

Mission Matters
S.W. District UMCW Newsletter
January 2021

*Knitted Together
 for God's Good
 Work*



President's Message

UMW Sisters,

Our theme for 2020-2021, "Knitted Together for God's God Work" is one I know resonates with many of our members. My local unit at Lodi United Methodist Church does a great number of knitting projects. Every year our unit contributes over 100 knitted baby sweaters for layette kits to be sent to the Midwest Distribution Center through our Annual Conference ingathering. We also have knitted caps (toques as they are named in Canada) and scarves, etc. for members of a Canadian First Nations reservation where several of our members have been traveling to provide Vacation Bible school and other mission work for summer mission trips. Knitted prayer shawls are also abundant and available for anyone to use during services (when we were regularly having in-person services) or to take and give to someone in need of prayer comfort. It is a mission which reaches far beyond our small community and touches the lives of many.

I will confess, however, that I never learned to knit. My grandmother crocheted many blankets and other items, several of which I still have and treasurer. Having learned the basics of this art, I have not attempted to create anything using these skills in many years. Still, I remember the patience needed to slowly build up row after row of a pattern and the frustration of dropping a stitch - often requiring the ripping up and redoing work or adjustments to the subsequent work. It is a useful way of teaching the importance of how little things have larger consequences.

I hope your unit will find ways to engage with this theme this year. Perhaps you can teach (virtually or in person) younger persons these skills. Even if you do not share these skills, units may share the results of results of this work with others in your community through mission gifts. I pray that you may find many ways in which to knit together your members, your community and your mission work.

I will say that at many meetings of United Methodist Women, both district and conference, I have seen women bring their knitting projects with them. I pray that you will find a way to engage with district and conference events in the spirit of knitting us together. In the spring and summer these will likely be through on-line means. I invite you to attend virtually or perhaps host (appropriately socially distanced small gatherings) for the district spiritual retreat and/or conference mission action day. I realize the ways in which this limits our interactions, yet I assert that the ties which bind us are still valuable no matter how that gathering occurs. I am so looking forward to hearing Rev. Michelle Hopp for our District Spiritual Retreat. I know you will be blessed with her personal and engaging approach to the gospel message. As we pivot from feeding the spirit to acting, I know you will be empowered at the Confer-

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ence Mission Action Day. Our PURPOSE is both rooted in faith and expressed in action and I pray you will find avenues for both of these at the beginning of this year.

As we are thinking of the way of which we are knitting together, I have been thinking of a hymn we often sing "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds" United Methodist Hymnal #557.

Verse 1 – Blest be the ties that binds our hearts in Christian love;

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Verse 4- When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;

But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

My sisters, it does give me pain to not be able to see you in person, yet I know we are joined in heart because we are joined in our PURPOSE and love of the mission entrusted to us by our Lord Jesus. Our love does bind us and I pray it sustains you until we can meet again.

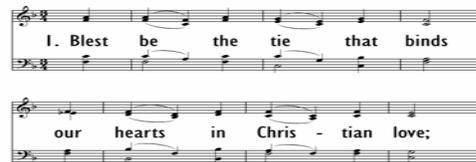
Yours in Christ,

Laura Pfeffer

South West District President

608-592-5228(H)/608-698-7508(C)

pfeffer.umw@gmail.com



Testimony:

I accepted the challenge of joining the district team quite a number of years ago, but I remember that not everyone thought that this was a good idea for me at the time. I will admit that I did not necessarily feel that I had the gifts and knowledge to fill an office. Yet, in truth, although I had very little knowledge of the greater organization of United Methodist Women (I was a brand-new local president), I did have a willingness to learn and engage with the broader story of our connected ministry and mission. I made many mistakes and had many things which confused me in those early years, but the great blessing of this organization is that you are part of a much larger team who have a mix of experience and new ideas with which to sustain you. It is this which has encouraged me as I have excepted each subsequent office. I have been blessed to work with women with many unique gifts (many of which I could never share) yet together we are empowered to fulfill our mutual PURPOSE. I have never regretted my decision to accept any position offered to me. Each one has grown me in skills and knowledge. It is not necessary for you to "know everything" in order to accept an office – in fact I guarantee you will never know all the parts of an office without having actually done it. I encourage you to step out in faith and find the blessing of the ways in which God provides for those who trust in Him. It is true that these offices require a dedication of time and effort, yet I would say that even as someone who for much of this time has juggled significant family and work life along side this journey, there is no time better spent than in the fellowship with United Methodist Women members. If you are ready to accept a new way of saying "YES" to the call of Christ, I invite you to consider joining the South West District team.

Laura Pfeffer

South West District President/Interim Treasurer



Thank you to Laura Pfeffer for being our leader for our Lodi UMC - UMW Sunday. She spoke on our Mission u study Finding Peace in an Anxious World. Thanks, Laura, for all your work to keep UMW members connected these past months.

Mary Ann Morack

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Northcott Representative Carol Lange 608-348-4588 langec@uwplatt.edu	District Superintendent Scott Carlson 608-837-0056 scottcarlson@wisconsinumc.org

Have you watched the 'Faith Talk' podcasts that are put on by National? These are presented monthly AND there is no charge. The next 'Faith Talk' is Thursday, January 7th at 1:00 p.m. Central Time. Topic is: Creating a Sustainable Lifestyle.

To sign up for the podcast go to: unitedmethodistwomen.org/FaithTalk
(Once you register, National will send you a link to the podcast close to the date of the program). IF you are unable to view the podast at the 1:00 time on January 7th, you will be able to go to the United Methodist Women website to watch the podcast at your leisure.

Now here is something new!! To help us stay connected (especially during this time of Covid) I have scheduled a couple of 'Talk Backs' so that we in South West Wisconsin can debrief what we have heard and see if there are actions we would like to take.

Here is the information for the 'Talk Back':

Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Zoom meeting: Let me know if you'd like to join this 'Talk Back' and I will send you the link as the time gets closer. My email: josiegobel@charter.net

If this goes well, we could expand this idea to the entire District units and District Officers and maybe encourage other Districts to start such a program as well.

Let's give it a try. (Please note that I changed the date of the Talk Back from what we talked about this morning because I had a conflict with the January 14th date.)

I'm anxious to see you on zoom for the 'talk back'. Feel free to invite others who you think might be interested. Give me a call with questions or other ideas.

Thanks,

Josie Gobel

920-988-0705

josiegobel@charter.net



For 2020 and 2021, we will only require one criterion from each category or a total of four criteria to qualify as a Mission Today unit.

Due Feb. 1

**WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UMW
Southwest District
MISSION TODAY TASKS**

To become a Mission Today organization, please complete two (2) criteria from each category. Please try at least one (1) new criterion each year and report back using the form on the back.

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. Host a church-wide discussion of United Methodist initiatives and programs such as the Way Forward.

to develop a creative, supportive fellowship;

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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
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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, or Wisconsin Conference supported Harbor House, United Methodist Children's Services of Wisconsin, etc.

Any criteria that are not currently listed but would fit in one of the categories can be included in the unit reports.

Mission Today Local Unit Report Form

Year: _____

Presidents of **All Local Units**, please complete the form below even though you may not qualify as a Mission Today unit. Refer any Questions to your District Team. Return this form by Feb 1st to your District Education and Interpretation Coordinator.

Name of Church: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Criteria Completed (Circle the numbers completed)

**Any criteria that are not currently listed but would fit in one of the categories can be included in the unit reports.*

Faith 1 2 3 4 Hope 1 2 3 4

Love 1 2 3 4 In Action 1 2 3 4

Report any new criteria tried this year:

Comments:

Send to: Eileen Bennett, 332 W. Prairie St., Columbus, WI 53925
Email: bennettpesl@charter.net

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!

ADVOCATE



I know every one is happy to see the end of 2020!

I am writing this [January 1](#) propped on pillows in bed with an ace bandage and ice pack on my elevated foot and ankle. Yes, I stepped in a sprinkler hole and you could hear a bone crack as I fell. Thank goodness I am blessed with Southwest Florida weather to recover. Now I have an excuse to not cook.

In the COVID-19 area there is much hope for this year.

I have a few facts to share for you that we can all work on by educating ourselves and advocating.

Advocate: one who pleads the case of another. One who defends or maintains a cause. One who promotes and supports the interests of a cause or group. This from good ole Merriam-Webster.

I have some facts for you to consider advocating for. Most of us can make a phone call, write a letter, and like I pointed out in the last newsletter, vote.

1. Black women, on average, earn 64 cents on every dollar a white man earns. This according to research from the Economic Policy Institute. More info search the article [The Stark Racial Inequity of Personal Finances in America](#).

2. A study on voting behavior by the economist Enrico Cantoni found that a quarter-mile increase in distance from a polling booth reduced voting by 2 to 5 percent. For Racial Justice, Employees Need Paid Hours Off for Voting.

3. Over the past 5 years in Minneapolis, the police have used force against Black people at 7 times the rate it has been used against White people.

Search: [Policing in America is Broken and Must Change](#).

But How?

4. In the United States, 80,000 acres of wetlands are lost to development annually. These Wetlands Helped Stop Flooding From Hurricane Sandy. Now a BJ's May Move In.

Respectfully submitted by: Pat Gallus, Social Justice Coordinator for WI SW District of UMW ptgallus@gmail.com 608-393-9267

Treasurer's Note

UMW Treasurers,

I am very thankful for the continued faithful giving of our units through 2020. Although we did not make our full district pledge, we did manage to send \$44,648.84 (83%) in Mission Giving and \$5,404.20 in Mission Giving Plus. Several units contributed to all 5 channels of giving to be 5-star units (Dodgeville, Lancaster, Lodi, Madison: Bethany and Madison: Wellspring). Others exceeded their pledge to mission amounts. This is a true joy to watch happen. I will be sending out year-end reports to units who gave in 2020 for your records.

I will be your interim treasurer for 2021 so continue to send remittances to my address (see below) in order for your money to be processed in a timely manner. Please make checks out to **South West District UMW** (not to me or to my office). Although I do not believe that local treasurers are in the habit of sending copies of their yearly audit/review to the district treasurer as well as the local president, I hope that you are being contentious and accountable to best practices by going through this process on a yearly basis. We are entrusted with money and it is important to make sure your records are accurate and all transactions are accounted for properly. It is also good practice to send notice for tax filling to anyone who gave more than \$250 to your unit in a year (this has become less important since fewer people itemize their deductions these days, but is still a good idea). Finally, new order forms for Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory cards are available in the 2021-2024 handbook with lovely new designs. You now have even more ways to honor mission in the new year! I look forward to celebrating your mission giving and support in 2021.

Yours in Christ,

Laura Pfeffer

Interim District Treasurer

608-592-5228(H)/608-698-7508(C)

pfeffer.umw@gmail.com



Testimony:

The job of Communications Coordinator is to create the Mission Matters newsletter for the SW District UMW. It is published 5 times each year. When I took the office, my only experience was creating a one-page newsletter for my first-grade classroom. I had no experience using Microsoft Office. Over the past 4 years, I have learned a lot. The little help button has been a good friend; I talk to it often. I enjoy receiving articles from the leadership team then incorporating them into the newsletter sometimes adding borders and pictures. It is extremely rewarding when I have a finished newsletter fresh from the printer. If you are creative, you could make the newsletter even better with more flair. I am not very creative, but I have fun trying. It has also been my job to publish a yearly directory for the district. Again, it has been interesting creating this document and updating it every year. So, if you like to work on the computer and be creative, please consider volunteering for this position. No experience needed; learn by doing!

8

Becky Yager, Communications Coordinator byager@chorus.net



**SOUTH WEST DISTRICT
SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT**
A Virtual Event - Saturday April 17, 2021
9:30 AM to Noon
Spiritual Leader: Michele Hopp

Theme: "Finding Peace in an Anxious World"

Michele is a licensed local pastor serving Arlington and the Poynette Inch congregations. Prior to serving as a pastor, she served as the UMW Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Wisconsin Conference and South West District.

Michele is on a new journey of widowhood, so she is welcoming the opportunity to share spiritual and practical ways to find peace in an anxious world. She hopes that this spiritual growth retreat will help women find more peace in their lives.

You are invited! Please mark your calendar and watch for further details about the event and registration information in the March issue of "Mission Matters".

PROMOTING THE PRAYER CALENDAR

I like how the *Purpose of United Methodist Women* begins with a focus on our personal lives...*to know God*. Then expands to include ... *a creative supportive fellowship*. But we're not allowed us to stop there! We're directed to widen our circle of caring beyond our local community... in order to *expand concepts of mission* through the many mission projects of the Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Women!

The Prayer Calendar is a very good resource to help us achieve this part of our *Purpose* - by providing a way for us to become familiar with the mission projects and to provide prayer support for all the missionaries who are working on our behalf. For those unfamiliar with the Prayer Calendar, it is published annually by United Methodist Women. On each day of the year a different mission project is featured and missionaries with birthdays that day are listed.

The Prayer Calendar also includes a section with prayers from active and retired missionaries around the world ... a weekly witness message from people in mission...and a directory of active and retired missionary staff with their contact information, enabling us to contact them with birthday greetings or to establish a relationship.

For many years I have been reading the Prayer Calendar at unit meetings and occasionally, during my daily devotions. But I am determined that beginning this year of 2021, I will read the Prayer Calendar each day!

How about joining me? The reading doesn't take long...and if we do it every day, just think - by the end of the year we will have become familiar with all of the mission projects and missionaries of the global ministries of our church!

The Prayer Calendar
*Invites you to pray as one people
responsive to God's call to
relationships of caring, connecting
and healing in a world of
uncertainty in all but the love of God.*



Marjory Lyford, South West District Coordinator of Spiritual Growth
mclyford@att.net 608-233-5930

Education & Interpretation

Thank you to all units who have submitted Mission Today reports for 2020. If you have not yet had a chance to submit your report, I will still be accepting those. **For 2020 and 2021, we will only require one criterium from each category or a total of four criteria to qualify as a Mission Today unit.**

I would like to take this opportunity to express what a pleasure it has been to serve as South West District E & I Coordinator for the past four years. I hope some of you will consider serving as a district officer. I was initially a little nervous about accepting the invitation to serve as an officer because I wasn't sure I was "qualified." I quickly discovered that I had great mentors and teachers on the district team, and the experience has been a real blessing in my life. Even though we are meeting virtually right now, we are in great need of new team members, and we would love to have you join us! Please contact Kay Putman or me if you need more information on our current open offices

Thank you!

Eileen Bennett bennettpesl@charter.net 920-623-4659

UMW Reading Program

Thank you to all who submitted reports for this year. Laura Pfeffer completed the requirements for Plan IV. The following people earned a certificate for Plan I:

Susan Williams, Columbus

Pauline Zeier, Columbus

Wanda Kilian, Columbus

Eileen Bennett, Columbus



Mary Ann Morack, Lodi

Phyllis Kalnins, Viroqua

Janet Welch, Viroqua

Minerva Batt, Columbus

The new list is available in the November-December **response** magazine or on the UMW website: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>

Please submit reading reports to Pat Gallus for 2021.

Thank you!



CONGRATULATIONS UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OF THE SOUTHWEST
DISTRICT; YOU DID IT!!!

The count for 2019 was much better. 1187 members were counted for Southwest District out of 4224 for Wisconsin Conference. YOU DID GOOD! Now it is time to do it again. The hard copy of the UNIT SURVEY (census form) will come with your directory for 2021. Please fill it out and enter it on the website you will find on the front page. The questions are different and are useful for both the Conference and National UMW. Don't forget to SUBMIT. I'm looking forward to speaking with you.

We, on the District Leadership Team, would like to ask each and every one of you to consider serving with us. Service is one of the most rewarding things you can do. Make new friends. Know you are on a team and not standing alone, doing something for the good of women, children and youth around the world. Help to fulfill the Purpose of United Methodist Women. What a joy it is to serve!

SERVING TO LEARN LEARNING TO SERVE

Kay Putman, Membership Nurture and Outreach
608-592-2294

Instructions for Completing the United Methodist Women (UMW) 2020

Unit Survey

The 2020 Unit Survey is due

March 30, 2021!

Access the online form for Census 2020 at:

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2020

November 2020

Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women

Mission Action Day

Saturday

April 3, 2021

Theme:
Racial inequality and
School to Prison Pipeline.



If we can meet in person, planning to hold this event at:
St Paul's United Methodist Church
341 Wilson Ave, Green Bay, WI 54303

2021 MISSION ACTION DAY REGISTRATION

Keep checking <http://www.wisconsinumw.org/> for more up-dates

2021 Annual Sampler

Offer ends April 2021

Please sign me up for the 2021 Annual Sampler!

Order the print subscription today for \$40 and save \$4.00.
The Annual Sampler[†] includes:

- 2021 Spiritual Growth study (\$10).
- 2021 Prayer Calendar (\$14).
- 2021-22 Program Book (\$10).
- 2021-24 Quadrennial Calendar (\$10.00 w/orange or purple sleeve).

[†]2021 Issue study: *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* by Monique Morris, New York: New Press, 2016. Available in stores, online and libraries. Free downloadable Leader's Guide (PDF) available online at unitedmethodistwomen.org.

The study and the calendars will ship in late fall 2020. The Program Book will ship in the summer of 2021. **Please select:**

- Orange or Purple Quadrennial Calendar sleeve
 Please sign me up for the 2021 Annual Sampler.

NAME _____ CONFERENCE _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

- Check enclosed.
 Charge my card: Mastercard Visa

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

BILLING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____



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United Methodist Women
Mission Resources
P.O. Box 742349
Atlanta, GA 30374-2349

098374

2021 Sister Units

Arlington	Kay Putman	Madison-First	Laura Pfeffer
Avoca	Carol Lange	Madison-Sherman Ave.	Marge Lyford
Baraboo Emanuel	Pat Gallus	Madison-Wellspring	Marge Lyford
Baraboo First	Pat Gallus	Mazomanie-Midland	Kay Putman
Benton	Becky Yager	Merrimac	Eileen Bennett
Bloom City	Mary Lainberger	Monona	Mary Lainberger
Blue River	Laura Pfeffer	Montfort	Charlene Mingst
Boaz	Carol Lange	North Windsor	Cindy Morse
Brodhead	Judy Loveless	Pardeeville	Eileen Bennett
Cobb	Charlene Mingst	Platteville	Becky Yager
Columbus	Cindy Morse	Portage	Eileen Bennett
Cuba City	Becky Yager	Prairie du Chien	Judy Loveless
Darlington	Becky Yager	Prairie du Sac/Concordia	Pat Gallus
Davis Corners	Kay Putman	Ridgeway Grace	Laura Pfeffer
Dells-Delton	Kay Putman	Sandusky	Martha Boyer
Dodgeville	Laura Pfeffer	Soldiers Grove	Carol Lange
Fayette	Kay Putman	Stitzer	Becky Yager
Fennimore	Charlene Mingst	Stoughton	Cindy Morse
LaFarge	Carol Lange	Viola	Eileen Bennett
Lancaster	Carol Lange	Viroqua	Carol Lange
Liberty Pole	Charlene Mingst	Waunakee-Crossroads	Kay Putman
Linden	Charlene Mingst	Whig	Becky Yager
Livingston	Charlene Mingst	Willow Valley	Donna Fae Kruse
Lodi	Eileen Bennett		
Madison – Bashford	Judy Loveless		
Madison- Bethany	Kay Putman		

South West District UMW
Newsletter

Becky Yager
10787 County Rd. K
Lancaster, WI 53813
608-723-7451
byager@chorus.net



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Calendar

January 28-30	Leadership Development Days—Zoom
February 1	Mission Task Reports due for 2020
March 6	Mission Matters deadline
March 13	District Team Meeting—Zoom
March 30	Membership Census is due
April 10	Mission Action Day - Green Bay or Zoom
April 17	District Spiritual Growth Retreat-Zoom
May 6	Mission Matters deadline
June	Mission u—Zoom
June 19	District Team Meeting at Boaz or Zoom
July 6	Mission Matters deadline