

S E P T E M B E R

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the UMW News

V O L U M E 1 8

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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.



Coming Soon...

September 11
Annual Potluck Supper
(Bring a dish to pass- Beverages
provided)

September 20th
Loud Lecture:
“Laura Haviland & the Relevance of
Underground Railroad Today”
by Prof. Tiya Miles
(FUMC member)

October 3rd
AA District Officers Training
8:45 to 3PM
Brighton UMC





The Prez Sez:

A Message from Unit President Phyllis Hill



Dear Friends,

It seems like Summer arrives and exits more quickly each year. Back to school sales and the blooming of my black eyed susans signal that Fall is coming.

I would like to invite all UMW members, spouses, and friends to our Fall Potluck on Friday, September 11th. Please bring a dish to pass. Table service and beverages will be provided.

We are looking forward to a busy Fall with our district officer training and celebration on October 3rd and installation of 2016 officers on November 6th.

I hope that I will see many of you at our events in the upcoming months. It is always a joy to see old friends and meet new ones when we gather together.

Peace and Love, Phyllis

Immigration – Myth and Fact

Myth #10: Americans oppose creating a path towards citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Fact: There has been a dramatic shift in public opinion towards comprehensive immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship. A variety of polls from across the political spectrum show strong support. From a fox news poll (66% support) to CNN (56%) support) to Public Policy

Polling (65%), it is clear that the impetus to reform lies not with an unwilling populace. The American people realize the system is broken and that the only solution is comprehensive reform that allows undocumented immigrants to come out of the shadows.

The United Methodist Women's Mission Focus on Immigration is part of the ongoing commitment to racial justice, and civil and human rights. United Methodist Women seeks to welcome immigrants and advocate for just immigration policies. To learn more go to:

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-do/service-and-advocacy/mission-focus-issues/global-migration/immigrationfactsheet>

In August, I had the good fortune to attend Mission U, UMW's annual opportunity for deeper education in community with our sisters (and a few brothers) from across the Detroit conference. Some members of UMW attended the one-day Mission U that was held at Marble Memorial UMC in Milan, and five of us attended the two-day Mission U held in Port Huron at the Lake Huron Retreat Center. Having attended summer camp in the same location as a high schooler, it's a delight to return to that beautiful lakeside location. The retreat center is new since that time and there have been many other camp improvements such as a boardwalk to get down to the beach and numerous Adirondack chairs scattered about the campus to just enjoy the weather and the scenery.

I arrived at Mission U planning to attend the Latin America study. It seemed a natural for me having been to Colombia and Costa Rica on mission trips. However, on the first night, I attended the brief "sampler" course for the Disabilities study and changed my mind. The speaker, Mary McCully from Plymouth UMC, was an exuberant leader and the material piqued my interest. So for the next couple of days, I attended the Happiness study (which everyone participated in) and the Disabilities study.

We launched in to the study by watching a powerful video of a pastor from the U.K. talking about his experiences ministering to persons with disability. Here are a few of my takeaway thoughts:

- Inclusion of people with disabilities is about more than compliance with the law.
- We are all "dis-abled" in some way, that is, broken and marred by sin.
- Not all disabilities can be seen.
- At least half of us will experience some form of disability in our lifetime.
- Perhaps as many as 90% of persons with disabilities do not attend church. There are approximately 54 million



people in the U.S. with some form of disability...that is a lot of people to exclude from the Body of Christ!

- We need to adopt people-first language, for example, someone is not an autistic person, they are a person with autism.
- We should not look at persons with disabilities as only receiving our charity, but that all people are wondrous and sacred creations of God and we should empower all persons to minister to one another.
- God's kindness is greater than any disability!

Excerpts from the United Methodist Social Principles:

"We recognize and affirm the full humanity and personhood of all individuals with mental, physical, developmental, neurological, and psychological conditions or disabilities as full members of the family of God."

"We urge the church and society to recognize and receive the gifts of persons with disabilities to enable them to be full participants in the community of faith."

At our church, we are fortunate that our building was renovated in ways to improve accessibility, but as stated at the beginning of this article, there's more than just compliance with the law. We also need to make sure our attitudes are welcoming to persons with disabilities and look for ways to continue to improve. For example, how difficult or easy is it to get to our building? (Our parking lot only has two handicapped parking spaces and we have at least two people who need to use them regularly, so where do we have room for a newcomer?)

I hope to share more of my experience and learning with you as we move forward though the year, and I hope you will take the chance to reflect on ways you can affirm the worth of all persons in our community.

By Wendy Everett, Social Action Chair

The campaign to end Family Detention of Immigrants continues!

Over the summer, UMWs, church groups and advocates across the country participated in a selfie campaign to end Family Detention.



To learn more about how to join this campaign, visit the UMW's website: <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-do/service-and-advocacy/mission-focus-issues/global-migration/familydetention>

Justice for Our Neighbors is celebrating five years of providing free legal services to immigrants in need.

Saturday, September 26, 2015, Beverly Hills UMC.

Join us for dinner and musical performances. Please see our website for more details. <http://jfonsemi.org/>



Food for the Soul

Mary McClusky, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

What is Church?

“Only when we have come in touch with our own life experiences and have learned to listen to our inner cravings for liberation and new life can we realize that Jesus did not just speak, but that he reached out to us in our most personal needs. The Gospel doesn’t just contain ideas worth remembering. It is a message responding to our individual human condition. The Church is not an institution forcing us to follow its rules. It is a community of people inviting us to still our hunger and thirst at its tables. Doctrines are not alien formulations which we must adhere to but the documentation of the most profound human experiences which, transcending time and place, are handed over from generation to generation as a light in our darkness.”

From ‘Reaching Out’ by Henri J. M. Nouwen

Do you sometimes wonder “why church” and where do we fit in the overall scheme of life?

Well in the above quote the words ‘community’ and ‘handed over from generation to generation’ spoke to me. Having become a grandparent only 2 years ago we spend lots of time

visiting and helping out. Attending church on Sunday mornings doesn’t fit into the schedule as easily as it used to. Yet my faith is part of who I am and my desire is to continue to grow deeper.

These words help me to remember what church is and the importance it plays as we pass our faith on showing light and hope to the next generations. Bishop Jesse Dewitt told me recently that even though I don’t make it to church as often as I would like, what I am doing as a grandparent is important and is showing the church to my granddaughters and their parents. Coming from someone who has much wisdom for his long years has helped me feel better about missing Sunday mornings but it also gives me strength and confidence that I am doing what is important at this time in my life. I have no doubt that the faith I have will continue on in my grandchildren.

In the meantime I will keep the words of Deuteronomy 6:6,7 on my heart:

“And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit down, and when you rise”





UMW'S SISTERHOOD, FLY GIRLZ & FRIENDS ON A RECENT TRIP TO SAUGATUCK.

The adventures included wine tasting, launching lanterns, yoga on the beach, a “Blind Date” and worship at the lake. Special thanks to Kim Garver for all of her efforts in uniting these wonderful women of faith.

YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SISTERHOOD IN THE SMALL GROUPS SECTION OF THIS NEWSLETTER



response Review

by Mary Danforth, Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

RESPONDING TO SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

July-August 2015

First let me say what a great time I had at **Mission u** at the Lake Huron Retreat Center. (As a side note, it was Lil deHart who introduced me to the School of Christian Mission over 30 years ago.) Be sure to read Wendy's article about the Disabilities study – which I also attended. I always know that I am going to have my eyes opened even wider than before. No matter how much I have already read or learned in previous workshops, there is always room for a broader perspective and a deeper understanding. (Actually, I think my eyes can't get much wider or maybe my brain really can't absorb much more – some of the challenges of aging). In any event, I am always inspired to hear how much United Methodist Women is doing here and around the world. Since I can't really manage to respond with action to every single social justice in the world, I feel that I am responding well by being part of our local UMW unit and pledging to National UMW. Every time I read **response** or attend a UMW function, I am thrilled at how effectively our shared contributions are being used. And I was excited once again to attend the Flygirlz event. It was a wonderful, supportive time with 32 other women. I am also inspired to see the enthusiasm and commitment this group – whether it be taking a scavenger hunt seriously and creatively OR learning about organic farming from sheep & goats to blueberries and wine OR celebrating the successful completion of breast cancer treatment OR yoga on the beach.

In this month's **response** magazine there was an article called "Created for Happiness". God created all human beings for a life of happiness, but not the way the secular world defines "happiness". Our relationship with God helps us to understand that our deep happiness is not associated with temporary life situations, but is intertwined with our journey with God – based on trust and obedience.

I learned that United Methodist Women participates actively in the annual U.N. Commission on the Status of Women (this is the 59th year). One of the UMW delegates who wrote the article mentioned that she had learned that the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, is an international bill of right for women which was adopted by the U.N. in 1979, but was never ratified by the United States. And she learned that the U.S. does not compare favorably with our "peer nations" in this respect. In fact we lag behind in some areas. One example had to do with supporting parents trying to balance the demands of work and family

I learned about Wesley Community Center in Phoenix, Arizona, offering outreach since 1950 – primarily to Hispanic families living in downtown Phoenix and how they have responded to changes such as the construction of the Sky Harbor International Airport that displaced many members of the community.

(Continued on next page)

Most recently they merged with another Community Center which had originally started as a settlement house for immigrant poor but was now an outreach center that could no longer sustain itself. This merger has been quite successful. Local United Methodist Women volunteers help with ongoing maintenance of the various outreach facilities. They sponsor medical care programs, after-school programs, community education and emergency food assistance.

United Methodist Women support Ferrum College in Franklin County Virginia. This was started in 1914 by the Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church (amazing how many names have changed). It's mission has always been to educate students for a life of service. They have a very liberal admissions policy and then help to fund the students on work for on-time graduation. They are reaching out to students who need help. "It's very rare for our students to come from economically stable two parent families," according to the dean of admissions. They encourage students to become activists for social justice – to become agents of change.

In Huntington, West Virginia, United Methodist Women came together to help end substance addiction – they opened with Outreach Center in September 2014. Their mission is to foster hope, education and recovery (HER) for women, children, and

families who are suffering from addiction. They call it HER Place. In their first quarter, they made 897 face-to-face contacts. They work to help people understand that "addiction is a public health crisis rather than a moral failure... It is a complex disease".

In 2016, the United States will host the assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, in Huston Texas. Are we overwhelmed yet by the very long names of groups and events? This group meets every 5 years and is described as "a global movement of Methodist women". It includes churches of Methodist heritage, not all of which are United Methodists, such as the African Methodist Episcopal church. I will try to learn more about this too...

From the Interim Editor (Tara Barnes) of **response**, "What United Methodist Women offers is a place to change the world – and yourself. A place to be and become a whole person." Hebrews 10:24-25 captures the essence of United Methodist Women:

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..."

The UMW is a network of caring and supportive women who seek to celebrate together; we support local, national and global missions of the United Methodist Church. All women of FUMC are members of UMW. *We welcome You!*

1	Judith Block
1	Wendy Everett
1	Sue Weitzman
5	Elizabeth Payne
6	Mary Crichton
7	Janene Centurione
7	Carol McDonnell
7	Sue Salo
9	Lil DeHart
10	Rebecca Bakon
12	Linda Brokaw
12	Kristen Moore
13	Shelia Nicholas
14	Gladys Fahlgren Baker
14	Ruth Schieb
16	Jan Hartmann
19	Susan Allen
19	Imm-Kee Lang
25	Nancy Lynn
27	Marcia Schlee
30	Melissa Martin
30	Jessie Siekmeier

Aerie Book Group -..We meet again in the fall.
Uncommon Threads-The first fall meeting of Uncommon Threads, FUMC's prayer shawl & prayer quilt ministry, will be on Monday, September 21st, 1:00 – 3:00, at Green Wood. Please help us cut down on paper usage by bringing your coffee or tea mugs. Visitors &



drop-ins are always welcome. For more information, contact Sandy Hultquist at 663-8890, or slhultquist@comcast.net.
PM³ - The next meeting of **PM³** will be on Friday, September 25th, 1:00, downtown in the Asbury Room. After dessert, we will be planning our upcoming meetings. (*Don't forget your coffee or tea mugs.*) Visitors & drop-ins are always welcome. For more information, contact Sandy Hultquist at 663-8890, or slhultquist@comcast.net.

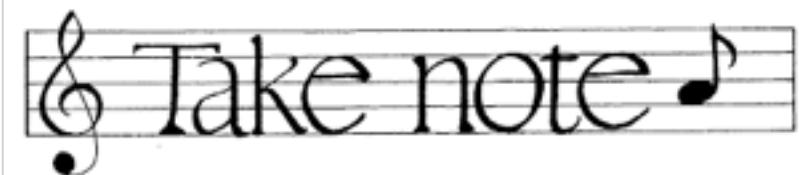
*small groups meetings
(Join us anytime!)*

Sisterhood -<http://www.meetup.com/First-United-Methodist-Church-of-Ann-Arbor-The-Sisterhood/>

Mother's Too - Will not meet this summer, but will resume meeting Sunday, September 13th.. For more information on our discussion group contact Sarah Nooden, at snooden@umich.edu

Sarah's Sisters -Welcome back! Our September meeting is Monday the 14th. We will gather at Moon Winks Cafe on Plymouth Rd in Dixboro. Come & be part of a group of women who are asking and listening, encouraging and supporting, caring and doing. Join us as we share, pray and listen. This will be our first meeting since June. Looking forward to seeing everyone. All are welcome. More info: contact Dee Chapell [734-668-7160](tel:734-668-7160)

Are you looking for a good read? Then consider "*The Cherokee Rose*," written by FUMC's own Tiya Miles, it's a present day novel which explores a unique aspect of Southern slavery — Native American slaveowners. You can pick up a copy of "*The Cherokee Rose*" (or choose one of our other interesting topics) in the UMW library. And of course, please join Tiya on September 20 to hear about Michigan's own local abolitionist hero, Laura Smith Haviland.



WANTED: HANDBELL RINGERS

Asbury Ringers has openings in our handbell choir. We meet Mondays, 11:30am - 12:30pm beginning on Sept. 14th. Our ensemble rings in worship 4-5 times during the year. All skill levels and ages are encouraged to join. We enjoy making music to share in worship, and love our fellowship together. Call Carole DeHart at 761-2695 or email at caroledehart@sbcglobal.net for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.



This year the Ann Arbor District Annual Celebration will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2015 at Brighton FUMC from 8:30 to 3:00.

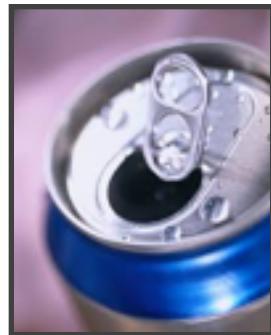


position.

At 9:00 am there will be a presentation by Gail Girbach on Haiti. The guest speaker this year will be Rev. Mark Spaw, Ann Arbor District Superintendent. It would be great to have several of us attend. If you are on the mission team, it would be wonderful if you could attend the Leadership training for your

Whether you are able to attend or not, you may contribute to the ingathering projects. We are still collecting aluminum pop tabs, CLEAN aluminum trays and foil - proceeds go to the Ronald McDonald House. Our special ingathering is for Love, INC (Love, In the Name of Christ). They would like: *pots & pans, diapers of any size and laundry detergent.*

If you would like to attend, contact Dee Chapell or Mary Danforth to obtain a registration form.



YOU CAN HELP RONALD McDONALD HOUSE!

Simply save your pull tops and deposit them in the jar across from the mailboxes (on the second floor of the church). Thank you for helping—it makes a HUGE difference to the families who visit.

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the United Methodist Women (UMW) of First United Methodist Church, Ann Arbor, MI.

For inquiries and change of address notify the church at
734-662-4536

Jean Eridon, Editor

Submissions can be e-mailed to: umwnewsletter@gmail.com