



## CENTRAL BAY DISTRICT NEWSLETTER UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

### **"Central Bay Women in Action" July 2025**

#### **A Message from Your Co-Presidents**



Dear Sisters in Faith,

As we step into the heart of summer, we're filled with gratitude for each of you and the faithful work you continue to do in your units and communities. Your commitment to mission, justice, and spiritual growth continues to inspire us and others across our district.

We're excited to share some important upcoming opportunities for learning, connection, and celebration. Please mark your calendars and help us spread the word within your units and congregations!

#### **MISSION u**

Mount Pleasant First United Methodist Church.  
Mount Pleasant, Michigan

July 17–19, 2025

Mission u is a powerful time of spiritual growth, transformative learning, and fellowship with United Women in Faith from across the state. This year's theme is from the study book *Practicing Hope* by Tabatha Holley, which continues to call us to a deeper understanding of our faith and mission.

A flyer with full details is attached to this Newsletter. We encourage every unit to send at least one participant!

#### **Central Bay District United Women in Faith Celebration** October 4, 2025

Alma United Methodist Church, Alma, Michigan

This is our time to gather as a district—celebrating our ministries, sharing stories of our mission, and honoring the faithful work done throughout the year.

#### **Michigan Conference United Women in Faith Celebration & Training**

Clio Bethany United Methodist Church, Clio, Michigan

October 17–18, 2025

This two-day event is filled with worship, learning, and leadership development.

Please note: District officer training will take place Friday evening, October 17, 2025.

Flyer attached to this newsletter with more information.

We hope to see you at these events, standing side by side as we continue to grow in faith and action together. Please encourage participation in your units and don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need more information.

Thank you for your leadership, your prayers, and your unwavering commitment to living out the love of Christ in the world.

With joy and gratitude,

**Sandra DeWaele and Caroline M. Diaz**

Co-Presidents, Central Bay District  
United Women in Faith



Let me introduce myself. I'm Lisa Wightman, a member of the Caro United Methodist Church in Caro MI, and I have attended there all of my life. I was previously part of the Central Bay District until two years ago when the districts were realigned and our Church then became part of the East Winds District. A year ago we transitioned back to the Central Bay District (where my heart always belonged) because of our Pastor's assignment in serving two Churches and would have been in two districts.

My husband of 43 years and I are active in leadership at our local church, and I felt very welcomed back to the District United Women in Faith Team where I took the position of Vice President. One of my roles in that position is to plan the Annual Celebration that will be taking place on October 4<sup>th</sup> in Alma MI. This year it will be a little different than in the past. Officer training will take place on an alternative day. The Annual meeting will truly be a celebration, starting with a brunch. Our annual business meeting will include celebration of memorials, and special awards, budget, election of new officers, and more. Plus we will have our keynote speaker, Rev. April Gutierrez, and we will celebrate Holy Communion together. I plan on seeing everyone there, plus this new format will allow us time to stop for lunch and shopping on the way home.

With that said serving the District Team has many benefits. Yes, it includes some commitment but the benefits and the new friends you will have far outweigh the duties. You can find open positions and information on who to contact for more information on the responsibilities in this newsletter. Prayerfully consider joining this great group of caring women.

**Lisa Wightman** [klwightman@yahoo.com](mailto:klwightman@yahoo.com)  
(989) 673-7079



## *Secretary*

Dear Women in Faith,

Really!!! I can not believe it is July 2025 already!! I heard about a bus full of out-of-state-first time visitors to MI. They stopped at a visitors' center to gather information and meeting with the guide, one of them asked "Tell me, what do you do in Michigan in the summer?" The guide smiled gently and then said, "Well, if it comes on a week end, we like to have a picnic!" So, yes, the weather has been a bit chilly, but we live in Michigan and we know!

I would like to send you a "reminder" about your UWFaith unit updates. I have become aware that units need to be "inspirational" in their organizational techniques. Some meet in afternoons, some in evenings, some in summer, some in winter, some in homes, some in the Church. Crazy world? No problem! As you make changes to your officers, I am asking you to send these changes to me. Any time! All I need are names, addresses, e-mail addresses, and office held. Lost the "form"? No problem! I accept all kinds of stationary.

My home address: Jeanne Shelander  
173 Dwyer St. Clare, MI 48617  
Or email: [jmshelander@gmail.com](mailto:jmshelander@gmail.com)

Many blessings

**Jeanne Shelander**, 989 386 2063



## *Treasurer*

Hi ladies, I would like to quote a paragraph from the recent Voice newsletter.

*Responsible stewardship is a challenge for United Women in Faith, especially in this time of uncertainty in our economy. Decisions about*

*budgets and giving are based on a strong belief in mission education, leadership development and the needs of women, children and youth in our world. We hope you will all give generously to support the mission of United Women in Faith this year, increasing your pledge by ten percent, if possible. This was originally written by Judy Huynh.*

Have you ever thought of being a Five Star person? There are 5 areas.

1. The first is a Pledge to Missions. This can be as little as \$5.00 or the sky is the limit.
2. The second is Special Mission Recognition. This has a minimum of \$40.00 to \$60.00, \$1000.00 or whatever you decide. You can give this in honor of any person.
3. The third area is Gift to Missions. This is a minimum of \$5.00. You can make this gift in honor of an individual and request a card you can send to that person.
4. The fourth is Gift in Memory. Again, a minimum of \$5.00. You can designate in memory of someone. We have cards for this area.
5. The Fifth is World Thank Offering. \$5.00 minimum. This is for the Gratitude of God's abundance throughout the world.

If you become a Five Star person you will get a beautiful pin with the new logo on it. I am sure you will love this gift.

Remember the conference is recommending we increase our pledge by 10% if possible.

I hope to see you in July at Mission u, or in October at the district celebration, or also in October the conference celebration.

**Sandra Horen**

203 Willow Bend, Auburn, MI 48611  
989-717-8484

## ***Spiritual Growth***



Warmest Salutations!

Summer is in full swing! We hope everyone has been basking in the beauty of the flowers and soaking up the lovely weather!

Marsha and I have details available for the upcoming Brunch (March 7- Auburn Methodist Church and the Retreat (April 24-25) in the New Year!

Quiet your hearts and listen for God's whispers. Be watchful and listen for God's answers. Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10

We hope to see everyone at Mission u.

Warmly,  
Marsha and Laurel

**Laurel Beutler**

sw\_migirl@yahoo.com 989-621-8128  
1056 Queensway Drive, Weidman MI  
48893-9391

**Marsha Prince**

Mmp3909@gmail.com 989-644-2181 (home)  
1019 Fairway Drive, Weidman MI 48893



## ***Secretary of Program Resources***

Hello Program Resources Persons!

I hope you have enjoyed the Reading Program books this year. In just a couple of months, we will receive the 2026 Reading List. But remember, you can count books from any of the last 5 years, as well.

This year, we have had a good number of books available in Large Print: The Book Woman's Daughter (EFM), A Right Worthy Woman (LD), The Light We Carry (NFC), Our Missing Hearts (SA), Spiritual Practices for Soul Care (SG), and The Women of the Bible Speak (SG). These are easier for some of our members to read, so consider these as selections.

Mission u is coming up July 17-19, at Mt. Pleasant First UMC. We will have books available for purchase for women, children, and youth. Stop by and look at possible selections for your unit. Please remember, ATTENDING Mission u counts as "2 books" read!

I am including the email for the UWFaith reading program (\*see below). On this site you will find the 2025 book list, instructions, as well as the Reading Program Reporting Form. We will be handing out Certificates of Recognition for the Reading Program at our Annual District Celebration, October 4, at Alma UMC. Ladies, I need your unit's Reading Program Reporting Forms by September 1 in order for your unit to receive their certificates. You can email these, or physically mail them to me:

Carolyn Harfmann  
6115 Dublin Ave, Midland, MI 48640  
Midland, MI 48640-8129  
yellowveg@gmail.com  
(989) 708-1441

Please also know that I am available to visit your unit, and bring books. I could do a short program on The Reading Program.

If you have any questions, call or email me at my contact information above.

I hope to see many of you at Mission u. Have a Happy Summer Reading!

**Carol Harfmann**  
Secretary of Program Resources

[\\*uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program/](http://*uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program/)



## ***Education and Interpretation***

Our response magazine has a lot of good reading. Inspire is a good way to get started on your reading along with Impact and Pray. There are many great articles on who is in the United Women in Faith history, Bible study and don't forget there is a puzzle.

We also need to get into using our computer, which is a new venture for a lot of us. I will be learning how to use my new computer also.

**JoAnn Wiles**  
joannwiles7@gmail.com  
810-272-0867

## ***Membership, Nurture and Outreach***



Greetings Sisters,  
We were built to live in relationship with God and each other. I did a quick google search for Bible verses on friendship and found a very long list. One of those I read was 1 John 4:11 which states "Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another". It is clear we are called to love each other and by doing so we can share the love of God.

We can love those around us, our family and our friends. There are so many people in our communities and neighborhoods who do not know the love of God, and many who are experiencing loneliness. One simple thing that we can do to make a difference is to invite others into the United Women in Faith family.

Everyone is born with an innate desire to connect with others. Make your meeting a place where a woman can feel welcome and connect with others. Sometimes it's simple things that stop us from attending a meeting. Can you arrange for childcare that would allow a young



This is where **we need you**. I'm asking you to keep sharing your ideas, colors, sparkle, designs in your local unit, but also consider being part of the foundation—becoming part of the CBD

leadership team. Be part of an easel!! We are already looking ahead at 2026, and included in this newsletter is a proposed 2026 leadership team roster. Currently we are seeking the following, and you are invited to contact me with your questions.

**Mission Coordinator for Social Action**

(represents CBD on the Conference Planning Committee for Social Action, when a social action event is held, represents the district by attending Advocacy Day, promotes and interprets the biblical basis for social action and the position of The UM Church on social issues and reports on and encourages team members to be socially active).

**Chairperson of Nominations** (helps members of the Nomination Committee see their task as ongoing, provides information to the committee concerning vacancies that need to be filled, presents an annual written report of term and tenure to the Administrative Committee, and prepares the slate of officers to be elected at the Annual Meeting/Celebration) and **Nominations Committee members.**

I look forward to seeing what designs and sparkles are shared in future months through all of you, our wonderful United in Faith Women! It is heartwarming to see how lives are transformed and people are brought closer to knowing the love of Jesus through you.

Sincerely,

**Joy Clark**

(989) 714-9208 [jec3015@yahoo.com](mailto:jec3015@yahoo.com)

*We need you! Please contact Joy or any other board member if you would like to join our team.*



***Registrar***

We have one district-wide event left for this year: Central Bay District United Women in Faith Annual Celebration.

You'll find the form:

- 1) in the print version of the newsletter, if you receive one, or
- 2) in the e-newsletter version if you are on that mailing list, or
- 3) on our district website.

In other words, you have several places to find a copy of the flyer and registration form!

Once you find the registration form, get together with your friends at church and sign up together to come to Alma! We have a great speaker lined up, and the more the merrier!

The celebration honors those who have passed and recognizes your accomplishments. The leadership team wants to acknowledge each unit's dedication to the mission of United Women in Faith. So find that form and fill it out in time to let us know that you'll be there!

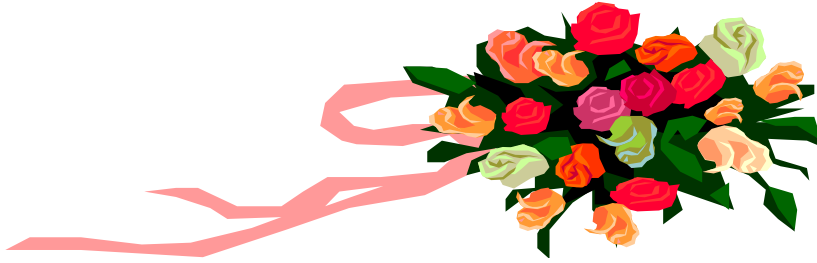
Grace & Peace,

**Rene Johnson**, Registrar

809 Wyllys St., Midland, MI 48642

989-631-2378 [renejohnson@charter.net](mailto:renejohnson@charter.net)

# ***In Remembrance***



## **Women Who Have Passed Away in Your Unit**

As a district we would like to take this time to remember the women who have passed away from your unit in 2024. They will be listed in our 2025 program bulletin of the Central Bay District Celebration and Leadership Training event.

**NOTE! Submit only names of those who passed away in 2024.** Please submit the **names, church and date of death** to:

**Judy Gerken by**

**September 5, 2025**

**E-mail: [jrgerk@yahoo.com](mailto:jrgerk@yahoo.com)**

Or Mail to: 3300 Sunnyview Drive  
Saginaw, MI 48604

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

I have already received names from these churches:

Midland First UMC & Pinconning UMC

If your church is not on this list, I will be expecting to hear from you.

2026 PLEDGE FORM

January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026

Unit Name\_\_\_\_\_

Church\_\_\_\_\_

Pledge Amount\_\_\_\_\_

Unit Treasurer\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail\_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out this form and have it mailed to the District Treasurer, by  
November 20, 2025

Sandra Horen, 203 Willow Bend, Auburn, MI 48611



## Proposed Financial Budget Central Bay UWFaith 2026

	2024	actual	2025	2026	
<b>PLEDGE TO MISSIONS:</b>	28,000	27085.81	24000.00	24000.00	same
<b>OFFICER EXPENSES:</b>					
100 Postage	300.00	49.72	250.00	100.00	reduce \$100.00
101 Office Supplies	300.00	299.72	250.00	300.00	up \$50.00
103 Travel	2200.00	229.72	1500.0	1000.00	reduce \$500.00
104 Meals	300.00	184.49	250.00	250.00	same
105 Printing +newsletter	200.00	5.68	100.00	0.00	covered under expenses
107 Audit	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	same
<b>TOTAL OFFICER EXPENSE</b>	<b>3450.00</b>	<b>919.33</b>	<b>2500.00</b>	<b>1800.00</b>	
<b>CONFERENCE EVENT EXPENSES</b>					
200 Conference Annual Mtg	500.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	same
201 Conference Social Action	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	same
202 Mission U+80.00 pp	2000.00	1856.72	2500.00	2500.00	same
<b>TOTAL CONFERENCE EVENTS</b>	<b>2600.00</b>	<b>1856.72</b>	<b>2800.00</b>	<b>2800.00</b>	
<b>DISTRICT EVENT EXPENSES</b>					
300 District Annual Mtg	750.00	262.96	750.00	500.00	reduce 250
301 Leadership Training church	100.00	0.00	200.00	100.00	reduce 100
302 Spiritual Life Retreat	1200.00	925.32	1200.00	1200.00	same
303 Shepherds/Visit/Connexion	50.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	same
304 Prayer Brunch	400.00	+203.80	250.00	200.00	reduce 50
305 Other	50	0.00	50.00	50.00	same
<b>TOTAL DISTRICT EXPENSES</b>	<b>2550.00</b>	<b>853.00</b>	<b>2500.00</b>	<b>2100.00</b>	
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>					
400 Newsletter/publicity/books	800	126.22	500.00	400.00	reduce 100
401 Resources/response	2000	1592.64	1000.00	2000.00	increase 1000
402 SMR/GTM/GIM	400	860.00	200.00	200.00	same
403 Church Women United	00	0.00	0.00	0.00	same
404 Miscellaneous	50	0.00	0.00	0.00	same
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSE</b>	<b>3250.00</b>	<b>2578.86</b>	<b>1900.00</b>	<b>2600.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL A&amp;MD EXPENSES</b>		<b>11850.00</b>	<b>9500.00</b>	<b>9300.00</b>	
<b>CONTINGENCY</b>		<b>500.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>		<b>1235.00</b>	<b>10000.00</b>	<b>9800.00</b>	

## **Proposed Central Bay District United Women in Faith - 2026 Leadership Team**

### **President**

Sandra DeWaele  
[josandew@charter.net](mailto:josandew@charter.net)  
989-414-3398 (preferred/home);  
989-415-7725 (cell)  
588 East Salzburg Road  
Bay City, MI 48706-9713  
(Auburn UMC, Auburn)

### **Past Presidents**

Caroline Diaz  
[diazc5282@gmail.com](mailto:diazc5282@gmail.com)  
989-450-1735 (cell)  
5622 West Spring Knoll Drive  
Bay City, MI 48706-5614  
(Grace UMC, Bay City)

Doris Simons  
[dorissimons@att.net](mailto:dorissimons@att.net)  
989-781-1492 or 248-408-0797  
(cell)  
567 North River Road  
Saginaw, MI 48609-6823  
(Four Points UMC, Saginaw)

### **Vice President**

Lisa Wightman  
[klwightman@yahoo.com](mailto:klwightman@yahoo.com)  
989-673-7079 (cell)  
1902 Pierce Road  
Caro, MI 48723-9576  
(Caro UMC, Caro)

### **Secretary**

Joy Clark  
[jec3015@yahoo.com](mailto:jec3015@yahoo.com)  
989-714-9208 (cell)  
3015 South Glenway Drive  
Bay City, MI 48706-2357  
(St. Luke's UMC, Essexville)

### **Treasurer**

Sandi Horen  
[sandrahoren@gmail.com](mailto:sandrahoren@gmail.com)  
989-717-8484 (cell)  
203 Willow Bend  
Auburn, MI 48611  
(Hopevale Church, Saginaw)

### **Program Resources**

Carolyn Harfmann  
[yellowveg@gmail.com](mailto:yellowveg@gmail.com)  
989-708-1441  
6115 Dublin Avenue  
Midland, MI 48640-8129  
(Midland First UMC, Midland)

### **Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator**

Amy Hovey  
[Ahovey2010@gmail.com](mailto:Ahovey2010@gmail.com)  
989-289-3286  
4545 West Pere Marquette Road  
Coleman, MI 48618-9408  
(Coleman Faith UMC, Coleman)

### **Spiritual Growth Co-Coordinator**

Laurel Beutler  
[sw\\_migirl@yahoo.com](mailto:sw_migirl@yahoo.com)  
989-621-8128  
1056 Queensway Drive  
Weidman, MI 48893-9391  
(Weidman UMC, Weidman)

### **Spiritual Growth Co-Coordinator**

Marsha Prince  
[Mmp3909@gmail.com](mailto:Mmp3909@gmail.com)  
989-644-2181 (home)  
1019 Fairway Drive  
Weidman, MI 48893  
(Weidman UMC, Weidman)

### **Social Action Coordinator** OPEN

### **Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation**

JoAnn Wiles  
[joannwiles7@gmail.com](mailto:joannwiles7@gmail.com)  
810-272-0867  
1912 E Coggins  
Pinconning, MI 48650-7491  
(Auburn UMC, Auburn)

### **Chair of Nominations** OPEN

### **Nominations Committee member**

Jeanne Shelander  
[jmselander@gmail.com](mailto:jmselander@gmail.com)  
989-386-2063  
173 Dwyer Street  
Clare, MI 48617-1002  
(Clare UMC, Clare)

### **Nominations Committee member** OPEN

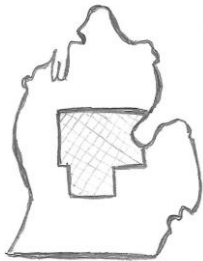
### **Appointed Officers: Communication**

Judy Gerken  
[jrgerk@yahoo.com](mailto:jrgerk@yahoo.com)  
989-755-4848 or 989-293-8146  
(cell)  
3300 Sunnyview Drive  
Saginaw, MI 48604-1738  
(Saginaw First UMC, Saginaw)

### **Registrar**

Pat Heitman  
[pat4679@gmail.com](mailto:pat4679@gmail.com)  
989-560-7809 (cell)  
911 Elizabeth Court  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858-3613  
(Mt. Pleasant First, Mt. Pleasant)

Central Bay District United Methodist Women  
P O Box 5386  
Saginaw, MI. 48603



“CENTRAL BAY  
WOMEN IN ACTION”

July, 2025

**Dates to Remember!**

**July 17, 18, 19, 2025**

Mission u  
Mt. Pleasant UMC. Mt. Pleasant, MI

**October 4, 2025**

Central Bay District Annual Celebration  
Alma UMC, Alma MI

**October 17 and 18, 2025**

Conference Annual Training and Celebration  
Clio UMC, Clio, MI

**March 7, 2026**

Spiritual Enrichment Brunch at  
Auburn UMC, Auburn, MI

**April 24 & 25, 2026**

Spiritual Life Retreat at  
The Springs in Gladwin, MI