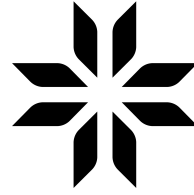


# Heritage Vine

The Newsletter of the Heritage District  
United Women in Faith  
January 2026



United  
Women  
in Faith

We believe love in action  
can change the world.

## President's Note

Greetings from your President...Welcome to 2026 from the Heritage District UWFaith Leadership Team! What a start for the Heritage District with the Epiphany Service at North Lake UMC. The turnout of units and the message by Pastor Trish and the hospitality from the Unit was inspiring. Thank you. Please consider being a host for next year's 2027 Epiphany.

Hi, my name is Judy Christie, your new Heritage District President. I am looking forward to working with ALL officer and unit members. The Heritage District (HD) is large, but my goal is the same as in the past years as Vice President: to have events in different locations so it will be convenient for all to attend. It is important to reach out to others so we can have fellowship and share. All team member contact information (phone and email) is listed on the Heritage Team Roster. We are here to help with questions and give or find the answers.



I would like to invite any member of the UWFaith to consider joining the Heritage District Team. We would love to have you and bring your great ideas. The following positions are available: Secretary, Membership Nurture and Outreach (MNO), Nominations, and Education/Interpretation (EI)

**NEW YEAR SAME GOD – Please mark these 2026 dates on your calendar**

**ZOOM HD Officer/Member's Training – March 7** Please contact Karol Fry to register [fry@msu.edu](mailto:fry@msu.edu) This ZOOM meeting is open to unit officers and members. It will be an open forum and we will not have breakouts for each officer group. We will take questions from officers and members. The goal is to meet one another and ask questions of the HD Team. If a local unit officer has a specific question for a district officer, please ask as others may be interested.

**PRAYER BREAKFAST – Saturday, April 18**, Brighton First UMC, Reg 8:30am, cost \$15, Guest Speaker, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Brown.

**Assembly – Friday, May 15 through Sunday, May 17.** Dream it! Believe it! Do it! Assembly is in Indianapolis. For details about Assembly, please visit [uwf.org](http://uwf.org) and click Assembly.

**Cluster Fun Days – June 20** (need host church, contact VP Karol Fry)

*September 12* Manchester UWFaith will host. More details to follow

**Mission u – July 16-18** at Mt. Pleasant UMC, find more information on [uwfaithmichigan.org](http://uwfaithmichigan.org)

**Heritage District Annual Celebration – Saturday, October 10**, location to be determined.

**Michigan Conference Annual Celebration – Saturday, Oct 17** at Hope UMC in Southfield.

If your Unit is interested in hosting an event, ask about an event you see listed on the included District Calendar.

Judy Christie, Heritage District President,  
2667 Holt Road,  
Williamston MI 48895  
517-294-3321

## Vice President

Karol Fry

I'm a member of Holt UMC, President of my circle, and our unit.

I'm not new to district teams, as I served as E&I coordinator and Secretary of Program Resources for the Mid-Michigan District, and also served in the same positions for Heritage District after Mid-Michigan District was dissolved.

I am now serving you as Vice President, you may be transitioning from one office to another as well. I wish to serve you and work with you in any way I can. If you have questions, I may not know the answer but will search to find you the way. We (I and the rest of the District Team) are recruiting to fill open positions for our District Team.

I am calling local churches in our district to ask them to host district programs and team meetings as well as cluster meetings. This isn't just for 2026, we are looking to book local churches and events for 2027 as well. Whether your church is large or small, there is a way to serve. I also encourage you to attend district programs, they can be entertaining and ever so spiritual. I look forward to meeting you soon.



Karol Fry  
Vice President  
517-525-6561  
fry@msu.edu

## Spiritual Growth and Outreach

Patty Puckett

### THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks.

The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among the people,  
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman (1899-1981)  
*The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations*

## Treasurer

Jayne Worthy-Howlett



Happy New Year! It was so nice to meet some of you at the Epiphany Service on January 3rd. Thank you to North Lake UWF for hosting. I hope you and your loved ones had a healthy and fun holiday season. I was busy the first two weeks in December baking cookies for my unit's (Dixboro) annual Cookie Walk. We are a small unit, skewing older, but the entire church became involved, along with family and friends, in making holiday treats for our sale. My son (who does not attend church and is not a baker) even provided two batches of cookies. The Cookie Walk is Dixboro unit's main fundraiser for the year. This year we made over \$2800 - that's a lot of (cookie) dough! I would love to hear how your unit fundraises and I suspect other readers would also. Send me information on your unit's activities and I will include it in my newsletter article later this year.

I have wrapped up all the financial activity for 2025 and will be sending everything to the auditor hopefully within the next month.

As we move into 2026, please note the following:

- When/if you request pins for Special Mission Recognition make sure to indicate whether you want the oval cross pin or the round pin with the UWFaith logo. I have attached a picture so you can see the two pins.
- It is not too early to start sending in your unit pledges to me.
- I will need all pledges for 2026 to me by November 15th this year.

As always, don't hesitate to contact me at [jwh255@yahoo.com](mailto:jwh255@yahoo.com) or 734-474-5314 if you have any questions.



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

Join members of the Heritage District Leadership Team for a Zoom session on Saturday March 7 from 9:30am to 11:30 am.

This will be a combined Unit Officer Training and Open Discussion , giving you the opportunity to ask questions of your Leadership Team and other Heritage District members.

Contact Karol Fry ([fry@msu.edu](mailto:fry@msu.edu)) by March 3 to register for a Zoom log-in.

# Communications Coordinator

Joy Coyle

Hello all United Women in Faith!

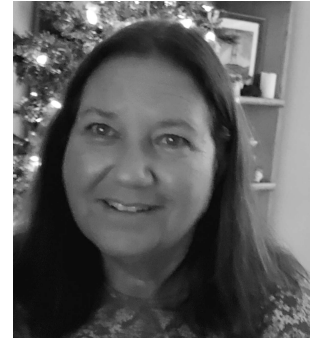
It is so different reporting to you about communication instead of everything as president! I am glad to focus on this area, though. We need to keep improving here!

If anyone wants to receive the newsletter from Heritage District that comes out 3 or 4 times per year, please send me their name, church (if they have one), and email. We do not send it postal mail any more. Please share your newsletter with those who do not have email, especially if they have a position in your unit

We always want to hear about what is happening in your area or unit, so please share! My email is below and our next newsletter will be assembled as usual by Jenn Ridley (jenn@hauntedfrog.com) in early April. We love photos too!

Sending God's love to all of you, & let's keep communicating!

Joy Coyle, past Heritage District President & current Communication organizer!



Joy Coyle  
6720 Spring Creek Lane  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
248-921-9587  
brcoyle@aol.com

## Dates and Deadlines:

All units should submit a current officer list to Judy Christie

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Newsletter Article (not just Leadership Team –  
send in event and program information!)

April 15 to  
Jenn Ridley

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Pledge to Mission for 2025

September 1 to  
Jayne Worthy-Howlett

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Deadline to send monies to Treasurer

November 15 to  
Jayne Worthy-Howlett

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Reading Program for 2026

December 1 to  
Diane Tandy

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Most reporting forms are available on the district website, or by contacting the appropriate Leadership Team member.

**Secretary of Program Resources**  
Diane Tandy



Dear Readers,

I am the new Secretary of Program Resources for Heritage District. Please report books read for the 2025 UWF Reading Program to me (some of you may have already sent the information to Joy Coyle who was filling in, but please resend it to me if possible so that we do not miss you when recognizing Readers). Please include your name, your unit name, and the plan completed for 2025. (A Reading Program Reporting form is available on the district website as well as at UWFaith.org.) You may contact me directly via email: [tandyd56@gmail.com](mailto:tandyd56@gmail.com) or by cell: (734)660-8875.

You may also provide your unit President or your local unit Program Resource Coordinator with the information and they will relay it to me. I would like to have this information sent to me as soon as possible. I hope to have the certificates printed for our 2025 readers to distribute them at our Spring Prayer Breakfast April 18, 2026 at the Brighton United Methodist Church. In addition, we will also recognize and celebrate these readers at our fall Annual Celebration/Business Meeting.

The Reading Program continues to provide an opportunity for us to be life long learners as we explore enlightening subjects in diverse genres that are found in the following categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth.

It is a cherished tradition that brings together members to explore, share and discuss books. There is something for everyone — there is a Reading Program for adults, youth, and children. Reading is connecting!

Go to [uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program](http://uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program) and click on 2026 Reading Program Catalog for the 2026 reading list or a Reading Program Reporting Form.

Looking forward to sharing many of these books with you. May God continue to bless you and your families.

Diane Tandy  
Secretary of Program Resources  
Heritage District United Women in Faith  
Cell (734)660-8875  
[tandyd56@gmail.com](mailto:tandyd56@gmail.com)

**United Women in Faith resources and information**

Michigan Conference:

<https://uwfaithmichigan.org>

the UWFaith website and Mighty Networks:

[UWFaith.org](http://UWFaith.org),

[UWFaith.mn.co](http://UWFaith.mn.co) (Mighty Networks)

## Michigan Conference UWFaith President,

Sharon Smith

Greetings Sisters in Faith! I pray your local units have kicked off the new year and you are well on your way to a very successful year filled with serving, learning, praying and participating in the many event and program options that are available to you as a result of your membership. Don't forget all the information that is available to you through the national website: [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org) and there is state information available to you at [uwfaithmichigan.org](http://uwfaithmichigan.org). For even more specific information, enroll in [uwfaith/digital.org](http://uwfaith/digital.org) that is part of the national website.

Beginning in 2025 and continuing through 2028, our national organization is challenging local units to grow! Easier said than done, right? The growth campaign has been given an inspiring name: UNSTOPPABLE. Because when we each do our part, together we are boldly unstoppable!

The goals are achievable IF we work together! The first-year goal is to increase national membership by 30,000 new women. Here are the goals for local units: If your unit currently has 51 or more members, your challenge is to invite FIVE (5) new women; if your unit has 11 – 50 members, your challenge is THREE (3) or FOUR (4) new women; and if your unit is smaller with 10 or fewer members, your challenge is to invite TWO (2) new women. There is plenty of time to accomplish these goals if you start now!

You're not on your own for these challenges. United Women in Faith has created a ton of helpful resources to make your recruitment very easy! With the resources available to you, you are fully equipped to connect, grow, and lead with purpose. The tools are designed to help you grow in the spirit of EXCITE AND INVITE! Everything you need including the CAMPAIGN TOOLKIT, EXCITE & INVITE 2.0 GUIDEBOOK, and even CUSTOMIZABLE TEMPLATES. Find everything you need at [uwfaith.org/digital](http://uwfaith.org/digital) and you will see the "unstoppable" tab that will lead you to the UNSTOPPABLE HUB where the resources are easily downloadable.

It's time to get EXCITED and INVITE other women to join with United Women in Faith living our belief that LOVE IN ACTION CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.

Blessings,

Sharon Smith, President  
Michigan Conference UWFaith  
[sharonanddicksmit@gmail.com](mailto:sharonanddicksmit@gmail.com)



During Pastor Trish Farrell's presentation at the Epiphany Celebration at North Lake UMC.

**Heritage District United Women in Faith  
Prayer Breakfast**

**April 18, 2026 – 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
(Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.)**



**“Quiet Hope”  
Finding Hope in Troubled Times**



**First United Methodist Church of Brighton and Whitmore Lake  
Brighton Campus  
400 East Grand River Avenue, Brighton 48116**

**Guest Speaker**

**Rev. Dr. Jennifer Browne  
Clergy Assistant to the Bishop  
and Director of Connectional Ministry**



**Registration: \$15  
Make check payable to MI Conf UWFaith; write  
“Heritage District” on the memo line.**

**Mission Focus/In-gathering: Please bring personal hygiene items (e.g., bar soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, feminine products, razors, etc.) to benefit Bountiful Harvest of Livingston County. Thank you!**

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Church:** \_\_\_\_\_

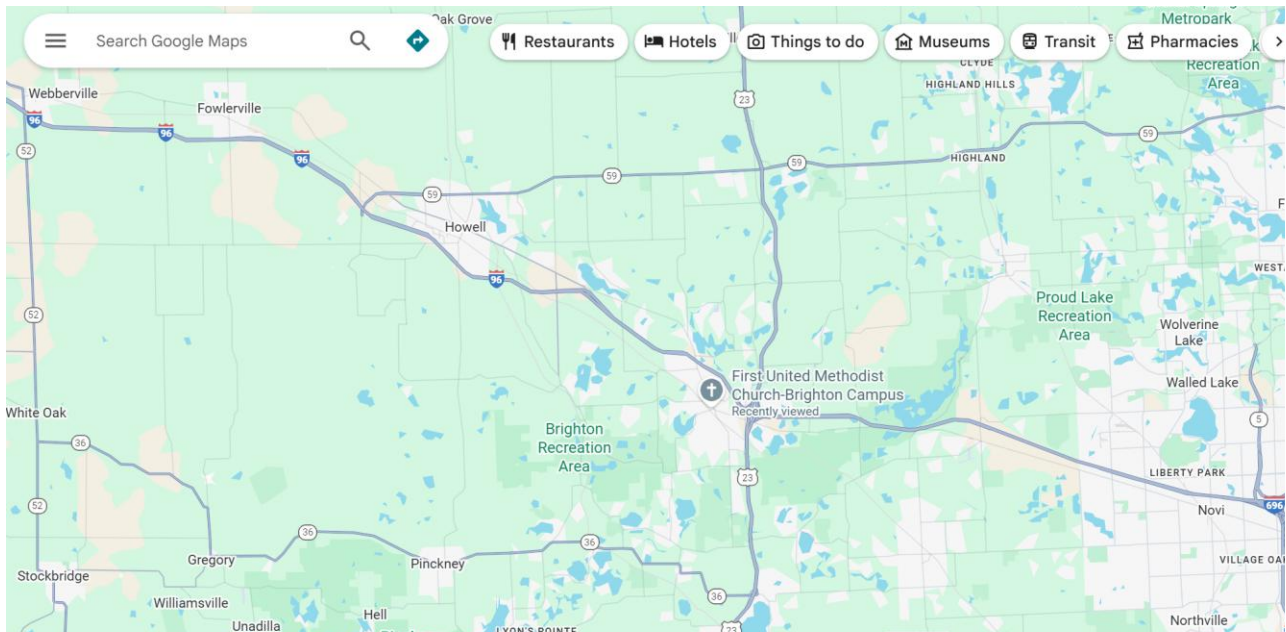
**email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send registration and payment by April 13 to:  
Shirley Carpenter, 8228 Bothwell, Morenci MI 49256.  
Phone: (517) 458-7367; email: [carpshirley3@gmail.com](mailto:carpshirley3@gmail.com)**

**For further information, contact Vice President Karol Fry  
Phone: (517) 525-6561; email: [fry@msu.edu](mailto:fry@msu.edu)**



**First United Methodist Church in Brighton, Michigan, is located on the north side of Grand River Avenue, just west of where Brighton Lake Road intersects Grand River, with entrances on both Brighton Lake Road and Grand River Avenue.**



### **Speaker Bio:**

**The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Browne is currently Clergy Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Connectional Ministries for the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church. She has been a Conference staff member since 2018.**

**Previously, Jennie served United Methodist congregations in Jenison, East Lansing, Grand Rapids, Brighton, Climax/Scotts and Reed City, as well as extension ministries at Albion College, the Episcopal Campus Ministry at the University of Chicago, and the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. She began her vocation as an ordained minister in 1984 at the First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Battle Creek Michigan.**

**Jennie was born and raised in San Francisco, California, and attended high school in Bethesda, Maryland. She holds a Bachelor's degree in English from Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut; a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York City; and a Doctor of Ministry from The Divinity School of the University of Chicago. Her dissertation, "Gracious Acts: Ritual and Protestant Worship," focused on the importance of ritual and the manner in which it conveys meaning to and through the worshipping congregation.**

**Jennie is married to Eric Strand, Director of Music and the Arts at First United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids. They have five children, ranging in age from 22 to 37, and one grandson, 5 years old. She is a gardener, yoga practitioner, quilter and knitter, mystery reader and lover of all kinds of music.**

# Michigan Conference United Women in Faith

## Heritage District — 2026 Leadership Team

### **President**

Judy Christie (25)  
2667 Holt Road  
Williamston 48895  
Webberville UMC  
517-294-3321  
jchristie664@aol.com

### **Vice President/Program Coordinator**

Karol Fry (26)  
601 Randolph St  
Mason 48854  
Holt UMC  
517-525-6561  
Karol@msu.edu

### **Secretary**

**OPEN**

### **Treasurer**

Jayne Worthy-Howlett (23)  
45416 Holmes Dr  
Canton 48187  
Dixboro UMC  
734-474-5314  
Jwh255@yahoo.com

### **Communications Coordinator**

Joy Coyle (26)  
6720 Spring Creek  
Plymouth 48170  
Plymouth First UMC  
248-921-9587  
brcoyle@aol.com

### **Mission Coordinators:**

#### **Spiritual Growth**

Patty Puckett (24)  
Apt 201  
2530 Marfitt Rd  
East Lansing 48823  
University UMC  
517-285-9424  
Woodstone1@sbcglobal.net

#### **Social Action**

Shirley Carpenter (23)  
8228 Bothwell  
Morenci 49256  
Hudson First UMC  
517-458-7367  
carpshirley3@gmail.com

#### **Program Resources**

Diane Tandy (26)  
13185 N Lake  
Gregory 48137  
734-660-8875  
tandy56@gmail.com

#### **Education/Interpretation**

**OPEN**

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

**OPEN**

### **Committee on Nominations Chair:**

**OPEN**

### **Committee on Nominations**

**Member 1: OPEN**

**Member 2: OPEN**

**Member 3: OPEN**

### **Newsletter Editor**

Jenn Ridley (2016 ongoing)  
14383 Fairway Drive,  
Chelsea 48118  
North Lake UMC  
734-475-8648  
jenn@hauntedfrog.com

### **Historian**

**OPEN**

### **Registrar #1**

Shirley Carpenter (25)  
8228 Bothwell  
Morenci 49256  
Hudson First UMC  
517-458-7367  
Carpshirley3@gmail.com

### **Registrar #2**

**OPEN**

### **Conference Connections**

Sharon Smith,  
Conference President (25)  
Holt UMC  
Sharonanddicksmi@gmail.com

## Coordinator for Social Action

Shirley M. Carpenter

A Happy and Healthy New Year to All.

We sure started the new year out great with our Epiphany Celebration at North Lake.

I came home so inspired and ready to get to work.

Diane Tandy and her large group of ladies were just amazing. North Lake had 34 ladies sign up from their church. The speaker, Pastor Trish Farrell of the North Lake Church was awesome, challenging us as United Women in Faith "What Do We Have to Give Going Forward in 2026"?

I had 56 register and I think we ended with 46 attending the event, everyone had a joyous time.

Coming events: the Prayer Breakfast at Brighton in April, the Assembly in Indianapolis in May, Mission u in July, and our Annual Celebration in October. Get registered and enjoy.

I have been busy with the Faith Talks, Voices from the Field, the Reading Program Books and the Response Magazine. This is an important, active, time for social action. We must be informed in order to protect our rights. Take advantage of the many ways United Women in Faith make possible to us.

Hope to see you in 2026.

Blessings.



Shirley M. Carpenter  
8228 Bothwell Hwy  
Morenci, MI 49256  
517-458-7367  
Carpshirley3@gmail.com

Unit President Diane Tandy  
welcoming us to the  
Epiphany Celebration  
at North Lake UMC



## Heritage District 2026 Calendar

Mar 7, Saturday	9:30-11:30am	<b>Training for all Local Unit members</b> Heritage Team, <b>ZOOM MEETING</b>
Apr 15, Wednesday	10 am	Leadership Team – in person at host church for set up Brighton FUMC
Apr 18, Saturday	8:30am-12:30pm	<b>Prayer Breakfast</b> for all district members Brighton FUMC
May 15-17		<b>UWFaith Assembly</b> at Indianapolis, IN
May 29-31		Michigan Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church – Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City, MI
Jun 20, Saturday		Heritage Leadership Team Meeting and Cluster Fun Day
July 16-18		<b>Mission u</b> at Mt. Pleasant First UMC
Sep 12, Saturday		Heritage Leadership Team Meeting and Cluster Fun Day at Manchester UMC
Oct 10, Saturday		<b>Annual Celebration/Business Meeting – TBD</b>
Oct 16, Friday		<b>Michigan Conference UWFaith</b> Leadership Training – Hope UMC, Southfield, MI
Oct 17, Saturday		<b>Michigan Conference UWFaith Annual Celebration and Business Meeting – Hope UMC, Southfield, MI</b>
Nov 18, Wednesday		Leadership Team Meeting – In Person wrap up for the year location & time TBD

### Julia Hulka, Conference Secretary of Program Resources

On Tuesday, February 24, from 7-8pm , the National UWFaith Book Discussion will be on *#SayHerName: Black Women’s Stories of Police Violence and Public Silence*.

This is a small group book discussion, and reading the book in advance is a requirement.

Sign up at <https://uwfaith-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/COkRcasoT2m2LPUY5yxqZg>

Space is limited, and on a first-come, first-served basis.