

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 3

# the UMW News

V O L U M E 1 6

I S S U E 2

FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
120 S. STATE STREET  
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104  
(734)662-4536

## Looking forward to...

### PURPOSE OF UMW

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.



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Feb 15

UMW/Fish FRI

Intergenerational project  
6-8 pm in the Social Hall

March 9

LENTEN RETREAT

Led by Rev. Marsha Woolley  
10 am - 1 pm  
Green Wood  
Mark your calendars now!

March 24

Palm Sunday

UMW hosts Connections

Our May program will focus on  
human trafficking. Looks for details in  
upcoming newsletters



*The Prez Sez:*  
*A Message from Unit President Phyllis Hill*

*Dear Friends,*

The year 2013 has our group busy with many projects again. In January we have the opportunity to participate in both Fish FRI and UMW weekend. In February the small groups can not only make valentines for the Cancer Center, but also be a part of the intergenerational activities at the Fish FRI on February 15. We will be making fleece throws and dog pull toys. This is a wonderful event where we can meet people of all ages and be in service at our church.

If you'd like to order a pizza prior to the Fish FRI activity, in Fish FRI you can email Chris Nelson at christine\_nelson@mac.com before 3pm and it will be waiting for you when you arrive at 6pm. Cost is \$5. Activities begin at 6:30. For more info on valentines cards, see Phoebe's small group info.

Looking ahead to Lent, we will have a Retreat on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at Green Wood, led by Rev. Marsha Woolley. The event will be from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM with a light lunch.



I am hoping to see many of our group there that day, as I know it is difficult for some to come to events during the week.

The snow is just about gone at this point, and time will tell whether we have much snow this season or warmer temperatures. I hope all those who go to warmer climates are enjoying their days and we welcome them back in the Spring.

*Peace and Love,*  
*Phyllis*

*Highlights of the January Mission Team Meeting*

Treasurer Marge Whitacre explained we are well on our way to meeting our goal of becoming a 5-Star Unit. Cookie walk profits approx \$6,000.

Phyllis Hill is working on plans for UMW Sunday (Jan 26/27) which will include a bulletin insert and emphasis that all women are United Methodist Women but must expressly say they want to join our unit.

Circles will be referred to as "Small Groups" in the future.

UMW joins Fish FRI to make fleece blankets for Alpha House and pull toys for dogs.

Miriam small group will provide food for the Lenten retreat led by Marsha Wooley, March 9 at Green Wood.

Handbooks have been mailed. Ann Hanton is looking for solutions to problems which occurred with 2013 mailing.

UMW hosts *Connections* on March 24. As this is Palm

Sunday, much food will be needed.

Our focus in May will be human trafficking. Wendy Everett will arrange for a speaker for the small groups. A panel-type program was also suggested.

Next meeting: February 12, 6:30 pm at Green Wood.

Respectfully submitted,

**FRAN WICKS,**  
**SECRETARY**



# Food for the Soul

Mary McClusky

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

*These words this month strike a chord within me and I hope they will with you. They come from Chaplain Tim Brooks at North Kansas City Hospital via Chaplain Kathy Schell at Chelsea Hospital.*

"While I was sorting through some more books, I came across a book I had not seen for a while. Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda: Overcoming Regrets, Mistakes, and Missed Opportunities by Dr. Arthur Freeman. I don't know that I would go so far as to recommend the book, but I love the title. There are many folks who spend a great deal of time living in the past and agonizing and tormenting themselves (and sometimes others) over what they (or others) woulda, coulda or shoulda done.

What these three words have in common is that they focus on the past, often to the neglect of the present. Now, on my less sensitive days I might say to this tendency, "Hey, it's in the past! Get over it!" Not only would that not be particularly helpful, but for those who have this tendency, it is not that easy. Most of us at least believe, if not personally accept that there is One who accepts us as we are warts and all, and forgives us when we make mistakes. The hardest thing is giving OURSELVES forgiveness and grace, learning from less-than-great choices we have made, and moving forward with our new wisdom. Often there is an inclination to want to turn

around and keep looking back. One patient told me that in his life he tries not to look back too much because he figures he will trip over something. Sounds like a good philosophy of life to me! While it may be impossible to banish such thoughts entirely, to spend much time or energy on the regrets of the past only serves to negatively impact both the present and the future.

It seems to me that living with your focus on the past is not all that much different from putting your life on hold until you get to some future point. How often have we seen others who have planned for years to do some special thing...and never got the chance? When the kids go to college...when we retire...when I finish school... The word oughta might also be added to the trio above. I oughta \_\_\_\_\_ someday. You fill in the blank.

Live in the present. It may be a bit trite, but that is what it is...a present. The truth is that it's all that we really have. However what we can do is learn from our mistakes and lessons of the past. That way we can take full advantage of the present and the future. To live our life fully in order to give forgiveness and grace to ourselves and others... THAT is wisdom.

May you give yourself a full measure of grace when you recall difficult memories from the past.  
May you seek to live fully each day in the present, so that when you look back, there will be few things you would change.  
May you strike woulda, coulda, shoulda, and oughta from your vocabulary.  
And May you experience overwhelming grace from the One who values you exactly as you are."



## CONNECTIONS

Many of you know that various groups take turns hosting Connections, where many gather in the Social Hall immediately following worship for fellowship and a great cup of coffee. Along with that, snacks are set out. On March 24 it is UMW's turn to provide the goodies. As it's Palm Sunday a larger than usual turnout is expected. We will need items such as grapes, crackers, donut holes, cookies, etc. (Nut free of course). Details to follow in the March newsletter...



## *Victims Hidden in Plain Sight*

*Wendy Everett, Social Action Mission Coordinator*

As I write, we are in the midst of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, as declared by President Obama on December 31, 2012. Even though we mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of the Emancipation Proclamation, there is a terrible crime that victimizes some of the most vulnerable persons in our world.

*But this is a people robbed and plundered, all of them are trapped in holes and hidden in prisons; they have become a prey with no one to rescue, a spoil with no one to say, "Restore!" Who among you will give heed to this, who will attend and listen for the time to come? —Isaiah 42:22-23*

This is not a crime that happens in other countries or only in the very large cities in the U.S. On January 3, 2013, a man in Ypsilanti was convicted of keeping four children in his home for many years, forcing them to work 16-18 hours daily cleaning house, cooking, hand washing his clothes, and cleaning his friend's homes and watching their children. He regularly beat them with household items and withheld food from them for punishment. According the U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report 2010, the number of adults and children currently in forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution is 12.3 million.

The Department of Homeland Security as well as Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials

report that the crime of human trafficking is growing across the U.S. According to the UMW website, this form of modern-day slavery is the second largest criminal industry in the world after the drug trade. Victims often live in places where the neighbors have no idea what is happening just a few feet away.

There are excellent resources on the United Methodist Women's website and I encourage you to learn more (<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/>). There are books in the UMW library available such as *The Slave Next Door*. We are also working with Elizabeth Donovan to plan a program for the May UMW meeting to help us gain a deeper understanding of this tragic problem. Elizabeth is a lawyer whose practice focuses on serving the victims of human trafficking. (She has children who are active in our youth group.)

**To prepare ourselves for the May program, we encourage each Small Group to have an introductory program with Elizabeth as your guest speaker prior to May.** You may contact her at [emdon21@gmail.com](mailto:emdon21@gmail.com). The authorities rely upon concerned citizens making reports of suspicious activities, and Elizabeth will help us understand what that looks like.

*Report any suspected incident of human trafficking. Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888 or the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE.*



*"I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do." -Leonardo da Vinci*



## The RESPONSE Review

by Mary Danforth, Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

JANUARY 2013

### *Intercepting Human Trafficking*

Our UMW Mission Giving funds HOPE in so many ways and in so many places. Our Mission Giving means that ‘every child in every mission institution has care and attention’. It means that all persons in mission have their salary paid. Mission Giving supports conference and district events – retreats, training schools of Christian mission (soon to be called Mission U). It permits UMW to move forward serving the needs of women, children and youth. And it makes it possible for new areas of mission to be explored and addressed – such as the need to understand the breadth and depth of the human trafficking issue and how victims can be helped, awareness can be broadened, and prevention instituted.

In the next few months, our local UMW unit will be offering opportunities to learn more about human trafficking in the United States, in Michigan and in Ann Arbor. So it was a nice coincidence that the January issue of *response* focused on what UMW is doing to build awareness about human trafficking and to help victims of human trafficking rebuild their lives.

One of the missions supported by UMW is the Batis Center for Women, founded in 1989 in the Philippines. The Philippines is a very poor area. More than one tenth of the population (about 10 million people) have gone abroad to find work – many of them women. Some of these women are offered ‘opportunities’ to work in nightclubs in Japan and discover they are working for an organized crime syndicate and providing services under duress. However, working temporarily outside the country and being able to send home money is preferable to being without any means of supporting their families in the Philippines.

This, in turn, leads to the families becoming dependent upon the money being sent back home, with no sustainable plan for the women to return. The Batis Center for Women helps reintegrate women into daily life, helps them start local businesses, and provides ‘peer counseling and support’ for these former victims.

Although I mentioned Japan as one of the places that imported Filipina women, Europe and Singapore are other places where Filipina women are trafficked. When I was in Hong Kong in 2009, I visited another UMW supported mission where primarily Filipina women who had been abused as domestic workers, found refuge. And UMW has a program to “Intercept Human Trafficking” on Super Bowl Sunday. Apparently several humans will be trafficked to the event to “serve food, clean hotel rooms, and offer other ‘adult services’.”

Human trafficking is an area where we are called to express our ‘Righteous Anger’ (see Doug’s sermon of 1/20/13) and confront the system. As the Rev. Janet Wolf said in her article in *response*, “The church is called to live in such a way that people will refuse to label any human being unclean and will instead identify systems, structures, theologies that are unclean – that damage, wound, possess, occupy in ways that diminish life.”

How can we move outside our social location, open our eyes, and see the systems that need ‘intercepting?’

*If you enjoyed Mary's review you may wish to subscribe to **response** for the complete issue. Yearly subscription: send \$24 to Response, P.O. Box 395, Congers, NY 10920 along with your name and address*

## Small Group Meetings

**Aerie Book Group** - Meets February 26 in the Asbury Room to discuss "One Simple Act" by Debbie Macomber. Join us from 1-3:30 PM.

**Mary Martha** - Meets on Friday, February 22nd, at 12:00, in the Asbury Room. After a brown bag lunch, Beth Lipton will tell us about Alpha House. **Visitors welcome.**

**Miriam** - Will not meet in February.

**Mothers Too** - Contact Sarah Nooden at [snooden@umich.edu](mailto:snooden@umich.edu) or call 734-663-5667.

**Phoebe** - We will team with *Mary Martha* and join *Uncommon Threads* on Monday, Feb. 4th, at 1:00 PM at Green Wood to make "Bags of Cheer" valentines for patients at the U of M Cancer Center.

Supplies will be furnished, but bring a pair of scissors

and any extras you would like – ric-rac, stickers, fabric, etc. **All women are invited to join us for this worthwhile, fun project.**

**Sarah's Sisters** - We will join the FISH FRI event on February 15th. from 6-8PM in the Social Hall. For more info please contact Dee Chapell, 734-668-7160 or [deechapell@aol.com](mailto:deechapell@aol.com)

**Sisterhood** - To be notified of events sign up on Meetup. [info@meetup.com](mailto:info@meetup.com)

**Uncommon Threads** - Will meet February 4 to make valentines from 1-3 PM at Green Wood. See *Phoebe* for more info.

**WOW MOMS- Evening Edition** - Hosting Connections Feb 10. Discussion of "Firstlight" by Sue Monk Kidd continues on Feb 7 & 21 at 7:30-9:00 PM in Asbury Room.

### WEBSITES

**UMW EMAIL (Our local unit):** Sign up for UMW email by going to the church's website at [www.fumc-a2.org](http://www.fumc-a2.org). Click on *programs* and then on *United Methodist Women*. Or contact Phyllis Hill at 213-5544 or [phyllishill50@gmail.com](mailto:phyllishill50@gmail.com)

**UMW CONFERENCE WEBSITE:** [www.gbgm-umc.org/detcumw](http://www.gbgm-umc.org/detcumw)

**UMW GLOBAL WEBSITE:** [www.new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/](http://www.new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/)

**UMW ONLINE WEBSITE:** [www.umwonline.org](http://www.umwonline.org)

**UMC WEBSITE - RETHINK CHURCH:** [www.10thousanddoors.org](http://www.10thousanddoors.org)

## H A P P Y B I R T H D A Y

Feb	1	Ann Frey
Feb	3	Elaine Fisher
Feb	4	Marilee Kelly
Feb	5	Karen Newberg
Feb	6	Carol Spaly
Feb	7	Karen Donahue
Feb	8	Roberta Asplund
Feb	8	Jean Eridon
Feb	9	Phyllis Dillon
Feb	9	Diana Dyer
Feb	9	Arlene Garver
Feb	9	Beth Moore
Feb	10	Kim Garver
Feb	11	Carol Starnes
Feb	13	Tori Booker
Feb	15	Letitia Byrd
Feb	16	Cynthia Lee
Feb	16	Christine O'Haver
Feb	18	Joan Roth
Feb	18	Dawn Rudnik
Feb	19	Mary McClusky
Feb	19	Sherry Root
Feb	20	Jamie Mayo
Feb	22	Doug Paterson
Feb	23	Grace Oxley
Feb	23	Stella Steiner
Feb	26	Jan Radak
Feb	27	Pam Gee
Feb	28	Pat Wilson