



THE ANCHOR

News from the Midwest District
United Methodist Women

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW DISTRICT PRESIDENT

We all think we know most everything about the groups we belong to. But I have learned a lot more about UMW over the last few months. Of course, we have all learned a lot about virtual events in the last year. We will learn more as time goes on.

I attended UMW National Leadership Development Days (LDD) in January. It was virtual which, for me, was a God send. I would not have been able to attend if I had to travel away from home for this event. On January 28, my 4th grandchild (girl) was born to my son Mark and his wife Danielle, and they invited me to spend the first week with them after they came home from the hospital. I attended LDD from the guest bedroom at my daughter's home in Howell. Then traveled the few miles to my son's home in Milford each day. Everyone is doing fine.

LDD had a session specifically for District Presidents. It was a joy to attend this session! I learned that some district presidents travel many miles from one side of their district to the other. It takes some a day to travel this distance. We complain about going two hours. Let us rejoice that we do not have to travel great distances to see each other.

I hope we can meet in person sometime this year. We will look for ways to meet safely. We already know that the Spiritual Growth Retreat and Mission U will be virtual. Look for event details in this newsletter and please consider offering a watch party for your local unit if you are comfortable with meeting in small groups. I recently hosted a watch party with a group of farm friends and can give you details for set-up. My contact information is below.

Next, I need your help. We are still looking for a District Treasurer. Could you share your talents with the district and serve as our Treasurer? Also, we need to know who our members are. Can you please send me a list of your unit officers with contact information? Let's continue to pray for a joyful year with all of our fellow UMW members.



Jean Sherman, District UMW President
sherdairy1@gmail.com (note new email)
(231) 519-2542

BLOOMING IN THE SONSHINE

I invite you to picture yourself as a plant. You've perhaps felt dormant during the winter months or maybe even since we pretty much went on lockdown last spring. But now it is a new season and what are plants doing? They are showing new life. They have not died, though old leaves and stalks have that appearance. As the warmth of the sun and the moisture of melted snow and warm rain come, new life is ready to spring up from the hidden seed or bulb. How is this related to you?



Have these past months been a time of rest? Are you now restless and ready to “do something”? Did the season of Lent and its encouragement to focus on your relationship with God prepare you to burst forth with joy as you experience the message of Easter?

Like the plant, we all have had times of dormancy. Then something happens. Perhaps we are warmed by a kind act or thoughtful comment from a friend. Maybe we receive the “fertilizer” of a new insight as we read or hear scripture, a book or poem, or listen to or sing a song. Sprouts of spiritual energy begin to unfurl. And then, we burst forth. We are ready to reach out. We cannot be contained below ground. We are ready to share. We want to care for and about others. We do this in response to the love God is giving us. Consider what action you can take to show this blessing in your life.

A blossom shares its fragrance. Know that God has put into seeds and bulbs their destiny. When we recognize that He has made us for a purpose in a similar way, it encourages us to absorb His loving warmth, the nutrients of the words of scripture and kind actions and examples of others and become all we are meant to be. We are blessed to grow spiritually, not to keep it to ourselves, but to share it in our world, near and far.

May you discover ways to express that you have grown in the Sonshine and may that add to your joy as you bless others.

Ann Scott
District Spiritual Growth Coordinator
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OUR TREASURER IS RETIRING! CAN YOU HELP?

The sun is shining, the snow has melted, Spring is in the air. I would like to thank all of you for the help you have given me, especially your friendships. I will miss being with you at our meetings and events. March 31st is my retirement date. I have enjoyed being your Treasurer these past 6+ years.

As of this date we do not have a Treasurer. Please prayerfully consider serving this position. In the meantime, send your remittances to our interim Treasurer, Sara Wolfsen. Her contact information is below.

Blessings to all of you,
Betty VanderWal

**ATTENTION UNIT TREASURERS:
NEW CONTACT AND REMITTANCE ADDRESS**
Sara Wolfsen, 7476 Orchard Circle, Fremont, MI 49412
(231) 830-4092, saraw1104@gmail.com

SOCIAL ACTION NEWS

So how does a United Methodist Woman remain active in social justice work in a time of pandemic? Limited travel, restricted interaction with family and friends, plus the technology challenges of those Zoom meetings have made life interesting. Reading, prayer, and trying to stay engaged in the world beyond the "safe bubble" has prompted some suggestions to share:

- Zoom meetings are convenient, but work towards in-person conversation/contact in terms of decision making.
- Try a Virtual Mission experience like the Spring Spiritual Growth Retreat or Mission u. The North Central Jurisdiction has some listings for both international or domestic possibilities.
- Define what "diversity", "equity", and "inclusion" mean to you and your faith/work community - then practice being who you are.
- Donate to the groups that fit your social justice and social action goals.
- Take care of yourself, mentally and physically. Talk in person, get outside and do what is important to you.

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." – Micah 6:8

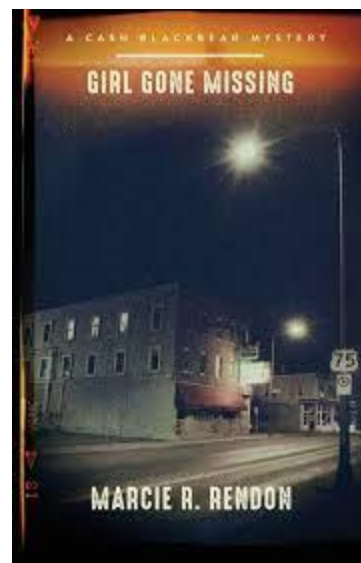
United Methodist Women are always up to a challenge! Let's continue to do as the Lord requires.

Jody Pratt, Social Action Coordinator
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GIRL GONE MISSING: A Book Review

I have always liked a good mystery and usually choose that genre when I am looking for a new book to read, so I was intrigued when I saw that the 2021-2022 Reading Program List has a couple mysteries listed. *Girl Gone Missing* by Marcie R. Rendon is in the Social Action category. This book definitely has a different feel than the books we usually read from the UMW Reading List.

The author is a citizen of the White Earth Nation and the heroine of *Girl Gone Missing*. Cash Blackbear is a 19 year old Anishinabe woman living on her own in Fargo, North Dakota. She learns of a couple of local girls who have disappeared and she dreams that she is helping to find them.



While the story is entertaining, don't expect to have big insights into solving problems or saving the world. What this book will do is make you question some of the past programs and practices of our country (Indian separation and boarding, Indian Adoption Project, Viet Nam War). The story is set in the 1970's so it's a blast from the past for some of us! Miniskirts, bell bottoms, antiwar protests, and more reminders of the 70's are part of this book. The story is really about girls sold into white slavery which is still a worldwide problem today. In 2019 close to 3,000 Native women in the US and 4,000 in Canada were murdered or reported missing. The author is hoping to shed light on this current problem while also honoring the missing and dead.

Give this book a try and let me know what kinds of discussions might come forth from it. I think that is really the goal of the Reading Program. *The Bird Boys* by Lisa Sandlin, is another mystery that you might question it's place on the UMW List. Give it a try; it might lead to a good discussion anyway!

As always, contact me if I can help with anything related to the Reading Program.



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Reading Program book list and details can be found here:
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>

UMW GIVING: WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?

Greetings! I know 2020 has been a long and difficult year for many of us, but I'm hopeful that 2021 will be much better. My husband and I recently received our second COVID vaccinations, and the Spartans have finally won a few basketball games, so life is good! Hope this finds all of you feeling more positive, too.

One of the responsibilities of the Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation is to educate about – and to promote – all channels of Mission Giving. You are probably aware of the Five Channels of Giving, which are the ways that members give undesignated funds to the national organization. These include the Pledge to Mission, World Thank Offering, Gift in Memory, Gift in Mission, and Special Mission Recognition. A portion of the Pledge to Mission is kept by our own conference to be used for our district and conference administrative and membership development (A&MD) expenses. This helps with the cost of district and conference events, such as scholarships to events, childcare expenses, postage and supplies, officer and committee expenses. The remainder of the Pledge to Mission and all money received from the other four channels of Mission Giving is sent on to the national office, where the Board of Directors decides on the Mission Giving budget for each year.

The Mission Giving budget for the national office goes to support programs in the United States and around the world that benefit women, children and youth - thereby impacting entire communities. Mission Giving monies are used to support national mission institutions, regional missionaries, grants and scholarships, as well as service and advocacy. Here is a link to the 2021 “Where the Money Goes” page that I find very informative for understanding where our Mission Giving money goes (<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/wherethemoneygoes2021>). Consider printing and sharing it with your local unit to help your members better understand how our mission dollars work.

If you would like to learn more about mission giving, there is lots of information available on the United Methodist Women's website (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org). Also, I would encourage you to attend District and Conference events, such as Mission U and our annual meetings, and to read the *Response Magazine*. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or anyone on our committee.



Blessings!
Judy Huynh
District Education & Interpretation Coordinator
(269) 838-1804
judyhuynh@gmail.com

Mid-Michigan and Midwest Districts United Methodist Women present

2021 SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT VIA ZOOM

Saturday, May 1, 2021 10 a.m. - 12 noon-ish

Please join us for a program that we all need to hear! The topics will be presented by RUTH JONES who is currently the Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth for the Michigan Conference UMW. Many of you have participated in Ruth's programs across the state and know you are in for a treat!

What are the topics?

****BOLD BY DESIGN****

****VIRTUE DURING A VIRUS****

****BE YE FLEXIBLE****

There is no charge to participate in this zoom event. If you would like, contributions may be made to Haven House of East Lansing. Haven House provides emergency housing and support services for one-parent and two-parent families with children. The shelter helps families who are homeless prepare for permanent housing by developing and promoting self-sufficiency, stability, and financial responsibility.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 25, 2021

Please use one form per person. Please PRINT.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

DISTRICT _____ LOCAL CHURCH _____

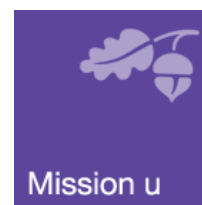
EMAIL _____ DONATION ENCLOSED _____

If donating, please make check payable to Mid-Michigan District UMW. Send registration to Joyce Plumhoff, 1858 W. Columbia Rd., Mason, MI 48854

Register by email by providing the same detailed information to Joyce at tplumhoff1858@gmail.com

MISSION U UPDATE:

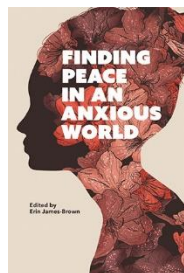
Mission u is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society based on current mission study topics with particular attention to the responsibilities of women in fulfilling the mission work of the church.



Participants grow in understanding the mission of the church in the current world context. Conference events are open to members and non-members of United Methodist Women. Due to the pandemic, Mission u will be hosted virtually in July and August. We hope to offer an in-person option in October. See details below:

FINDING PEACE IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD (2020 Spiritual Growth Study)

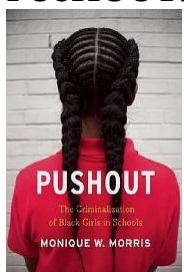
Available now – download class recordings at www.umwmichiganconference.org/MissionuVideos.html



This encouraging study uses the book of Proverbs and “The Serenity Prayer” as a guide to help Christians find their way through anxiety, worry, and fear and move towards God’s peace that surpasses all understanding. This study explores ways to discover peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines so that we can be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Christ. The four chapters of this study focus on different aspects of the prayer—serenity, acceptance, courage, and wisdom — and each concludes with a spiritual practice to help further develop the featured characteristic in your life.

PUSHOUT: THE CRIMINALIZATION OF BLACK GIRLS IN SCHOOLS (Social Action Study)

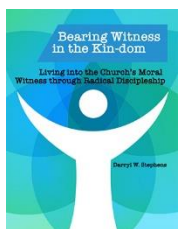
Virtual Session scheduled for July 9-10, 2021



Despite increased attention to the mass and over-incarceration of black men, the plight of criminalized black women and girls is overlooked, underreported and under analyzed. Monique W. Morris' *Pushout* shows how even with obstacles, stigmas, stereotypes and despair, black girls still find ways to breathe remarkable dignity into their lives in classrooms, juvenile facilities and beyond, and challenges the rest of us to do the same.

BEARING WITNESS IN THE KIN-DOM: LIVING INTO THE CHURCH'S MORAL WITNESS THROUGH RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (Spiritual Growth Study)

Virtual Session scheduled for August 13-14, 2021



In Jesus' own words, he came to bring good news to the poor, release the captives, restore sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free. What is the responsibility of the church to follow Christ's example in word and deed? While these times might feel particularly turbulent, society has always confronted the church with challenging issues where she has had to discern how God was calling her. The church's track record in these moments is far from perfect. The purpose of this study is to help the church and its members discern our call and bear witness to the will of God for a more just world. Written by Darryl W. Stephens.

As of this printing, Mission u of the North is set for in-person learning on October 18-19, 2021 at First UMC of Gaylord. Cost is \$70 plus overnight lodging. Watch for updates.

Questions or to RSVP for virtual learning, email mimissionu@gmail.com with your name, district, church, and dates of attendance.



Mission u

There's Far More Here

THAN MEETS THE EYE

So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without [God's] unfolding grace. [...] There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18, The Message (MSG)

We have known and felt what it is like when "things are falling apart on us." We have experienced a great unraveling that has shifted, quite literally, everything.

Could there be, as 2 Corinthians put it, "far more here than meets the eye"?

Mission u, like many activities in our lives, has moved online. While virtual, we are still creating spaces for spiritual community, lifelong friendships, lessons that change us and our communities, and spiritual practices that arrive when we need them most. In a time when it looks like things are falling apart on us, God's grace is still unfolding and life is being made new.

Indeed: There's far more here than meets the eye.

Will you join us?

At our upcoming **Mission u**, we will examine anxiety, the culture of violence that impacts children in and out of schools, and how we as God's people can deepen our moral witness and respond faithfully.

Our 2021 **Mission u** will offer the following studies:

- **Finding Peace in an Anxious World**, edited by Erin James-Brown
- **Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools** by Monique Morris
- **Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship** by Darryl W. Stephens

Join us:

Available Now: **Finding Peace in an Anxious World**, edited by Erin James-Brown
at: <https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/MissionuVideos.html>

July 9-10, 2021 VIRTUAL: **Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools**
by Monique Morris (FREE)

August 13-14, 2021 VIRTUAL: **Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship**
by Darryl W. Stephens (FREE)

October 18-19, 2021: Mission u of the North, Gaylord UMC – \$70
Payable to: Mission u. Lodging is on your own

RSVP: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/>

Or email to: MIMissionu@gmail.com Name, District, Church, and Dates attending.

Mail check/info to: Sally Messner, 124 Boyd Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633



MIDWEST DISTRICT LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES



Fall 2021 Classes

These classes will be held in October either in-person or by ZOOM. Watch for details.

- Basic Class
- United Methodist Polity
- Social Principles

To subscribe to the Midwest District Lay Servant Ministries newsletter, email Coordinator Sara Wolfesen at saraw1104@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

For more information, contact Michigan Volunteers In Mission Coordinator Jody Pratt at (616) 292-4908 or email prattgji09@gmail.com

April/May 2021

Peruvian UMW are part of a second project to provide food bags for those requiring support. UMW Regional Missionary Andrea R. Soares is one of the organizers. Our UMW funds at work!

October 9-19, 2021

Peru Health Care 2021 Mission Trip

Denise Schuitema (Shelby UMC) is one of several health workers traveling on this trip. Contact Jody Pratt for more information on donation needs or to participate.

January 15-22, 2022

Michigan Conference Volunteers to Puerto Rico

Limit: 8 participants

Contact Jody for trip details including travel, activities and costs.



MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**2021 Budget vs Actual as of February 28, 2021**

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
Pledge To Missions	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 8,239.32
ADMINISTRATION & MEMBER DEVELOPMENT (A&MD)		
CONFERENCE EVENTS		
Annual Meeting	200.00	-
Mission u	1,600.00	-
Other	-	-
Total Conference Events	<u>\$ 1,800.00</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
DISTRICT EVENTS		
Annual Meeting	1,000.00	-
Spiritual Growth Retreat	1,500.00	-
Other:	2,000.00	-
Spring Fling \$1,000.00		
TBD \$1,000.00		
Total District Events	<u>\$ 4,500.00</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
<i>(travel, meals, supplies, printing, child care, honoraria, scholarships - local women)</i>		
OFFICER EXPENSES		
Audit	150.00	150.00
Bank Expense	75.00	-
Dependent Care (not at event)	100.00	-
Mileage (meetings)	800.00	-
Resources, Subscriptions	50.00	-
Postage, Shipping (not for events)	50.00	-
Supplies, Printing (not for events)	50.00	-
Total Officer Expenses	<u>\$ 1,275.00</u>	<u>\$ 150.00</u>
OTHER EXPENSES		
Anchor, Directory, MeetingProg	2,000.00	-
Books, Program Resources	300.00	-
District SMR, Gift in Memory, etc.	80.00	-
Miscellaneous	50.00	-
Total Other Expenses	<u>\$ 2,430.00</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
TOTAL BUDGETED A&M EXPENSES	<u>\$ 10,005.00</u>	<u>\$ 150.00</u>
APPROVED 2021 BUDGET	<u>\$ 40,005.00</u>	<u>\$ 150.00</u>
Mission: Income: \$8,239.32		
Expense: \$8,239.32		
Available \$0.00		
A&MD: Income: \$2,501.25		
Expense: \$150.00		
Available \$2,828.92		
2020 Year End: \$477.67		
Checkbook balance: February 28, 2021	\$ 2,828.92	

MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRESIDENT:

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VICE PRESIDENT:

Open

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(Reading Program):**

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**MEMBERSHIP
NURTURE &
OUTREACH:**

Open

SOCIAL ACTION

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prattgji09@gmail.com

HELP WANTED:

Would you like to serve on our district team? We are looking for the following members:



- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Social Action
- Membership Nurture and Outreach

If you would like to learn more about a role, or would like to nominate a friend, please contact a board member. Board meets four times per year. Benefits include paid event registrations and mileage reimbursement.

The ANCHOR, Midwest District United Methodist Women newsletter is published four times yearly – February, May, August and December.

Copy deadlines: 3/10, 6/10, 8/10, 11/10

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The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women:

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 community; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in global ministries of the church.



2021 IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE:

✂ clip and save ✂

- ➔ **May 1**, Spiritual Growth Retreat via Zoom, Virtual Event (registration details page 6)
- ➔ **July 9-10**, Mission u Social Action Study: *Pushout*, Virtual Event
- ➔ **August 13-14**, Mission u Spiritual Growth Study: *Bearing Witness*, Virtual Event
- ➔ **Saturday, September 18**, District Annual Gathering, Holland First UMC
- ➔ **October 18-19**, Mission u of the North, Gaylord, MI
- ➔ **Saturday, October 23**, Conference Annual Celebration, Westwood UMC, Kalamazoo
- ➔ **Thursday, November 4**, Evening Apart (tentative)