THE ANCHOR

News from the Midwest District United Women in Faith



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Welcome to "United Women in Faith". You may have heard that United Methodist Women has made some changes, and refining continues. Why changes? Our society, our church and other churches are changing. UMW made these changes



after conducting research to inquire about what women wanted and/or needed. As a result, United Women in Faith is designed to include all of us no matter our background.

We are still a sisterhood of women. We will have different ways to be members. Our local units and circles will still exist along with those wishing to join via the internet. There will also be new programming that will exist to help gain new members. Please check out the new website: uwfaith.org. The old website no longer is available. Look for new features and some of the same old features. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Finally, thank you for allowing me to represent you at Assembly 2022 in Orlando. We gathered together to worship and share our sisterhood with others. I had the pleasure of meeting Pearl Thomas, a director and representative of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. Several ladies from the Michigan Conference joined in the discussion with Pearl. I look forward to seeing you at the District Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 17th at Trinity UMC in Grand Rapids. Nichea Guy will be our keynote speaker. A registration form is on page 3.



Jean Sherman Midwest District UWF President <u>sherdairy1@gmail.com</u> (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.

MISSION U OPPORTUNITIES

(registration information pages 6-7) August 11-13 at Lake Huron Retreat Center October 17-18 in Gaylord



MIDWEST DISTRICT ANNUAL CELEBRATION & LUNCHEON

(registration form page 3)
Saturday, September 17, 2022, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
Trinity UMC, Grand Rapids

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE 4TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

(registration form pages 10-11) Saturday, October 22, 2022, 8:30 a.m. Westwood UMC, Kalamazoo

DAY APART: HATS AROUND THE WORLD

No registration necessary, see details below. Thursday, November 10, 2022, 1-4 p.m., Fremont UMC



Midwest District United Women of Faith presents...

HATS AROUND THE WORLD

Enjoy an entertaining program presented by Bev Blamer, a retired geography teacher and world traveler.

Thursday, November 10, 2022 • 1 - 4 p.m. Fremont UMC • 351 Butterfield, Fremont

Join us for a special time of fellowship and learning together.

No advanced registration needed.

Cost: \$3 at the door. Coffee, Tea and Desserts included.

Midwest District United Women in Faith Presents...

Annual Celebration and Luncheon

Saturday, September 17, 2022 | 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Trinity United Methodist Church 1100 Lake Drive SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan

"Stirring Our Souls"



What is it that awakens our souls? How do we learn to discover its meaning? And what do we do with that discovery? Be inspired by Trinity UMC's retired Discipleship Pathways Director Nichea VerVeer Guy as she shares her past and present experiences on the UMW/UMF National Board of Directors, Delegation to United Nations Commission on Women New York, General Board of Global Ministries delegation to United Nations Commission on Migration and Human Rights Geneva, Switzerland and her current

roles on the UMF National Charter for Racial Justice Support Team and West Michigan Environmental Action Council. When Nichea isn't leading and serving, she enjoys all things Lake Michigan, reading in the garden, good coffee with a splash of cream, hands in the dirt, and jazz. Nichea and her husband Greg adore their four children and partners (and pups).

2022 MIDWEST DISTRICT ANNUAL CELEBRATION REGISTRATION FORM COST: \$15 by September 10th. Use one form per person. Please print.

Name: _____ Church: _____

Address: ____ Phone: (____) ___

Email: ____

Amount Enclosed: _____ Special Dietary Needs: ____

Daycare needed? (advanced notice required. Pack a sack lunch for each child)

Number of children and ages: _____

Make checks payable to: *Midwest District UMW* and mail with this registration form to: Sue Van Portfliet, 1333 Ravanna Drive SE, Grand Rapids MI 49508

NEWS FROM OUR DISTRICT TREASURER

As I closed out the records for the second quarter of giving at the end of June, I am happy to report that we have sent \$10,001.37 on to the Michigan Conference UMW for Missions, about 40% of our budgeted goal of \$25,000. The Love offerings taken at the Spring Fling and the Spring Retreat were applied to the District Pledge. Thank you for your faithful giving and for all the ways you continue to help our District meet our Mission goals.

The March issue of *response* announced that The United Methodist Women are taking a new name and embracing a new look. "We Are United Women in Faith." The following information came from the National office. **Here is a quick list of things to know:**

United Methodist Women is now doing business as United Women in Faith. Our name has not legally changed; however, we did file in the State of New York to use this "assumed name".

We remain a part of the United Methodist Church! If someone tells you that we are leaving, please correct them. There is no intention here to leave the church. Only to be welcoming to more members. Our organization has always been open to women beyond the UMC who share in our purpose.

Currently, the name change is optional for local, districts and conferences. The national office is not forcing the name on you; however, we do hope that you will embrace the new name.

Checks to local, district and conference groups should continue to be payable to United Methodist Women so that your checks can be deposited at your banking institutions. Please make sure your local treasurers know that. Our national staff will be working with the conference treasurers on what needs to take place for you to accept checks payable to United Women in Faith, if desired.

Vanco's Faith suite of eGiving solutions is available to all local, district and conference groups. There is no monthly cost for using Vanco Faith when added through our national United Women in Faith account. For each debit or credit card transaction, plans start at an additional charge of 2.35% of the donation amount, and 0.50% for an ACH transfer. You can even allow donors to pay these processing fees to offset costs. Vanco's support team can help with all the set up. If you want to learn more about this, contact me and I will help you find the links.

The Mission Resource Download <u>page</u> contains the handbook, remittance instructions, and brochures for you to download whenever you need them. (Remittance forms are in the handbook.) Contact me with questions and please continue to send all remittances to me

with checks made out to Midwest District United Methodist Women.

Shalom,

Penny Brubaker, Midwest District UWF Treasurer 432 N. York Rd., Hart, MI 49420 Call: (231) 873-3124 or Text: (231) 233-5515 pennybrubaker@hotmail.com

EXERCISING FREEDOM



I am preparing this article on the weekend we celebrate Independence Day. As a child growing up on a farm in the 1940's and 50's, the 4th of July was a big family celebration. For me the day was celebrated with many cousins, aunts and uncles with a great picnic and, thanks to several uncles, all the ice cream we could eat. We really knew "freedom from want" in this loving family group. Sunday's sermon talked about freedom as well.

The text was from Galatians, Chapter 5 and Paul is reminding his fellow believers of freedoms they now have because of Jesus' work for their salvation. He says, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (NIV). I believe that Paul meant we now have the opportunity to live creatively while obedient to the example of Jesus. In verse 13 we are told, "Do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature" and in verse 14 the "Golden Rule" is stated. This freedom can be used for good or evil.

In this day and time there are many disagreements about what is "right". In so many situations, there are those who feel free to demand that others behave or teach or practice as they define the RIGHT way. But scripture tells us to live by the Spirit. Here are listed the fruits of the Spirit. Here is where we can truly exercise our freedom as we act in love, live with joy in peace and show patience. We can demonstrate kindness, goodness and faithfulness in unique ways as we are led by the Spirit. Gentleness and self-control are fruits that often seem to be absent as we are intent on convincing others that our interpretation is the right one on any issue.

Let us keep in step with the Spirit as we exercise the many freedoms we have and may we seek to secure these for others as well.

Ann Scott

Midwest District UWF Spiritual Growth Coordinator (616) 696-1567

momice4014@gmail.com

MEMORIALS AND NEW MEMBERS

Submit names to Sara Wolfsen by email (saraw1104@gmail.com before **September 3**^{rd.}



Of the East Lake Huron Retreat Center, Burtchville

H.O.M.E. August 11 8:00 am August 11-13 (Thursday-Saturday) 3:00 pm Registration (EDT)

Of the North First United Methodist Church, Gaylord October 17-18 (Monday-Tuesday) 9 am Registration (EDT)



Who Can We Be Together?

Building Communities of Hope and Joy

EVERYONE ATTENDS THIS STUDY



Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13, the 2022 adult curriculum by Candace Simpson brings participants deeper into Jesus' teachings in this chapter of Luke to explore what it means to be in community. As the author notes, "For followers of Christ 2,000 years later, it's important for us to sit with the range of emotions we have in response to these words. It's not easy to build and sustain communities, especially when there are forces that drain us, exhaust us, and even push us to act uncharacteristically. And yet, we are called to act on the most ethical principles of our faith so we can witness the kin-dom of God on earth."

This book is available at: https://www.umwmissionresources.org/ shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=53516

If you prefer, you can order one to be picked up at the Mission u event that you attend. Please indicate this in the Mission u merchandise section of the order form.

You can register for Mission u online at: https://

michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/ or scan the QR Code



Study Leaders:



Tiffany Newsom



Ethel Gill



Ruth Sutton

MISSION U REGISTRATION FORM

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

Check all that apply					
Information:	□ Paid online				
		☐ Laity			
Conference Officer	*	□ Clergy			
	•	-			
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First floor bousing	☐ Help moving a	round campus			
	a special dictary	needs (speeny)			
At Mid City Nutrition S Street, Port Huron from	Soup Kitchen at 805 n 8:00 AM-12:30 PM	Chestnut I. If you			
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24 Boyd Street, Fife L	ake, MI 49633.				
mimissionu@gmail.com					
	Information: First time attending Conference Officer District Officer Special needs: First floor housing Minimal stairs Minimal walking Minimal walking HOME (Hands On Mis At Mid City Nutrition Street, Port Huron from want to arrive the night Mission u of the October 17-18 (Lod Child Care Age: Child Care Age: Child Care Age: Study Book Who Care Study Book Who Care Study Book Who Care Child Care Age: Child Care Age:	□ First time attending □ Study Leader □ Conference Officer □ Missionary □ District Officer □ Financial Assis Special needs: □ First floor housing □ Help moving a □ Minimal stairs □ Sign language □ Minimal walking □ Special dictary HOME (Hands On Mission Experience) will At Mid City Nutrition Soup Kitchen at 805 Street, Port Huron from 8:00 AM-12:30 PN want to arrive the night before, lodging is on Mission u of the North, 1st UMC, G□ October 17-18 (Lodging on your own) □ TOTAL DUE: □ Child Care Age: □ TOTAL DUE: □ Study Book Who Can We Be Together? Mission u Merchandise □ Study Book Who Can We Be Together? TOTAL DUE: □ TOTAL DUE: □ TOTAL DUE: □ Study Book Who Can We Be Together?			

HEY READERS!

Now is the time to fill out your Reporting Form and send it to me. Doing so will ensure that you are recognized at our Annual Meeting in September. The form can be found at the link below or you can just list the books from the Reading Program that you have read in the last year. My address and email are also listed below.

This is my last year as Secretary for Program Resources and the District Team is looking for my replacement. I just want to tell you how much I enjoy this position and know there are others out there reading this who would love to do this job. It's really all about reading books and then promoting them to other United Women in Faith friends.

The perks are awesome! You have input on the District Team, get to attend all District and many Conference events free, your mileage is paid, and you get to know some wonderful women. Please let me know if you would like to talk more about this position (or any others on the District Team).

Deadline for mailing your Reading Forms to me is **September 3, 2022**.



Connie Swinger
District UMW Program Resources Secretary (616) 813-4670, connieswinger@att.net

Reading Program book list and details can be found here: https://uwfaith.org/resources/2022-reading-program/

MISSION U - DON'T MISS IT!

I want to encourage everyone to attend Mission u at Huron Lake in August or Mission u of the North in Gaylord this Fall. You will be so glad you did. I have attended Mission u many times in the past and look forward to it each year. I am sad this year that we will not be having the Mission u in July at Albion, since I have family commitments in August that prevent me from attending this year. Find more Mission u details on pages 6-7 of this newsletter.



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

EDUCATE LAITY AND LEADERS WHO LIVE AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST!

At Annual Conference in June, speaker Derrick Scott reminded us that laity make up over 95% of the UMC and it is our charge to educate and welcome laity into our faith settings (not just church sanctuaries).

The Michigan Conference introduced the updated ENGAGEmi program that includes project information with an invitation to participate in its programs. One of the programs listed is JFON (Justice for Our Neighbors). Join us at the Michigan Annual United Women in Faith Conference on Saturday, October 22, 2022 to hear about the work of JFON in the Kalamazoo area (details are on the next page).

Peace with Justice Sunday (October 1, 2022) and Native American Ministries Sunday (January 12, 2023) remind us of the opportunity that we, as United Women in Faith, have to share information and offer meaningful conversations with laity about social justice programs. When is the designated United Women in Faith Sunday scheduled at your church? Do you have a speaker or committee? Although Fall is generally designated for UWF Sunday it can be any date that works in your church calendar. The National site for United Methodist Women/United Women of Faith provides resources for service design and material for a message if needed.

UWF are part of the laity in an organized faith community. Review the ENGAGEmi material, find a project at the local, state, national or international level, or seek out a missionary in need of support. Step out as laity and support their work with funding, project participation, or with a sharing time as part of an upcoming worship service. Learn, give, act, become informed, fund, and then build those relationships with laity as part of your faith commitment.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION: PERU HEALTH CARE MISSION 2023

March 3-13, 2023

Volunteers in the health care field and general work are welcome to apply and will provide health care to communities around the Junin, Peru region.

Application deadline: October 1, 2022

Donations of new and gently used bras and/or low-level reading glasses (from the dollar store) would be appreciated.

Contact Jody for a trip application, to schedule pick up of bras and glasses, or to inquire about a day or evening program.



Jody Pratt
Midwest District UWF Acting Social Action Coordinator and
Michigan Volunteers In Mission Coordinator
(616) 292-4908, prattgii@qmail.com



Women in Faith Michigan Conference

4th Annual Celebration - October 22, 2022

Westwood UMC 538 Nichols Rd. Kalamazoo, MI Registration starts @ 8:30 am (EDT)



Keynote Speakers from Kalamazoo



Celebrate our accomplishments and learn how we fulfill this verse

Hebrews 13:2 NIV

²Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Register online at: https://my-site-102740-102533.square.site/ or scan the QR Code:

In Gathering:

Personal & Feminine hygiene items: (pads, tampons, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, Toothbrush, etc.)



MICHIGAN CONFERENCE 4TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Registration Form

Send to: Mrs. Donna Blair, 2470 Quail Run, Kalamazoo, MI 49009 dblair@hotmail.com or 269-270-6096

Name	
Address	
	Zip Code
Phone	Email
Please check one: Local Officer _	District Officer Conference Officer
DistrictOff	fice Held
Home Church and City	
Please check Event(s) attending:	
Friday Officer Training/Leadership D	evelopment, starts promptly at 4 pm, \$6.00 per person
Saturday Celebration, \$18.00 per per	rson
TOTAL DUE	
Dietary restrictions:	
Child Care Needed? Yes N	lo
Name and age of child(ren):	
Make checks payable to: Michigan Conferen	ce UMW
Send registration and payment no later than o Donna Blair, 2470 Quail Run	
Hotel for Friday (Responsible for obtaining Hampton Inn & Suite 5059 S. 9 th Street Kalamazoo, MI 4900	s

269-372-1010

MIDWEST DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH 2023 Proposed Budget

	2023 i Toposed budget				
INCOME					
Pledge to Mi	ssion Income			\$	25,000.00
Administrati	on & Member Development (A&MD) Income			\$	9,700.00
TOTAL INCOME:				\$	34,700.00
EXPENSE					
ADMINISTRA	TION & MEMBER DEVELOPMENT (A&MD)				
CONFERENC	E EVENTS:				
	Annual Meeting			\$	200.00
	Mission u			\$	1,600.00
Total Confer	rence 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	nonc	oraria, scho	lars	ships - local women)
OFFICER EXF	PENSES				
	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 Office	r Expenses			\$	1,200.00
OTHER EXPE	INSES				
	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 PROPOSED 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 [2018] 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: 2/10, 4/10, 7/10, 11/10.

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

Presort Std US Postage PAID Grand Rapids, MI Permit No 1131



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.



SAVE THESE DATES – DETAILS INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

- ➤ August 11-13, Mission u of the East, Lake Huron Retreat Center
- ➤ September 3, deadline to submit new members, memorials and reading logs
- ➤ September 10, deadline to register for the District Annual Celebration
- ➤ Saturday, September 17, Midwest District Annual Celebration, Trinity UMC GR
- → October 7, deadline to register for the Conference Annual Celebration
- → October 16-18, Mission u of the North, Gaylord UMC
- → Friday, October 21, Officer Training and Leadership Development, Kalamazoo
- → Saturday, October 22, Conference Annual Celebration, Westwood UMC, Kalamazoo
- Thursday, November 10, A Day Apart: Hats Around the World, Fremont UMC
- ➤ Saturday, March 18, 2023, Spring Fling, Sparta UMC