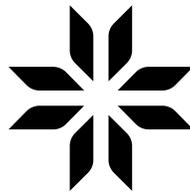


# Heritage Vine

The Newsletter of the Heritage District  
United Women in Faith  
January 2024



United  
Women  
in Faith

We believe love in action  
can change the world.

## President's Note

Joy Coyle

Have we had enough snow yet? It is so beautiful, but right now as I write this, the temp by my house is 5, though sunny. It is a lovely day when looking from inside where it's nice and warm.

This past Saturday, we hosted a local unit training for all in the District. We had wonderful support from the Michigan Conference team in Cheryl Rumery. Thank you! If you missed it, I am happy to organize smaller meetings together, probably by Zoom. One unit has already requested one, as their power was off and could not attend. If you have a smart phone, it is still possible to hook up in that situation using 4G or 5G. ( I use my cell phone often for Zoom meetings.)

We had a time all together at the training, then had breakout rooms by area of interest. These were for all, not just those new to a unit or job. Our new VP, Judy Christie, started out with a short presentation; followed by Karol Fry (also new to our District team), speaking to us about Secretary of Program Resources and Education and Interpretation. Patty Puckett followed up with Spiritual Growth. Great for us to put faces with the new names!

I hosted the presidents and secretaries for the actual training. Great to meet and see all of you! Marsha Ikle, Brighton unit president, is willing to help other units with new ideas, so feel free to contact her too.

I have visited 3 local units recently: Brighton, Ypsilanti, and Webberville, who is a new unit to us from the Mid-Michigan district. As our district lines have changed, check out the website ([UMWMichiganConference.org](http://UMWMichiganConference.org)). Perhaps invite another church close to you to join in for a gathering? In a couple of weeks, the website address is changing to [UWFMichiganConference.org](http://UWFMichiganConference.org).

We also have an active Facebook page, [UWFaith Michigan Conference Heritage District](https://www.facebook.com/UWFaithMichiganConferenceHeritageDistrict). We keep it up to date with our information, so check there often and follow us!

Looking ahead, next month Wendy Everett, our own Communications Coordinator, is hosting a **Communications Training for the Michigan Conference** which includes us! So keep **Sat, Feb 17** in mind (probably a morning Zoom), free to register.

Then, **May 17-18**, we will have an overnight retreat for all in the Heritage district. It will take place at the **St Francis Retreat Center** in Dewitt, MI. In between these 2 dates, I hope to host smaller Zoom or in person meetings with a couple of units, but there's room for more. If you would like to do this, please let me know. I am also available to visit your unit!

We still have a couple of openings on the team for 2024 if you want to jump in! Nominations, Membership Nurture and Outreach, and Communications all need help. Whatever your talents or interests, we have a spot for you!

May God send your family blessings! (I just found out that a blessing means Happy, per Pastor Rick Warren.)



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## Vice President/Program Coordinator

Hello, I am Judy Christie and my home church is Webberville UMC. It is located off I-96 about 20 miles east of Lansing. I was treasurer of my local UWFaith unit for 7 years, and just completed 2 years as unit President and two years as Mid-Michigan District treasurer. I just accepted the WUMC Treasurer position of my church.

A little more about my immediate family. I have two adult sons, Cameron, who lives in Washington State with his family, and Aaron, who lives in Tennessee. I have four grandchildren, three boys and one girl. I am a widow, my husband Ken passed away three years ago. We were married just short of 48 years.

I am looking forward to working with all of you as your new Vice President for Heritage District. I am new to the Vice-President position and look forward to all of us working together. I quoted Martin Luther King on Zoom Saturday. He said, "You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." Let us start this year working together, so we can eventually reach the top of the landing of the staircase and know that God is with us each step of the way and continue to ask God for guidance. "Once God leads you to a decision, do not draw back. Instead, trust his leading and believe He goes before us." (Billy Graham) Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

If you are interested in hosting a Heritage District event, let me know. I have two local units that have shown interest already, and there's always room for more. Heritage is such a large district; every effort will be made for all units to have some events close to them.

### Upcoming Events –

Spiritual Growth Retreat, May 17-18, St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI.

Annual Celebration, Brighton UMC, September 21, 2024

If you have questions, please ask. If you would like for me to visit your unit, I am happy to do so. You can reach me by email, [jchristie664@aol.com](mailto:jchristie664@aol.com) or by phone or text, 517-294-3321.

Thank you, Judy Christie

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### United Women in Faith resources and information

on the UWFaith website and Mighty Networks :

[Uwfaith.org](http://Uwfaith.org),  
[uwfaith.mn.co](http://uwfaith.mn.co) (Mighty Networks)

Here are a few more places to see what UWFaith are doing:

[facebook.com/uwomenfaith](https://facebook.com/uwomenfaith)  
[twitter.com/uwomenfaith](https://twitter.com/uwomenfaith)  
[youtube.com/uwomenfaith](https://youtube.com/uwomenfaith)  
[uwfaith.org/flickr](https://uwfaith.org/flickr)

So, if you have lots of spare time (HA!) check these out!!

- Joy

## Treasurer

Jayne Worthy-Howlett



Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a pleasant holiday and are eager to see what 2024 brings to the Heritage District.

It is not too early to send your unit pledges in. I have attached the most current Remittance and Special Mission Recognition (SMR) forms in case you need them. Please note that when purchasing pins as part of SMR you should indicate whether you want the traditional oval cross pin or the new round logo pin.

I would like to share a few words on the United Women in Faith Legacy Fund. This fund was set up to ensure the future of the UWFaith. Proceeds from this fund will underwrite future core expenses of the UWFaith so that even more money can be directed annually to support mission work. Checks to the Legacy Fund are sent by the local units directly to National (do not submit Legacy Fund checks to me). The address is as follows:

United Women in Faith  
Attn: Legacy  
Church Center for the United Nations  
777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor  
New York, NY 10017

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at [jwh255@yahoo.com](mailto:jwh255@yahoo.com) and 734-474-5314.

Please send your pledges to:

Jayne Worthy-Howlett  
45416 Holmes Dr  
Canton, MI 48187  
[jwh255@yahoo.com](mailto:jwh255@yahoo.com) or 734-474-5314.

Vice President/Program  
Coordinator Judy Christie  
and President Joy Coyle  
at Webberville UWFaith  
Christmas Lunch



## Coordinator for Social Action

Shirley M. Carpenter



Happy New Year Ladies.

As we start our new year with a new Leadership team and some in new positions on the team it is an exciting time. I will be moving from four years on Committee on Nominations to the Social Action Coordinator. It will be great to put myself full time on this project instead of covering both as I'd done for the last year or so.

I enjoy the Faith Talks, MI Connect, Voices from the Field, and our wonderful Reading Program.

This past year was one of the best lists of books on our Reading Program in all areas. If you are interested in Missions or Social Actions it was a great year.

One of my favorite books was *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson. Dwight Garner of New York Times quote "It's a book that changes the weather inside a reader." My favorite was the plea for humanity: We are witness - Never forget. The minute we look away, the minute we stop fighting, bigotry wins. There no more room for hate. That all people are created equal.

Hope you enjoyed the training, great to have met you in this area of interest.

Shirley M. Carpenter  
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## Conference Connections

I am Donna Kleiver and I will be representing the Heritage District as a member of the Nominations Committee for the Michigan Conference United Women in Faith. For the past 23 years I have been involved with United Women in Faith at the local, District, and Conference levels. My husband Jim and I live in Eaton Rapids, Michigan and have been members of Grace United Methodist Church in Lansing for over 46 years. We have three children and 7 Grandchildren living in Florida and California. We don't get to see them as often as we would like.

My passions are gardening, traveling, knitting, reading, and learning more about God's creation. I love to learn about what is going on in the world and doing what I can to make it better for all. I look forward to meeting and getting to know my sisters from the Heritage District. If you should have any questions regarding the United Women in Faith offices, or are interested in serving, I will be glad to answer your questions.



Donna Kleiver  
517-663-4193 or  
dmkleiver2016@gmail.com  
Nominations Committee Member for Michigan Conference 2024

### **A reminder to all units:**

Please send Joy Coyle your officer list, even if it is unchanged from last year or if it is incomplete.

## Green Team



Hi, I'm Elaine Ferris, and I'm from First United Methodist in Mason, MI (Just south of Lansing). I've been Green Team coordinator for awhile – looking for ways we can share and care for our environment – doing or just thinking about how!

**This issue's recycling champs are: Scrap Creative Reuse** in Ann Arbor MI. Started in 1998 by teachers looking to rehome classroom materials, it was modeled after the Boston Children's Museum recycling program. Originally a resource for craft supplies, it's now a nonprofit organization and serves as a model across the nation. Their web page even has a Getting Started page for those who'd like to set up a craft reuse center in their town/area. It's mostly for crafts – office paper, architectural stuff, jewelry, craft books. See [annarbor.scrapcreativereuse.org](http://annarbor.scrapcreativereuse.org) for more information.

**Tip for pill bottles:** Two suggestions (besides being the perfect size for holding quarters for the Laundromat, or q-tips) are

- 1) a survival kit – matches and cotton balls to start a fire, a single edge razor blade, and duct tape or twine around the outside. They are liquid proof so the matches are kept dry. Add fishhooks and fishline if you like.
- 2) a first-aid kit – a few bandaids, small tube of ointment, some q-tips, aspirin.

For ideas on small survival kits, I recommend Dick Francis' novel *Longshot* – actually a mystery, but it has some good survival techniques in it, including a kit in an Altoids tin if you don't happen to have a spare pill bottle!

Taking care of the earth is not just recycling, it's a philosophy including not wasting in the first place. Like the lady whose entire unrecycled waste for \*2 years\* fits into one quart Mason Jar ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTouqEPzbdO](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTouqEPzbdO)); or my newest "discovery" – Earthships, sustainable off-grid living (for more: [earthship.com](http://earthship.com)). I'll talk about them next time!

What can you do? One very tiny start: if you don't already have one, get a reusable water bottle. One plastic bottle a day is 365 in the trash in a year.

Elaine Ferris  
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Mason Mi 48854  
517-676-4175  
[ejferris@toast.net](mailto:ejferris@toast.net)

## Spiritual Growth

Patty Puckett

My home church is University UMC in East Lansing where I have been a member since the 1980s.

I am secretary of our local United Women in Faith unit and am the church archivist. My other volunteer work is making quilts for the homeless.

My former district was the Mid-Michigan District where I served as the Membership, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator. I am now serving as the Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Heritage District.

Patty Puckett  
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East Lansing 48823  
517-351-3151  
[Woodstone1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Woodstone1@sbcglobal.net)

## Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation (and) Secretary of Program Resources

My name is Karol Fry, born and raised in Mason, MI. When I was younger, with a small child, I attended Mason First United Methodist Church and sang in the choir. When my daughter became too old for nursery, I transferred to Holt United Methodist Church where my mom attended. Kim sat with grandma and I sang in the choir.

When I retired from Michigan State University, I was quickly recruited to be a part of the Mid-Michigan District team. As of December 2023, the Mid-Michigan District no longer exists. I have two years of service remaining, so I've transferred to the Heritage District as the Mission Education & Interpretation Coordinator and Secretary of Program Resources.

### Education and Interpretation

I wish to thank Donna Williams for her kind words and encouragement, it will not be easy following in her footsteps.

It's a new year, a fresh start. In this newsletter you will find your 2024 Mission Today form. Read it carefully, understand the objectives, and take action in Faith, Hope, Joy, and Love.

*Save the date* – Wednesday March 13, 2024 is **ADVOCACY DAY**. A flyer is included for your convenience. ([michiganumc.org/justice-and-advocacy](http://michiganumc.org/justice-and-advocacy))

### Program Resources

I wish to thank Diane Tandy for her kind words and encouragement, it will not be easy following in her footsteps.

The Reading Program is a study opportunity that promotes action. The reading books from 2018-2024 are a diverse range of books to broaden exposure to a variety of concepts. Books are organized into 5 categories; Education for Mission, Nurturing For Community, Social Action, Spiritual Growth, and Leadership Development.

A Reporting Form is included with this newsletter.

Special Note: The 2023 Mission Today Unit Objectives and Reading Form 2023 are now past due – this is a friendly reminder to please send me your documents!

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The District Newsletter, Forms, and contact information for the Leadership Team can be found on the Conference Website

[www.umwmichiganconference.org/hrd.html](http://www.umwmichiganconference.org/hrd.html)

**Coming soon!**

[www.uwfmichiganconference.org](http://www.uwfmichiganconference.org)

### Join us on Facebook!

Go to Facebook and search for UWFaith Heritage District MI Conference (or click on the Facebook icon on the district website)

## Heritage District 2024 Calendar

February 17	9:30 am	Conference Communication Training
March 6	3:30 pm	Leadership Team Meeting (in person) Harvest Moon Cafe, Ypsi
March 13	7:30 am	Michigan Advocacy Day, Central UMC, Lansing, MI (michiganumc.org/justice-and-advocacy)
April 17	3pm	Leadership Team Meeting (in person) at president's home
April 23 - May 3		Methodist General Conference Charlotte, NC
May 17 -18	5 pm	Heritage District Overnight Retreat St Francis Retreat Center, Dewitt, MI
May 30 – June 1		Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City, MI
May 31 – June 2		UWF North Central Jurisdiction Indianapolis, IN
July 18 – 20		<i>Mission u</i> Mt Pleasant First UMC Mt Pleasant, MI
Sept 11	4 pm	Leadership Team meeting (in person) Brighton UMC, Brighton, MI
Sept 20	4 pm	Leadership Team business meeting Brighton UMC, Brighton, MI
Sept 21	9 am	Heritage Annual Celebration/Business Meeting Brighton UMC, Brighton, MI
Oct 25	4 pm	Michigan Conference Leadership Training St Luke's UMC, Essexville, MI
Oct 26	9:30 am	Michigan Conference Annual Celebration/ Business Meeting St Luke's UMC, Essexville, MI
Nov 20	3:30 pm	Leadership Team meeting location TBD

### **Dates and Deadlines:**

Mission Today and Reading Program reports for **2023** should be sent to Karol Fry as soon as possible

All units should submit a current officer list to Joy Coyle

Deadline for Pledge to Mission	Sept 1 to Jayne Worthy-Howlett
Deadline for Updated (2025) Officers List	December 1 Joy Coyle
Deadline for Five Star Person & Unit 2024	December 15 to Jayne Worthy-Howlett
Deadline for Reading Program 2024	December 15 to Karol Fry
Deadline for 2024 Mission Today Unit Objectives	December 15 to Karol Fry

### **Wider UWFaith Events**

The United Women in Faith North-Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event is May 31-June 2 2024 in Indianapolis IN.

There is an optional Soul Care Retreat on May 30.

Keynote Speaker is Deaconess Garlinda Burton

More information can be found at [www.umwncj.org](http://www.umwncj.org)