



**WOMEN
AT WORK**
ECONOMIC JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT

Coming Events:

- **Saturday, October 21, 2017 at Green Wood SoulScapes: Letting Our Soul Speak Through Images**
- **Friday, November 10, 2017 at Green Wood: Installation & Stuffing Christmas Stockings for Cancer Patients,**
- **Saturday, November 11, 2017 at WCC Health Center: Bridging the Differences: Celebrating the Richness of Our Community**
- **Saturday, December 2, 2017 at Green Wood: Sisterhood Advent Meditation and Tea**

UMW Fall 2017 Newsletter

President's Letter

Dear UMW at Ann Arbor First,

We just had our September potluck and it was a very nice event. We had a wonderful meal, wonderful friends to be with and a wonderful program.

Lucie Roy presented her Mission Experience to Kenya. She did a very professional slide presentation and had a lot of very interesting information to give us. It was inspiring to hear about our church's mission to Kenya through the eyes of a young person.



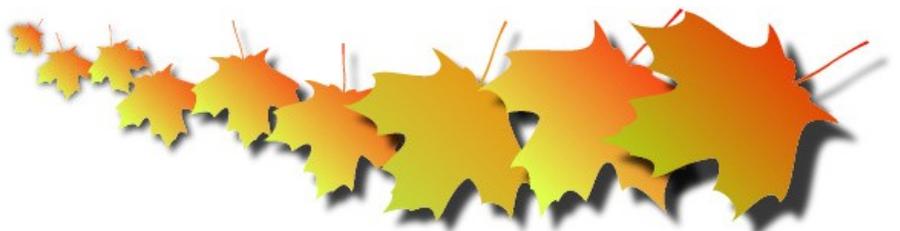
I am very excited about many of the events we have planned for this fall. (See the calendar)

And I am busy reading from the Program List. Right now, I am reading Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson about his efforts to give legal representation to men on death row.

So many problems in the world, so much pain. I am so proud of our church and our United Methodist Women for trying to help, to being the hands and hearts of Jesus in the world.

Warmly,

Marilee Woodworth



Spiritual Growth

♠CTOBER 2017 - A CALL TO PRAYER AND SELF-DENIAL

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial is an annual observance during which members and friends reflect on the gospel of Christ, pray together, and make an offering to mission with women, children and youth in response to God's love and grace.

A PROGRAM WITH A GOAL: MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Each year, nearly a quarter of a million women die worldwide from preventable causes relating to pregnancy and childbirth. Approximately 19,000 children die every day from treatable diseases such as diarrhea and tuberculosis. The women and children's health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs 4 and 5) saw the least progress in the last 15 years. United Methodist Women, as a faith-based women's organization, recognizes this issue as a critical area of concern and priority.

Historically, also, healthcare for women and children has been at the heart of United Methodist Women since the organization was founded in the 1800s. Our foremothers chose to act to save women's lives. They chose to build hospitals and clinics, to train women and girls to serve as doctors and nurses, and to send missionaries to initiate the work. Today, United Methodist Women continues to support the health and family needs of women and children around the globe. Despite these efforts, maternal and child mortality remains a significant global challenge.

In 2017, the offering received from the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial observance will support programming and advocacy for the health of mothers and their children. Programs may include but are not limited to:

- Prenatal and post-partum care.
- Reproductive health—family planning, cancer screening and healthy childbirth.
- Access to healthcare.
- Educational opportunities in medical fields.
- Child protection.
- Crisis ministries for women who are victims of violence at home or during periods of war and conflict.
- Advocacy for equity in law and services for women and children.
- Informal educational workshops on healthy living for teens at risk, lactating mothers who are HIV-positive, mothers who need new ideas on nutrition and basic health, hygiene and disease prevention.
- Trauma and mental health counseling.
- Advocacy and education around the impact of the environment on maternal and child health.

PRAYER FOR ABUNDANT HEALTH FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN:

Creator God, you have knitted us together in our mother's womb and you hem us behind and before with your compassion and love. You comfort us in our time of need and you never forsake or forget us. Women recognize love and build up their families and communities. Help us to embody love, compassion and forgiveness so that we can build a better world for our children. Show us ways to support and nurture women so we can all enjoy abundant living. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

One hundred percent of the offering will go directly to maternal and child health programs and advocacy. This year join thousands of United Methodist Women in prayer and making an offering to mission. Offerings can be made directly to UMW at FUMC, with the words "Call to Prayer & Self Denial in the memo line.

Submitted by Julie Roesch.

2017 UMW Handbook Update

For updates, please contact Ann Hanton at dahanton@sbcglobal.net.

Happy Upcoming Birthdays

October

3 Nancy Morrison
 6 Gwynn Sterken
 10 Donna Fowlkes
 10 Bob Roth
 11 Carole DeHart
 12 Marge Whitacre
 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
 24 Betty Ballard
 25 Karla Paterson
 26 Deanna Dittmar
 30 Sue Seitz
 31 Jan Hansen

November

2 Melanie Snook
 4 Julie Roesch
 5 Amy Bridges
 5 Sarah Nooden
 6 Ellen Lewis
 7 Carol Hulbert
 8 Jean Bush-Bacelis
 9 Marcia Chesney
 10 Marion Haines
 15 Carole Hunter
 16 Jen Sopoci
 17 Claire Dahl
 19 Barbara Krick
 21 Mary Eldridge
 21 Debbie Houghton
 22 Kathy Fojik-Stroud
 22 Norma Wonnacott
 25 Deborah Wood
 26 Barb Higdon
 26 Kristi Jenkins
 28 Jennifer Wilkening
 29 Marianne Clauw

December

1 Carolyn Wiseman
 2 Joan Cho
 5 Kathryn Grammel
 8 Jennifer Hinesman
 9 Jean Wong
 11 Margaret Cressman
 11 Linda Haywood
 13 Shannan Shaw
 15 Robyn Bishop
 19 Gail Nicklowitz
 24 Martha Gray
 29 Kendra Kerr
 31 Stephanie Casey

September 2017 – Summer Highlights

There is, was usual, way more interesting information in **response** magazine than I can begin to cover. This time I am going to list one highlight from each article/page in the July/August 2017 issue.

Cover –always a very personal picture of some woman/children being supported by United Methodist Women – this issue is a Maasai woman in Kenya wearing traditional strung beads

Table of Contents – articles under the following sections: **think, learn, live, give, listen, act, pray** – a great summary of how we should live our daily lives

think – “One of our denomination’s greatest strengths is its worldwide connection and even its diversity of opinion (when shared out of love).” Tara Barnes, Editor of **response**. This is in the context of praying for our United Methodist Church as the Commission on a Way Forward explores options related to human sexuality so that we can maintain and strengthen the unity of the church over the LGBT issue. See UMC.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward.

“Unity does not mean ignoring our disagreements, but it cannot mean silence for those hurt by the church.” Sharon Priddy, President, United Methodist Women

“John Wesley’s focus on learning to put the leadings of the spirit into practice resonates with me. And we do this together – in small groups and as a community.” Harriett Jane Olson, General Secretary,

United Methodist Women. Harriett is talking about each one of us! So is John Wesley.

“104 hours – The number of hours a worker earning the federal minimum wage would need to work per week to afford a typical two-bedroom apartment.” Source: Urban Institute, “The Housing Affordability Gap for Extremely Low-Income Renters in 2013.”

“How can we help children succeed academically? Encourage your group members to learn about educational disparities in your area and brainstorm some ways to address it, from homework help to school supply drives to advocating for funding for education programs.” Julia Chance, Managing Editor of **response**. Did you know that schools in Ypsilanti require that children bring all the supplies they need for school including toilet paper?

learn – “The church needs women leaders. The world needs women leaders. Together we’ll work to break down the barriers... preventing women from being leaders.” Tara Barnes

Bible Study – Hebrews 10:32-36 – (you can actually look this up and read it) – “Go...go...go...Jesus kept on saying. He is still saying that to you and me.” We need to: help reduce maternal and infant mortality, help eradicate poverty, fight against segregation and racial and institutional discrimination, work for economic justice, fight for climate justice, and advocate against mass incarceration. Elmira Sellu, UMW Regional Missionary based in Sierra Leone.

live – “United Methodist Women members support their churches and communities with prayers, funds, time, love and advocacy. We come together as a national organization to support with our Mission Giving women around the world.” Tara Barnes

BRIGHTLIGHTS – This part of the magazine is usually 4 pages long featuring projects of local UMW units. This month units from South Carolina, Michigan (Kalamazoo), Illinois, Kansas, North Carolina, California, and Wisconsin were the entries. Maybe some good ideas for what our unit could do?

“Vermont District United Methodist Women helps support the work of Rutland County Women’s Network and Shelter. The shelter provides a safe haven, individual counseling, and support groups for women facing domestic and sexual violence.” Beryl Goldberg, photojournalist.

give – the money we donate to the national United Methodist Women supports about 100 mission institutions nationally and 100 missions institutions internationally. Every month one national mission and one international mission are described in depth. In this issue, the Bethlehem Center in Charlotte, NC was described. “A 2014 study ranked Charlotte last among the country’s 50 largest cities for upward mobility, meaning it is harder to climb out of poverty here than in any other major U.S. metro area.” Bethlehem Center has programs for children of all ages – from preschool up – providing a “caring, Christ-

centered environment where children can learn, grow and thrive.” The international mission covered was the Hope Foundation for African Women which “help Maasai women in Kenya bridge tradition and modern culture. “

listen – There was a fascinating article about “expanding concepts of our names for God.” The Rev. Leigh Goodrich, pastor at Lexington UMC in Massachusetts, said it took several months of discussion with the congregation before they agreed that God was broader than the term “Father”. “God of the Bible” is a good resource to read that helps expand our concept. The article itself is very helpful too.

And we learn about Andris Salter – the new Associate General Secretary for Administration. At first the title sounds pretty boring, but it is also interesting to learn about the UMW organization and what is done in the various roles.

act – the Legacy Fund has now collected more than \$2.4 million. “The Legacy Fund is a permanent endowment that will support the mission outreach of future generations of United Methodist Women as they respond to the needs of women, children and youth of their day.”

pray – “God is our refuge and strength, a help always near in times of great trouble.” Psalm 46:1. Common English Bible. This is our foundation. God helps us to put our faith, love, and hope into action.

Submitted by Mary Danforth.

Common Threads

Common Threads has changed meeting days to the second and fourth Mondays of the month. (**Note:** until now we have met on the first and third Mondays.) We meet at Green Wood, from 1:00-3:00. Following are the dates that we will meet in the near future.

October 9

October 23

November 13

We will not meet again until **January 8, 2018**. If you like to knit, crochet, or quilt, consider joining us. Visitors and walk-ins are always welcome.



Mother's Too

Mother's Too meets the second Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m. in the Aldersgate Room (next to the chapel). At our November 12th meeting we will do our annual assembly of bags of beans with attached soup recipe for the 15th year now. These will be sold at Connections and at the UMW Christmas Bazaar, the proceeds going to UMW missions

Questions? Contact Sarah Nooden at snooden@umich.edu.

Sarah's Sisters

Newbies come and see what is going on at Moon Winks. We will gather at 1:15 PM on October 17, November 13, December 8, and January 10, 2018 . For more information, call Dee Chapell at 734-476-2354 or land line, 734-235-2547.

PM³ October Meeting

PM³ will meet on Friday, October 17th, at 1:00, in the downtown Asbury Room. After dessert, Patsy Kemner will present "Celebrating Rosie the Riveter", honoring the countless American women who joined the workforce during WWII and took on jobs previously held by men.

PM³ December Meeting

Our annual Christmas luncheon is scheduled for Friday, December 8th, 1:00, at Sandy Hultquist's house, 1270 Bardstown Trail. Each member is asked to bring a grab bag gift under \$5.00 for the Left-Right Game. Please let Sandy know if you are coming:

slhultquist@comcast.net or 734-663-8890.

BEATITUDES FOR FRIENDS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:

Blessed are you who take the time to listen to difficult speech, for you help me to know that if I persevere I can be understood.

Blessed are you who never bid me to "hurry up" and take my tasks from me and do them for me, for I often need time rather than help.

Blessed are you who stand beside me as I enter new and untried ventures, for my failures will be outweighed by the times I surprise myself and you.

Blessed are you who asked for my help, for my greatest need is to be needed.

Blessed are you who understand that it is difficult for me to put my thoughts into words.

Blessed are you who, with a smile, encourage me to try once more.

Blessed are you who never remind me that today I asked the same question two times.

Blessed are you who respect me and love me as I am, and not like you wish I were.

Submitted by Mary McClusky

(source: <http://www.joniandfriends.org/media/uploads/downloads/Beatitudes.pdf>.)

***The Adventure of Soulscapes - October 21
Combined UMW/Adult Ed Fall Retreat Featuring Lisa Gray-Lion***

October 21 is the date for a Fall Retreat held jointly by UMW and Adult Education; our presenter will be Lisa Gray-Lion, retreat leader and Deacon in the United Methodist Church. She is going to be leading us in an exploration of spirituality through the creation of collage:

Soulscapes: Letting Our Soul Speak Through Images.

This Saturday retreat will be held at Green Wood from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm – please bring a brown bag lunch.

Soulscapes: Letting Our Soul Speak Through Images



For most of us the fast pace of our daily lives tends to crowd out time for soulful reflection. Ever wonder what that 'still, small voice' within might be trying to share with you? Collages are a deceptively effective way to listen for our soul's soft whispers. Come join the Inward Bound Adventure of Soulscapes!



Bridging the Differences

Celebrating the Richness of our Community



Although Washtenaw County is a very diverse community, many of us may find ourselves traveling in circles that do not reflect that degree of diversity.

If you find yourself seeking opportunities to meet people outside your typical social settings and celebrate a more inclusive culture, please join us! Our event facilitator Brooke Franklin will guide us through conversations to help us bridge the differences and embrace relationships that strengthen our diverse community.

This event is cohosted by Bethel African Methodist Episcopal and First United Methodist Churches. We welcome people of any faith background to this event.

**Saturday, Nov. 11
9:00 am–12:00 noon**

**Washtenaw
Community College
Health & Fitness
Center**

**4833 E Huron River Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105**

For more information, please call
734-663-3800 or 734-662-4536

Sign Up Here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y7f3pgrz>

ALL are welcome.

Light refreshments served.

“I truly believe that one day we will get there, we will arrive.

**And if we do it right in America, maybe, just maybe,
we can serve as a model for the rest of the world.”**

John Lewis, Civil Rights Leader and U.S. Congressman

United Methodist Women - Assembly 2018 – The Power of BOLD

Every four years, United Methodist Women put on a spectacular, inspiring three-day event somewhere in the United States. This year the Assembly (as it is called) is in Columbus, Ohio. This is very accessible to those of us in the Ann Arbor area. The Assembly is May 18-20, 2018. The theme is **The Power of BOLD**. The event will be held at the Columbus Convention Center. They expect about 8,000 women.

The UMW mission team would like to encourage as many people as possible to attend. If you have never attended one of these events, we have scholarships available for first-time attendees. Registration cost is \$295 if you register by November 30th. It goes up to \$330 after that. The hotel cost is separate. We will share rooms (possibly 4 to a room) for three nights, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. We will carpool to the event.

There will be workshops, worship services, singing, town hall meetings, community gatherings with speakers, and the Experience Hall – with some terrific displays and demonstrations. There are over 100 workshops to choose from. You can only attend 2-4. You are bound to find some that would seriously interest you. You can go on-line at <https://umwassembly.org/about> to learn more (and to register).



I attended in 2010 in St. Louis, MO and 2014 in Louisville, KY. Both were fantastic. If you are interested in going, please contact someone on the Mission Team so we can coordinate hotel rooms and carpooling. If you are eligible for a scholarship, contact a Mission Team member also. You may always contact me at 734-649-4849 or m19danforth44@gmail.com.

Submitted by Mary Danforth.

Christmas Stockings

This year, as a service project, we will fill Christmas stockings for the patients at the Cancer Center. We will do this at the November 10 Installation of 2018 Officers/World Thank Offering program. Sandy Hultquist has sewn 30 stockings for our group, so we will need your help in bringing the following items: trial or travel sizes of lotion, gum, breath mints, deck of cards, puzzle books, individual tissues, hand sanitizer, pens, pencils, granola bars, lip balms, small post-it notes, and mini notebooks.

