

UMW Winter 2018 Newsletter

President's Letter

Message from the President

Happy holidays to all of the women of UMW! It has been a very good year. Thank you to all of you who have helped throughout the year. It truly is a group effort.

Women have organized events, such as Bridging Our Differences, which we plan to be just the first step in a process of learning and collaborating with our African American sisters.

The various circles are places for friendship and learning, active with service projects and supporting one another. If you would like a place to meet and know others in a small group, consider joining one of the circles. They would love to have you.

We have given to missions around the world and close to home. If you want to learn more about UMW missions, our Response magazine has wonderful stories about these projects. Extra copies are in the library in the Asbury Room.

The Advent Tea was once again a lovely way to begin the advent season as a community of loving, involved women.

Our holiday sale was very successful thanks to all of the helpers, bakers, knitters, crocheters, paper artists, seamstresses. I have probably left someone out. Thank you to all of you who helped to raise money for our missions.

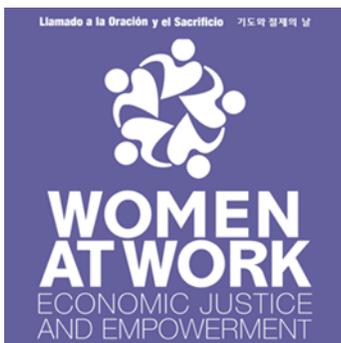
We would always like to give more to our missions. We now have a way for you to donate to UMW on the church website. We are on the list of extra giving opportunities. Please consider donating if you haven't already.

Peace, Marilee



Upcoming Events:

- February 24,25, 2018
UMW Weekend- Climate Justice Theme
- March 11: UMW hosts Connections
- March 16 , 2017
Intergenerational gathering with Fish Fri
- April 7, 2018
Prayer Brunch at Ypsilanti First UMC 9:00 AM - Noon
- More District Events—
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Mothers Too

A group that discusses personal and church issues in a nonjudgmental, caring way. Meetings are on the Second Sundays 11:00 AM, in the Aldersgate Room, next to the Chapel. Upcoming dates are: January 14, February 11, and March 11.

Contact: Sarah Nooden, snooden@umich.edu or 734-663-5667.

Here is a picture of the group assembling bags of beans for those delicious soups we'll have this Winter.



District Dates

- **April 14** **Keep Making Peace** **East Lansing UMC**
 Speaker: Rev. Grace Imathiu
- **May 18-20** **Columbus, Ohio**
 150th Anniversary UMW Assembly
- **July 21** **One day Mission U** **Southfield Hope UMC** **8:45 AM-3:00 PM** **Lunch**
- **August 16** **Mission U and H.O.M.E.** **Lake Huron Retreat Center**
- **August 17, 18** **Mission U** **Lake Huron Retreat Center**
- **September 29** **Milford UMC** **9:00 AM-3:00 PM** **Lunch**
 Ann Arbor District Celebration and Leadership Training

2018 UMW Handbook

The 2018 Handbook should be arriving in your mailbox in early January. It will be bright lunar blue so you can keep track of it during the year. We hope that it will provide useful information for you concerning UMW in the coming year.

Please proof read your information in it. If you see any errors, please contact Ann Hanton by email at dahanton@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 734-580-2107.



Happy Upcoming Birthdays

January

1 Holly Kiener
 1 Frances Wicks
 6 Joan Stark
 7 Janice Leach
 9 Tina Alee
 11 Helen Ryan
 13 Dee Chapell
 14 Angelina Garner
 17 Anne-Marie Ilgen
 19 Mary Dalzell
 19 Sue Johnston
 22 Sarah Christensen
 23 Joan Cooch
 23 Ann Hanton
 24 Moni Dressler
 27 Yomiko Sanford

February

3 Elaine Fisher
 5 Karen Hetrick
 6 Carol Spaly
 7 Karen Donahue
 8 Roberta Asplunc
 9 Phyllis Dillon
 9 Diana Dyer
 9 Beth Moore
 10 Kim Garver
 11 Carole Starnes
 13 Tori Booker
 15 Letitia Byrd
 16 Cynthia Lee
 17 Christine O'Haver
 18 Joan Roth
 18 Dawn Rudnik

19 Mary McClusky
 19 Sherry Root
 20 Jamie Mayo
 22 Doug Paterson
 26 Jan Radak
 27 Pam Gee
 27 Pat Wilson
 28 Stella Steiner

March

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

Uncommon Threads

We are a group of women who knit, crochet, and quilt prayer shawls and prayer quilts to give to those in need of comfort. We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, February to May and September to November, from 1:00 – 3:00, at Green Wood. Everyone is welcome. During the month of January, we will be making fabric bags for Meru, Kenya. Our 2018 winter meetings are: January 8th&22nd, February 12th & 26th, March 12th & 26, April 9th& 23rd, and May 9th. For more information, contact :

Sandy Hultquist at slhultquist@comcast.net or 734-663-8890.

PM³

The January meeting of *PM³* will be held on **Friday, January 26th**, 1:00 – 3:00, in the Asbury Room. We will be making valentines for the U of M Cancer Unit. Everyone is welcome. Join us for an afternoon of crafting, fellowship, and refreshments. Materials will be provided, but feel free to bring any odds and ends that could be used for the valentines (scraps of ribbon, lace, stickers, etc.)

The February meeting will be on **Friday, February 23rd**, 1:00 – 3:00, in the Asbury Room. After dessert, Wendy Everett will present a program on highlights from a recent disability audit performed, to point out barriers in our church. Visitors are always welcome.

Our March meeting will be on **Friday, March 23rd**, and on **April 27th**, both meetings from 1:00 – 3:00, in the Asbury Room. In May, we will have our luncheon potluck at Chelsea Retirement Center. Date TBD.

For more information about any *PM³* meeting, contact Sandy Hultquist at slhultquist@comcast.net or 734-663-8890.

December 2017 – Already Looking Ahead

In this season of Advent, when we are preparing for the birth of Christ, who brings us Peace, Joy, Hope & Love, I am excited to learn what United Methodist Women across the nation are doing to change some of the sorrowful situations we find ourselves in.

In the December issue of **response**, I learned the following:

In the **BRIGHTLIGHTS** section (which features activities of local UMW groups across the nation), the first entry was about FUMC in Brighton, MI! I recognized the 2 women in the picture delivering Care Bags to the cancer center at St. Joe's. They were already bringing joy to cancer patients who were scheduled for treatment the day they arrived!

The current President of United Methodist Women (Shannon Priddy) asks us to “find out what needs you can fill in your community and invite others to join you in the doing.” We can do this as we prepare “our hearts and minds to believe in and spread the coming peace.” Currently we have many such opportunities in our UMW groups and in our church. Have you found your place? Your cause? Where do you want to participate in the coming year?

“We are called to love beyond our own religious, familial, racial, national, gender, orientation, socioeconomic and political groups.” If that doesn't sound like a challenge, especially when it is sometimes hard to love those who are closest to us, I am not sure what a challenge would be. On a very small scale, I am reminded of this call every day when I work at House by the Side of the Road.

In the BIBLE STUDY section, we are reminded that “At the foundational heart of everything that Jesus did was LOVE.” Jesus empowers us with the freedom to be “agents of love, peace, kindness, justice and mercy to build the kingdom of God.” During Advent we can take the time to discern how we are going to do our part. How are we going to “live differently” so that we can be helpful to others?

In preparation for the new year, the UMW Reading Program was discussed. Brief descriptions of the books on the 2018 list were included. Almost all of them sounded interesting to me. The list reminded me of the current book I am reading (on an earlier UMW Reading Program list) – **Uprising** by Sally Armstrong. This book is really opening my eyes and heart to the ongoing challenges faced by women around the world and the women who are speaking up about these challenges. It is especially appropriate to read at this time as more and more women are speaking up in the United States about sexual harassment. Would you like to join with others to participate in the reading program?

One of the national missions supported by United Methodist Women is the Emma Norton services in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota. They are celebrating 100 years of service and advocacy. Over the years, the focus of service has changed depending on the needs of the area. In 1991 Emma Norton adapted its focus to meet the needs of the increasing number of homeless women with mental illness and chemical dependency. Currently they have several rental sites for housing single women. Looking ahead, they want to become more integrated with other agencies so they can provide more complete treatment for the people seeking help, rather than trying to provide it all themselves. Would you be able to donate financially to UMW in the coming year to help support the national and international missions of United Methodist Women? A donation of \$10.00 from each UMW member would go a long way towards supporting these wonderful national missions.

Maybe just one change looking forward for some of you would be to start reading **response** magazine and learn more about where your money is going and the amazing things United Methodist Women is doing that I cannot cover in 1 or 2 pages. Reading **response** always fills me with HOPE.

Submitted by Mary Danforth

Spiritual Growth

January 2018 – A New Year

This year, we will reflect on sacred spaces—our encounters with God and neighbors. What makes a place sacred? Through Jesus, we learn that it's not limited to buildings of worship or areas deemed holy. We create sacred space whenever we interact with God. Connecting with God helps us discover something deeper about ourselves and realize God's purpose for us. Also, when we interact with others and view them through the lens of God's love and grace, the encounter becomes sacred as well.

Scripture gives us examples of God calling individuals to different tasks. Consider the account in Exodus of Moses leading his people out of bondage. Consider the story in Judges of Gideon leading his army against a formidable foe. Or the account of Esther risking her life to intervene for her people, or the story in Acts of Dorcas/Tabitha serving her community. For some, God is calling them to a specific lifestyle, and for others, God's call is for a specific time or task. Each has a sacred call to follow and each lives in a sacred place of trust. God puts great confidence in these individuals for their leadership, impact and availability to follow their call.

Calling comes in a variety of forms—for some it is lifelong, for others it happens later in life and for some it is just for a season. Both Isaiah and Jeremiah affirmed being named/called while in their mothers' wombs, as were John the Baptist and Jesus. In contrast we see individuals called for a season, such as Esther called "for such a time as this." We all respond to the call of Christ to love God and to love others. It forms our lives as Christians.

Although God is not specifically mentioned in the book of Esther, we know that God is present throughout the story. Esther was placed in a challenging situation as queen. Her people, the Hebrews, were held in captivity in Persia and were ordered by the king to be killed. Through her sacred encounter with Mordecai, Esther gained the confidence to overcome her fears, trust God and make a plan to prevent the massacre. She seized the opportunity to influence the king and save her people from being killed. In our own lives, we can trust that God is always present and guiding us to work out the perfect plan just as Esther did.

When we encounter God, in whatever way we encounter God, the sacred space of that moment can mold the rest of our lives in significant ways. In what way do you feel that you are called by God?

The United Methodist Women's Purpose is to "know God." We are called to turn faith, hope and love into action. Let the story of Esther remind us that God can give us all the strength to do God's will. Let that reminder allow us to set goals and make a plan for the year ahead.

Submitted by Julie Roesch

UMW 2018 Pledge to Mission

As a member of the Ann Arbor First unit of The
United Methodist Women,
I pledge to support its work in the local, national and
global ministries of the church.

I pledge \$ _____ for 2018

I plan to pay: _____ Yearly

_____ Quarterly

_____ Other

Name _____

2018 Pledges can be mailed to treasurer Betsy Kincaid:
235 Katherine Way, Dexter, 48130 or placed in the UMW
Mailbox outside the church offices. Thank you.