

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 6

# the U M W News

V O L U M E 1 9

I S S U E 2

**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.



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

## Coming Soon...

FEBRUARY 20/21

UMW Weekend

***YOU are a member-come and be  
recognized!***

20th - 5:00 PM @ Green Wood

21st-9:30 AM Downtown

March 11 - 13

Loud Lecture

Norman Wirzba speaks on "*Food and Faith*"

March 18th

UMW joins FishFRI

Optional dinner: 6pm

Activities: 6:30 - 8 pm

March 20th

Palm Sunday



## The Prez Sez:

*A Message from Unit President Phyllis Hill*



Dear Friends,

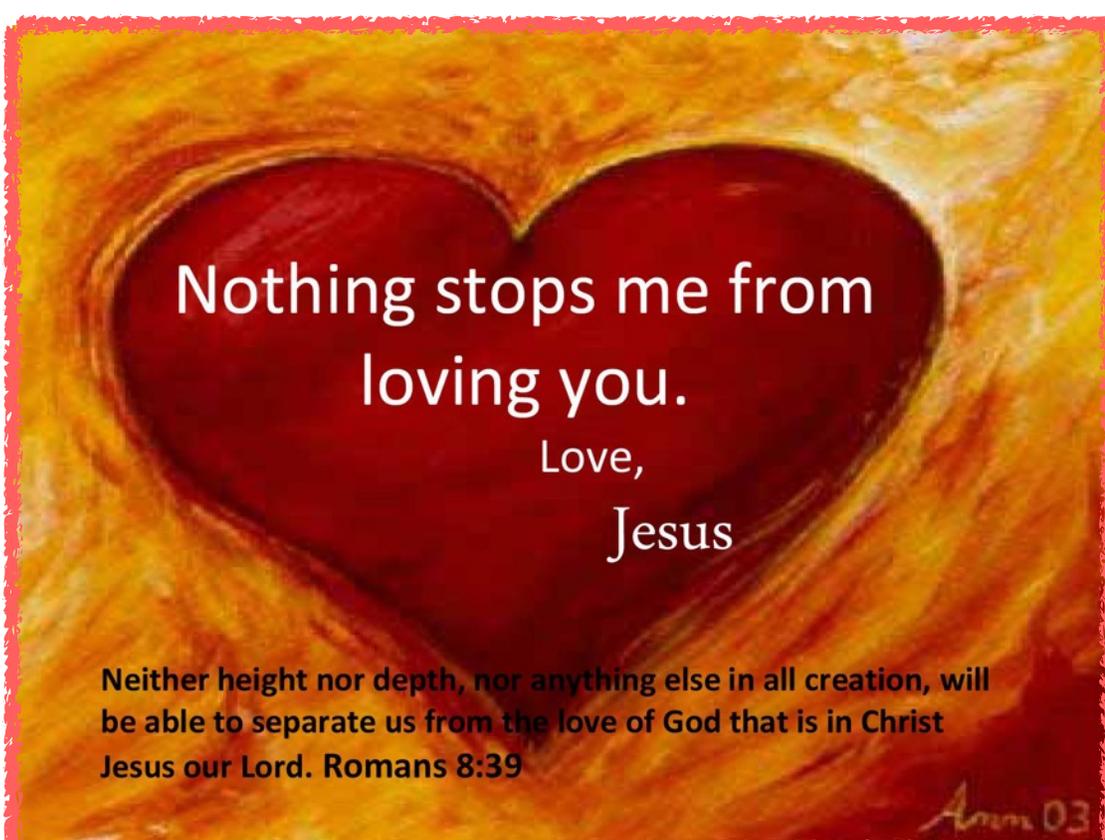
As I look outside, I notice we have some snow showers. It used to be called flurries but now we refer to it with an updated vocabulary. My brother has been visiting from Texas and was hoping to see snow again, so this weather is for him.

Before we know it, it will be time for UMW Weekend on February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> which recognizes our group at Green

Wood and the 9:30 service Downtown. I hope many of you can attend on one of those days to show your support.

In the meantime, stay warm, read a good book, and remember summer clothes are appearing in stores now, so let's get ready for warmer weather.

Peace and Love,  
Phyllis



Nothing stops me from  
loving you.

Love,  
Jesus

Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:39

Ann 03



# Food for the Soul

Mary McClusky, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

## BEAUTY THAT FEEDS THE SOUL

In this month of February when our attention is on winter weather (Ground Hog's day), freedom and justice (President's day), and love (valentine's day), here is a story from Sue Monk Kidd's book: FIRSTLIGHT of seeing beauty in an unexpected place to stir and warm your soul."

"Driving through the poorer section of a large city, I noticed cracker-box houses wedged among the cement block tenements and billboards. There was little birdsong, few trees. Mostly it was a concrete world. Dogs without collars. Dirt without grass. Children without butterflies. A strange restlessness began to stir in me, a bit of sadness.

At a stop sign, I paused before yet another dilapidated old house, scraped by the years of all its paint. But that's not what grasped my attention. Across the front of it was a window box with newborn red flowers tilting over the side. Tulips, I believe. An elderly woman was watering them from a tin can. She appeared to be unaware of all the concrete, of the sadness that seemed to seep through its cracks.

As I watched her, she did something so lovely, so breathtaking, I can still see it. She reached down and patted the soil around her flowers as a mother pats a sleeping child. Then she bent her face close to them and rubbed a petal against her cheek.

As I drove, I realized how deeply beauty feeds the soul, how important it is to create it in the mist of ugliness, barrenness, and sorrow. In every small famine of the spirit."

This month may you see the beauty or create some in your own surroundings to feed your soul.

*"And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." Romans 5:5*



## *Prayer Corner*

The UMW prayer calendar publishes prayers from missionaries all around the world. It is good to know and share these prayers and amazing to hear our common yearnings. Here are a few to pray and make your own even as we lift up these missionaries.

### **Blessings of the Word:**

I praise you, Lord, for the blessedness of letting the Bible shape my prayers and enabling my prayers to guide my Bible reading, that my faith may be daily increased. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you; grant me the grace to touch the lives of others in a positive manner, as well as give to others in the same spirit in which you have so generously given to me. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Catherine Mudime Akale, UMW regional missionary, Africa

### **Blessings for Our Neighbors:**

Great Teacher, guide us as we seek to meet you through the eyes of our neighbors. Help us to open our hearts and minds to truly learn from those we serve. May the relationships we build be greater than the projects we complete. In your holy name, Amen.

Mary B. Gladstone-Highland, church and community worker, Clarkston, MI

Submitted by Mary McClusky





## response Review

*by Mary Danforth, Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation*

January 2016

I must admit that when I read the January issue of response magazine, I had no idea what the National Seminar was/is. The entire issue was devoted to the National Seminar – almost with no exceptions. Fortunately, one of the articles (on page 20) was titled “What Is National Seminar?” Here is the answer: “Every four years, around 200 United Methodist Women members from across the country gather at National Seminar, United Methodist Women’s flagship social justice event held the year before General Conference.” This started in 1939. At National Seminar, the attendees “create resources and strategies” that help shape the UMW mission for the next four years. They come up with ways to apply concrete social actions and help develop the needed skills for leaders. The theme of the 2015 National Seminar was “Interruption Indifference: Jesus, Justice and Joy.” The four main focus themes for the next four years will be:

### CLIMATE JUSTICE, MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH, CRIMINALIZATION & RADICAL JUSTICE, ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

Every article dealt with one of these topics, especially how they apply to Women, Children & Youth – either how the information was presented at National Seminar or what is currently being done to address these major issues. Some brief examples are given below.

#### Climate Justice

There was an article about the small community, called Little Village, that had 2 of the nation’s oldest and dirtiest coal-fired power plants and how harmful the emissions were to the 100,000 residents. A young mother, Kimberly Wasserman,

took on the cause that resulted in the shutdown of the 2 plants in the fall of 2012 – after 12 years of struggle. She described some very concrete suggestions for action that apply to other issues.

#### Maternal and Child Health

During the National Seminar, Dr. Richard David, a co-director of the neonatal ICU at John H. Stoger Jr. Hospital of Cook County, IL spoke about the need to serve low income women at this hospital. The Hospital Administration was having a meeting shortly thereafter to close down the pediatric unit. The women at the National Seminar mobilized themselves and attended the meeting in support of keeping the unit open. You can go on-line to sign a petition to keep the pediatric unit open. For now, the decision to close has been deferred, but is still a threat.

#### Criminalization & Racial Justice

There is serious discrimination among law enforcement organizations

We citizens of the U.S. are generally ignorant about the issues related to immigrants and mass incarceration. In general, we don’t talk openly about the issues.

The presenter (Ivy Carruthers) had an interesting perspective on the “Black Lives Matter” campaign. She thinks the “campaign shouldn’t seek to validate black lives but instead question those who would do them harm.”

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### **Economic Inequality**

White women still make 77 cents to a man's \$1 – much less if for women of color.

There are 150,000 employees at Darden restaurants across the U.S. (this includes Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, and several others I hadn't hear of) who are tipped workers and are paid \$2.13/hour. In the meantime, Darden spends about 1.3 billion every year to defeat legislation regarding improving working conditions in the restaurant industry.

Summary –

There was a wonderful Bible study with very provocative questions such as:

- If Jesus were to walk into our churches today, what do you think might be overturned? (see Luke 19:45-48)
- What equilibrium or status quo might Jesus be calling us to disrupt? What must be turned over?

The author of the Bible study – Rev. Dr. Mai-Anh Le Tran – wrote a thought-provoking version of the Lord's Prayer:

*God Our Parent,*

*Who encompasses the Universe  
(and not just the little temples that  
we build), in your name all things  
are made sacred. May your rule of  
peace and justice be on this earth  
(and not just in heaven). Give us  
enough to eat (and for some of us,  
just enough); release from debt and  
bondage; deliver us from evil,  
especially our own. For we know  
that power, honor and glory do not  
belong to us.*

If any of you want to know more, you can go to the "wonderful website" at [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) and read more about the events and watch some webinars that were sent to the attendees in advance of the National Seminar. We can work together as a unit to see how we can work to "express God's love for the world and God's commitment to the well-being of creation" in these four areas. How can we develop local leaders to help "interrupt indifference" on these topics?





In the spirit of Rev. Nancy's sermon series on food, here are some examples of slave-free chocolate bars readily found in local supermarkets (including Meijers!) Also available at Ten Thousand Villages, along with Fair Trade Coffee. Not only is the chocolate slave free, it's incredibly rich and smooth-Perfect for your Valentine!

*small groups meetings  
(Join one anytime!)*

**Aerie Book Group** - Contact Pat Wilson at [patwilson82@yahoo.com](mailto:patwilson82@yahoo.com) for more info.

**Uncommon Threads**- Our February meeting schedule has not been set. Please check your email for our next meeting dates.

**PM3** - February meeting dates to be determined.

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

**Sarah's Sisters** -Thursday, February 12th will be our next gathering 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)



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