

M A R C H 2 0 1 6

the U M W News

V O L U M E 1 9

I S S U E 3

**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...

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

UMW hosts Connections



(Many helpers and munchies needed!)



The Prez Sez:

A Message from Unit President Phyllis Hill



Dear Friends,

We are at the time of year when our weather is quite changeable. However, we are all used to Michigan and its seasons, so spring one day and winter the next is not unusual.

I encourage all our members to come to the intergenerational night at Fish Fri on March 18th. There are many worthwhile projects planned and all ages can participate.

On May 14th, we will cohost, at West Side United Methodist, a social action program entitled, "The Church and people with Disabilities." People with disabilities constitute our nation's largest minority group. Let us learn how we can be more inclusive. A light lunch will be served.

Peace, Phyllis





Food for the Soul

Mary McClusky, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

By the Sea Shore



This month's inspiration comes in the form of a photo. Being on the beach this cold windy winter season awakened my senses with new sights new people new rhythms new challenges new accomplishments – all refreshing and feeding my soul.

Joys of feeling waves wash over toes and feet, laughter of granddaughters running and jumping in water, hugs, yummy grouper sandwiches from

Gramma Dots, creamy sweet ice cream from Pinocchio's, sea shells galore, rides in beach chairs, arms gaining strength each day from pushing self in a manual wheelchair, swimming laps in warm pools, friendly conversations with strangers, watching wildlife from butterflies to flamingos and seahorses to pelicans.

On cloudless blue days the sea was like shimmering glass outstretched all the way to the horizon. But just as in our lives there were days of long rains, cool temps, shivering, wheeling through water puddles and racing for cover of dry shelter, steep ramps, uneven paths, steps to nowhere.

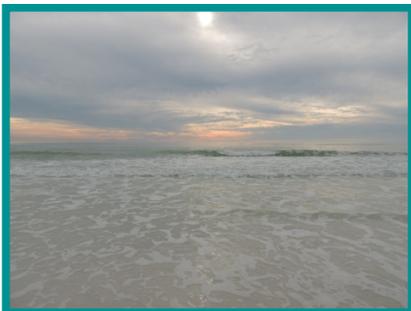
Each day the sound of waves rolling in, crashing on shore was like a rhythm of pushing and pulling, always drawing me near to listen and wonder what they were saying. Was their call saying 'stay put' or 'come and follow me', 'hold on, don't come near' or 'let go and come away'?

The last day I looked up and noticed the fresh air returned, the crisp breeze on my skin, the smell of clean air without burning the lining of my throat and lungs from the red tide, the stunning warm sunshine, waves of billowing wind against my face. This last warm sunny day was soon wrapped in the darkness of night but not before the broad brush strokes of warm colors splashed across the horizon further than arms could stretch to welcome the time of rest and beauty. All this was from a season by the shore.

Returning home I pause to hold on to a slower time, a time of listening, resting, seeing newness around and then remember the words from Psalms that come flooding into my soul:

“Lord, our Lord, your greatness is seen in all the world” Psalm 8:1

“Be still and know that I am God” Psalm 46:10



Prayer Corner

The UMW prayer calendar publishes prayers from missionaries all around the world. Each month I select a few to share. May these prayers be a blessing to you, the missionaries and those we all serve as they connect us together.

Blessings for the Hurting:

Creator God, help us remember that blessedness is not affected by brokenness. When Jesus blessed and broke bread to share with his disciples, the bread did not lose its blessedness after it was broken. Rather, the bread's brokenness increased its capacity to serve. Teach us to be better listeners of those who have been broken so that their blessedness might serve as a light to the world. Amen.

Erin Hancock, Global Mission Fellow, Grenada Community Development Agency (GRENCODA), Grenada.

Blessings for the Day:

Gracious God, may all who serve you start their days feeling blessed and approach the new day with dreams, possibilities and promises. And may evening find us gracious and fulfilled. May we go into the night blessed, sheltered and protected trusting that you are our Anchor. Amen.

Chin Cheak Yu, General Board of Global Ministries missionary, Singapore

Submitted by Mary McClusky





response Review

by Mary Danforth, Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

My eyes are constantly being opened wider and wider to how uninformed I am at how deep our continuing racism is in America and how deeply our system supports the separation of blacks, native Americans, immigrants, and so on... Of course many of our Presidential candidates are illustrating how deep and prevalent these issues are – but I continue to be shocked.

The February issue, because February is Black History Month, examines the complicity of white folks, almost no matter how “unbiased” we think we are, in ignoring the systemic nature of how blacks are treated and how much work there is yet to do – that “voices are missing from the conversation.” We basically have a system that has been designed to meet the needs of one segment of the population – which does not lead to a just society for all. United Methodist Women will be proposing an updated version of the Charter for Racial Justice as well as a new resolution on “Criminalization of Communities of Color” at the General Conference in May 2016. As Harriett Jane Olson wrote, “We must press for a ‘new normal’ in which human dignity is more compelling than fear.” United Methodist Women does not run out of issues to address.

There were some interesting statistics mentioned:

- 1 in 4 is the number of cowboys who were black, despite the stories told in popular books and movies. Apparently the real “Lone Ranger” was inspired by an African American man named Bass Reeves.
- 1967 was the year the ban on interracial marriage, instated in 1664, was lifted in the United States.
- 12.5 million is the number of Africans shipped to the New World from 1500-1866 – most of them to Brazil. Only 388,000 arrived in the United States.

Basically one of the authors summed up for us, “...remember there is no substitute for basic human connection and kindness” – something we may all reflect upon during Lent and put into practice.

The cover of **response** magazine for February shows the picture of a 19-year-old woman from Liberia with a great smile on her face. She is one of several woman who work together to grow cassava in Liberia – part of a local income-generating project that gets financial support from United Methodist Women. This was truly an example of a picture that is “worth 1000 words”.

Every other year, **response** magazine has 14 pages devoted to maps of the areas showing United Methodist Women Mission Outreach projects. I compared projects reported in 2014 with the projects reported in 2016.

	Number in 2014	Number in 2016
Africa	45	46
Asia and Pacific Islands (Afghanistan not identified)	54+	61+
Caribbean	14	16
Europe	20	16
Central America	6	7
Middle East	11	13
South America	22	20
United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands	99	111
Total Projects and Missions supported	271	290

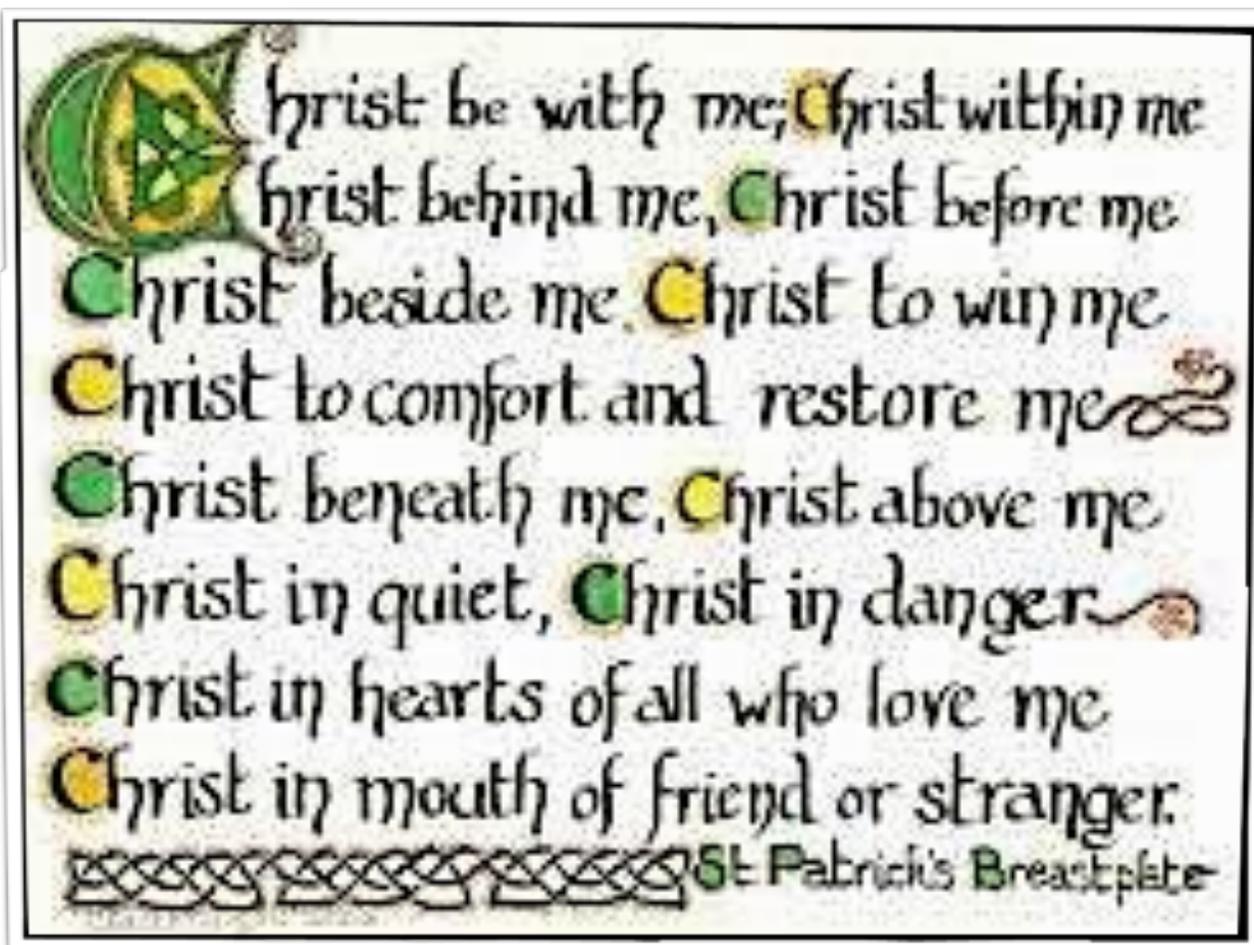
(Continued from response Review)

I know that for some of you numbers may be boring or meaningless, but I was impressed to see that United Methodist Women has increased by almost 20, the number of projects and missions that they are supporting even as the money received for the past 2 years has declined. If you want to know more details about how your money is spent, you can, of course, go on-line to the UMW website – www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and explore in more depth. I enjoyed analyzing the maps and imagining how many women, children, and youth have beautiful smiles because of the work UMW is doing around the world. “Where our hands can’t reach, our hearts and financial giving can...”

St Patrick, Shamrocks and the Holy Trinity

Ever wonder why the shamrock symbolizes St Patrick’s Day? Legend has it folks had difficulty understanding the Holy Trinity—how could God be both one and three at the same time?

St Patrick found the answer in a shamrock. Though a single plant, it has three leaves, each representing one facet of God. Hence, the shamrock has become symbolic of the patron saint of Ireland. May the luck of the Irish be with you!



*small groups meetings
(Join one anytime!)*

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

Uncommon Threads- Our next meetings will be Monday March 7 and Monday March 21st at 1pm at Green Wood. Come join the fun as we knit, stitch and laugh together. Coffee included.

PM³ -March meeting dates to be determined.

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

Sarah's Sisters -Monday, March 14th 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



Mother's Too - Mother's Too will meet 11:00 a.m. Sun., March 13th in the Aldersgate room (next to the chapel) for discussion. Contact Sarah Nooden (snooden@umich.edu, 663-5667)



5	Spring Jackson
6	Carol Fast
6	Carol Teener
7	Ellen Meader
7	Katy Sanderson
11	Mary Danforth
11	Janis Detlefs
11	Christine Kleinheksel
12	Phyllis Foster
15	Cindy Schoolcraft
22	Jill Miller
23	Meg Gower
24	Betty Hancock
24	Amy McNulty
26	Elaine Shaw
27	Susan Elliott
28	Kristina Een
30	Maria Bertram
31	Sandy Hultquist