

**The Uniter
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United Methodist Women
Division of The United
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WI Annual Conference
750 Windsor St
SUN PRAIRIE WI 53590**



United Methodist Women Metro South District Wisconsin Conference Present the

Uniter

Our quarterly newspaper

February 2015



I am now the new district president, though most of you know me as the outgoing secretary. I will try my best to fulfill my new role, and I'm sure I'll have lots of help from our excellent team.

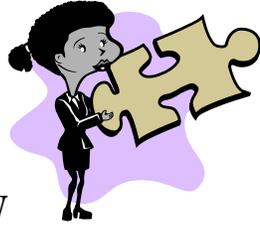
- By the time you read this, our first event of the year, Day Apart at West Allis First, will be past. I want to thank our host unit there for their gracious help in making this event a success. I hope I will have seen many of you there.
- Now we are gearing up for the next event, which will be the Spring Enrichment Retreat. Since we were unable to get a speaker for Day Apart on the topic of "How Is It With Your Soul?", that is the topic for the Spring event. And that week-end also happens to be "Change the World" week-end. So we have added a mission project for those who are interested. See the flyer and registration pages in this Uniter. It's a very central location right off the freeway, so I hope we'll have a good turn out. And by May 16, even the Wisconsin Winter should be totally out of the picture. Central UMC is located on the corner of Wisconsin Ave. and 25th St. There is a 27th St. exit from I 94. I was going there regularly to Hmong House, so if you have any question about getting there, just give me a call.
- This will be a busy year for your district team as we will be doing major restructuring for 2016, when the new districts go into effect. We will be called the Southeastern District and will include all of Metro So. plus Rock County. (Janesville area) We will include most of Metro No. but will lose Sheboygan County. In a way we have an advantage in that Metro South and Metro North have been working together for some time, but our area (and thus the distances) will be considerably increased.
- But with God's help we all continue to serve in our local congregations and to keep connected serving the conference and the world through United Methodist Women.
- I wish you all a happy and successful 2015.

Your President Marie Garnhart, 7835 W. Canterbury Ct. Franklin, WI 53132. 414-427-5770, sgarnhart@wi.rr.com

2015

METRO SOUTH UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MISSION TEAM

- **President (14)** Marie Garnhart, 7835 W. Canterbury Court, Franklin, 53132, 414-427-5770 sgarnhart@wi.rr.com
- **Vice President - Vacant**
- **Secretary (14)** Dodie Smith, 1927 17th Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53140, 262-551-8669, roger.dorothy.smith@gmail.com
- **Treasurer (15) –Vacant: Dodie Smith at the address above will be performing these duties until a replacement can be found.**
- **Communications Coordinator (14)** Patsy Ruppe, 2427 Sunrise Road, Racine 53402, 262-939-8075 xxphbxx@yahoo.com
- **Secretary of Program Resources(14)**, Gwenda Szczygielski, 13800 W. Park Central Blvd. Apt.422 New Berlin, 53151 262-786-5265, gm53151@wi.rr.com
- **Spiritual Growth Vacant**
- **Social Action (14)**, Betty Henderson, 300 Jennifer Lane, Brookfield, 53045, 262-439-9840 bhhenderson15@att.net
- **Membership, Nurture, Outreach (15)** Kemi Baiyewu, 4121 – 24th Ave., Kenosha, 53140, 262-764-0639 ajamukemi@yahoo.com
- **Education & Interpretation (14)** Mary Garvens 2167 South 80th Street, West Allis 53219, 414-327-5305 no email
- **Committee on Nominations**
 - **Chair** Vacant
 - **Member (14)** Arlene Wilson 3120 E. Allison Ave., Cudahy 53110 414-482-1341 a127w@aim.com
 - **Member (15)** Jeanne Heckenlively 6043 W. Glen Court, Franklin, 53132 414-855-0188, revdaveheck@yahoo.com
 - **Member (16)** Kady Herr-Yang 1809 Ramsey Ave. Milwaukee, 53221 414-817-8120 (cell), 414-704-2365, embracelanguageservice@gmail.com
 - **Member (16)** Yer Lee Yang, 10059 Fiebrantz Ave., Milwaukee, 53222, 414-403-8488, yerlee03@hotmail.com
- **Conference Representatives**
 - **Hmong Language Coordinator** Kady Herr-Yang (see above)
 - **Mission u Assistant Dean**, Gail Burgess, 262-857-2224, hb53104@aol.com,
 - **Legacy Representative**, Rebecca Yang 414-704-2365
 - **Northcott Neighborhood House Representatives**
 - Marie Garnhart – Member, Board of Directors
 - Betty Henderson, Mary Garvens – Members of Corporation by virtue of office,
 - Other Corporate Members – Dodie Smith
 - **Charter for Racial Justice:** Kemi Baiyewu



MISSING PUZZLE PIECES ON

METRO SOUTH TEAM 2015 TEAM

- **Vice President**
- **Treasurer**
- **Spiritual Growth Coordinator**
- **Chairperson of Nominations**

RECOMMENDATION FOR DISTRICT UMW MISSION TEAM
Please send to anyone on the team

I Recommend _____ For _____

Phone _____ Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____ Email _____

Race/Ethnicity _____ Church/Unit/City _____

Age: Under 18 ___; 18-30 ___; 31-50 ___; 51-60 ___; over 60 _____

Skills and Talents _____

Your Signature _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I Recommend _____ For _____

Phone _____ Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____ Email _____

Race/Ethnicity _____ Church/Unit/City _____

Age: Under 18 ___; 18-30 ___; 31-50 ___; 51-60 ___; over 60 _____

Skills and Talents _____

Your Signature _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Treasurer



Greetings! I want to thank you all for your mission giving in 2014. We were able to send in \$42,475 toward our 2014 pledge. That was 88% of our pledge of \$48,000. We also gave over \$2,460 to Mission Giving Plus. Let's all try to extend ourselves so that in 2015 we will be able to meet our Pledge of \$45,000.

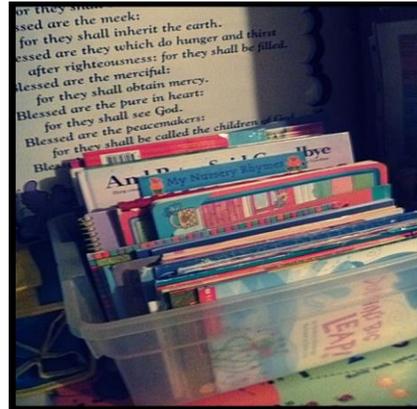
At the present time, we do not have a Treasurer for our District. Dodie Smith will continue as the Acting Treasurer until we fill the position. Please contact a member of the Nominations Committee if you have a suggestion. You may send contributions to Dodie until further notice. Please keep Diana in your prayers. And pray for our District as we work through the transitions of the coming year. Thank God for all of our blessings!

Your interim Treasurer, Dodie Smith, 1927 17th Ave., Kenosha WI, 53140, 262-551-8669, roger.dorothy.smith@gmail.com





Secretary



Greetings!

Welcome to the New Year of United Methodist Women! I look forward to meeting all of the local secretaries during 2015. Please introduce yourselves when we meet and I will try to remember your names.

I thank all of you for providing Marie Garnhart with your officer information. She has our 2015 Yearbook ready for the printer and I will be distributing them to each unit at Day Apart. If your unit does not have an attendee, I will send your unit's copy to your president.

As I have had little training for secretaries, I went to the 2013 – 2016 UMW Handbook. It states the following:

The **secretary** will be informed about the program and the total involvement of the local unit in order to perform the responsibilities assigned to her and to assist the president.

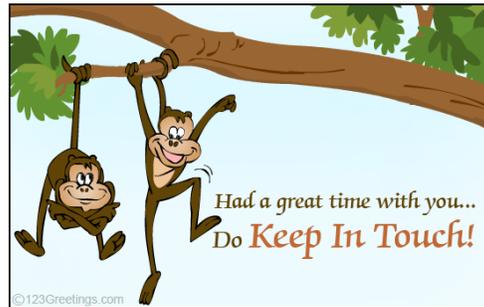
She will:

- a. Keep accurate minutes of all meetings for the unit and its leadership team and give notice of these meetings.
- b. Serve as custodian of all records and official documents.
- c. Sign all official, legal, and financial documents, making certain each is properly dated.
- d. Keep accurate roll of membership.
- e. Send a list of elected leaders of the unit, including addresses, ZIP codes, telephone numbers and e-mails, to the secretary of the district organization immediately upon their election and interim changes, and send the name of the new president to the resource center: United Methodist Women Mission Resources.
- f. Serve on the leadership team and other committees as necessary.

If you have questions, please contact me.

May we all be excited as we embrace the redistricting of our Conference. As we make changes, may we take advantage of the opportunities we will have to learn, grow and put our FAITH – HOPE- LOVE INTO ACTION!

**Your Secretary, Dodie Smith, 1927 17th Ave., Kenosha WI, 53140, 262-551-8669,
roger.dorothy.smith@gmail.com**



Communications

Do you need **program ideas** for your circle? How about UMW Sunday? District members who would be happy to speak include:

- Patsy Ruppe – Haiti (Challenges and Hope), Poverty, Forgiveness and Reconciliation, Roma of Europe, The call – Living Sacramentally and Walking Justly.
- Deanna Shimko - Cambodia Wells
- Marie Garnhart – an Environmental Program “Green Thing”, Human Trafficking, Charter for Racial Justice
- Dodie Smith – social action topics
- Gail Burgess –Wisconsin Volunteers in Mission, Faith Alive, Mission u

Do you need some **resources** go to <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/members-leaders>

Do you need a **video** to show at your circle meeting?

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/videos>

Your communications coordinator Patsy Ruppe, 2427 Sunrise Rd, Racine WI 53402, 262-939-8075, xxphbxx@yahoo.com



Women's Day of Renewal



A Women's Day of Renewal will be held at Our Lord's UM Church, 5000 S. Sunny Slope Road, New Berlin, on **Saturday, March 14, from 9 am - 3 pm**. The theme is **Feel Christ Within**. The program includes a presentation on the benefits of various teas, opportunities to enjoy a **back massage** and to **make a facial cream**, and other healthful topics. Breakfast snacks and a full lunch will be provided. Also, a babysitter will be available for the day. A freewill offering will be taken to offset expenses. Please call Rebecca Radick, study leader and spiritual growth coordinator for Our Lord's UMW, at 262-679-2710 with any questions regarding the day's program. Call the church office at 414-425-7030 with your reservation. It promises to be a day that will greatly help your spiritual growth during the Lenten season.



Social Action



If your mail is anything like mine, you have received numerous statements of accomplishments of the past year, or an equal number of “opportunities” to challenge 2015. I am going to add to that listing with the continuing concerns of Social Action.

Climate Change. Please continue to voice your opposition to the authorization of the Keystone Pipeline and here are a few reasons why.

1. The Care of Creation is entrusted to us. Don't violate that trust.
2. The Alberta oil sands carried by Keystone Pipeline is 3 to 4 times more “Greenhouse Gas Intensive” than regular crude.
3. The Canadian provinces to the east and west of them have already stated their opposition to a pipeline over their land. Why should we pipe it over our country? The Indigenous peoples (First Nation) have not given their permission either.
4. The cost to produce (\$100.00/barrel) is much higher than the sale price (\$65.00 or less/barrel).
5. Responsible voices continue to protest.!!

A phone call takes only a few minutes, let our representatives know how you feel.

Ron Johnson, Senator – 202 224 5323, Jim Sensenbrenner – 202 225 5101, White House Comment Line: 202 456 1111

I hope you are aware the Enbridge Line 61 is coming through Wisconsin with the same mixture of tar sands and chemicals as in Keystone. The difference is that Enbridge has already obtained all the federal permits they need to do this pipeline and although Dane County is currently (until the hearing on 1/17/15) holding up the pipeline for the whole state, the Company feels that with Federal approval they do not need Dane County approval so plan to go ahead. Dane can put some conditions but unless they hold up in appeals court, it would appear that state's rights no longer apply. Enbridge has already spent more than \$6 Billion on this pipeline and doesn't appear to stop at anything to make a go of it. As they have already marched over the objections of the Town of Brookfield and individuals have already expanded onto the 20' easements with trees, tool sheds, etc. when the pipeline breaks we will all have cost issues not covered by any kind of insurance. Just thought you would like to know about this current issue at home.

Justice for people of Color: We have developed over the years a two tiered system of justice. One for White people and law enforcement (Police, Security forces, Vigilantes) and the other for people of color. This really has to stop! If you think I am exaggerating, look at the statistics: in 2012 a black person was killed by a police officer, a security

guard, or vigilante every 28 hours, 80% of persons stopped and frisked were African-American or Latino, in Ferguson (population 21,000) 32,000 arrest warrants were issued accounting in some cases for up to 40% of the city budget. This is happening in cities across our land. For children whose parent(s) are incarcerated for failure to pay the fine the fallout is crucial. We place an excessive burden on the backs of those most in need.

Pay attention to the 11x15 campaign. Our future is at stake.

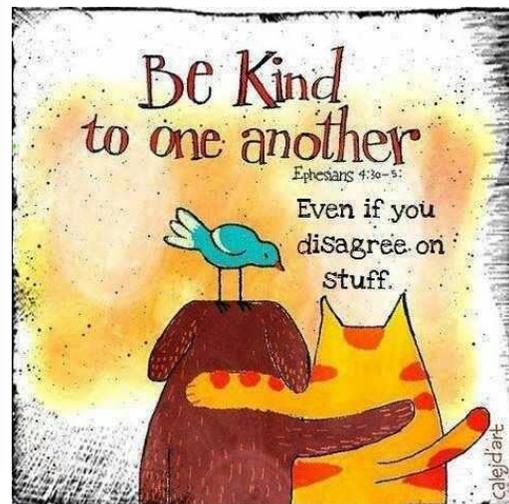
Do a unit program on the Charter for Racial Justice Policies.

Remember our communities depend on these tickets for our municipal budgets.

Immigration Reform: The President heard the call of the immigrant and responded. The victory is only partial. Enacting the reforms will require rigorous monitoring and accountability. The good news is that today a solid majority of Americans favor immigration reform with a path to citizenship. This support did not exist a few years ago and we have immigrant families to thank. Now is not the time to sit back with a “well, that’s done” attitude. We must continue to watch how ICE and the Department of Homeland Security are acting. Remember that immigration is not about borders, guards, fences, etc. it is about HUMAN BEINGS and FAMILIES.

Movies: Have you seen SELMA? It is more than just a story about Martin Luther King and a march. It is about what can happen when people of conscience join with people of color to enact changes that better us all. Do see it and discuss it with your unit, circle and friends. Reviewers across the board find the portrayal of LBJ as inaccurate, but that doesn’t apply to the whole movie. See it for yourself, there is more to Selma than LBJ.

Your Social Action Coordinator Betty Henderson, 300 Jennifer Lane, Brookfield, WI 53045, 262-439-9840 bhhenderson15@att.net



3 missions in Wisconsin UMW supports

all in financial difficulty and could use UMW support!

- ✓ **Northcott Neighborhood House**
<http://northcotthouse.org/>
- ✓ **United Methodist Children's Services in Milwaukee**
<http://www.umcs-wi.org/>
- ✓ **Harbor House Crisis Shelter in Superior WI**
<http://www.harborhousecs.org/>

Thanks for your consideration and compassion

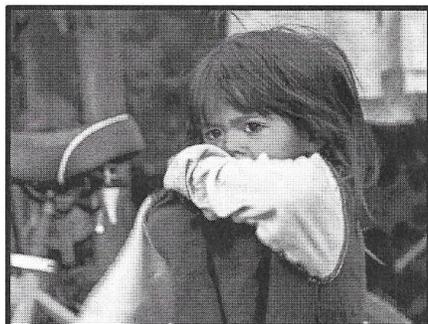
The Hmong House of Good News has closed down at the end of 2014.

We had not received enough donations to keep going and our Elders served had been decreasing due to death and illness.

Over the past 6 years we are so grateful for your support and want you to know how much it meant to the elders for the opportunity your mission time, money and crafts provided them.

Thank you to Central United Methodist for hosting us. After we pay our remaining bills any left over money will be provided as follows in a pro rata share:

- ✓ United Methodist Women Wisconsin Conference
- ✓ United Methodist Church Wisconsin Conference(Health and Welfare Ministries)



Mission Action Day

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Peace United Methodist Church
2300 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Kaukauna, WI 54130

Homelessness

- Chris Lashock, Client Services Coordinator for Homeless Connections will speak on the face of homelessness, who are the homeless, and homeless families with children

Ubuntu Service Project

- Assemble travel courier packs for Homeless Connections.
- Attendees are encouraged to donate an item for Homeless Connections
- Recommended donations are: canned goods- vegetables, fruits, soups; granola bars; infant socks- 0-24 months; body wash; travel soap dishes, women's and men's underwear and socks. For additional items on the wish list go to: <http://homelessconnections.net/donating-homeless-connections/>

Registration: 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

• Sending forth: 2:30 p.m.

Registration is transferrable, not refundable.

2015 MISSION ACTION DAY REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline for Registration: Friday, March 20, 2015- \$12 registration fee

Late registration-\$15- March 21-28, after March 28- fee remains \$15 lunch on your own

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ZIP Code _____

District _____ Church _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Child Care needed for _____ child(ren), Age(s) _____ (I also understand that I am responsible for providing a sack lunch for each child or paying the registration fee of \$12.00 for each child in order to cover their lunch.)

Dietary or other considerations _____

Send form and **registration fee** to:

Shirley Carpenter, 2711 North Biron Drive, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-8804

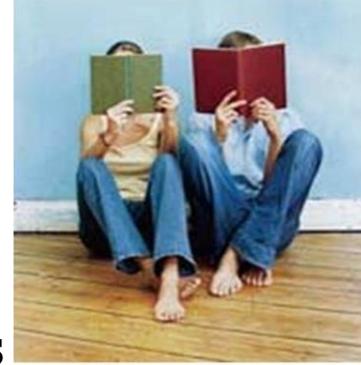
Make checks payable to: **Wisconsin Conference UMW**

Driving Directions to Peace UMC, Kaukauna For Mission Action Day, Saturday, April 11, 2015

- FROM STEVENS POINT/WAUSAU AREA (NORTHWEST): Take 45/10 east. Continue on 441 to the County Road Oo/Northland Ave. exit. Take County Road Oo east (right). Turn right onto Rose Hill Road. Left onto E Main Street. Right onto Hayes Street. Left onto E Wisconsin Avenue. Church is on the left.
- FROM MADISON AREA (SOUTHWEST): Take 151 north to Hwy 41 north. Take the 55 Kaukauna (Delanglade Street) exit. Turn right onto 55. Turn right onto County Road Oo. Left onto Gertrude Street. Right onto W Wisconsin Avenue. Church is on the right.
- FROM MILWAUKEE AREA (SOUTH): Take Hwy 41 north. Take the 55 Kaukauna (Delanglade Street) exit. Turn right onto 55. Turn right onto County Road Oo. Left onto Gertrude Street. Right onto W Wisconsin Avenue. Church is on the right.
- FROM GREEN BAY AREA (NORTH): Take Hwy 41 south. Take the 55 Kaukauna (Delanglade Street) exit. Turn right onto 55. Turn right onto County Road Oo. Left onto Gertrude Street. Right onto W Wisconsin Avenue. Church is on the right.
- FROM LA CROSSE AREA (WEST): Take 90 east to WI Hwy 21 east. Take Hwy 21 east (toward Oshkosh) to Hwy 41. Take Hwy 41 north to 55 Kaukauna (Delanglade Street) exit. Turn right onto 55. Turn right onto County Road Oo. Left onto Gertrude Street. Right onto W Wisconsin Avenue. Church is on the right.

For precise directions and map, go to <https://maps.google.com> and type in 2300 E. Wisconsin Ave., Kaukauna, WI 54130 or visit www.peaceunitedmethodist.com.

*Call one of the District team members to car
pool to this excellent Mission action Day.*



PROGRAM RESOURCES

Are you making progress with your New Year's resolution to participate in the UMW Reading Program? I hope so, because many great books for the 2011 - 2015 program are available for you to read. Some books I can recommend are *Chasing Chaos, My Decade In and Out of Humanitarian Aid*; *The End of Your Life Book Club*; and *Across Many Mountains, A Tibetan Family's Epic Journey From Oppression to Freedom*. One that has been highly recommended by other readers is *That Used to Be Us, How America Fell Behind in the World It Invented and How We Can Come Back*. More books eligible for 2015 are identified at www.missionresourcecenter.org.

Also eligible for the 2015 Reading Program are the study books from Mission U, as follows:

- **Spiritual Growth:** Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God
- **Geographic:** Latin America: People and Faith
- **Issue Study:** The Church and People with Disabilities
- **Children Study:** Life and Faith in Latin America
- **Youth Study:** Latin America: Places, Culture, and Faith

Remember, an additional benefit to your unit for participating in the Reading Program is if you have 10% of your unit's members involved (be sure to report that number on the unit Reading Program Reporting Form due in August), your unit will get a \$10.00 certificate to use toward purchasing books for 2016 – a real bargain! Happy reading everyone! Be sure to contact me with any questions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Your Program Resources Coordinator. Gwenda Szczygielski, 13800 W. Park Central Blvd., Apt 422, New Berlin, WI 53151, 262-786-5265, gm53151@wi.rr.com.



Membership Nurture and Outreach



Happy New Year! May the New Year bring us new hope throughout the year in Jesus name, Amen.

Winter is slowly back and I am sure Wisconsinites are out enjoying every bit of it with sledding and skiing!

It's that time of the year that UMW conducts a head count of our members for accountability reasons. Wisconsin Conference recorded 100% of its membership in 2012 and 2013. With the support of every member we will do it again in 2014. Please see the form on the next page.

For active units the record for 2013 must be the first figure, new members are added and you subtract the numbers of lost members to get the total for 2014. The only time you can have the same figure for both is if no new member(s) was added and none was lost. The unit presidents/ contact person should have the report mailed to me by **March 10**. This will enable me to write, complete and forward the report by the end of March.

For new units, the list of their current membership must also be recorded as the total ending number. For inactive units the report should state 2013 members and have a total number as zero for 2014.

**Your Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator, Kemi Baiyewu,
4121 – 24th Ave. Kenosha, 53140, 262-764-0639, ajamukemi@yahoo.com**

Local Unit Name:
District Name:
Conference Name:
Reported by:
Phone:
Email:

Unit
President
Address:
City:
State / Zip:
Phone:
Email:

Numbers of Members as 01-Jan-14
New Members added
Numbers Lost by Death or
other Reasons

Total Members 31-Dec-14

Unit Type

Are you a: Local, Cluster/Charge, District or Online Unit: _____

Instructions:

Fill in your information

Send copies by January 30, 2015 to:
Kemi Baiyewu,
4121 - 24th Ave. Kenosha, 53140,
262-764-0639, ajamukemi@yahoo.com



Education and Interpretation.



Hello from Education and Interpretation. 2015 is here and so are the new Mission Today Criteria. Hopefully UMW units have had a chance to look them over and start using them for program planning.

Here is just one idea that might be used to make things easier.

1. Make a copy of the 2015 mission tasks.
2. Take two plain sheets of paper and divide them into four sections one for each category – faith, hope, love, and in action.
3. Use one sheet to put program plans on. Use the second sheet to write down activities done during the year. This will be a good reference when the unit reports are filled out next fall. Note : staple sheets together.

It should be noted that the new mission today unit report form will be out late this summer or early fall.

Hopefully the above suggestion might help local units get started with the new form.

Any questions or suggestions are always welcome and I can be reached by using the information below.

Your Education and Interpretation Coordinator, Mary Garvens, 2167 S. 80th St number 2, West Allis, WI 53219, 414-327-5305 (no e-mail)

*WE are Faith Hope and Love
in Action*

One important change to this criteria below is Hmong House of Good News had to close and therefore is no longer available for you to support in the “In Action” section.

**WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UMW
MISSION TODAY**

Mission Tasks for 2015

To become a Mission Today organization, please complete two (2) criteria from each category. Please try at least one (1) new criteria and report in fall of 2015.

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God...

- F
A
I
T
H**
1. Plan programs that encourage spiritual growth. (Program book, response magazine, etc.)
 2. Create prayer partners with other church groups.
 3. Pray using the Prayer Calendar at meetings.
 4. Organize the spiritual growth study from Mission u, possibly several evenings/ weeks.

to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ;

- H
O
P
E**
1. Take advantage of opportunities thru UMW such as Mission u, Spiritual Growth Retreats, Annual Gatherings, Mission Action Day.
 2. Set aside a time to go over the year’s plans using Mission Today Mission Tasks.
 3. Implement the Charter for Racial Justice program.
 4. Present a mission study from Mission u, inviting church members.

to develop a creative, supportive fellowship;

- L
O
V
E**
1. Honor the organization’s leaders and member’s contributions with Special Mission Recognition pins. Don’t forget community leaders.
 2. Encourage everyone to visit or invite visitors to/from other local UMW organizations.
 3. Publicize your events using newsletters, bulletin boards, Sunday bulletins, social media, phone calls, etc.
 4. Plan a year end program to give thanks and celebrate your accomplishments.

**I
N** *and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*

- A
C
T
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N**
1. Encourage all members to participate in the Pledge for Mission; give reports on where the money goes.
 2. Involve all members in fundraising (think creatively).
 3. Contribute to scholarships(UMW related) and Mission u. (\$25.00 or more).
 4. Partner with a mission institution such as Northcott, Hmong House of Good News, etc.



LEGACY Women our Young UMWers!



If you have any questions please call your legacy member Rebecca Yang at 414-704-2365 or better yet have your young people call.

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Altho this position is vacant Merry Kris Demske a United Methodist Women member from Christ Church in Racine wrote an article for her churches weekly email to all members and it has a wonderful message!



Chocolate cake! There is and has been an abundance of chocolate cake in my house these past two months! In fact, I can't remember having so much chocolate cake around me ever! While this was indeed an abundance, it was the words from a recent book I was reading about real abundance in Jesus Christ that got me thinking about what the Bible says about abundance.



Abundance, sometimes it is material, like cake, clothes, or money. There are dozens of references in the Old Testament to God's blessing His children with material abundance with the expectation that that abundance was to be shared with others and a portion tithed to God. Sometimes abundance is environmental, like an abundance of stormy weather or mosquitoes. Once again, the Bible gives plenty of references to abundance in these areas. Remember the abundance of frogs and knats in Egypt when the pharaoh refused to listen to God? And let's not forget the reference to be fruitful and multiply abundantly. We cannot venture too far into any day without encountering the conditional abundance of others. Sometimes that abundance is pain and suffering, at other times, it is joy and laughter. Again, when we remember Jesus, we are well aware of the abundant pain and suffering that He experienced for us.

Media today tracks our interests in order to encourage us to buy or use an abundance of the products we like. Pop up ads, at their best or worst

depending on your perspective, foster a desire to consume more. These references to abundance in life can easily detract us from the real abundance each of us has. In *John 10:10*, Jesus speaks to us and says, “*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*” So what abundance is Jesus referring to? It is the abundance that comes only through Him. The offer Christ gives us to have a new life through Him is as complete and as full as we allow it to be. Salvation through Jesus satisfies our needs. Without Christ, we die. With Christ our life is eternal—now that’s pretty abundant!

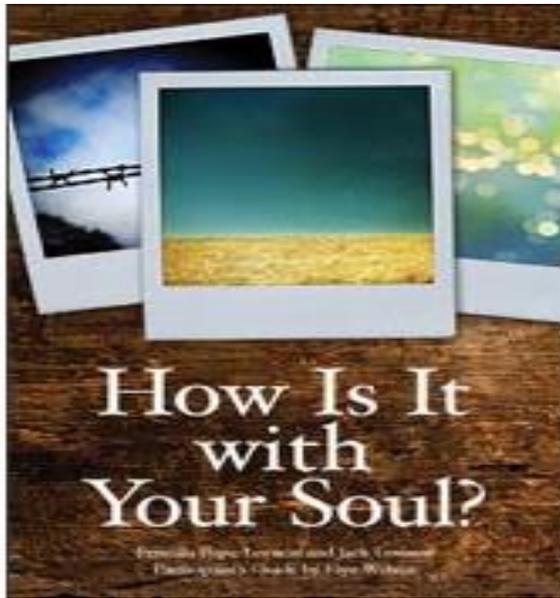
Through Christ there is abundant grace and mercy. We are cleansed completely of all of our transgressions, our mistakes, our errors, our lack of character, our imperfections, our shallowness, our selfishness, and all of our negative qualities. We are then filled with His Love. Paul reminds us of the abundance we receive when he says, “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires (Galatians 5:22-24).* As we receive Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit who abundantly provides these fruits. The more time we spend attending to Jesus, the more whole we become, the more full our lives are. It’s not a one-time offer. It’s more like growing up. As babies we weren’t able to do what we could do when we were ten. As ten year olds we couldn’t know, understand or do what we could do when we were 35 years old. A life rich and abundant in Jesus Christ is one that has spent considerable hours in prayer and meditation. Part of the lyrics to a popular song say, “***Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.***” (see attached video URL) Life can be lived no more abundantly than when we turn not only our eyes but our lives to Jesus. Then we will experience what before we could only imagine.

<http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=turn+your+eyes+upon+jesus+youtube&qpvt=turn+your+eyes+upon+jesus+youtube&FORM=VDRE#view=detail&mid=30420A9B3C36086BA5D330420A9B3C36086BA5D3>

Fast or Feast

FAST from judging others; FEAST on Christ dwelling in them. FAST from emphasis on differences; FEAST on the unity of all life. FAST from anger; FEAST on patience. FAST from discontent; FEAST on gratitude. FAST from pessimism; FEAST on optimism. FAST from bitterness; FEAST on forgiveness. FAST from self-concern; FEAST on compassion for others. FAST from thoughts of illness; FEAST on the healing power of God. FAST from words that pollute; FEAST on phrases that purify. FAST from discouragement; FEAST on hope. FAST from apathy; FEAST on enthusiasm. FAST from suspicion; FEAST on truth. FAST from idle gossip; FEAST on purposeful silence. FAST from thoughts that weaken; FEAST on promises that inspire. FAST from shadows of sorrow; FEAST on the sunlight of serenity. FAST from problems that overwhelm; FEAST on prayer that sustains.





The deepest level of worship is praising God inspite of the pain, thanking God during the trials, trusting Him when we're tempted to lose Hope and LOVING HIM when He seems so distant and far away. At my lowest, God is my hope. At my darkest, God is my light. At my weakest, God is my strength. At my saddest, God is my comforter. SPiritual INSPIRATION

Dr. Irma Clark is a member of Hartzell Memorial United Methodist Church in Chicago. Dr. Clark is a National UMW director and has served as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences in 2004, 2008, 2012 and will again represent Northern Illinois in 2016. She is the director of Lay Servant Ministries for Chicago Southern District and chairs the Northern Illinois Conference HIV/AIDS Task Force. Dr. Clark is the vice-president of the North Central Jurisdiction Episcopacy Committee, an Ambassador and member of the Healthy Families and Healthy Planet Advisory Council of the General Board of Church and Society and a trustee for the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation in Nashville, TN. Dr. Clark is a member of Church Women United, Northern Illinois Commission on the Status and Role of Women and a book evaluator for UMW. She has received the Laity, Unity, Bishop Jesse DeWitt, Methodist Youth Services Torchbearer of Excellence and Methodist Republic Of China National Women's Society Awards.

SAVE This Date
May 16, 2015

**UMW Metro North and South
 Spiritual Growth Retreat**

Hosted by and centrally located at Central United
 Methodist Church in Milwaukee WI

Taught by Dr. Irma Clark



UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S SERVICES NAMED MISSION U PROJECT

United Methodist Children's Services, located in Milwaukee in the Washington Park area, has been named the "**Hands-on Mission Project**" for the 2015 Mission u. We have been in touch with Rev. Cindy Thompson at UMCS and she suggests that the following items would be most useful:

- \$10 Gift Cards at Walgreens, Target or Pick'n'Save
- Laundry Baskets
- HE Laundry Detergent (Tide and several other brands offer the High Efficiency option)
- Kitchen size Garbage Bags
- Dish Washing Detergent
- Toilet Paper
- Painting Supplies (Cut-in brushes, roller covers, painting tape)
- Cash

If your unit plans to collect items for this special project, remember that the dates for Mission u in 2015 are **July 20-23** for the four day, and **July 24** for the Overview Day. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for our last week at Wausau's Westwood Conference Center.

Studies in 2015 include a repeat of *The Church and People with Disabilities*, the social issues study; *Latin America*, the geographic study, which explores the history of our neighbors to the south, taking a look at pre-Columbian civilizations like the Aztecs, Mayans, Incas and Tupi-Guarani as well as the movement toward independence in those countries in the 19th and early 20th centuries; and the spiritual growth study *Happiness* which examines our understanding of how to live the life God calls us to. (The early Methodist church used the language of happiness often: John Wesley preached about happiness almost as often as he preached about holiness! For him, happiness and holiness were together the goal of Christian life.)

Make plans now to join us in July 2015 to participate in these studies and learn how to take them back to share with your units! We will again be staying in the Fairfield Inn in Wausau where we are provided with a yummy breakfast, and eating our other meals at Westwood Center. **Gail Burgess, Assistant Dean**



2015 Calendar of Events across Metro South District

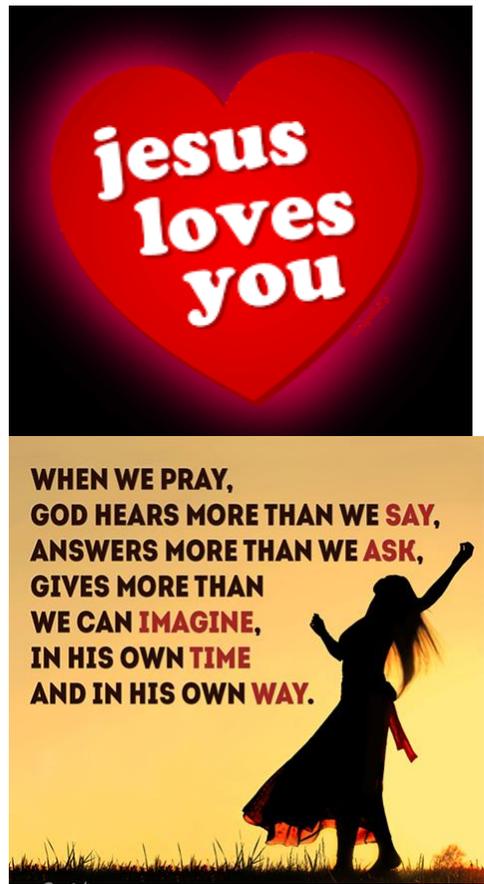
- Feb 13&14 Laity Convo (Wausau Wesley UMC) This is sponsored by the Conference Board of Laity and is open to ALL lay persons in Wisconsin Conference
- Feb 28 Metro South officer team meeting at Betty Henderson's house 9am-noon.
- Apr 11 Conference Mission Action Day—Kaukauna Peace UMC
Apr 15 May UNITER Deadline
Apr. 24 & 25 Conference Team Meeting at Eau Claire Lake St. UMC
Sun Apr 26 African Tea at Kenosha First all money goes to UMW mission
- April 29 Advocacy Day—People of Faith United for Justice 9:30-4:00, Bethel Lutheran Church, 312 Wisc. Ave., Madison
- May 1 Applications due for Mabel Heil Scholarship for Sem. 1
May 3 Northcott Neighborhood House Annual Meeting at Harley Davidson Museum
- May 9 Metro South officer team meeting at Marie Garnhart's 9am-noon.
- May 16 Joint Metro No./So. Spiritual Growth Retreat: Milwaukee Central UMC
- June 13 Joint Metro So/Metro No. planning meeting for Annual Celebration
- June 15 Wisconsin Conference Learning Day (at Annual Conference) Middleton
- Jul 15 August UNITER Deadline
- July 20 - 23 Mission u in Wausau, Westwood Conference Center
July 24 Mission u Overview Day in Wausau
- Aug. 21 & 22 Conference executive team meeting Pine Lake WI
- Sept. 12 Metro So/No Annual Celebration planning at site
- Oct. 3 Annual Celebration for Metro No. and So. location TBD
- Oct. 23 & 24 Conf. Annual Gathering, Eau Claire Lake St. UMC
- Nov. 13 & 14 Conference Executive Team Meeting at Shawano
- Sat. Dec. 5 Metro South officer team meeting at Marie Garnhart's

Share your mission works and fund raising with other UMWs...be connected and support with each other. If you would like to add something to this calendar please contact Patsy Ruppe 262-939-8075 xxphbxx@yahoo.com

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PURPOSE

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.