

South West District UMW Newsletter

Mission Matters

April 2020



President's Message

UMW Sisters,

This has certainly been a spring of change and challenge. I gave a UMW Sunday sermon to an almost empty church on a Saturday afternoon so it could be recorded and the video uploaded for Sunday morning viewers. That was certainly a first for me! I have had so many events changed or crossed off of my calendar due to the coronavirus that I can scarcely see the dates. Conference Mission Action Day canceled, our own District Spiritual Retreat canceled and our Conference Mission events canceled, Northcott Annual Meeting postponed, not to mention all of the other meetings which have moved online, bible study done via email, a wedding I was planning to attend rescheduled and the list goes on. I'm sure your schedules and plans are likewise upended. Simple things like buying groceries now seem like a gauntlet designed for some survivalist game. Yet, spring and Easter have arrived in the midst of this chaos and bring with it the promise of new life. Darkness cannot hold us for the Light of Christ has come and shines for us all. Mission still happens, fellowship (even in the form of phone calls, letters, text or email) still binds us together and our spirits grow in new ways to meet our God who promises to always be with us.

So we live in hope. We are still hoping and planning to hold our District Annual Gathering in September. We are excited to welcome Dr. Kathy Hartke to speak to us on the topic of Maternal and Child Health. Maternal and Child Health has been one of the four focuses for United Methodist Women during this Quadrennium and I know this topic will be important to many. We will also be attempting to do Leadership Development in a new way to allow for a greater number of attendees to learn about the various tasks United Methodist Women leaders undertake in mission. I invite you to consider attending this event or sending someone else to attend and report back to your unit.

I am a singer and songs speak to me in times of stress. Even without church services, hymn singing or choir, I find myself reflecting on hymns during this time of isolation. Most often heard at funerals, UMH#707 Hymn of Promise always seems to me to reflect the ways in which God sees and understands what I cannot. God will sustain us, build us up in new ways and make us ready for whatever comes. God will have the final word. Victory belongs to our God and the risen Christ – forever. Thanks be to God.

Verse 1: In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed an apple tree,
In cocoons a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Yours in Christ,

Laura Pfeffer

South West District President

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Coronavirus. It is the word that is being spoken around the world. My husband and I are on a 14 day voluntary quarantine from our place of business. We are blessed to be considered an essential business. A repair facility.

It is extremely difficult to focus on UMW Social Action, when the world is in such turmoil.

Praise be to God, for his presence in our lives. I struggle with turning my fears over to our savior, Jesus Christ. On the good days, I succeed to do just that. I can see what is needed.

Carol Barton is asking that we push our Congressional representatives to put out a stimulus package that prevents evictions, water and electricity shutoffs, etc. Not to mention our paid sick leave for all. Yes, do that!

I see children needing food during the day that they normally received in school. I would like to join that effort to hand food out to children and families. Do you? Can we do it?

I don't have the answers. I know that I can call our local school district and find out what is needed.

Social Action is more than clean water and stopping the school-to prison pipeline.

It is seeing a situation in front of you and asking yourself, "Can I help with _____?" "Can I make change happen?" "Will I get involved?"



By: Pat Gallus, Social Action S/W District UMW
608-393-9267

Treasurer's Note

UMW Treasurers,

I hope this spring finds you well even as many of you may be facing changing plans and interrupted events. I realize that our lack of a permanent treasurer has meant that some checks have been delayed in getting to me. I have, however, been depositing checks as I receive them and building up a spreadsheet to record giving by local units. On April 4th I sent out reports of giving recorded for Q1 for each unit which had given money in 2020. Some entries reflect checks received too late in 2019 to be included in that year. If you have questions about your unit giving or my records, feel free to contact me. We appreciate everything our units do to support mission during this time of crisis. With so many people needing support in so many places, it is a great privilege to be able to give and I hope you know that your giving is a lifeline and blessing for many.

Yours in Christ,

Laura Pfeffer, Interim District Treasurer

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Education and Interpretation/Program Resources by Eileen Bennett

United Methodist Women Day of Enrichment

Southwest District UMW Day of Enrichment was held at Columbus United Methodist Church on Nov. 9th, 2019.



We all enjoyed our Keynote address from Tony Kearney, Interim Director and Housing Project Director of Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee, which is a National Mission Institution of the United Methodist Church. Tony expressed his appreciation for the hospitality of our church, and his admiration of United Methodist Women.

Mary Baker, president of Columbus United Methodist Women presented "150 Years of Women in Mission." Karen White and Loren Glasbrenner from Columbus UMC opened our program with a beautiful prelude and solo. Thank you to Laura Pfeffer and Kathy Maldegan for leading the singing for the day. All the music was very enjoyable!

We all enjoyed a delicious lunch, prepared by Columbus United Methodist Women. Carol Lange led Unit Sharing, and Reading Program reports were shared by Laura Pfeffer, Kathy Maldegan, Susan Williams, and Eileen Bennett. We ended our day with a Love Feast.

The 2020 South West District Day of Enrichment will be held on Nov 14th at Viroqua United Methodist Church. Our theme will be "Living the Vision." Watch for more details this summer!

A TREASURE CHEST OF IDEAS: UNIT SHARING 2019

By Carol Lange

When we met on the Day of Enrichment, we shared ideas, learned from each other and discerned if the projects would fit into “my unit.” Some of these ideas are tried and true, but others suggestions may present something new to try.

The audience was organized into groups to discuss activities. Recorders wrote down the “gems” shared by the members of the group. The ideas from each group were collected and are summarized here for you. As you read through them, you will find wonderful nuggets for fundraisers, love and support for others, or exciting social events

BUSY HANDS HELP UMW GROW

Share the Prayer Calendar with women in assisted living and nursing homes;
present Mission U Studies in small groups and spread the information;
Have a Christmas market and purchase Christmas cookies, crafts, and used books;
Develop prayer shawl and baptismal blanket ministries;
Host a brat sale;
Plan “Loving Lunches” for children when there is no school;
Sponsor and provide space for a club house for childcare before and after school;
Develop a prayer chain;
Volunteer to help with weekly and monthly church dinners;
Bake Christmas cookies for shut-ins;
Assist at the food pantry;
Donate to missions;
Provide money for Christmas gifts for the needy or shut-ins;
Invite guest speakers for programs at monthly meetings;
Host a Christmas Fair and invite all women of the church to participate;
Sponsor scholarships for attendees at church camps and convocations;
Assist in local charitable projects;
Host a retreat;
Plan potlucks for special UMW projects; and invite everyone from the church;
Include some social events for fun;
Sell “treasures” at rummage sales;
Provide funeral lunches;
Invite churches from the surrounding area to a “Friends ‘Night” event;
Provide scholarships for women and high school students;
Nurture the congregation by sending cards or notes and raise joys and concerns during
worship;
Make hats for Head Start children;
Plan mission trips to local missions;
Host a salad luncheon for UMW members and guests;
Support the reading program;
Prepare backpacks for children;
Sponsor a cookie walk fundraiser;



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Participate in the Patricia Project;
Knit/crochet hats for children on reservations;
Arrange school bags and school supplies for ingathering;
Knit/crochet baby sweaters or layette kits;
Host a program on drugs presented by the police department and the community action organization;
Serve a lunch and sell baked goods and crafts;
Promote climate justice with displays and information about sustainability efforts in local churches;
Plan an “Enhancing Wholeness” workshop;
Initiate social events such as boat rides and tours.



We can conclude that women are busy doing good in the community and in the world by spreading the gospel through acts of kindness and love. Best wishes to you as you continue to be a beacon of light in the world.

FIND AN ALTERNATIVE DATE FOR THE MISSION TRIP

Due to the coronavirus, a conference that I needed to attend in June 2020 was re-scheduled for next year. In order to meet that obligation and continue plans for the mission trip to Northcott and the United Methodist Children’s Center, we need to select an alternative date for our visit to Milwaukee. In selecting a date and planning ahead, it is also imperative to consider the spread and duration of the virus as it sweeps through our nation. Look for details in subsequent newsletters.

Please stay safe and healthy,

Carol Lange,

Northcott Representative for SW District



Mission u Cancelled

Dear United Methodist Women in Wisconsin,

I just received word from National Mission u that all training events, which were to be online in late April and May, are now cancelled. They are also urging all conferences to cancel our Mission u events for this year. So, it is with a heavy heart that I have made the decision to cancel all three of our Mission u events in Wisconsin. I hope that all of us can come through this difficult time with patience, love, and hope for a brighter future. May God be with you and with all of us.

In Christ, Stacy Ganzer (920-379-8238)

Dean of Mission u Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women
(condensed from an email received from Stacy Ganzer.)



South West District UMW Officers

President Laura Pfeffer 608-592-5228 pfeffer.umw@gmail.com	Vice President OPEN
Secretary Charlene Mingst 608-935-5758 jcmingst@mhtc.net	Treasurer OPEN
Communications Coordinator Becky Yager 608-723-7451 byager@chorus.net	Education and Interpretation /Program Resources Eileen Bennett 608-623-4659 bennettpe1@charter.net
Spiritual Growth Coordinator Marjory Lyford 608-233-5930 mcllyford@att.net	Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator Kay Putman 608-592-2294
Social Action Coordinator Pat Gallus 608-393-9267 ptgallus@gmail.com	Historian OPEN
Nominations Mary Friederich 608-897-2399 Kathy Radcliff 608-253-4133	Northcott Representative Carol Lange 608-348-4588 langec@uwplatt.edu
Young Women's Representative Lucie Yaba 608-303-3007 lucieyaba@yahoo.fr	District Superintendent Scott Carlson 608-837-0056 scotcarlson@wisconsinumc.org

**SOUTH WEST DISTRICT UMW
ANNUAL GATHERING**
**THEME: LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE –
IGNITED FOR JUSTICE**

**Saturday September 19, 2020
Dodgeville UMC
327 N. Iowa St, Dodgeville, WI
53533**

<p>KEYNOTE:</p> <p>The UMC's Role in Improving Women's Health</p> <p>Dr. Kathy D. Hartke, MD FACOG</p> <p>Co-Chair WI Maternal Mortality Review Team</p>	<p>8:30 Registration begins.</p> <p>9:15 Singing and Gathering</p> <p>Morning: Worship, Memorial Service, Keynote, Business Meeting</p> <p>Afternoon: Leadership Development, Election/Retirement/Installation of Officers, Communion</p> <p>3:30 Sending Forth</p>
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Ingathering: cash donations to be divided between the Iowa
County Food Pantry and the Homeless Coalition.

If you register after September 4th, add \$3.00.

Cost: Adult - \$15.00, Teen/College - \$9.00

Maternal and Child Health



**CAMPAIGN:
END MATERNAL MORTALITY**

Call on health care workers, lawmakers and advocates to fund maternal mortality review committees and implement recommendations in hospitals and communities.

**Many women are
unable to access proper
health care prior to,
throughout and after
pregnancy.**



African American women have the highest rates of maternal mortality, dying at **three to four times** the rate of white women.

**Since 2000, the maternal mortality rate
in the United States has increased 26.4 percent
–the only developed country whose rate did
not decline.**



TAKE ACTION:
unfhdme@odhbwomen.org/maternal-child-health

REGISTRATION FORM: Please use a separate form for each person attending.

Make checks payable to South West District UMW.

Name: _____ Unit: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email (if any): _____

Child Care requested: # of children _____ ages of children _____

[Note: Plan to bring a lunch for each child. They will eat with you during the Childcare staff's lunch break.]

Gluten-free lunch/snack needed Free registration coupon enclosed

Mail form to registrar: **Charlene Mingst 622 W. Merrimac St. Dodgeville WI 53533,**
608-935-5758, jcmingst@mhtc.net



South West District UMW
Becky Yager, Communications Coordinator
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Email - byager@chorus.net

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United
Methodist
Women

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Calendar

- April 25 Spiritual Retreat **Cancelled**
June 12-13 Mission u **Cancelled**
June 20 Team Meeting at Boaz UMC (tentative phone conference)
July 20-21 Mission u **Cancelled**
August 6 Mission Matters articles due
August 8 Team Meeting at Dodgeville UMC
August 14-15 Mission u **Cancelled**
September 19 Annual Gathering at Dodgeville UMC

