



# NORTH EAST DISTRICT

## *“The Shofar”*



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**2021 SHOFAR will be delivered electronically or paper version by subscription only!**

**REMINDER: \$8.00 SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2022 SHOFAR (send to editor) .**

**New: North East District 2022 Covenant**

**“Rise to A New Year, Together in Fellowship, Again”**

**“Sharing Missions and Spiritual Gifts of God’s Love, Grace and Devotion”**

### **“WHATS IN THIS SHOFAR??”**

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### **TEAM MEETING SCHEDULE: (CONTACT US TO ATTEND MEETING)**

- January 7 – Tele-Conference
- March 4 – Tele-Conference
- June 3 – Tele-Conference
- August 5 – Suamico UMC Plan Annual meeting
- November 4 - (TBA) 2023 planning

### **North East District EVENTS**

**April 30: Retreat at Appleton  
Emmanuel UMC at 9:00 AM**

**September TBA: Annual Day of  
Celebration at Suamico UMC**

### **WI CONFERENCE MEETINGS**

- April 9: Mission Action Day ?TBA?
- May 20-22: Assembly 2022, Orlando Fla.
- July 12,14 & 19, 20: Mission u ZOOM
- July 28-30: Mission u 3 day TBA
- October14-15: Annual Gathering -  
1<sup>st</sup> UMC, Baraboo

### **2022 SHOFAR Newsletters:**

- April 2022: articles due March 15
- July 2022: articles due June 15
- October 2022: articles due Sept. 15
- January 2023: articles due Dec. 15

Go to: [www.wisconsinumw.org](http://www.wisconsinumw.org) for LATEST  
copies of “CATCH the VISION”



## *President's Message*

### **Welcome to 2022.**

My prayers continue for the end of COVID 19 and all of its variants that are affecting our world today.

We are all working on ways to communicate with our UMW sisters and ways to continue with our ministries to care for women, youth and children.

North East District, hopefully, will devote time to developing new District Members. COVID has had a major effect on our units and we have lost several in 2020-2021. It is our responsibility to encourage our sisters to become District Members. District Members will have a North East District Team Officer as their liaison to keep them informed about activities and events. District Members will receive the Shofar and an opportunity to become "4 Star District Members" which includes: Pledge to Mission, World Thank Offering, Gift in Memory and Gift in Mission. We hope keeping District Members involved in the same activities they enjoyed as unit members will give them reasons to sign up. We will release more information soon.

We have 2 events in the planning for 2022. On April 30<sup>th</sup> we will hold UMW Retreat, "I Love to Tell The Story" by Barb Mamerow, held at Appleton Emmanuel UMC. In September, date to be announced, we will hold our Annual Day of Celebration, "HEALING AND JOY ON OUR JOURNEY TO GOD" at Suamico UMC.

January 7, 2022 the North East District Executive Team will meet via tele-conference to begin the year. We cordially invite you to join us. Please contact me and I'll send you an invite with information you need.

***Romans 12: 4-13 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; 7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; 8 He who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy with cheerfulness. 9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; 13 Distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.***

## *Conference President's Messages Outgoing President:*

I want to thank Jan for giving me the opportunity to share with you my thoughts, struggles and "small victories" where I could see God working with me and through me to make a difference in our world. Despite COVID-19 we, collectively, have continued our Mission to serve women, children, and youth.

It has been a blessing to have served as Conference President 4 years. I understand the wisdom of time limits to serve in one position. New Teams open the way for sharing new ideas and energy to consider now and in the years ahead. United Methodist Women's work changes, adapts and grows with each new challenge and opportunity. New things are being imagined, planned and worked on to attract the new generation of women that will continue our Legacy. We, have so much wisdom to offer them. Thanks be to God! Martha Boyer

## *Incoming President: Gloria Carter*

Greetings to my UMW sisters of the North East District,

The beginning of a new year always stirs up thoughts of possibilities in me. A new year is a new blank sheet of paper. This year, as I begin my term as the conference president, there's a bit of trepidation as well. Fortunately, I know from my past involvement at local, district, and conference UMW levels that I am surrounded and supported by the creative, supportive community of United Methodist Women.

We have important work to do together. Harriett Jane Olson, the General Secretary of United Methodist Women, shared these thoughts in **response** magazine:

"Our moment in history, like the time of Mary and Elizabeth, is full of uncertainty and risk. What better time to seek out one another, to deepen our spiritual sisterhood and to give voice to the calling of God in our hearts? In the midst of turmoil in our own hearts, in our denomination and in the world, can we listen deeply enough to hear that God is still working in the world for wholeness, for abundant life for all creation? Dare we step closer to our spiritual sisterhood and venture to say, out loud, that God is calling us to play our part in God's work and to make change in our church, our communities, our nation and in the world?"

As we listen to "the calling of God in our hearts," what part is God calling Wisconsin United Methodist Women to play in God's work?

## *Vice-President:*

Wishing you a healthy, God-directed 2022! My new duties in 2022 officially for the North East District United Methodist Women are to help and coordinate the work with the president. This will involve specific tasks and help to plan programs and the Annual Gathering.

We, as United Methodist Women, are to stir into flames the gift of God which is within us. We are meant to be fluid and free-flowing and open to be able to change and be mobile. We have certainly had a couple of years of change and adjustments with our churches and organizations. We have become able to make decisions about our best actions and mobility and to adjust to gatherings and people activities.

Our purpose reminds us that we are to continue to develop creative, supportive fellowship while expanding our mission work. We are empowered by God to live out our faith in the world. So in faith, hope, and love may you continue in 2022 to send blessings of love, good health, and joyous work as United Methodist Women.

Ruth Wiersma, Vice President

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*District Member* --Rev. Valerie Fons, ordained elder appointed by the Michigan and Wisconsin conferences and endorsed by the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry as chaplain to Bread & Water, Tipping Bucket Farm & Retreat, and L.A.U.N.C.H., Inc., extension ministries in a specialized site.

For this edition of The Shofar, Northeast District Newsletter, Jan Stanko asked; "What goes on at Washington Island?" The image that comes to mind is a car turning into the driveway at the 55- acre Tipping Bucket Farm & Retreat where I live, house staff and rent pet friendly accommodations. When the car comes to a stop and the doors open, kids are unstrapped from their car seats, climb out of the car and start running around and around the yard, free and glad. The yard is shielded from the road by a row of tall pines and expanse of grass. Kids run toward horses, looking at the chickens and potbellied pig in a chorus of; "Can I touch?" The kids can't seem to stop moving from the barn to the garden and wow; "Look, it's a tractor." The parents are more likely to seek the door of their room and begin carrying luggage.

I love my work as innkeeper. Following Henri Nouwen's definition of hospitality; "Making space for the other," and, following the biblical truth; "With God all things are possible," even when the baseball team arrives for the big game tomorrow. Players riding in the truck bed with a mammoth cooler of beer, and no reservation. The island is jammed with visitors. One could imagine the island might sink as the winter population of 650 people swell to thousands during summer season. "No vacancy" signs abound. At Tipping Bucket Farm and Retreat, we put linens and blankets on cots, couches, roll away, and pew in the wood-floor sanctuary to house all the team members.

"What goes on in Washington Island?" Radical hospital and teen vocational training at the Bread & Water ministry café, the only restaurant in town that does not serve alcohol. The Bread & Water ministry café is where communion is served at table for those making request. A prayer post receives written prayer cards and morning prayer begins each day before breakfast service. A man walked in the door one morning. "Do you serve breakfast?" he asked. "Yes," I answered. Then he saw the cross; "Do you serve those who do not believe?" I welcomed him to a table. We serve all, those who cannot pay, people who need to cry, those espousing conspiracy theories, people intent upon using the internet. We believe Psalm 24:7 -" Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in." Pg 4

We serve the Holy in all shapes and sizes, faith traditions and cultural and gender diversity.

When Covid happened on Washington Island, we transitioned to outdoor dining, curbside and take-out. The Town of Washington Utility District brought a port-o-can for outdoor use. We set up a hand washing station with water, soap and paper towels. Lines of people seeking relief from the cities began to overtake the limits of our small staff. We were not alone. Restaurants in Door County, summer season, 2021, became overwhelmed with travelers seeking relief and nourishment.

In years past, my ministry at Bread & Water had been focused with the travelers but in 2021, the needs of the staff became my focus due to the intense stress mounting with the unprecedented numbers of travelers. Our ministry of welcoming and serving was challenged with the needs of self-care for staff in the midst of intense challenges for personal and professional growth, a resistance to blame and shame as each staff member revealed their vulnerabilities in managing stress while struggling with the increasing needs for team building and adaptive leadership.

Matthew, a Bread & Water cook had this to say; “We can make this work. If Jesus fed multitudes with very few things, we are capable of serving many with very few hands. Everyone is broken but it’s all about how you are able to persevere through it. It’s like Robin Williams said; “You never know what someone else is going through. Be kind always.” In rehab, I learned life is a challenge always and if it wasn’t, we weren’t doing it right. I think and pray for that peace that surpasses everyone’s understanding.”

Bread & Water staff sought peace in the midst of tempers flaring, all tables full, hungry travelers at the door and weary travelers needing a room for the night.

In addition to Tipping Bucket Farm & Retreat, Bread & Water café, lodging, kayak rentals and the Paddling Museum, Lake Adventures Uniting Nature & Children with Hospitality, (L.A.U.N.C.H.), Inc., a 501C3 environmental education center housed in the Butterfly House is open Memorial Day to Labor Day. An intern manages the house with daily tours. Live butterflies transform from egg to caterpillar, cocoon and hatch, then fly free after butterfly wings pump to dry.

We do ministry on Washington Island. Seeking to be faithful. Growing with open hearts, minds and hands.        Rev. Valerie Fons

## *Spiritual Growth:*



### ***Jesus is the reason for every season***

Isaiah 9:6 *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

In Greek and in Hebrew Jesus is translated the anointed one and the messiah. We know that the disciples called him Rabbi and teacher. He is called Immanuel which translates "God with us". What about the Alpha and Omega, almighty, bread of life, lamb of God, Light of the world, the good shepherd, the son of God, King of Kings, Lord of all, Redeemer, the rock, Savior, the way, the word, the truth...there are over 50 names and titles ascribed to Jesus in scriptures. We could spend a year studying and learning and not be able to capture the essence of this because Jesus is the **indescribable gift**. Praise God for this indescribable gift ([2 Cor. 9:15](#)) A gift that does not break or rust or we outgrow or is put aside for a new model, it is not just for children or adults, it is perfect!

**When Jesus came**, everything changed,

**When Jesus is in our lives**, we are changed. Amen!

Jesus asked a lot of questions; one of His favorite teaching tools. "Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, 'Who do the crowds say I am?' "They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.' "But what about you?" he asked. 'Who do you say I am?' "Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). **Who do you say He is? What you call Jesus will define your relationship with him and how you live your life.**

At the dawn of the New Year let us be filled with:

**HOPE** for what is to come,

**JOY** in the blessings we've received

**PEACE** because we know Jesus and

**LOVE** because he first loved us

God gave us his son, the indescribable gift!

## *Education and Interpretation*

I hope all of you had a blessed Christmas season and am looking forward to a great New Year.

I am your new education and interpretation coordinator. My main task is to educate our members about mission and to help us find ways to participate in mission giving and participation. Your Unit President should have received a 2021 annual NED celebration booklet. In the back of this you will find the criteria for becoming a mission today unit. This form gives you a starting point to setting goals for mission. I know the past couple years have been difficult but I also know my UMW sisters are a formidable group of women. You will also find the form to fill out for your local mission project due March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Happy New Year! Sherrie Bekyir, sbekyir@gmail.com, 920 562-9438  
Education & Interpretation Coordinator

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### **NORTH EAST DISTRICT SPECIAL LOCAL MISSION PROJECT FOR 2022**

**Project runs from March 1<sup>st</sup> thru August 15<sup>th</sup>. Awards will be presented to participating Units at our Annual Celebration**

**UMW UNIT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name and description of your local mission project:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Describe activities your unit will be doing to support this project:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Estimate number of members and hours that will be devoted to this project:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Submit: Completed form by or before March 1, 2022**

to: Sherri Bekyir, 1404 Western Ave. #17, Green Bay, WI 54303 or: sbekyir@gmail.com

## *Treasurers Message.....*

Greetings to all UMW members.

While trying to put together this Treasurers Report I looked in my “Chicken Soup for the Soul” for how to express my thoughts. From Matthew 25:40 :

The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, You did for me.

As we are all well aware, we have been through some really difficult months and years lately. Even with all the stress and pressures to stay healthy, we have been able to continue with our pledges to Conference. In 2021 we had pledged \$40,000. We came much closer to our pledge this last year than I had anticipated. We sent Conference \$35,655.09 of our \$40,000 Pledge. I applaud each and every one of you for your dedication to UMW and to the people that really need our help. If you still have funds you want to apply to your 5 star unit, money can be sent to me until the end of the year.

We have a growing number of District Members that are not attached to a local unit. To these UMW members I remind you that you can make a pledge or gift of giving directly to me and I will forward it on to conference. Funds can be sent to: Rogene Moore 1232 Arlington Ave. Manitowoc, WI 54220

If you have any questions, I can be reached by email at: [rogenemoore@ymail.com](mailto:rogenemoore@ymail.com) or 920-682-0235.

To all units and district members I remind you to fill out your pledge form and send it back to me. The form was in the booklet that the Officers received in the mail from the District President Jan Stanko. If you don't have the form handy, you can email me at the above address or call me at the above phone number. Pledges make it easier for us to plan ahead.

My Prayer: Dear Lord, as I am called to serve, may I ever be mindful that I can be your hands and ears here on Earth Thank you for making these times a loving blessing and times of learning more about Jesus in my journey. AMEN

Rogene Moore  
District Treasurer



## *Social Action*

Want to share with you some information that I found to be almost unbelievable about the rate of African-American incarceration in Wisconsin.

The highly respected Sentencing Project recently released a report on the rate of imprisonment for African- American people in the US. The report shows that in our country, an African- American person is five times more likely to be incarcerated in a state prison than a white person is. Amid this grim national picture, Wisconsin again has the highest rate of African- American incarceration of any state in the nation. Nationally, one out of every 81 Black people is in prison; in Wisconsin, it is one out of every 36. While only about 6% of Wisconsin residents are African- American, 42% of the state prison population is African- American.

The report lays out some of the specific reasons for this tremendous disparity. But, it makes clear that the blame is shared by many, including the general lack of equal opportunity for Black people throughout our society.

In Wisconsin, we think of ourselves as fair and friendly people. We don't imagine ourselves as the harshest, least hospitable people in the country. Still, the results tell a different story. Ten years ago, a national study showed Wisconsin to have the highest incarceration rate for African- American people, and this week we have learned that we still hold that reprehensible #1 position.

In the coming days and weeks, WISDOM leaders will be laying out plans to respond to this report. It is time for our state to recognize that significant things have to change if we want to live up to our values. In the meantime, please take a minute to look at the report and or read the article. And, please share them with someone.

Though it is embarrassing we can't let this be a secret, Our state can't solve its big problem until it acknowledges that it exists.

**Carole Biddick, Social Action Coordinator**

## *Program Resources*

This is a new office for me but the reading program is a favorite of mine. I took the new list and went to the library to see what I could find. I got Cinderella Liberator, a youth book, that put a little different slant on the story. It is a Leadership and development book. Cinderella did not marry the prince but opened a cake shop. Her step sisters also opened shops, one a hairdresser and the other a dressmaker. I enjoyed reading it. I also got For such a Time as This by Rev Sharon Risher. Hope and Forgiveness after the Charleston Massacre. She writes about her grief over losing her mother and how she grew through her grief. It is in the category Social Action. Both books are good reads. There were several books on the list that were not in the library system. My suggestion is, have your unit purchase used books on Amazon and share them in your group. I plan on doing this and then donate them to the Library and tell them about our reading program and that others will be looking for these books. Remember if 10% of your unit complete level one you will receive \$20 from the district to purchase books. I am looking forward to reading this year, I hope you are too.

**Sandra Klein, Program Resource Coordinator**

**NORTH EAST DISTRICT UMW EXECUTIVE TEAM – 2022 **SISTER UNITS IN RED****

**If you have any questions contact your sister officer.**

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6303 Riverview Dr. Two Rivers, WI 54241 Phone: (L) NO © 920-717-8245  
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**NOMINATIONS: Betsy Johnson** Email: [betsyjohnson58@gmail.com](mailto:betsyjohnson58@gmail.com)  
2837 Jean Court, Green Bay, WI 54313 Phone: L 920-4996425 © 920-265-0216  
**CENTER EMMANUEL & APPLETON EMMANUEL**

**NOMINATIONS: Hazel Christopher** Email: [hazelc228@aol.com](mailto:hazelc228@aol.com)  
317 Parkview Ln, Kimberly, WI 54136 Phone: L: 920-731-7260 © 920-284-5720`  
**Calvary: FISH CREEK & GREEN BAY: ST. PAUL**

**NOMINATIONS: Cooki Klein** Email: [kleindoretta48@gmail.com](mailto:kleindoretta48@gmail.com)  
2602 16<sup>th</sup> St., Two Rivers, WI 54240 Phone: © 920-553-2593  
**RIPON: IMMANUEL & LOWELL**

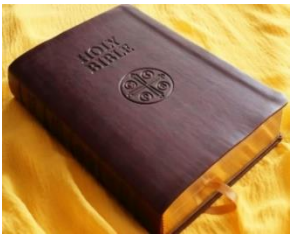
**SPIRITUAL GROWTH: Barbara (Barb) Mamerow (2023) No Email**  
11839 Cooperstown Rd., Denmark, WI 54208 Phone: (L) © 920-863-2416  
**FOND du LAC: COVENANT & CRANDON: ST.LUKE/ARGONNE**

**SOCIAL ACTION: Carole Biddick (2022)** Email: [cdbiddick@gmail.com](mailto:cdbiddick@gmail.com)  
N1356 Lakeshore Rd., Kewaunee, WI 54216 Phone: (L) © 920-360-6555  
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**EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION: Sherri Bekyir (2023)** Email: [bekyirs@gmail.com](mailto:bekyirs@gmail.com)  
1404 Western Ave. #17, Green Bay, WI 54303 Phone: (L) © 920-562-9438  
**OSHKOSH: ALGOMA BLVD. & SALEM RED RIVER**

**MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & O. : Gwen Gibson (2023)** Email: [gwengbson@yahoo.com](mailto:gwengbson@yahoo.com)  
4524 N. Clayhill Dr., Appleton, WI 54913 Phone: (L) 920-903-8780 © 920-221-5314  
**GREEN BAY: FIRST & SHEBOYGAN: FOUNTAIN PARK**

**HISTORIAN: (OPEN)**



# *“I Love to Tell the Story”*

REGISTRATION 8:30-9:15 AM

*Program begins at 9:30 AM*

*(Do you have a special purse that has a story attached to it? If so, bring it with you)*

The theme for 2022 UMW retreat is: **“I Love to Tell The Story”**. An interactive event open to all. Mark your calendars: **Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at Appleton Emmanuel UMC, 740 E. College Ave, Appleton, WI 54911**

Barbara Mamerow, one of our new members on the District Team, will be our presenter for the retreat. She has led Women of the Bible studies for 10 years, serves as the Spiritual Growth leader for Lakeshore UMW (also their cook), and is a lay speaker, filling the pulpits on many occasions. She has taught Aging and Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Barbara spent her career in Human Services field, served on the State Mental Health Council and was instrumental in developing and served as chairperson of the State Mental Health, Alcohol & other Drug Abuse and Aging Coalition.

-----CUT HERE to SAVE INFORMATION-----

**Deadline April 15, 2022**

**Registration starts at 8:30 AM.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

Release to use photos: (sign) \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check for \$ 20.00 payable to North East District UMW.....**

Mail to: Sandra Klein, 6303 Riverview Dr., Two Rivers, WI 54241

North East District Shofar  
C/O: JAN STANKO  
620 Madison St., APT 3  
Brillion, WI 54110

**SHOFAR – APRIL 2022 – DEADLINE MARCH 15.**

**Mark your calendar: RETREAT – April 30, 2022**