



United
Methodist
Women

United Methodist Women Niagara Frontier District Newsletter

June, July, August 2019

The organized unit of the 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.

Contents:

- Mission U registration deadline! Register now!
- Niagara Frontier UMW Fall Annual meeting registration form
- From President Karen Wehn
- Social Action suggestions
- Directory delayed
- Reading Program

Please share this information with other members of your church! In addition to the E-Connection emailed to all pastors, this issue of the newsletter is being sent to the unit presidents or their representatives for each of the 35 active UMW units in our district.

Mission U: Mission u is almost here, so it's time to send in your application to reserve your spot. As this year's Dean, I can assure you that you will have a fantastic time.

Our lodgings will be at the Asbury Camp and Retreat Center in the comfortable Manor on **Thursday, July 25th through Saturday, July 27th**. Registration begins at 9:00 AM on Thursday although those who choose may come up the night before for an additional fee of \$40 (meals are on your own).

The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 25 and continue through 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 27. An offering will be taken on Saturday for the Legacy Fund.

There are two studies, *What About Our Money* (about the distribution of wealth) and *Practicing Resurrection: the Gospel of Mark and Discipleship* (a radical interpretation of this Gospel). We will also continue to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the United Methodist Women. It should be an inspiring three days. At Saturday's closing worship, an offering will be taken for the Legacy Fund.

Our mission project is in support of the Pink Bag Ministry for Lady Vets. Donations are needed including shampoo, lotion, deodorant, hairbrushes, chapstick, toothbrushes, and/or toothpaste (appropriate for women). Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted. Please make checks out to Trinity UMW.

Just a heads up that we no longer can get materials on consignment, so you will need to pre-purchase your study guides. This should be done as soon as possible, although you might consider downloading the study guides as ebooks.

I hope to see many of you in just a few weeks. Contact me at 716-208-6802 with questions.

Ellen Klock, Dean of Region 3 Mission u, Upper New York Conference

Registration p. 1
Mission u
Asbury Camp and Retreat Center
Silver Lake, NY

All participants take:

Spiritual Growth: *Practicing Resurrection:
Gospel of Mark and Discipleship*
Social Action: *What About Our Money? A
Faith Response*

Check all that apply ☐ Study Leader

- ☐ Resident ☐ Mission u team
☐ Clergy ☐ First timer
☐ Conference Officer ☐ Scholarship recipient

Please list special needs (dietary, handicap accessibility,
childcare, etc.)

District _____
Church _____
Amount enclosed _____
Check# _____
Check payable to: UNYSOCM REGION 3

Funds are transferable but not refundable
Study books may be purchased online at

Scholarships are available for first-timers
Need information? Contact:

Tracy Jackson-Adams
tracy.jackson.tmj@gmail.com
585-472-6252

**Learning Together for
Transformation of the World**

Mission u offers opportunities to study current
issues that have an impact on society based on
recent mission study topics.

Mission u is open to women, men, youth,
clergy and laity.

Study groups are offered on three topics:

- ❖ Spiritual Growth(SG)
- ❖ Geographic (G)
- ❖ Social Action (SA)

At Mission u one grows in understanding of
the mission of the church in the current world
context. The studies give particular emphasis
to the responsibilities of people of faith in the
fulfillment of the mission work of the church

Mission u also includes:

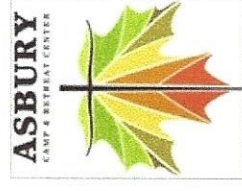
- ❖ Worship & Singing
- ❖ Interest Groups around current issues
- ❖ Audiovisual presentations
- ❖ Great fellowship

ONE CONFERENCE – THREE CHOICES

Other Mission u events are planned at
Silver Bay, NY September 6-9, 2019.
Cazenovia, NY

Upper New York Conference
United Methodist Women

Mission u
July 25 – 27, 2019



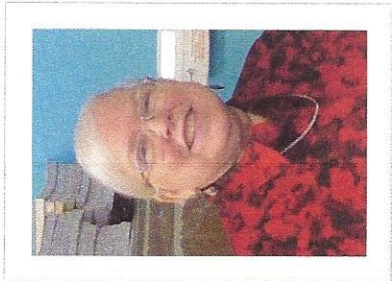
**Asbury Camp &
Retreat Center**
Silver Lake, New York



Contact: Ellen Klock, Dean
olmstedlms@gmail.com
716-208-6802

Meet our study leaders

What About Our Money?



Leeda Marsh is retired, having last worked as a secretary for a small manufacturing company. She is an active member of Leominster (Massachusetts) United Methodist Church serving as Worship Ministry Team Chair, as laymember to Annual conference, and singing tenor in the choir. Leeda has been actively involved in United Methodist Women for over twenty five years and has served at the conference, and district levels. She currently serves her local unit as Treasurer, and serves as Business Manager for the Northeastern Jurisdiction UMW. Over the years, Leeda has been a study leader for New England, East Ohio, Susquehanna (PA), Eastern PA, and Upper New York Conferences.

She has facilitated many Mission studies including Matthew, James, Concerning Prayer, Children of the Bible, Vietnam, Cambodia, & Laos; the Roma of Europe, and What About Our Money? Leeda's other interests include reading, classical music, movies, genealogy, and travelling.

Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Discipleship



Cindy VanAllen is a retired teacher of special needs students as well as a retired licensed local pastor. She spends much of her time volunteering at her church, Foothills United Methodist Church, and crafting for many mission projects. She leads a weekly Bible Study at her church and currently is doing the Discipline 1 program. She is Program leader for her local UMW unit, chairperson for the Worship Team, co-chair of the Sunday school program, Membership secretary, and co-leader of the church's MOPS (mothers of preschoolers) program. Some of her mission projects are making no-sew blankets for the homeless teens and oncology patients in the area, making prayer shawls for nursing homes and teddy bear sweaters for Paul Newman's Hole in the Wall camp in Lake Luzerne. Cindy is married to her husband Leo, has two grown sons and five grandchildren. She has attended Mission u for seven years and has been the dean and assistant dean for Silver Bay in the UNY Conference.

Registration p. 2

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____
City, State, Zip _____
Name of Roommate _____
Emergency contact _____
Phone _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____

Please submit a separate registration for each participant.

Please fill in **FRONT AND BACK** of this section and mail with **check payable to: UNYSOCM REGION 3**

Send to:

Cathie Phelps
P.O. Box 171, Sardinia, NY 14134
cathiephelps@aol.com
716-432-0790

Cost includes Registration, Room & Board: Resident Thurs.-Sat.

Double Occupancy **\$235** (2 nights, 8 meals)
Single Occupancy **\$275** (2 nights, 8 meals)

Commuter \$155 (8 meals)

The registration deadline is **July 10, 2019**

Niagara Frontier District United Methodist Women Annual Meeting

Eden United Methodist Church

2820 E Church St, Eden, NY 14057

Saturday, October 5, 2019

9:15 – 10:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee Hour, Displays, Resources

10:15 Business Meeting

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Program



“The Next 150 Years”

Speaker: Carmen Vianese, Upper New York UMW President

Cost: \$10.00 by September 30th (includes coffee hour & lunch)
(Registrations received after September 30th - \$15.00)

Please RSVP no later than Monday, September 30th to:

Beverly Mingle

64 Broughton Street, Apt. 1

Tonawanda, NY 14150

bamingle@hotmail.com, 716-743-1081

Make checks payable to: Niagara Frontier District UMW

*** Mission Resources no longer does commission sales. We will order Program Books and Prayer Calendars (only 10% shipping on a pooled order). If you are interested, contact Cathie Phelps at 716-432-0790 before September 10 when the order will be sent in.**

-----Cut Here-----

Name of Unit: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Number attending _____

Amount enclosed _____

Please print names of all attendees:

Summer Greetings from your Niagara Frontier District UMW President:

Eight Years ago, Ellen Klock gave me a little mascot that has accompanied me through my years of being the Niagara Frontier District's president. It is a sculpture of a little frog with these words written on the base; "Life requires leaps of faith". Amen to that. God calls us to take these leaps all the time and I have never been disappointed to have said "yes" when He has called. Oh, sometimes I have pondered it; sometimes it seems easier to say, "Who, me?!" or, "Why ME?" instead of "Send me!" I remember when I was first approached by the nominations committee, I declined the request. Then at the nominations meeting at church, I saw that no one was coming forward. God nudged me and said, "You can do this this." Frankly, I'm glad I did.

And those eight years have flown by. Seriously, I do not know where they went. All of it has been good. One of my first meetings as a district officer was Northeast Jurisdictional in Hershey, Pennsylvania. I was blown away by the diversity of all the women and how everyone came together, put aside differences and did God's work for the betterment and uplifting of women and children and in so doing, for the betterment of the human race. It was clear to me from the beginning that our priorities were:

- the setting right of economic inequality,
- climate justice,
- the cessation of criminalization of communities of color, and
- maternal and child health.

Those four priorities together have inspired me to (finally) finish a doctorate by combining UMW social justice causes with environmental science by finding ways to get more diversity in environmental science at the high school and college level and beyond. In environmental science, we have gone beyond saving whales and hugging trees. Studies have shown that climate change adversely affects human health; pregnant women and children as well as older people in urban settings succumb to the effects of heat and are hospitalized at greater rates than the general population. There are also more frequent weather related natural disasters linked to climate change. Those topics are UMW concerns and we need all hands on deck to make progress in solving these problems. I probably would not have been inspired to carry this torch if not for what I have learned from being a part of UMW.

But it's not all about being so serious. There have been some really fun times, too. At our assembly in Columbus, Ohio, I wanted to visit some of my favorite places because I had gone to Ohio State many decades back. One of the places that had persevered all of those years was The Blue Danube restaurant on North High Street. In the past, diversity had always been the theme at the "Dube" just like it is at UMW. Students sat next to laborers sat next to immigrants sat next to politicians. Blacks sat next to Whites sat next to Native Americans, sat next to anyone who happened to be in the neighborhood. Everybody understood good, inexpensive food. And after 75 years, they were closing their doors. Six of us ended up there and between

Peggy (Niagara Frontier District) and Beverly (Genesee Valley District), the "Health With a Twist" workshop for the Day Apart this spring was launched. Held at Batavia United Methodist Church, the event was absolutely tremendous. There were good, healthful food demonstrations, prayer beads were made, liturgical dance was taught, we learned about prayer, mental health and so much more. God was at work at the Dube the night that idea came to be. This is one of the many great memories I'll take with me. (BEV! Thanks for the pictures!)

Thanks for the memories, ladies! I really appreciate you and all of your encouragement, and all that you do. Let's stay united in our causes. Together, we all can really make positive changes in this world. Thanks so much for your inspiration. Let's keep taking those leaps of faith and make good things happen.

Your Sister in Christ,

Karen Wehn

From Cathie Phelps, Niagara Frontier District UMW Secretary: Although this is a UMW newsletter, I am taking a chance to include something I was not aware of as a United Methodist about our *Social Principles* and *Book of Resolutions*. Following is an excerpt from an email from the **United Methodist General Board of Church and Society** <https://www.umcjustice.org/> about something we can do.

Tell Congress and President Trump: End child detention and family separation.

...The United Methodist Church opposes "immigration policies that separate family members from each other or that include detention of families with children" (*Social Principles*, ¶162.H). For years, the Church has called on the government to eliminate "indefinite detention, [and the] incarceration of children" and to establish "an immigration system that is rooted in the inherent worth, dignity, value and human rights of migrants." (*Book of Resolutions*, 3281)

Today, we call on you — United Methodists.

The United Methodist Church directs its local churches, congregations, and members to: "call the United States government to immediately cease all arrests, detainment, and deportations of undocumented immigrants, including children, solely based upon their immigration status until a fair and comprehensive immigration reform is passed." (*Book of Resolutions*, 3281) Church and Society, in partnership with other faith-based organizations and community groups, is calling for an immediate end to child detention and family separation. Join us. Help young people send letters and drawings to Congress and President Trump, and send your own. Now is the time to lift up your voice. Now is the time to take action...

Also from Cathie Phelps: I apologize for the delay in producing the Niagara Frontier UMW Directory! It was a much bigger job than anticipated. Right now there is no publication date but I'm still working on it! Send me updates of officers! cathiephelps@aol.com

Social Action news from Ellen Klock:

I would like to address an issue related to the UMW's focus on economic inequality. It is embarrassing to relate that the United States is the only industrialized nation which does not support Paid Family Leave. While New York State recently passed legislation providing for 8 weeks of paid leave at a rate of 55%, the vast majority of states are not supporting similar proposals. However, a bipartisan bill supporting Family and Medical Leave would cover the entire country for up to twelve weeks of pay for illness, caregiving, or a new child. The FAMILY Act would collect a payroll tax from employees and workers to create an insurance fund that pays for this benefit. The United Methodist Women are partnering with Family Values at Work (familyvaluesatwork.org) to advocate for this bill linking all three Mission studies.

More information is available at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/paid-family-leave. You are encouraged to contact your Congressman and Senator in support of this bill at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/leave

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Klock,
Social Action Chair for the
Upper New York Conference United Methodist Women
For any questions you can call me at 716-208-6802.

Upper New York Annual Conference UMW Annual Meeting

I would like everyone to save the date of Friday, September 20th and Saturday, September 21st for this year's United Methodist Women's Conference Annual Meeting. While the details are still being formulated, I do know that Mission is the main focus of this meeting with time set aside to work at the Hub helping setting up Cleaning Buckets and other kits distributed by UMCOR. This event will be held at the relatively new Methodist Conference Center in Liverpool (outside of Syracuse). There are reasonably priced lodgings close by at the Sturbridge where we will be staying overnight. More details to follow. Ellen Klock

Many thanks to those who participated in the very successful Gift Day at Trinity Grand Island March 16 when we heard Rev. Gregg Stierheim talk about Wesley's Place, the new faith community in the medical corridor. Piles of gifts were gratefully received by all the agencies highlighted.

A delicious and inspiring Communion Breakfast was held at Metropolitan UMC on April 13, during which Rev. De Finch shared some of her faith journey which has involved UMW.

Health with a Twist, in conjunction with Genesee Valley District, at Batavia UMC on May 4, provided good ideas for breakfasts, lunches, interpretive dance in worship, mental health, yoga, prayer beads, and a lot more.

More information about Network of Leaders on Saturday, November 9th at West Seneca: Hope UMC will be in the late August issue of this newsletter.

Reading Program:

I hope you are finding time to read as summer begins, especially books from the UMW reading list. I recently finished The Soulmaking Room by Dee Dee Risher, a 2019 Spiritual Growth selection. Risher shares her own life story, interwoven with the story of the prophet Elisha and the woman of Shunem (2 Kings 4:8-37), to illustrate how the difficult times in our lives form and shape who we are meant to be. The title refers both to a quote by the poet John Keats, who called this life a 'vale of Soul-making', and to the room the Shunemmite woman set aside in her home for Elisha, which would be a place for prayer and rest for him whenever he visited her town.

Risher writes about her travels in this country and to various parts of the globe, living and working with people of diverse cultures and races, in her search for "something deeper than and more vital than a good job and a comfortable life." From her encounters, she learns hospitality and community despite lack of money and resources, comparing the hospitality she finds, to that offered by the Shunemmite woman. She also writes about her family and raising her children in an urban setting, learning to live simply, and about her dreams of a world "beyond race", with a more equitable distribution of resources.

Finally, Risher shares her cultivation of gratitude which she says, allows us or makes us become our best selves. She concludes, "There is nothing that cannot be redeemed. Most of all, our whole and human selves." I found this book encouraging and challenging.

Another book you might consider is *Ahimsa* by Supriya Kelkar, from the Education for Mission category. Although set in pre-independence 1942 India, the echoes of its themes are very timely. How much do we risk for what we believe in? How do we exclude and fear "the other"? The struggle of Hindu/Muslim, Untouchable and Brahmin, Indian and British, nonviolence and violence, has had counterpoints throughout our lives. While this is rated as a Youth book, adults may count it toward the Reading Program requirements.

Check for reading list book titles and for requirements for completing the certificate program, on the United Methodist Women website under "Reading Program". The website says books from the 2014-2019 lists may be included in your reading for this year. Your county library is a source for some of the books, and most are available on Amazon, some in ebook format.

Please note that Mission Resources has eliminated the consignment program through which we used to have books for sale at the Fall Annual Meeting.

And don't forget to send me the names of those who have completed a Reading Program in 2019 by September 15 so I can prepare certificates and get the names in the program for the Annual Meeting on October 5.

I wish you a blessed and book filled summer!

Cheryl Buechi, Niagara Frontier District UMW Program Resources, 50 Dee Terrace, Cheektowaga, NY 14227 cbuechi@roadrunner.com

UMW Mission Today Unit

The purpose of the Mission Today Unit is to:

- ☐ Energize United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission, prayer, study, and action.
- ☐ Increase contacts between units and mission personnel and projects so that United Methodist Women understand where the money goes.
- ☐ Encourage use of mission resources.
- ☐ Expand concepts of mission, including social justice.

Criteria for a Mission Today Unit:

The unit must complete a minimum of 18 (gold), 14 (silver), 10 (bronze), 8 (supporting), and include (4) of the asterisked items. Certificates will be distributed each year at the District Annual Meeting.

- *1. Use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting of the unit to pray for persons of mission & their work.
- *2. The unit will make and meet its pledge to mission.
- *3. The unit will add at least **one new member**.
- *4. The unit will have at least one member subscribe to **Response Magazine** (suggest each unit purchase a copy to share).
- *5. The unit will use at least **two programs** from the Program Book during the year. (Possibilities – World Thank Offering and Call to Prayer and Self Denial).
- *6. The unit, circle, or subgroup will conduct at least **one Mission Study** each year.
- *7. The unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice Policies in at least **one way** during the year:
 - Read books or articles about other races & cultures
 - Hold a joint Vacation Bible School, worship, or event
 - Have a pulpit exchange or guest speaker
 - Encourage the church to sponsor a refugee family
 - Invite a guest/unit of a different race or ethnic group to join in a meeting or activity.
- 8. At least one member of the unit (other than a District or Conference officer) will attend Mission U (School of Mission).
- *9. At least one member (other than a District or Conference officer) will attend a District or Conference event.
- 10. The unit will have at least one person participate in the United Methodist Women's Action Network by reading and/or responding to legislative information.
- 11. Members will write to **five persons** listed in the Prayer Calendar.
- *12. The unit will be a 5-Star Unit contributing to the 5 channels of mission giving:
Pledge to Mission, World Thank Offering, Mission Card, Gift in Memory Card, Mission Pin
- 13. The unit will support a mission project, such as Pink Bag Treatment, Gift Day, Kits (Health, School), Flood Bucket, Prayer Shawls, Food Bank or Soup Kitchen, etc.
- 14. Each general meeting will include a "Response Moment" where an article from Response magazine will be lifted up as a way to share a mission story.
- 15. The unit will participate in the Campaign for Children. Possibilities for action include:
 - Help sponsor a church/community program related to children/youth needs
 - Sponsor a Children's Sabbath (promoted by the Children's Defense Fund)
 - Get involved with children by mentoring, tutoring, or joining a "Big Sister" program
 - Visit or volunteer at your local school
 - Attend or watch (cable) a school board meeting
 - Write letters, e-mail, or call government officials
 - Submit letters to the editor or join a blog promoting children and youth
- 16. Have at least **two people** from the unit, circle, or subgroup complete one of the Reading Programs.
- *17. Plan and participate in a United Methodist Women's Sunday.
- 18. The unit will invite a District or Conference Officer (other than a member of the unit) as a speaker.
- *19. Recite the Purpose of United Methodist Women at all events.
- 20. Have at least one member participate or join www.umwonline.org
- 21. Make a pledge to care for God's creation and **take steps towards** becoming a "Green" United Methodist Unit. See how to become a green unit by visiting <http://www.umwonline.org/environment>
- 22. Two members will participate in a Spiritual Growth Retreat sponsored by any United Methodist Women's or other group (including a unit or circle retreat).
- 23. Have at least **one member visit and/or volunteer** at a United Methodist Mission Center (For example: Utica, NY, or Harrisburg, PA)
- 24. Host a District or Conference Event.

Circle the items your unit has completed and return this form **by September 15, 2019 to:** Karen Wehn, 5016 Ridge Road, Lockport, NY 14094 or email information to Karen at wehn@ecc.edu

Church/Unit Name: _____ #Complete _____ Submitted by _____