



River Valley United Methodist Women's

THE LINK

Linking together the UMW units in the River Valley District



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Volume 28, Issue 2

August 2021



Wailana Barker

Message from Wailana, our President. . .

As my time as River Valley District President comes to a close, I want to say **"Thank You"** for the opportunity to serve you.

I have worked with so many talented and gifted women over the last 5 years. **"Thank You"** for accepting my way of leadership.

We have been through many highs and lows in our lives during our time together. I hope you felt as much love and support as I did. **"Thank You"** for all the love and support.

UMW stands strong in our hearts and minds as we move into this post-Covid time. I encourage every unit to get active again. Invite every woman in your church to get involved. Invite **every** woman in your church to attend our District Annual Gathering!

Looking forward to seeing you September 25th in Stewartville.

UMW love,

Wailana Barker

President, River Valley District UMW

Thank you!

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You're invited to attend our

RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT ANNUAL GATHERING

Saturday, September 25 — 9am-2:30pm

Stewartville United Methodist Church—Stewartville, Minnesota

See registration details on page 12.

Registrations due by September 13

THE PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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 expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of The United Methodist Church.



What's on our calendar?

2021

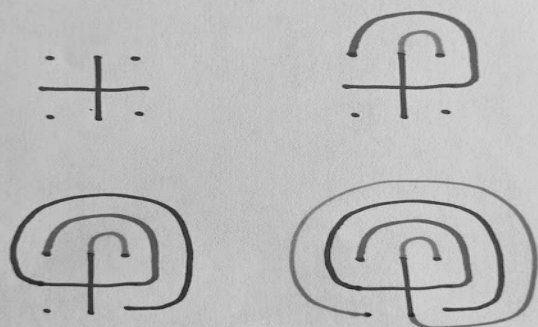
Meeting Dates

District, Conference & Other Events

Sept. 23 (Thursday)	An Evening with Jane Rubietta <i>Harriet UMC in Minneapolis / ZOOM</i>
Sept. 25 (Saturday)	River Valley District Annual Gathering <i>Stewartville UMC in Stewartville</i>
Oct. 2 (Saturday)	MN Conference Annual Celebration for <u>all</u> United Methodist Women <i>Anoka UMC in Anoka</i>
Oct. 2-3 (Saturday & Sunday)	Leadership Development Training (LDR) for Conference & District Officers <i>Anoka UMC in Anoka</i>
May 20-22, 2022	Assembly 2022 <i>Orlando Convention Center in Orlando, FL</i>
August 29- Sept. 6, 2022	UMC General Conference <i>Minneapolis</i>

**FAITH, HOPE & LOVE
IN ACTION!**

How to Draw a Finger Labyrinth →



Submitted by Jane Baker, RVD Secretary

NEWSLETTER HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Help keep our district contact list up-to-date!

\$ Each time a newsletter
is returned by the post office, \$
we are charged a cost of \$2.97 each!

**Contact Sharon Dougherty with
ADDRESS CHANGES or NAME DELETIONS**

***sdsrdougherty@gmail.com* or 612-280-2103**

To save further costs (paper, printing, postage),
consider subscribing to our
newsletter by email.

**This helps us put these economic savings
into more missions & it's also a quick way
for you to get your newsletter!**

It's easy—just let Sharon Dougherty know you'd
like to change your paper copy to email.
(*sdsrdougherty@gmail.com*)

At our MN Conference UMW Day Apart, speaker **Erin Marcks** gave instructions for drawing a **finger labyrinth**. Once the labyrinth is drawn, a finger can wind its way through the passage as the mind meditates on words of positivity and hope. Your labyrinth is your unique creation!! All you need is a blank piece of paper and a writing tool.

To draw a finger labyrinth:

- Draw a small plus sign on your paper, about a third of the way down the page. (You'll need space above it.)
- Draw a dot in each 'corner' as if you were going to draw a square around the plus sign.
- Draw an upside down 'u' shape, connecting the top of the plus with the dot to the right of it.
- Connect the top dot on the left with the end of the right side of the plus sign, moving clockwise.
- Keep drawing lines from the next open spot to the left to the next open spot to the right.

Now there is a labyrinth with one way in, and one way out. Write words of affirmation—*love, courage, strength, justice, joy, love, unity, harmony*, etc.—in a circle around your labyrinth. Meditate on the words as you move your finger through the passage.

If you need help, go to Erin's YouTube video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uSZnBfFC_Gw&list=PLUAQ47SpWaDm_YCHudKsnxsbkym57pPQI

Unit Highlights from UMWs in our district

CHATFIELD

The Chatfield UMW supports **Maple Leaf Services, Inc.** throughout each year. Maple Leaf Services (contact@mapleleafservices.org) has provided support to people with disabilities since 1977. They are located throughout Fillmore County with licensed residential sites in Preston, Harmony, Rushford and Spring Valley. During the 1990's, they began providing In-Home Services. In 2006, Maple Leaf Services began a supported Employment Service. Chatfield UMW supports the facility in Preston. We collect used greeting cards (of all types) along with our congregation. A basket is placed in the narthex for people to drop them in. Monthly, a UMW member takes them to the facility. The cards are made into new ones and sold in their thrift store. The store has some regular customers who frequently purchase 100 cards at a time! Each June we have a shower for the residents by collecting needed health and beauty products throughout the month. With the help of our congregation, we purchase Christmas gifts in December as well. Popular items are CD's, western movies, stuffed animals and pajamas (we are given a wish list for each.)



Chatfield United Methodist Women

Submitted by Denise Pagel, co-president

HOLY TRINITY (PRIOR LAKE)

The Holy Trinity United Methodist Women enjoyed a restaurant lunch outing followed by a visit to the **Hočokata Ti**, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's (SMSC) cultural center and gathering place in Shakopee. It is used to interpret and encourage traditional Mdewakanton Dakota cultural heritage, language, and history by sustaining this inherent knowledge of SMSC Members through exhibitions, preservation, and education. We were given a guided tour of *Mdewakanton: Dwellers of the Spirit Lake*.



This public exhibit provided us with a cultural experience that enhanced our knowledge and understanding of the Mdewakanton Dakota people and their history. We viewed an assortment of Dakota artifacts in the public gallery and also visited the gift shop. This was an extremely worthwhile learning experience for us, and we encourage other Sisters-in-Christ to visit this cultural center located southwest of Minneapolis/St. Paul in Shakopee. Check out shakopeedakota.org for more information.

Holy Trinity United Methodist Women (Prior Lake)

Submitted by Becky Brown, UMW member



Reminder! We encourage all units to share a project or event that you've done—it's enjoyable to include these in our newsletters. Tell us about your group—we'd love to hear what you're doing. This is a great way to not only showcase the worthwhile & loving work you're doing but also a good resource for other units to "borrow" your ideas. Send your info including your church & UMW name, city/town & a photo (if available) representing your project and/or team to Sharon Dougherty (RV Communications Coordinator) at sdsrdougherty@gmail.com.

WORD SEARCH

United Methodist Women

Try to find words relating to “UNITED METHODIST WOMEN” that are hidden in the diagram – they run in all directions – forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Answers are located on page 11 of this newsletter!

T	S	I	R	H	C	N	I	S	R	E	T	S	I	S
F	C	W	P	E	V	I	T	R	O	P	P	U	S	E
U	L	O	V	I	N	G	S	R	E	D	A	E	R	N
W	E	M	M	A	N	O	R	T	O	N	U	O	E	U
S	Z	E	I	P	R	A	Y	E	R	F	U	L	D	O
R	D	N	S	T	A	M	A	Z	I	N	G	X	L	R
E	E	E	S	N	D	S	Y	N	D	E	T	F	I	G
S	R	T	I	E	V	G	S	M	A	R	T	C	U	A
I	I	I	O	I	O	U	Z	I	P	D	L	O	B	N
A	P	V	N	L	C	H	M	O	O	Z	G	D	Y	I
R	S	N	S	I	A	C	T	I	O	N	X	M	C	Z
D	N	I	K	S	T	R	A	W	O	C	A	P	A	E
N	I	B	S	E	E	Y	I	R	E	U	R	T	G	R
U	A	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	A	N	V	M	E	S
F	O	O	D	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	F	U	L	C

ACTION
ADVOCATE
AMAZING
BOLD
CHRISTIAN
COMPASSIONATE
EMMA NORTON
FOOD
FUN
FUNDRAISERS

GIFTED
HUGS
INSPIRED
INVITE
KIND
LEGACY BUILDERS
LOVING
MISSIONS
ORGANIZERS
PRAYERFUL

READERS
RESILIENT
RESPECTFUL
SISTERS IN CHRIST
SMART
STRONG
SUPPORTIVE
TRUE
WOMEN
ZOOM



*Word Search
designed & compiled
by
Sharon Dougherty,
RVD Communications
Coordinator*

EMMA NORTON 2021 OPENING DOORS HERITAGE AWARD WINNER!

GINNY VANDERVEST

Hastings UMW

At the 2021 Opening Doors Gala in April, **Ginny Vandervest** was named winner of the **2021 Heritage Award** for her service to Emma Norton Services, a National Mission of United Methodist Women. The Heritage Award is given to an individual who has a long-standing relationship with Emma Norton and has made a major impact on the mission. There are few as deserving of this award as Ginny, who first became involved with Emma Norton in the 1980s alongside Hastings United Methodist Women, and has been a dedicated supporter since. She served on the Board of Directors for 6 years, and helped oversee the creation of Emma Norton's townhome community for families in 2002. Ginny's work to spread awareness, as well as her service and stewardship on the Development, Opening Doors, and Planned Giving Committees, is a great gift to Emma Norton that empowers our whole community.



Ginny Vandervest

Tonya Brownlow, Executive Director at Emma Norton, introduced Ginny at the Gala saying "Virginia Vandervest has been a long-time volunteer, leader, and supporter for Emma Norton. She has been married for nearly 54 years and has two sons and two grandsons. She has a long heritage of giving back to her community and is a retired RN. She loves to read, crochet, and volunteer—and we love when she volunteers with Emma Norton on our Opening Doors and Planned Giving Committees. Please join me in welcoming and honoring Ginny Vandervest—our 2021 Opening Doors Heritage Award Winner".

And here are Ginny's words as she accepted the award: "I became aware of Emma Norton Residence in the mid 1980's when a very special friend, Maureen Gere, encouraged me to become involved in Hastings United Methodist Women. I became involved on the District Level and served as President of Metro East District. As I learned more about Emma Norton, a National Mission of United Methodist Women and its purpose, my interest grew. Another mentor from Hastings UMC, Gus Heinold, had served on the board at the time the present building was envisioned and built. While serving on the MN Conference UMW, I learned more and became involved in the expansion to the townhomes and motivated to serve on the board for six years. During that time, I was on the Development Committee and served as Chair for 2 years. I remain on that committee, along with the Opening Doors Committee and the Planned Giving Committee—helping raise critical funds and awareness for the organization.

I feel very humbled and honored to join those who have received this award before me. For years Elizabeth Everitt and Mary Gates have inspired me and more recently, Sandy Craighead - very dedicated Sisters-in-Christ. I remain dedicated to the mission and purpose of Emma Norton Services to help women, children and families in need and wish to thank those who nominated me for this award".



**All members of the River Valley District of UMW
congratulate Ginny on this prestigious award!**

**THANK YOU, Ginny, for all you do –
you are a true inspiration to each of us!**

EMMA NORTON SERVICES NEWS



Barb Payne

August is here and it is time to share an update on activities involving Emma Norton Services.

Emma's Place townhomes have been renovated and families continue to move into the vacant units. The playground at the 13-unit complex was fully assembled in May with the help from volunteers. This was the final piece of the project which was rescheduled several times due to our changing Minnesota weather. The kids are busy playing on the new playground already! (*photos on pg 7*)

The Opening Doors 2nd Virtual Gala was a success. The stretch goal of \$90,000 was not quite met, but the amount raised was approximately \$7000 more than the past year. Pledges, new donors, sponsors and auction revenue were all increased. The River Valley district was a significant contributor to auction items, donations and purchases. **Thank you all for your generosity.** The hope is to have an in-person gathering next year with possibly a hybrid-virtual component. The Opening Doors Gala can still be viewed online. Check out the Emma Norton website at www.emmanorton.org/engage/events for more information.

With the annual operations fundraiser complete, energy is being focused on the new building project that will be located in the new Highland Bridge Neighborhood. \$18 million of the approximate \$21 million needed was approved by the Minnesota Housing Board. A number of other gifts have also been received. An official capital campaign will be starting soon as well as a groundbreaking ceremony later this October. The old Emma Norton Residence will be sold by National UMW and a yet to-be-determined portion of the sale will be donated to the new building.

ENS staff, residents, board and other stakeholders have been busy identifying a name for the new building. It will be announced by email and social media later in July or early August. Follow Emma Norton on Facebook or sign up for their e-newsletter at www.emmanorton.org. Emma Norton can't wait to share the new name with their residents and supporters!

Don't forget to register for the Annual Gathering of our River Valley District that will be held on September 25th at Stewartville United Methodist Church (reg form on pg 12). Our guest speaker will be from ENS, and she will be providing information about ENS and the building design and capital campaign. This is an exciting time and an opportunity for our mission to be able to help more women and children.

I will be at the Annual Gathering and hope to transport your generous gifts of paper products and any welcome baskets or totes you have assembled. (*see below*)

PAPER PRODUCTS: Toilet paper, Paper towels, Napkins, Paper plates, Paper cups. Also.....personal hygiene products.

WELCOME BASKET INCLUDES ONE LAUNDRY BASKET FILLED WITH: Flat and fitted twin sheets, pillow and pillow case, blanket (comforter, quilt, winter blankets), hand and bath towels, toothbrush and toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, deodorant, and a coffee mug. Optional but appreciated: a lint roller, a 4x6 frame, lotion, and a journal.

MOVE-IN TOTES INCLUDE ONE LARGE TOTE BAG FILLED WITH: 1 roll paper towel, 1 box facial tissues, 4 rolls toilet paper, 1 container disinfecting wipes, 1 bottle multi-purpose cleaner, 1 bottle toilet bowl cleaner, 1 toilet bowl scrubber, 1 box of large garbage bags, 1 bottle laundry detergent, 1 bottle hand soap, 1 bottle dish soap, 2 sponges, 2 dish towels, 4 plastic plates, 4 plastic tumblers, 4 sets cutlery, 1 kitchen towel, 1 shower curtain, 1 package shower curtain rings, 2 hand towels, 2 washcloths, 3 bars body soap, 1 deodorant, 1 tube toothpaste, 4 toothbrushes, 1 floss, 1 bottle shampoo, 1 bottle conditioner, 1 box assorted bandages, 1 box rolled gauze, 1 roll medical tape, 1 box gauze pads, 1 box alcohol prep pads, 1 tube antibiotic ointment, 1 tube hydrocortisone cream, 2 lightbulbs, 1 blanket (twin or queen), 2 bath towels, 1 bed sheet set (twin or queen).

See EMMA NORTON SERVICES NEWS on page 7→

Other ways you can help ENS include:

- ♦ Hold a **rummage sale** or **bake sale**.
- ♦ Plan a **Facebook fundraiser** for your birthday or anniversary and designate the funds to go to ENS.
- ♦ Join or rejoin the **FOR project** and choose Emma Norton Services as your nonprofit of choice--if you join \$10 automatically goes to EN! It only takes 5 minutes to sign up. You will add a credit card to your account and then search from 10,000 participating restaurants and merchants on the list. If you dine out and use your card on file, a percentage of what you spend comes back to Emma Norton as a charitable gift from the merchant. Purchase what you need and donate at the same time—what a deal! There is a new app available for iPhone and Android so rejoining is needed for the new platform. For more information go to www.theforproject.com. The goal is at least 50 sign-ups before Labor Day. Please contact Shawna at snelsen@emmanorton.org if you have any questions about this initiative.

Prayers and Blessings to you as you continue to share and serve our mission to help women and children in need.

*Submitted by Barb Payne,
RV District ENS Representative*



Renovation of the 13 townhomes at Emma's Place took place in 2020.



Playground build.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS



Claudia Grehl

The theme for the Minnesota UM Conference was “THE WAY FORWARD”. I am borrowing this. I am wondering if you all have thought much about what the future holds for us and our River Valley District. I am looking forward now, and all I can see is a lot of empty spaces. Those empty spaces are putting a lot of stress on the leadership we now have. I am asking all of the members of the RVD to help to see a way forward. There are so many of you! **You are needed!! You are important!!** The talents that we need I know you possess or you know people who have the talents we need.

Where do you see our District heading? Can you visualize a total electronic, non-personal development of meetings and presentations? Or...is it important to you to be sitting in a room with the program special guests and presenters so that you can easily ask questions or visit with them at breaks and get to know them? Another thought: Do you think people will be as generous if there is no personal contact to give that feel-good moment where they will open their wallets?

WHAT WILL BE THE WAY FORWARD FOR US??? **We still need leadership.** We do have several positions that need to be filled:

- 1. Treasurer
- 2. Secretary
- 3. Education and Interpretation
- 4. Resource Manager
- 5. Membership and Nurture
- 6. Nominations Chair
- 7. Nominations committee members
- 8. Program Coordinator (two people may share this position)



Some of these positions may be combined: Example—Membership and Nurture/Resource Manager or Education and Implementation/Resource Manager, etc.

My cell number is 507-696-8274 - please do leave me a message as I don’t know all of your phone numbers & will not respond to phone numbers I don’t recognize.

Remember: JESUS is the WAY MAKER. Trust in HIM. HE will always be near and will help you all the way!!

Submitted by Claudia Grehl,
Chairperson of Nominations
wifeofgrampy2@gmail.com or 507-696-8274

RIVER VALLEY UMW LENDING LIBRARY



Janet Ewing

The River Valley UMW Lending Library will be available at the September RVD Annual Gathering and always via media mail! A list of the books will also be available at the gathering. If you would like the list sooner, please email me or telephone and leave a message. I’ll be glad to send it to you. Remember, “Media Mail” at the post office allows us to mail a book or two to each other for under \$3.00. Please return any books you have prior to, or at the September meeting.

The Mission u study books now count as BONUS book—two books. This may help move you up to Plan 2. For Plan 1 of the Reading Program, you need to read one book from each category, 5 books total. Books read can be counted the following year if you did not count them for a previous year. Added this year to count on the Reading Program is the monthly online podcast called “Faith Talks.” They have been recorded so you can listen anytime, three sessions count as one book.

I also have descriptions of the books. If you do not have internet, go to the national website for the Reading Program www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram or [/faithtalks](http://faithtalks).

Submitted by Janet Ewing,
RV District UMW Lending Librarian

.....
Contact Janet at 952-431-7751 (leave a message) or janete9@charter.net
.....

TREASURER'S CORNER

River Valley Financials 2021 (1/1/2021 – 12/31/2021) YTD Report



District Pledge is \$58,000 of which we have received 16% of goal.

Emma Norton Pledge is \$12,000 of which we have received 23.54% of goal.

A&MD Expenses are budgeted at \$9950, of which we have spent \$899.14.

Despite the inability to have fundraisers to meet our pledge goals due to the pandemic lingering on, I am continually elated at the number of contributions I continue to receive from our district members! **Thank you** for your continued support of these important programs.



Deborah Jensen

My time as District Treasurer will be complete at the end of this year. Please consider if this is an opportunity that interests you. I have enjoyed getting to know so many people from the District while in this position. Thanks again.

Submitted by Deborah Jensen,
RV District Treasurer

Donations are always appreciated! If you'd like to donate to mission work by our district, please make your check (no cash pls) payable to "River Valley District UMW" and mail to :

Deborah Jensen
6304 30th Ave NW
Rochester, MN 55901

CONTACT INFORMATION

FOR RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT & APPOINTED OFFICERS

President – Wailana Barker – 1711 Lakeview Dr SW, Rochester, MN 55902 – 563-940-9154 – lanayb268@gmail.com

Program Coordinator – VACANT POSITION - YOUR LOVE IN ACTION IS NEEDED!

Secretary - Jane Baker – 727 Hi Park, Red Wing, MN 55066 – 651-764-2505 – janebaker@yahoo.com

Treasurer - Deb Jensen – 6304 30th Ave NW, Rochester, MN 55901 – 815-535-3710 – debjen_mad@yahoo.com

Nominations Chair – Claudia Grehl – 190 Niagara Court NW, Harmony, MN 55939 – 507-696-8274 – wifeofgrampy2@gmail.com

Nominations (Class of 2022) – Denise Pagel – 1008 Main Street NE, Chatfield, MN 55923 – 507-273-3188 – denpag@q.com

Spiritual Growth – VACANT POSITION - YOUR LOVE IN ACTION IS NEEDED!

Social Action – VACANT POSITION - YOUR LOVE IN ACTION IS NEEDED!

Education & Interpretation – VACANT POSITION - YOUR LOVE IN ACTION IS NEEDED!

Emma Norton Repr – Barbara Payne – 10833 County Rd 20 SE, Stewartville, MN 55976 – 507-273-8637 – chamois09@gmail.com

Membership Nurture & Outreach – VACANT POSITION - YOUR LOVE IN ACTION IS NEEDED!

Resource Manager – VACANT POSITION - YOUR LOVE IN ACTION IS NEEDED!

Communications Coordinator – Sharon Dougherty – 14150 Woodchuck Trl, Prior Lake, MN – 612-280-2103 – sdsrdougherty@gmail.com

Historian – VACANT POSITION - YOUR LOVE IN ACTION IS NEEDED!

Lending Librarian – Janet Ewing – 5995 133rd St Court W, Apple Valley, MN 55124 – 952-431-7751 – janete9@charter.net

River Valley District Superintendent—Cynthia Williams

122 W Franklin Ave, Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55404 - 612-230-6153—cynthia.williams@minnesotaumc.org

Conference Leadership:

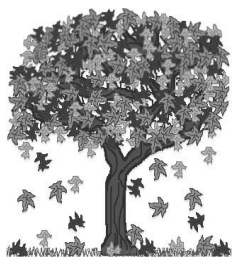
Diana Eickelberg—Wailana Barker—Elizabeth Everitt (NCJ)—Thalia Duffield—Janet Ewing—Christie Brown



Thank you to those who serve in leadership!
You continue to bless our Sisters-in-Christ by
the sharing of your talents and gifts.
As you serve others you're serving Christ.



United Methodist Women of River Valley District



ANNUAL GATHERING

Saturday, September 25

9:00am-2:30pm

Stewartville UMC in Stewartville



Emma Norton Services coffee will be available at 9:00am. This is a great social time to reconnect with your UMW sisters—how wonderful it will be to visit in person once again!

During our time together, we'll have singing, worship and prayer, fellowship, opportunities for mission, a business meeting, Service of Remembrance, a guest speaker from Emma Norton Services, and much more.



Registration will be available in two ways: email or US Postal mail.

Details are located on the registration form on page 12 of this newsletter.



Registration deadline is September 13!



Shawna Nelsen-Wills

SHAWNA NELSEN-WILLS, Advancement Director from Emma Norton Services, will join us to update us on what's new at Emma Norton—including a renovation at Emma's Place for large families in Maplewood and a new and expanded residence in Highland Bridge in St. Paul for singles and small families. Emma Norton continues to grow and find new ways to support those most vulnerable. Shawna will also talk about ways that we can get involved with Emma Norton—through donations, in-kind support, and volunteer actions—to help women and families who have experienced homelessness. She loves talking about Emma Norton and meeting others who are passionate about making a difference for their communities! Learn more about Emma Norton Services in advance at www.emmanorton.org.



Please bring paper products, Welcome Baskets and Totes for Emma Norton.

Lists are included on page 6 of this newsletter. Your generosity is appreciated!



Directions to Stewartville United Methodist Church (900 Wesley Ave NW, Stewartville, MN 55976)

Coming from the north:

Follow Hwy 63 South to Stewartville. About a block after the first traffic light, turn right (West) on 10th Street NW, go about a block and take a left (South) on John Wesley Avenue NW. Drive straight about a block and you will be in the church parking lot.

Coming from the South:

Take Hwy 63 north to Stewartville, go thru town, and over the bridge. Take a left (West) by the bowling alley onto 10th Street NW. Go about a block and take a left (South) on John Wesley Avenue NW. Drive straight about a block and you will be in the church parking lot.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE at RVD Annual Gathering

ACTION NEEDED!



Christie Brown

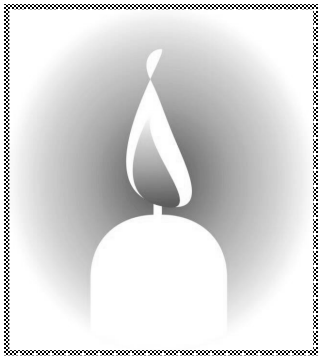
It is tradition at our RVD Annual Gathering that we recognize the ladies that have gone on to the Kingdom of God before us. We will have a **Remembrance Service** for all UMW women who have passed away from September 2019—2021.

In an effort to be inclusive, we ask that you bring the names of deceased ladies from your church as all women are United Methodist Women, whether active in a local unit or not.

Please collect (now is the time to ask your church office or pastor) and bring these names with you to the Annual Gathering on September 25; also have someone be prepared to read the names aloud during the Remembrance Service.

If you are not sure who is attending or if no ladies are attending from your local unit, please send the names by US Postal mail to:

Christina Brown
Attn: UMW Remembrance Service 2019-2021
1610 Greenwood Street
Red Wing MN 55066



Submitted by Christie Brown,
Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator



In UMW Love!

**God didn't add
another day
to your life because
you needed it.
He did it because
someone out there
needs you.**

RELAX...
God's got this!

Answers to WORD SEARCH on page 4

T	S	I	R	H	C	N	I	S	R	E	T	S	I	S
F	C	W	P	E	V	I	T	R	O	P	P	U	S	E
U	L	O	V	I	N	G	S	R	E	D	A	E	R	N
W	E	M	M	A	N	O	R	T	O	N	U	O	E	U
S	Z	E	I	P	R	A	Y	E	R	F	U	L	D	O
R	D	N	S	T	A	M	A	Z	I	N	G	X	L	R
E	E	E	S	N	D	S	Y	N	D	E	T	F	I	G
S	R	T	I	E	V	G	S	M	A	R	T	C	U	A
I	I	I	O	I	O	U	Z	I	P	D	L	O	B	N
A	P	V	N	L	C	H	M	O	O	Z	G	D	Y	I
R	S	N	S	I	A	C	T	I	O	N	X	M	C	Z
D	N	I	K	S	T	R	A	W	O	C	A	P	A	E
N	I	B	S	E	E	Y	I	R	E	U	R	T	G	R
U	A	C	H	R	I	S	T	I	A	N	V	M	E	S
F	O	O	D	R	E	S	P	E	C	T	F	U	L	C



REGISTRATION FORM
RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
ANNUAL GATHERING

Saturday, September 25, 2021

9:00am-2:30pm

Emma Norton Coffee begins at 9:00am

STEWARTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

900 John Wesley Ave NW - Stewartville, MN 55976 Phone 507-533-4625

Registration fee: \$12 *Lunch included.*

REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 13.

Two ways to register:

By email to vhoward@kmtel.com. Include all below information in your email. Payment can be made upon check-in at the gathering. Checks to be made payable to "River Valley District UMW".

By US Postal mail, send this completed form together with check made payable to "River Valley District UMW" to:

Vickie Howard
9149 County Rd 115 SW
Stewartville, MN 55976

Registration questions can be directed to Vickie at 507-365-8801 or vhoward@kmtel.com.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Church Name & location _____

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

() Local member () Local officer – Specify _____

() District officer – Specify _____

() Conference officer – Specify _____

() Food allergies or dietary concerns: _____

() Child Care needed? Indicate # of children: _____ and name(s): _____

_____. *Please bring lunch & snacks for them.*

Children must be pre-registered to have child care available on site.

INFORMATION FOR RVD ANNUAL GATHERING ON SEPTEMBER 25

To River Valley District UMW members: The Standing Rules Committee has discussed and proposed changes to our district's Standing Rules that must be discussed and voted on at our Annual Gathering on September 25. The suggested additions or changes are **bolded** and/or underlined in the document below. The **bolded** changes will put our Standing Rules in compliance with Minnesota Conference UMW Standing Rules; those that are underlined apply only to River Valley District United Methodist Women.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN Minnesota Annual Conference River Valley District Standing Rules To be approved, Fall 2021

The following rules shall govern the actions of the River Valley District as long as they are in harmony with the Constitution and Bylaws of the **UMW National** and are in harmony with the Standing Rules of the Minnesota Conference **UMW National**. The River Valley District Minnesota Conference United Methodist Women shall be herein referred to as River Valley District UMW.

ARTICLE 1 ELECTIONS

Sec. 1 Election shall be by acclamation unless more than one name for an office is presented, in which case a written ballot shall be required.

Sec. 2 Officers shall be elected for a 2-year period alternating as follows:

Even-numbered years	Odd-numbered years
Program Coordinator	President
Treasurer	Secretary
Mission Coordinators:	Mission Coordinators:
Spiritual Growth	Social Action
Education & Interpretation	Membership Nurture & Outreach
Secretary of Program Resources	Chair, Committee on Nominations
Communications Coordinator	

Recognizing that not all positions may be filled, additional positions can be filled at any time as needed upon approval of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 3 The representative to the Emma Norton Services shall be appointed for a 2-year term to coincide with the policies of the Emma Norton Board. They are eligible for re-appointment for one 2-year term. This service shall not be counted toward tenure as elected officers.

See RVD STANDING RULES on page 14→

←RVD STANDING RULES from page 13

Sec. 4 For an officer to fill an un-expired term of office, if the time to be served is one year or longer, the period to be served shall be considered the first term, thus giving the privilege of re-election for one additional term in the same office. If the time to be served is less than one year, it shall not constitute a first term.

Sec. 5 All officers shall be eligible for re-election for one 2-year term in the same office.

Tenure on the Executive Committee for elected leadership shall be limited to a total of eight years unless a woman is elected to serve as President.

Treasurers may be elected for an additional term of 2 years for a total of 6 years.

Someone who has served tenure (a total of 8 years), after 4 years may be elected to serve for one term (2 years) in a different office in which she has not served.

Sec. 6 Resource people are appointed by the River Valley District UMW President with the assistance of the Nominating Committee for 1-year terms as needed with a limit of 4 years. This service shall not be counted toward tenure as elected officers.

ARTICLE 2 MEETINGS

Sec. 1 The River Valley District UMW Annual **Gathering** date will be set by River Valley District Executive Committee. The voting body of the River Valley District UMW Annual **Gathering** shall consist of all attending who are members of a local Unit of the River Valley District.

Sec. 2 The River Valley District UMW Executive Committee shall meet at least 4 times per year. **One shall be in conjunction with the District Annual Gathering.**

Sec. 3 All elected River Valley District UMW officers are required to attend the Mission u or Mission u Too unless excused by the Minnesota Conference UMW President.

Sec. 4 All elected officers are required to attend **annual leadership training** unless excused by the Minnesota Conference UMW President.

Article 3 FUNDS

Sec. 1 The River Valley District UMW shall make an annual mission pledge to UMW National through the Minnesota Conference UMW.

Sec. 2 All River Valley District UMW monies must be handled by duly elected treasurers only, since treasurers **and presidents** are bonded. The financial records must be audited each year by a certified public accountant or a person with a 4-year accounting degree.

Sec. 3 Funds for River Valley District UMW Administration and Membership Development (A&MD) shall be received by the River Valley District UMW Treasurer from the Minnesota Conference UMW Treasurer at the beginning of each quarter. The amount shall have been approved by the Minnesota Conference UMW Finance Committee.

See RVD STANDING RULES on page 15→

←RVD STANDING RULES from page 14

Sec. 4 From this River Valley District UMW Administration and Membership Development Fund the District shall make the following provisions:

- A. Upon election the District President will be given a president's pin.
- B. For all elected River Valley District UMW officers upon completion of a first term of office, a basic Special Mission Recognition pin shall be given.
- C. Upon completion of a second term, a \$25 Gift to Mission shall be given in her honor. **If the treasurer is elected to a third 2-year term, a Gift to Mission shall be given in her honor when that third term is complete.**
- D. For an elected District Officer who only served a partial term, a \$20 Gift to Mission shall be given.
- E. Upon the death of a District Officer while in office, a \$25 Gift in Memory shall be given to the UMW National.
- F. Upon completion of the 2-year term as the Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations, a basic Special Mission Recognition pin shall be given.
- G. Upon completion of a 4-year term on the Committee on Nominations, a basic Special Mission Recognition pin shall be given.
- H. Appointed officers shall serve at least 2 years before receiving a Special Mission Recognition basic pin; or if less—the amount for Gift to Mission for 1 year=\$15, or less than 2 years=\$20, and after 4 years a \$25 Gift to Mission.
- I. **Upon completion of two 2-year terms as President, a \$25 Gift to Mission will be given.**

Sec. 5 No organization or individual may solicit funds from the River Valley District UMW which has not been authorized by the Minnesota Conference UMW Executive Committee. All monies will go through the proper channels.

Sec. 6 The River Valley District UMW Executive Committee for the current year will decide the proper amount to be spent on programs and speakers during the year.

ARTICLE 4 EXPENSE OF OFFICERS

Sec. 1 Each member of the River Valley District UMW Executive Committee shall present her expense account using the official River Valley District UMW voucher. Approved expenses include mileage, meals, housing, postage, office supplies, promotional materials, program materials, necessary telephone calls and other pertinent expenses. To be reimbursed for a meeting expense, she must attend the meeting in its entirety or be excused by the **District UMW President**. For reimbursement all expenses incurred before December 1st must be presented to the District Treasurer by Dec.10th of each year, or reimbursement will be forfeited.

Sec. 2 When a River Valley District UMW officer is called in by the Minnesota Conference UMW, her expenses will be paid by the Minnesota Conference UMW providing she attends the meeting in its entirety or is excused by the Minnesota Conference UMW President.

See RVD STANDING RULES on page 16→

←RVD STANDING RULES from page 15

Sec. 3 The River Valley District UMW shall pay transportation and meals for members of the River Valley District UMW Executive Committee to River Valley District UMW meetings. The mileage reimbursement shall be at the mileage rate set by the Minnesota Conference UMW. An allowance of \$30 will be given toward motel lodging if a required meeting is 50 or more miles one way. The district will not pay for officers who do not register by the deadline. They will need to pay their own registration fee.

Sec. 4 Allowed expenses may be vouchered for all elected and appointed River Valley District UMW officers to attend the Minnesota Conference UMW Annual Gathering.

Sec. 5 Allowed expenses may be vouchered for all elected and appointed River Valley District UMW officers to attend one session of the Mission u or Mission u Too.

ARTICLE 5 COMMITTEES

Sec. 1 The River Valley District UMW Executive Committee shall be composed of all the elected and appointed officers of the District and any person residing within the district who is on the Board of the UMW National, Minnesota Conference United Methodist Women, Jurisdiction United Methodist Women, the World Federation of Methodist Women, the River Valley District Superintendent, and a representative of Emma Norton Services. The immediate past president shall remain as an advisory member, with vote, for a period of one year following completion of her term of office.

Sec. 2 The Committee on Nominations shall consist of 5 to 11 members including the chairperson. The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall be elected by the River Valley District UMW and at the time of the election have 2 or 3 years remaining on the Nominating Committee.

Sec. 3 The River Valley District UMW Standing Rules Committee, consisting of the River Valley District UMW President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one other member of the River Valley District UMW Executive Committee, shall meet as necessary. They shall present revisions to be voted on by the River Valley District UMW Executive Committee and the River Valley District UMW membership.

ARTICLE 6 CORRESPONDENCE

Sec. 1 Correspondence from the River Valley District UMW Officers shall be mailed/emailed and/or distributed to the corresponding local officers of each Unit within the River Valley District. In addition, the same shall be mailed/emailed and or distributed to all members of the River Valley District UMW Executive Committee, the corresponding Minnesota Conference UMW Officers, and the Minnesota Conference UMW President.

Sec. 2 The United Methodist Women do not furnish lists of their elected leaders or members to individuals or agencies outside the organization unless authorized by the Conference Executive Committee.

Approved by the District Standing Rules Committee June 1, 2021, and presented to the members attending the 2021 River Valley District Annual Gathering.

River Valley District Standing Rules Committee: Wailana Barker, President; Jane Baker, Secretary; Deb Jensen, Treasurer; Claudia Grehl, Chair, Committee on Nominations.

Minnesota Conference UMW invites you to AN EVENING WITH JANE RUBIETTA

Thursday, September 23, 2021

7-9pm

In-person at

Lake Harriett UMC

4901 Chowen Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55410

OR via ZOOM

Weary of worry and its tagalongs, anxiety, discouragement, and exhaustion? Jane Rubietta invites you to leave behind your heavy heart and learn to truly live again. Join us and experience joy and rest in the moment-by-moment pleasure of a God who delights in you—and has all your tomorrows under control. You will laugh and you might cry but you will leave knowing you are delighted in—and with an arsenal of unusual helps to worry less. And really live.

See registration form on page 18 for more information.

Registration deadline is September 20.



Conference Nominations Committee

As a member of the Conference Committee on Nominations, I want to remind all that if you or anyone else you know is interested in a conference position, please contact any of us on the team. Perhaps you, or someone you know, have completed your district terms of office and still wish to participate. Many positions are only one year commitments at a time—which may fit into your schedule or time frame.

Questions?? My email is listed below.



*Submitted by Thalia Duffield,
Conference Nominations Committee
MN Conference UMW
thaliakduffield@gmail.com*

Thalia Duffield

Faith, Hope, Love in Action: God's Call to Us!

2021 Minnesota Conference

ANNUAL GATHERING/CELEBRATION

October 2, 2021 at Anoka United Methodist Church

Fall is coming quickly and so will our annual meeting! We will be meeting together for the first time in two years. I hope you are as excited as I am to give and receive hugs, welcomes and smiling faces.

God calls us to share our faith, hope and love in many ways:

- Supporting our missions
- Supporting climate justice
- Supporting our brother and sisters in Christ

Bishop Bard will join us virtually with a greeting and worship.

Emma Norton Services will update us on the exciting happenings in their lives.

Harvest Nation, an aeroponics farm owned by indigenous women, will share their story and dreams of healthy food for their community.

Our day will begin with Emma Norton Coffee and treats at 8:30am-9:15am, and the day will end around 3:30pm.

It will be a busy day of fellowship, singing, worship, and learning.

Please join us in person or virtually if you feel more comfortable attending from home.

Registration will be available online at mnconfumw.com or see the registration form on page 19. **Registration deadline is September 24.**

Leadership Development Training (LDR) for all district officers will be held following the annual meeting starting at 6pm on October 2, and concluding at 1pm, Sunday, October 3. A complete schedule will be sent at a later date, but **save the date and time.**

I pray that you are all having a good, healthy summer and look forward to seeing you in October.



Diana Eickelberg

*Submitted by Diana Eickelberg,
Program Coordinator
MN Conference UMW
deickelberg1@gmail.com*



Minnesota Conference UMW invites you to an Evening with Jane Rubietta

Thursday, September 23, 2021 from 7-9 PM

In-person at Lake Harriett UMC

4901 Chowen Ave. S.

Minneapolis, MN 55410

OR via ZOOM

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS EVENT

Jane Rubietta speaks internationally, and is an award-winning author with 21 books to her credit, four on the UMW reading program (*Worry Less So You Can Live More*, and *Heartbeat of a Mother* most recently). A UM clergy spouse and the mother of three (tall) grown children, Jane's hilarious and filled with hope. You'll think she's been reading your journal because she gets you.

more information about Jane at <https://janerubietta.com>

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Email: _____ Phone _____

I am attending: ____ in-person ____ via ZOOM

District Name: _____ Local Unit Name _____

Local Church Name _____ Local Church City _____

My relationship to UMW:

____ member ____ guest ____ interested in learning more about UMW

Please print legibly and return (before September 20) to:

Sandy Meyer, 8724 Valley View Place, Chanhassen, MN 55317

Registration Questions: Contact Sandy 952-270-1157 regmnumw@gmail.com

MASK REQUIRED FOR IN-PERSON



2021 ANNUAL GATHERING/CELEBRATION REGISTRATION

DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

OCTOBER 2, 2021 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Anoka UMC 850 South St. Anoka, MN 55303

Cost: \$15 for in-person meeting. No cost for ZOOM attendees, but an offering is encouraged.

You can pay online at: <https://www.mnconfumw.com/mission-giving>

OR send a check payable to MN Conference and mail to:

Linda Oberg, 715 E. Larpenteur Ave., Unit G, St. Paul, MN 55117

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT RETREAT REGISTRATION

DEADLINE September 24, 2021 (LDR), for all district officers will be held following the Annual Meeting starting at 6pm on October 2, and concluding at 1pm, Sunday, October 3. A complete schedule will be sent later but save the date and time. Expenses are paid by Conference UMW.

Questions regarding registration: Contact Sandy 952-270-1157 regmnumw@gmail.com

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

I plan to attend: ___ in-person ___ via ZOOM

District Name: _____ Local Unit Name: _____

Local Church Name: _____ Local Church City: _____

Connection to UMW:

___ member ___ guest ___ interested in learning more about UMW ___ presenter

If you are a Conference or District Officer please fill out this portion for LDR

I plan to attend LDR ___ yes ___ no

I am a: ___ Conference Officer ___ District Officer Position Held: _____

I plan to: ___ Commute ___ stay overnight Friday ___ stay overnight Saturday

Roommate preference name: _____ OR SINGLE (you will pay ½)

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Emergency Contact: Name and Phone: _____

Please print legibly and return (before September 24) to:

Sandy Meyer, 8724 Valley View Place, Chanhassen, MN 55317



River Valley District – Minnesota
Sharon Dougherty
Communications Coordinator
14150 Woodchuck Trl
Prior Lake, MN 55372

Address Services Requested

Keep up with United Methodist Women in these ways:

www.mnconfumw.com – for events, District Connections & *The Fresh Connection*

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org – for news, events & inspiration

[www.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaUnitedMethodistWomen) – Minnesota United Methodist Women

[www.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedMethodistWomen) – United Methodist Women

www.twitter.com/UMWomen – for daily post on mission focus

www.pinterest.com/UMWomen – pin with other followers on United Methodist Women

www.youtube.com/user/UMWomen – watch current UMW videos

The LINK is published twice a year and is distributed free of charge.

For **address changes or name deletions, subscription requests or to submit an article/photo**, please contact Sharon Dougherty, River Valley Communications Coordinator, at sdsrdougherty@gmail.com or 612-280-2103.