



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

North Central Connection

United Methodist Women of Indiana

February 2015

Calendar of Events

Feb 28	North Central District Meeting Elwood First, 9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. NOTE DATE CHANGE!
March 12	Legislative Day, Indianapolis
April 17-18	Spiritual Growth Retreat Don Hall's Guest House, Ft. Wayne
May 15-17	Silent Retreat Sarto House, Evansville
June 26-28	Limitless Event at UIndy
July 21-24	Mission u DePauw Univ., Greencastle
July 25	Mission u Sampler Day, DePauw U.
Sept. 26	North Central District Fall meeting
Oct. 9-10	UMW Conference Celebration
Nov. 14	Leadership Development for District officers, St. Andrews UMC in Indianapolis

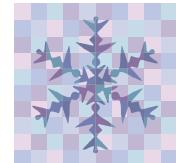
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Spiritual Retreat at McCormick's Creek: Beth McDaniels, Pam Bollier, Kathy Lentz, Emily Stahl, Barbie Schemenner, Connie Pearson

As I begin to write this message to you, our North Central UMW District will be covered in several inches of snow in 24 hours. I guess it is that time of the year so snow is to be expected. There is something refreshing after a snowfall, everything seems bright and cheerful. I expected that travel to the Spiritual Growth Retreat at McCormick's Creek this month would have been difficult but the drive was pleasant and clear roads both ways.



We had a wonderful retreat with Rev. Jimmy Moore as our leader. His topic was Parables in winter: Reflections on Jesus' Stories & Ours. We shared our stories with each other in small groups and Rev. Moore encouraged everyone to journal. Your local UMW organizations will be hearing more about telling your stories this year as part of the Indiana UMC Annual Conference. I know you have wonderful stories to tell so be prepared to submit them to the district officers.

Our district received thank you cards from the residents at Lucille Raines for your contributions to their Christmas gift cards. They so appreciated your generosity making Christmas 2014 extraordinarily meaningful for LR residents.

Start planning to send applications for **Limitless this year in June at U of Indy**. We will be choosing 2 (Age 14-39) and 1(Age over 40) representatives from our district to attend at conference expense. Also **scholarships will be available for Mission u from the district and conference**. Forms are included in this newsletter.

We are looking for UMW ladies that would like to be part of the district organization by serving on the Committee on Nominations. This is a way to meet other UMW in the district and renew friendships. Contact me if that would interest you.

The 2015 UMW Theme is **"Welcomed by God, Welcoming All."** Let us remember to welcome all to our local, district and conference events so they will see Faith, Hope and Love in action.

Connie Pearson, President

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1280 W. 236th Street, Sheridan, IN 46069

North Central District Meeting

Saturday, February 28**9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. at Elwood First, UMC**

Lunch: \$5 Please RSVP by Feb. 18

See details below and registration flyer

INFORM -- INSPIRE -- IN ACTION

United Methodist Women are many things! On **February 28th during our North Central District Meeting** we will be exploring some of those! Do you know that it is truly global? Do you know where the global offices are? Yes, plural! Do you know the areas of emphasis AND what is being done already in 2015 to empower women?

Knowing that each of our supportive sisterhood will not be able to attend, we will provide information for the lucky attendees to share so each may **INFORM** women (and men) in their local unit and church. The resources are available for the taking if you know where to go!

Join us at **Elwood First UMC at 9:30 AM** to browse the Resource Area and pick up your Reading Program books, Program Book and Calendars for 2015. At 10 AM we hope to **INSPIRE** you with singing and words of devotion as we move into the business of the day. Awards for 2014 will be presented to 5 Star Units, scholarship opportunities presented and much more. Our **speaker, LaDonna Webber**, will lead us through sources and steps to **INFORM** and **INSPIRE** your group so you may be effective **IN ACTION**.

Peruse the Resource Area as you await your lunch that will be provided (cost only \$5). We will have a time to share together again before breakout sessions for local leadership development. If your unit has chosen not to have a lady designated for each of the traditional leadership roles that is fine. Anyone may join in the training for that position. We do ask that you indicate which, if any, position training you will be joining so enough materials are prepared. Historically, some groups (treasurer, program resources) have required more time than others; however, it is our intent to wish you safe travels by 2:30PM.

Your District Leadership Team wants to **INFORM** and **INSPIRE** each of you to learn, grow and share through this day together. Hopefully, this will support and **INSPIRE** your efforts to be the face of *Faith, Hope and Love IN ACTION!*

With thanks for your time,

Beth Stickles-McDaniel, Vice President
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 15648 Hawks Way, Carmel 46033

Member, Nurture and Outreach

As the calendar passes its mark in January every year, it is typical to reflect on the past and plan for the future. My hope this year is to be more mindful (and prayerful) about how I handle time and how I view the activities in my life. It isn't enough to do things just because that's the way they have been done. Activities should be refreshing and uplifting and nourishing to the spirit. So if we look at UMW with that lens, what do we see? Have our UMW groups been uplifting or trudging along to meet expectations? What new component could be tried this year? If it doesn't work, it doesn't matter. At least you approached it with creativity and thoughtfulness.



Another thing that happens as the calendar passes its mark each year is that our UMW groups need to report their membership numbers to the District. The District then reports this to the Conference. If you have not sent me your membership numbers, please do so as soon as you can.

Blessings to all of you as you find inspiration and energy for this new year.

Nancy Boone, MN&O

nboone17@yahoo.com

7775 N 900 E Sheridan IN 46069

317-758-4868.

Chicken 'n Noodle Dinner and Silent Auction



**Friday, March 20
5:00 to 7:00 PM**



Noblesville First UM Church
2051 Monument Street, Noblesville

Adults, \$10; children under ten, \$5
free for under 2 years

*Sponsored by the UMW of Noblesville
First United Methodist
Contact Nancy Huff at 317-680-1525
for more information*



Program Resources

Happy Ground Hog's day (though it will probably be after that when you read this). Looks like Puxatawnie Phil didn't see his shadow, but I'll bet there is at least 6 more weeks of winter coming. All the better to get a head start on the 2015 reading program!

I have ordered the materials for the **District Meeting on February 28**, and am looking forward to seeing many of the 2015 titles. Once again the National UMW has chosen many interesting new books. Also remember you may read books from the 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011 lists as well, so long as you have not reported them on any previous reading program list. I will have copies of eligible books included in information given out at the District meeting. We will also have 2015 prayer calendars, 2014-15 program books and copies of the 2015 Mission u studies. The Mission Resource Center has changed its policies regarding our consignment orders, and I am unable to order any books from previous calendar years, so if there is one on the list you would like to read, you can order it directly from missionresource.org, check your library, or local book store. Some may be available electronically for your tablet.

By the way – I have heard from many units with their reading program participants, but I am always anxious to hear from more. I will have certificates ready for presentation at our **February 28** meeting for those units who have **submitted their forms by February 20th**. You can reach me at either address listed below. Be sure to list the participant's name, the plan qualified for and the list of books read.

I look forward to hearing from you

Peg Peter, Secretary, Program Resources.
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 3411 E. 8th Street, Anderson IN.

Communications

There are a lot of exciting things happening in United Methodist Women in 2015, and your help is needed to get the word out! Please share this newsletter with others in your unit, either by making copies or forwarding it to them by email. **If you prefer to receive the newsletter by email only, please let me know.**

Janeen Burrows, Communications
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Treasurers

Congratulations to all the units in the North Central District. **We reached 134% of our 2014 Mission Pledge! In addition we contributed \$3680 to Lucille Raines for projects and \$1225 for Christmas gift cards for the residents.** This was certainly a job well done.

As we start a new year I urge all units to become five star units. For 2014 the North Central District had fifteen units meeting the requirements and will receive certificates at the February 28 meeting. They are: Carmel, Carmel St. Marks, Center Chapel, Elwood 1st, Fowlerton, Frankfort St Matthew, Kokomo Main St., Kokomo Shiloh, Mt. Olive, Noblesville 1st, Sheridan, Swayzee, Terhune, and Van Buren.

Plan to attend the Feb. 28 meeting. Bring your questions and the officers will attempt to answer them. I will have sample forms and instructions for the Treasurers.

On that note please try to have your remittances to me by the 25th of the month, so I can forward them to the State. If you are ordering Special Mission Pins allow eight weeks for delivery and enclose the special pin order form. I also have a small supply of special mission cards and will get more if needed.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 28th and working with you again this year.

Marilyn Chittick, Treasurer

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 765-654-6870 765-652-5888 Cell
chittick39@gmail.com



Secretaries

The 2015 Directory United Methodist Women of Indiana has already been published and sent out. If you received your copy and you notice anything that needs to be corrected/edited/changed/deleted, still go ahead and e-mail or mail the information to my address(es) below. Obviously, the directory will not be reprinted in 2015 but your North Central District officers will know how to get hold of the correct ladies. We want all ladies who belong to a United Methodist Church to know what is going on in the district and conference and to feel a part of who we are! You do not have to be an "official unit."

Trisha Staneart, Secretary
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 317-867-2277 home, 317-430-4490 cell

Social Action



The world of domestic violence, economic justice, human trafficking, racial justice, and women's rights are issues that UMW pray for and work in these areas.

Domestic violence is not just a women's issue. It is an issue of faith. United Methodist Women and Men have partnered to launch a domestic violence initiative to raise awareness and provide training in congregations.

Economic Justice for those on the margins of society.

- Advocacy for debt relief for impoverished nations crippled by efforts to repay international loans
- Support for the abolition of sweatshops and child labor
- Promotion of Fair-Trade policies and products
- Support for farm worker rights
- Participation in living wage campaigns

Human Trafficking is the exploitation of those forced to submit to civil injustice as a result of their basic needs or position in society. We have fought human trafficking for more than a decade. Join us in raising awareness.

Racial Justice workshops are conducted and we work in coalition with human and civil rights groups to track hate-crimes and to promote racial justice in the United States and the world.

Women's Rights-Gender Justice call us to work for the well being of women by scripture: *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus"(Gal. 3:28)* The United Methodist Book of Discipline further confirms our duty to advocate for women's equality: *"We affirm women and men to be equal in every aspect of their common life."* (Social Principles, ¶ 162 F)

Check out the website at:

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/action>

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Cell phone: 765-669-1250
Home phone: 765-664-7884 amoudy@att.net

Education and Interpretation

Ladies guess what? I have only received seven completed **Mission Today** forms for 2014. It's really not difficult to qualify for one of the levels:

Bronze: 8 categories (4 required)

Silver: 12 categories (6 required)

Gold: 16 categories (6 required)



There is a 2015 form included with this newsletter. Look at it for planning your 2015 year and be ready to claim your prize in 2016! **When we fill out the form and look at it monthly we are more conscious of all the mission opportunities around.**

Linda Davies, E&I Coordinator

Lkdavies1@gmail.com 317-770-7098

19604 Wagon Trail Drive, Noblesville, IN



Spiritual Growth

Greetings to all my sisters in North Central UMW. This will be the fourth district to which I have belonged, and I am looking forward to getting to know you all. I am a retired first grade teacher in the Madison-Grant School System, wife to Ed, mother to three adult sons, grandmother to six grandchildren and great-grandmother to two girls. I have served as Spiritual Growth Coordinator and President in the former Marion District. I am a member of the Elwood First UMC and presently serve as Vice President in our local UMW. As we say (or sing?) the UMW Purpose, the first purpose is "to know God". I do feel that we should put that first as we begin our missions. On page 6 of the Nov./Dec. Upper Room, it states that *"the more we work on our relationship with God, the more the Holy Spirit works in us to make us the people God wants us to be."* When you receive this Newsletter, we will be preparing for the Lenten Season. Again, on page 60 of the current Upper Room, we read that this is usually thought of as "giving up something". The author goes on to suggest we not only "give up" something, but "give something" to someone in need. Great idea! I hope to see you all at the **District Meeting on February 28!**

Have a Blessed Lenten Season and Easter Celebration!

Emma Jean VanNess, Spiritual Growth
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evejv@outlook.com

Mission u July 21-24

Sampler day July 25th

This year's studies will again appeal to all ages (from 3 to 103!) and to both clergy and laity. The United Methodist Women of Indiana's 2015 event will be at DePauw University in Greencastle July 21-24. A one-day Sampler Event on Saturday July 25 offers a condensed overview of the school. All weekday participants take the spiritual growth study and choose one other class, either the geographic or the social action study.

- **Spiritual Growth Study:** *Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God* examines the understanding of happiness and how to live the life that God calls us to live. National Director Vickie Newkirk is the leader.
- **Geographical Study:** *Latin America: People and Faith* looks at the Latin American history, culture and faith. Leading this study are Shannon Priddy, Pastor Serge Monperous, and Whitney McLean.
- **Social Action Study:** *The Church and People with Disabilities* returns a second year as the social action study. The intent of this class is to promote awareness, inclusion, accessibility and advocacy for people with disabilities-including youth and children. Leaders are Jeanette Rayford Harris and Nikki Combs.

Chi-Mi-Ca is offered for children to age 12 and Yo-Pe-Mi-Ca for youth ages 13-17. Joan Schnell is children's director and Rev. Byron Fritz will lead the youth.

Clergy are invited and encouraged to attend. Continuing Education Credit is available for pastors attending the full weekday event. *Scholarship forms available in this newsletter.*

Spiritual Growth Retreat

April 17-18

Don Hall's Guesthouse, Ft. Wayne

“Be Still and Know”

Psalms 46:10

Pastor Corinne Boruff-Stucker

See registration included in this newsletter



Limitless is Coming AGAIN in June!

Who will represent your district for Limitless 2015?

This event will focus on educating and encouraging young women in the organization. Each district is challenged to send at least 3 persons: two between 14-40 years old and one over age 40. Please submit names to any district officer.

Legislative Day

Thursday March 12th

This year's United Methodist Women of Indiana's Legislative Day set for Thursday, March 12 will look a little different. It will begin at 9:30 EST in the Parlor of North United Methodist Church, 3808 North Meridian Street in Indianapolis. The decision to move the event from the Capitol Building to North UMC is to provide space where speakers may more clearly be heard and give speakers access to multimedia equipment to enhance their presentations.

Scheduled speakers and topics include:

- Dr. Wanda Spann Roddy--Maternal Health
- Virginia Black, South Bend Tribune-- Child Abuse
- Eleanor Pershing, St Matthew United Methodist Church, Frankfort--Immigration Reform
- Laura Berry, Indiana Coalition against Domestic Violence--Domestic Violence
- Other speakers to be announced

An opportunity to meet legislators at the Capitol Building will follow lunch with round-trip shuttle service provided by the church's van. (Either bring a lunch or box lunches will be available to those who choose.) The day will conclude by 3:30 at the church. The event is sponsored jointly by United Methodist Women and Church Women United.

North Central Connection
United Methodist Women
St. Matthew UM Church
1951 Wilshire Dr.
Frankfort, IN 46041

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IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE!!

From April 11 to

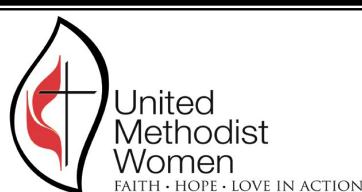
February 28

First North Central District Meeting

Lunch reservations requested!

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

North Central Connection



Our Purpose

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.