

## **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

### **HISTORY OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

United Methodist Women (UMW) is founded on the work of the organization's foremothers and women's groups in the predecessor churches of the United Methodist Church. The beginning of UMW can be traced back to an 1869 meeting of eight women on a stormy night in Boston. These women met to specifically learn about women's health and education needs in India from missionary wives on itineration in Boston.

These eight women called another meeting, wrote a constitution, and organized the Methodist Women's Foreign Missionary Society. In the period of 1869 – 1893, women in the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren traditions organized home missionary organizations which worked to change situations for women and children within our own country.

United Methodist Women engage in service and advocacy on behalf of women, children, and youth in the United States and around the world. Local UMW units are responsible for their own fundraising. We are called upon to offer our hearts and our hands to meet great needs locally as well as contributing to the Saginaw Bay District of UMW for assistance given to those in need in conjunction with the contributions to the District from its many local UMW units.

### **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GAYLORD**

Our 2017 UMW Program Booklet lists sixty-nine active and ten at large/honorary members. Our active members (along with assistance from women who are not currently members of one of our three UMW Circles and from men in our church) work very hard in our endeavors to raise funds to support our chosen missions.

The missions supported by our UMW Unit are as follows (in no specific order): FUMC's (our own church's) general fund, Pastor's Discretionary Fund, Pledge to Missions to the UMW District, American Cancer Walk, CROP Walk, Baldwin outreach, our gifts to FUMC staff for Christmas, Cass Community (Detroit), Otsego County Food Pantry, Otsego County Habitat for Humanity, Mark Smallwood (missionary), Methodist Children's Home, Red Bird Mission, Otsego County Salvation Army, Youth Camperships (for our youth to attend United Methodist summer camps), Otsego County Caring Closet, Funeral dinner preparations, Lavender Dinner, Mother/Daughter Banquet, Upper Room, White Breakfast, Mission Enhancement, and a small amount for our own UMW expenses (program resources, printing, copying, supplies, etc.)

### **OUR UMW UNIT** (comprised of three circles)

The UMW Unit as a whole meets in the months of February, March, April, September, October, and November at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a very brief meeting and a special program or guest speaker. This is a great time to be with members of all three circles. Special UMW Unit sponsored events are March Soup Lunches, April Marketplace for Missions (aka rummage sale), May Mother/Daughter Banquet, June Lavender Dinner, July Alpenfest Lunches, September Marketplace for Missions (rummage sale).

### **OUR UMW UNIT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

President: Diana Weier

Vice President: Sue Fuelling

Secretary: Sandy Laginess

Treasurer: Virginia Neumann

Circle Presidents: Ginny Brozowski, Shelly Hildebrandt, and Barbara Watson

Mission Coordinators: Education & Interpretation: June Owen

Membership Nurture and Outreach: Sue Smith

Social Action: Cathy Blanchard

Spiritual Growth: Betty Dipzinski

Program Resources: Barbara Watson

## **OUR UMW CIRCLES**

Our UMW Unit is comprised of three “circles” providing women of the church with more opportunities for participation in a circle of their choice. Each circle is committed to providing meaningful meetings through spiritual growth, shared concerns and prayers, planning of scheduled events, and forming a close “sisterhood.”

**HOPE CIRCLE** regularly meets at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August). President: Ginny Brozowski.

**MARGUERETTA CIRCLE** regularly meets at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August). President: Shelly Hildebrandt.

**FAITH CIRCLE** regularly meets at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall the third Tuesday of each month (except July and August). President: Barbara Watson.

**NOTE:** It is the policy of our UMW that if Gaylord Community Schools are closed due to inclement weather, UMW event(s) scheduled for that day are cancelled.

*Throughout this year may our activities be pleasing to God and blessed with spiritual growth, fellowship, fun, caring, commitment, enjoyment, helpfulness, outreach, and financial success so that we may carry out our mission of missions.*

*If we are tired at the end of an activity or event may we always remember why we do what we do. It's our calling.*