

UMW Spring 2019 Newsletter

First United Methodist Church Ann Arbor

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 Social Justice Workshop featuring a speaker on the School to Prison Pipeline. This will be held on May 18.

So please come and participate. We hope with strength in numbers, we can learn more about this topic.

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

Warmly, Marilee

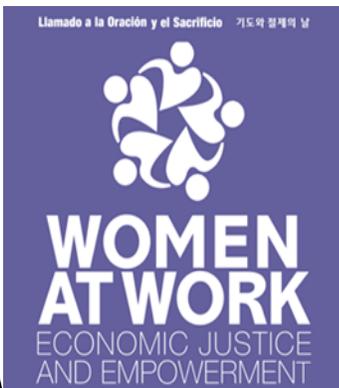


Coming Events

May 18-Social Justice Workshop, School to Prison Pipeline at Green Wood

August 20- Budget & Program planning for Mission team

September 21- Salad Potluck/ Birthday Celebration, Green Wood



UMW Handbook Updates

The new purple UMW Handbook came to you in early January 2019. If you did not receive one, we can send it now. It includes the calendar for the year, the Mission Team Members, the small group descriptions and the membership of each, as well as a directory of all who are members of UMW. If you are receiving this message and are not a member of UMW, we hope you will express interest. We would love to have you join us in our Mission of Hope.

We have some corrections and some changes for you to note:

Email corrections:

Diana Dyer: dianadyera2@gmail.com

Lisa Berlanga: lisakberlanga@gmail.com

Tori Booker: vkbooker@gmail.com

Sally Walker: saljwalker@msn.com

Phone Number Changes:

Lisa Berlanga: 734-612-5583

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Address Changes:

Rosalie Bargmann

1921 Thompson Road

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Helen Beavin

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We are very grateful to have been told about the above changes. We want to be as correct as possible. If a person sees an error or there is a change, it is really helpful to let us know. If you are reading your purple UMW Handbook and see that a change is needed, please contact Ann Hanton at dahanton@sbcglobal.net. We will get it fixed. That will only happen if you are reading your purple 2019 UMW Handbook. We encourage you to read it.

Ann Hanton, Handbook Editor

Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline

Saturday, May 18 9 am-1 pm FUMC Green Wood

What would it feel like to be a student experiencing an expulsion hearing? Or the parent of a student? How would this process look like if we redesigned it from a Christian perspective?

You're invited to experience all this and more in a Saturday workshop in May. We look forward to co-sponsoring this event with our friends from Bethel AME!

Featured Speaker: Peri Stone-Palmquist, LMSW, MPP, Executive Director of Student Advocacy Center. Peri will teach us more about advocating for public policies that benefit students and offer volunteer and giving opportunities.

The Student Advocacy Center of Michigan (is a unique organization with a proud, 40-year history of helping underserved students stay in school or get back into school. Student Advocacy Center also has a long-standing history of working with youth in foster care. Their Foster Care Advocate helps youth with school enrollment, transportation, special education services, and reducing other barriers to school success. www.studentadvocacycenter.org/

Additional Guests: Kevin Hudson, Class Principal, Pioneer High School
Faye Askew-King, LMSW, Student Advocacy Center Board Chair former Executive Director of SOS Community Services



Questions? Contact

Wendy Everett, wendy@fumc-a2.org, 734-662-4536

Mary Danforth, m19danforth44@gmail.com, 734-649-4849

Janet Chen, a2janetchen@gmail.com, 734-972-3789

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial is an opportunity for women to reflect on the gospel of Christ and make an offering that helps sustain ministry around the country and the world. In response to God's love and grace, offerings collected through A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial support worthy initiatives that relate to each year's mission focus.

The mission focus for 2019 is **Building a Thriving Generation of Children and Youth Worldwide**, which provides an opportunity for United Methodist Women members to learn more about the difficult circumstances children and youth face at home and abroad. All offerings received from A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial observance this year will go to programs that promote well-being and equal opportunities for children and youth in need, including:

- Advocacy to end the school-to-prison pipeline
- Anti-violence and child protection programs
- After-school and wraparound programs
- Vocational livelihood training for refugees and vulnerable children and youth
- Formal and informational workshops on healthy living
- Equal access to education
- Access to educational and life opportunities for children with disabilities

For 150 years, United Methodist Women members and their foremothers have advocated for children and youth around the world. United Methodist Women supports church and grassroots organizations that offer vulnerable and oppressed children opportunities to thrive—from providing access to education for youth in Haiti and Liberia to social support services for vulnerable infants and children in the United States. In the coming years, United Methodist Women will pay attention to children marginalized by the legal system. Focus will be on interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline to advocate for a 25% decrease in the number of arrests of children and youth in schools, with specific focus on youth populations most impacted. United Methodist Women is also seeking the redesign of zero-tolerance policies in school so that they protect rather than criminalize women.

One of the organizations that A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial funds have supported include the United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This UMW National Mission Institution is an affiliated agency of the Michigan Conference of United Methodist Women. It has been serving its community for more than 100 years and specializes in programs to support vulnerable infants, children and youth.

Funding raised through A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial reaches across borders, supporting groups such as the Youth Network Against Violence, a program of the Women and Community Association of San Francisco Libre, in Nicaragua. Their focus has been to alleviate poverty and end violence against women and youth. In Liberia, the Young People's Ministry of the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church has been serving the region with support from United Methodist Women. Ebola devastated the health, livelihood and community life of West Africans in 2014. To bring the epidemic under control, some traditional ways of living had to change, and United Methodist youth have traveled community to community, bringing health education to residents.

During the month of April please prayerfully consider giving to the 2019 mission focus to promote well-being and equal opportunities for children and youth in need, 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://secure3.convio.net/umw/site/Donation2?df_id=1900&mfc_pref=T&1900.donation=form1, 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.



Social Action Update

“May you live in interesting times...” That phrase has been running through my mind lately quite a bit. It was used in a speech by Robert Kennedy, although a little research leads me to understand that this is not a Chinese curse as it was purported to be.

These certainly are *interesting times* as far as the United Methodist Church goes, with the passing of the Traditional Plan at the Special General Conference in February. Since we are waiting for the rulings of the Judicial Council in April, it’s difficult to know what will happen next. I was heartened to see all the demonstrations of love and acceptance for LGBTQAI+ siblings in the Body of Christ around our local church.

Adele Roy and I traveled to a gathering of the Methodist Federation for Social Action in Lansing on Saturday, March 16. We also ran into Wesley Chaplain Tim Kobler there. It started with a worship service and I was glad we started by setting our sights on God. I would guess that there were approximately 200 people there, and would have been more if there was not a district superintendent funeral service that same day.



Several people spoke. Alex Plum reported that all of the Michigan delegates supported the One Church Plan. David Bard, our Michigan Area Bishop, was also present in spite of having to miss Mark Spaw’s memorial service that day. He stated that the General Conference body is not functioning well. One example is that 30% of the people are voting on a pension plan for U.S. pastors, even though they live outside the U.S. He suggested that a regional decision-making system may be better going forward. “I supported the One Church Plan because I wanted to make more space for LGBTQ people in our denomination” Bard shared.

Laura Speiran, chair of the Board of Ordained Ministry, said that the board was participating in “holy conversation” and

that they were not all of the same mind on the matter. They had, however, passed a nondiscrimination policy and it was read to the group, being too soon to even have it in print. The Board declared that it would not question clergy candidates with regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. If you are interested in reading the whole statement you can find it on the Michigan Conference MFSA Facebook page. (Side note: I met Laura many years ago when I participated in the Conference Council on Youth Ministries!)

We also heard from Lisa Batten, leader of Young Adult Initiatives. According to Lisa, we are called to be vulnerable and transparent in our relationships. It is hard work and goes slower than we want. The final speaker was Paul Perez, Associate Director for Mission and Ministry of the Michigan Conference, who said that we have come to a moment of crisis, a moment of decision making. The current days could be considered a time of apocalypse, a time of unveiling. He reminded us of our baptismal vows to resist the forces of evil and oppression.

April and the Judicial Council rulings are just around the corner. If I put on my youth ministry hat for a moment, I believe we have to move toward full inclusiveness if we desire any hope of keeping our

younger generations connected to the faith. I also believe that careful reading of our scriptures and taking the time to understand the context in which they were written teaches us that it's the right thing to do.

Interesting times indeed.

Submitted by Wendy Everett

The Methodist Federation for Social Action seeks to mobilize, lead and sustain a progressive United Methodist movement, energizing people to be agents of God's justice, peace and reconciliation.

Visit them online a mfsa.org.

You can also follow [them on Facebook](#). (Click the link or use the search bar to locate.)

If you would like to stay informed about the next steps MFSA will take regarding LGBTQAI+ inclusion in the church, [you can sign up here](#).

STAND UP. SPEAK UP. TAKE ACTION

We are justice-seeking people of faith and we believe that

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice" .

Mother's Too

We are a discussion group, meeting the 2nd Sunday of the month at 11:00 am-12 noon in the Aldersgate room (next to the chapel). We discuss personal and church issues in a non-judgmental, caring way. We continue meeting through the Summer. Meeting dates: April 14, May 5 (meeting first Sunday because of Mother's Day is on the Second Sunday), June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8. Contact Sarah Nooden, snooden@umich.edu, for more information

Heritage District 2019 Calendar

April 6 —Keep Making Peace—East Lansing UMC

July 20 ——One day Mission u ——Southfield Hope UMC

August 15—Mission u and HOME—Lake Huron Retreat Center

August 16, 17—Mission u—Lake Huron Retreat Center

September 28—Heritage District Annual Meeting

—Howell First UMC

Novmeber 2—Heritage District Officers Training

RESPONSE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

Here are highlights from three articles. I encourage you to read the articles in full as well as the whole issue:

“Sanctuary and Separation”: This article tells about Debora Barrios-Vasquez living in sanctuary at the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew in New York City. Age 32 now, she arrived in the U.S. from Guatemala in 2005. Since then she married and had two children, worked and paid taxes, and followed rules for asylum and seeking residency. In May of 2018 ICE told her that she was being deported back to Guatemala. She now lives in the church with her 3-year old daughter; her 11-year-old son lives with the father. The church is part of the New Sanctuary Coalition of New York City. The women of UMW at St. Paul and St. Andrew have become part of Debora’s physical and emotional support group. They help with daily needs such as laundry and groceries and also visit ICE offices and courts on her behalf on a regular basis regarding her application for stay of deportation. Said one UMW member, the church giving Debora “a safe place to stay was just another way to answer its call to follow Christ.”

“Caring for Children in Texas”: This article describes one of the institutions supported by members’ Mission Giving. The Alpine Community Center in Alpine, Texas, provides child-care, breakfast and lunch, and an after-school program for this community in West Texas, three hours from El

Paso. The Center was established in 1936 by the Methodist church. It fills a real need for families with low-cost child-care and even scholarships. The Center’s mission includes helping children develop a sense of self worth knowing they are loved by God.

“Ever Ready to Serve”: This article features UMW member Susan Smalley of Kenai, Alaska. She’s the one on the cover of the issue. In addition to her involvement with UMW at her local church, Susan works tirelessly in numerous volunteer roles in her community. Susan and her husband cook hot breakfasts for at-risk students; she participates in a prison ministry by crocheting with incarcerated women and leading discussions; a cancer survivor, she volunteers with the Cancer Action Network; and she formed “Many Voices,” a group that sponsors peaceful protests and advocacy sessions.

In conclusion, this quote from Susan Smalley not only summarizes her view, but also expresses the value of UMW:

“Having faith is only the first step. Having faith plus action is much more sustainable. That’s where the United Methodist Women comes in. Now I can surround myself with women who love to be constantly learning and asking questions as we work for justice together. What could be better?”

Janet Chen, Education and Interpretation

Uncommon Threads

Uncommon Threads is a group of women who sew quilts, knit, crochet and weave shawls and lap robes to be given to any member of the congregation in need of comfort.

We meet twice a month, (September to early November and February through April), on the second and fourth Mondays of the month. Our last meeting this year before the summer break will be on **April 8th**, due to the fact that April 22nd is the day after Easter and church offices will be closed.

After that, we will meet next on **September 9th**. New members, visitors, and drop-ins are always welcome to visit or join our group. We have refreshments and devotions that are offered by different group members.

Anyone can request a prayer shawl, prayer lap robe or prayer quilt by contacting Amy Kennedy, our Minister of Congregational Care. All items are given without cost.

For more information, about our group, contact: Amy Kennedy, at amy@fumca2.org, Fran Wicks, at franw101@att.net or 971-6450, or Sandy Hultquist, at slhultquist@comcast.net.

PM³

PM³ is a small group of women who gather for fellowship and programs on the fourth Fridays of the month. We do not meet over the summer, but will resume on **September 27th**.

Watch the UMW News for more information about upcoming programs.

Sarah's Sisters on St. Patrick's Day

Sarah's Sisters meets at Moon Winks in Dixboro once a month, September through June. We vary the days of the week so as everyone can find a time to be part of the group. This year our day was very close to St. Patrick's Day so we all came wearing something green. The tables were covered with sparkly shamrocks and each person had a green shamrock to wear. Things we remembered from other years are parties, lots of shamrocks and parades. But there was more to learn.

We found out that St. Patrick was called Patrick and he was born in Macwgn Succat in 4th Century in Britain. At age 16 he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave. After years of enslavement, he heard a voice that came to him in his sleep that urged him to escape. He studied to become a priest and spent the remainder of his life as a missionary in Ireland. He wrote many writings and early accounts of the saints' careers reveal many interesting details about the life of this patron saint of Ireland. Patrick never mentioned a shamrock. None of the early Patrician stories featured the shamrock – or Irish seamrog – which is a word for common clover, a small plant with three leaves. Green wasn't worn then and there were no parties or parades.

We had a nice St. Patrick's Day.

Feel free to stop in!

Warmly, Sarah's Sisters



Reading Program Link

United Methodist Women offers an impressive reading program website which can be accessed at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/rpcatalog2019.pdf. The website offers dozens of inspirational books for interested adults as well as children. Some books may be ordered for Kindle. There are also many selections in Spanish and Chinese. The books might be enlightening and motivating for individual use as well as small or large group discussion and as gifts for friends and neighbors. FUMC Circle members might also wish to choose a book for reading, inspiration, and discussion. An order form is included. Give it a try!

Submitted by Jean Shaw

April Birthdays

- 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 Birthdays

- 2 Olivia Fanning
- 3 Joan Marty
- 4 Barbara Hoffman
- 5 Pam Cain
- 6 Bethany Christoff
- 10 Phyllis Hill
- 12 Emily Vincent
- 13 Kate Neelands
- 13 Jennifer Niggemeier
- 18 Susan Baily
- 24 Nancy O'Connor

- 25 Lynn Johnson
- 25 Patsy Lidgard
- 26 Prudy Dittmar
- 27 Jo Goodrich
- 28 Denise Held
- 29 Jenn ConFlorka
- 30 Laurie Brannan
- 31 Ruth Ann Church
- 31 Amy Crumm

June Birthdays

- 1 Melanie Lutz
- 2 Margaret Punch
- 5 Sara Zocher
- 7 Kathy Macdonald
- 8 Marikay McClurg
- 9 Carolyn Hannum
- 10 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