



CENTRAL BAY DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Around the Bay December, 2020

President



Ruth's Wild Ride!

Four years ago, I became co-president of the Saginaw Bay District UMW with Julia Hulka. Just about the time that Julia and I had figured out how to be co-presidents, the United Methodist Annual Conference rearranged the districts and Julia's church was in a different district and I became president of the Central Bay District UMW all by myself. What an experience. We gained officers from two other districts and surrendered officers to another district.

Along with the new district came the need for Standing Rules to tell us how to operate. With a little help from team members and my typing, the new Standing Rules were written and approved at the Annual Meeting.

In 2019, Central Bay District held their first annual Celebration and Annual meeting at Ames United Methodist Church. In preparation for the annual meeting, a new banner was made. In May, as you know, Sanford had a huge flood and my basement had four inches of water in it. Relatively speaking, four inches wasn't too bad, but the banner got wet and the ink bled and destroyed the banner. And then... the pandemic happened! Many events were cancelled, and District Team meetings were held by Zoom!

In October, the second annual Central Bay District Celebration and Annual Meeting was held by Zoom. So now, it is time to say thank you for all of you who have participated in District UMW events and supported me during these past four years. It has been a wild ride, but I have enjoyed it.

I have had many opportunities to share my love of UMW and to meet many of you. Every place that I have visited I have made new friends. It has been a

privilege to serve. I look forward to seeing you in the future at District UMW events.

Leadership training for Local Unit Presidents

Leadership training for local unit presidents will be held **via Zoom on Tuesday, January 5 at 6:30 p.m.** If you are the president of your local unit, please plan to attend. Every president will be sent an invitation via e-mail with the information for joining the Zoom meeting. If we do not have your e-mail please call Ruth Sutton (989-708-9968) or send your e-mail to her at suttonr1@charter.net. Please come to the meeting prepared to share with others your best ideas for UMW.

In Christ's love,

Ruth Sutton

e-mail: suttonr1@charter.net

phone: 989-708-9968

HAS YOUR UNIT COMPLETED THE UMW UNIT SURVEY?

The UMW Census is now the 2020 'Unit Survey'. It is a 32 step/question survey of basic info on your Unit and some yes/no questions

Access the online form @ www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2020. Unit President's or their designee should go to the website and complete the survey by March 31, 2021.



Vice President

Greetings from your outgoing Vice President and incoming Co-President, serving with Caroline Diaz. I am excited to start my new position in January. I have a lot to learn and big shoes to fill

following our outgoing President Ruth Sutton. I am sure Caroline feels the same.

This year has been a challenge for all of us due to the COVID Pandemic and Social distancing, the cancellation of so many events with our UMW, not being able to attend church services, or being able to be with family and friends. Then we had the flood that affected some of us and dealing with the loss of so much, the cleanup, and then deciding to do the Central Bay District Annual Celebration virtually by Zoom. With the help of everyone, everything went well. Thank you, Diana Miller for helping us make this a successful event. Thank you to all of you who attended.

I pray that you and your family are healthy and staying safe, wearing your masks, and praying that 2021 is a better year.

Plans for next year are coming along. It has been my pleasure to serve as your District Vice President and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please if you have any questions, contact me or any of the District Team and we will get the information to you.

Doris Simons
dorissimons@att.net
(989)781-1492

Secretary

I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I know I'm looking forward to decorating for the holidays and preparing my family's favorite foods.



I am excited to let you know I will be serving as Co-President of the Central Bay District United Methodist Women (CBDUMW) next year with Doris Simons. This is my last newsletter article as your CBDUMW Secretary. Being a member of the Central Bay District United Methodist Women Team is a joy and the friendships I've made over the years are priceless. More importantly is how much a small group of women can accomplish when they put their minds and hearts into it. It has been a challenging time with all the changes but

very rewarding. In the upcoming months, let's put our heads together and find out what we need to do to encourage more women to participate in our UMW ministry. We have a little time now to come up with some great ideas on how to encourage women in our local churches to get involved.

I hope that those of you who were able to join us for our Virtual CBDUMW Annual Celebration were able to enjoy it. The music was great. Meeting virtually is no substitute for meeting in person, but we still wish to offer you all a chance to gather safely and continue to be enriched and we are always blessed to be together no matter how it is being accomplished.

I have been reading many of our great United Methodist Women Reading List Books. I highly recommend doing so. I have learned so much from all the books I have read. You can find most of the books at your local libraries. The reading lists can be found at our national website <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org>

Thank you for submitting your 2021 officers list. The official deadline was November 1, 2020. Please continue to send them to me at 5622 West Spring Knoll Dr., Bay City, MI 48706. I would still appreciate receiving a completed form from your unit even if there are no changes. When you fill out the forms, don't forget zip codes with zip code extensions, e-mail addresses if available, and write (NC) in front of the officers' names if there is no change. Please remember to send me this information as soon as possible. **Starting January 1, 2021 you will send the information to our new Secretary** Jeanne Shelander at email address: jmshelander@gmail.com, Telephone Number: 989-386-2063, Address: 132 John R Street, Clare, MI 48617-1220

Thank you for paying attention to details. This critical information determines whether or not you receive communication from the CBDUMW, Thank you to all the local unit secretaries for your time, talent and dedication.

I have noticed that we have had hardly any changes to any positions for next year. So far I have received no new Secretaries for any Local Units. I have decided that due to no new secretaries that an official training presentation will be unnecessary in

January. I will be available anytime to answer any questions you have regarding your position. I will also send out information to you if you request it either by email, telephone or US mail. See below for my contact information.

I pray that this Pandemic will be over soon, and we can get back to normal. We are living through challenging times right now. I know it is hard on all of us. I desperately miss my own family. Please try to keep in touch with your family and friends by reaching out by sending cards and making phone calls. Please know that the District Team misses you all during this difficult time and prays that you are healthy.

God bless you all,

Caroline M. Diaz
Secretary Central Bay District
diazc5282@gmail.com
5622 W. Spring Knoll Dr.
Bay City, MI 48706
989-450-1735



Treasurer

What a year we have had, one like never before and hope to never see again. The corona virus which shut down our country and churches affected our ability to have fundraisers and pay our pledge to our churches and UMW. It taught us how to meet virtually by zoom. The presidential debates, the election, and the aftermath have challenged us to keep our cool and respect each other's opinions. Some of us in the Central Bay District had flooding issues this spring when a dam released all of its water on the surrounding communities. Yes, the year 2020 will go down in history as a year like no other.

The monetary giving of UMW's units is down as one would expect when units are unable to meet. I know things are tough everywhere. What I would say to all UMW's units is give whatever you can whenever you can.

Despite all these issues there are a number of units who have been able to meet their pledge goals and have become 5 star units for 2020, and I am praising God and thanking Him for those of you who have met the challenge and overcome.

Our virtual district meeting was a huge success. We had a wonderful offering of \$1404. Some of this money came in after I had sent checks of \$393 to each of the designated charities. So now I will send another check for \$75 to God's Cooperative Parish, United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids and to the Michigan Conference for flood disaster relief. Thanks to all of you for your generosity.

If you have sent me money after November 21st, I will hang onto that check until January 2021 before depositing it as I need to close out the books and balance my accounts. If there are any new treasurers out there who need forms or who have questions about the treasurer's job, I will be happy to talk with you about your concerns. That goes for anyone who is a treasurer for any UMW group.

Finally, ladies, I want to wish all of you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe! Stay well!

Blessings,
Bonnie Dunstan
989-856-3263
willbdun@comcast.net
5760 Pine Dr, Caseville Mi 48725



Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

As I write this article, we are approaching Thanksgiving, and we truly have so much to be thankful for. Yes, the year has been unprecedented and fraught with many twists and turns that have not necessarily been to our liking. However, we are still blessed with God's love and protection and that is the biggest blessing of all.

There are several things that I wish to bring to your attention. The first is our World Thank Offering. There is still time to get it in if you have not already done so. Secondly, a reminder to send in your list of officers for 2021. Many of you may have the same officers serving in 2021 that served in 2020. If so, please at least send Carrie Diaz an email (diazc5282@gmail.com) letting her know that your officers for 2021 are the same as 2020. Thirdly, now is a good time to work on filling out your Mission Unit Objectives Report. You may or may not have been meeting since March, but if you have, get your reports in to me by the February deadline. Although our Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations may not be the same as they have been in years past, we still have much to be thankful for and much to celebrate. Now is the time to see just how creative we can be as we strive to find new ways, SAFE WAYS, to share with our family and friends the JOY of the ADVENT season.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING, MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

NANCY CLINE
nancylecline@gmail.com 989-401-1217

Social Action

To participate or advocate for a Social Action issue has become a tricky, if not an actual controversial, endeavor. We not only may be attacked (verbally or physically), but we may also lose friendships and family. When did the second commandment from Jesus have to be on a political party's platform before a person can decide if it is correct??

We are to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are to treat our neighbors as we would want to be treated. Do we want to be treated with kindness, understanding, tolerance, and acceptance? Do we want our children and grandchildren to attend safe, clean, well- built schools that present challenging, well presented curriculum? Do we want to live in environments that are safe from air and water pollution? Do we want environments with safe streets and parks, where there is no possibility of a



drive by shooting killing a child? Do we want to have the worries that one of our friends or a member of our family will become addicted to some form of drug; or that they will be convicted of a crime and incarcerated?

Most of us would answer these questions in the positive!

Yet we constantly read and watch horrible situations where not all people act in ways that will produce a joyful life. In fact, we read and watch mostly where they don't. Anger and disrespect never lead to solutions, and they are not what Jesus taught.

Our world NEEDS much help. With guidance and information found in the United Methodist Women Social Action material, we can find help in gaining facts and becoming informed. Discussion that is calm and well-presented can be productive to finding solutions.

Go to: UnitedMethodistWomen.org

There you will find resources, advocacy, and campaign information. You can download posters about the current campaigns of Climate Justice, Economic Inequality, Maternal and Child Health, and School to Prison Pipeline. In December there will be such a presentation.

Blessings,
Jeanne Shelander
jmselander@gmail.com
 989-386-2063



*Mission Coordinator for
 Spiritual Growth*

Greetings to all our Sisters in Christ,

While I sometimes feel like a fish trying to swim upstream but getting nowhere fast, I stop and remember that through God all things are possible. We will move forward under His shield and keep doing his work.

This year has proven to be challenging, and we will be using Zoom again to share the Spiritual Brunch

like we did the Annual Celebration in October, and we will probably also have the Spiritual Life Retreat on Zoom. Registration forms for both events are in this newsletter. We have great guest speakers lined up for you and you won't want to miss out on their message.

There is a phrase I have seen repeated time and again these past few weeks, so I will use it to encourage each of you as we move through these trying times. It is "FAITH OVER FEAR". Keep strong of heart and know that this too shall pass.

2 Corinthians 4:7-18.

Linda Kube lindaakube@yahoo.com
989-928-8165

Pam Ginderske pamelaginderske@yahoo.com
Co-chairs of Spiritual Growth

Secretary of Program Resources



How are your reading reports coming for 2020? You may start sending me those reports any time. They are actually due in January of 2021, but the most important thing is that you send them to me! And are you excited about 2021????

There are a few changes happening with the reading program books starting in 2021. The new list will now be the same for two years (2021-2022), and they will still be good for six years. Another change is you can participate in Faith Talks, which are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women, and that will count as one book. Check out interviews with UMW mission study authors and more at: unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks. You can find the 2021-2022 book list online. Just google search UMW reading program. The website is unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram.

I took the new list and searched our Caro District Library and was able to find 15 of the new books available for FREE. And that is just the new list. Remember the previous six years are eligible for your reports.

You can also find the reading report forms on the website. However, it's not necessary to use one. Just keep a record on paper and send it to me, or even an email is perfect. One book from the five categories = Plan 1 (total of 5 books read). Two books from each of the five categories = Plan 2 and so on.... Anyone needing help or having questions on the reading program, please don't hesitate to ask! Recently I had two churches call and email questions about starting a Reading Program in their Church. HOW EXCITING!!!

This certainly has been an interesting year, but did you know that you can still listen to one of the Mission u studies on "Finding Peace in an Anxious World"? How appropriate for this year. Go to the MI Conference UMW website and you will find four recorded sessions on this book. You will find much more great information also. Happy Reading,

Lisa Wightman 989-673-7079
klwightman@yahoo.com
1902 Pierce Road, Caro MI 48723 (New address)



Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach

Greetings to Central Bay
District UMW members,

Due to the *Corona Virus (Covid 19)* all of our District and other meetings are being held via ZOOM. I am in the process of sending out letters to my DZone units. My church has finally reopened, and I hope we will all continue to stay safe throughout the rest of the year.

It has been a real challenge having all our meetings via ZOOM but I enjoyed it a lot seeing all you ladies on and welcome to the new district team member from Auburn UMW. I relish all the encouraging words of hope and redemption from the Bishop and other member organizations.

Blessings to you all,
EDITH COOPER
ecsaginaw@aol.com (989)752-0340



Committee on Nominations Chair

Hats off to all who agreed to serve women, children, and youth through United Methodist Women! Hats off to the Central Bay District leadership team and to each local unit of UMW who said “yes!”

But some hats are still ready to be claimed: Nominations committee members and Coordinators for Education & Interpretation and for Social Action. Which hat fits you?

Hat #1: Nominations. You are the eyes and ears of the committee. You search for potential candidates to serve on the district team. It’s a big district, and we want women on our team from every quadrant. Does that fit you? Contact me! It’s not too late to add you to the team for 2021.

Hat #2: Education & Interpretation. Do you read Response? The E&I coordinator provides a “Response” moment, highlighting an article from the current issue (which you receive free as an officer) at our team meeting. You also encourage local units to fulfill the Mission Today Objectives and provide certificates to them at the Annual Celebration. Is this a hat you could wear? Give me a call!

Hat #3: Social Action. Do you have a passion for justice? We need you to educate local units about our quadrennial focus issues. Maternal health, economic justice, climate justice, and criminalization of communities of color have been our focus for 2016-2020. What will UMW members focus on next? If you’re ready to advocate for justice, this hat is for you!

In Michigan we understand how important hats are—they keep you warm in the coldest weather. I guarantee that when you put on a UMW hat, your heart will feel strangely warmed!

Contact me and I’ll make sure you get a hat. Or contact me if you need ideas for your local unit.

Rene Johnson, Chair of Nominations

renejohnson@charter.net

809 Wyllys Street
Midland, MI 48642
989-631-2378



Communication Coordinator

We are now sending out the newsletter by email. It is very important that you submit email addresses on the Officer’s list to our current secretary, Caroline Diaz. If you have new email addresses not submitted already, please send them to her or to me.

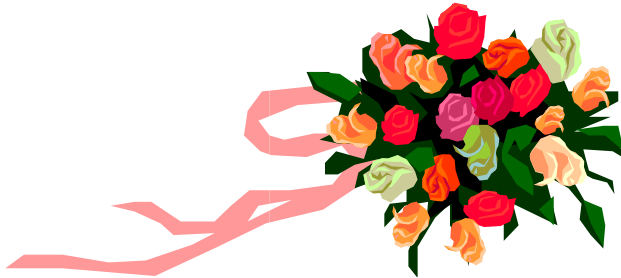
We will, of course, send out the newsletter by regular mail to those who have no email.

Please look at the flyers within this newsletter for the Spiritual Brunch, Spiritual Retreat, and Mission Today Unit Objectives. Registration forms are there for you to fill out and turn in, even though the events will be zoom meetings. You can make copies of these forms to share with your church members or friends, as everyone is invited.

May we together pray for a better year in 2021.

Judy Gerken jrgerk@yahoo.com
989-755-4848

In Remembrance



Women Who Have Passed Away in Your Unit in 2020

As a district we would like to take this time to remember the women who have passed away from your unit in 2020. They will be listed in our 2021 program booklet of the Central Bay District Celebration and Leadership Training event.

NOTE! Submit only names of those who passed away in 2020.

Please submit the **names, church and date of death** to:

Judy Gerken by

March 1, 2021

E-mail jrgerk@yahoo.com

Or Mail to: 3300 Sunnyview Drive
Saginaw, MI 48604

Central Bay District United Methodist Women
3764 Fashion Square Blvd. #1
Saginaw, MI. 48603



“Around the Bay” December 2020

Dates to Remember for 2021

February 13 *Spiritual Enrichment Brunch on Zoom*

April 3 *Keep Making Peace, East Lansing, MI (tentative)*

April 23-24 *Spiritual Life Retreat on Zoom*

June 3 *Michigan UMC Annual Conference on Zoom*

July 7-10 *Mission u of the West, Albion College*

July 24 *Mission u of the South, Troy Big Beaver UMC*

August 12-14 *Mission u of the East, Lake Huron Retreat Center*

October 2 *Central Bay District Celebration Day & ELT, Mt Pleasant First UMC*

October 18-19 *Mission u of the North, Gaylord First UMC*

October 22-23 *Michigan Conference UMW Annual Training and Celebration,
Kalamazoo Westwood UMC*