

# South West District UMW Newsletter

## Mission Matters

### March 2021



#### President's Message

UMW Sisters,

I am looking forward to being a part of our South West District Spiritual Retreat. I know that we struggle to engage and connect fully online either because it is a new medium, access is uncertain or the format is less interactive and does not allow as much informal networking and sharing as we are used to having at these events. I long to return to being able to see and speak with you all face-to-face. Nevertheless, I am always strengthened by my interactions with other United Methodist Women whether that is in person, on the phone, online or through a communication like our newsletter or **response** magazine. I know that the women who share a PURPOSE with me and love God are present, encouraging and bound together in mission. It is a powerful and beautiful thing in all of its forms.

“Finding Peace in an Anxious World” is both the theme of our Spiritual retreat and one of our Mission studies. I am very excited to hear what Pastor Michelle Hopp brings to this important and timely topic. She is one of my favorite speakers because of the ways in which she shares her whole self and her experience with her audience. I know you will be blessed and enriched by her words.

Mission u is going online this year with sessions being held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings on May, July and August dates. You will have the opportunity to hear Rev. Barbara Certa-Warner, who was the director of Harbor House for many years and is now a District Superintendent, speak on the topic of “Finding Peace in an Anxious World”. As a pastor and as someone who worked with homeless women and children for many years, I am sure that she will have much to say about the role of peace in situations which produce extreme anxiety. The topic “Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools” is also a very timely topic as the pandemic has increased the difficulties in bridging the school achievement gap between children of color and their white counterparts. The ways in which our education system fails children of color and in particular targets girls in the classroom is one which may be hard to hear, but we must face it if we wish to provide equal educational opportunity for all students in our state. I know Rev. Jonah Overton and Rev. Afi Dobbins-Mays will bring their personal experiences as well as their spiritual leadership to this difficult subject. I believe that our final topic, “Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church’s Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship”, is the most challenging of the three. It is the one which asks us to allow God’s love for the world to transform the way in which we live and act in

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profound and deep ways. It asks us to walk beside those who are unlike ourselves, suffering, broken or lost. In many of these places, our impulse might be to “fix” this person or offer “solutions”. Witness is not fundamentally about this. It may lead to advocacy and action, but at its heart it is about seeing Christ in others, being present, listening and not judging. I believe Rev. Rob Odum will bring his experiences of being in solidarity with marginalized communities and people as well as a desire to encourage faithful living by those who love Jesus to this topic. All of these studies are well worth your time and are worth sharing with others. I pray that these studies will grace your lives and fill you with hope.

Yours in Christ,

Laura Pfeffer, South West District President

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## South West District UMW Officers

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2020 UMW  
Census

**Attention all Unit Presidents!!**

It's time to complete your unit survey (census) information for 2020.

If you don't have a computer or need help, please call Kay Putman at 608-592-2294. The census must be completed by **March 30, 2021**. We are aiming for 100% participation for our district. Thank you for taking the time to complete the census for your unit.

**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](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2020)

## RESPONDING TO DIFFICULTIES

In a recent Lenten devotion published by MFSA ( Methodist Federation for Social Action), Rev. Cristine Carnato-Atero tells about the trauma and abuse she experienced during her childhood which finally ended when her father was murdered. At that time she was still a teenager and she was torn by her conflicting emotions and decisions on how to react to the abuse and violence she had endured. Eventually Christine decided that what she needed was to be nurtured spiritually... so she began to rejoin church activities and at an early age, decided to go into the ministry.

Rev. Carnato-Atero reported that her life went from dark dullness to light as she slowly found refuge and healing and that the uncertainty of her life was replaced by joy and hope. Cristine, now an ordained United Methodist elder in the Philippines, became the first female district superintendent in that area and is now working toward a doctor's degree in ministry.

Cristine was supported and spiritually nurtured by her church. We, as active members of United Methodist Women, are additionally blessed by our membership in the creative and supportive fellowship of UMW.

**Because we all face difficulties at times in our life, it would seem to make sense for us to take advantage of all that UMW has to offer -**

An upcoming opportunity for all of us is the **Spiritual Growth Retreat** on the morning of Saturday, April 17th. It will be a virtual gathering which can be accessed by computer or telephone. The event will include music, devotions, a brief message from our Conference UMW President, a time of Joy's and Concerns, and a heartfelt presentation by Michele Hopp on "Finding Peace in an Anxious World." For details about the morning, see the adjacent page featuring the retreat and please consider joining the gathering on the 17th. It would be good to see **you** on the screen!

Best Wishes to You All,

Marjory Lyford, South West District Coordinator for Spiritual Growth





## 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; but is welcoming the opportunity to share spiritual and practical ways to find more peace in our personal lives and in our anxious world.

You are invited! To register please contact Laura Pfeffer by U.S mail or email and provide your name, email address, home address, church, and phone number. She will send you information on how to get connected on Zoom for the event.

Deadline for registration April 15th. No registration fee.

Laura Pfeffer contact info - W10132 Koltas Rd. Lodi, WI  
53555

Cell Phone - 608-698-7508 Email - [pfeffer.umw@gmail.com](mailto:pfeffer.umw@gmail.com)

Question about the event? Contact Marge Lyford 608-233-  
5930

## SOUTH WEST DISTRICT DAY OF ENRICHMENT 2020

Submitted by Eileen Bennett

The South West District Day of Enrichment was held virtually on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Our theme was *Knitted Together for God's Good Work*. We discussed ways to use the new program book for virtual meetings, and also discussed the Reading Program. We concluded the program with a Love Feast. The PowerPoint is available for any unit that would like the information. Please let me know if you would like additional help. Here are some highlights from Day of Enrichment:

### If Meeting Together Is Not Possible

Even when it's not possible to meet together in person for these monthly programs, we can still come together in community to explore them, knitted together through the magic of technology. This tool is designed to offer facilitators a helping hand as they adapt to using videoconferencing platforms as a way to bring the group together virtually. It includes tips on familiarizing participants with this technology and using these platforms effectively plus general ideas on how to adapt the programs, as needed, for virtual meetings.



**Knitted Together Virtually:** Look for this icon within the programs for ideas on how to adjust specific activities during videoconferencing sessions for both ease and impact.

VIII | INTRODUCTION

The Love Feast, or Agape Meal, is a Christian fellowship meal recalling the meals Jesus shared with disciples during his ministry and expressing the koinonia (community, sharing, fellowship) enjoyed by the family of Christ. The modern history of the Love Feast began the Moravians in Germany introduced a service of sharing food, prayer, religious conversation, and hymns in 1727. John Wesley first experienced it among the Moravians in Savannah, Georgia, ten years later. Prayer is vital to a Love Feast. A fixed form of prayer may be used, especially something like the Lord's Prayer or Be present at our table, Lord, that is familiar to the people. Spontaneous prayer requests and prayers may come from the people. Scripture is also important. Most Love Feasts include the sharing of food. The beverage has usually been water. Early Methodists commonly passed a loving cup with two handles from person to person.

**PRAYER** by Charles Wesley was written especially for the Love Feast and recommended for use at all Love Feasts by both John and Charles Wesley.

***Father of earth and heaven,  
Thy hungry children feed,  
Thy grace be to our spirits given,  
That true immortal bread.  
Grant us and all our (human) race  
In Jesus Christ to prove  
The sweetness of thy pardoning grace,  
The manna of thy love.***



## Notes from Wisconsin Conference UMW Annual Gathering 2020

Our Wisconsin Conference UMW Annual Gathering was held on Zoom on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Although we were not able to meet in person, we were treated to a very enjoyable program and had opportunities to socialize with one another. Our worship was led by Keri Olson. Her theme was “Feel the Light. Be the Light. (Lessons from COVID-19)” The message concluded with a prayer for light. Our Keynote Speaker was Judith Siaba from the organization, Justice For Our Neighbor (JFON). JFON is a United Methodist Immigration Ministry which provides free or low-cost immigration legal services to vulnerable immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. We concluded our program with an Affirmation of Faith/Creed for Immigrants. The videos from the Annual Gathering are available here: <http://www.wisconsinumw.org/news.html>

Here are some helpful links to the information from our program:

Justice for our Neighbors (A United Methodist Immigration Ministry)  
<https://njfon.org/>  
<https://advance.umcor.org/p-614-national-justice-for-our-neighbors.aspx>

Northern Illinois Justice for our Neighbors (ICE Contact Info & FAQ's)  
<https://nijfon.org/clients/ice-detention-release-bond/>

Interfaith Immigration Coalition  
<https://www.interfaithimmigration.org/>

Affirmation of Faith/Creed for Immigrants by Jose Luis Casel  
<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Immigrants-Creed-Jose-Luis-Casal.pdf>

Submitted by Eileen Bennett, South West District Vice President

920-623-4659    [benettpe@charter.net](mailto:benettpe@charter.net)

# MISSION ACTION DAY

APRIL 10, 2021 (9:00 to NOON)

## MATERNAL HEALTH AND RACIAL EQUITY



**Theme:** Racial Equity in the Wisconsin Health Care System  
**Speaker:** Dr. Kathy D. Hartke  
(Co-Chair Wisconsin Maternal Mortality Review Team)



**Theme:** Being Black in Wisconsin  
**Speaker:** Marti Gobel  
(Mother, Teaching Artist, Adjunct Professor. Director and Actor)

Registration Form: Please use a separate form for each person attending. If you have questions please contact: Josie Gobel, 920-988-0705 or email [josiegobel@charter.net](mailto:josiegobel@charter.net)

**REGISTER BY: March 27, 2021.** Zoom link and additional info will be sent April 5, 2021.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of your church (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW WILL YOU BE JOINING THIS MEETING? (There are 3 options)

By a phone  OR with a Smart phone/ computer  OR with a group host

IF YOU PLAN TO JOIN WITH A 'HOST' WHO IS THAT HOST? \_\_\_\_\_

Registration: (optional: suggested \$10.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

additional donation to Harbor House (optional) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Wisconsin Conference UMW. Mail registration form and payment to: Josie Gobel, 309 W Johnson St. Apt. 930, Madison WI 53703

(Money collected above expenses will be sent to Harbor House – Crisis Shelters.)

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS MISSION ACTION DAY – OUR AIM IS TO PREPARE YOU TO TAKE ACTION!**

## UMW Reading Program

Girl Gone Missing by Marcie R Rendon-Social Action Book  
Available for Kindle, Audio, and Paperback

I really enjoyed this novel. It touches on just about everything a young woman could endure growing up and going through college. Her name is Cash and is a Tribal American. It opened my eyes to real life scenarios of the social injustices that are prevalent in our area.

## Social Justice

I attended a zoom meeting on Human Trafficking in Rural Wisconsin. Sarah Yanke is an advocate at Hope House of Central Wisconsin. This is very prevalent in rural Wisconsin. Especially vulnerable are the marginalized communities of indigenous people, children previously molested or abused, individuals with disabilities, LGBTQ+ community, and people of color. To name a few; but it can happen to anyone.

A couple of the ways that children are contacted is through Facebook, on-line games like Minecraft, Madden Football, etc. I know children who play these games On-line!

“In order to create REAL change, we’ve got to be willing to have REAL, uncomfortable, and challenging conversations” by Gabrielle Union.

This includes racism, the criminalization of Black girls in schools, our failing environment, the school-prison pipeline, and the prejudice we put on people that are not white. You can keep yourself involved and on top of these issues and more. Go to our website [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) and [www.wisconsinumw.org](http://www.wisconsinumw.org)

March is Women’s History Month! **LET US BE BOLD AND USE OUR VOICE TO ADVOCATE FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT.**

Many of you know I winter in Florida. My husband and I ride our Seadoo on the Gulf

Of Mexico. Hurricane Irma made new beaches on the mangrove islands and new sandbars. We stopped at one of our favorite and were shocked to see the garbage left behind: a bag of plastic water bottles, toilet paper here and there, and a flat inflatable towable. It was a shock to see! We could not fit this on our vessel but found someone with a boat had picked it up. Our environment needs us!

Prayers for good health and God’s Grace  
Pat Gallus – S/W District Social Justice Coordinator  
608-393-9267 ptgallus@gmail.com



## Treasurer's Note

UMW Treasurers,

I will admit that since I work full-time, I had not been taking advantage of the Faith Talks webinars offered twice monthly by United Methodist Women. Josie Gobel, our Conference Secretary, however was familiar with them and wanted to create a district online group who would watch these either live (at 1PM on the first and third Thursday of the month) or when posted on the United Methodist Women's website <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks> and then meet to discuss the topic. I have managed my schedule to be able to watch many of these and I have learned a great deal. In particular I want to highlight one guest in particular who spoke as a part of the Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> webinar "Lent In a Time of Covid". The speaker was the director of Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville, TX. It is a National Mission institution established by five women in 1959. It was wonderful to hear how our mission served the people of Brownsville during the recent winter storms and power outage. Good Neighbor Settlement House is the only soup kitchen in Brownsville which was once rated the poorest city in the US. It never stopped serving people even during the worst of the difficulties. They did lose power intermittently. They did suffer damage to their very historic building. They did lose some of the food from their refrigerated storage, but their mission continued through it all. Your Mission Giving make their mission possible. The work of United Methodist Women is at work in places in need both before, during and after disasters because they are rooted in their communities and committed to serving women, children and youth. Your support of these missions and all of the National and International missions of United Methodist Women is truly vital.

I know that this year will remain a challenging one for us financially. Yet, every gift you give to mission is more important than ever and I thank you for your continued and faithful work supporting Mission Giving through all 5-channels of giving (Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift in Memory, Gift to Mission and World Thank Offering). I know that I personally have had the need to give several gifts in memory for people who have suffered the loss of loved ones. I continue to give through a donation to our Pledge. I will be looking for opportunities to use the Gift to Mission cards, I will recommend people to my unit to give Special Mission Recognition pins (and I may be moved to give one myself) and I continue to be thankful and building up my thank offering. There are many ways to give. I pray that you will continue to find ways to encourage giving from yourself, your unit and others in your church. Our mission needs you!

Yours in Christ,

Laura Pfeffer, Interim District Treasurer

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The new UMW book list is available on the UMW website: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram> It gives a good synopsis of each book.

Please submit reading reports to Pat Gallus for 2021. Thank you! (see officer list for address)

<b>REPORT OF COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS</b>	
<i>(Send completed form to your secretary of program resources or equivalent according to your conference's schedules.)</i>	
I have completed the required reading for PLAN____. The books I have read are listed on the reverse side.	
LOCAL UNIT	PRINT NAME
DISTRICT	ADDRESS
CONFERENCE	CITY, STATE, ZIP

<b>Current Year</b> _____ <b>PLAN CHOSEN:</b> I II III IV <b>NAME:</b> _____	Education for Mission																		
	Leadership Development																		
	Nurturing for Community																		
	Social Action																		
	Spiritual Growth																		

**Reporting Form**  
 Formulario de Información del Programa de Lectura  
 독서 프로그램

South West District UMW  
Becky Yager, Communications Coordinator  
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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

### Calendar

March 13 SW District Team meeting—Zoom  
March 30 Unit Survey/Membership Census due  
April 10 Conference Mission Action Day—Zoom  
April 17 District Spiritual Growth Retreat—Zoom  
May 6 Mission Matters Articles due  
June Mission u—Zoom  
June 19 District Team Meeting—Boaz UMC or Zoom  
July Mission u—Zoom  
August 7 District Team Meeting—Dodgeville UMC or Zoom  
August Mission u—Zoom

