



United
Methodist
Women

OUTREACH

Spring 20210 • Southern Prairie District United Methodist Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



Dear Sisters in Christ,

Hoping you are all well and safe. Hang in there, it's almost over!

Do you know that local units are the most important part of United Methodist Women? Without you, we couldn't exist. So hats off to you for persevering during this challenging time. It will get better. Acts 27:25 says "So take courage! For I believe God." Paul was on his way to Rome to stand trial. The ship was battered by a horrific storm. They had to throw over cargo, tackle, and grain; even the lifeboat. Not one person perished out of 267 men. They sacrificed all to make it ashore. **THEY STUCK TOGETHER!** We too must stick together.

Recently my lefse plant was failing. So I decided to cut off three tops and root them in water. Time passed and only a few roots developed. So I decided to put them in a pot. I faithfully watered them, put them in the bright light, and waited. As we know, plants need sun, water, and light. The first leaves fell off quickly. No problem, they were too big anyway. Soon smaller leaves were turning gray and withering. Yesterday, one plant died all together. I carefully pulled it up. Guess what, no roots. Another plant is hanging on by a thread and one is actually growing.

Now, one plant is not going to fill the big pot. As I said earlier, without you we cannot exist. Just like the lefse plant, we need roots and you are our roots. Don't give up. Several units have become inactive. Why is that? Too old, too few, no interest? What is it? Please don't go that route. **YOU ARE NEEDED.** Our work as UMW goes on. We are the hands and feet of Christ in our world.

Persevere and take hope in the Lord.
We will get to the other side.

Sherry Scholljegerdes

SP District UMW President, MN Conference



2021 Liaison List for Southern Prairie UMW

Deb Anderson

Arlington
Beauford
Bird Island
Mankato Centenary
New Ulm First
New Ulm Oakwood

Judith Clark

East Chain
Fairmont
Open Doors – Wells
Trimont
Vernon Center Grace
Waseca Faith

Coleen Ford

Danube Zion
Hector
Marshall Cornerstone
Redwood Falls First
Renville
Tracy
Wood Lake

Char Frankenberg

Adrian
Austin First
Ellendale
Glenville
Magnolia

Shirley Hansen

Blooming Grove
Open Doors – Kiester

Berneda Hawton

Fairfax
Lamberton
Middle Creek
Walnut Grove

Phyllis Kuehl

Amo
Balaton
Jeffers
Slayton
Windom First

Wendy Nickel

Alden
Blue Earth Hope
Elmore
Worthington First
Albert Lea

Cindy Saufferer

Elysian
Janesville
Le Sueur
Morrison Peace
Waterville Evangelical

Sherry Scholljegerdes

Lake Benton
Lake Wilson
Madelia
Montevideo
North Mankato,
Belgrade Ave
Pipestone Peace

2021 Southern Prairie UMW Liaisons by Church

Adrian
Albert Lea
Alden
Amo
Arlington
Austin First
Balaton
Beauford
Belgrade Ave, North Mankato
Bird Island
Blooming Grove
Blue Earth Hope
Danube Zion
Each Chain
Ellendale
Elmore
Elysian
Fairfax
Fairmont
Glenville
Hector
Janesville
Jeffers
Lake Benton
Lake Wilson
Lamberton
Le Sueur
Madelia
Magnolia
Mankato Centenary
Marshall Cornerstone
Middle Creek
Montevideo
Morrison Peace
New Ulm First
New Ulm Oakwood
Open Doors -Kiester
Open Doors – Wells
Pipestone Peace
Redwood Falls First
Renville
Slayton
Tracy
Trimont
Vernon Center Grace
Walnut Grove
Waseca Faith
Waterville Evangelical
Windom First
Wood Lake
Worthington First

Char Frankenberg
Wendy Nickel
Wendy Nickel
Phyllis Kuehl
Deb Anderson
Char Frankenberg
Phyllis Kuehl
Deb Anderson
Sherry Scholljegerdes
Deb Anderson
Shirley Hansen
Wendy Nickel
Coleen Ford
Judith Clark
Char Frankenberg
Wendy Nickel
Cindy Saufferer
Berneda Hawton
Judith Clark
Char Frankenberg
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Judith Clark
Judith Clark
Berneda Hawton
Judith Clark
Cindy Saufferer
Phyllis Kuehl
Coleen Ford
Wendy Nickel



Legislative Update

The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) bill on maternal health and access to Medicaid data to improve outcomes has been included in the Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act (HF 660 – Richardson). The bill was heard in the House Health Finance and Policy Committee and passed unanimously. Next stop is Committee on the Judiciary and Civil Law. The bill addresses the health inequity surrounding pregnancy and childbirth; Indigenous women in Minnesota are four times as likely to die in or as a result of childbirth as white women. For Black women, the likelihood is three times as high. The bill requires study of those cases which involved serious medical issues but the mother survived. It also authorizes expanded access to data to learn how to improve outcomes. Contact your legislators to encourage them to support HF #660.



2020 Unit Survey/Census due now!

If your unit has not returned the 2020 Unit Survey (formerly called Census), please do so by **March 30, 2021**.

Go online to unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2020 and answer some questions about your UMW unit, even if it became inactive in 2020. The instructions are not difficult to follow. You might ask a young person or grandchild for assistance, or you can contact Maria Rodriguez at 212-870-3725 or email her at: Mrodriguez@unitedmethodistwomen.org with your questions.

DATES for Southern Prairie UMW events:

- May 1 Spring Gathering by Zoom. (Different date and “place” than previously advertised)
- June 15 Day Apart is scheduled for Oakwood, New Ulm with Kim Harris leading the event.
- Sept 18 Fall Gathering is scheduled for Belgrade Ave, North Mankato (note different place)

See information elsewhere in newsletter about the District Spring Gathering and Day Apart. Be sure to register for the Spring Gathering by April 24. Watch for information coming out from the Conference about Mission u events. At this time we expect them to be by Zoom.

We would love to welcome YOU to be a District UMW Officer

These positions are open for our District Team. Please prayerfully consider accepting one of these responsibilities. For additional information, talk with Deb Anderson, Nominations, at 507-387-7826.

Secretary – Keep accurate minutes of meetings; retain records/ documents

Program Coordinator – Guide team’s planning and implementing of the mission emphasis and UMW programs to fulfill the Purpose

Spiritual Growth Coordinator – Provide devotions and spiritual experiences for Gatherings, prepare/lead Day Apart

Social Action Coordinator – Provide opportunities for and report on social issues

Education and Interpretation - Promote and interpret need for Mission Giving and outreach

Membership Nurture and Outreach - Oversees Liaison program; connects District with Church Women United

Nominations Members Class 2022, 2023, or 2024 – As a committee identify those in the District with skills and interests in serving as officers. Nominate elected leadership.

Resource Manager - Since we no longer do books physically, essentially the job is informing us as to what books/media are available. Contact Pat Hansen at 507-381-1783 for details.





Berneda Hawton with 800 dresses ready to go!

Pillowcase Dresses Heading to Uganda Refugee Camps

Berneda Hawton is the “American Heart” behind a Pillowcase Dress project at **Redwood Falls First UMC**. Over the past three and a half years 2,140 dresses have been made and shipped overseas to be enjoyed by little girls most in need. Berneda hosts a Pillowcase Dress Connect group once a month, and says “It is so fun seeing other ladies from our church get involved and seem to have the same heart for this project.” Via an organization headquartered in Fargo, ND, over 800 Pillowcase Dresses are slated to be delivered to refugee camps in Uganda as soon as COVID travel restrictions are lifted.

Expenses for fabric, lace, and bias tape add up so donations would be appreciated for this project. Contact Berneda Hawton, 29439 US Hwy 71, Redwood Falls, MN 56283, call her at 507-644-3490 or write leb62@redred.com. Please note on your gift that it is for Pillowcase Dresses.

2020 Southern Prairie District, MN Conference Annual Report written 01/25/2021

Covid-19 has tried to dominate our lives and our UMW lives.

In February 2020, our conference sent out 2,500 postcards to MN legislators, senators, and governor, regarding funding for Maternal Mortality and Morbidity. The postcard had a picture of a newborn crying and read: “I Want My Mommy.”

This campaign was initiated by Southern Prairie District. We continue to work on this project with March of Dimes, MN Public Health and Judicial Religious Legislative Coalition. As I write today a bill called “Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth” will be introduced in the state, both houses. The bill would give Public Health the information about pregnant, intrapartum and postpartum Medicare patients that they have NOT had since the mid 70’s. It also asks for postpartum coverage to be extended for one year instead of 6-8 weeks. There is a subsection that requires hospital training on implicit bias in the house bill. Much effort has been put into this bill and we will be asking UMW members to contact their representatives when the bill comes up. Information will be sent out to district presidents.

Our Spring Gathering was cancelled due to Covid-19. Our “Day Apart” was a do at home or small group gathering. Coleen Ford did the program.

Our mailing list needed to be updated. In the fall letters were sent out to all local units. About half were returned. We learned through the process that we have many inactive units. We have 53 active units. This reminds us of our dwindling church membership.

Fall Gathering was on Zoom, but only 14 women attended. We are hoping to have an in-person Spring Gathering in 2021.(Update: it will be via Zoom.) In spite of this, we gave \$46,675 for our mission pledge and \$10,200 to Emma Norton. We had four Mission Today Units and one Gold Star and Twenty-three 5-Star Units. So despite Covid-19, we persevered.

In December, our district president Sherry Scholljegerdes looked into posters “Urgent Maternal Warning Signs” put out by ACOG. (MD org.) These would be put into public bathrooms in our district. In January 2021, \$500 was appropriated by the Executive Board to pursue the project.

Yes, we can make a difference!!!

Sherry Scholljegerdes, Southern Prairie District President, MN Conference



Southern Prairie District UMW 2021 Spring Gathering

Virtual Meeting on Saturday, May 1, 2021 beginning at 10 a.m.

We are unable to gather in person this year, but we will be able to meet virtually by computer or phone. This requires planning and changes to the way we usually do things. In order to attend this meeting you **must register by April 24 to receive the Zoom or phone invitation**. See registration information below.

Our Theme is "Together We Stand for Moms" - Speaker for the day is Ellen Jirik with March of Dimes of MN, ND, and SD.

Acts 27:25 "...so take courage! For I believe God." Please read Acts 27 before the meeting.

We will have time for worship, updates from Sherry our SP District President, recognition of Five Star and Mission Today Units, news from State and National UMW, and more!

If you are unfamiliar with Zoom or uncomfortable with online meetings but are anxious to attend this gathering, you may participate by phone (no video). Since we are all learning, perhaps you can reach out to friends or family members to assist you with technology.

TO REGISTER for District UMW Spring Gathering via ZOOM

The registration for the May 1, 2021 meeting is extremely important because only those who register by **April 24** will be sent an invitation to access the Gathering and be "admitted" by Zoom or phone. To register, fill out the information below and send it to Deb Anderson.

During the week of April 25th you will receive an email with a link for the Gathering via Zoom or phone. If you are joining the meeting by internet you will need to download Zoom (if you haven't already) but it is free and you will not need to have an account. Either way you join in, we'll be happy to "see" you!



Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

Church: _____

City of your church: _____

Return your Registration by **April 24** to:

Deb Anderson, 2038 Roe Crest Drive, North Mankato, MN 56003

Email: debraandersondja@gmail.com

Phone number: 507-380-2785

Local unit presidents: If you would like a copy of Harriett Olson's presentation at Leadership Development for District Presidents, contact Sherry Scholljegerdes at 507-835-4304 or sgschol2@yahoo.com



MESSAGES FOR READING PARTICIPANTS

from Pat Hansen



****Something NEW for the Reading Program**

This is the 2021-2022 Reading Program—yes, two years instead of one. Books may be from 2017-2022! BUT, since we are just finding this out, I would hope the new Resource Manager would count books from 2016-2022 for this year; and next year books from 2017-2022!

Message from Andris Salter, Operations Officer United Methodist Women: The purpose of the Reading Program is to better understand and participate in God's mission today, to increase sensitivity to all human beings, to explore contemporary issues, and to enhance and act on self-knowledge. Even when we're apart, we're together—and still working to deepen our understanding of the intersections of race, class, sex, religion and gender through books and discussion.

****Another NEW for the Reading Program: Faith Talks: A Podcast just for you**

Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action. Check out interviews with United Methodist Women mission studies' authors and more at:

Listen to three FaithTalks podcasts and the trio will count as two books in the category Spiritual Growth.

****Reminder: Bonus Books count as 2 books and these are for 2021-2022**

Rise!: From Caged Bird to Poet of the People, Maya Angelou by Bethany Hegedus counts as two books in the category Leadership Development.

Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools by Monique W. Morris (as well as the Leader's Guide by Vanessa M. Wilson) counts as two books in the category Social Action.

Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission by Ellen Blue counts as two books in the category Nurturing for Community.

Finding Peace in an Anxious World edited by Erin James-Brown counts as two books in the category Spiritual Growth.

CONGRATULATIONS To our District Reading Participants for 2020:



Verlane Ross, Balaton UMW, Plan II
Rose Wheeler, Balaton UMW, Plan II
Jean Doeden, unaffiliated, Plan I
Jean Potter, Fairmont UMW, Plan I
Ivy Mortensen, Fairmont UMW, Plan II
Sharon Ring, Fairmont UMW, Plan IV
Bonnie Davis, Marshall Cornerstone, Plan I
Carol Estebo, Marshall Cornerstone, Plan I
Robin Moon, Marshall Cornerstone, Plan I
Sue Swanson, Marshall Cornerstone, Plan I
Donna Vandeputte, Marshall Cornerstone, Plan I

DAY APART

Our district Day Apart is scheduled for **June 15, 2021 at Oakwood UMC in New Ulm.**

We hope to spend the day together in person. (Wouldn't that be wonderful!)

Our spiritual leader will be Kim Harris, Deaconess, who will base the day on Acts 27:

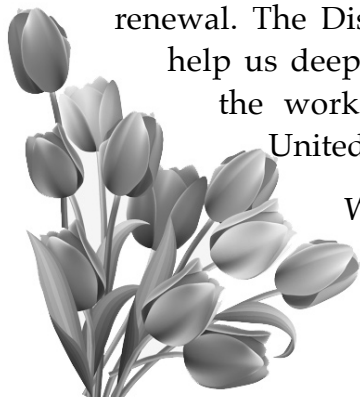
Anchored in Faith

Adrift in Fear

Ashore in Hope

Attendees will be invited into the stormy waters as Paul journeys toward Rome. We will be spiritually uplifted by our time worshipping together and our time for wellness and renewal. The District Day Apart will help us deepen our connection to the work and community of United Methodist Women.

Watch for registration information later in the spring.



2020 Mission Today Units!

by Wendy Nickel

We know it wasn't easy to complete the requirements to become Mission Today Units during this last year of not meeting in person due to Covid. Congratulations to these five UMW Units who completed the requirements!

Cornerstone, Marshall

Open Doors, Wells

Faith Waseca

Oakwood, New Ulm

Windom

The possible Mission Actions are listed in the back of the yearly Minnesota Conference UMW Directory. Even when our units and circles are not meeting in person, UMW mission experiences continue. Some of the Mission Actions which count are: Read the Response Magazine, attend or incorporate a Mission u Study, use the Prayer Calendar/write to some of the missionaries, participate in the UMW Action Network, etc.

Let us hear what your local unit is doing for missions!

"Urgent Maternal Warning Signs" posters

Did you know that the US has the highest maternal death rate in the developed world? Southern Prairie District UMW, with the help of the Conference UMW, is taking on a project to help change that dismal fact. We are distributing 250 posters of "Urgent Maternal Warning Signs". The 9 x 12 posters will be put in restaurants and gas station restrooms and other areas where women frequent. The idea is to put the posters on the inside of toilet stall doors so while sitting on the stool, the poster can be read.

The Native American community has the highest death rate of mothers in the state of Minnesota. African American women are at a greater risk of death than white women. Also women of color are more likely to have serious complications during pregnancy, childbirth, and after the baby is born. White women are not immune to death and severe complications as a result of pregnancy either.

Our priority for this project is Native American women since these mothers are ten times more likely to have severe complications or death as a result of pregnancy. Therefore we have contacted the eleven Indian reservations in MN and the Indian Center in the Twin Cities as well as some Food Shelves to place these posters. The remaining posters will be distributed in the Southern Prairie District.

We know that pregnant women seek out restrooms, as do their female friends and family members. Hopefully everyone will be on the lookout for trouble in pregnancy. These posters may help ALL women know what signs to look for and when to seek help. If you would like some posters to put up, contact Sherry Scholljegerdes at or call 507-835-4304. If you would like to see the poster, go to

<http://www.ccpc.org>Pregnancy-Corner>UrgentMaternalWarning Signs>





Southern Prairie District
United Methodist Women
9184 377th Ave
Blue Earth, MN 56013
Attn: Judith Clark

Nonprofit Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
Blue Earth, MN 56013
Permit No. 50

Return Service Requested



Keep us up-to-date

We're trying to keep our units and officers up to date. In February letters were sent to district UMW units who had not answered the October request. Among other things, we are asking for email addresses if you want to receive the District Outreach or /and The Conference Fresh Connection via email. It's not too late to send in address and newsletter information to Judith Clark, Communications Coordinator. (See her address below)



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OUTREACH

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