

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 5

*the* U M W *News*

V O L U M E 1 8

I S S U E 8

**FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

## Coming Soon...

### 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.



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

October 24th  
UMW Conference Annual Meeting &  
Celebration  
10-3  
Ferndale UMC

November 6th  
Annual Birthday Celebration  
World Thank Offering & Program  
Installation of Officers 2016  
Green Wood: 2pm



## The Prez Sez:

*A Message from Unit President Phyllis Hill*



*Dear Friends,*

Fall is everywhere in the air. Back to school sales are over, children are back to school, new backpacks and shoes, and school buses are once again on the roads. Just today, I noticed some of the trees are already turning yellow and orange.

The Annual Ann Arbor District Celebration and Officer Training will

be held this year on Saturday, October 3rd at Brighton UMC. Our Installation of officers for 2016 will be on November 6th. Our first Connections assignment is on Thanksgiving weekend on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Then it's onward to the Advent Season. We UMW women are always busy so keep your calendars handy.

*Peace and Love, Phyllis*



It's been less than a week since I returned from the Why Christian? conference in Minneapolis. Why Christian was curated by Rachel Held Evans, the author of the *Year of Biblical Womanhood* and *Searching for Sunday*, and Nadia Bolz Weber, Lutheran pastor and author *Pastrix* and *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People*. Nadia, Rachel and eleven other speakers shared stories from their lives, and with each one I felt like I was hearing one of the best sermons ever, only to be followed by another best. There were tears in my eyes more often than not.

A common thread among all these stories was authenticity and truth-telling. Not a few people spoke of some of the darkest moments in their lives, whether it was addiction, or abuse, or seeing the worst in humanity by working with victims of human trafficking, or being thrown out of their church for daring to tell the truth about their sexual preference or identity. And yet each person shared in some form why they choose to be a Christian, even though that can be a loaded word.

One speaker, Jodi, put it this way: she said that she was "reconverted" every time she came to church and saw a child singing or felt



the connection in the communion experience (and by the way, let's all attend her "Brews & Hymns" service at a local bar! Let's take church to the people!). Rachel put it another way: she said that even if she was wrong about God and Jesus and the rest of it, she's willing to take a chance on that. She would rather live as a Christian than not.

I hope we can all tell the truth about ourselves, and we strive to make FUMC a safe place for everyone to tell their story. It's something I'm working on for myself. I'm grateful for a congregation that supports youth as they struggle through doubt and belief as they mature (and don't we all?). I'm grateful for a church that applauds the announcement of a same-sex wedding in worship. I'm so very thankful to be a part of this community, this communion.

Even if there are people in the world who make the word ugly or despicable, I'm going to continue to claim the title of Christian, because I don't want to live any other way.

*By Wendy Everett, Social Action Chair*

**United Methodist Women** (UMW) is a faith-based membership organization of laywomen within The United Methodist Church. UMW members are committed to growing as disciples of Jesus Christ in community with other women and advocating on behalf of women, children and youth around the world. United Methodist Women has been in mission for more than 140 years

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

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# Food for the Soul

Mary McClusky, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

## P r a y e r

“Some things God never can do until he finds a man who prays. Meister Eckhart, the mystic, puts the truth with extreme boldness: “God can as little do without us, as we without him.”

If at first this seems a wild statement, we may well consider in how many ways God’s will depends on man’s cooperation. God himself cannot do some things unless men think. He never blazons his truth on the sky that men may find it without seeking. Only when men gird the loins of their minds and undiscourageably give themselves to intellectual toil, will God reveal to them the truth, even about the physical world. And God himself cannot do some things unless men work. Will a man say that when God wants bridges and tunnels, want the lightnings harnessed and cathedrals built, he will do the work himself? That is an absurd and idle fatalism. God stores the hills with marble, but he never built a Parthenon; he fills the mountains with ore, but he never made a needle or a locomotive. Only when men work can some things be done. Recall the words of Stradivarius,



maker of violins, as George Eliot interprets him:

“When my master holds ‘twixt chin and hand a violin of mine, he will be glad that Stradivari lived, made violins, and made them of the best ... For while God gives them skill I give them

instruments to play upon, God choosing me to help him... If my hand slacked I should rob God – since he is fullest good – leaving a blank instead of violins... he could not make Antonio Stradivari’s violins without

Antonio.”

Now if God has left some things contingent on man’s thinking and working why may he not have left some things contingent on man’s praying? The testimony of the great souls is a clear affirmative to this: some things never without thinking; some things never without working; some things never without praying! Prayer is one of the three forms of man’s cooperation with God.

From “The Meaning of Prayer” by Harry Emerson Fosdick

3	Nancy Morrison
6	Gwynn Sterken
10	Donna Fowlkes
10	Bob Roth
11	Carole DeHart
12	Marge Whitacre
13	Sally Oliver
14	Cathy Pardon
16	Marcia DeBoer
17	Adele Roy
19	Naki Sung Kripfgans
20	Gene Anne Bennion
20	Kim Richardson Hippler
20	Amy Unsworth
21	Karen Ensminger
23	Amy Kennedy
23	Kelly Young
25	Karla Paterson
26	Deanna Dittmar
30	Sue Seitz
31	Jan Hansen
31	Linda Leslie

Happy  
Birthday

welcome. For more information, contact Sandy Hultquist at 663-8890, or slhultquist@comcast.net.

**PM<sup>3</sup>** -The next meeting of *PM<sup>3</sup>* will be on Friday, October 23rd, 1:00, downtown in the Asbury Room. (*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** - \Mother's Too will meet 11:00 a.m. Sun., October 11 in the Aldersgate room (next to the chapel) to discuss personal and church issues in a nonjudgmental, caring way. Contact Sarah Nooden (snooden@umich.edu, 663-5667).

**Sarah's Sisters** -Sarah's Sisters: Our meeting for October will be on Tuesday, the 20th. We will gather at 1 pm at Moon Winks Cafe on Plymouth Rd in Dixboro. Come and 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. Looking forward to seeing everyone. All are welcome. More info: contact Dee Chapell [734-668-7160](tel:734-668-7160) email: [deechapell@aol.com](mailto:deechapell@aol.com)

**Aerie Book Group** - Contact Pat Wilson at patwilson82@yahoo.com for more info.

**Uncommon Threads**-FUMC's prayer shawl & prayer quilt ministry, will meet on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, and on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 3:00, at Green Wood. Please help us cut down on paper usage by bringing your own coffee or tea mugs. Visitors & drop-ins are always