



CATCH the VISION

January 2017

email information to: dgrbmm@gmail.com

President's Pen

UMW Sisters,

As our program book invites us to consider how we build community, I invite you to center your community building in prayer. In particular, I invite you to pray the week of February 18th. At General Conference last year, our Bishops proposed that in response to the difficulties surrounding finding common ground on issues of homosexuality and the rules of the church, that a special group would be formed to consider a way forward. Each conference has been asked to pray for one week in 2017 for those tasked with this work. The week for Wisconsin is the week of February 18th. As we consider how to remain a community together, please pray for the Holy Spirit to be at work with those who will be working on this task of discernment as well as our delegates to General Conference who may be called into special session to consider the results of their work. Our community is not of one mind, yet we are called to be of one heart and in charity one to another. I ask that you pray for bridges which build us up and move us forward rather than divisions which break us down and hinder us from being Beloved Community.

As a community committed to our PURPOSE, I also invite you to take a stand against human trafficking. Super Bowl Sunday February 5th take a well known sporting event to highlight how events can become magnets for human trafficking and also use this venue to spread the word on intercepting trafficking. This year's theme focuses on how victims of human trafficking are "boxed in" by their traffickers. I invite our community to be in solidarity with victims and take a stand by stacking boxes and taking photos of your unit, circle or group and share it on social media with the tag #UMWBoxEmUp. If you do not have access to social media, you can mail photos to: Intercept the Traffickers Photos c/o David Cherry tree, United Methodist Women, 475 Riverside Dr, Rm 1504, New York, NY 10115. We are a community dedicated to justice and when we stand together, we can transform the world.

There are many ways to build community in 2017. I invite you to consider one thing you will do to build community this year. Will you sign up for the Seminar Mission Trip? Will you come to Mission Action Day or Mission u? Will you invite a new person to become active in UMW? Will you encourage your church to be active in mission? Whatever God whispers in your heart, I know Jesus will be where 2 or 3 are gathered to create a cloud of witnesses to the glory of the Lord.

Laura Pfeffer

CATCH the Vision

Wisconsin Conference

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UMW Mission Action Day- Sat., April 1, 2017

Mission Action Day is April 1, 2017 at the Columbus UMC. The program this year is on homelessness. Speakers this year are: Kathy Metzenbauer, Juneau County Extension, Sea (Support, Education, and Advocacy) of Change Juneau County; Bruce Wallbaum. Occupy Madison- tiny homes; and Karen Andro, Director of Outreach Ministries, First United Methodist Church, Madison. Please bring donations for the afternoon activity to support First United Methodist Church's ministries for the homeless.

material for tie blankets (twin size)

items for foot care bags: pair ankle socks (male or female), travel size

talcum powder, travel size lotion, toe nail clippers

Registration deadline is March 10. You do not need to be a member of United Methodist Women to attend this program. See registration form for more details. The registration form is also on the Wisconsin UMW website: www.wisconsinumw.org

Registration is from 9-9:30 am with sending forth at 2:30 pm.

Ruby Dow/Wendy Wilson Uhl

Mission Coordinator for Social Action

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SAVE THE DATE!



Mission Action Day Saturday, April 1, 2017

Columbus United Methodist Church
222 S. Dickason Blvd.
Columbus, WI 53925

Theme: Homelessness

Program to focus on:

How different communities are addressing the issue of homelessness.

How are faith communities involved.

Nurture & Outreach



"The Ripon Immanuel United Methodist Women (IUMW) presented a \$500 check to Traded Treasures for their "Wishes & Wonders" Program. Traded Treasures is a Thrift Store/Food Pantry in Ripon which supports several local communities. The "Wishes & Wonders" Program collects gifts and money for the less fortunate. Some of the money raised by the IUMW was from the Salad Luncheon and Bazaar they held in October. The Wishes & Wonders Program has the same focus as the IUMW of supporting Children & Youth. Julie Elliott accepted the check on behalf of Traded Treasures from Deb Kaiser, Treasurer of the IUMW."

Deb Kaiser,

Treasurer of Ripon Immanuel
United Methodist Women

Nominations

New Year's Resolutions

Have you made a resolution for the new year? As the chair of the nominations committee, I have made a resolution to be the encourager for my team to name the new conference officers and assist in filling the elected positions on the Mission u team. I ask that everyone who considers themselves a United Methodist Woman consider the opportunity to consider serving on either of these two teams. The rewards are many and the challenges can be handled with the strength and hope of our Lord who walks with us each day. We are looking to fill some large positions this year which include president and assistant Dean. I ask everyone to consider praying to discern whether this is the time for you to accept a position in United Methodist Women beyond your local and/or district team.

Julie Mieke, Chair of Nominations

Mission U

Mission u is returning to the Mead Hotel in Wisconsin Rapids in July. With everything under one roof, the Mead provides a great location for learning, sharing and worshipping together. The staff at the Mead are very accommodating, always willing to meet special dietary needs and participant requests.

Faculty persons include Dan and Barbara Dick and Linda Vance (spiritual growth), Billie LaBumbard and Rob Odum (area study) and Laura Pfeiffer (Climate Justice).

Please consider joining us this summer, July 24-27 or July 28, overview day. Registration forms will be available in April.

Gail Burgess

Spiritual Growth

I John 2:29 – 3:3 & John 14:12

Many every year create a list of New Year's resolutions. Here are some scriptures and reflections that have helped me think about what I would like to see in the coming year. They come from a devotional I received from The Office of Spirituality at the University of St. Thomas in Saint Paul, MN where I received my doctorate. It includes three observations from 1 John that we might turn into resolutions for our list:

First: The reading opens with this bold declaration: *"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are"* (1 John 3:1). We are all, each one of us, beloved children of God. We can trust that the One who claims us as God's children will care for us in this New Year. Let us resolve, then, to love and care for one another as brothers and sisters.

Second: John tells us that although *"[w]e are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed."* (1 John 3:2) We are each a work in progress. God is at work in each of us, but we still far from perfect. Let us resolve, then, to be patient with one another, to give each other the benefit of the doubt, and to forgive each other our shortcomings.

Third: John tells us that God is at work in the world bringing about something new and invites us to join in that work. John 14:12 says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. That is what we, as part of the United Methodist Women, are all about. We participate in God's mission.

So, if you did not write any New Years resolutions, these three can be yours. Let us resolve to:

Love and care for one another.

Be patient with one another, give each other the benefit of the doubt,
and forgive each other our shortcomings.

Be guided by UMW's mission in everything we do!

Happy New Year!

Deb Pattee, Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Mission Resource

Have you visited www.unitedmethodistwomen.org lately? You can print out your very own membership card when you register at: *My UMW Members please put your info here.* Or - You can connect with response the magazine of women in mission, as they have some articles available in audio form. Listen to "Blessed Is She Who Believes", and "Building Community on the Border". If you click on Blog, you will find more articles like Bright Lights. It is akin to being with a circle of friends or part of an interesting discussion.

If you haven't done it already, it is time to order the 2017-18 Annual Sampler package. It is only possible to get a subscription within the period of a few months and the window closes April first. You will discover the 2017 Spiritual Growth study, "A Covenantal Community" is available for the price of \$10 or if you prefer large print, it will be \$12 when included in the package. The geographic study, "The Missionary Conferences" for \$10 will be exciting for this celebration year when we examine what we have accomplished. The \$10 2017-18 program book should come out in August and the 2018 Prayer Calendar (\$14) a bit later. If you are sending a check for \$40 (or \$42 for LP SG), you should mail it to: United Methodist Women Orders, P.O. Box 742349, Atlanta GA 30374-2349

Other magazine news that is a bit sad is that "New World Outlook" will only be published 4 times a year instead of 6, but it will continue to be the same fine quality magazine about the United Methodist Church in mission throughout the world.

With large department stores in the news needing to pare down and regroup because of the popularity of online shopping, it seems that the new generations are also getting more accustomed to online information instead of relying solely on print sources. We pray that we will all be able to stay in touch and informed on the ways we can work together to further the mission of Christ in the world. It starts with the Bible and directs us into action

Nancy Zabel nkzabel@hotmail.com



Secretary

Our Conference Secretary, Cherrie Graham, has a **new** email address:

umwconfsecy@mail.com

Please change any old addresses in your email contacts lists to this new address.

Because of issues with Cherrie's previous email provider, everything sent after October 15 of last year was lost.

If you sent an address change please resend that to the new address. For anyone sending information for inclusion in the UMW Yearbook, please check that information for possible late corrections and send it as soon as possible to the new address.

Treasurer Report

Giving Makes Mission Possible

"...their joy was so great that they were extremely generous in their giving..."

2 Corinthians 8:2

Happy New Year! I am your new treasurer. I am looking forward to serving in this role.

The Wisconsin Conference pledge to mission for 2017 is \$200,000.00. I believe we can reach this goal. I am amazed by the mission giving of the women of our conference. Remember to use all five channels of giving: Pledge to Mission, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, Special Mission Recognition and World Thank Offering.

Linda Whitelock

Conference Treasurer
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Calendar 2017

March 4 – Mission u phone conference
March 25—Catch the Vision article due date
April 1 – Mission Action Day – Columbus UMC
April 21-22 – Executive Team meeting – Waukesha: First UMC
July 21 — Catch the Vision article due date
July 24-27 – Mission u 4-day school
July 28 – Mission u Overview day
August 25-27 – Mission u and Executive Team meeting – Pine Lake Camp
Oct 13 — Catch the Vision
Oct. 20-21 – Annual Gathering – Waukesha: First UMC
Nov. 3-4 – Team Meeting and Mission u – Superior/Harbor House
TBD Leadership Development Days

Wisconsin Conference
United Methodist Women
317 W Merrimac Street
Dodgeville WI 53533

The Purpose of United Methodist Women

**The organized unit of 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 experience concepts of mission
through participation in the global ministries
of the church**