, Shaftsbury, Okemos	Judy Marr 517-655-2348
Fowlerville/Plainfield, Webberville, Williamston, Williamston Crossroads, Wheatfield	Jackie Ricketts 517-812-5107
Dimondale, East Lansing University, Holt, East Lansing Peoples	Patty Puckett 517-351-3151 Joyce Plumhoff 517-676-2716
Vermontville, Nashville, Peace, Dowling, Kalama, Delta Mills	Bernice Natoli 517-321-3070
Mulliken, Sunfield Freeport, Woodland, Hastings (Welcome Corners), Lake Odessa Central, Hastings (Green Street)	Rita Baird 517-589-9132
Lansing Asbury, Lansing Central, Lansing First, Lansing Mt. Hope, Lansing Grace, Lansing Sycamore Creek/Pottersville	Sharon Smith 517-648-1333
Portland, Laingsburg, Bath, St. Johns Campus of DeWitt Redeemer	Nancy Nay 517-676-3024

2019
Census

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Once again it is time for the 2019 **annual** United Methodist Women census for the national office. Every unit must submit their census information on line **no later than Monday, March 30, 2020**. Connect to this website -www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and click on the green box for 2019 Census as shown above and follow the online instructions.

If you do not have access to a computer, please contact you're District Friend (see the Friend listing in this copy of *The Messenger*) and she will complete the census with you.

In addition, **each member** of your unit should go online to register for her **annual** membership as a United Methodist Woman. This can be accomplished by someone in your unit who has access to a computer. The website is:

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/myUMW for individual registration.

Completing the census assists the national office in "sustainability and growth" of United Methodist Women. Please note that the census and membership registration are to be completed **ANNUALLY**.

"In 2020 the national will begin developing resources, launching targeted giving, piloting a soul care retreat model to introduce women to UMW and testing new, additional membership join options for potential members from various generations alongside of our current" join" model.

Donna Kleiver, President (517)663-4193
dmkleiver2016@gmail.com

2020 Mid-Michigan District United Methodist Women Goals

- Epiphany Celebration
- Spiritual Growth Retreat
- District Annual Celebration
- Improve communication with unit friends
- Publish newsletter, The Messenger, quarterly
- Add a district wide educational event
- Social Action emphasis on Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline and End Maternal Mortality
- Encourage the Reading Program
- Encourage attendance at a Mission u event



PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Mid-Michigan District UMW

2019 Membership Report

Please return the following names of new and deceased members no later than February 15, 2020 to:

Patty Puckett
1868 Burrwood Circle
East Lansing, Michigan 48823
(517-351-3151)

Name of Local Unit: _____

City: _____

Person Submitting Information: _____

Members deceased between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
New members acquired between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	

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Legacy Endowment Fund Endowment Campaign to Continue in 2020

The legacy fund reached \$48 million over the past four years but was short from reaching its \$60 million goal. As a result, the National Office of the United Methodist Women will be continuing to fund raise until their goal is reached. Go on the website of www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and click on 150.



Additional information as to how you or your unit can assist can be found under “Ways to Give.” This is a very important project to allow the 150 year legacy of United Methodist Women to continue and develop programs for future generations. If your unit needs assistance with this, please contact a member of the district leadership team.

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

UMW Reading Program

Beginning in January 2019, United Methodist Women Mission Resources will no longer stock books on the reading program list. This means that you will have to purchase books from Cokesbury, Amazon and other major retailers, often at less cost than offered by Mission Resources. If you order from Amazon, the books are shipped free if you are a Prime member. You may also contact your local library or the library in your church or a neighboring church.

The reading program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work. Most reading program books can also be found electronically for Kindle, Nook, tablets and other devices. For e-books free of charge, check your local library, Google e-book store, Project Gutenberg or Open Library.

2014 – 2020 Reading Lists are available online at www.umwmissionresources.org. If you do not have access to a computer, ask someone who assists you with computer issues or contact me. The **Reading Report Form** is also available on the website. Should you choose not to use the form, send me your book list on a piece of paper via US Mail or ask someone with a computer to send an email list the books you have read. All book lists are due to me by February 15, 2020.

The Response Magazine: Regular reading of this magazine is required for completion of the reading program. Please view the above website on how to subscribe. There should also be a copy for you to borrow from your church library. I realize that not everyone has access to a computer, so if you need assistance with anything, please contact me.

Karol Fry, Program Resource Coordinator
(517-525-6561) fry@msu.edu

Mission Today

Mission Today continues to be our road map for fulfilling the goals of United Methodist Women for 2019. With conference and district changes have come changes in the Mission Today unit goals to help us be more uniform in our approach. Elements of the past goals along with innovative ideas have resulted in the 2019 Mission Today unit goals.

These websites will give you a world of information on what is going on in mission and the Michigan Conference so check them out often:

www.umwmichiganconference.org

www.michiganumc.org

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org

The new goals make it easier for you to report on what you are doing in your unit. For example, you get credit just for sending in the completed form by the February 15 deadline each calendar year. To receive recognition as a FAITH unit; FAITH, HOPE unit; FAITH, HOPE, JOY unit; or FAITH, HOPE JOY, LOVE unit at the Mid-Michigan Conference Annual celebration, return your **2019 Mission Today** completed form to me by February 15, 2020. You will receive your certificate at the next Mid-Michigan Annual Conference to be held at St. Louis First UMC in September 2020. A copy of the form is included in this newsletter and outlines the goals.

I realize that not everyone has a computer or email, if I can be of assistance, please let me know.

Karol Fry, Education & Interpretation Coordinator:
(517-525-6561) fry@msu.edu



2019 Mission Today Unit Objectives

United Methodist Women - Michigan Conference

Please print clearly!

Name of Unit _____ District _____
 _____ (_____) _____
 Name _____ Telephone _____

 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____

A unit will receive a Certificate of Achievement upon completion of one of the following categories between January 1 through December 31, to be presented at their Annual Meeting the following October. Check the numbers completed.

- Units completing any 8 or more objectives will be a "FAITH" unit.
- Units completing 9 or more objectives, with 8 asterisks (*) will be a "FAITH" "HOPE" unit.
- Units completing 17 or more objectives, with 10 asterisks (*) will be a "FAITH" "HOPE" "JOY" unit.
- Units completing 25 or more objectives, with 12 asterisks (*) will be a "FAITH" "HOPE" "JOY" "LOVE" unit.

Mission Giving

- _____ 1. *Made and met its Pledge to Mission.
- _____ 2. *Became a 5-Star Unit by contributing to all 5 channels of undesignated giving.
- _____ 3. Donated to local women's shelter or children's/youth program.
- _____ 4. Offered scholarships to *Mission u* and/or other United Methodist Women activities.

Spiritual Growth

- _____ 5. Observed a Call to Prayer and Self Denial.
- _____ 6. Participated locally in a retreat, prayer vigil or Bible study.
- _____ 7. Attended a District Retreat, Spiritual Day Apart, or Prayer Breakfast/Brunch.

Membership

- _____ 8. *Added one new member from women who have joined the church in the current year.
- _____ 9. *Added one new member not included in above.

Attendance

- _____ 10. Invited a District or Conference officer (other than a member of the unit) to one meeting.
- _____ 11. Had a combined meeting with another United Methodist Women's unit.
- _____ 12. Attended Church Women United or other ecumenical group activity.
- _____ 13. *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended a conference *Mission u*.
- _____ 14. *At least two members (other than conference or district officer) attended the conference or district annual meeting/celebration.
- _____ 15. *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended the *District Elected Leadership Training*.

Mission Education

- _____ 16. *Unit or circle conducted at least one *Mission Study*.
- _____ 17. *Two members completed a *Reading Program Plan* and reported on one of the books.
- _____ 18. Participated in but did not complete the *Reading Program*.
- _____ 19. *Used two programs from the *Program Book*.
- _____ 20. *Used the *Prayer Calendar* regularly in the unit meetings.
- _____ 21. Communicated with five persons listed in the *Prayer Calendar*, one from Michigan Conference.
- _____ 22. *Unit had two members reading *response* each month.
- _____ 23. *Unit included a *response Moment* during its meeting using an article to tell our mission story.
- _____ 24. Unit had one *Social Action* program.

Mission Action

- _____ 25. *Participated in a District or Conference ingathering project.
- _____ 26. Had a member of United Methodist Women present a mission program for youth or children in the church.
- _____ 27. Had at least one member visit a United Methodist Mission Project and report to the unit.
- _____ 28. *Had at least one person receive and respond to legislative information from the United Methodist Women's Action Network.
- _____ 29. Unit or member participated in a workshop, seminar, or book study related to social concerns that stimulated and enriched the total community.
- _____ 30. *Unit participated in the *Campaign for Children* in at least two ways. Possibilities are:
- Co-sponsored with the local church, a Children's Sabbath.
 - Involved with mentoring, tutoring or "big sisters" programs.
 - Communicated with representatives advocating for children issues.
 - Attended a school board meeting.
- _____ 31. Made a pledge to care for God's creation and worked to become a "green" United Methodist Unit.
- _____ 32. *Implemented the Charter for Racial Justice policies in at least one way during the year.
- Possibilities include:
- Read books and articles about another race or culture.
 - Sponsor an inter-ethnic event between two or more units.
 - Recruit women of color to be members or officers of the unit.
 - Correspond with elected representatives to support legislation affecting issues such as immigration, affirmative action, civil rights, and programs for low-income persons, etc.
- _____ 33. Sent this completed form to your District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation by **deadline date:** February 1, 2020.

This year our Unit qualified as a Mission Today FAITH HOPE JOY LOVE unit. (Circle all that apply)



Send to your District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation:

**Karol Fry
601 Randolph
Mason, MI 48854**

Social Action Focus for 2020



As the new year draws near, let's prepare our hearts and minds for the focus issues of 2020: Criminalization of Communities of Color (The School-to-Prison Pipeline) and Maternal and Child Health. 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. Numerous studies have proven that early childhood education and competent literacy are key factors in preventing children and youth from dropping out of school and entering into the school-to-prison pipeline.

Matthew 19:14 instructs us: ...but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

As women of faith, we know that God wants all of His children to reach their full potential. And we can help. What can we do as United Methodist Women to interrupt this destructive pipeline ?

1. Educate yourself and others in your local unit, church and community about this issue.
2. Bring your talents to join existing local efforts in your communities to promote literacy programs and support at-risk youth.
3. Be the spark to assess the risk of the school-to-prison pipeline in your own community and partner with other leaders to create prevention strategies.
4. Support existing youth leaders and programs in your communities so that the voices and concerns of children and youth are heard.

Two good books on these issues are: ***Just Mercy*** by Bryan Stevenson and ***Push Out*** by Monique W. Morris.

If you would like to learn more or get involved in mission as a school-to-prison pipeline interrupter, please contact Emily Jones, Executive Director for Racial Justice: (212)8703773 ejones@unitedmethodistwomen.org
Psalm 127:3: "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord . . ."

Blessings for the new year!

Nancy Nay, Social Action Mission Coordinator
(517)676-3024 chicago868@gmail.com

Nominations Committee

Welcome to our new team members. We are all looking forward to another year of work in Missions. If you have been thinking about becoming involved in the district team, please complete the Talent form included in this newsletter and return to me.

Bernice Natoli, Chairperson Committee on Nominations (5105 Deanna Drive, Lansing, MI 48917)
(517-321-3070) bnatoli@provide.net.



TALENT SEARCH

THANK YOU for prayerfully considering serving with United Methodist Women at the district or conference level. Training and encouragement is always offered along the way. And, it's a great way to meet United Methodist Women from all over your district or our state.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Local Church _____

District _____

Employed or retired? Nature of Employment _____

Experience in United Methodist Women (anywhere):

Local level _____

District level _____

Conference _____

Areas of special interest and / or concern: _____

Special talents and / or skills: _____

You may consider my name for:

_____ any position on the District or Conference (circle which) UMW leadership team

_____ a specific position - identify _____

_____ Nothing at this time, but please keep my name on file and contact me later.

_____ Please call me, I have some questions I would like to ask.

Green Team News



Using the 13 United Methodist Women Principles When Planning Events

▶ **Principle 1: Accessibility**

Ask if your meeting venue complies with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), and ask the facility manager to show you how during your site inspection. When surveying meeting space possibilities, make sure rooms are accessible to people with disabilities.

▶ **Principle 2: Affordability**

Offer carpooling options for participants in order to provide no or low-cost transportation options for your event.

▶ **Principle 3: Carbon Footprint**

Choose a meeting venue that minimizes travel and encourage carpooling and/or public transportation through your registration process.

▶ **Principle 4: Healthy Food and Beverages**

Serve fair trade (and organic if possible) tea and coffee at your meeting.

▶ **Principle 5: Just Economic Opportunities**

Ask vendors, hotels and others you contract with to sign a statement attesting that they do not engage in or benefit from the use of child or slave labor or human trafficking.

▶ **Principle 6: Local Solidarity**

Use the local solidarity checklist to assess if there are opportunities to be in mission at your event.

▶ **Principle 7: Multigenerational Inclusion**

Offer child care to participants, making sure that at least two unrelated adults are present at all times with the children.

▶ **Principle 8: Paper Use**

Ensure any printed items are double-sided and duplicated on paper made with post-consumer recycled content.

▶ **Principle 9: Racial Justice**

Include a statement in your contracts, speaker agreements, attendee code of conduct, and, if relevant, exhibitor terms and conditions that expresses your intention to host an event that combats all forms of racism and oppression.

▶ **Principle 10: Toxin Reduction**

Be creative and wise about nametags. Invite participants to bring their own nametag (reusing one they already have). If you are supplying nametags, if possible reuse ones you already have. Be careful of the use of ribbons and other petroleum-based enhancements. If you need to buy more, choose a type that does not use PVC and eliminates unnecessary components like holders and pouches. Encourage attendees to turn in their name badge for reuse.

▶ **Principle 11: Waste Reduction**

Choose a meeting venue that provides recycling for plastic, paper, glass and metal.

▶ **Principle 12: Water Use**

Avoid or eliminate the use of individual bottled water. Encourage attendees to bring their own bottle for refilling and provide pitchers of water or bubblers and promote use of water fountains.

▶ **Principle 13: Well-being of Participants**

Provide a quiet space for meditation and prayer at the event. This may be a physical space and/or formal times on the agenda that are set aside for this kind of activity.

Calendar of Events	
Date	Events and Deadlines
December 1, 2019	PAST DUE: Local Unit Leadership Form for 2020
2020	
January 4	Epiphany Celebration at Eaton Rapids First UMC
January 23 - March 12	Tri-County Office on Aging Program: A Matter of Balance, for 8 Thursdays, held in the East Parlor of Mount Hope UMC. Free of charge but donations are accepted. A healthy snack and booklet are provided. To register, call the Tri-County Office on Aging at 517-887-1465.
February 8	United Methodist Women Greater Detroit District Annual Prayer Breakfast at Redford Aldersgate UMC, 10000 Beech Daly Road, Redford Charter Twp
February 15	Mission Today form due to Karol Fry
March 11	Mid-Michigan District Leadership Team Meeting at Millville UMC, Stockbridge, MI
March 11	The Messenger articles for the April issue due
April 4	Keep Making Peace at University UMC, East Lansing, MI
April 21	Spiritual Growth Retreat Registrations due
May 1-2	Spiritual Growth Retreat at St. Francis Treat Center, DeWitt, MI
May 28-31	Michigan UMW Annual Conference, Traverse City, MI
June 11	Mid-Michigan District Leadership Team Meeting at St. Louis First UMC, St. Louis, MI
June 11	The Messenger articles for the April issue due
July 8-11	Mission u of the West at Albion College, Albion, MI
July 25	One Day Mission u at Big Beaver UMC, Troy, MI
August 13-15	Mission u of the East at Lake Huron Retreat Center
September 9	Mid-Michigan District Annual Registrations due
September 9	Mid-Michigan District Leadership Team Meeting at Delta Mills UMC, Lansing, MI
September 9	The Messenger articles for the October issue due
September 16	Mid-Michigan District Annual Meeting at St. Louis UMC, St. Louis, MI
October 19-20	Mission u of the North at Gaylord UMC, Gaylord, MI
October 23-24	Michigan Conference UMW Annual at Kalamazoo First UMC, Kalamazoo, MI
December 2	Mid-Michigan District Leadership Team Meeting at Lansing First UMC, Lansing, MI
December 2	The Messenger articles for the January 2021 issue due



2020 Mid-Michigan Leadership Team

President: Donna Kleiver (517-663-4193)
dmkleiver2016@gmail.com

Vice President: Sharon Smith (517-648-1333)
sharonanddicksmi@gmail.com

Secretary: Rita Baird (517-589-9132)
camp2rit@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Jackie Ricketts (517-812-5107)
jricketts657@gmail.com

Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Judy Marr
(517-655-2348) marrvalley@gmail.com

**Membership, Nurture & Outreach
Coordinator:** Patty Puckett (517-351-3151)
woodstone1@sbcglobal.net

Social Action Coordinator: Nancy Nay
(517-676-3024) chicago868@gmail.com

Education & Interpretation Coordinator:
Karol Fry (517-525-6561)
fry@msu.edu

Program Resources Coordinator: Karol Fry
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bnatoli@provide.net

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The Messenger Editor: Lynda Crandall
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Registrar: Joyce Plumhoff (517-676-2716)
tplumhoff1858@gmail.com

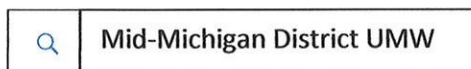
Ex-officio: WalthaGaye Leavitt (989-640-0238)
wally@cmsinter.net

MSU Wesley Foundation: position not filled



We are on Facebook!

Mid-Michigan District UMW is on Facebook. To find us on Facebook, use the search bar and type in Mid-Michigan District UMW. Look for the magnifying glass icon. Follow us on Facebook and share activities of your unit with the entire district.





Non-Profit Organization

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The Messenger
Mid-Michigan District
United Methodist Women

Mason First UMW
201 East Ash Street
Mason, MI 48854

Dates to Remember

January 4, 2020	Epiphany, Eaton Rapids UMC, Eaton Rapids, MI
April 4, 2020	Keep Making Peace, University UMC, East Lansing, MI
May 1-2, 2020	Spring Renewal, St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI
July 8-11, 2020	Mission u of the West, Albion College, Albion, MI