



# NORTHERN LIGHT

## GRAND TRAVERSE DISTRICT UMW

MARCH 2017

### IMPORTANT DATES OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Spring Retreat**  
**April 21-22**  
**Lake Louise**

**Social Action Day**  
**May 23**  
**Empire**

**Mission u**  
**July 13-15**  
**Albion**

**Mission Day**  
**August 3**  
**Barnard**

### PURPOSE OF THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The organized unit of United Methodist Women

Shall be a community of women

Whose PURPOSE is to know God

And to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ

To develop a creative, supportive fellowship

And to expand concepts of mission through participation in the

Global ministries of the church.

### **United Methodist Women Assembly 2018**

SAVE-THE-DATE: MAY 18, 19, 20, 2018, Columbus, Ohio

Watch for information coming soon!

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



**The Grand Traverse District Team October 2016**

I am so excited to serve this year as your **President** of the Grand Traverse District United Methodist Women Leadership Team. I really appreciate the work of our last president, Judy Gasco. I want to have an open line of communication with all of our units. Your unit should have received your 2017 GTD UMW Handbook; if you have not, please let me know. Please check your entry to be sure it is accurate. Also check out nearby local units so you might be able to visit them, attend their events and support each other (plus get ideas from others!). It also lists your SPECIAL FRIEND from the Leadership Team. If she hasn't contacted you, please contact her! Is there a nearby church without a local unit? Maybe you could invite their ladies to join your unit! All churches are listed in our district, with or without a local unit.

On your behalf, in January, I went to Leadership Development Days in Charlotte NC. National UMW paid for all of my expenses and I learned so much and I hope to be able to share some of it with you through the next few newsletters. The big thing is the CENSUS! Go to [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org) and register yourself as a UMW member and also presidents should register your local unit. This will be helpful for future communication. For those without e-mail/internet access, someone else can register for them. Let's have 100% GTD participation in this endeavor.

Our usual events continue on this year including our upcoming spring retreat held annually at our very own Lake Louise Camp. You will find registration information elsewhere in this newsletter. Register early—we only have a limited number of spots!!!! I enjoy it as I like getting to know others from around our district. Our other day events are fast and to the point but at retreat, well, we get to RETREAT! R&R!

Consider also attending our Social Action Day. Do you want to get younger ladies involved in your unit? Let them know about the information to be received at social action day.....young women want to be

involved! Then there's mission day and our all important annual meeting!!!! Great speakers at all. Watch for more information.

Save your dollars now to be able to attend Assembly held once every four years, May 18-20, 2018 in Columbus OH. Last time it was in Louisville KY and so I would expect the next one will be much further from us. This is a great opportunity to plan to attend. Early registration ends Nov 30, 2017!!!!

***"Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."*** (Psalms 34:14)

Our current mission focuses:

- Criminalization of Communities of Color
- Economic Inequality
- Climate Justice
- Maternal and Child Health

We would love to publish articles in our newsletter from your local units as to how you are lifting up, studying, etc. these four areas.

If you have suggestions for programs or events for the District to put on, please feel free to contact me as well as about anything else! Even if you just want to chat or if you need prayer. You can text or call me at 231-838-5986 or home phone is 231-347-5463 or by e-mail is [onthebay@chartermi.net](mailto:onthebay@chartermi.net)

**Susan Wirgau**

### **USING OUR MONEY WISELY**

The Grand Traverse District UMW receives all donations from our local units and also budget money from the West Michigan Conference. The total income for the GT District is these two added together.

90% of these monies are sent on to the West Michigan Conference and the National Advisory Group to be applied to United Methodist Women missions. Information about these missions is contained in articles in our Response Magazine.

10% of these monies are spent here in our District for membership development and administration. The Grand Traverse District team receives mission education and leadership training. This helps our District team serve you by planning and providing all your District events like the Spring Retreat, Social Action Day, Mission Day and the Annual Meeting. Our team works together to share information with you, such as our District Directory and this Newsletter. We travel and extend to you as your Special Friends.

As you plan your personal pledges and local fund raisers for this year, know that your money is well spent and makes our mission with women, children and youth possible. May we all join together to provide for our 2017 Grand Traverse District UMW goal of \$42,400.00.

Please notify me of other money matter questions so I may serve you better,

**Sally Smith, GTDUMW Treasurer**      s-sew-s@sbcglobal.net

## **GREETINGS FROM YOUR DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON ON NOMINATIONS!**

You may ask yourself, especially if you are new to UMW, what on earth is that position about and what do they do? Well, ideally there are five of us on a committee, and our purpose is to seek out good candidates to fill open positions on our district leadership team. Sounds easy, doesn't it? But as many of you have found out, finding good volunteers is not usually all that easy! They have to be open to that "still, small voice inside" that is telling them that this is something they can do to further God's purpose for us on earth!

Your district leadership team is here to support and encourage all of the ladies in our UMW units, and one of the ways we do that is by planning four events in the spring, summer, and fall that you can attend and learn about what UMW is doing locally, nationally, and world-wide to make this world a better place for women, children, and youth. We are the largest and longest-lasting faith-based women's organization in the nation (and probably world), and we're about to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> year in 2018! That's amazing!

Right now we have a few openings on our team and my committee is seeking "a few good women" to fill them! I would like to have two more persons on our nominations committee from the Manistee and Ludington areas, so that all parts of our district are represented on the committee. We also have an opening for a Program Resources Coordinator (our "Book Lady"), so if you like to read this is a good position for you! We also need an official Social Action Coordinator, who keeps us informed of what's going on in the world and what we, as United Methodist Women, can do about it! And to round out our team, we could use a Vice President. I started out in that position, and I found a whole bunch of new girlfriends who love the Lord and want to serve Him. It's a wonderful time of friendships, action, and spiritual growth, so won't you please consider joining us?

Please come to our Spring Retreat in April and Social Action Day in May so that we can meet you and you can see that United Methodist Women events are worth our time and effort to attend! And we would love to have your input on our District Team!

May God bless you as you seek to serve Him,

**Judy Gasco**

## 15th ANNUAL KEEP MAKING PEACE Confronting Michigan's Climate Change

Bishop David Bard will share a United Methodist perspective on the topic.  
Saturday April 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
University UMC/ MSU Wesley  
1120 S Harrison Rd East Lansing 48823

Register by March 17 for the **Early Bird Discount**; \$25 per person or \$50 per carload of 3 or more persons, After March 17: \$30 per person & \$60 per carload. [msuwesley.org/kmp2017](http://msuwesley.org/kmp2017)

United Methodist Women members and groups around the country are getting ready for the third annual Day of Giving on March 23, 2017, part of the organization's five-year 150th anniversary culminating in 2019.

The March 23 Day of Giving honors the day in 1869 when a small group of women braved a legendary torrential rain to gather at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts, and organized for mission. The women established the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, a predecessor of United Methodist Women, and galvanized women around the country to raise money to send a doctor, Clara Swain, and a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, to India as missionaries to serve the women of that nation.

**A Day of Giving** gifts go to **The Legacy Fund**, a permanent endowment that will support the mission outreach of future generations of United Methodist Women as they address the needs of women, children and youth of their day. Members in every conference participated in the first Day of Giving in 2015, giving more than \$100,000 through online gifts, toll-free calls, Smartphone texting and mailed-in checks.

"Our foremothers are standing beside us through \$1.3 million a year in interest on endowments that they established to support mission with women, children and youth today. That's a significant legacy," said Martha S. Knight, treasurer of United Methodist Women. "The Day of Giving is an opportunity for women today to give that kind of legacy to their daughters and granddaughters and nieces as they make mission happen with women, children and youth of their day. Thanks be to God."

**A Day of Giving** will be a 24-hour giving festival. Members and friends may give:

- Online at [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund).
- By phone: 800-278-7771 (8 a.m.-6 p.m. EST, Monday-Friday).
- Text **Legacy150** to 41444.
- By check to Office of the Treasurer, United Methodist Women, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. Write "The Legacy Fund" in the memo section.

Conference United Methodist Women Liaisons will be notified of contributions from women in their area — but the amount of the gift will always remain confidential.

United Methodist Women members and friends may consider giving \$15 or \$150 or even \$1,500, in recognition of our upcoming 150th anniversary, or \$18.69 or \$186.90 or even \$1,869, in recognition of the year of United Methodist Women's founding.

A Day of Giving gifts are 100 percent tax deductible. Contributors will receive an immediate thank you and a printable tax receipt for 100 percent of their donation.

Spread the word! As with our foremothers in 1869, in the 21st century women still need to organize for mission. **Make it happen with a gift to The Legacy Fund on March 23, A Day of Giving.**

## WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Let us know what your Unit is doing. Write a short article for future newsletters.

[trudihook@charter.net](mailto:trudihook@charter.net) newsletter editor

The website for the Grand Traverse District is [grand-traverse.michiganumc.org](http://grand-traverse.michiganumc.org), once there you can click on United Methodist Women.

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### **White Breakfast Event**

Features Rev. Jane Lippert

Women of the community are invited to a White Breakfast on Saturday, March 18, at 10 AM at the Manistee United Methodist Church, 387 First Street. This is a traditional Lenten event which offers a silent breakfast of Hot Cross buns and fruit with an opportunity for contemplation and prayer.

Rev. Jane Lippert, a Manistee native, now Outreach Minister at Central United Methodist Church in Traverse City, will speak after the breakfast.

Call Shirley, 723-6219, for a place at the table. There is no charge for the breakfast. Sheryl Guenthardt and Dee Kula are co-chairmen of the event which is sponsored by United Methodist Women.

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## SOCIAL ACTION DAY

The topic for this year's study will be Poverty & Education. The date is Tuesday May 23 at Empire UMC. The offering will go to the UMW cause of Children for a Brighter Future. We will also be collecting items that classrooms are always running out of such as wipes, hand sanitizer and Kleenexes.

More information will follow as plans are in place.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 23 Annual day of Giving for the Legacy Fund

April 1 Keep Making Peace University UMC, East Lansing

April 21-22 Spring Retreat Lake Louise

May 23 Social Action Day Empire UMC

July 13-15 Mission u Albion College

August 3 Mission Day Barnard UMC

Sept 16 District Annual Ludington UMC

Oct 16-17 Mission u of the North Gaylord UMC

Oct 21 Annual Conference Mt Pleasant First UMC