THE ANCHOR

News from the Midwest District United Women in Faith



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

What a year this has been! United Methodist Women is now **United Women in Faith**. If you have not checked out the new website please do this. I know it can be confusing but check out what is there. Explore the types of membership. Look at the logo and its uses.

And explore the 2023 Reading Program List. I usually start reading the books from the reading list but never finish even the beginning level. This year I have started reading the book entitled "Cousins, Connected Through Slavery". I downloaded this and another book to my Kindle. I challenge you to read more. I will be checking the local library to see what books I can get from them.

I want to congratulate the Georgetown UWF unit. They attended Spring Fling last spring and learned about the chance to get a Racial Justice grant to do a program. They submitted and received a grant to travel to Big Rapids to the Jim Crow museum. Per Joan they had a great time and learned a lot. Racial Justice program grants are still available.

See all at the next Spring Fling on Saturday March 18, 2023. Yes, it is on a Saturday. We want to be able to offer events that all women can attend. I do not like giving up my Saturdays either but working women need to be able to attend meetings, too.

Happy New Year!
Jean Sherman
Midwest District UWF President
sherdairy1@gmail.com
(231) 519-2542

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE NAME CHANGE AND NEW LOOK?

Read the March/April 2022 edition of *Response Magazine*. Download a free edition HERE.

SPRING FLING

Saturday, March 18, 2023 Sparta UMC Details and registration form is on page 5



SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

Friday and Saturday, May 12-13, 2023 St. Francis Conference Center, DeWitt, Michigan Contact: Audrey Putman | (517) 482-2023

MISSION U - MICHIGAN

July 13-15, 2023 | Mt. Pleasant UMC Programming for adults, youth and children Purchase your Study Guide <u>here</u>.

MIDWEST DISTRICT ANNUAL CELEBRATION & LUNCHEON

Saturday, September 16, 2023 Hart UMC

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE 5TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Saturday, October 28, 2023 Holt UMC

EVENING APART

Thursday, November 2, 2023, 6 p.m. Location to be determined

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS ARE OPEN

I want to encourage YOU to look at the open positions for the district officers. I have found being a part of the district leadership team to be a great experience. Until I became part of the team, I was quite unaware of the purposes and many programs that are a part of UWF. The more I've learned and experienced the more I appreciate the potential we have to become more effective in making our communities and the world more like the kingdom of God. There is much room for creativity and growth as you serve. You will experience support and encouragement from others. Again, I urge you to share your gifts and energy for UWF.

Ann Scott, Secretary, Midwest District UWF (616) 696-1567, momice4014@qmail.com

NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT TREASURER

Midwest District's Mission Pledge for 2022 was \$25,000. That money comes from the pledges and supplemental giving from local units along with some of the offerings received at District events. I received \$27,640.88 in Pledges through December 5, 2022, and \$200 that was forwarded to the National office for the Legacy Fund. I'm excited to be able to report that we not only met our Pledge for 2022 but we surpassed it. Thank you!

2023 Pledges were collected at the District Annual Meeting in September. If you haven't made a Pledge for 2023, prayerfully consider what your unit can do. Setting goals keeps us mindful of how we can help women, children, and youth around the world. Our 2023 Pledge is \$25,000.

In early November I prepared letters to the treasurers of the active units in our District, confirming what each unit has sent in towards their 2022 Pledge as of October 31, 2022. I received eight (8) checks before the December 5th deadline. Again, I'm happy to report that five (5) Units met the challenge to give in all Five Channels of Giving: Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering. Congratulations to Fremont, Georgetown, Grand Haven Church of the Dunes, Hart, and Muskegon Central for being 5 Channel Units. Certificates of 5 Channel Giving will be mailed to those Units in January. (When we merged with the Detroit area, we also accepted the wording of "5-Star Units." Both certificates are available; if your Unit prefers to receive a 5-Star Unit Certificate, let me know.)

If any units have new treasurers coming on in January 2023, please make sure they get in touch with me to provide their name, address, and email address. I plan to get in touch with each treasurer in the new year but please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

I loved the beautiful Fall days with glorious colors and unseasonably warm temperatures we had even into December. Those days dwindled fast as late December brought lots of snow for the Christmas holidays! I pray that the Winter will bring new joys to each of you and new inspiration in finding ways to continue funding our mission work through United Women in Faith. May God bless you and keep you in His loving care.



Shalom, Penny Brubaker, Treasurer Midwest District UWF 432 N. York Rd. Hart, MI 49420 Call: (231) 873-3124

pennybrubaker99@gmail.com (note new email address)

HEY READERS!

I am so excited by the 2023 Reading List! It has some GREAT titles and something for everyone! Bestselling historical fiction, memoirs, and children's books can be found in each of the categories which makes it easy for those who are not big readers to complete the program (along with reading *Response magazine*). There are even **three movies** listed this year that count for credit. The list can be found on the United Women of Faith website: Reading Program | United Women in Faith (uwfaith.org) Check it out!

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michelle Richardson is one of my favorites in the Education for Mission category. As a person who loves books and believes in the power they have over a person, this historical fiction spoke to me. It's the story of Cussy Mary Carter and her quest to bring reading material to remote parts of eastern Kentucky through President Franklin Roosevelt's WPA project called the Kentucky Pack Horse library service. Cussy faces not only hardships in traveling to hard-to-reach areas on her mule Junia, but also faces discrimination, racism, and violence as a "blue". Her skin is blue because of a lack of oxygen in her blood; a genetic condition called methemoglobinemia.

This book is well researched and portrays the hard conditions the Pack Librarians faced including lack of reading materials, often bringing months old magazines, recipes and sewing patterns, and rejection as a book woman. Many of the patrons had to be "won over" to the idea that reading would not make their children lazy. Cussy's job was even harder because of her blue skin.

The characters in this book are riveting and Cussy is so lovable. She perseveres and brings not only reading material and food to her patrons but also hope and second chances. This story celebrates the power of books and community! It's a fictionalized account of true events so we can learn while enjoying the story of Cussy, and I can't think of a better reason to read a book! (And after you fall in love with this one, read *The Book Woman's Daughter*, a sequel to *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*.

This is my last official article for *The Anchor* as your Coordinator for Program Resources but I hope to see all of you at future UWF events. I am always happy to talk about books and reading so feel free to contact me.



Connie Swinger
(616) 813-4670, connieswinger@att.net
Reading Program book list and details can be found here:
Reading Program | United Women in Faith (uwfaith.org)

Spring Fling 2023



The Migratory Farm Family: Facts and Myths

9:30 a.m. Check-in ● 10:00 a.m. Welcome and Program

Together we will learn about the variations of lifestyles of migratory farm workers in Michigan, including the social and economic impact on West Michigan. During our keynote session, our speakers will share facts and dispel myths and stereotypes. We will also discuss the needs of the migrant workers, partnering agencies that support Migrant families in West Michigan, and how to support Farmworkers in West Michigan. Enjoy lunch and afternoon break-out sessions.

Featured Speakers:

ANGIE GUTIERREZ has worked in Migrant Education for the past 22 years. Angie has worked in all different aspects in the Migrant Program, but values her time spent as a recruiter working with the families in the Migrant Camps as some of her most valuable experience. Parent engagement and making sure all voices are heard and included is especially important in her line of work. Angie currently oversees recruitment and support services for Migrant Farmworker families in Region 2 for twenty counties in Michigan. She is also the Whole Child Administrator for the Van Buren County Intermediate School District.

SARA LEDESMA has worked for Van Buren Intermediate Schools as the recruiter for over twenty years. As a recruiter her job is to support Migrant families by registering their children for school, refer the families to agencies that support Migrant farm workers, and advocate for the families. Sara is currently the Migrant School to home Liason for the Van Buren Intermediate School District. She is the Lead Recruiter for Region 2 and Van Buren local recruitment. Sara has spent a lot of time over the past two years in Sparta, Nunica, Ravenna, and throughout West Michigan to recruit eligible Migrant families.

INGATHERING: travel-size personal care items for Migrant Farmworker families.

Registration Cost: \$15 by March 11th. Use one form per person. Please print.				
Name:	Church:			
Address:	Phone: ()			
Email:	_ Amount Enclosed: \$			
Special Dietary Needs:				
Cost: \$15 by March 11 th . Make checks payable to: <i>Midwest District UMW</i> Send registrations to: Sue Van Portfliet, 1333 Ravanna Drive SE, Grand Rapids MI 49508				

JUDY'S FAREWELL

At the end of 2022, I completed my term as Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation for the Midwest District team. It has been a wonderful four years, which I have really enjoyed. We are now looking for someone to fill this position. If you are interested, contact me or our president, Jean Sherman. (Our contact information is at the end of this newsletter.)

It is a great opportunity to work with a team of dedicated women who are kind, caring, and fun, and who are working to create a more just and peaceful world. My decision to become a District Officer for United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith several years ago was one of the best decisions I've ever made; I'm sure you will feel the same.

In this newsletter, you will find the 2022 Mission Today Unit Objectives. Please fill out the form for your unit and return it to Jean Sherman, Midwest District United Women in Faith president, by February 1, 2023. If you have not seen these objectives before, they are very helpful when planning for your unit for the year.

Also in this newsletter, you will find information about becoming a Five Star Person. This is great way to support the mission work of the United Women in Faith. Please consider becoming a Five Star Person this year.

Although my time as a district officer is over, I will be serving as the Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation on the Michigan Conference team beginning in January, 2023. I look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events throughout the year.



Blessings!
Judy Huynh
Education & Interpretation Coordinator
Michigan Conference UWF
(269) 838-1804
judylhuynh@gmail.com

2022 Mission Today Unit Objectives United Women in Faith - Michigan Conference

Please print clearly!		
Name of Unit	District	
()	
	phone	
City	State	Zip
Email		
A unit will receive a Certificate of Achievement up between <u>January 1 through December 31</u> , to be pre October. Check the numbers completed. • Units completing any 8 or more objectives will be a units completing <u>9</u> or more objectives, with 8 asters. • Units completing <u>17</u> or more objectives, with 10 astronomy. • Units completing <u>17</u> or more objectives, with 12 astronomy. • Units completing <u>25</u> or more objectives, with 12 astronomy.	sented at their Annual "FAITH" unit. sks (*) will be a "FAIT erisks (*) will be a "FA	I Meeting the <u>following</u> I'M' "HOPE" unit. AITH" "HOPE" "JOY" unit.
 Mission Giving 1. *Made and met its Pledge to Mission. 2. *Became a 5-Star Unit by contributing to all 3. Donated to local women's shelter or children 4. Offered scholarships to Mission u and/or oth 	's/youth program.	
 Spiritual Growth 5. Observed a Call to Prayer and Self Denial. 6. Participated locally in a retreat, prayer vigil of the properties. 7. Attended a District Retreat, Spiritual Day Appears to the properties. 	· ·	st/Brunch.
Membership8. *Added one new member from women who9. *Added one new member not included in ab	v	in the current year.
Attendance 10. Invited a District or Conference officer (oth11. Had a combined meeting with another Unit12. Attended Church Women United or anothe13. *At least one member (other than conference14. *At least two members (other than conference15. *At least one member (other than conference15. *At least one member (other than conference16. *At least one member (other than conference17. *At least one member (other than conference	ed Women in Faith's ur r ecumenical group act re or district officer) att re or district officer) a	nit. tivity. tends a conference Mission u. ttended the conference or

Mission 1	Education 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 <i>Prayer Calendar</i> 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.
	*Unit included a response Moment during its meeting using an article to tell our mission story.
24.	Unit had one Social Action program.
Mission A	Action
25.	*Participated in a District or Conference ingathering project.
26.	Had a member of United Women in Faith 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
	Women in Faith'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 Women in
	Faith 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.
22	
33.	Sent this completed form to your District President by deadline date: February 1, 2023.
This year	our Unit qualified as a Mission Today FAITH HOPE JOY LOVE unit.
	ll that apply)



Send to your Midwest District President:

Jean Sherman 8465 W. 16th St. Fremont, MI 49412 Phone: (231) 519-2542

Email: sherdairy1@gmail.com





2022 Five Star Person

Michigan Conference United Women in Faith [The 5 Channels of Giving are represented by the 5 points of the "5-Star" Pin.]

Give this form and your donations to your UNIT TREASURER. She will send it to the District Treasurer. You will receive a "5 Star" pin and certificate which will be presented to you at your District Annual Meeting in 2023 (usually September or October).

Your Name: ______Phone: ______Phone:

10	ui Name					
Yo	ur Address:					
Yo	ur Unit:					
1.	Pledge to Mission - An individual member's pledge to mission is the amount she/he decides is her/his share of the local unit's budget. (A unit Pledge to Mission is the portion of its budget which is set as a got to send through district and conference treasurers to the National United Methodist Women for support of mission programs beyond its community. The decision about the amount to be pledged is the responsibility of the unit. The remainder of the unit's funds are used for administration and membershidevelopment expenses, and for local missions supported by the unit.) Your Pledge amount \$ (choose one: □ enclosed □ already given to unit)					
2.	Special Mission Recognition ("SMR" - minimum \$40) - A gift to mission in honor of any person in amounts of \$40, \$60, \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1000, and \$2000. For each gift an oval gold pin with a cross and a certificate with the name of the honoree and the giver are provided by the National UMW Mission Resource through the District Treasurer. Your local treasurer will fill out a Special Mission Recognition Form with the following information: Amount of Gift \$ (\$40 minimum) Name of Honoree: Gifts may also be made in honor of a group or without an honoree's name.					
3.	Gift to Mission (minimum \$5) - A gift of \$5 or more for mission may be made in honor of any individual, and a card will be provided for you to send to the honoree. Cards available are: Baby, Special Day, Thank You, Thinking of You, Happy Birthday, Christmas, Congratulations, In the Service of Christ, and Peace. You need not provide the name of the individual honored. Amount of Gift \$ Type of Card Requested					
4.	Gift in Memory (minimum \$5) - Gifts may be made in memory of any individual, in the amount of \$5 or more. Gift in Memory cards, available free, will be provided to send to the family of the deceased. You need not provide the name of the individual or the family. Amount of Gift \$					
5.	World Thank Offering - Spontaneous additional gifts can be given in gratitude for God's abundance and in celebration of the joys of life. This is an opportunity to respond to God's grace one time or collect coins throughout the year. Amount of Gift \$ (choose one: □ enclosed □ already given to unit)					

YOU ARE A FIVE STAR PERSON!

**Please give your completed form and donations to your UNIT TREASURER.

SPRING LAY SERVANT CLASSES ANNOUNCED

Saturdays: March 11 and 25, 2023 9:00-3:00 p.m. at Fremont UMC Cost is \$15 includes lunch both days. Materials must be purchased on your own; a link will be provided upon registration. Click <u>HERE</u> to register by February 28. Class size is limited.



Introduction to Lay Ministry: The Basic Course

This course is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in consistent spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship.

Instructor: Sarah Zachow

<u>Advanced Course: Living our United Methodist Beliefs</u> (United Methodist Heritage)

(required for Lay Speaker Certification)

This course will explore the special gifts of theology, witness, and organization that The United Methodist Church brings to the church universal, how we got where we are today, and how our distinctive emphases are still needed in the 21st-century church.

Instructor: Rev. Ron Iris, Ludington UMC

<u>Advanced Course: Dancing with Words (Storytelling I)</u>

Participants in this course will learn what constitutes a good story, discover storytelling styles, learn the techniques of effective storytelling, and practice creating stories from their experiences.

Instructors: Dave Gombert and Jody Pratt

To subscribe to the Midwest District Lay Servant Ministries newsletter or register for a class, email District Coordinator Sara Wolfsen at saraw1104@gmail.com.



2023 UNIT LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Help us keep our records current and save postage costs by completing this form and returning it by **February 15**th to District Communications Coordinator:

Sara Wolfsen, 7476 Orchard Circle, Fremont, MI 49412

Church Name:				
President:	E-mail:			
Vice President:	E-mail:			
Secretary:	E-mail:			
Treasurer:	E-mail:			
Other officers and/or women wishing to receive	e UMW newsletters:			
Name:	E-mail:			
Mailing addresses can be provided for those who do not have access to e-mail.				
☐ We would like to learn more about hostin	g a UMW event at our church.			
☐ We would like to have a district represen	tative visit our church to discuss UMW.			
☐ We would like to start a UMW unit. Please	e contact:			
☐ We do not have a UMW unit at our church	n.			
Commonto au que gostiano fan un coming que to la cia-				
Comments or suggestions for upcoming events/topics:				

MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH 2023 Budget

	2023 Budget				
INCOME					
Pledge to Mission Income		\$	\$ 25,000.00		
Administration & Member Development (A&MD) Income			\$ 9,700.00		
TOTAL INCOME:				\$	34,700.00
EXPENSE					
ADMINISTRA ⁻	TION & MEMBER DEVELOPMENT (A&MD)				
CONFERENCE	E EVENTS:				
	Annual Meeting			\$	200.00
	Mission u			\$	1,600.00
Total Confer	ence Events				\$1,800.00
DISTRICT EV	ENTS				
	Annual Meeting			\$	1,000.00
	Spiritual Growth Retreat			\$	1,500.00
	Other:			\$	2,000.00
	Spring Fling	\$	1,000.00		
	Scholarships	\$	500.00		
	Day Apart	\$	500.00		
	Total District Events			\$	4,500.00
	(travel, meals, supplies, printing, child care, h	ono	raria, scho	lars	ships - local women)
OFFICER EXP	ENSES				
	Audit			\$	150.00
	Bank Expense			\$	25.00
	Dependent Care (not at events)			\$	100.00
	Mileage (meetings)			\$	800.00
	Resources, Subscriptions			\$	40.00
	Postage, Shipping (not for events)			\$	55.00
	Supplies, Printing (not for events)			\$	30.00
Total Officer	Expenses			\$	1,200.00
OTHER EXPE	NSES				
	Anchor, Meeting Programs			\$	2,000.00
	Books, Program Resources			\$	100.00
	District SMR, Gift in Memory, etc.			\$	80.00
	Miscellaneous			\$	20.00
Total Other	Expenses			\$	2,200.00
TOTAL A&MD EXPENSES		\$	9,700.00		
TOTAL PLEDGES SENT TO CONFERENCE			\$	25,000.00	
OVER/UNDER BUDGET		\$	<u>-</u>		
			•		

MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2023 LEADERSHIP TEAM

PRESIDENT:

Jean Sherman [2021] Fremont UMC 8465 W. 16th Street Fremont, MI 49412 (231) 519-2542 sherdairy1@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Open

SECRETARY:

Ann Scott [2023] Cedar Springs UMC 4014 Russell Road Cedar Springs, MI 49319 (616) 696-1567 momice4014@gmail.com

TREASURER:

Penny Brubaker [2022] Hart UMC 432 N. York Rd. Hart, MI 49420 (231) 873-3124 pennybrubaker@hotmail.com

REGISTRAR:

Sue VanPortfliet Cornerstone UMC 1333 Ravanna Drive SE Grand Rapids, MI 49508 (616) 246-7183 suezeeeque@gmail.com

SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES (Reading Program):

Open

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH:

Open

SOCIAL ACTION:

Jody Pratt [2013] Middleville UMC 2984 Fifth Street Shelbyville, MI 49344 (616) 292-4908 prattgji09@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS:

Sara Wolfsen [2018] Fremont UMC 7476 W. Orchard Circle Fremont, MI 49412 (231) 830-4092 saraw1104@gmail.com

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION:

Open

SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

Open

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Jean Sherman, Chair Fremont UMC 8465 W. 16th Street Fremont, MI 49412 (231) 519-2542 sherdairy1@gmail.com

Sue Rietman Middleville UMC [2017] 15 Market Street Middleville, MI 49333 (269) 795-7644 susan.rietman45@gmail.net

Jody Pratt [2013] Middleville UMC 2984 Fifth Street Shelbyville, MI 49344 (616) 292-4908 prattgji09@gmail.com

HELP WANTED:



Would you like to serve on our district team? We are looking for

several members. 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 Women in Faith newsletter is published four times yearly – February, May, August, and December. Email newsletter submissions to saraw1104@gmail.com before these copy deadlines: 1/10, 4/10, 7/10, 11/10.

Midwest District United Women in Faith (Formerly United Methodist Women) 7476 W. Orchard Circle Fremont, MI 49412

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United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith

We've taken a new name to better reflect how we answer our calling today. It's an exhilarating time, as we commit to even greater inclusivity, action, and impact. We remain women of passion and power, united by God's love in our mission to support women, children, and youth.

The PURPOSE of United Women in Faith:

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.



2023 DATES TO NOTE - DETAILS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- ➤ Saturday, March 18, Spring Fling, Sparta UMC
- → May 12-13, Spiritual Growth Retreat, DeWitt
- → July 13-15, Mission u, Mt. Pleasant UMC
- ➤ Saturday, September 16, Midwest District Annual Celebration, Hart UMC
- ➤ Saturday, October 28, Conference Annual Celebration, Holt UMC
- → Thursday, November 2, Evening Apart, 6 p.m., Location to be determined