

UMW Spring 2018 Newsletter

President's Letter

Message from Marilee,

Hello lovely ladies. Thank you to everyone who helped with UMW Sunday. I think it went really well. We will continue our social action movement with a group focused on Climate Justice. This will meet for the first time on April 16 at 7:00 pm in the Asbury room. We welcome everyone, men, women and young people.



We want those that come to be involved in the direction the group takes. There are many different approaches we could take. We could focus on learning about issues. We could explore personal responsibility actions. We could develop actions on a wider level. Do we want to work on ideas for making our church more "green?" Or do we want to pursue community or wider efforts on a political level?

So please come with your ideas. We hope with strength in numbers, a group can move forward.

The global United Methodist Women organization has made Climate Justice a priority social action. There are resources available for us. No need to reinvent the wheel.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Revelations 22: 1-2

Coming Events

April 7-Prayer
Brunch-Ypsilanti
UMC

April 7,8-
Disabilities Week-
end

April 16-Climate
Justice group

August 14-Date
change for Budget
& Program plan-
ning for Mission
team

Llamado a la Oración y el Sacrificio 기도약 생명의 날



**WOMEN
AT WORK**
ECONOMIC JUSTICE
AND EMPOWERMENT

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." -Luke 13: 18 – 19

In the familiar mustard seed parable, Jesus presents the kingdom of God as the tiny seed that grows prolifically into a "tree" that houses bird nests. The image recognizes both the initial hiddenness of God's kingdom (kin-dom) and the breadth of its presence. It is a faith perspective that first acknowledges the smallness and simplicity of Jesus' ministry and then its consequent expansion across the Roman Empire through the witness of the disciples. Nineteenth- and twentieth-century missionary movements are also likened to the sowing of the mustard seed and the resulting global growth of the church.

Our 150 years as women organized for mission, like the mustard seed, also had a small beginning: Eight women gathered in Boston in 1869 and saw the needs for planting the seeds of God's kin-dom in the lives of poor and disregarded in India. Forming the Women's Foreign Missionary

Society, they sent Isabella Thoburn and Dr. Clara Swain to work with women and girls in India, where they provided schooling, medical care and education. Leadership development remains a key part of United Methodist Women's vision today. "Equipping women and girls around the world to be leaders in communities, agencies, workplaces, governments and churches" is one of the five commitments in our vision statement. United Methodist Women invests in growing leaders and learning for a lifetime. Today, more than 20,000 individuals receive mission education in annual Mission u's; hundreds of elected and emerging United Methodist Women leaders attend Leadership Development Days each year; young people and seasoned United Methodist Women members regularly flock to the Seminar Program at the Church Center for the United Nations; and others are awakened to new perspectives and strengthened leadership capacity through National Seminars, Ubuntu Journeys and legislative events. United Methodist Women leaders serve in their congregations, workplaces, community boards and public offices, frequently citing

United Methodist Women learning experiences as instrumental in their decisions and capability as leaders.

In 2018, the offering from the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial observance will support national and international programs that develop leaders of all ages. These programs will offer educational opportunities to the underserved and marginalized. Projects will include (but are not limited to) child development and after-school programs, GED and ESL programs, job readiness, life skills and livelihood training, scholarships, workshops and seminars, informal and formal educational opportunities. One hundred percent of the offering will go to the projects receiving the grants.

Hearing stories of our long-time work as United Methodist Women members to empower women and educate girls for leadership, and considering some of the barriers and outcomes facing women in leadership, what power do we have as women? How might we use it to effect change? What are some actions and commitments we can make to increase opportunities for women and girls' leadership? The following ideas can be added to:

Mentor younger women in your congregation, group, workplace, community organizations or family.

Sponsor younger women to participate in United Methodist Women education and leadership development opportunities as they arise, such as Mission u, Assembly, the Seminar Program, Leadership Development Days or other special events at the national, conference or district level.

Listen to the concerns of younger and other women whose experiences are different than your own.

Reflect on your own leadership journey. What are your strengths? What are your biases? What might you need to "give up" to empower other for leadership? Pray and act upon how you might create space for another to serve.

Actively monitor public policy and legislation applying a gender-justice lens. Challenge decision makers on policies that adversely affect women and girls.

(continued on page 4)

Commit to reading books on leadership development and justice issues that affect women and children.

Prayerfully give to the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering.

As Harriett Jane Olson, United Methodist Women's general secretary and CEO, remarked in November 2016:

As we have always done, United Methodist Women will... [continue to pay] attention to women's gifts for leadership and to their needs, by responding to the needs of children and youth, and by standing up alongside the most vulnerable. Our history of courageous leadership is the backdrop for our work, rooting ourselves spiritually, learning in ways that challenge us, and building skills and plans for leadership to respond to the call of God.

Prayer: God of our hearts and minds, open us to hearing stories of women and girls seeking to learn and to lead. Empower us to imagine and create glimpses of your kingdom (kin-dom) in barrier-removing sacred places of hospitality, learning and transformed lives.

Amen.

During the month of April please prayerfully consider giving to cultivate the hospitality, creativity and sacred space of God's kin-dom through A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering. Contributions can be made through three means:

Put a check payable to UMW in the offering plate, with "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" on the memo line.

Put a check payable to UMW, with "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" on the memo line, in the mail and send it to Betsy Kincaid, 235 Katherine Way, Dexter 48130.

Give online at https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-in/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=tYgT1GfNxRUldiimjHMvOeEox14JQAzqfaHCu2oqmxfbto7rg8irIX1_lb7hFlma2evTpo0mld6BrVzd2nG0p1-fLRKsaONn85PKnTkiVhk=&ver=3, and select the line for Other under the portion of the page for designated giving, and put "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" in the asterisked box.

2018 UMW Handbook Update

The UMW Handbook for 2018 is a bright blue and was mailed to all UMW members in late December. We hope you are using the handbook and benefitting from having it.

Some additions and corrections for the handbook are listed below:

Email Correction for Sarah's Sisters:

Lynn Johnson– ljohnson52@comcast.net (it had .com in handbook)

If you find errors or have changes for the Handbook, please contact Ann Hanton either by email at dahanton@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 734-580-2107.

April

1 Helen Gierman
4 Elaine Greene
4 Deborah Jeffries
5 Helen Beavin
7 Sue Oldani
10 Linda LaBarre
10 Lynn Palacios
11 Nancy Simpson
12 Kara Stemmer
17 Lynne Pauer
19 Tracy Knudsen
20 Anne Cox
21 Betsy Kincaid
24 Dianne McLaren-Brighton
29 Marcie Austerberry

May

2 Olivia Fanning
4 Barbara Hoffman
6 Bethany Christoff
9 Peggy Page
10 Phyllis Hill
12 Emily Vincent
13 Kate Neelands
13 Jennifer Niggemeier
18 Susan Baily
24 Nancy O'Connor

25 Prudy Dittmar
25 Lynn Johnson
25 Patsy Lidgard
28 Denise Held
31 Laurie Brannan
31 Ruth Ann Church
31 Amy Crumm

June

1 Melanie Lutz
2 Margaret Punch
3 Barbara Baily
5 Carol Bennington
5 Sara Zocher
7 Kathy Macdonald
8 Marikay McClurg
10 Carolyn Hannum
12 Stefanie Horvath
13 Beth Pascoe
16 Cindy DeHart
20 Chris Nelson
24 Cynthia Westphal
25 Karen Bamsey
28 Jennifer Jue
29 Laura Harper
30 Fran Betz
30 Janet Fogler
30 Phyllis Rector
30 Nancy Moore

Mother's Too

We are a discussion group, meeting the 2nd Sunday of the month at 11:00 AM in the Aldersgate room. We discuss personal and church issues in a non-judgmental, caring way. We continue meeting through the Summer. Meeting dates: April 8, May 6 (meeting first Sunday because of Mother's Day is on the Second Sunday), June 10, July 8, August 12, September 9.

Ann Arbor District 2018 Calendar

April 14—Keep Making Peace—East Lansing UMC

May 18-20—150th UMW Assembly—Columbus, Ohio

July 21 ——One day Mission u ——Southfield Hope

August 16—Mission u and H.O.M.E.—Lake Huron Retreat Center

August 17, 18—Mission u—Lake Huron Retreat Center

September 29—Ann Arbor District Celebration & Leadership

Training—Milford UMC

Coming Soon.... Disability Awareness Worship Weekend 2018

On April 7 and 8, 2018 our second disability Awareness worship weekend is happening at FUMC. Come, learn and celebrate with us our abilities and disabilities. See and hear how we are becoming more accessible. Hear stories of how faith and disability connect. Learn how we are reaching to become accessible for all to feel welcome. Come celebrate with us Do you have a concern or suggestion about accessibility and our church?

We now have an email address you can send your concerns or suggestions to: access@fumc-a2.org Contact person is Mary McClusky!

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.

Uncommon Threads

Uncommon Threads is a group of women who sew quilts, knit, crochet and weave shawls for people in need of comfort. Visitors and walk-in are always welcome.

NOTE: we have changed our meeting times from the first and third Mondays of the month to the second and fourth Mondays. We will still meet at Green Wood, from 1:00 – 3:00. Visitors are always welcome.

The dates for upcoming meetings are:

April 9th

April 23rd

May 9th

For more information, contact Sandy Hultquist at shultquist@comcast.net or 734-663-8890

In January, the women of Uncommon Threads made seventy-seventy bags that were sent to Meru, Kenya.”

PM³

PM³ meets on the fourth Friday of the month, at 1:00, in the downtown Asbury room.

In late April or early May, we will have our luncheon potluck at Chelsea Retirement Center. (Date TBD.) After that we will take a summer break and resume meetings in September.

For more information, contact Sandy Hultquist at shultquist@comcast.net or 734-663-8890

Sarah's Sisters

When Sarah's Sisters moved their group to Moon Winks in September of 2014 we hoped more of us would find this coffee house a pleasant place to be. We put a notice in the church bulletin letting people know to come and be part of a group of women who are asking and listening, encouraging and supporting, caring and doing. All were invited to join our group as we share, pray and listen.

At our first gathering, seven of us showed up at Moon Winks, two who were new to Sarah's Sisters. Most everyone went to the counter to get some kind of drink and/or something to eat. We listened to each other's concerns and joys as we gathered around the six sided table, making it easier to hear each person as they shared. We ended with a reading and prayer and lots of good feelings.

Sarah's Sisters meets once a month from 1:15 pm-2:45 pm on various days of the weekday which seems to work well. So far we have nine new people that have joined the group. Various people convene the group or help with the readings and prayers. Sarah's Sisters also has helped with various mission activities through UMW, brought mittens and hats for the Hands Across the Water Christmas party for children in Washtenaw County, and providing an upcoming dinner for the Alpha House in June.

Our next three meetings are -

Thursday, April 19th

Friday, May 11th

Thursday, June 7th

Feel free to stop in!

Warmly,

Sarah's Sisters

Ann Arbor, Michigan



ANN ARBOR, MI - Karen Ensminger got the idea for [Ann Arbor's Scrap Box](#) from the Boston Children's Museum, which had a program encouraging creative reuse of discarded junk. In 1983, she brought the idea to Ann Arbor and co-founded the Scrap Box, a unique store that embodies the philosophy that one person's trash is another person's treasure.

Ensminger, who served as director of the nonprofit organization until last year, died of heart failure on Feb. 17.

Ensminger, who had been a stay-at-home mom for years, was looking for something to do when her son Alex started kindergarten, and that something became the Scrap Box in 1983.

.Ensminger and Ken Moore served as co-directors during the Scrap Box's humble beginnings, when it was open only on Thursday afternoons for two hours. In its infancy, it operated in the basement of the Pound House nursery school, her son recalls.

After two years, the Scrap Box spun off as its own nonprofit organization and in 1985 moved into empty classroom space at the West Side United Methodist Church on Seventh Street.

For usually no more than a buck or two, anyone could come in and fill a bag with items such as cardboard tubes, beads, wood scraps, plastic containers, spools, ribbons and other odds and ends, including carpet samples, lids, foam disks, and even scrap pieces of nylon from a company that makes hot-air balloons.

Art teachers are among the many who have frequented the store over the years and helped give those items a second life.

"We're not necessarily saving things from going to the landfill ultimately, but we're giving them a second chance before they actually are thrown away, and in that second chance comes a lot of creativity and kids are able to use their imaginations and dream of things that we adults never even would have imagined."

With workshops put on for children, the Scrap Box has not only served as a creative outlet for many, but also an educational opportunity to teach the three R's of waste reduction: reduce, reuse and recycle.

In 1991, the Scrap Box moved again, this time to 521 State Circle, where it operated through the 1990s..

Bill Ensminger said the Scrap Box was a longtime passion for his wife of 54 years and he saw

how much it has meant to other people. For the past 40 years, they lived in a house off West Huron River Drive just outside Ann Arbor, with a scenic view overlooking the river. And since 1983, they enjoyed many visits to their lake house on Independence Lake north of Ann Arbor.

"She was genuine," Bill Ensminger said of his wife, who was known for her kindness, calming presence and artistic creativity. "She didn't make enemies," he said. "It was great to be married to someone who was so nice. Everybody loved her."

A 1959 graduate of Ann Arbor High School (now Pioneer High), Karen Ensminger earned a bachelor's degree in education from UM in 1963 and later worked as a middle school English teacher and textbook editor. She was a stay-at-home mom from 1978 to 1983 before starting the Scrap Box and making that her career.

She also was the editorial advisor for Offspring, a publication of the Michigan Council of Cooperative Nursery Schools.

Bill Ensminger said his wife only stepped down as director of the Scrap Box last year when her health problems worsened. He said she had been having problems for many years, starting with hip problems leading to infections, multiple operations, and then heart disease.

He said they made trips to Florida every year for the last 15 years and, though she was getting worse, they still went again this year. He said the weather was nicer and she was happier there. They were in Florida when she passed away with her husband and son by her bedside.

"It's a big hole in my soul," Bill Ensminger said, fighting back tears during an interview this week.

Alex Ensminger said he's glad his mother was able to meet her grandson. He said she adored Ike, who is 13 months old.

"She was super excited with her first and only grandson and watching him grow and watching him walk for the first time," he said.

He said he also is glad that his mother's legacy lives on through the Scrap Box, which is now under new management.

"The DNA is still there," he said, adding he hopes it's part of the community for many years to come.

March 2018 – History of United Methodist Women

The March issue of *response* magazine was basically devoted to the History of United Methodist Women, in preparation for the 150th anniversary celebration on March 23, 2019 when the organization will officially be 150 years old! Basically the purpose of United Methodist Women has not changed since its foundation by 8 women in on March 23, 1869 – namely to help Women, Children and Youth achieve independence, equality, dignity and security (these are my words). Almost everything else has changed including: the name of the group, the organizational structure, the specific needs being met by each mission, the wording of the purpose, etc. As the *response* editor, Tara Barnes says, “The church needs women organized for women. The world needs women organized for mission.” And as our General Secretary, Harriett Jane Olson says “I’ve noticed a consistent theme of *change*. Women organized because they saw the need for change. Women and children needed adequate nutrition, support in literacy...or confidence and other forms of support and advocacy.” The need continues. The ways in which we support the needs continues to change. The 8 women who met at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston started to help by sending a doctor (Clara Swain) and a teacher (Isabella Thoburn) to India as missionaries. The Isabella Thoburn College still exists today in Lucknow, India (although it has gone through several name changes and locations). Today, United Methodist Women supports over 200 missions world-wide (about 100 in the United States) as well as funding and providing many other services, including leadership training, participating in the United Nations Com-

mission on the Status of Women, providing scholarships for women to go to college, and so on.

This issue also featured the Wesley-Rankin Community Center in Dallas, TX. This was founded in 1934 and has worked to support the Los Altos Neighborhood. 34% of the families in this neighborhood survive on an income below the poverty line. The current crisis has to do with the “gentrification” of the neighborhood – working to help the 300 families who are being evicted from their homes to allow for more upscale, expensive housing. This community center, supported by United Methodist Women, is working to help the families in transition while advocating for affordable housing.

What the Wesley-Rankin Community Center is doing illustrates the ongoing legacy and importance of United Methodist Women. As we near the 150th anniversary date, now is a great time to consider donating to the Legacy Fund so you can help support the future of United Methodist Women. You can find out more by going online at

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund or call 800-278-7771.

I always feel proud to be a member of United Methodist Women and love hearing the positive news about how we are helping women, children and youth around the world.